



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary
Jennifer J. Pruet, Deputy Secretary

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Feb. 18, 2019

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.

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

James C. Kenney confirmed by Senate as New Mexico Environment Secretary

Santa Fe—The Senate voted unanimously to confirm James C. Kenney as Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department on Monday.



Kenney brings to the department more than 20 years of experience with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, most recently as a senior policy advisor on oil and gas based in Albuquerque.

"I'm thrilled Secretary Kenney is officially on board," Gov. Lujan Grisham said. "Already, he's proven himself a diligent, conscientious and whip-smart leader, and I know NMED will be in the best possible hands."

During his tenure at the EPA, Kenney worked in collaboration with states, tribes, federal agencies and industry to develop policies supporting environmentally responsible oil and natural gas development.

He also served in an enforcement role, leading investigations into violations of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and other flagship EPA statutes and regulations.

Kenney's immediate priorities include working to reduce methane emissions – in collaboration with other state agencies – in support of the Climate Change Task Force established by Gov. Lujan Grisham's executive order and holding the Air Force accountable for groundwater contamination at the state's Air Force bases.

An environmental engineer by trade, Kenney will use science to tackle some of New Mexico's toughest environmental challenges, ensure entities operating in New Mexico are in compliance with state rules and regulations and employ innovative strategies to protect and restore New Mexico's environment.

"I am honored the Governor and New Mexico Legislature have put their trust in me to lead NMED," Kenney said. "It was science, innovation, collaboration and compliance that served me well at the EPA and I am confident they will serve me well here at the New Mexico Environment Department."

###

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

send email to: 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.

###