



New Mexico Environment Department State Tribal Collaboration Act Report

Fiscal Year 2026





State of New Mexico ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Table of Contents

I. Executive Summary	3
II. About the New Mexico Environment Division	4
A. Agency Mission.....	4
B. One Mission, Six Divisions	4
C. NMED Tribal Consultation and Collaboration Policy (NMSA 1978, §11-18-4(C)(1))	6
III. FY26 Goals and Accomplishments	7
NMED By the Numbers.....	8
IV. Framework for Tribal Engagement - Implementing NMED Policy (NMSA 1978, § 11-18-4(C)(3)-(5))	9
V. FY26 Tribal Engagement Activities.....	9
V. Future Priorities.....	33
VI. Contacts (NMSA 1978, §11-18-4(C)(2)).....	35
VII. Statutes and Mandates.....	36
VIII. Agreements.....	37

I. Executive Summary

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) recognizes that protecting New Mexico's environment requires strong government-to-government partnerships with the state's federally recognized Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes. Through implementation of the State-Tribal Collaboration Act, NMED continued in FY26 to strengthen these relationships by engaging in communication and outreach, providing technical and financial assistance, advancing collaborative environmental initiatives, and conducting consultation on actions of Tribal interest.

In FY26, NMED advanced several strategic priorities that support environmental protection, public health, and Tribal community resilience. The Department advanced key provisions of the Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Protection Act to protect consumers and address contamination, expanded drinking water protections, implemented cleanup efforts at abandoned uranium mine and mill sites, and responded to the migration of the hexavalent chromium plume from the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) onto Pueblo de San Ildefonso lands by collaborating on groundwater monitoring and ongoing consultation.

NMED collaborated on environmental projects, including with Santa Clara Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, and the Pueblo of Santa Ana to support watershed restoration and river stewardship; worked with the Navajo Nation and Southern Ute Indian Tribe to monitor water quality in the Animas and San Juan watersheds; and provided brownfields planning and redevelopment assistance to the Pueblo of Acoma, Pueblo of Laguna, Pueblo of Tesuque, Taos Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, the Mescalero Apache Tribe, and the Navajo Nation. The Department also awarded Recycling and Illegal Dumping (RAID) grants to the Pueblo of San Felipe for scrap tire management and recycling infrastructure expansion, supported the Pueblo of Pojoaque in removing 90 tons of illegally dumped scrap tires from Tribal lands, and partnered with the Pueblo of Santa Ana on a waste audit to strengthen recycling and waste diversion at the Pueblo.

Additionally, the Department continued to prioritize meaningful government-to-government relationships, conducting formal consultation on proposed surface water quality standards and implementation of the state's surface water permitting program, to name a few. NMED organized consultations with the Pueblos of Acoma, Isleta, Nambe, San Felipe, San Ildefonso, Sandia, Santa Clara, and Tesuque. Moreover, the Department engaged in government-to-government discussions with the Navajo Nation, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Jicarilla Apache Nation, and Fort Sill Apache Tribe on water quality priorities.

These efforts demonstrate the value to NMED of working alongside Tribal governments to identify practical solutions that protect communities, natural resources, and future generations.

II. About the New Mexico Environment Department

A. Agency Mission

NMED's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations. Implementation of NMED's mission is guided by four tenants:

- **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 problems.
- **Collaboration:** Engaging communities and interested stakeholders in decision-making outcomes.
- **Compliance:** Ensuring meaningful compliance with state regulations and permits; leveling the playing field through enforcement.

B. One Mission, Six Divisions

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) was established by the 40th New Mexico Legislature in 1991 through the Department of Environment Act (NMSA 1978, §9-7A-1 (1991)). As a cabinet-level agency, NMED is responsible for administering and enforcing the state's environmental laws and carrying out functions related to environmental protection, natural resource stewardship, and the protection of public health and safety.

To accomplish this mission, the Department operates through two complementary functions. The Resource Management Division provides the administrative, legal, financial, communications, and technology services that support agency operations, while five programmatic divisions deliver NMED's environmental protection, public health, regulatory, compliance, and enforcement responsibilities throughout New Mexico.

The Resource Management Division (RMD) serves as the operational foundation of the Department, providing essential administrative, legal, financial, and technology services that support NMED's mission. RMD includes the Office of the Secretary, Office of Strategic Initiatives, Office of Information Technology, Office of General Counsel, Office of Communications, Office of Public Facilitation and Administrative Services Division.

NMED's environmental and public health responsibilities are carried out through five programmatic divisions, listed here:

The Environmental Health Division (EHD) protects public health through outreach, education, and regulatory oversight in several key program areas. Its responsibilities include promoting worker safety, regulating food service and food processing establishments, overseeing liquid waste treatment and disposal systems, and regulating public swimming pools, baths, and spas. During FY26, EHD housed two Bureaus, Environmental Health and Cannabis and Hemp.

The Environmental Protection Division (EPD) safeguards public health and the environment through programs that regulate air pollution, climate pollution, radioactive materials, and radiation-producing machines. In FY26, EPD included the Air Quality Bureau, the Climate Change Bureau, and the Radiation Control Bureau.

The Resource Protection Division (RPD) oversees programs that protect New Mexico's land and communities from environmental contamination. Its responsibilities include regulating hazardous and solid waste, providing technical support for environmental programs, conducting environmental monitoring at U.S. Department of Energy facilities and informing the public, implementing petroleum storage tank regulations, and overseeing the remediation of contaminated sites to ensure they are cleaned up. RPD includes the Department of Energy Oversight Bureau, the Hazardous Waste Bureau, the Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau, and the newly branded Resource Recovery Bureau.

The Water Protection Division (WPD) works to ensure that New Mexico's surface water, groundwater, and drinking water resources remain clean, safe, and sustainable for current and future generations. In addition to protecting water quality, the division provides financing and oversight for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure systems throughout the state. WPD includes the Drinking Water Bureau, the Ground Water Quality Bureau, the Surface Water Quality Bureau and the Construction Programs Bureau.

The Compliance and Enforcement Division (CED) was created on July 1, 2025, in an administrative re-alignment to optimize operations by transferring existing compliance and enforcement personnel and resources into a uniform division. The CED consists of five bureaus including compliance and enforcement counterparts to EPD, RPD and WPD, in addition to the Occupational Health and Safety Bureau and the Emergency Operations and Response Bureau.

At the close of FY26, NMED employed 683 staff across its six divisions, providing environmental protection and public health services from 28 office and field locations throughout the state of New Mexico.

C. NMED Tribal Consultation and Collaboration Policy (NMSA 1978, §11-18-4(C)(1))

NMED's [Tribal Consultation and Collaboration Policy \(NMED Policy 07-16\)](#) builds upon the original policy adopted on December 17, 2009, in response to the State-Tribal Collaboration Act (STCA) and was signed by Secretary Kenney on January 20, 2020.

The policy establishes the Department's internal requirements and procedures for engaging with New Mexico's Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes. It provides employees with guidance for conducting government-to-government interactions that recognize Tribal sovereignty, promote meaningful communication and collaboration, and support informed decision-making.

Implementation of the policy is supported by NMED's [Public Participation and Limited English Proficiency policies](#), which guide employees in selecting appropriate outreach methods, using multiple engagement strategies when warranted, and providing language access services to facilitate meaningful participation.

To ensure consistent implementation, NMED requires employees whose duties involve public outreach, engagement, or interaction with external stakeholders to complete the STCA-mandated training, *Building Cultural Equity with Native Nations*, administered by the State Personnel Office and developed by the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department. Because the course underwent revisions during FY26, employee participation and completion data are not available for this reporting period.

In addition to the mandated training, NMED employees are trained to use the Department's geographic information system (GIS) mapping tools to identify Tribal lands and to access current Tribal government contact information maintained by NMED and the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department.

Formal notifications are provided to Tribal leadership as required by NMED's policy, employees are highly encouraged to work with the Tribal Liaison to provide courtesy notifications to Tribal environmental directors and Navajo Nation Chapter officials to promote timely information sharing on issues of mutual interest.

NMED's Tribal Consultation and Collaboration Policy (NMED Policy 07-16) is available on the Department's website at: <https://www.env.nm.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2020-01-27-NMED-Tribal-Policy-2020-final-signed.pdf>

III. FY26 Goals and Accomplishments

In FY26, NMED advanced a series of strategic priorities that strengthened government-to-government partnerships with New Mexico's Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes, and positioned the Department to address emerging environmental challenges. These include:

- [Strengthening government-to-government partnerships with New Mexico's 23 federally recognized Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes](#) through meaningful engagement and shared environmental stewardship. Through implementation of the State-Tribal Collaboration Act (STCA), NMED continued to strengthen relationships by fostering meaningful communication, providing technical and financial assistance, advancing collaborative environmental initiatives, and consulting on actions that impact Tribal interests.
- [Reducing exposure to PFAS and other emerging contaminants](#) through nation-leading consumer product, waste, and drinking water protections. During FY26, NMED implemented the PFAS Protection Act by adopting labeling requirements for products containing intentionally added PFAS and preparing for the phased prohibition of the sale of certain PFAS-containing products in the state of New Mexico. The Department also strengthened its authority to regulate the management and cleanup of discarded PFAS-containing firefighting foam, launched an interactive dashboard presenting PFAS sampling results from 523 public water systems, and supported communities in Curry County and Santa Fe County by providing free PFAS testing for 133 private wells and installing certified filtration systems for 216 private well owners. Testing identified PFAS in 60 wells, including 32 with concentrations exceeding a federal Primary Maximum Contaminant Level, while performance testing confirmed the installed filtration systems effectively reduced PFOA and PFOS in treated drinking water. NMED also advanced a \$12 million project to connect approximately 100 PFAS-impacted private well owners in Curry County to a clean drinking water system. These efforts protect drinking water resources relied upon by New Mexico communities, including its Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes.
- [Accelerating the cleanup of legacy uranium and nuclear contamination](#) while holding federal agencies and other responsible parties accountable for environmental impacts affecting Tribal and neighboring communities. NMED advanced work at four abandoned uranium mine and mill sites in the Grants Mining District, coordinated uranium reclamation activities with Tribal governments and impacted communities, and increased public access to [cleanup information](#) through interactive [StoryMaps dashboard](#). NMED also responded to the migration of the LANL chromium plume onto Pueblo de San Ildefonso land and pressed the U.S. Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration to evaluate new nuclear weapons activities alongside the Laboratory's unresolved legacy waste cleanup obligations.

- **Improving the protection of shared air, land, and water resources** through coordinated monitoring, emergency response, information sharing, and technical assistance. When NMED confirmed that the chromium plume had migrated beyond the U.S. DOE boundaries at LANL, the Department mobilized a multidisciplinary team to conduct drilling, sampling, laboratory verification, and regulatory oversight, while providing timely information to Tribal leadership. A team of technical experts from NMED, OSE, ONRT, along with Pueblo de San Ildefonso and Los Alamos County leadership, continue to meet biweekly into FY27. NMED also finalized measures projected to remove more than 23,000 tons of haze-forming pollution annually from New Mexico’s air, protecting natural and cultural landscapes important to Tribal communities and other New Mexicans.
- **Expanding Tribal access to environmental investments, technical resources, and economic opportunities** that support long-term community resilience. NMED incorporated Tribal economic development considerations into the Strategic Water Supply Program, which awarded nearly \$26 million during FY26 for brackish water research, treatment, demonstration, and infrastructure projects. The Department also worked to ensure that climate, water, cleanup, and pollution-reduction initiatives create opportunities for Tribal governments to shape projects, pursue funding, protect culturally significant resources, and benefit from the transition to a more diversified economy.

FY26 By the Numbers

The following FY26 metrics provide a department-wide quantitative snapshot of NMED’s work with Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes, illustrating the scope of the Department’s financial investments, technical assistance, environmental sites addressed, and consultations that supported environmental protection and government-to-government collaboration in FY26.

FY26 Tribal Engagement by the Numbers			
\$3,649,528	3,413	76	70
\$ Administered/Awarded	# Technical Hours Provided	# Environmental Sites Addressed	# Consultations

IV. Framework for Tribal Engagement - Implementing NMED Policy (NMSA 1978, § 11-18-4(C)(3)-(5))

The State-Tribal Collaboration Act (STCA) and NMED's Tribal Consultation and Collaboration Policy establish the foundation for the Department's government-to-government relationships with New Mexico's Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes. Together, they guide how NMED engages Tribal governments by recognizing Tribal sovereignty, fostering mutual respect, and encouraging early, meaningful, and ongoing engagement on matters that may affect Tribal interests.

For this report, the Department organizes its FY26 Tribal engagement activities into four categories that reflect the primary ways NMED works and engages with Tribal governments:

- 1. Communication and Outreach** - verbal or written interactions between governments.
- 2. Technical and Financial Assistance** - sharing technical expertise, providing training and awarding or allocating available funds.
- 3. Collaboration** - the process in which two or more parties work together to achieve a common goal.
- 4. Consultation** - the process of government-to-government dialogue between NMED and tribal governments regarding NMED's programmatic actions or proposed actions that affect or may affect the tribal government's interest, to resolve concerns.

Collectively, these categories recognize that engagement with Tribal governments occurs through a variety of interactions, ranging from routine communication and technical assistance to collaborative initiatives and formal government-to-government consultation, and support the building of working relationships and trust. They also provide the framework for organizing the FY26 activities summarized in the next section of this report.

V. FY26 Tribal Engagement Activities

During FY26, NMED continued to develop and strengthen its government-to-government relationships with New Mexico's Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes through a broad range of engagements and activities conducted across the Department.

The activities summarized in the section below are organized according to the four engagement categories described in Section IV. While many initiatives supported multiple forms of engagement, each activity has been categorized according to its primary purpose for reporting consistency.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI)

- OSI continued its outreach and engagement with Tribal communities in FY26 through participation in education and career focused events hosted by New Mexico's Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes. At the invitation of the Pueblo de San Ildefonso Department of Education, NMED staff participated in the Pueblo's College and Career Fair on April 29, 2026. NMED also participated in a job fair hosted by the Pueblo de San Ildefonso on October 8, 2025, strengthening recruitment efforts and increasing awareness of career opportunities within the Department.
- OSI staff attended the 'Church Rock Uranium Tailings Spill Commemoration - 46 Years Later' on July 19, 2025. Approximately 100 Tribal and community members attended the event. Elected officials and other speakers from Tribal nations shared information about uranium activism in New Mexico and memories of their personal experiences with the spill.
- OSI staff were invited by the Pueblo of Isleta Environment Department to participate in the Pueblo's Environmental Fair on May 18, 2026, providing an opportunity to engage with community members and share information about the Department's environmental programs and services.
- OSI maintained a collaborative partnership with the Tribal Environmental Justice Specialist at the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD), who participates in weekly meetings with tribal government staff from all 23 federally recognized Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes. OSI staff provide information about funding opportunities and other resources that may be relevant, which the IAD Tribal Environmental Justice Specialist relays during meetings. The IAD and OSI staff also collaborated on developing environmental justice training materials.
- Tribal Liaison, Carman Melendrez, participated in four Inter-Tribal Resource Advisory Committee (IRAC) meetings and facilitated presentations to the Committee on NMED programs, including:
 - November 13, 2025, at the Pueblo of Isleta, where NMED's Indoor Radon Program presented on radon awareness, testing, and mitigation;
 - February 10, 2026, at the Pueblo of Sandia, where SWQB presented updates on the proposed state permitting program for pollutant discharges, and RRB presented on RAID grant opportunities and solid waste operator certification programs;
 - May 12, 2026, during a virtual meeting;

- June 9, 2026, at Hotel Santa Fe, where the Tribal Liaison was asked to invite EPD Director Miano to speak at the RTOC virtual meeting on July 8, 2026.



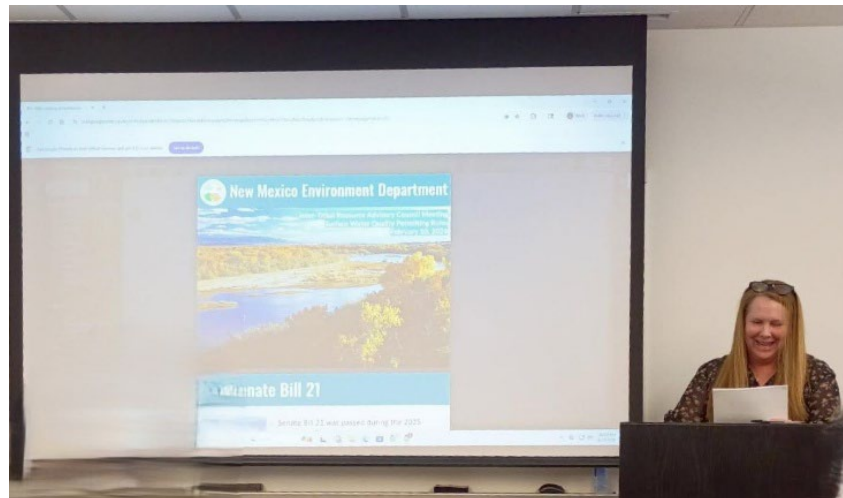
Tammy Belone, Director, ENIPC OETA; Michael Chacon, Tribal Environmental Justice Specialist, IAD; and Carman Melendrez, Tribal Liaison, NMED, attending the November 2025 IRAC Meeting at Isleta Pueblo Cultural Center

- Deputy Secretary John Rhoderick and Tribal Liaison Melendrez attended the 2026 State Tribal Leaders Summit on May 7, 2026, at Santa Ana Pueblo. This Government-to-Government annual gathering centered on public safety, childcare, health, water security, and education, including strengthening self-determination, inter-governmental collaboration, and economic sovereignty.

Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB)

- SWQB presented on a panel discussing State and Tribal Coordination for Nonpoint Source Clean Water Act Section 319 programs at the National Nonpoint Source Conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in October 2025. SWQB also gave this same presentation at an Environmental Protection Agency Technical Exchange Webinar in June 2026 that recapped the conference for those who were unable to attend in person. The presentation covered how NMED implements the State-Tribal Collaboration Act, the projects it is implementing with Tribal partners, highlighted funding opportunities, and addressed elements other states might want to consider when working with sovereign Tribal nations.
- SWQB's Wetlands Program conducted three New Mexico Wetlands Roundtable meetings on November 20, 2025 (virtual), December 10, 2025 (virtual), and April 1, 2026 (hybrid) in which Tribal members and organizations participated. The Roundtables featured presentations on water resources relevant to the northern and southern parts of New Mexico and covered a spectrum of topics, including funding for restoration efforts, wetlands action planning, wetland mapping updates, inspiring restoration success stories and innovative wetland restoration techniques.

- SWQB solicited comment from all recognized Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes by sending the Tribal Environmental Directors an email with a copy of draft amendments to the Surface Water Quality Standards at 20.6.4 NMAC.
- SWQB presented at the 28th Annual Tribal Environmental Summit held at Pueblo of Laguna in July 2025. The Summit brought together tribal environmental staff and leadership from across New Mexico and other Region 6 States (Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana) and provided an opportunity for the Bureau to present an overview of the proposed permitting.
- SWQB presented at the IRAC meeting held at Pueblo of Sandia in February 2026. The presentation provided an overview of Senate Bill 21 and updates on the proposed permitting rules, including protections for downstream tribal water quality.



Shelly Lemon Presenting to the IRAC in February 2026 at the Pueblo of Sandia

Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB)

- GWQB was invited by the U.S. EPA R6 Brownfields Program and the Cherokee Nation to present and exhibit at the 28th Annual Tribal Environmental Summit July 9-10, 2025, at Route 66 Hotel and Casino. The presentation was part of a U.S. EPA R6 Brownfields overview, with NMED's portion of the presentation titled, "Partnering with Pueblos on Brownfields Projects." The presentation highlighted environmental assessment work performed in April 2025 at a legacy dump site on Pueblo of Tesuque. Brownfields Program staff also manned an outreach booth at the conference, alongside staff from Kansas State University Technical Assistance to Brownfields program.
- GWQB staff shared information, provided presentations, held relationship-building meetings, provided invitations, correspondence, public involvement activities, and

other outreach efforts with Navajo Nation, Pueblo of Acoma, and Pueblo of Laguna on uranium related topics.

- GWQB provided email notifications of Ground Water Discharge permitting actions to Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes during the public involvement process. These notifications were sent to environmental directors, managers, and others based on the geographic proximity of the proposed permitting action.
- GWQB sent notifications to the Pueblo of Isleta and Pueblo of Sandia regarding a Groundwater Discharge Permit for the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's Southside Reclamation Facility (DP-1308).
- GWQB notified Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes of the Water Quality Control Commission's Supplemental Water Reuse Rule (20.6.8 NMAC), which establishes requirements for the treatment, handling, and reuse of wastewater to protect ground and surface water quality. The notification provided awareness of the proposed rule and opportunities for engagement.
- GWQB staff continued to communicate with Santa Clara Pueblo Office of Environmental Affairs about the ongoing remediation at the North Railroad Avenue Plume (NRAP) Superfund Site. Santa Clara Pueblo notified the GWQB staff about vandalism at one of the NRAP Site's buildings on Santa Clara Pueblo's land.
- GWQB held a public meeting at Santa Clara Pueblo on December 3, 2025, for community members on the ongoing remediation at the North Railroad Avenue Plume. The meeting included a lively question-and-answer session about the cleanup efforts.



GWQB: Brownfields Program outreach booth. Savannah Richards, NMED & Scott Nightingale, KSU

Climate Change Bureau (CCB)

- CCB staff, following the scheduling of the rulemaking hearing EIB 25-23 In the Matter of 20.2.92 NMAC (Clean Transportation Program), sent communication letters to 24 Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes, including a specific letter to the IRAC and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in June and July 2025, respectively. This correspondence provided information about the rulemaking hearings schedule, location, and ways to participate. In certified and emailed letters, CCB summarized past engagement efforts and included a copy of the rulemaking notice.
- The Climate Change Task Force participated in the Comprehensive Energy Transition Strategy (CETS) Public Policy Forum on Tribal and Rural Electrification in Española on February 25, 2026. The forum fostered dialogue among Tribal governments, state agencies, utilities, and community partners on advancing Tribal energy resilience, renewable energy development, and workforce capacity. Wayne Yazza, Jr., Director of Utilities and former Governor of Picuris Pueblo, highlighted the Pueblo's ongoing transition toward greater energy independence through locally owned solar generation, battery storage, workforce development, and microgrid investments designed to improve reliability and reduce dependence on outside energy providers.

Air Quality Bureau (AQB)

- AQB staff provided public notices to New Mexico's Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes through the email contact list that is maintained on the Department's Intranet. Two public notices documented outreach for rulemaking actions, and 10 documented notifications for permitting actions.

Hazardous Waste Bureau (HWB)

- HWB corresponded with the Four Accord Pueblos (Pueblo de San Ildefonso, Santa Clara Pueblo, Pueblo of Jemez, Pueblo de Cochiti) in relation to annual groundwater monitoring performed under the Interim Facility Wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan at the U.S. DOE LANL. As a routine practice, HWB includes these Pueblos on the carbon copy list on all correspondence related to the hexavalent chromium contamination plume to keep them apprised of NMED's regulatory decisions and project progress.
- HWB, as a routine practice, includes the Pueblo de San Ildefonso and Santa Clara Pueblo on the carbon copy list on all correspondence related to the 2016 Compliance Order on Consent. In FY23, NMED created a mapping dashboard that allows visitors to search for NMED information related to LANL. The department has continued to

update the dashboard, adding several solid waste management units and areas of concern as searchable map layers. The [dashboard can be found on NMED's website](#).

- HWB processed a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit Modification in FY26, which closed out several sites at White Sands Testing Facility as corrective actions complete. HWB issued formal project correspondence to the Mescalero Apache Tribe regarding the NASA Class 3 Permit Modification Request (PMR).
- HWB continued to maintain written correspondence with the Zuni Pueblo and Navajo Nation regarding ongoing facility investigations and cleanup actions at the Fort Wingate Depot Activity, located east of Gallup, NM. As Zuni Pueblo and Navajo Nation are major stakeholders, NMED and the Department of the Army provide copies of all documents and official correspondence concerning the facility.
- HWB completed and issued the White Sands Missile Range Resource Conservation Recovery Act permit renewal at the end of FY25, which prompted a re-evaluation of how facility boundaries are evaluated. HWB updated the facility's Public Involvement Plan and added the Mescalero Apache Tribe to adjacent and neighboring communities that must receive communications. Updates and correspondence continued into FY26 for the issuance of the final Renewed Permit and other facility actions.
- HWB standardized and revised the Public Involvement Plans for all permitted facilities to improve the identification of New Mexico's Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes (NPT) that need to be consulted, strengthen coordination of outreach efforts to NPT, and ensure consistency across the Bureau.



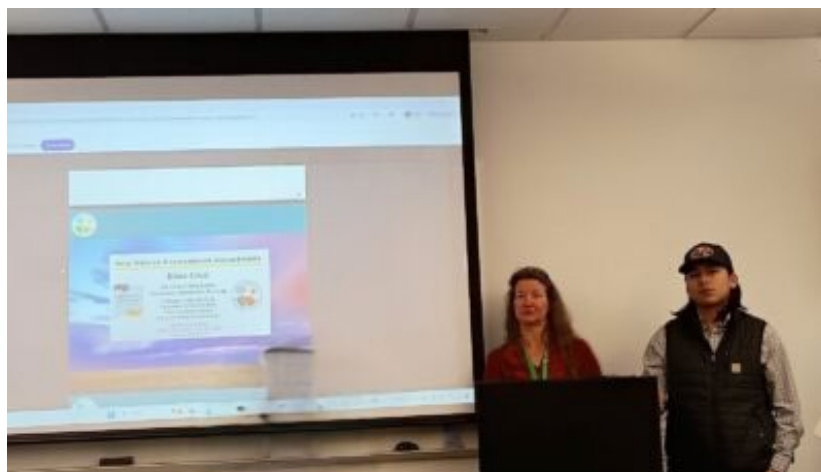
IRAC Meeting at the Hotel Santa Fe in June 2026

Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau (PSTB)

- PSTB provided outreach and communication to Greg Jojola, Pueblo of Laguna Environmental Director, who was working with the Tribal Leadership to obtain official documentation regarding the return of Pueblo of Laguna land from the Grants Cibola County School Board. Communication was intensified in April 2026 to ensure the low-ranking site priority did not interfere with the process of returning the land to the Pueblo of Laguna, even as continuing monitoring is proposed.

Resource Recovery Bureau (RRB)

- RRB joined the Santo Domingo Pueblo Environment Office on April 22, 2026, in an interactive and engaging Earth Day Celebration event. The event was geared towards connecting Santo Domingo Pueblo residents with local and state agencies that could benefit community members regarding environmental resources, general community programs and services, and youth activities. The RRB Outreach Team attended this event to provide promotional items from NMED and provided valuable information on waste diversion, local recycling and solid waste resources, proper scrap tire management, recycling and illegal dumping funding, and information on solid waste operator certification classes that the RRB provides.
- RRB attended an IRAC meeting hosted by the ENIPC OETA on February 10, 2026. The RRB team attended the quarterly meeting to update New Mexico Tribal partners on the RRB's main initiatives for 2026, including the drafting of the New Mexico Solid Waste Management Plan, around which the bureau was seeking Tribal input. In addition, the RRB relayed critical deadlines for FY27 RAID grant funding and the need for a tribal representative on the RAID Alliance, a public board that guides the RAID program and scores potential RAID projects for funding recommendations.



Angela Hutcherson and Elias Cruz presenting to the IRAC

Construction Programs Bureau (CPB)

- CPB engaged Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes throughout the year as part of the environmental review process for Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) projects. The CWSRF funds are federal and require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act to determine whether a proposed project has the potential to disturb areas considered important or culturally significant. NMED offered consultation to interested Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes with current land ownership in New Mexico and provided notice to those with historical use and occupancy that requested it.
- CPB outreach staff met with the Santo Domingo Pueblo on wastewater project funding for future improvement to their plant. The Pueblo will be applying for CWSRF/Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funding for this project.
- CPB staff served on the Tribal Infrastructure Fund (TIF) 13-member Board where they helped evaluate and score tribal infrastructure projects for funding via four- and one-half percent (4.5%) of the estimated senior severance tax bonding capacity from the New Mexico Board of Finance.
- CPB staff worked with the Office of the General Counsel and the NMED Tribal Liaison to draft a letter of support for San Ildefonso's application for CDS to construct monitoring wells to better characterize and monitor a migrating chromium plume.
- CPB staff evaluated projects submitted for Congressionally Directed Spending by communities throughout the State. The following Tribal requests were evaluated:
 - Pueblo of Tesuque - Pueblo of Tesuque Community Water Master Plan
 - Santo Domingo Pueblo - Santo Domingo Clean Water Infrastructure Project
- CPB attended numerous community events for outreach and to present on the CWSRF program in FY26, including:
 - CPB presented funding opportunities under the CWSRF at the annual Infrastructure Finance Conference in Albuquerque where Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes were in attendance and eligible for CWSRF funding.
 - CPB also attended the Tribal Water Infrastructure Workshop in Albuquerque and presented on the panel to display funding opportunities under the CWSRF for Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes in their infrastructure needs.
 - CPB outreach staff met with the Santo Domingo Pueblo on wastewater project funding for future improvement to their plant. The Pueblo will be applying for CWSRF/Congressionally Directed Spending project funding.

- CPB staff served on the Tribal Infrastructure Fund 13-member Board where they helped evaluate and score tribal infrastructure projects for funding via four- and one-half percent (4.5%) of the estimated senior severance tax bonding capacity from the New Mexico Board of Finance.

Department of Energy Oversight Bureau (DOEOB)

- DOEOB participated in FY26 public outreach events, showcasing a groundwater flow model and environmental sampling supplies:
 - Pueblo of Isleta Environmental Fair - July 26, 2025
 - Pueblo of Santa Ana Environmental Fair - August 23, 2025
 - Pueblo of Acoma Water Summit - September 12, 2025

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI)

- OSI co-developed a series of nine free monthly classes for a new Environmental Leadership certificate program offered by New Mexico State University's extension program, NM EDGE. The goal of the year-long program was to bring together a diverse cohort to build leadership capacity within community-based, non-profit, and governmental organizations in EPA Region 6. The interactive classes included content about community analysis, engagement, and leadership; resource development; advocacy; and policy change. OSI staff co-led two of the classes: Introduction to Community Leadership and Resource Development and Management. Of the 27 participants, 14 were staff of Nation, Pueblo, or Tribal governmental agencies. Participant orientation was on May 9, 2025, and graduation session on April 10, 2026.
- OSI partnered in the Northern New Mexico Climate Leadership Development Program, organized by Creative Startups in collaboration with ENIPC OETA, the UNM Indigenous Design and Planning Institute, Tewa Women United, Amigos Bravos, and other community organizations. From January 13 to May 27, 2026, the program provided eight young adults from the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos and surrounding communities with environmental stewardship and storytelling training, along with four-month externships at partner organizations, including NMED. OSI hosted two externs from Taos Pueblo, Jalen Kopepassah and Hawk H. H. Foster, who developed projects addressing housing, economic opportunity, access to services, Tiwa language preservation, and traditional cultural practices that support climate resilience.

Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB)

- SWQB and HWB conducted split sampling of a monitoring well installed on Pueblo de San Ildefonso property, SIMR-3, in October 2025, March 2026 and May 2026. Results from those sampling events indicate the existence of hexavalent chromium contamination present in the groundwater located beneath Pueblo de San Ildefonso lands. NMED provided sampling results to Pueblo leadership and continued to collaborate on sampling and remediation options.



Pueblo de San Ildefonso Lt. Governor Raymond Martinez, IAD Secretary Josett Monette, Pueblo de San Ildefonso Governor Christopher Moquino, NMED Secretary James Kenney at the Pueblo de San Ildefonso

- SWQB funded the “Rio Ruidoso Watershed Improvement Project - Planning Phase” project for the Village of Ruidoso to develop a watershed-based plan for the Upper Rio Ruidoso in 2023. This project was expanded in 2025 to include three additional watersheds impacted by the 2024 South Fork and Salt Fires. The inclusion of the Mescalero Apache Tribe as an active participant in the watershed-based planning process is a task specified in the contract work plan. The watershed-based planning process involves a series of cooperative, iterative steps to characterize existing conditions, identify and prioritize problems, define management objectives, develop protection or remediation strategies, and implement and adapt selected actions as necessary. This requires extensive collaboration with local stakeholders and the tribal government to produce a successful plan. A draft watershed-based plan was delivered to NMED on June 30, 2026, and the draft plan is expected to go out for public comment in the coming months before finalization with EPA.

- SWQB funded the *“Santa Clara Creek Restoration Project”* under the River Stewardship Program in April 2023. This project takes place on approximately 4.5-miles of Santa Clara Creek and 68 acres of riparian areas within the Santa Clara Pueblo. Project goals include improving stream channel function by reducing bank erosion, increasing floodplain connectivity and productivity, improving aquatic and riparian habitat, and enhancing wetlands by improving and restoring wetland function. Santa Clara Pueblo is working with contractors to complete the work by November 2026.
- SWQB funded the *“Taos Pueblo Ecological Restoration of Buffalo Pasture and the Rio Lucero Project”* under the River Stewardship Program in April 2023. This project will restore approximately 200 acres of slope wetlands and 2-miles of the Rio Lucero within Taos Pueblo. Project goals include improving stream channel function by increasing channel stability and floodplain access, raising the water table through increased meandering and raising the channel grade, and enhancing the Buffalo Pasture Wetland by restoring the wetland hydrology and connection to the Rio Lucero. Taos Pueblo is a project partner working with contractors to complete the work by November 2026.
- SWQB funded the *“Rio Grande Bar 2 Restoration at the Pueblo of Santa Ana Project”* under the River Stewardship Program in March 2026. This project will restore 12 acres of river bar, encompassing 1/3 mile of Rio Grande bank line by removing dead and downed cottonwood, willow, and Russian olive trees and shrubs through mastication, hand clearing live invasive trees and shrubs, creating a low flow channel through high and dry areas, and planting native trees and shrubs. Pueblo of Santa Ana is working with contractors to complete the work by June 2028.

Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB)

- GWQB staff provided technical support and expertise to the ENIPC OETA at Taos Pueblo. Governor Mike Martinez, Sr., and Environmental Program Manager Miguel Vigil, joined the March 2026 meeting, which included site visits on the Pueblo.
- GWQB staff and the Tribal Liaison attended an in-person meeting at Pueblo of Acoma on April 8, 2026, to discuss technical and financial information related to NMED Brownfields funding for asbestos and lead-based paint abatement at the Acomita Day School property. Pueblo of Acoma leadership, including 2nd Lieutenant Governor Augustine Seymour Jr. and Tribal Secretary Steven Concho, along with staff from the Pueblo of Acoma Department of Natural Resources, joined Tammy Belone and Jillian Lucero of the ENIPC OETA for an opportunity to review project requirements, funding considerations, and identify next steps for implementation.



GWQB Site Visit at Taos Pueblo with Governor Martinez, Sr.

- GWQB provided technical support, training, guidance, capacity-building activities, and other forms of assistance provided to and coordinated with Navajo Nation, Pueblo of Acoma, Pueblo of Laguna on uranium related topics.
- GWQB provided the Mescalero Apache Tribe technical assistance and regulatory compliance support for their facility and continues to work with the Tribe on Ground Water Discharge Permit DP-1768 (facility name: Ski Apache).

Climate Change Bureau (CCB)

- CCB Clean Transportation Fuel Program staff provided technical assistance to the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council (ENIPC) and Tribal underground storage tank (UST) owners during a three-hour meeting to discuss the applicability of the Clean Transportation Fuel Program and opportunities for Tribal participation.

Radiation Control Bureau (RCB)

- RCB staff provided technical support to several Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes on the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) and the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). NMED staff provided attendees information on eligibility, benefits, claims, and advocacy services for nuclear workers, uranium workers, downwinders, and their families. The Bureau's Indoor Radon

Outreach Program also participated, distributing materials on radon health risks, testing, and mitigation at the following:

- Kewa Pueblo in August 2025
- Navajo Nation Fair - Elder Feast Day in September 2025
- Gallup Fall for Wellness Health Fair in September 2025
- Navajo Nation Uranium Victims Committee Meetings on November 17, 2025, December 8, 2025, and February 16, 2026
- Santa Fe Indian School Luncheon in February 2026
- Navajo Nation Health Education and Human Services Committee Meeting in Window Rock, AZ, in April 2026

Hazardous Waste Bureau (HWB)

- HWB provided technical coordination and consultation with San Ildefonso regarding groundwater well installation projects, field data sharing, and environmental monitoring for the LANL Hexavalent Chromium groundwater contamination plume. HWB reviewed and provided technical comments on well Installation plans, aquifer test plans and reports, and supported groundwater sampling concurrently during well installation and well development operations on San Ildefonso lands.

Resource Recovery Bureau (RRB)

- RRB appointed a representative of the Pueblo of Acoma, Dominic Bailon, to serve a two-year term on the RAID Alliance. Dominic provided technical assistance to members of the Alliance as they developed the 2026 Circular Economy Plan for the State of New Mexico and helped to score the FY 2027 RAID grant projects which are slated to start in the first quarter of FY 2027.
- RRB funded two FY26 RAID Grant applications for the Pueblo of San Felipe to address scrap tire management and recycling improvements on Tribal Lands. The first project from the Pueblo of San Felipe, requesting \$5,450 in funding, is aimed at removing and disposing of approximately five tons of scrap tires from the tribal collection center while promoting educational outreach to deter future illegal dumping and installing a monitoring program. The second project submitted by the Pueblo, with a requested amount of \$15,620, is designed to strengthen the Pueblo's recycling program by upgrading existing recycling stations, promoting internal tribal collaborations, and completing a waste stream evaluation from a professional solid waste consultant. The grant projects for the Pueblo of San Felipe were recommended for full awarding at the June 20, 2025, RAID Grant Award Meeting held in Albuquerque.



2026 American Indian Day at the Roundhouse

- RRB team conducted a site visit at the Pueblo of Pojoaque on February 24, 2026, to review progress on a RAID grant involving the cleanup of illegally dumped scrap tires on Pueblo of Pojoaque lands. The “Scrap Tire Remediation Project” undertaken by the Pueblo of Pojoaque was a successful endeavor that removed nearly 90 tons (~8,000 scrap tires) of illegally dumped scrap tires in an arroyo adjacent to the Jacona collection center in northern Santa Fe County. The tires had been illegally dumped on federally protected tribal land which created a fire hazard and vector harborage risks. This was a successful collaboration of the NMED through and the Pueblo of Pojoaque to remediate the local environment.
- RRB joined the New Mexico Recycling Coalition on March 5, 2026, to conduct a waste audit at the Pueblo of Santa Ana Transfer Station as part of a FY26 RAID project. The previous week, waste had been collected for sorting, and data recovery from the waste sorting was analyzed. Items ranging from food to craft supplies to recyclable materials were sorted, weighed, and re-bagged to obtain a clearer idea of what was being thrown away by households in the region. Data collected assisted the Pueblo in handling household waste that came through the tribal collection center and helped to focus outreach and education to the Pueblo’s residents to increase diversion tactics and decrease the amount of waste that ends up in New Mexico landfills.

- RRB certification classes were attended by 44 tribal members representing eight Pueblos during FY26. The certification courses and Pueblos in attendance included:
 - Two Recycling Operator Certification Training Courses in December 2025 and June 2026. Nine tribal operators attended the 3-day courses to improve operational best management practices for recycling facilities. Operators from the Pueblo of San Felipe, Pueblo of Sandia, Pueblo of Picuris, and Pueblo de San Ildefonso attended. The courses included presentations from RRB Outreach and Enforcement staff and NM Recycling Coalition representatives and site visits to the Santa Fe Recycling Drop-off Facility and Broken Arrow Glass Recycling.
 - RRB hosted two Compost Facility Operator Training courses in October 2025 and April 2026. Three tribal operators attended from the Pueblo of San Felipe and the Pueblo of Picuris. The three-day courses aimed at improving operational BMPs for composting facilities and included presentations from RRB Outreach staff, RRB Enforcement staff and NMRC representatives. Site visits were conducted at Solutions in October 2025, located in Albuquerque, and Reunify Resources Farm in Santa Fe, in April 2026.
 - RRB also hosted two Transfer Station Operator Certification Courses in August 2025 and March 2026. Thirty-two tribal attendees were present, representing seven pueblos, including the Pueblo of Picuris, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, the Pueblo of Sandia, the Pueblo of Zuni, the Pueblo of Laguna, the Pueblo of San Felipe, and the Santo Domingo Pueblo. These three-day courses aimed to improve the operational BMPs for transfer stations. Site visits were conducted at Amador Transfer Station in Las Cruces and at Buckman Road Recycling and Transfer Station in Santa Fe. The course modules included presentations from RRB Outreach, RRB Permitting, RRB Compliance, and representatives from the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), Roadrunner Chapter.

Occupational Health and Safety Bureau (OHSB)

- During FY26, the Occupational Health and Safety Bureau (OHSB) supported Tribal workplace safety by providing technical assistance to the Kewa Pueblo Health Corporation. In response to a request for assistance, the Bureau shared Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety and health program templates to strengthen workplace safety practices and support implementation of occupational health and safety programs.

COLLABORATION

Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB)

- In FY26, the Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) collaborated with Navajo Nation and Southern Ute Indian Tribe on monitoring and analysis of surface waters since the Gold King Mine spill in 2015 and the establishment of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. This work has formed the basis for the San Juan and Animas Multijurisdictional sampling. EPA and partnering states, tribes, and local governments developed and implemented a long-term monitoring plan under the WIIN Act to establish a consistent, watershed-wide approach for evaluating surface water and sediment quality. The program includes quarterly monitoring across a range of hydrologic conditions, assessment of water quality trends relative to applicable standards, and public dissemination of monitoring results to support informed watershed management and future restoration efforts. This project has been ongoing since 2022.
- SWQB staff participated in the 2026 Animas and San Juan Watersheds Conference at San Juan College in Farmington, NM on May 27-28. Hosted by the Water Resources Research Institute, the conference brought together agency staff, Tribal representatives, researchers, students, and community members to discuss watershed conditions, scientific research, and restoration efforts. SWQB coordinates and supports this annual conference, funded through the Gold King Mine WIIN Act, which has been held since the 2015 Gold King Mine spill to advance collaboration and watershed restoration. This year's topics included mining, drought resilience, agriculture, permitting, and climate change, and concluded with an ONRT-led tour of local restoration projects. At this year's conference, members from the SWQB, GWQB, and Office of Natural Resources Trustee attended, alongside students and professors, USGS researchers, Tribal members, and members of the public to share knowledge and information about the San Juan and Animas watersheds. Topics included mining, drought impacts and resilience, farming, permitting, and climate change.
- SWQB is working with EPA and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to implement two projects: "Nutrient and metal source investigation in the Lower Animas Watershed" and "Baseline (Non-Routine) Sediment-Metal Sampling Study - Animas River". The projects' survey areas include or are relevant to portions of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Navajo Nation. SWQB and EPA have kept the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Environmental Programs Department and Navajo Nation EPA apprised of data collection activities, data analysis, and draft reporting. USGS continues to provide quarterly project updates to SWQB and EPA.



Buffalo Pasture Wetland on Taos Pueblo

- SWQB continued quarterly ambient water quality sampling with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Environmental Programs Department and the Navajo Nation EPA partners for select parameters at select locations during FY26. SWQB preps submittal forms, picks up the samples, submits them for analyses at the NMDOH State Laboratory Division, processes the related invoices, manages the data, and uploads all final QA/QC reviewed data to EPA's Water Quality eXchange (WQX) for public download via the Water Quality Portal (WQP).
- SWQB continues to grow the NMED Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Advisory Program and collaborate with interested tribal partners through NMED's HABs Collaborative Workgroup, web site resources, and by providing direct technical assistance and guidance when requested and resources allow. During the 2026 HABs season, SWQB worked with the Environmental Director at Zia Pueblo to provide guidance on HABs monitoring, recommended analyses, and data interpretation to determine if a HAB was forming in Zia Reservoir. SWQB also connected Zia Pueblo with the EPA Region 6 Laboratory which provides cyanotoxin analyses for free to all EPA Region 6 states and tribes. SWQB looks forward to continuing to collaborate with our tribal and state land

management partners through the HABs Collaborative Workgroup and by providing direct assistance to increase HABs monitoring and improve communication to the public about HABs at tribal and other waterbodies in New Mexico.

Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB)

- In FY26, the Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB) provided joint planning, cooperative projects, working groups, partnerships, committees, research activities, or other efforts involving shared participation and decision-making with Navajo Nation, the Pueblo of Acoma, and the Pueblo of Laguna on uranium related topics.
- GWQB staff continued ongoing coordination with the Santa Clara Pueblo for access to pueblo lands for groundwater sampling and other cleanup activities at the North Railroad Avenue Plume Superfund Site in Española, NM.
- GWQB staff collaborated with the Pueblo of Tesuque Department of Environment and Natural Resources on continued assessment planning for the Pueblo's legacy dump site, including logistical planning and preparation for a September 4, 2026, on-site visit to support ongoing brownfields activities.
- GWQB staff continued their collaboration with the Pueblo of Tesuque Department of Environment and Natural Resources and U.S. EPA Region 6 Brownfields Program to support the redevelopment of the Pueblo's legacy dump site. The partners met at the site on September 4, 2026, to discuss project progress, coordinate future activities, and identify next steps.
- GWQB staff continued collaborating with ENIPC OETA to support Brownfields capacity and project implementation in Tribal communities. As part of this ongoing partnership, NMED and ENIPC coordinated on U.S. EPA Brownfields grant activities, future funding opportunities, and contractor procurement strategies.
- GWQB staff continued their collaboration with the Pueblo of Tesuque during a virtual meeting on December 1, 2025, with Department of Environment and Natural Resources and U.S. EPA Region 6 staff to continue discussions on next steps for the legacy dump site.
- GWQB staff attended several virtual meetings (April 23, 2026, May 28, 2026, and July 2, 2026) with Tammy Belone and Jillian Lucero, ENIPC OETA and Miguel Vigil, Environmental Program Manager at Taos Pueblo to talk about potential properties needing brownfields assessment funding.

Climate Change Bureau (CCB)

- CCB staff collaborated with fellow New Mexico Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) recipients, including the Navajo Nation, the Pueblo of Sandia, the Pueblo of Santa Ana, and the Pueblo Coalition of Tesuque (Nambé Pueblo, Pueblo of Picuris, and Pueblo de San Ildefonso), as well as with the City of Albuquerque, to coordinate implementation of climate initiatives and share information on grant activities. Through this ongoing collaboration, NMED contributed updates on the State Climate Action Plan while supporting communication, knowledge sharing, and coordinated efforts to advance shared climate goals across participating governments.



Rio Santa Barbara in Taos County

- CCB staff have been collaborating with the Navajo Nation's Climate Change Program. In FY26, CCB staff met in Gallup on April 7, 2026, to discuss the State Climate Action Plan and progress on its implementation and to learn about the Nation's program. Nekai Eversole, Program Lead for the Climate Change Program - Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife, shared updates on the Navajo Nation Climate Action Plan, along with other programs and projects currently underway.

Radiation Control Bureau (RCB)

- In FY26 RCB collaborated with the Pueblo de San Ildefonso and their contractor to make progress in termination of the Radioactive Materials License for Aleut Federal, LLC, and to remove the trailer from the pueblo land. Throughout the process, RCB

requested ongoing status updates and reiterated requirements for a final survey of the land after the structures are removed, along with submission of license-termination documentation once all assets are cleared. The licensee committed to performing post-removal monitoring, sampling, and coordinating closely with RCB during each phase. This collaboration reflects steady progress toward clearing the area for unrestricted use and completing the necessary steps for license termination.

Hazardous Waste Bureau (HWB)

- During FY26, HWB continued collaborating with leadership at Pueblo de San Ildefonso after evidence was collected show hexavalent chromium exceedances above regulatory standards in the groundwater beneath Pueblo de San Ildefonso land. The HWB continues to collaborate on developing and implementing hexavalent chromium plume Interim Measures. The Pueblo de San Ildefonso, the County of Los Alamos, the Department of Energy-Emergency Management, the Office of the State Engineer, and the NM Indian Affairs Department collaborate in joint meetings regarding the hexavalent chromium contamination plume clean up.
- HWB participated in the Fort Wingate Depot Activity (FWDA) Spring 2026 BRAC Closure Team meeting. The meeting is held bi-annually by the Fort Wingate Depot to facilitate government-to-government collaboration with the Zuni Pueblo and Navajo Nation, along with other stakeholders. HWB has resumed participation in the meeting series in FY26 and will continue to participate moving forward.
- HWB provided technical coordination and consultation with San Ildefonso regarding groundwater well installation projects, field data sharing, and environmental monitoring for the LANL Hexavalent Chromium groundwater contamination plume. HWB reviewed and provided technical comments on well Installation plans, aquifer test plans and reports, and supported groundwater sampling concurrently during well installation and well development operations on San Ildefonso lands.

Construction Program Bureau (CPB)

- In FY26, the Construction Program Bureau (CPB) staff collaborated with Pueblo de San Ildefonso leadership, the Office of the General Counsel, and the NMED Tribal Liaison, Carman Melendrez, to draft a letter of support for San Ildefonso's application for Congressionally Directed Spending to construct monitoring wells to better characterize and monitor a migrating hexavalent chromium plume.

Department of Energy Oversight Bureau (DOEOB)

- In FY26, the Department of Energy Oversight Bureau (DOEOB) continued ongoing collaboration with the Pueblo de San Ildefonso through monitoring of stormwater at site E110-Los Alamos Canyon above the Otowi Bridge. During FY26, the E-110 automated sampler was operational. Three stormwater events were also sampled during FY26. The collected stormwater was analyzed for PCBs, metals, radionuclides. E-110 is the last monitoring point before potentially contaminated stormwater runoff and sediment from legacy U.S. DOE activities in Los Alamos and Pueblo Canyon enter the Rio Grande. DOEOB is the only state government entity monitoring stormwater at this location, which is an important location for both the Pueblo de San Ildefonso, as well as the city of Santa Fe and the Buckman Direct Diversion project. All data results are made publicly available on the [IntellusNM](#) database. Stormwater monitoring is approved and carried out through a quarterly renewable access permit under the Department-wide Memorandum of Agreement with the Pueblo de San Ildefonso.



2026 State Tribal Leaders Summit

- DOEOB conducted their annual Sediment Sampling campaign with the Pueblo de San Ildefonso on October 6, 2025, and October 27, 2025. Sediment samples were collected on October 22, 2025, at three (3) locations on the Pueblo de San Ildefonso,

Reach LA-5 (LA-61701), the Rio Grande below Los Alamos Canyon (WR-61587) and the Rio Grande above the Otowi Bridge (BG-61527). The primary objective of this investigation is to provide an assessment of the potential constituents of concern present in canyon-bottom sediments throughout LANL and the possible migration of such constituents offsite. Sediment samples were collected from the lower Los Alamos Canyon stream channel and the banks of the Rio Grande, and were analyzed for metals, PCBs, dioxins/furans, radionuclides, and PFAS. All data results are made publicly available on the [IntellusNM](#) database. Sediment monitoring is approved and carried out through a quarterly renewable access permit under the Department-wide Memorandum of Agreement with the Pueblo de San Ildefonso.

- DOEOB did not monitor air particulate (AIRNET) on tribal lands in FY26, but the DOEOB participated in monitoring tritium and other radionuclides during the September - October 2025 controlled depressurization and venting of four [Flanged Tritium Waste Containers](#) at LANL at the border with Pueblo de San Ildefonso. The operation was a safety measure to prevent pressure build-up before transferring the radioactive tritium waste for permanent storage offsite in November 2025 to Waste Control Specialists, a licensed radioactive waste facility in Andrews County, Texas.
- DOEOB's groundwater program sampled the following locations in collaboration with the Pueblo de San Ildefonso in FY26. Three production wells used for drinking water: Black Mesa Well 1, Black Mesa Well 2, and LA-5; two established monitoring wells R-10 and R-10a; and 1 domestic well: "Martinez House Well". Additionally, DOEOB extensively sampled groundwater in new well, SIMR-3, located on the western edge of the Pueblo de San Ildefonso. Sampling at SIMR-3 was performed both in the borehole via zonal sampling before final well construction and after well construction and aquifer/pump testing. Sampling locations are situated downgradient or adjacent to the chromium plume.
- In FY26, the DOEOB groundwater program collaborated with the Pueblo de San Ildefonso by monitoring metals, perchlorate, general chemistry, radionuclides, volatile organics, PFAS, and pharmaceuticals/personal care products in well water. Analytical data is reviewed by the Pueblo then uploaded and made available to the public on the [IntellusNM](#) database. DOEOB environmental monitoring on Pueblo property is approved and carried out through a quarterly renewable access permit under the Department-wide Memorandum of Agreement with the Pueblo de San Ildefonso.

CONSULTATION

Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB)

- SWQB engaged in consultation and continued to update Nation, Pueblo, and Tribal leadership about the development of the surface water quality state permitting program. SWQB sent formal tribal consultation letters to the leadership of 26 of New Mexico's Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes on July 29, 2025, and December 3, 2025. SWQB conducted virtual and in-person consultations: two Tribes-Only meetings in September 2025; a tribal consultation meeting with Pueblo of Sandia and San Ildefonso Pueblo in December 2025; one Tribes-Only meetings in December 2025 and February 2026; and a tribal consultation meeting with Pueblo of San Felipe in February 2026.
- SWQB staff consulted with Governor James Naranjo of Santa Clara Pueblo and project contractors regarding implementation of the Santa Clara Creek Restoration Project under the River Stewardship Program. The consultation resulted in a mutually agreed-upon implementation schedule that reflects the Pueblo's priorities and incorporates consideration of traditional and cultural practices throughout the year, strengthening the Department's understanding of Tribal perspectives in project planning.

Ground Water Quality Bureau (GWQB)

- In FY26, GWQB held formal government-to-government consultation activities conducted with Tribal leadership regarding actions, policies, programs, permits, or decisions that may affect Tribal interests in Navajo Nation, Pueblo of Acoma, and Pueblo of Laguna on uranium related topics.
- GWQB Superfund Oversight Section staff joined Deputy Secretary John Rhoderick, WPD Division Director Jonas Armstrong, NMED Tribal Liaison Carman Melendrez, EPA Region 6 Tribal Liaison LaDonna Turner, and EPA Region 6 Community Involvement Coordinator Tom Ruiz for consultation with Santa Clara Pueblo Leadership, including Governor James Naranjo, Lt. Governor Charles Suazo, Director of Environmental Affairs Dino Chavarria, and Sheriff Donald Suazo on December 3, 2025, regarding the ongoing remediation efforts at the North Railroad Avenue Plume Superfund Site.



Pueblo of Laguna 'Bus Barn' framed by new Pueblo Public Housing

- GWQB Brownfields Program staff Savannah Richards joined Deputy Cabinet Secretary John Rhoderick and Carman Melendrez, NMED Tribal/Border Liaison, for consultation with the Pueblo of Laguna Governor Harry A. Antonio, Jr., and other Pueblo leadership, to discuss Brownfields funding for asbestos abatement at the former bus barn property. During the May 18, 2026, in-person meeting, decisions were made regarding NMED Brownfields funding to support asbestos abatement.

Hazardous Waste Bureau (HWB)

- In FY26, Hazardous Waste Bureau (HWB), after consulting with Pueblo of San Felipe leadership regarding the venting of canisters containing tritium waste, issued prerequisites to LANL requiring additional actions, including holding tribal consultations with tribal governments. In August 2025, LANL hosted a tribal consultation with interested Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes related to the independent, third-party technical review for alternative options; the preferred treatment process; and safety mechanisms and contingencies that were to be utilized to ensure the protection of human health, the environment, and cultural practices. HWB and DOE Oversight provided public updates on the NMED social media handle during the event, and LANL's website provided updates. LANL completed the operations and transported the four flanged tritium waste containers to their secured facility by October 12, 2025, and were shipped off site and properly disposed by November 20, 2025.

Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau (PSTB)

- In FY26, Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau (PSTB) collaborated with the Grants Cibola County School Board, Pueblo of Laguna, and Daniel B. Stephens to allow the land leased for the former high school to return to the Pueblo of Laguna. The land is under continued remediation, and the site will continue to be monitored to ensure no contamination remains. Part of the site houses the old school bus barn.

V. Future Priorities

Building on progress achieved during FY26, in FY27 the Department will focus on three priority areas that support implementation of state environmental laws, address emerging and legacy environmental challenges, and ensure meaningful Tribal engagement through communication, technical assistance, collaboration, and consultation. These FY27 priorities include:

1. Advance implementation of the PFAS Protection Act and expand engagement with Tribal Nations on PFAS monitoring and response.

- Continue implementation of statutory requirements under the PFAS Protection Act.
- Coordinate with interested Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes regarding PFAS sampling, technical assistance, and information-sharing where contamination may affect tribal communities.
- Develop guidance and outreach materials as implementation milestones are reached.

2. Advance cleanup and assessment activities related to legacy contamination affecting Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes, including abandoned uranium mines and the hexavalent chromium plume.

- Continue coordination with federal agencies, Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes, and other stakeholders on abandoned uranium mine assessment and reclamation.
- Support ongoing technical review and stakeholder engagement regarding the hexavalent chromium plume cleanup at Los Alamos National Laboratory.
- Seek additional federal resources, where appropriate, to address legacy contamination affecting tribal lands and communities.

3. Continue implementation of New Mexico's surface water permitting program while maintaining government-to-government consultation with Tribal Nations.

- Continue development and implementation of the state surface water permitting program following EPA approval.
- Provide opportunities for consultation and technical assistance to Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes regarding permitting, water quality standards, and implementation.
- Coordinate with Tribal environmental departments throughout rulemaking and program development.

VI. Contacts (NMSA 1978, §11-18-4(C)(2))

James C. Kenney
Cabinet Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive, Suite N4050
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Phone: (800) 219-6157 or (505) 827-2855
james.kenney@env.nm.gov

John Rhoderick
Deputy Cabinet Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive, Suite N4050
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Phone: (800) 219-6157 or (505) 827-2855
john.rhoderick@env.nm.gov

Carman Melendrez, Ph. D.
Tribal and Border Liaison
New Mexico Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Drive, Suite N4050
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Phone: (505) 487-0402
carman.melendrez@env.nm.gov

VII. Statutes and Mandates

Governing statutes generally:

NMSA 1978 §9-7A-1 to -15	Executive Department, Department of Environment
NMSA 1978 §§ 25-1-1 to -15	Food Service Sanitation Act
NMSA 1978 §§ 25-2-1 to -20	Adulterated or Misbranded Food Act
NMSA 1978 §§ 26-2C-1 to -42	Cannabis Regulation Act
NMSA 1978 §§50-9-1 to -25	Occupational Health and Safety Act
NMSA 1978 §§ 61-33-1 to -10	Utility Operators Act
NMSA 1978 §§74-1-1 to -17	Environmental Improvement Act
NMSA 1978 §74-1-6	Department Powers
NMSA 1978 §§74-2-1 to -22	Air Quality Control Act
NMSA 1978 §§74-3-1 to -16	Radiation Protection Act
NMSA 1978 §§74-4-1 to -14	Hazardous Waste Act
NMSA 1978 §§74-4A-1 to -16	Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Act
NMSA 1978 §§74-4B-1 to -14	Emergency Management Act
NMSA 1978 §§74-4C-1 to -4	Hazardous Waste Feasibility Study Act
NMSA 1978 §§74-4E-1 to -9	Hazardous Chemicals Information Act
NMSA 1978 §§74-4G-1 to -12	Voluntary Remediation Act
NMSA 1978 §§74-6-1 to -17	Water Quality Act
NMSA 1978 §§74-6A-1 to -15	Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act
NMSA 1978 §§74-6B-1 to -14	Ground Water Protection Act
NMSA 1978 §§74-6C-1 to -11	New Mexico Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NMSA 1978 §§74-6-2 to -17	Environmental Improvement Act
NMSA 1978 §§74-7-1 to -8	Environmental Compliance Act
NMSA 1978 §§74-8-1 to -3	Solid Waste Incineration
NMSA 1978 §74-9-1 to -43	Solid Waste Act
NMSA 1978 §§74-10-1 to -100	Solid Waste Authority Act
NMSA 1978 §§74-13-1 to -20	Recycling and Illegal Dumping Act
NMSA 1978 §§74-13A-1	Petroleum Products Loading Fee Act
NMSA 1978 §§74-15-1 to -7	Per-and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances Protection Act
NMSA 1978 §§75-1-1 to -6	Rural Infrastructure Act
NMSA 1978 §§70-13-1 to -5	Produced Water Act
NMSA 1978 §§76, Article 24	Hemp Manufacturing Act

VIII. Agreements

Nation/Pueblo/Tribe Government	Agency(s)	Activity	Agreement Type	Current Status	Contact/Phone
Pueblo of Pojoaque Environment Department	NMED	Abatement of soil and water pollution	Cooperative Agreement	Effective May 1, 2001	GWQB Chief (505) 231-3773
Pueblo of Zuni	NMED	Underground Storage Tank Cleanup, at Mustang Store 7256	Cooperative Agreement	Effective March 30, 2002	PSTB Chief (505) 487-6470
Pueblo of Laguna	NMED	Underground Storage Tank Cleanup at Laguna Mart	Cooperative Agreement	Effective June 21, 2000	PSTB Chief (505) 487-6470
Pueblo of Laguna	NMED, U.S. EPA, the Grants/Cibola County School Board	Underground Storage Tank Cleanup for a former Grants/Cibola County Schools Maintenance Yard, Paraje	Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)	Effective May 31, 2016	PSTB Chief (505) 487-6470
Jicarilla Apache Tribe Environmental Protection Office	NMED	Underground Storage Tank Cleanup at the Lodge at Chama, amended to include the Gomez Stop and Go Site	Cooperative Agreement	Effective June 15, 2000 Amended August 16, 2002	PSTB Chief (505) 487-6470
Pueblo of Picuris	NMED	Underground Storage Tank Cleanup and Petroleum Remediation	Consent for Access to Property	Effective June 14, 2007	PSTB Chief (505) 487-6470
Ohkay Owingeh	NMED	Underground Storage Tank Cleanup and Petroleum Remediation	Consent for Access to Property	Effective September 8, 2008	PSTB Chief (505) 487-6470
Pueblo de San Ildefonso	NMED	Soil, water, air, and plant monitoring as well as sampling to evaluate LANL activities	MOU	Effective February 7, 2014	DOE Oversight Bureau Chief (505) 331-3665
Navajo Nation and Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, CO	NMED	Four Corners Air Quality Group Cooperation	MOU	Effective December 3, 2015	Air Quality Bureau, Mark Jones (505) 629-6626
Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency	NMED, U.S. EPA, Navajo Nation EPA	Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project	MOU	Effective April 1, 2021; Revised September 9, 2024	Drinking Water Bureau Chief (505) 467-9415
Santa Clara Pueblo	NMED	Comprehensive description of all regulatory activities w/in exterior boundary	MOA	Effective December 20, 2010, Amended November 19, 2019	Tribal Liaison (505) 487-0402