

From: [Stephen Schmidt](#)
To: [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)
Subject: Docket # WQCC-51(R)
Date: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 8:48:12 PM

Dear Ms. Jones-

Since I can't not make the public comment periods I would like to share my thoughts here. First it seems incomprehensible the the New Mexico environment Department would consider a definition of climate change which doesn't acknowledge it is human caused. That sounds like they get their scientific information from Fox "News".

I do support a new definition of "Contaminants of Emerging Concern" that gives the NM Environment Department the power and authority to monitor CECs such as PFAS. This also relates to LANL's proposal to weaken Human Health-Organism Only criteria. The State must keep its water resources clean and healthy which keeps its citizens healthy. LANL has been a major source of contaminants in this state from its beginning and must be kept to the highest standards and monitoring vigilance.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Stephen Schmidt
21 Calle Debra
Santa Fe, NM 87507
ssdog@me.com
505-557-9731

From: [Anissa Baca](#)
To: [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)
Subject: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)
Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 12:41:08 PM

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 Anissa Baca and I am a community member of from the community of Ojo Caliente, using the Mesa Prieta 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,
Anissa Baca

Anissa Baca
anissabaca26@gmail.com
HCR 77 Box 5
Ojo Caliente, New Mexico 87549

From: [Alexa Baca](#)
To: [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)
Subject: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)
Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 12:52:03 PM

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)

Alexa Baca

alexabaca32@gmail.com

3305 Calle Cuervo NW apt 818

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87114

From: [Cynthia Baca](#)
To: [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)
Subject: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)
Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 12:47:59 PM

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 Cynthia Baca and I am a community member of Ojo Caliente using water from the Mesa Prieta 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,
Cynthia Baca

Cynthia Baca
cynthia.baca@windstream.net
HCR 77 Box 5
Ojo Caliente, New Mexico 87549

July 14, 2021

Public Comment RE: Triennial Review of Surface Water Quality Standards Hearing beginning Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Dear Review Board Members,

I am writing to you to urge you to keep our clean water standards high. A number of the proposed changes that you will be making decisions on involve the Los Alamos National Laboratory and the requirements they currently have to meet.

Vote to hold LANL and any other applicants to the strictest clean water standards and vote against relaxing any standards that protect our N.M. residents' health.

Climate change is being caused by human activities, and our regulations should reflect that, and not add to the problem by relaxing standards on contaminants and public waters' purity. The N.M. Environmental Department should have full authority and genuinely protective regulations to monitor potential hazards in our waters.

Thank you very much for considering my input.

Ann B. Dunlap PHD
2710 Veranda Rd. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107
505 328 3632

From: [Bee Falcon](#)
To: [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)
Subject: NM Water Quality Control Commission and the NM Water Quality Standards
Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:04:50 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Please demand to provide more protections for New Mexico's waters.our state surface water quality standards and regulations.

As a traditional rural community, inadequate protection for the health of the water can negatively impact our communities, families and livelihoods. Impacts include potential risks of groundwater contamination and increased degradation of surface water quality by municipal wastewater treatment facilities and industrial water users, such as oil & gas, mining, and national laboratories. With the state Triennial Review, please ensure that our precious water is protected for current and future generations of acequero/as.

Thank you,

Bee Falcon
PO Box 366
El Prado, NM 87529
(928) 707-0063

From: [Rosalie Flores](#)
To: [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)
Subject: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)
Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 11:31:57 PM

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 Rosalie Flores and I am a community member from the community of the south valley. 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,
Rosalie Flores

Rosalie Flores
eliciomisol@yahoo.com
809 Hardy SW
Albuquerque , New Mexico 87105

From: [ALIS Itlatol](#)
To: [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)
Subject: Docket # WQCC 20-51(R)
Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 11:57:02 AM

Is Common Sense is on the extinction list of Humanity?
COMMON Sense knows that polluting Water IS, DOES, and WILL kill Nature's ecosystem that All Life Depends on to Live.
Climate Change is Exacerbating Drought throughout the southwest, therefore Every drop of Water is precious.

1.) I Oppose a Limited Definition of Climate Change

I support the Adoption of a definition of climate change that identifies and includes human activities of Nuclear, Oil, Chemical, Industrial and Chem Ag pollutants/contaminants as major causes of climate change
AND that Climate Change causes Ecocide which causes genocide.
Regulations must specify **combating** climate change as a **purpose** of the regulations, AND include **Rights of Nature** language that is written by Indigenous and non Indigenous community members.

2.) I Support Standards for BANNING and criminalizing the use of Lethal and toxic hazardous Contaminants.

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.
Therefore, I Support the adoption of a CEC definition that clearly gives NMED the authority and is **Required to** monitor CECs including but not limited to PFAS: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl, which are 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.
"PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals," which have been linked to cancer and birth defects. The E.P.A. approvals came despite the agency's own concerns about toxicity."
https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/12/climate/epa-pfas-fracking-forever-chemicals.html?smid=fb-share&fbclid=IwAR3937m9sWgj5aASisBXROTo-dVtK_SweizdrbP9GasSG9FxJYxC8_KzI2o
HOWEVER **Monitoring** Toxic Hazardous Contaminants IS NOT ENOUGH !
Stop the manufacturing and use of Toxic Hazardous Contaminants !

3.) I 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.

If this criteria is weakened, expect that there will be articles, news and other media to warn *The NM Fishing Tourist Industry*, that the state is allowing increased contaminants in our waters and the fish is Unsafe to catch and eat.
End putting "profits" over our health.

4.) I Oppose LANL and the NMMA who are in the BUSINESS of manufacturing, mining and using TOXIC LETHAL contaminants and pollutants to influence, propose or have any "right" to limit the definition of "toxic pollutants" and or limit the list of toxic pollutants listed in an outdated EPA list. The EPA List must be expanded and the manufacturing, use and release of toxic pollutants must be outlawed, banned and criminalized.

New Mexicans, the Indigenous and non Indigenous Peoples of New Mexico have the "right" to clean water, land and agriculture.

New Mexicans have the right to Stop Ecocide which causes genocide.

New Mexicans have the right to speak and act for the protection of water, land, and **The Rights of Nature.**

Because without the health of Nature there is NO Life !

Moreover, Common Sense knows that no US Agency, politician nor employee of the county, state, US Fed govt has a "right" to create, support, advance, agree to any laws and regs that proliferate ecocide which causes genocide, to believe the opposite is Suicidal OMNICIDE

There are 2 paths, one is the Scorched Earth path, the other is Green.

Choose the Green Path with crystal clear clean waters and lands.

April Mondragon

13 Camino Coyote

El Prado, NM 87529

575-751-1962

"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way.
On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing." ~Arundhati Roy

From: [Lee Baca](#)
To: [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)
Subject: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)
Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 12:50:47 PM

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 Lee Baca and I am a community member from the community of Ojo Caliente and use the water from the Mesa Prieta. 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,

Lee Baca

Lee Baca

lbaca17@windstream.net

HCR 77 Box 5

Ojo Caliente, New Mexico 87549

From: [Corilia Ortega](#)
To: [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)
Subject: Public Comments for Triennial Review - Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)
Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 1:40:45 PM

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 Corilia Ortega and I am a 3rd year acequia farmer in Arroyo Hondo, NM. I grow from the Taos mountain run-off using water from the Rio Hondo. I grow food for my family, my closest neighbors, and when there is enough, for food boxes. Water quality ensures I have healthy soil, nutritious & contaminate-free produce, and sustainable seed resources. I also have struggled having land & water access due to rising development and little policy supporting small-scale growers. 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,
Corilia Ortega, Agricultural Resource Coordinator & Grower

Corilia Ortega
coriliaortega@gmail.com
PO Box 483
Arroyo Hondo, New Mexico 87513

From: [Hannah Romig](#)
To: [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Docket Number WQCC 20-51(R)
Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:51:35 PM

Dear Pamela Jones,

My name is Hannah Romig. I am a 26 year old farmer and land steward from Albuquerque. The decisions made regarding New Mexico's surface water quality regulations affect not only me and the future generations of New Mexicans, who hope to keep this landscape vibrant, safe, protected, and accessible to all - but they affect the health of our older generations and the prolific diversity of plants and animals that thrive in New Mexico - especially in our waters. I am therefore writing to address our collective responsibility to the land that nourishes us. I urge you to oppose LANL's proposal to weaken HH-00 criteria as applied to our rivers - because ALL of them must be kept safe for public access. People must feel safe to eat the fish we catch in our rivers and streams. The safety of our waterways affects those of us who eat from and recreate in those waterways - and that includes myself, my entire family, and my community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Hannah Romig

--

Hannah Romig

(505) 503-0366 | h.romigs@gmail.com

Public comment for Triennial Review in front of the Water Quality Standards Commission

July 14, 2021

RE: WQCC 20-51(R)

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

From: Susan Schuurman, New Mexico resident
susanjschuurman@gmail.com

Thank you, Mr. Hearing Officer, my name is Sue Schuurman, and I'm speaking as a long-time New Mexico resident who cares deeply about our water quality. In fact, the water that I'm drinking right now is from north of Los Alamos National Labs, because I fear Albuquerque tap water, downstream from LANL, is not safe to drink.

I urge you to strengthen water quality standards for our state's surface water.

- I support defining climate change as human-caused and that
- Combating climate change be a purpose of these regulations
- I support adding PFAS chemicals to the list of contaminants of emerging concern due to how damaging PFAS can be to human health
- I urge the Commission to protect the fish that we catch and eat from our rivers and lakes
- I urge you to not be dependent on an outdated federal list of toxic pollutants and outdated monitoring methods

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Water is life, agua es vida. Let's raise the bar higher on protecting the precious water that sustains all life forms.

Also, I was told that public comment would be at 5pm every day and 8am every day. But I'm told that time frame has not been the case. Moving public comment time periods makes genuine public participation very challenging for workers who are attempting to protect their water while holding down full time jobs and feeding their families. I urge the hearing officer to honor the public comment schedule that was originally advertised in the public notices so public participation can be a meaningful part of this process.

Thank you.

Note: two parties stated after I made my comment that they were not able to hear my comment.

Susan Schuurman
New Mexico resident

2112 Charlevoix NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104

From: [Atava Garcia Swiecicki](#)
To: [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)
Subject: I support protections for NM waters
Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 9:55:22 AM

July 14, 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 am a resident in Los Ranchos, NM and am concerned about the impact that industry and development has on the health of our water and of communities that rely on it. As we are in a time of drought, ensuring that our water supplies are clean and uncontaminated is more important than ever.

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**.
- 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. 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,

--

Atava Garcia Swiecicki, MH, RH (AHG)
716 Pueblo Solano, NW
Los Ranchos, NM 87107

July 1, 2021

By email: ivaldez412@gmail.com

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

Dear New Mexico Water Quality Control Commissioners:

My name is Ivan Valdez and I am the Board President of the El LLano de la Presa Ditch Association in San Jose, New Mexico. Traditional rural communities such as acequias and land grant-mercedes are experiencing rapid land use development that negatively impacts our water resources. Impact includes 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.
- *Increase bonding requirements for mining companies, for clean-up operations.*
- 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.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

Ivan Valdez, 505-715-3493

From: [Sylvia Ernestina Vergara](#)
To: [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)
Subject: Docket No. WQCC 20-51(R)
Date: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 11:18:47 PM

Dear New Mexico Water Quality Control Commissioners:

My name is Sylvia Ernestina Vergara and I am a (parciante/mayordomo/commissioner) with the (Acequia del Medio) in Rio Arriba County. 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:

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->● <!--[endif]-->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;
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->● <!--[endif]-->Adopt CCW's and GRIP's proposed definition of **Emerging Contaminants**.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->● <!--[endif]-->Adopt language that clearly gives NMED authority to require monitoring for **Emerging Contaminants**;
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->● <!--[endif]-->Add PFAS to the definition of **Emerging Contaminants**;
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->● <!--[endif]-->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;
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->● <!--[endif]-->Oppose the efforts of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to weaken the human health-organism only (HH-OO) criteria;
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->● <!--[endif]-->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
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->● <!--[endif]-->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,

Sylvia Ernestina Vergara

ps

Humans are 65 to 70% water. Water is important to me everyday. There is so little drinking water left on our planet. For our survival we must protect it. I am very fortunate to have the most wonderful tasting drinking water. It is so precious that when I go to Albuquerque, I always take a gallon or two of it to have for my friends and relatives so that they remember what truly wonderful drinking water really tastes like. I am wealthy not because I have a lot of money, but because I have best drinking water. That is real wealth. Let's not prostitute and defile our water. Let tax paying New Mexicans be proud to say, "Yes, our water is precious, valuable and one of New Mexico's most cherished resources." The value of really good drinking water will increase with time because it is increasingly becoming more scarce. We are the water. If we value ourselves, we value our water. We are only as good as our water.

From: [Rebecca M Summer](#)
To: [Jones, Pamela, NMENV](#)
Subject: Fwd: Docket # WQCC 20-51(R) water quality regulations
Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:21:00 PM

July 14, 2021

Dear Ms. Jones:

My friends, family and I here in southwest NM are advocates for stronger water quality protections, strengthen surface water regulations, and **oppose proposed amendments by LANL and NM Mining Association** that will seriously weaken existing surface water regulations.

Below are the five points that we submit to protect our water quality, our health, our lands, our water, and our lives.

1) Oppose a Limited Definition of Climate Change: The New Mexico Environment

Department (NMED) is proposing a new definition of "climate change" that doesn't

identify climate change as predominantly human caused.

We 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.

2) Support Standards for Contaminants of Emerging Concern:

NMED is proposing a new definition of "Contaminants of Emerging Concern" (CEC), 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.

Support adoption of a CEC definition that clearly gives NMED the authority to require 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. PFAS have been measured in the Gila River.

3) Say "No!" to Toxic Fish: 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.
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) Support the Existing 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.
New Mexico should **not cede its authority** to identify and regulate toxic pollutants based on an outdated federal list of toxic pollutants.

5) Oppose Limited Monitoring for LANL: LANL proposes to limit monitoring to an outdated EPA list of monitoring methods for purposes of permit compliance and enforcement.
This proposal would **prevent effective monitoring of PCBs and PFAS**. We express a strong 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.

Thank you for consideration of our advocacy for stronger and comprehensive water quality protections.

Best,
Rebecca M Summer PhD
Richard Ducotey
Silver City, NM