



February 5, 2024

Carl Dickens and Mori Hensley
Co-Chairs
Santa Fe River Traditional Communities Collaborative
1413 Second Street, Suite 3
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: Santa Fe River PFAS Concerns

Dear Co-Chairs Dickens and Hensley,

Thank you for reaching out on behalf of the Santa Fe River Traditional Communities Collaborative to share your concerns regarding the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) detected by tests conducted by Santa Fe County in five private wells in La Cieneguilla and La Cienega communities. Testing for and remediating PFAS contamination is an emerging and evolving issue with regulation criteria still being developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) does not yet have regulatory authority or dedicated funding to continuously test for PFAS contamination. NMED also does not have the authority to regulate private wells and can only make recommendations to private well owners who are responsible for testing, treating, and maintaining their wells.

The Department has implemented new efforts to improve data gathering and communications on PFAS contamination in New Mexico water sources including:

- Offered a \$459,000 to Santa Fe County for a PFAS characterization project to investigate, model and plan for known PFAS contamination within the County with funding from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (offered November 2023 and currently submitted for review by Santa Fe County Commission).
- Developed PFAS communications materials and websites including:
 - NMED PFAS Page: <https://www.env.nm.gov/pfas/>
 - NMED PFAS Data: <https://www.env.nm.gov/pfas/data/>
 - NMED PFAS Flyer (attached)

Please work with your contacts at Santa Fe County to integrate your concerns with their efforts under the upcoming PFAS characterization project. However, it is important to note that under New Mexico state law, private well water quality is not regulated, and well owners are responsible for testing and treating their water. Please also review and share the recommendations contained in the attached NMED PFAS flyer. NMED will make information regarding any new funding opportunities for private well testing or remediation available on the Drinking Water Bureau and PFAS web pages. NMED will also continue to work with Santa Fe County as they implement their PFAS Characterization Project.

Thank you again for your letter and sharing your concerns. If you have further questions, please contact John Rhoderick Water Protection Division Director at john.rhoderick@env.nm.gov or (505) 819-8284.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James C. Kenney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Secretary James C. Kenney
Cabinet Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department