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James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

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NEWS RELEASE

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

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Environment Department releases map displaying non-compliant liquid waste system operators in the Permian Basin

More than 140 RV sites in Eddy County are not compliant with state liquid waste regulations, according to data in an [interactive map](#) released by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) today.

As the oil and gas industry continues to grow in southeast New Mexico, many workers live in formal or makeshift RV parks known as “man camps.” When operators of such parks do not properly install or operate liquid waste systems, sewage leaks can and do occur, endangering public health and the environment.

NMED issued notices of violation to many of these systems in 2018, some of which remain in long-term noncompliance. Once a system receives a notice of violation, they must contact NMED within 5 to 10 days to develop a compliance plan. An estimated 20 percent of these operators have worked with the department to come into compliance.

“Compliance with state laws that protect public health and the environment from raw sewage is not optional,” said Environment Department Cabinet Secretary James Kenney. “In providing this map to the public, we hope to increase public health awareness and to encourage liquid waste system operators to come into compliance prior to our Department taking legal action.”

The map also includes notices of violation issued and photos of the violations associated with each site.

“This interactive map is a great tool for us both to use in tackling the challenge of liquid waste management in Eddy County,” said Steve McCroskey, Eddy County Assistant Director of Community Services. “One of Eddy County’s biggest challenges has been to identify and keep pace as new RV parks continually pop up. Having the available resources to check for compliance and then enforce non-compliance is something the County and NMED both have struggled with in the past.”

In addition to the sites identified on the map, NMED identified multiple cases of the illegal disposal of raw sewage in rural areas of Eddy County. All liquid waste systems are required to be permitted and inspected by NMED.

Liquid waste system operators may request technical and compliance assistance from NMED by calling the Department’s Carlsbad Field Office at 575-885-9023. Members of the public who wish to report illegal dumping or non-compliant liquid waste systems may contact NMED staff at 575-370-3200 or 505-476-9125 or report it on the [Eddy County Code Enforcement page](#).

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