



Proposed Revisions to Ground and Surface Water Protection Regulations



The New Mexico Environment Department will be proposing revisions to the WQCC regulations for Ground and Surface Water Protection (**20.6.2 NMAC**) in Spring 2017.

Addition of Discharge Permit Amendment (20.6.2.7.D(4) and 20.6.2.3106.D) This addition is to describe an administrative process for minor changes to a discharge permit. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will maintain the existing public notice and participation process for substantive modifications to a discharge permit that could potentially affect groundwater quality.

Additional Contaminants Added to the Toxic Pollutants list (20.6.2.7.T(2)) NMED recommends including additional contaminants on the list to protect against the toxic effects of these contaminants in groundwater that is used as a source of drinking water.

Revisions to Variance Petitions (20.6.2.1210) NMED is proposing these revisions to align the regulations with the language of the Water Quality Act (Act), increasing clarity and transparency. As required by the Act, all variances must be approved the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC).

Changes to Numeric Standards for Ground Water (20.6.2.3103) NMED proposes adding sampling protocols, revising existing standards to match EPA national primary drinking water standards, and adding standards for contaminants in groundwater.

Clarification of Effluent Exemption (20.6.2.3105.A) NMED proposes revising this exemption to clarify that the term "effluent" refers to *untreated* wastewater.

New Discharge Permit Exemption (20.6.2.3105.N) NMED proposes to eliminate potential dual regulation of an activity that meets the protective requirements of a groundwater discharge permit under other NMED regulatory authority.

Updates to Permit Fees (20.6.2.3114) NMED has not increased permit fees since 2004. The proposed increases will result in the fees covering more of the cost of running the program, resulting in less dependence on other State funds.

Clarification of Abatement Standards (20.6.2.4103.B) These clarifications will help prevent the types of adverse impacts specified in the Water Quality Act. These impacts include, among others, injury to human health and interference with the public welfare or the use of property.

Revisions to Alternative Abatement Standards (20.6.2.4103.F) NMED proposes including Technical Infeasibility as one basis for Alternative Abatement Standards. NMED also proposes increasing public involvement, including public hearings and WQCC final approval.

NMED is hosting public listening sessions regarding the draft rule revisions. Upcoming meetings are currently scheduled for Farmington and Roswell. Meetings were held in Las Cruces on September 20, 2016 and in Albuquerque on September 22, 2016. A kick-off meeting was held in Santa Fe on May 20, 2016.

Farmington

September 28, 2016
5:30 - 7:30 PM
Farmington Civic Center
Rooms 2 and 3
200 West Arrington St., Farmington

Roswell

September 29, 2016
5:30 - 7:30 PM
Roswell Museum and Art Center
Bassett Auditorium
100 W. 11th St., Roswell

As we proceed with the rule revision process, updates will be posted on the NMED webpage:

<https://www.env.nm.gov/gwb/>

Please send your comments by email to NMENV.GWQBRuleRev@state.nm.us.