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Environment Department Receives Plan to Investigate Ground Water Contamination at former Price's Valley Gold, North Dairy in Bernalillo

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received a Stage 1 Abatement Plan proposal to continue to investigate groundwater contamination at the former Price's Valley Gold, North Dairy. The former dairy is located at 618 NM Highway 528 in Bernalillo.

The former dairy operated under an NMED discharge permit (DP-437) and was permitted to discharge up to 70,000 gallons per day of dairy wastewater that was collected in a synthetically lined lagoon and applied to 48 acres of irrigated cropland and pastureland. The dairy ended operations in 1998, and closure activities were initiated along with a site investigation. Groundwater is at depths ranging from approximately 20 to 89 feet below the ground and is contaminated with nitrate, chloride, and total dissolved solids.

The Stage 1 Abatement Plan proposal includes a detailed description of past site investigation activities conducted under DP-437. These activities have determined the magnitude and extent of contamination through the installation of monitoring wells and the sampling of groundwater on a quarterly basis.

New Mexico water quality regulations require responsible parties to remediate groundwater pollution. After the Stage 1 plan has been completed, a Stage 2 clean up proposal will be submitted to NMED. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the Stage 2 plan and request a hearing. Public comment will be sought by NMED within 30 days of the cleanup plan being received by NMED.

For additional information, please contact Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director at (505) 827-0314.

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