

**From:** [Anne Mascovich](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 7:48:11 AM

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Re: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)

Dear New Mexico Water Quality Control Commissioners:

My name is Anne Mascovich and I am a concerned community member, from the Town of Taos. I have also been a student of the Soil Food Web by Dr. Elaine Ingham. Traditional rural communities such as acequias and land grant-mercedes are experiencing rapid land use development that negatively impacts our water resources. Impacts include potential risks of groundwater contamination and increased degradation of surface water quality from municipal wastewater treatment facilities and industrial water users, such as oil & gas, mining, and national laboratories. The state Triennial Review is therefore critical to ensure our precious water is protected for current and future generations of acequeros.

I support the proposals by Communities for Clean Water (CCW) and the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) to provide more protections of New Mexico's waters. Specifically, I urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change and make clear that the purpose of these regulations is to address climate change;
- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of **Emerging Contaminants**.
- Adopt language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for **Emerging Contaminants**;
- Add PFAS to the definition of **Emerging Contaminants**;
- Not limit the definition of **Toxic Pollutants** to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants;
- Oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria;
- Not eliminate requirements to monitor for **PFAS**, a group of harmful 'forever' chemicals. Not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for **PCBs** with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated; and
- Express dismay that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers to fight state efforts protecting waters from toxic and persistent pollutants.

\* Also, the Abeyta Settlement that impacts the County of Taos must be reinvestigated by hydrologists and geologists. It is also outdated, since the impacts of our water crisis from ongoing droughts and climate change were not fully factored into the Settlement. Instead, we need to adopt practices that the European Union is implementing. That is, cultivate native grasslands and wetlands in open spaces to enhance soil structure, and carbon sequestration. This method also improves the watershed quality, as microbiology surrounding the plants in the soil can metabolize harmful chemicals back into benign ones.

El agua es vida. Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Anne Mascovich

PO Box 643, Taos, NM

**From:** [Greg P](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** Strong opinions on water quality standards  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 9:23:16 AM

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Dear Pamela,

I appreciate this opportunity to weigh in on water quality standards.

It looks to me like Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is pushing hard to weaken water quality standards in New Mexico. Likely this is because they know they cannot carry out planned operations while keeping within water quality standards as they are now.

In other words, LANL people *know* they are going to put toxic stuff into our surface and ground water - they *plan* to - and they want us to disregard such injuries to us and our environment. This is terrible!

LANL is up to no good. In general, the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) will do well to simply do the opposite of **anything** that LANL wants.

Following are items I hold to be important to establish in our water quality standards. I respectfully urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission to take these points as their own.

- Let's make sure that PFAS are added to the list of Emerging Contaminants.
- Retain the requirement to monitor PFAS.
- About emerging contaminants: we must adopt language that gives the New Mexico Environment Department authority to require monitoring of emerging contaminants; we must adopt the Communities for Clean Water/Gila Resources Information Project definition of emerging contaminants.
- The definition of toxic pollutants must not be limited to the EPA list; that list is out of date. Besides, we (New Mexico) must not cede our right to define toxic pollutants for our own unique situations.
- We must retain the requirement that LANL monitor PCBs with accuracy great enough to tell whether state standards are being violated.
- Stop the LANL efforts to weaken what is called the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria. If for no other reason, we need to be sure the fish we catch are safe to eat, right? (What is *wrong* with these people?)

By the way, LANL is using MY tax money to hire lawyers to fight regulations that are for MY benefit. They need to stop that right now. Kindly tell them I

said so.

Thank you kindly for your time.

Sincerely,

Gregory Corning, citizen and veteran

Pojoaque

**From:** [Jean Nichols](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Cc:** [Jean Nichols](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 4:10:31 PM

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Pamela Jones, WQCC Administrator  
New Mexico Environment Department  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Re: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)

Dear Ms. Jones:

I support the proposals by Communities for Clean Water (CCW) and the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) to provide more protections of New Mexico's waters. Specifically, I urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

- adopt an adequate definition of the climate crisis that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change. *See* the CCW and GRIP proposed changes to definitions.
- state in the regulations that a purpose of the regulations is to address the climate crisis (including looking at seismic activity and the science of our NM faults)
- support the adoption of the CCW and GRIP proposed definition of **Emerging Contaminants**.
- support adoption of language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for **Emerging Contaminants**. In 2006, a study was done involving dust from before, during and after the Cerro Grande Fire. Having various ages of dust in and around my house, I was a participant, and results showed a heavy concentration of Strontium 90 which is not a naturally occurring element. Regular air monitoring records the air passing through in real time, but the accumulated dust that builds up, often at levels where children play, is even more telling. Neighbors of mine on Llano Llegua were told not to give their plums to their grandkids, due to higher than safe concentrations of beryllium. This is not consistent with the work we are doing to bring back local agriculture and sustainable farming practices to our communities. (I have info on this 2006 study although I am sure you have access to it also)
- support adding PFAS to the definition of **Emerging Contaminants**.
- not limit the definition of **Toxic Pollutants** to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants.
- oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria. In order to protect public health and New Mexico communities, ensure the fish we catch in rivers, streams, reservoirs, and lakes are kept safe to eat. I live in Llano in the Peñasco Valley and I know that fish from Trampas Lake and other

high elevation waters which are directly downwind of LANL are not necessarily safe. I believe there were also studies done on the lake and its fish in or around 2006

- not eliminate requirements to monitor for **PFAS**, a group of harmful ‘forever’ chemicals. PFAS have been detected at LANL. PFAS, or per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, have been around since the 1940s and are found in Teflon and in military-grade fire retardants.
- not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for **PCBs** with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated.
- express its dismay that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers to fight state efforts to protect waters from toxic and persistent pollutants.

I would also urge NMED to take a strong stand against LANL’s new plutonium pit factory. Plutonium pit production is risky at best, as well as being immoral and illegal under international law, and LANL’s track record in both management and safety is troublesome to say the least. The lessons of Rocky Flats should be warning enough to us not to repeat the disaster here on sacred native lands. The amount of water that will be needed creating 30 pits per year and the extra waste that will be created and stored is a problem for all of our communities and especially those downwind and downstream. Beyond all this, it is a colossal waste of taxpayer dollars that are needed for remediation, climate research and action, and other life sustaining technologies.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Jean Nichols

PO Box 30

Llano NM 87543

575-587-0202

**From:** [Peggy De"scoville](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** R.e. docket: WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 8:19:51 AM

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Dear Ms. Jones and Water Quality Control Commission Members,

I am a resident of Northern New Mexico for more than 20 years, My address is 816 Hill Dr. Taos, NM 87571.

I am a strong believer in the need for conservation to protect our natural world, and this includes our surface and ground water. The people of our state depend on your commission to protect our water from weakening restrictions and new pollutants. Our water is literally our life and for your citizens to be healthy and happy, we need our waters to be clean.

I know of several ways you can protect our water. First, climate change is caused by human activities. Human-caused climate change is well documented, and our definition must state this for us to accurately mitigate it's affects.

Second, there must be a definition and standards to monitor Contaminants of Emerging Concern. The group of fluorocarbons known as PFAS contain over 20,000 different chemicals, many of which are known to adversely affect the endocrine system, particularly for women and children and they also bioaccumulate in wildlife. These chemicals do not break down in the environment, they do not even break down in the laboratory, there is no known way to get rid of them. We must regulate them now.

Third, I recommend that you Oppose LANL's proposal to limit the number of waters which receive protection under the Human Health- Organism Only criteria for toxic pollutants. Why would we even consider this? We want as many streams producing healthy fish as possible, not only for our own citizens and wildlife, but for tourism as well.

Fourth, our state must hold on to the authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants, do not let the huge polluters like LANL tell us what contaminants we can regulate or even monitor. New pollutants are coming out all the time and New Mexico must have the power to protect its waters and its people. We must not limit the definition of toxic pollutants to an outdated EPA list.

Finally, we must not limit our pollutant monitoring to an outdated EPA methods list. PCBs and PFAS require new forms of monitoring and we must maintain the authority to monitor as we need. LANL and the US Department of Energy are funded with Taxpayer dollars, and it is shameful that they are using our money to deregulate and limit protections to New Mexico's water.

Thank you for reading this and thank you for your hard work protecting this valuable resource,  
our water.

Peggy De'Scoville

505-692-9153



**From:** [Carlos Abeyta](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 11:54:09 AM

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WQCC Administrator Pamela Jones,

Re: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)

Dear New Mexico Water Quality Control Commissioners:

My name is Carlos Abeyta and I am a COMMISSIONER and FARMER) from the community of Penasco. Traditional rural communities such as acequias and land grant-mercedes are experiencing rapid land use development that negatively impacts our water resources. Impacts include potential risks of groundwater contamination and increased degradation of surface water quality from municipal wastewater treatment facilities and industrial water users, such as oil & gas, mining, and national laboratories. The state Triennial Review is therefore critical to ensure our precious water is protected for current and future generations.

I support the proposals by Communities for Clean Water (CCW) and the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) to provide more protections of New Mexico's waters. Specifically, I urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change and make clear that the purpose of these regulations is to address climate change;
- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of Emerging Contaminants.
- Adopt language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for Emerging Contaminants;
- Add PFAS to the definition of Emerging Contaminants;
- Not limit the definition of Toxic Pollutants to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants;
- Oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria;
- Not eliminate requirements to monitor for PFAS, a group of harmful 'forever' chemicals.
- Not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for PCBs with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated; and
- Express dismay that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers to fight state efforts protecting waters from toxic and persistent pollutants.

El agua es vida. Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carlos Abeyta, Commissioner of Acequia de Penasco Sur Association

Carlos Abeyta

[cabeyta33@gmail.com](mailto:cabeyta33@gmail.com)

PO Box 944

Penasco, New Mexico 87553

**From:** [Anissa Baca](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Monday, July 19, 2021 6:13:55 PM

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My name is Anissa Baca and I am a resident of Ojo Caliente, New Mexico. I come from a family that has farmed for generations. I am writing this comment out of concern for our land and water.

I would like to start by saying I support adoption of a CEC definition that clearly gives NMED the authority to required monitoring CECs. Support adding PFAS to the CEC definition as an example of CECs. PFAS are perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances that are a group of man-made chemicals that research has shown to affect reproductive health, increase the risk of some cancers, affect childhood development, increase cholesterol levels, weaken the immune system, and interfere with the body's hormones.

I am extremely worried that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars to fight state efforts to protect waters from harmful pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants based on an outdated federal list of toxic pollutants, nor should LANL weaken its HH-00 criteria. The fish we catch in our rivers, reservoirs and lakes should be kept safe to eat. The water itself should be free of pollutants.

Lastly, I want to urge the Commission to adopt a definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change and to specify combating climate change as a purpose of the regulations.

Thank you,  
Anissa Baca

**From:** [Kevin Bersell](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** WQCC 20-51 (R) PUBLIC HEARING: In the Matter of Proposed Amendments to Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters 20.6.4 NMAC  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 5:26:36 PM

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Hello Pamela,

I just found out about this hearing so I missed being able to share my concerns directly with the board. In lieu of testifying I'd like to submit these written comments:

I live on the Rio Hondo (I can see it out my window right now) and I'm very concerned about the situation in Taos Ski Valley. There is a lot of development going on in the valley all of which impacts the Rio Hondo. Specifically I'm worried that the continued and escalating stress on the headwaters of the Rio Hondo will compromise the water quality that I depend on in my daily life. The increased number of residential and commercial units in the Valley will increase diversions from the natural river system and increase inflows of (hopefully) treated waters. Those changes are impacting water quality in the Rio Hondo. Forest thinning projects will increase runoff in the area. The Ski Valley's proposed 8 million gallon water tank will alter the hydrology in the immediate area of the diversion.

All of these issues call for increased and increasingly strong monitoring of the water quality in the area. I would ask that the Board implement adequate rules to ensure that the monitoring program is adequate in the face of these threats to our small and vulnerable river.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kevin Bersell  
Valdez, NM

**From:** [Angelina Lopez-Brody](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** WQCC 20-51(R) Written Comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021 11:19:21 AM

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To Whom It May Concern:

During this Triennial Review it is of utmost importance that we protect the integrity of our water, which is necessary for life for us humans and all other life forms. **As a Commissioner on the Armijo Acequia, I also speak for my community in defense of the water quality that we use to grow our crops. As a mother of young children, I speak for them and their children after them.**

We must act on an abundance of caution regarding chemical and other pollutants, as these may have many impacts for generations. Please take these specific points into consideration:

- 1) Please adopt a definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the primary cause of climate change and specify that combating climate change is a purpose of the regulations.
- 2) I support the adoption of a definition of Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) that gives the Environment Department the authority to require the monitoring thereof. I support adding PFAS as an example of CECs. I demand that the Commission act to protect children's health by requiring CEC monitoring.
- 3) I oppose weakening Human Health-Organism Only criteria. Keep our fish safe to eat!
- 4) I support the existing definition of toxic pollutants. Do not limit it to an outdated Federal list!
- 5) I oppose the limited monitoring of Los Alamos National Labs that would prevent effective monitoring of PCBs and PFAS. How dare LANL and the US Department of Energy use taxpayer dollars to fight New Mexico's efforts to protect its waters and its people's health! Do not let this become an example of a majority-white institution (LANL) avoiding accountability on actions that undermine water quality and public health in a majority-BIPOC state.

Please put New Mexicans' public health above the interests of LANL and mining interests.

Sincerely,

Angelina Lopez-Brody  
301 Greenwich Rd. SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87105  
505-507-5400

**From:** [Sangpo Dorje](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** New Mexico Acequias  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 11:02:59 AM

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Hello,

It just came to my attention that there is discussion regarding our state's acequias and felt it important to share some thoughts.

For 30 years my mother and I have worked hard on our acequia, it has always been a precious source of water for our garden but most importantly it has been a focal point around which our lives, memories, joy, and community have revolved. Its water is the life-blood of our land and our connection to each other. We are all in this together.

We must strive to preserve our local acequias that have bound our communities together in a long term communal effort to ensure all of us can fairly and respectfully share water, our most precious resource. It is a delicate balance held together by our love for the past, present, future and our respect for the resource and our neighbors.

The climate is proving a challenge as it is and I truly pray that industrial agricultural efforts won't arise to further jeopardize our ancient, delicate and hard-fought water systems.

I pray that these values of respect toward the water, the history, and the community can always be front and center in the considerations regarding the acequias.

The water is not ours or for anybody to take, we are merely the custodians ensuring that it will continue to flow not just in memories but for many generations to come, continuing to nourish the land and lives of New Mexico.

Thank you,  
Sangpo Dorje

**From:** [Jeanne Green](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** Triennial review docket number WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021 8:45:50 PM

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New Mexicans need stronger water quality protections and I oppose proposed amendments that will weaken existing surface water regulations.

I want to start with affirming my support for Communities for Clean Water's (CCW) testimony and recommendations, and also Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP). Our community voices are facing multiple barriers to being able to participate in this hearing, so I hope CCW testimony is heard for the representation they hold in their testimony.

Please adopt a definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change and to specify combating climate change as a purpose of the regulations. Climate destruction is upon us. We cannot continue to stay in denial and must begin addressing climate change in New Mexico.

Please adopt a CEC definition that clearly gives NMED the authority to require monitoring CECs. Please add PFAS to the CEC definition as an example of CECs. PFAS are perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances that are a group of man-made chemicals that research has shown to affect reproductive health, increase the risk of some cancers, affect childhood development, increase cholesterol levels, weaken the immune system, and interfere with the body's hormones. We must center Indigenous Pregnant families as the standard for protection, this means monitoring CEC's at a local and state level.

Please oppose LANL's proposal to weaken HH-00 criteria because the fish we catch in our rivers, streams, reservoirs, and lakes must be kept safe to eat. Many locals depend on this food source, especially during economic downturn periods such as the current and ongoing Covid pandemic.

New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants based on an outdated federal list of toxic pollutants.

This proposal would prevent effective monitoring of PCBs and PFAS. I object to the U.S. Department of Energy and LANL spending our taxpayer dollars to fight state efforts to protect waters from persistent and harmful pollutants.

We are already impacted by bioaccumulation of toxins in our ecology. These protections are crucial when it comes to considering the cumulative and multiple exposures local peoples face just by living traditional land-based existence. It is environmental racism perpetrated by LANL to try and limit the number of waters that hold this standard of protection to human health.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jeanne Green, Taos, NM 575-751-4130

**From:** [Remijio Gutierrez](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Monday, July 19, 2021 3:54:39 PM

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WQCC Administrator Pamela Jones,

Re: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)

Dear New Mexico Water Quality Control Commissioners:

My name is Remijio Gutierrez and I am a member of the community of La Jara, and a Parciante of the La Jara Acequia. Traditional rural communities such as acequias and land grant-mercedes are experiencing rapid land use development that negatively impacts our water resources. Impacts include potential risks of groundwater contamination and increased degradation of surface water quality from municipal wastewater treatment facilities and industrial water users, such as oil & gas, mining, and national laboratories. Therefore, the state Triennial Review is critical to protect our precious water for current and future generations.

I support the proposals by Communities for Clean Water (CCW) and the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) to provide more protections of New Mexico's waters. Specifically, I urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change and make clear that the purpose of these regulations is to address climate change;
- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of Emerging Contaminants.
- Adopt language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for Emerging Contaminants;
- Add PFAS to the definition of Emerging Contaminants;
- Not limit the definition of Toxic Pollutants to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants;
- Oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria;
- Not eliminate requirements to monitor for PFAS, a group of harmful 'forever' chemicals.
- Not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for PCBs with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated; and
- Express dismay that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers to fight state efforts protecting waters from toxic and persistent pollutants.



El agua es vida. Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Remijio F. Gutierrez, MA

505-710-9072

3705 Ellison Blvd. NW

Suite B-1, #526

Albuquerque, NM 87114

Remijio Gutierrez

remijiofgutierrez@msn.com

3705 Ellison NW, Suite B-1, #526

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87114

**From:** [Valery Henderson](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** Docket number WQCC 20-51(R) Public Comment for NM State Water Quality Control Commission  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 4:35:41 PM

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Hello Pamela,

I am very interested in receiving information about the progress of the proposed plan NM State Water Quality Control Commission. I am not able to be there in person at this time. I am documenting my concerns listed below:

1. Increased industrialization of the Rio Hondo headwaters from Taos Ski Valley development and construction requires an increase in surface quality monitoring.
2. Widespread forest thinning projects create a need for an increase in monitoring of water quality impacts to headwater streams.
3. Mitigation Wells slated to be drilled in Taos Ski Valley necessitate monitoring of streams which will receive groundwater inputs.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, at [Valery.henderson@gmail.com](mailto:Valery.henderson@gmail.com).

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

Valery Henderson

**From:** [Elizabeth MacMahon-Herrera](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** docket number WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021 8:53:56 AM

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With all respect Ms Pamela Jones

I am a resident of Santa Fe and long time activist especially on issues effecting the health of women and children. Please let me know you received this.

I am writing to support the proposals by the [Communities for Clean Water](#) (CCW) and the [Gila Resources Information Project](#)(GRIP).

I urge the following:

1. Adopt a definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change and to specify combatting climate change as a purpose of the regulations.
2. Adopt the CEC'd definition that clearly gives NMED the authority to required monitoring CECs and add PFAS to the CEC definition as some of these chemicals research has shown to affect reproductive health, increase the risk of cancers, affect childhood development, among others.
3. No to toxic fish! Oppose LANL's proposal to weaken HH-00 criteria because the fish we catch in our rivers, streams, reservoirs, and lakes must be kept safe to eat.
4. I Support the Existing Definition of Toxic Pollutants: New Mexico should not cede is authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants based on an outdated federal list of toxic pollutants.
5. I strongly oppose Limited Monitoring for LANL. I objection that the U.S. Department of Energy and LANL are spending taxpayer dollars to fight state efforts to protect waters from persistent and harmful pollutants!

Sincerely

Elizabeth MacMahon-Herrera

<https://www.ourbodiesourselves.org/our-story/obos-founders/elizabeth-macmahon-herrera/>

617 Camino Santa Ana  
Santafe 87505

**From:** [Jock Jacober](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** reference docket number WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 11:58:15 AM

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Please enter the following comments into the public record for the Triennial Review of Water Quality in the State of New Mexico:

1. I oppose language that defines Climate Change that does not include a direct reference to the behavior of human beings as a major cause of its destructive and accelerating detrimental effects on the planet earth. The greatest opportunity that humans have is to change our behavior with regard to fossil fuel use, food consumption, and particularly farming practices in order to attempt to mitigate the negative climate change events. Without acknowledging the role that humans have played in the destructive patterns, then we cannot begin to reform our actions to benefit a healthy climate.
2. I support adoption of a CEC definition that clearly gives NMED the authority to monitor CECs. I support adding PFAS to the CEC. PFAS are perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances that are a group of man-made chemicals that research has shown to affect reproductive health, increase the risk of some cancers, affect childhood development, increase cholesterol levels, weaken the immune system, and interfere with the body's hormones
3. I oppose any effort made to either limit, generalize, or forsake the definitions of any Toxic Pollutants, and I specifically oppose any legislative or rule changing effort to reduce or abdicate New Mexico's role in monitoring the occurrence and the enforcement to mitigate such occurrence of Toxic Pollutants in New Mexico waters.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Gordon Jacober  
PO Box 1229  
Ranchos de Taos, New Mexico 87557  
970-319-8962

**From:** [Kateri Jojola](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 11:26:21 PM

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WQCC Administrator Pamela Jones,

Re: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)

Dear New Mexico Water Quality Control Commissioners:

My name is Kateri Jojola and I am a young farmer from the Pueblo of Isleta. Traditional rural communities such as acequias and land grant-mercedes are experiencing rapid land use development that negatively impacts our water resources. Impacts include potential risks of groundwater contamination and increased degradation of surface water quality from municipal wastewater treatment facilities and industrial water users, such as oil & gas, mining, and national laboratories. The state Triennial Review is therefore critical to ensure our precious water is protected for current and future generations.

I support the proposals by Communities for Clean Water (CCW) and the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) to provide more protections of New Mexico's waters. Specifically, I urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change and make clear that the purpose of these regulations is to address climate change;
- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of Emerging Contaminants.
- Adopt language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for Emerging Contaminants;
- Add PFAS to the definition of Emerging Contaminants;
- Not limit the definition of Toxic Pollutants to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants;
- Oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria;
- Not eliminate requirements to monitor for PFAS, a group of harmful 'forever' chemicals.
- Not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for PCBs with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated; and
- Express dismay that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers to fight state efforts protecting waters from toxic and persistent pollutants.

El agua es vida. Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Kateri Jojola  
Heart of the Dragonfly Farm  
PO Box 156, Isleta, NM 87022

Kateri Jojola  
jojola.kat@gmail.com  
PO Box 156  
Isleta, New Mexico 87022

**From:** [djmoloney@earthlink.net](mailto:djmoloney@earthlink.net)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 8:11:42 AM

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WQCC Administrator Pamela Jones,

Re: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)

Dear New Mexico Water Quality Control Commissioners:

My name is (INSERT YOUR NAME) and I am a (COMMUNITY MEMBER/PARCIANTE/COMISSIONER/MAYORDOMO/YOUNG PERSON/FARMER) from the community of (INSERT ACEQUIA AND/OR TOWN NAME). Traditional rural communities such as acequias and land grant-mercedes are experiencing rapid land use development that negatively impacts our water resources. Impacts include potential risks of groundwater contamination and increased degradation of surface water quality from municipal wastewater treatment facilities and industrial water users, such as oil & gas, mining, and national laboratories. The state Triennial Review is therefore critical to ensure our precious water is protected for current and future generations.

I support the proposals by Communities for Clean Water (CCW) and the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) to provide more protections of New Mexico's waters. Specifically, I urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change and make clear that the purpose of these regulations is to address climate change;
- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of Emerging Contaminants.
- Adopt language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for Emerging Contaminants;
- Add PFAS to the definition of Emerging Contaminants;
- Not limit the definition of Toxic Pollutants to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants;
- Oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria;
- Not eliminate requirements to monitor for PFAS, a group of harmful 'forever' chemicals.
- Not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for PCBs with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated; and

- Express dismay that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers to fight state efforts protecting waters from toxic and persistent pollutants.

El agua es vida. Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

(ADD YOUR NAME, TITLE AND CONTACT INFORMATION)

djmoloney@earthlink.net

PO BOX 204

HOLMAN, New Mexico 87723



July 16, 2021

Pamela Jones, WQCC Administrator  
New Mexico Environment Department  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Re: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)

Dear Ms. Jones:

I support the proposals by Communities for Clean Water (CCW) and the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) to provide more protections of New Mexico's waters.

I urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

\*adopt a climate change definition that identifies human activities as the major cause. *See* the CCW and GRIP proposed changes to definitions and state in the regulations that climate change is a purpose of the regulations.

- support the adoption of the CCW and GRIP proposed definition of **Emerging Contaminants**.
- support adopting language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for **Emerging Contaminants**.
- support adding PFAS to the definition of **Emerging Contaminants**.
- not limit the definition of **Toxic Pollutants** to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants.

I urge that the New Mexico WQCC :

- oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria. In order to protect public health and New Mexico communities, ensure the fish caught in rivers, streams, reservoirs, and lakes are safe to eat.

Very importantly, I urge that the New Mexico WQCC:

- Not eliminate requirements to monitor for **PFAS**, a group of harmful 'forever' chemicals. PFAS have been detected at LANL.
- Not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for **PCBs** with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated.

Finally, I urge that the New Mexico WQCC express its dismay that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers to fight state efforts to protect waters from toxic and persistent pollutants. LANL's willingness to oppose regulation by the state or to effect changes in the definitions to limit the analyses strains our ability to believe in their good faith efforts to aid New Mexicans.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Basia Miller, Ph.D. Thirty-three year resident of Santa Fe, CCNS Board Member

2848 Vereda de Pueblo

Santa Fe, NM 87507



ALAMOS DE LOS GALLEGOS  
ACEQUIA ASSOCIATION



New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission  
[pamela.jones@state.nm.us](mailto:pamela.jones@state.nm.us)

July 14 2021

Re: Public Comments for Triennial Review  
Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)

Dear NM Water Quality Control Commissioners,

We are the commissioners and mayordomo of a semi-rural Acequia Association, *Alamos de los Gallegos* - "Alamos" for our neighborhood in ABQ's North Valley and "Gallegos" for the MRGCD Lateral that about 65 small land owners water their "victory gardens" from. Development has already impacted our area and we continue to monitor a long term problem with contaminated wastewater being illegally and surreptitiously dumped by a large apartment complex into one of our sublaterals. They have been cited several times by the Village of Los Ranchos, but continue their violations every time it rains. This is our connection to the much larger issues that you are addressing in your work.

We welcome the Triannual Review of Water Quality and stand in solidarity with traditional rural and land grant communities across the state who are facing negative impacts to water quality from many different types of development, that create threats of degradation of both surface and groundwater. Some communities face contamination from extractive industries and our national laboratories as well, and these dire threats need to be closely monitored.

As water stewards and users we keep ourselves informed about other watersheds such as the Gila. We support the proposals of both Gila Resources Information Project and Communities for Clean water, and their definitions of climate change and emerging contaminants. New industries such as cannabis growing rely heavily on pesticides and herbicides, not to mention the additional demands for water.

We pledge our efforts to protect our waters our precious water for present and future generations of acequia users. ¡El agua es vida!

Sincerely yours,

Dan Scott, Comisionado Presidente: [dscott@gmail.com](mailto:dscott@gmail.com) (505) 573-9717  
Mark Frauenglass, Comisionado: [markf\\_is@hotmail.com](mailto:markf_is@hotmail.com) (505) 235-5190  
Enrique Lamadrid, Comisionado: [lamadrid@unm.edu](mailto:lamadrid@unm.edu) (505) 269-5569  
Eduardo Padilla, Mayordomo: [ed.padilla@gmail.com](mailto:ed.padilla@gmail.com) (505) 750-3510

**From:** [cindy\\_olson](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 11:43:58 AM

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WQCC Administrator Pamela Jones,

July 15, 2021 By email:cindy.a.olson@gmail.com

Re: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)

Dear New Mexico Water Quality Control Commissioners:

My name is Cindy Olson and I am a Healer and Gardener. Rural communities such as acequias and land grant-Mercedes are experiencing rapid land use development that negatively impacts our water resources. Traditional communities are who we need to learn their water use from instead of risking even more in this time of crisis.

There are so many impacts include increased degradation of surface water quality from municipal wastewater treatment facilities and industrial water users, such as oil & gas, mining, and national laboratories. We need drinking water that is safe. And we need to avoid any potential risks of groundwater contamination.

This state Triennial Review is therefore critical to ensure our precious water is protected for current and future generations. Without water, life is not possible.

I support the proposals by Communities for Clean Water (CCW) and the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) to provide more protection for New Mexico's waters. Specifically, I urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change and make clear that the purpose of these regulations is to address climate change;
- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of Emerging Contaminants.
- Adopt language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for Emerging Contaminants;
- Add PFAS to the definition of Emerging Contaminants;
- Not limit the definition of Toxic Pollutants to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants;
- Oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria;
- Not eliminate requirements to monitor for PFAS, a group of harmful 'forever' chemicals. Not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for PCBs with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated; and
- Express dismay that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers to fight state efforts protecting waters from toxic and persistent pollutants.

El agua es vida. Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

All my Best,

Cindy Ann Olson

cindy olson

cindy.a.olson@gmail.com

2446 1/2 Glencoe Ave

Venice, California 90291

**From:** [Mary Orr](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 5:05:53 PM

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WQCC Administrator Pamela Jones,

Re: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)

Dear New Mexico Water Quality Control Commissioners:

My name is (INSERT YOUR NAME) and I am a (COMMUNITY MEMBER/PARCIANTE/COMISSIONER/MAYORDOMO/YOUNG PERSON/FARMER) from the community of (INSERT ACEQUIA AND/OR TOWN NAME). Traditional rural communities such as acequias and land grant-mercedes are experiencing rapid land use development that negatively impacts our water resources. Impacts include potential risks of groundwater contamination and increased degradation of surface water quality from municipal wastewater treatment facilities and industrial water users, such as oil & gas, mining, and national laboratories. The state Triennial Review is therefore critical to ensure our precious water is protected for current and future generations.

I support the proposals by Communities for Clean Water (CCW) and the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) to provide more protections of New Mexico's waters. Specifically, I urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change and make clear that the purpose of these regulations is to address climate change;
- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of Emerging Contaminants.
- Adopt language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for Emerging Contaminants;
- Add PFAS to the definition of Emerging Contaminants;
- Not limit the definition of Toxic Pollutants to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants;
- Oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria;
- Not eliminate requirements to monitor for PFAS, a group of harmful 'forever' chemicals.
- Not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for PCBs with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated; and

- Express dismay that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers to fight state efforts protecting waters from toxic and persistent pollutants.

El agua es vida. Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

(ADD YOUR NAME, TITLE AND CONTACT INFORMATION)

Mary Orr

mvorr01@gmail.com

PO Box 4585

Espanola, New Mexico 87533



July 16, 2021

By email: [pamela.jones@state.nm.us](mailto:pamela.jones@state.nm.us)

Re: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)

Dear New Mexico Water Quality Control Commissioners:

The New Mexico Acequia Association (NMAA) hereby submits the following comments on several proposed changes to our state surface water quality regulations. NMAA is a statewide, grassroots membership-based organization of acequias governed by a federation of acequias, the Congreso de las Acequias, which unanimously supports protection of our precious water resources. The mission of the NMAA is to protect water and our acequias, to grow healthy food for our families and communities, and to honor and preserve our cultural heritage.

A primary means of realizing our mission is through the conservation and protection of water for future generations of acequeros. In furtherance of our mission, NMAA is a member of the Communities for Clean Water coalition (CCW)<sup>1</sup>. CCW, in partnership with the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP), has submitted extensive rebuttal testimony in this matter.<sup>2</sup> NMAA incorporates by reference CCW and GRIP's rebuttal testimony and reinforces its support of CCW/GRIP's proposed updates to strengthen our state surface water regulations.

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<sup>1</sup> Communities for Clean Water (CCW) is the only Northern New Mexican community-based organization that brings together the vast expertise and commitment of grass-roots organizations and individuals —indigenous and European-descendant —that have been studying and monitoring toxic threats from LANL, some for as long as 26 years. CCW is a coalition of widely respected, well-tested, and award-winning advocacy groups that have proven their professionalism and commitment to the best interests of Northern New Mexico's peoples, cultures, environment and well-being. Communities for Clean Water Council members include Amigos Bravos, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS), Honor Our Pueblo Existence (HOPE), the New Mexico Acequia Association, Partnership for Earth Spirituality and Tewa Women United.

<sup>2</sup> See Notice of Intent to Present Technical Rebuttal Testimony and Nontechnical Rebuttal Testimony by Communities for Clean Water and Gila Resources Information Project (June 22, 2021).



Agua es vida. New Mexico's surface waters are the lifeblood of numerous acequias, sustaining and enriching centuries-old acequias and farming and ranching traditions which depend upon clean water. Acequias have a long history of respect and stewardship of these precious waters. Our intricate customs and traditions, our collective approach to water management, and our unique role in water governance has resulted in extensive empirical and cultural knowledge of numerous New Mexico surface water bodies.

Traditional rural communities such as acequias and land grant-mercedes are experiencing rapid land use development that negatively impacts our water resources. Impacts include potential increased degradation of surface water quality from municipal wastewater treatment facilities and industrial water users, such as oil & gas, mining, and national laboratories. The state Triennial Review is therefore critical to ensure our precious water is protected for current and future generations of acequeros.

NMAA therefore urges the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

- 1) Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of **Emerging Contaminants**.
- 2) Adopt language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for **Emerging Contaminants**;
- 3) Add PFAS to the definition of **Emerging Contaminants**;
- 4) Not limit the definition of **Toxic Pollutants** to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants;
- 5) Oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria;
- 6) Not eliminate requirements to monitor for **PFAS**, a group of harmful 'forever' chemicals.
- 7) Not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for **PCBs** with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated; and
- 8) Express dismay that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers to fight state efforts protecting waters from toxic and persistent pollutants.

Of particular concern to NMAA is the impacts of climate change on our precious surface water resources. Climate change is a threat to our precious surface waters. New Mexico and the greater West are currently in the midst of a decades-long megadrought. Over 84% of the state is in either severe, extreme or exceptional drought. Acequia testimonials align with climate change predictions and aridification caused by climate change. Extreme drought and climate change don't just result in reduced snowpack, stream flow, precipitation levels, and increased temperatures – it also results in degradation of our surface water quality.

Unfortunately, New Mexico's current regulations, specifically its anti-degradation policy found at 20.6.4.8 and -.9 NMAC, do not adequately protect our surface waters from intensifying and disastrous climate change impacts. It is critical that New Mexico has sufficient protocols and methodologies to determine whether changes in temperature, dissolved oxygen, dissolved solids, sediment or turbidity are the result of either man-made sources or by natural conditions. This difference in causation has serious consequences for our surface waters and the communities

relying upon them in that numeric standards do not apply when such changes are due to natural causes.

We thank CCW/GRIP experts, as well as Amigos Bravos experts, for their helpful and informative testimony provided to the commission this week, explaining the deficiencies of New Mexico's existing anti-degradation policy and other regulations. NMAA asks this commission to adopt CCW/GRIP's proposed language for 20.6.4 NMAC, as it provides all of New Mexico with a better tool and guidance for understanding how climate change is impacting our surface waters and how our surface water quality standards must take climate change into account. We also request this commission adopt a new definition of climate change that clarifies that the sources of climate change are primarily human-caused and not due to natural processes.

Thank you for your careful consideration of our comments and CCW's rebuttal testimony with proposed changes.

Sincerely,

/s/

Paula Garcia  
Executive Director of NMAA

**From:** [Yeshe Parks](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 8:48:30 AM

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WQCC Administrator Pamela Jones,

Re: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)

Dear New Mexico Water Quality Control Commissioners:

My name is Yeshe parks and I am a young person/farmer/member of the acequia del abajo de El .Traditional rural communities such as acequias and land grant-mercedes are experiencing rapid land use development that negatively impacts our water resources. Impacts include potential risks of groundwater contamination and increased degradation of surface water quality from municipal wastewater treatment facilities and industrial water users, such as oil & gas, mining, and national laboratories. The state Triennial Review is therefore critical to ensure our precious water is protected for current and future generations.

I support the proposals by Communities for Clean Water (CCW) and the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) to provide more protections of New Mexico's waters. Specifically, I urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change and make clear that the purpose of these regulations is to address climate change;
- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of Emerging Contaminants.
- Adopt language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for Emerging Contaminants;
- Add PFAS to the definition of Emerging Contaminants;
- Not limit the definition of Toxic Pollutants to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants;
- Oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria;
- Not eliminate requirements to monitor for PFAS, a group of harmful 'forever' chemicals.
- Not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for PCBs with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated; and
- Express dismay that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers to fight state efforts protecting waters from toxic and persistent pollutants.

El agua es vida. Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Yeshe Parks (207)272-9476

Yeshe Parks

yesheparks@gmail.com

142 El Valle Rd.

Chamisal, New Mexico 87521-4001

July 20, 2021

By email: [pamela.jones@state.nm.us](mailto:pamela.jones@state.nm.us)

Pamela Jones, WQCC Administrator  
New Mexico Environment Department  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Re: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)

Dear Ms. Jones:

I've live in NM al my life except when I was in the army during the Viet Nam War era. I know that clean water, clean air and healthy food are the 3 most important things for life. I support the proposals by Communities for Clean Water (CCW) and the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) to provide more protections of New Mexico's waters. Specifically, I urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

- adopt an adequate definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change. *See* the CCW and GRIP proposed changes to definitions;
- state in the regulations that a purpose of the regulations is to address climate change;
- support the adoption of the CCW and GRIP proposed definition of **Emerging Contaminants**;
- support adoption of language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for **Emerging Contaminants**;
- support adding PFAS to the definition of **Emerging Contaminants**;
- oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria. In order to protect public health and New Mexico communities, ensure the fish we catch in rivers, streams, reservoirs, and lakes are kept safe to eat;
- not limit the definition of **Toxic Pollutants** to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants.
- not eliminate requirements to monitor for **PFAS**, a group of harmful 'forever' chemicals. PFAS have been detected at LANL. PFAS, or per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, have been around since the 1940s and are found in Teflon and in military-grade fire retardants.
- not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for **PCBs** with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated.
- express its dismay that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers to fight state efforts to protect waters from toxic and persistent pollutants.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Lopez Pino,

songwriter, rancher, great grandfather, family man, retired teacher and principal

paullopezpino@gmail.com

Name and contact information

**Submitted to:**

Pamela Jones  
Office of Public Facilitation  
New Mexico Environment Department  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, NM 87502  
email: pamela.jones@state.nm.us

RE: Docket# WQCC 20-51(R)

**Public Comment by Alex Puglisi**  
In the matter of WQCC 20-51(R)

**Proposed Change #1:** The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is proposing a new definition of "climate change" that doesn't identify climate change to be the result of predominantly human causes.

**Comment:** The Commission should adopt a definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change and specifies the reversal of climate change as an objective and purpose of the regulations.

**Proposed Change #2:** NMED is proposing a new definition of "Contaminants of Emerging Concern" (CECs), while Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and the New Mexico Mining Association (NMMA) are opposing adding a CEC definition and CEC monitoring requirements to the standards.

**Comment:** The Commission should the adopt a CEC definition that clearly gives NMED the authority to require the monitoring of CECs. I further support adding PFAS to the CEC definition as an example of CECs. PFAS are perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances that are a group of man-made chemicals that research has shown to affect health, increase the risk of some cancers, affect childhood development, increase cholesterol levels, weaken the immune system, and interfere with the body's hormones.

**Proposed Change #3:** Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is proposing to substantially limit the number of waters, including waters on LANL's property, that currently receive protections under the Human Health - Organism Only (HH-OO) criteria for toxic pollutants. These criteria protect human health by ensuring that pollutants dangerous to human health do not build up in fish and other aquatic life that humans ingest.

**Comment:** The Commission should not adopt LANL's proposal to weaken HH-OO criteria. Fish and wildlife rely on our rivers, streams, reservoirs, and lakes, must be protected, as well as kept safe for human consumption.

**Proposed Change #4:** Changes to the definition of Toxic Pollutants. LANL and the NMMA propose to limit the definition of "toxic pollutant" to only toxic pollutants listed in an outdated EPA list.

**Comment:** New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants based on an outdated federal list of toxic pollutants. The EPA list take years to change and its amendment has been hampered by administrative priorities, funding, and political considerations, rather than the protection of human health and environment. The New Mexico Environment Department has, and needs, the authority to fully protect the “waters” and people of this State beyond the outdated and incomplete list of toxic pollutants as maintained by the federal government (EPA). The Commission should not approve the removal, or limitation, of NMED’s authority.

**Proposed Change #5:** LANL proposes to limit monitoring to an outdated EPA list of monitoring methods for purposes of permit compliance and enforcement.

**Comment:** Such a change is not protective of human health or the environment. This proposal would prevent effective monitoring of contaminants such as, but not limited to, PCBs and PFAS and should not be approved by the Water Quality Control Commission.



**From:** [Resa Sawyer](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 7:06:47 AM

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WQCC Administrator Pamela Jones,

Re: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)

Dear New Mexico Water Quality Control Commissioners:

My name is Resa Sawyer and I am a farmer from the community of Taos Pueblo. Traditional rural communities such as acequias and land grant-mercedes are experiencing rapid land use development that negatively impacts our water resources. Impacts include potential risks of groundwater contamination and increased degradation of surface water quality from municipal wastewater treatment facilities and industrial water users, such as oil & gas, mining, and national laboratories. The state Triennial Review is therefore critical to ensure our precious water is protected for current and future generations.

I support the proposals by Communities for Clean Water (CCW) and the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) to provide more protections of New Mexico's waters. Specifically, I urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change and make clear that the purpose of these regulations is to address climate change;
- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of Emerging Contaminants.
- Adopt language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for Emerging Contaminants;
- Add PFAS to the definition of Emerging Contaminants;
- Not limit the definition of Toxic Pollutants to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants;
- Oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria;
- Not eliminate requirements to monitor for PFAS, a group of harmful 'forever' chemicals.
- Not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for PCBs with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated; and
- Express dismay that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers to fight state efforts protecting waters from toxic and persistent pollutants.

El agua es vida. Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,  
Resa Sawyer

Resa Sawyer  
themiddleagedspread@yahoo.com  
Po box 497  
Taos, New Mexico 87571

**From:** [Suzie Schwartz](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Cc:** [Sandy Schwartz](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment for Triennial Review- Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 5:46:26 PM

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Pamela Jones, WQCC Administrator  
New Mexico Environment Department  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Re: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)

Dear Ms. Jones:

As residents who have lived and worked in and loved Northern New Mexico for decades, we are writing to you today in support of the proposals made by Communities for Clean Water (CCW) and the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) to provide more protections of New Mexico's waters. Specifically, I urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

- adopt an adequate definition of the climate crisis that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change. See the CCW and GRIP proposed changes to definitions.
- state in the regulations that a purpose of the regulations is to address the climate crisis (including looking at seismic activity and the science of our NM faults)
- support the adoption of the CCW and GRIP proposed definition of Emerging Contaminants.
- support adoption of language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for Emerging Contaminants. A study was done in 2006 involving dust from before, during and after the Cerro Grande Fire. One of my friends who lives in Llano Quemado was a participant in the study. Her house contained dust of various ages. Study results demonstrated heavy concentrations of Strontium 90 which is not a naturally occurring element. Regular air monitoring records the air passing through in real time, but the accumulated dust that builds up, often at levels where children play, is even more telling. Some of my friend's neighbors near her home were told not to give their plums to their grandkids, due to higher than safe concentrations of beryllium. This is not consistent with the work the Llano Quemado and Penasco communities are doing to bring back local agriculture and sustainable farming practices to our communities. (The information on the study is public knowledge.)
- support adding PFAS to the definition of Emerging Contaminants.

- not limit the definition of Toxic Pollutants to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants, especially with the existence of the Los Alamos National Laboratory in the North with its very poor track record of protecting public safety.
- oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria. In order to protect public health and New Mexico communities, ensure the fish we catch in rivers, streams, reservoirs, and lakes are kept safe to eat. Fish from Trampas Lake and other high elevation waters which are directly downwind of LANL are not necessarily safe.
- not eliminate requirements to monitor for PFAS, a group of harmful 'forever' chemicals. PFAS have been detected at LANL. PFAS, or per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, have been around since the 1940s and are found in Teflon and in military-grade fire retardants.
- not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for PCBs with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated.
- express its dismay that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers to fight state efforts to protect waters from toxic and persistent pollutants. This is a most egregious violation of the rights and security of the people of Northern New Mexico and hypocrisy on its face as LANL portrays itself as a benevolent giant which has a positive impact on northern New Mexico and the state as a whole.

Please do the right thing and protect New Mexico's waters and environment from LANL's self-serving interests!

Sincerely yours,

Alexander C. Schwartz III and Suzanne Schwartz  
Norteños for Peaceful and Sustainable Futures  
9 Eototo Rd.  
El Prado  
87529  
575 770 2629

**From:** [Allyson Siwik via ActionNetwork.org](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** Water Quality Control Commission, Protect New Mexico's Water Resources  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 5:39:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [protect-new-mexicos-water-resources\\_signatures\\_202107161139.pdf](#)

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Water Quality Control Commission,

14 people have signed a petition on Action Network telling you to Protect New Mexico's Water Resources.

Here is the petition they signed:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comment as part of the Triennial Review Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R).

I support the proposals by Communities for Clean Water (CCW) and the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) to provide more protections of New Mexico's waters.

Specifically, I urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

- adopt an adequate definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change. See the CCW and GRIP proposed changes to definitions.
- state in the regulations that a purpose of the regulations is to address climate change.
- support the adoption of the CCW and GRIP proposed definition of "Emerging Contaminants."
- support adoption of language that clearly gives the NM Environment Department authority to require monitoring for Emerging Contaminants.
- support adding PFAS (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances) to the definition of Emerging Contaminants.
- not limit the definition of Toxic Pollutants to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants.
- oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria. In order to protect public health and New Mexico communities, ensure the fish we catch in rivers, streams, reservoirs, and lakes are kept safe to eat.

- not eliminate requirements to monitor for PFAS, a group of harmful ‘forever’ chemicals that have been detected at LANL, the Gila River and other surface waters throughout the state.
- not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for PCBs with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

You can view each petition signer and the comments they left you in the attached PDF.

Thank you,

Gila Resources Information Project

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**From:** [Laura Stewart](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment for Triennial Review-Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Monday, July 19, 2021 3:27:39 PM

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Dear Ms. Jones:

As a resident of Santa Fe, who has lived and worked in and loved Northern New Mexico for decades, I am writing to you today in support of the proposals made by Communities for Clean Water (CCW) and the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) to provide more protections of New Mexico's waters. Specifically, I urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

- adopt an adequate definition of the climate crisis that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change. See the CCW and GRIP proposed changes to definitions.
- state in the regulations that a purpose of the regulations is to address the climate crisis (including looking at seismic activity and the science of our NM faults)
- support the adoption of the CCW and GRIP proposed definition of Emerging Contaminants.
- support adoption of language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for Emerging Contaminants.
- support adding PFAS to the definition of Emerging Contaminants.
- not limit the definition of Toxic Pollutants to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants, especially with the existence of the Los Alamos National Laboratory in the North with its very poor track record of protecting public safety.
- oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria. In order to protect public health and New Mexico communities, ensure the fish we catch in rivers, streams, reservoirs, and lakes are kept safe to eat. Fish from Trampas Lake and other high elevation waters which are directly downwind of LANL are not necessarily safe.
- not eliminate requirements to monitor for PFAS, a group of harmful 'forever' chemicals. PFAS have been detected at LANL. PFAS, or per- and poly-fluoroalkyl

substances, have been around since the 1940s and are found in Teflon and in military-grade fire retardants.

- not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for PCBs with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated.
- express its dismay that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers to fight state efforts to protect waters from toxic and persistent pollutants. This is a most egregious violation of the rights and security of the people of Northern New Mexico and hypocrisy on its face as LANL portrays itself as a benevolent giant which has a positive impact on northern New Mexico and the state as a whole.

Please help to protect New Mexico's waters and environment!

Sincerely yours,

Laura Stewart  
30 Calle de los Alamos  
Santa Fe, NM 87506



**From:** [Margaret Villanueva PhD](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Sunday, July 18, 2021 4:54:00 PM

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WQCC Administrator Pamela Jones,

Re: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)

Dear New Mexico Water Quality Control Commissioners:

My name is Margaret Villanueva from the community of Las Vegas NM. Traditional rural communities such as acequias and land grant-mercedes are experiencing rapid land use development that negatively impacts our water resources. Impacts include potential risks of groundwater contamination and increased degradation of surface water quality from municipal wastewater treatment facilities and industrial water users, such as oil & gas, mining, and national laboratories. The state Triennial Review is therefore critical to ensure our precious water is protected for current and future generations.

I support the proposals by Communities for Clean Water (CCW) and the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) to provide more protections of New Mexico's waters. Specifically, I urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change and make clear that the purpose of these regulations is to address climate change;
- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of Emerging Contaminants.
- Adopt language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for Emerging Contaminants;
- Add PFAS to the definition of Emerging Contaminants;
- Not limit the definition of Toxic Pollutants to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants;
- Oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria;
- Not eliminate requirements to monitor for PFAS, a group of harmful 'forever' chemicals.
- Not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for PCBs with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated; and
- Express dismay that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers to fight state efforts protecting waters from toxic and persistent pollutants.

El agua es vida. Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Margaret Villanueva, PhD

628 Chavez St

Las Vegas NM 87701

Margaret Villanueva PhD

[mvmavillanu@gmail.com](mailto:mvmavillanu@gmail.com)

628 Chavez St

Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701

July 15, 2021

By email: [pamela.jones@state.nm.us](mailto:pamela.jones@state.nm.us)

Pamela Jones, WQCC Administrator  
New Mexico Environment Department  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Re: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)

Dear Ms. Jones:

I support the proposals by Communities for Clean Water (CCW) and the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) to provide more protections of New Mexico's waters. Specifically, I urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

- adopt an adequate definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change. *See* the CCW and GRIP proposed changes to definitions;
- state in the regulations that a purpose of the regulations is to address climate change;
- support the adoption of the CCW and GRIP proposed definition of **Emerging Contaminants**;
- support adoption of language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for **Emerging Contaminants**;
- support adding PFAS to the definition of **Emerging Contaminants**;
- oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria. In order to protect public health and New Mexico communities, ensure the fish we catch in rivers, streams, reservoirs, and lakes are kept safe to eat;
- not limit the definition of **Toxic Pollutants** to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants.
- not eliminate requirements to monitor for **PFAS**, a group of harmful 'forever' chemicals. PFAS have been detected at LANL. PFAS, or per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, have been around since the 1940s and are found in Teflon and in military-grade fire retardants.
- not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for **PCBs** with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated.
- express its dismay that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers to fight state efforts to protect waters from toxic and persistent pollutants.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Laura Watchempino  
P.O. Box 407  
Pueblo of Acoma, NM 87034

**From:** [Cynthia Weehler](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Cc:** [maia@tewawomenunited.org](mailto:maia@tewawomenunited.org)  
**Subject:** WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021 11:46:00 AM

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I live in northern New Mexico and am submitting these comments in support of Teras Women United and everyone else who depends on clean air, water, and land. The only protection we have is the NMED, and we need its protection now.

This proposal would prevent effective monitoring of PCBs and PFAS. I strongly object that the U.S. Department of Energy and LANL are spending taxpayer dollars to fight state efforts to protect waters from persistent and harmful pollutants.

I also support adoption of a CEC definition that clearly gives NMED the authority to require monitoring CECs. I support adding PFAS to the CEC definition as an example of CECs. PFAS are perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances that are a group of man-made chemicals that research has shown to affect reproductive health, increase the risk of some cancers, affect childhood development, increase cholesterol levels, weaken the immune system, and interfere with the body's hormones.

Most sincerely,

Cynthia Weehler

**From:** [Betsy Wolf](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 10:23:46 AM

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To Pamela Jones  
Office of Public Facilitation  
NMED

As a 43-year resident of Taos, I have seen the difference in our weather and the decrease in available water. Water is life and water is precious. It seems obvious to most of the world that climate change is real and science has determined it to be caused mostly by humans' use of fossil fuels to run their cars and power their homes.

I am shocked and disappointed that the Environment Department in our state would now consider redefining "Climate Change" so as to avoid putting most of the blame on human activity, driven by the interest of oil and gas industries. This is the most critical issue of our time and I ask that you address it head on and honestly.

I humbly request that the Department reconsider their decision to re-define Climate Change.

Respectfully,  
Betsy Wolf  
1010 St. Francis Lane, off Francis Road  
El Prado, NM 87529  
PO Box 524  
Taos, NM 87571

**From:** [Chiyoko Yoshida](#)  
**To:** [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)  
**Date:** Friday, July 16, 2021 6:20:47 PM

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WQCC Administrator Pamela Jones,

Re: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)

Dear New Mexico Water Quality Control Commissioners:

My name is Chiyoko Yoshida and I am a resident and irrigated property owner in from the community of Ribera, NM (Los Trigos Acequia). Traditional rural communities such as acequias and land grant-mercedes are experiencing rapid land use development that negatively impacts our water resources. Impacts include potential risks of groundwater contamination and increased degradation of surface water quality from municipal wastewater treatment facilities and industrial water users, such as oil & gas, mining, and national laboratories. The state Triennial Review is therefore critical to ensure our precious water is protected for current and future generations.

I support the proposals by Communities for Clean Water (CCW) and the Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP) to provide more protections of New Mexico's waters. Specifically, I urge the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to:

- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of climate change that identifies human activities as the major cause of climate change and make clear that the purpose of these regulations is to address climate change;
- Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of Emerging Contaminants.
- Adopt language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for Emerging Contaminants;
- Add PFAS to the definition of Emerging Contaminants;
- Not limit the definition of Toxic Pollutants to the EPA list of toxic pollutants. New Mexico should not cede its authority to identify and regulate toxic pollutants;
- Oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria;
- Not eliminate requirements to monitor for PFAS, a group of harmful 'forever' chemicals.
- Not eliminate the requirement that LANL monitor for PCBs with sufficient accuracy to determine whether state standards are violated; and
- Express dismay that LANL is spending taxpayer dollars on lawyers to fight state efforts

protecting waters from toxic and persistent pollutants.

El agua es vida. Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Chiyoko Yoshida HC 72 Box 186, Ribera NM

Chiyoko Yoshida

[cheedoh@gmail.com](mailto:cheedoh@gmail.com)

HC 72 Box 186

Ribera, New Mexico 87560