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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.

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New report tracks Environment Department's second quarter performance in protecting public health, environment

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) released the second quarter update of the first-of-its kind performance assessment report that offers the public, stakeholders, and legislators the opportunity to track the Department's progress in protecting public health and the environment.

The new report, developed by NMED's Office of Strategic Initiatives, is the second installment in reporting on 47 performance measures over five broad categories as follows:

- 7 public health measures,
- 9 environmental protection measures,
- 24 compliance measures,
- 4 economic investment measures, and
- 3 operational measures.

"We want all New Mexicans to understand how their Environment Department is working for them – whether that is issuing licenses and permits to businesses, awarding grants and loans to local governments, or enforcing the law to protect our environment," said NMED Cabinet Secretary James Kenney. "Our performance assessment report provides clear insight in to how we implement our mission."

The 47 performance measures largely stem from agreements between NMED and the Legislative Finance Committee for state fiscal year 2022 (i.e., July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022). This report covers the second quarter of the fiscal year (i.e., October 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021). Subsequent reports will focus on the third and fourth quarters of the fiscal year.

Highlights from the second quarter of fiscal year 2022 as found in the report include:

- Over 62% of the air emitting sources (e.g., industrial facilities that pollute the air) inspected were in compliance and over 37% were in violation of air quality regulations.
- Over 90% of New Mexicans were served safe and healthy drinking water, a decrease from around 94% last quarter.

- Over 10% of the restaurants and food manufacturers inspected did not meet at least one health standard (679 out of 6,518), an increase from roughly 8% last quarter.
- Over 17,000 pounds of sediment were prevented from reaching surface waters through erosion. Sediment is a pollutant that in excess reduces water quality. We achieved this through watershed restoration and on-the-ground improvement projects.
- Only 28% of the facilities subject to hazardous waste rules were in violation in the second quarter, compared to over 56% in the first quarter.
- The Department dispersed over \$5.8 million for 75 water infrastructure projects across the state. One of these projects is a solar array at the Toas wastewater treatment plant that will provide the town a total cost savings of over \$4.4 million over the loan period of 25 years. This project provides green, renewable, more affordable, and locally sourced energy, while simultaneously providing for the stabilization of utility rates for customers.
- We have stabilized our vacancy rate at 24% this quarter and aim to reduce it during the third quarter with an innovative hiring initiative.

View the FY22 Q2 Performance Report [here](#).

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