STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Environment Department

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NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate 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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Board approves updated radiation safety rules

Updates strengthen protections for patients, workers across New Mexico

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board today approved amendments proposed by the New Mexico Environment Department to update radiation safety requirements for hospitals, medical imaging facilities and industrial operations across the state, helping protect patients, workers and the public from unnecessary radiation exposure.

For New Mexicans receiving an X-ray, CT scan or other medical imaging exam, the changes bring state regulations in line with current federal requirements for the equipment used in those procedures. They also clarify requirements for reviewing radiation shielding plans — which help protect patients, medical staff and others from unnecessary exposure — and update the credentials recognize for professionals performing medical imaging and radiation therapy.

"Whether you're getting an X-ray at your local hospital or working around radiation equipment, you should be confident that the proper safety standards are in place," said **NMED Environmental Protection Division Director Michelle Miano**. "These updates help ensure New Mexico's regulations reflect today's technology and the people using it understand their responsibility to protect patients, workers, and the public."

Radiation equipment is also used outside healthcare, including in industrial operations that use X-rays to inspect materials and equipment. The amendments clarify registration, licensing and reporting requirements for businesses using these technologies, helping ensure facilities understand and meet their responsibilities for protecting employees and the public. These changes apply to future applicants as well as the 1,500 x-ray registrations and approximately 3,500 licensed technologists in the state.

The amendments also update five parts of New Mexico's radiation protection regulations, aligning state requirements with federal standards, clarifying existing provisions and simplifying administrative procedures. These changes will help NMED's Radiation Control Bureau process applications more efficiently, maintain consistent oversight and focus resources on protecting public health.

“Radiation-related technologies and professional standards continue to evolve, and our regulations must evolve with them,” said **NMED Radiation Control Bureau Chief Srikanth Paladugu**. “These amendments give regulated professionals clearer requirements and help the Bureau administer an efficient, consistent and protective regulatory program.”

The Radiation Control Bureau, part of the Department’s Environmental Protection Division, administers New Mexico’s radiation protection program. Its responsibilities include implementing requirements intended to protect public health and safety in activities involving radiation and radioactive materials.

Final rules and related materials will be available at https://www.env.nm.gov/rcb/public-notices-of-radioactive-materials-licensing-actions-and-rulemakings/

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