



NEWS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

March 17, 2026

Contact: Drew Goretzka, Director of Communications
New Mexico Environment Department
505.670.8911 | drew.goretzka@env.nm.gov

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.

State to host Sunland Park community meeting on water quality *State to gather community input on health resources, water testing*

SANTA FE — New Mexico state agencies will host a community meeting in Sunland Park on April 7, 2026, to gather input from residents affected by arsenic contamination in their drinking water and outline public health resources the state is working to provide.

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) will present updates regarding the Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (CRRUA), which in recent years failed to properly treat arsenic in drinking water served to customers.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions and provide suggestions for future state efforts, which could include free water sampling, filtration or biomonitoring — testing to measure arsenic levels in residents' bodies.

WHAT: Public forum on arsenic exposure and available health resources; residents invited to ask questions and provide input on future state assistance

WHO: Representatives from the New Mexico Environment Department and New Mexico Department of Health

WHEN: 6 p.m., Tuesday, April 7, 2026

WHERE: Doña Ana Community College - Sunland Park Center, 3365 McNutt Rd., Sunland Park, New Mexico 88063

To protect customers long-term, NMED is seeking a court-appointed independent manager to oversee operations at the troubled utility. As part of its ongoing effort to protect Sunland Park residents, NMED is also working to require CRRUA to:

- Implement real-time arsenic monitoring
- Distribute free arsenic test strips for all CRRUA customers
- Provide an alternative drinking water source if arsenic levels exceed state limits
- Conduct monthly public meetings

[NMED recently fined CRRUA](#) nearly \$200,000 for five violations committed by the utility since 2023, including exceeding federal arsenic limits and failing to notify customers of high pH levels.

The forum on April 7 is an opportunity for Sunland Park residents to be heard and explore what resources might best serve them. NMED and NMDOH are committed to working alongside this community to address the impacts of arsenic exposure and prevent future harm.

###

NMED does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED's non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, you may contact: Kate Cardenas, Non-Discrimination Coordinator | NMED | 1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050 | P.O. Box 5469 | Santa Fe, NM 87502 or (505) 827-2855 or nd.coordinator@env.nm.gov. If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator.

###