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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 approves innovative wastewater treatment technology for use at Carlsbad man camp

EDDY COUNTY — A Carlsbad RV park will soon treat its wastewater onsite with an innovative new technology and reuse the water for a beneficial use. This is the first time the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has permitted a system of this kind, illustrating how NMED is bringing innovative economic solutions to environmental challenges around the state.

NMED recently approved the installation of a Fluence Corporation wastewater treatment technology system at the MEC RV park. This technology-forward treatment system will allow the park to reuse its treated water for dust control onsite, enhancing air quality and providing a safe solution to managing wastewater in southeast New Mexico.

“Protecting public health and furthering economic growth are not mutually exclusive,” said NMED Cabinet Secretary James Kenney. “Providing solutions for responsible water management today will protect and preserve our precious water resources for New Mexicans tomorrow.”

As the oil and gas industry continues to thrive in New Mexico’s Permian Basin, NMED has seen an increase in public health issues related to the proper management and disposal of liquid waste. Such violations cause risks to residents and the environment.

“I am pleased to support Secretary Kenney and the New Mexico Environment Department as they work to find a solution to the health and safety issues related to the established man camps in Eddy and Lea counties,” said Sen. Gay Kernan. “It is to the benefit of those living in and around these establishments to meet the requirements of the department for proper disposal of waste. The technology developed by Fluence Corporation could be a part of the solution.”

“Fluence Corporation’s technology is emblematic of the problem-solving and innovation we see occurring in many areas in southeastern New Mexico,” said Rep. Cathrynn Brown. “This is a great win-win for everybody involved.”

This announcement follows the Department’s publication in October of an interactive [map](#) of the Eddy County area depicting RV parks, sometimes known as “man camps,” that were non-compliant with liquid waste regulations. In addition, the Department and Eddy County jointly

conducted targeted compliance assistance outreach to liquid waste operators. Since the map went live, 44 of the 135 violators are now in compliance and safely operating liquid waste systems.

“It is unfair to those who follow the rules to allow others to avoid such costs,” Kenney said. “We applaud those operators who have come into compliance and will continue to hold those who do not accountable.”

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