

Summary of Initial Public Input on Produced Water

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) report titled *Summary of Initial Public Input on Produced Water* is now available and may be accessed from the NMED Produced Water webpage, <https://www.env.nm.gov/new-mexico-produced-water/> under the Public Participation topic. The *Summary of Initial Public Input on Produced Water* presents NMED's compilation and careful analysis of over 760 messages NMED received from the public between October 11, 2019, and March 3, 2020. NMED received these messages in response to information NMED posted to its produced water webpage and information NMED presented during five public engagement meetings held in October and November 2019. The purpose of the produced water public engagement meetings was to share information with the public about the Produced Water Act, a new law in 2019, and gather information about the public's concerns, questions and ideas regarding management of produced water in New Mexico. Given that NMED did not conduct the public meetings as part of an active rulemaking process, the report does not provide NMED responses to public comments.

The *Summary of Initial Public Input on Produced Water* summarizes the public engagement efforts and captures public sentiment about produced water management, organized around common themes and without attribution to individuals, companies or organizations. Much of the input received focused on the unknowns surrounding produced water use outside of oil and gas, how these unknowns may inhibit development of safe and effective regulation, and how these potential negative implications may affect human health and the environment, now or in the future. The *Summary of Initial Public Input on Produced Water* distills these concerns into primary topics that the public considers priorities for the State to address through future produced water research and/or regulation.

NMED and the New Mexico Produced Water Research Consortium (PWRC) have already been utilizing this public input to guide produced water activities. The *Summary of Initial Public Input on Produced Water* will continue to serve as a resource to NMED, the PWRC, other state officials, and the general public as research and policy initiatives related to produced water proceed.

NMED invites ongoing input from the public on the important topic of produced water treatment and use outside the oil and gas industry. Find more information about how to contact NMED at <https://www.env.nm.gov/new-mexico-produced-water/>.