

Environment Department

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release Sept. 29, 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.

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Environment Department reaches settlement with Taos Comprehensive Health Corporation Company's ultiMED Urgent Care Facility

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) reached a settlement agreement with Taos Comprehensive Health Corporation Company's ultiMED facility located at 707 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico for alleged violations of New Mexico's Radiation Protection Act and Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Health and Safety Act dating back to 2017.

NMED alleged the ultiMED urgent care facility failed to assure that individuals who operate x-ray equipment are adequately instructed in the safe operating procedures and competent in the equipment's safe use by NMED approved Radiological Technologists. According to New Mexico regulations, radiologic technologists certified by NMED must undergo rigorous training and testing as part of their certification program to perform x-ray procedures. There is no evidence that patient radiation exposure exceeded normal levels during the exams performed.

In May of 2020, NMED issued an administrative order requiring compliance and a civil penalty for continued non-compliance.

"Proper training for individuals administering x-rays is a matter of public trust between medical professionals and the public," said Deputy Cabinet Secretary Rebecca Roose. "In this instance, the public trust and state laws were broken, which is unacceptable."

As part of the settlement terms, Taos Comprehensive Health Corporation d/b/a ultiMED, shall comply with the training requirements and pay a civil penalty of \$13,500.00 to the State of New Mexico.

Pursuant to state law, the \$13,500 penalty is reverted to the State of New Mexico's general fund and is not kept by NMED. The general fund is the primary state fund from which the ongoing expenses of state government are paid.

The settlement agreement is available <u>HERE</u>.

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 nondiscrimination 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:

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

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator.