

**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**Ryan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary-Designate*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****September 23, 2013**

Contact: Jim Winchester
Communications Director
New Mexico Environment Department
(505)231-8800 / jim.winchester@state.nm.us

Environment Department Receives Plan to Investigate Groundwater Contamination at Crop Production Services in Artesia

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department received a Stage 1 Abatement Plan proposal to investigate soil and groundwater contamination at a Crop Production Services facility in Artesia, New Mexico.

The Department's Ground Water Quality Bureau requested that the facility, located at 103 East Mill Road in Artesia, submit the plan to address soil and groundwater pollution associated with its operations. The purpose of the Stage 1 investigation is to define the extent and magnitude of soil and groundwater pollution at the site. New Mexico's Water Quality Control Commission's regulations require responsible parties to characterize and remediate groundwater pollution that is in excess of New Mexico ground water and abatement standards.

The soil and groundwater pollution was caused by past spills from agricultural chemicals including dry and/or liquid fertilizers. Groundwater is contaminated with nitrate (as nitrogen) at maximum levels of 61 milligrams per liter (mg/l), exceeding the New Mexico groundwater quality standard of 10 mg/l.

The facility's proposed soil and groundwater investigation includes the installation of additional shallow monitoring wells with subsequent sampling, the collection of a deep groundwater sample, the performance of aquifer tests, and the sampling of groundwater in all monitor wells for nitrogen compounds and major ions. Additional investigation efforts may occur in the future based on the results of these assessment activities.

Upon completion of the Stage 1 Abatement Plan, a proposed Stage 2 Abatement Plan will be submitted to NMED outlining proposed actions to clean up soil and ground water contamination that was identified as a result of the investigation. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the Stage 2 Plan and will also have the opportunity to request a hearing. The department will seek public comment within 90 days of receiving the plan.

To review or request a copy of the proposed Stage 1 Abatement Plan please contact:

Ray Montes
NMED
1170 N. Solano, Suite M
Las Cruces, NM 88001
ray.montes@state.nm.us

For further information contact Ray Montes of the NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau at:
(575) 647-7932 .

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