



NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Surface Water Quality Bureau

Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for the State of New Mexico Clean Water Act §303(d)/§305(b) Integrated List

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APPROVAL PAGE

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I. Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Overview

The New Mexico Environment Department (Department), Surface Water Quality Bureau (Bureau) developed this Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for the State of New Mexico Clean Water Act §303(d) / §305(b) Integrated List. The CWA §§303(d)/305(b) Integrated List of Assessed Surface Waters (Integrated List), included as Appendix A of the Integrated Report, contains an assessment of surface water data and information summary that identifies whether a particular surface water of the state is currently meeting its designated uses as detailed in the State of New Mexico Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters (20.6.4 NMAC), through application of the Department's Comprehensive Assessment and Listing Methodology (CALM). "Category 5" waters on the Integrated List specifically constitute the CWA §303(d) List of Impaired Waters, which are those surface waters that do not meet the uses designated in 20.6.4 NMAC. The Bureau encourages the public to learn about and get involved in regulatory decision-making opportunities for the Integrated List.

The purpose of this PIP is to provide public participation opportunities and information that may be needed to participate in the Integrated List. This PIP integrates information about the community and identifies resources needed by the Bureau to successfully incorporate community participation activities into the decision-making process for the Integrated List. The PIP identifies the Department staff and resources needed to accomplish these activities. The Integrated List may require public participation throughout different stages.

The Bureau will meet the public participation requirements for the development of the Integrated List by following this PIP, which includes all applicable policy, regulatory, and statutory public participation requirements.

In developing this PIP, state-wide community participation needs were assessed to ensure the appropriate promotion of public outreach by identifying whether there is a combination of environmental and demographic factors (i.e., low-income community, minority community, limited English proficiency individuals, Linguistically Isolated Households, etc.) that may impact public participation. This assessment identifies community outreach needs and provides for public access opportunities above and beyond statutorily mandated requirements and underscores the provision of adequate public access to information about the Integrated List.

As much as possible, public participation and informational activities related to the Integrated List will be held within the timelines outlined in the table below. This timeline is tentative and subject to change. Although the federal requirement is a 30-day public review and comment period on the Integrated List, the Bureau is allotting a 45-day public review and comment period.

More detailed information about planned Bureau outreach is available in this PIP.

Activity	Dates
Notice PIP (invite public input)	December 8, 2025
Public Notice	December 8, 2025
Public Review Period	45-day review December 8, 2025 – January 22, 2026

Activity	Dates
Request approval of draft 2026-2028 Integrated List at WQCC meeting	March 10, 2026 (tentative)

This PIP is a “living” document that may be amended after considering public comments and feedback. The Bureau Chief provides final approval of the PIP and amendments.

II. Bureau Contacts

Bureau contacts for questions regarding the State of New Mexico Integrated List, the public review and approval process, the Bureau’s website, or this PIP, are listed below:

Meredith Zeigler, Assessment Coordinator Surface Water Quality Bureau PO Box 5469 Santa Fe, NM 87502 Phone: (505) 490-5866 Email: meredith.zeigler@env.nm.gov	Heidi Henderson, MASS TAT Supervisor Surface Water Quality Bureau PO Box 5469 Santa Fe, NM 87502 Phone: (505) 819-9986 Email: heidi.henderson@env.nm.gov
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If you need to contact the Bureau regarding the draft 2026-2028 Integrated List, please call or email the bureau contacts listed above.

A. Non-English Language Speaker Assistance and Accommodations

Non-English speakers may call the Bureau contacts listed in this PIP and request language assistance services, such as an interpreter, so they can learn more about the Integrated List.

B. Department Websites

- New Mexico Environment Department - <https://www.env.nm.gov/>
- Surface Water Quality Bureau - <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/>
- New Mexico Environment Department Non-Discrimination and Environmental Justice - <https://www.env.nm.gov/general/environmental-justice-in-new-mexico/>
- New Mexico Environment Department Public Notices - <https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices/>
- New Mexico Environment Department Public Comment Portal - <https://nmed.commentinput.com/comment/search>
- New Mexico Environment Department Events Calendar - <https://www.env.nm.gov/events-calendar/>

A. Integrated List and Report Website

The Bureau maintains a website location for the Integrated Report and List (see website address below). The website will be kept up to date and has information about the Integrated List and important associated documents. <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/303d-305b/>

III. Regulatory Framework

In even numbered years, the surface water quality bureau monitoring data and all other readily available surface water data are summarized in the State of New Mexico CWA §303(d)/§305(b) Integrated Report as required by Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and 40 CFR 130.7. EPA regulations require states to describe in their Continuing Planning Processes (CPP) the procedures for involving the public and other stakeholders in the development of the Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d) list of impaired surface waters (40CFR 130.7(a)).

The public participation requirements of specific water quality programs are specified in 40 CFR Section 25.4 and described in the Water Quality Management Plan and Continuous Planning Process (WQMP/CPP). At a minimum, the public participation process for New Mexico's water quality programs consists of the following:

- Providing the public with the information and assistance necessary for meaningful involvement;
- Providing a central location of reports, studies, plans, and other documents;
- Maintaining a list of affected or interested parties and stakeholders; and
- Notifying stakeholders in a timely fashion prior to consideration of major decisions (generally at least 30 days).

To fulfill this requirement, the Bureau invites the public to comment on the draft 2026-2028 State of New Mexico CWA §303(d)/§305(b) Integrated List. CWA §303(d)(2) requires that each state submit to the EPA a listing of water quality limited segments requiring total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). CWA §305(b)(1) requires that each state submit a biennial report to the United States Congress through the EPA. In accordance with the above stated statutory requirements, this report contains:

- An assessment of surface water quality in the state of New Mexico;
- An analysis of the extent to which the CWA §101(a)(2) goal of surface water quality which provides for protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and recreation in and on the water is being achieved ("fishable/swimmable" goals);
- An overview of progress in water pollution control and recommendations for further action; and
- A description of the nature of nonpoint source pollution and of programs for nonpoint source pollution control for prioritization of restoration activities.

IV. Location and Demographics

The Integrated List is a state-wide document and thus contains surface water assessments for the entire state. The Bureau collects surface water quality data on a watershed basis rotational schedule as resources allow. The primary focus areas for the draft 2026-2028 Integrated List are the Rio Chama and Sacramento Mountains watersheds because the Bureau monitored these basins in 2023-2024.

Demographic Summary

The state of New Mexico has an estimated population of 2,114,768. Of the population 53.6% percent of the community identifies as white, 2.1% percent identifies as Black, and 9.5% percent identifies as American Indian and Alaskan Native, 1.7% percent identifies as Asian, 0.1% present identifies as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 12% percent identifies with some other race, and 20.9% percent identifies as multiracial. Of the total population, 48.2% percent identify as Hispanic. The percent of persons that communicate in a language other than English (non-English) at home is 29.9% percent (632,982 individuals), with 173,410 individuals speaking English "less than very well." The per capita

income for New Mexico for 2019-2023 is \$34,823, as compared to the national per capita income for 2019-2023 of \$43,289. From the 2019-2023 ACS data, there are 43,594 linguistically isolated households in this community. These results indicate that the percentage of non-English-speaking communication in New Mexico is significant and various demographic factors (i.e. low-income community, minority community, limited English proficiency individuals, Linguistically Isolated Households, etc.) may impact public participation.

Therefore, the Bureau will provide information in Spanish and in English for public comment notices, public meeting notices, and other announcements (radio broadcasts, brochures, signs, postcards, etc.), and strive to make public participation efforts as inclusive as possible within Bureau budget and time limitations. Specific information repositories that may be used depending on the need are provided in Section V of this PIP.

V. Public Participation & Outreach Activities

The public may ask questions about the Integrated List at any time. Interested community members do not need to wait for a formal public comment period to contact the Bureau. However, the Bureau emphasizes that to be included in the administrative record, comments solicited by public notices must be submitted during the noticed comment periods, and in accordance with the public notice.

Specific outreach activities related to the draft 2026-2028 Integrated List include:

- Developing a public notice announcing the opening of the 45-day public comment period,
- Posting this notice to the SWQB website,
- Creating and maintaining a specific web page with attachments and links to all pertinent documents (see <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/303d-305b/> for an example of the approved 2024-2026 Integrated Report and List),
- Emailing this public notice to SWQB's extensive email list through the GovDelivery e-mail delivery service (1,855 email addresses as of November 25, 2025), and
- Posting to NMED's Events Calendar.

Copies of the draft 2026-2028 Integrated List and any supporting documents may be obtained via download from the Bureau's website at <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/303d-305b/>, or by contacting Meredith Zeigler at (505) 490-5866, meredith.zeigler@env.nm.gov, NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502. This is the most direct way to learn more about and be involved in the decision-making process for the State of New Mexico Integrated List.

Based on the demographics report discussed in the PIP, basic information about public involvement opportunities will be in both English and Spanish. This information will include how to request materials in Spanish or to speak with Bureau staff through an interpreter. Further details about public participation for this activity are outlined below.

A. Postal Mailing or E-Mailing of Notices to Persons on the Surface Water Quality Bureau's Email List

The Bureau maintains an extensive email list (1,855 email addresses as of November 25, 2025) that includes individuals interested in surface water quality issues and activities. This list is a combination of all previously interested persons who requested the Bureau provide them with information about surface water quality in New Mexico. The Bureau regularly maintains contact information, which is updated or supplemented if additional information is found. Interested persons providing both an address and email may receive physical mail and an email. Additional individuals, organizations, and other interested parties

are added to the email list as requested.

B. Email Updates

The Bureau's email list is regularly updated and is available on the Bureau's website at: <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/> by clicking on the "Click here to subscribe to receive email updates!" button on the bottom of the home page. The Bureau's website liaison is Heidi Henderson at 505-819-9986 (or email heidi.henderson@env.nm.gov).

C. Public Meeting Notices, Public Comment Notices, and Other Notices

Based on the Bureau's evaluation of the community, public notices will be translated into Spanish. In addition, the Bureau will post notices on the Department's Events Calendar at: <https://www.env.nm.gov/events-calendar/>

D. Informational Pamphlets

The Bureau may develop informational pamphlets for the Integrated List that briefly explain the Integrated List, identify the appropriate Bureau contacts, and describe the next steps in the Integrated Report process. To the extent such informational pamphlets are produced, the Bureau may determine whether they will be available in languages other than English, online (e.g., Bureau website). They may also be distributed via email to interested organizations and individuals, including those who sign up for email notices through the website.

E. Public Comment Period

The 45-day public comment period on the draft 2026-2028 Integrated List is planned to start December 8, 2025, and end January 22, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. MDT.

F. Other Outreach

Other means of outreach such as flyers or other hard copy postings will not be used. However, any updates will be posted on the Department's website.

G. Information Repositories

Copies of the draft 2026-2028 Integrated List and any of the above-mentioned supporting documents may be obtained via download from the Bureau's website at <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/303d-305b/>, or by contacting Meredith Zeigler at (505) 490-5866, meredith.zeigler@env.nm.gov, NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502.

The Bureau will not provide hardcopies and other information at NMED district offices, post offices, community centers, public libraries, or other repositories. The Bureau requests that individuals access the 2026-2028 draft Integrated List and supporting documents and information online at the links noted above. If requested, the Bureau will work with individuals to provide hard copies. If you would like to request hard copies of important documents and information about how to comment on the 2026-2028 draft Integrated List, please contact Meredith Zeigler at (505) 490-5866, meredith.zeigler@env.nm.gov.

H. Integrated List Proceedings, Outcomes and Responses to Comments

To address stakeholder and community members' submitted comments, the Bureau will prepare the final draft Integrated List as amended, which includes a "Response to Comments" section as Appendix C, following the close of the public comment period. If a person provides comments in a language other than English, the Bureau will respond to those comments in the preferred language. The Bureau is required to

present the final draft Integrated List to the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) for review and approval. The final draft Integrated List will be available to the public via download from the Bureau website, or upon request, 10 days prior to the regularly scheduled WQCC meeting (tentatively set for March 10, 2026, depending on the extent of public comment). WQCC meetings are open to the public. Their exact schedule and proposed agendas are maintained on their website. The Bureau will then submit the Integrated Report and List, as approved by the WQCC, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 for review and approval.