



New Mexico Environment Department

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT, PRESERVING THE ENCHANTMENT

SEDIMENT SAMPLING INSTRUCTION SHEET

What Can You Do? The residents of San Juan County can be the eyes and ears for NMED in the field. Anyone who sees discolored or contaminated soil should notify NMED immediately by calling 1-800-219-6157. If you are comfortable doing so, you may use this kit to safely collect a soil sample that will be tested by NMED.

Safety Considerations- Your safety is the most important consideration! Keep general safety tips in mind. Do not collect samples from private property without the permission of the landowner. Wear rubber gloves (a pair is provided) when sampling. Use EXTREME caution when wading or walking on steep terrain. Wash your hands after sampling.

Where to Sample?

- Areas where discolored or gold-colored soil was observed on or after August 5, 2015.
- High flow marks on river banks.
- Any area of soil that you are concerned about being related to the spill.

Take a Picture! If you can photograph the area and the sample you collected, please email it to NMED at NMENV-Outreach@state.nm.us. Note the sample location and date it was collected in your email so we can match it to the sample.

Collecting a Sample

- 1) Before you begin:
 - a) Use a pencil or permanent marker to write a brief description of the location on the sample sheet.
 - b) Note the date and time on the sample sheet.
 - c) Put on the plastic gloves.
 - d) Clear away sticks, rocks, or other debris from the sample area.
- 2) Use the scoop in the kit to put 2-3 scoops of soil into the plastic bag. Approximately ½ Cup (4 ounces) is enough. (Note: You may need a garden trowel or shovel if the soil is hard or if you are digging deeper than a few inches).
- 3) Seal the plastic bag tightly.
- 4) Put the gloves, sealed bag, scoop, and sample sheet (with any notes) into the large envelope and seal it.
- 5) Wash your hands.
- 6) Store the packet in a safe place where children and pets will not disturb it. It does not require refrigeration.

Take your sample packet to the front desk at the New Mexico Environment Department located at 3400 Messina Dr., Farmington, NM 87402 (505) 566-9741