New Mexico Environment Department
Implementation of the Produced Water Act
Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee
Rebecca Roose, Deputy Secretary of Administration
August 5, 2022
House Bill 546, 2019 Regular Session

- Clearly defines jurisdictional authority between NMED and EMNRD, with NMED coverage of any use outside oil and gas
- Clarifies responsibilities for proper handling of produced water and liability for spills
- Removed legal obstacles to recycling produced water in oil and gas operations
- Restored Oil Conservation Division administrative penalty authority
- Requires Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to adopt regulations to address: “discharge, handling, transport, storage, and recycling or treatment of produced water or by-product thereof outside the oilfield”
Public engagement

National lead for technology development and validation for off-field use of produced water reuse

MOU with New Mexico State University

- New Mexico Produced Water Research Consortium
- NMED Chairs the Government Advisory Board

Guidance, policy and rule development

No authorized uses of produced water outside the oil and gas sector at this time.
Research Efforts

- Support future rulemaking based on sound science
- Bench scale and pilot scale projects designed to fill the science and technical gaps related to contaminant analysis and removal and possible end uses of treated produced water
- Projects involving discharge of produced water or treated produced water to the ground are prohibited
Questions?

Rebecca Roose, Deputy Cabinet Secretary of Administration
Rebecca.Roose@state.nm.us