

Environment Department

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

NEWS RELEASE

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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NMED offers free well water testing in Hobbs

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Environment Department is offering free domestic well water testing at Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's Cabinet in Your Community event in Hobbs on June 5.

Cabinet in Your Community is an initiative by Gov. Lujan Grisham to engage communities, address local issues, and improve state policies in New Mexico.

The event will kick off with a State Expo at 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 5, at New Mexico Junior College, located at 1 Thunderbird Circle in Hobbs. The Expo will be followed by a community town hall from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Those interested should bring their water sample to NMED's booth located outside the building. Staff will collect samples from the start of the expo until the town hall ends.

Well water tests typically cost about \$150 but will be free to participants as long as supplies last. Test results will be mailed to the households following the event within two to three weeks.

Residents should use these guidelines to ensure their sample is collected correctly:

- Let the water run for two to three minutes before collecting the sample.
- Fill a clean glass or plastic container without any odors with at least a quart or liter of your well water.
- If the home has a whole-house filtration system, collect the water at the well head before any filtration or softener systems, if possible.
- Fill the container with water as close to the time of testing as possible.

Along with the water sample, residents should bring basic information known about the well such as well depth, depth to water, well casing material (such as steel or PVC), well latitude and longitude, and distance from the well to the nearest septic tank or leach field system. If well owners cannot attend the event but would like to have their water tested, they may have a sample brought to the event by a family member or neighbor, provided the container is clearly

labeled and has the owner's name, phone number, address and well information attached. Only water from homes that rely on private wells for drinking water will be tested.

Water from private domestic wells is tested periodically and results are available on the Drinking Water Watch website.

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