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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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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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Environment Department monitoring effects of Colorado mine spill

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) was notified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) earlier today of a mine release into the Animas River north of Silverton, Colo.

Discharges observed yesterday from the Silver Wing Mine in southern Colorado caused discoloration of the Animas River. NMED is closely monitoring real-time data from the river in Colorado and New Mexico, which do not currently indicate any evidence of water quality impacts that could affect human health and the environment.

EPA has not issued notice to close municipal drinking water supplies that use the Animas River, but the cities of Farmington and Aztec and Lower Valley Water Users Association have shut off water intakes to municipal drinking supplies in an abundance of caution.

NMED will provide additional information through its website and social media as it becomes available.

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