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**State Environment Department Issues Rio Hondo Warning after
Sewage Sludge Discharged from Taos Ski Area Wastewater Treatment Plant**

(Santa Fe, NM) -- The New Mexico Environment Department is issuing a precautionary warning to residents downstream from the Taos Ski Valley's wastewater treatment plant because of a release of sewage sludge to the Rio Hondo this afternoon.

The discharge of sewage sludge to the river was the result of an operational error at the Twining Water & Sanitation District wastewater treatment facility. Upon learning of the release, operators at the facility took actions to stop the discharge and implemented corrective measures. At this time there is no continuing discharge of sludge or wastewater from the facility to the river.

While raw water from any stream should never be consumed directly without disinfection or filtration, the Department is warning those who may come in contact with or wish to use the river water to take extra precautionary measures such as boiling the water before consumption. The Environment Department will be collecting water samples from the river to assess any public health risk that may arise from this event.

For further information contact [Glenn Saums](#), Surface Water Quality Bureau Program Manager, NMED, (505) 827-0187 or [Cathy Tyson](#), Public Information Officer, NMED, at (505) 827-2855, or Ken Shuey, Manager, Twining Water & Sanitation District at (505) 776-8846.

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