

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

NEWS RELEASE*For Immediate Release***October 20, 2022***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 reviewing abatement plan to investigate groundwater contamination from potash mine discharges

CARLSBAD — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is reviewing a Modified Stage 1 Abatement Plan (Plan) to investigate and define the extent of groundwater contamination from discharges associated with potash mining.

Groundwater contamination between Laguna Grande and the Pecos River has been detected in groundwater monitoring wells. As a result, NMED required Mosaic Potash Carlsbad to submit the Plan to characterize the nature and extent of groundwater contamination from mine discharges between Laguna Grande and the Pecos River. On April 15, 2022, [NMED announced](#) that the department was reviewing the facility's Stage 1 Abatement Plan. Based on that review, NMED directed Mosaic Potash Carlsbad to modify the original Plan to include additional site investigations, including a water balance of areas that have the potential to be impacted by Mosaic's operations and water quality analysis of all wells monitored under Mosaic's Discharge Permit (DP-1399).

Along with the additional site investigations, the Modified Plan includes a summary of site conditions, including site history and previously conducted investigations, and proposes steps to define the nature and extent of groundwater contamination. NMED will review the Modified Plan pursuant to 20.6.2.4106(C) NMAC and either approve the Plan or send Mosaic Potash Carlsbad a Notification of Deficiency within 60 days.

Once Mosaic Potash Carlsbad completes the site characterization and NMED approves the Final Site Characterization Report, NMED may require a Stage 2 Abatement Plan that outlines strategies to clean up the groundwater contamination.

View the Modified Plan at <https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notice> and click on Eddy County. For more information, contact Jessica Hubbling, Permit Lead at (505) 487-3720 or Jessica.hubbling@env.nm.gov. NMED is providing this notice of receipt of the Modified Stage 1 Abatement Plan pursuant to 20.6.2.4108(A) NMAC of the New Mexico Ground and Surface Water Protection Regulations (20.6.2 NMAC).

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