



New Mexico Environment Department

Mission and Values

To protect and restore the environment and foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.



Science

Using the best available science to inform our decision-making in protecting public health and the environment.



Innovation

Employing creative engineering and technological solutions to address environmental challenges.



Collaboration

Engaging communities and interested stakeholders in environmental decision-making outcomes.



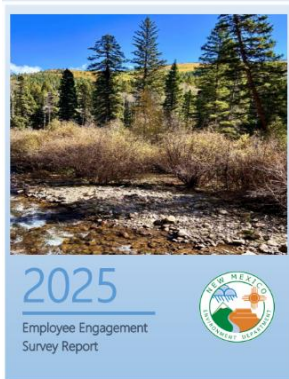
Compliance

Ensuring meaningful compliance with state regulations and permits; leveling the playing field through enforcement.

NMED Sees Record Employee Satisfaction

Over 91% of NMED employees like their job, according to our recent survey.

This is, in part, thanks to the Legislature's help in passing appropriate placement and properly compensating our staff.



Scan to learn more about our agency's performance.



A Message to the New Mexico Legislature

Dear Honorable Legislators,

Since the start of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's administration and with your support, the Environment Department's recurring general fund has increased from \$11.4M in FY2019 to \$36.3M in FY2026. The \$36.3M in general fund represents just 15% of the Environment Department's overall annual budget. The remaining 85% of our annual budget consists of federal funds and fees collected from the regulated community.

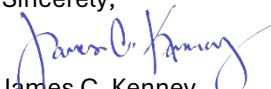
For FY2027, the Environment Department is seeking \$3.2M in recurring general fund for employee compensation (\$1M) and benefits (\$2.2M). This is due to a shortfall created in FY2026 appropriation bill. The Environment Department was provided with 42% of the \$2.1M needed to provide employees with the required 4% legislatively mandated pay raise and the increased state portion of the health benefits cost.

Further, we are seeking a \$2M supplemental for the current fiscal year to support a shortfall in personnel services for our employees in our Environmental Health Bureau who service the restaurant/food manufacturing industry, liquid waste/septic system industry, and public pool and spa facilities. While the Environment Department has brought various fee proposals to the Legislature since 2020, the proposals failed and fee increases remain capped in statute with fees insufficient to support these programs.

Outside of the current fiscal year, we are seeking \$13M Government Results and Opportunity (GRO) funding for our Environmental Health Bureau to rebuild our restaurant and food manufacturing programs in partnership with industry to grow this sector of our economy. This is necessary since state law prohibits fee increases to reflect the actual cost of running this program.

Together, we have accomplished many positive outcomes for the New Mexico communities we serve together. I look forward to our continued partnership during the upcoming legislative session.

Sincerely,


James C. Kenney
Cabinet Secretary



Agency Budget

Table 1 - FY27 Operating Budget Request

Request	Description
General Fund \$6.9M	<ul style="list-style-type: none">\$3.2M to fully support the 4% legislatively mandated pay increase (\$1M) and required for Health Insurance Cost (\$2.2M).\$2.9M for water reuse rules in alignment with the 50-Year Water Action Plan and state law.\$889.6 for increased operating costs tied to other state agencies (i.e., DoIT, GSD, etc.).
Federal Funds -\$11.7M	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NMED anticipates \$10.3M less in federal funding in the Water Protection Division; \$691.2 less for Environmental Protection; and \$739 thousand less for Resource Management Division.
Special Revenue Funds \$9.6M	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased spending of permit funds to reflect increasing workload/upgrades to support industry and businesses permits.

Table 2 - FY27 Special Appropriation Requests

Request	Description
Strategic Water Supply \$75,000,000	Started in 2025 with the enactment of HB137 and \$40M to develop brackish water resources, all spent. To protect New Mexico's freshwater supply in the face of climate change-induced challenges. NMED and OSE will fund contracts and grants and continued support of New Mexico communities with providing freshwater solutions.
Rural Infrastructure Fund \$50,000,000	For low interest loans to rural communities for water, wastewater, and solid waste projects.
River Stewardship Program \$50,000,000	To the non-reverting Water Quality Management fund for the River Stewardship Program to improve surface water quality and aquatic habitat statewide.
Neglected Contaminated Sites \$50,000,000	Started in 2025 with \$20M to perform reclamation and cleanup at neglected and contaminated sites. Expand reclamation and cleanup work to address more of the 300 contaminated sites and 250 former uranium mine sites.
Environmental Health Bureau \$30,000,000 (GRO Funding)	Build out inspection program in the EHB- expand training, outreach, strengthen industry, improve compliance and public health protection.
Comprehensive Drinking Water System Support and Resilience \$12,500,000 (GRO Funding)	For drinking water system support and resilience, including technical assistance and capacity development, emergency response and recovery, receivership, utility operator certification program expansion, system regionalization, training and program development to improve the sustainability, compliance and resilience of public water systems statewide.
Clean Water State Revolving Fund \$5,750,000	To the non-reverting Wastewater Facility Construction Loan fund for FY27 and subsequent fiscal years to provide required match for \$5,750,000 in federal infrastructure funds.
Surface Water Permitting Program \$3,500,000 (GRO Funding)	Administer and assure compliance with the permitting program for discharges of pollutants into surface waters.
Economic Development Circular Economy \$2,000,000	Economic development initiatives for the circular economy and foster waste system efficiencies.
Capital Outlay Administration Costs \$1,500,000	Support for increased costs to administer and manage capital outlay grants to communities throughout the state.
Rulemaking Support \$1,000,000	New and evolving federal and state requirements and highly specialized technical, legal and procedural expertise that exist outside of NMED's capacity. Costs for rulemakings and hearings can range from \$50,000 to \$350,000 per matter.
Total: \$281,250,000	



FY26 Agency Structure



Resource Management Division

Office of the Secretary · Office of Strategic Initiatives · Office of Communications · Office of General Counsel · Office of Information Technology · Office of Public Facilitation · Administrative Services Division

132 FTE Total (100 Filled/32 Vacant) | \$27.2 million | P567



Water Protection Division

Constructions Programs Bureau · Drinking Water Bureau · Ground Water Quality Bureau · Surface Water Quality Bureau

206 FTE Total (158 Filled/48 Vacant) | \$99.6 million | P568



Resource Protection Division

Department of Energy Oversight Bureau · Hazardous Waste Bureau · Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau · Resource Recovery Bureau

125 FTE Total (97 Filled/28 Vacant) | \$41.5 million | P569



Environmental Protection Division

Air Quality Bureau · Climate Change Bureau · Radiation Control Bureau

142 FTE Total (108 Filled/34 Vacant) | \$36 million | P570



Environmental Health Division

Cannabis and Hemp Bureau · Environmental Health Bureau

109 FTE Total (98 Filled/11 Vacant) | \$13.2 million | P571



Compliance and Enforcement Division

Environmental Protection Bureau · Resource Protection Bureau · Water Protection Bureau · OSHA Bureau · Federal Facilities Bureau · Emergency Operations and Response Bureau

145 FTE Total (108 Filled/37 Vacant) | \$15.9 million | P566

Note: FTE counts as of 11/26/2025 SPO OL.



Agency Performance

NMED Performance Reports

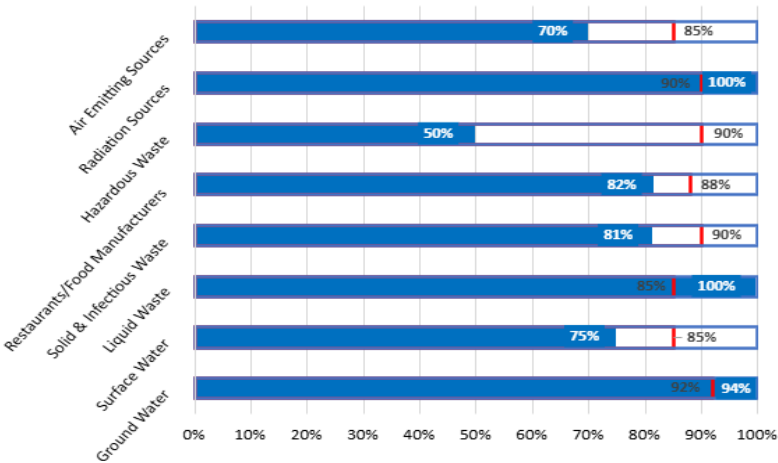
The Environment Department began publishing quarterly assessments in FY22. We share key actions related to our outcomes, performance, organization, and funding.



FY25 Economic Development Investment

- **\$70,607,000** provided in grants/capital outlay to communities
- **\$69,970,000** invested in water projects in communities
- **148** water infrastructure projects started

Percent of Inspections Showing Compliance, by Program



NMED Budget 101 Video

State budgeting is complex. The Environment Department’s budget is even harder with over 125 funding sources!



Scan to watch NMED’s Budget 101 video and learn more about our budget.



General Fund Reversions

In FY2025, the Environment Department did not revert any funding out of \$33.3 million in recurring general fund.

In FY2025, the Environment Department Reverted zero percent out of \$21.3M in special appropriations; \$1.3M out of \$6.2M in Severance Tax Bond Appropriations and \$631.4 thousand out of \$3.1M in Capital Outlay.

Agency Workforce

As of today, the Environment Department is staffed with 670 people employed across 28 locations statewide.

At a recent rapid hire for 36 positions, over 146 job seekers attended to interview for Albuquerque-based and Santa Fe-based positions. NMED staff held over 230 interviews with some applicants interviewing for up to 3 positions. NMED is on target to fill 35 positions through this rapid hire which will advance the agency’s filled FTE count to 700 by December.

Currently, the Environment Department has the largest workforce in its history and projected future growth, we are expanding our Albuquerque office space while consolidating our building footprint.