



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

Jennifer J. Pruett, Deputy Secretary

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.

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

Environment Department presents budget for next fiscal year

Priorities include role in COVID-19 response, improving air quality, holding polluters accountable

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will present today to the Legislative Finance Committee its proposed fiscal year 2022 budget request of \$89.2 million.

The budget request, if approved, would allow NMED to continue work on key initiatives of the administration, including developing nationally leading ozone precursor rules in the oil and gas industry.

Other ongoing and upcoming NMED work includes:

- Responding to COVID-19 in workplaces and publishing the Rapid Response COVID-19 Watchlist.
- Drafting Clean Car regulations and bringing them before the Environmental Improvement Board.
- Identifying and cleaning up PFAS contamination sites around the state.
- Drafting rules to prohibit the use of untreated produced water outside of the oil and gas industry.
- Expediting clean-up of radioactive and chemical contamination around the state, including the Kirtland Air Force Base fuel spill, at Los Alamos National Laboratory and the state's 15 Superfund sites.
- Ensuring all New Mexicans have safe and healthy drinking water.
- Continuing to provide loans and technical assistance to New Mexico communities for essential water infrastructure projects.
- Ensuring employers protect employees by complying with New Mexico's OSHA program.
- Supporting New Mexico restaurants and food manufacturers as they rebuild from the impacts of COVID-19 while we ensure compliance with food safety rules.

- Holding violators of environmental regulations that protect our air, water and land accountable.

“The pandemic is highlighting our agency’s critical role in protecting public health, but the truth is every program within NMED protects New Mexicans and their environment,” said NMED Cabinet Secretary James Kenney. “With the Legislature’s support, we can continue to build on our successes, working toward improved public health and environmental outcomes for all New Mexicans.”

NMED’s general fund was cut by over 30% throughout the decade prior to this administration taking office. The loss of general fund and legislative sweeping of approximately \$30 million in special revenue funds resulted in a loss of NMED staff and the agency’s ability to implement its mission of protecting public health and the environment.

Secretary Kenney will present NMED’s budget request to the Legislative Finance Committee at 2 p.m. today. The meeting will be livestreamed [here](#).

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Kathryn Becker, 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

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