



New Mexico Environment Department

Implementation of the Produced Water Act

Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee

Rebecca Roose, Deputy Secretary of Administration
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Produced Water Act

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”



NMED Implementation

- ❑ 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?

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