

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

Jennifer J. Pruet, Deputy Secretary

NEWS RELEASE*For Immediate Release***Feb. 11, 2020***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 reviewing Stage 1 Abatement Plan for groundwater contamination near Dexter

DEXTER — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is reviewing a Stage 1 Abatement Plan for the investigation and clean-up of contaminated groundwater at Rockhill Dairy in Dexter. NMED provides this notice pursuant to Subsection 4108 (A) of the New Mexico Ground and Surface Water Protection Regulations (20.6.2 NMAC).

The site is located approximately four miles southwest of Dexter at 104 E. Ojibwa Road in Sections 26, 27, and 28, Township 13S, Range 25E in Chaves County. Previous groundwater sampling events conducted by Rockhill Dairy revealed concentrations of total dissolved solids, chloride and nitrate in excess of state standards. Groundwater at the site ranges in depth from 77 to 135 feet below the surface.

Rockhill Dairy submitted an abatement plan to NMED on Jan. 10, 2020, per state statute. The Stage 1 Abatement Plan is required to include a site investigation that adequately defines site conditions and provides the data necessary to select and design an effective clean-up option.

The Plan also investigates the extent to which the contamination may have impacted drinking water sources, including private wells. Based on current data and information available to NMED, groundwater contamination has not impacted any public drinking water systems. The site history and any previous groundwater investigations conducted by Rockhill Dairy are also summarized in the plan.

Once Rockhill Dairy completes the site characterization in accordance with an NMED-approved Stage 1 Abatement Plan, NMED will require a Stage 2 Abatement Plan that outlines strategies to clean up groundwater contamination at the facility.

View the abatement plan at: <https://www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/public-notice/>. For more information, contact Marc Bonem, Environmental Scientist and Specialist, Ground Water Quality Bureau, at 505-827-2791 or marc.bonem@state.nm.us.

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Kristine Yurdin, Non-Discrimination Coordinator | NMED | 1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050 | P.O. Box 5469 | Santa Fe, NM 87502

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