NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
Nov. 4, 2019

Contact: Maddy Hayden, Communications Director
New Mexico Environment Department
505.231.8800 | maddy.hayden@state.nm.us

Environment Department issues Notices of Violation to two Permian Basin oil and gas producers for air quality regulatory violations

SANTA FE — Today, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued two Notices of Violation to Matador Production Company and Mewbourne Oil Company for violations of the state’s Air Quality Control Act and Federal Clean Air Act. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued similar notices for these violations.

During an April 2019 inspections sweep in southeast New Mexico, NMED and EPA staff found violations of state and federal air quality laws at Mewbourne and Matador facilities. These violations include failure to capture emissions from storage vessels, failure to maintain pilot lights on flares, failure to comply with closed vent system requirements and failure to ensure natural gas is captured and not emitted to the atmosphere.

“We are committed to holding the oil and natural gas industry accountable for compliance with rules and permits,” said NMED Cabinet Secretary James Kenney. “Enforcement of state and federal standards is essential to protecting public and environmental health and creating a level playing field among operators.”

Failure to comply with state and federal air quality laws can result in uncontrolled emissions of volatile organic compounds, contributing to the formation of ground-level ozone and hazardous air pollutants.

A collateral benefit of compliance with these laws is a reduction in methane emissions. Methane, the key component of natural gas, is a potent greenhouse gas with a global warming potential more than 84 times greater than that of carbon dioxide, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Oil and gas operations in New Mexico are a significant source of methane emissions in the state.

###

NMED does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED’s non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, you may contact:

Kristine Yurdin, Non-Discrimination Coordinator | NMED | 1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050 | P.O. Box 5469 | Santa Fe, NM 87502
(505) 827-2855 or nd.coordinator@state.nm.us

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator.