

*For Immediate Release*

**July 25, 2019**

**Contact:** Maddy Hayden, Communications Director  
New Mexico Environment Department  
505.231.8800 | maddy.hayden@state.nm.us

Susan Torres, Communications Director  
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural  
Resources Department  
505.476.3226 | susan.torres@state.nm.us



## **State agencies extend stakeholder engagement on oil and gas methane regulatory strategy**

**SANTA FE** — Today, the New Mexico departments of the Environment (NMED) and Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources (EMNRD) announced extended hours for upcoming stakeholder engagement meetings on the state's methane strategy for the oil and gas industry. Due to great public interest, NMED and EMNRD are extending hours at all three locations. By adding an hour to these meetings, we hope to further facilitate public input.

A key component of Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's [Executive Order](#) is the development of an enforceable regulatory framework to ensure methane reductions from the oil and natural gas sector and to prevent waste from new and existing sources. These initial public engagement sessions are an unprecedented opportunity for the public to be heard and have questions answered early on in the rulemaking process.

Please find updated information for the public stakeholder engagement events taking place throughout the state:

- 1-6 p.m. July 29, San Juan Community College IT Building, Room 7103, 4601 College Blvd., Farmington, NM 87402
- 1-6 p.m. Jul 30, University of New Mexico School of Law, Room 2401, 1117 Stanford Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106
- 5-6 p.m. Aug. 6; 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Aug. 7, Skeen-Whitlock Building, Weart Auditorium, 4021 National Parks Highway, Carlsbad, NM 88220

The agenda for these meetings will be:

- Slide presentation by NMED and EMNRD (1 hour)
- Public questions and answers (1 hour)
- Break (30 minutes)
- Public comment (1.5 hours)
- Open house (1 hour)

During the stakeholder meetings, NMED and EMNRD will provide an overview of their authorities to regulate methane from the oil and natural gas industry. Please limit public comments to two minutes. The open house format will provide an opportunity for the public to engage directly with individual agency staff.

Ultimately, two separate rulemakings will be necessary. One proceeding will take place before the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission for the regulation of methane as a wasted resource. The other will take place before the Environmental Improvement Board for the regulation of methane and volatile organic compounds related to air

quality impacts. NMED and EMNRD are working together to ensure these rules are complementary and do not result in redundant requirements.

###

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:

Kristine Yurdin, Non-Discrimination Coordinator

New Mexico Environment Department

1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050

P.O. Box 5469

Santa Fe, NM 87502

(505) 827-2855

[nd.coordinator@state.nm.us](mailto:nd.coordinator@state.nm.us)

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator identified above.

###