

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

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NEWS RELEASE*For Immediate Release***March 17, 2021***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 receives Stage 1 Abatement Plan to investigate groundwater contamination at Orchard Park Dairy

DEXTER — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is reviewing a Stage 1 Abatement Plan for the investigation and clean-up of contaminated groundwater at Orchard Park Dairy in Dexter.

The site is located at 396 East Orchard Park Road, approximately four miles north of Dexter in Chaves County. Previous groundwater sampling events conducted in 2005 by Orchard Park Dairy revealed elevated concentrations of total dissolved solids, chloride, and nitrogen as nitrate in excess of standards of Section 20.6.2.3103 NMAC. Groundwater at the site ranges in depth from 61 to 68 feet below the surface.

Orchard Park Dairy submitted an abatement plan to NMED on Jan. 12, 2021, pursuant to state statute. The Stage 1 Abatement Plan is required and provides details of an investigation that will define site conditions and provide the data necessary to select an effective clean-up option.

The Plan also details how 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 Orchard Park Dairy are also summarized in the plan.

NMED will approve the Stage 1 Abatement Plan or send Orchard Park Dairy a Notification of Deficiency. Once Orchard Park Dairy completes the site characterization and NMED approves their Final Site Characterization Report, NMED will require a Stage 2 Abatement Plan that outlines and selects a strategy to clean up the groundwater contamination. The abatement plan is available [here](#).

For more information, contact Marc Bonem, Environmental Scientist, Ground Water Quality Bureau, at 505-660-8376 or marc.bonem@state.nm.us. NMED is providing this notice of receipt of the Stage 1 Abatement Plan pursuant to 20.6.2.4108 (A) NMAC of the New Mexico Ground and Surface Water Protection Regulations (20.6.2 NMAC).

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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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