

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

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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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Environment Department releases quarterly performance report highlighting accomplishments, water investments

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) released the third-quarter update of its fiscal year 2023 (FY23) 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 between January 1 and March 31, 2023. The report also provides insights on budget and staffing challenges impacting performance.

Accomplishments highlighted in the report include NMED's work during the 2023 legislative session and coverage of nine agency-related bills signed into law, our delegation's visit to Mexico to represent NMED at the Border 2025 Task Force meeting, discussions with EPA on revenue stabilization, forming an alliance with Somos Un Pueblo Unido, settlements with Rust Movie Productions and an oil and gas company (Matador), hosting a public meeting on LANL activities, participating in farmworker safety workshops in Southern New Mexico, accepting applications for diesel emission reduction projects, and publishing the [2022 Infrastructure Development Report](#).

"From January through March, the Environment Department went big – from investing in communities to holding polluters accountable – we delivered for you," said **Environment Cabinet Secretary James Kenney**. "We are 83% of the way towards reaching our \$30M investment goal in local water infrastructure projects and we reached a \$6.2M settlement against the 9th largest oil and gas producer in the state."

In FY23, NMED received appropriations totaling \$114.0 million to protect public health and the environment. This included \$20.3 million in general funds, \$57.4 million in special revenue funds (e.g., permit fees), \$36.3 million in federal funds, and \$1.9 million in special appropriations for earmarked projects/purposes.

The report, developed by NMED's Office of Strategic Initiatives reports on 46 performance measures over five broad categories for FY23 as follows:

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

The report also provides a retrospective look at the third quarter while providing insights for the rest of the fiscal year.

Despite resource shortages, and each technical staff person overseeing 152 projects, our Construction Programs Bureau initiated 38 new water infrastructure projects across the state, disbursing almost \$9.7 million dollars into communities with water infrastructure needs in the third quarter.

While the 46 performance measures largely stem from agreements between NMED and the Legislative Finance Committee for state fiscal year 2023, the NMED uses these reports to provide other information to the public, stakeholders, and legislature.

Highlights from the third quarterly report of FY23 include:

- 99.5% of New Mexicans breathed clean air.
- 89.2% of New Mexicans drank safe drinking water.
- NMED staff conducted 2,353 compliance inspections across the state.
- For inspections conducted during the third quarter of FY23, four programs found compliance exceeding the benchmark compliance of 85% while four regulatory program areas fell below the target:
 - Groundwater discharge permittees: 100% in compliance
 - Surface water discharge permittees: 100.0% in compliance
 - Liquid waste program (i.e., septic systems): 99.4% in compliance
 - Radiation licensing program (i.e., medical equipment): 88.9% in compliance
 - Restaurants and food manufacturers: 65.3% in compliance
 - Solid and infectious waste management facilities: 62.5% in compliance
 - Air emitting sources: 37.5% in compliance
 - Hazardous waste management facilities: 29.2% in compliance
- NMED Drinking Water Bureau staff provided direct technical assistance to 27 community water systems to help them move from a status of non-compliance to compliance.
- The report includes an “NMED Staff Workload Snapshot” and supporting data in Appendix A that provide insight into the workload challenges facing an under-resourced agency. For example, at current staffing levels, each NMED Occupational Health and Safety inspector has an average of 6,186 facilities to regulate. If each one inspected a facility every workday, it would take this team 26 years to visit each site.
- NMED’s vacancy rate during this period was approximately 18.03% compared to 20.6% in the last quarter.
- Based on exit interview data and the Department’s annual employee engagement surveys, NMED’s vacancies are driven by opportunities for greater compensation with less complex work and retirements.

View the FY23 Q3 Performance Assessment [here](#).

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