



## Environment Department

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

Jennifer J. Pruett, Deputy Secretary

### **NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

**Oct. 7, 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.*

**Contact:** Maddy Hayden, Communications Director  
New Mexico Environment Department  
505.231.8800 | [maddy.hayden@state.nm.us](mailto:maddy.hayden@state.nm.us)

## **Environment Department closes Socorro field office**

**SOCORRO** — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has permanently closed its field office in Socorro located at 103 Neel Street. This field office served as a primary hub for approximately 230 regulated entities and offered services including permitting and inspections for local restaurants, temporary food service events, residential and commercial septic systems and public pools and spas.

Starting today, all in-person transactions, including submitting permit applications or modifications and payment of permit and application fees, may be completed at our Los Lunas office located at 475 Courthouse Road SE Suite B. NMED also accepts payment of fees through the mail and, in some cases, online. More of our programs and services are expected to adopt online payment options by the end of the year. Compliance assistance and inspections will initiate from our Los Lunas office.

The closure of the NMED Socorro field office was necessitated by budget constraints that have worsened over time. As operational and personnel costs increased over the past 10 years, the Department's budget was cut in excess of 30% and permitting fees remained static. NMED expects further restructuring and possible field office consolidation in the coming months.

The Department is committed to excellence in customer service to all New Mexicans. To that end, NMED's priority is retaining all current employees while recruiting new employees for current vacancies.

For more information on the closure, contact the Environmental Health Bureau at 505-222-9516.

###

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](mailto: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.

###