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NEWS RELEASE

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**Environment Department Responds to Sewage
Discharge into the Animas River in Aztec**

Aztec, N.M. - Around 2 p.m., the New Mexico Environment Department was notified of a raw sewage overflow at the Llano Street lift station at Rockaway Park in Aztec. As a result of the overflow, an unknown volume of raw sewage ran through a parking lot and into the Animas River.

The spill has been temporarily contained while crews investigate the cause of the overflow. The New Mexico Environment Department is on the scene, along with the City of Aztec Public Works Department. Aztec Public Works suspect a possible collapse or failure in a 24-inch sewer line that runs underneath the Animas River was the cause of the overflow. The repair will likely be a major construction effort because the sewer line runs under the river. No estimate of when this repair will be completed at this time. The City of Aztec has closed a foot path and walking path bridge through Rockaway Park.

The discharge was downstream of the drinking water intakes of the City of Aztec. Communities downstream of the discharge have been notified.

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