



## Environment Department

SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR

Ryan Flynn, Cabinet Secretary  
Butch Tongate, Deputy Secretary

### **NEWS RELEASE**

**October 7, 2015**

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*NMED's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.*

### **Road Map Meeting October 20<sup>th</sup> for Monitoring of Gold King Mine Spill's Effects in New Mexico**

**Santa Fe** – The State of New Mexico's Long-Term Impact Review Team, named by Governor Susana Martinez during the Environmental Protection Agency's Gold King Mine Spill last August, is developing a road map for continuing environmental monitoring activities. The Road Map Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. at San Juan College, Rooms 9008 & 9010 at the Henderson Fine Arts Center, 4601 College Boulevard, Farmington, New Mexico.

"Through working together and sharing ideas and information based on the public's input and different agencies' areas of expertise, we'll be able to better ensure that New Mexicans are protected from any potential long-term effects of this catastrophe," said New Mexico Environment Secretary Ryan Flynn.

In collaborating with San Juan County's civic and regional leaders, academia, stakeholder groups, and concerned citizens, and in reaching out to the Tribes, the six-agency Long Term Impact Review Team will ensure that New Mexicans' concerns are documented and incorporated into the Long Term Monitoring Plan. "We've already gathered, analyzed, and assigned more than 150 stakeholder concerns. The public Road Map Meeting will continue the dialogue essential for meaningful environmental oversight," said Flynn.

"We have recruited top scientists in the state to help us design and implement a comprehensive monitoring program for water, sediment, agriculture, health, and wildlife," said New Mexico Environment Department's Chief Scientist, Dennis McQuillan. "Contaminant exposure pathways will be identified and we will take whatever steps are necessary to protect public health and the environment."

The Departments of Environment, Health, Game & Fish, Agriculture, Homeland Security, and the Office of the State Engineer will work together for effective and transparent monitoring of the Gold King Mine Spill's effects in New Mexico. The state agencies were named to the team to continue investigating the results of the spill and to collaborate locally--to not only share information uncovered, but to ensure that the team is looking at the right things on behalf of all those affected.

A Citizen Advisory Committee will be formed following the October 20<sup>th</sup> Road Map Meeting. This Committee will liaise with the Long-Term Impact Review Team's technical working groups to ensure that citizen and stakeholder concerns continue to be carried forward as long-term oversight continues into the future. More information is available at [www.NMEDRiverWaterSafety.org](http://www.NMEDRiverWaterSafety.org) .

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