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Notice of Public Hearing Doña Ana Dairies Ground Water Remediation Plan

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department announces a public hearing on the Doña Ana Dairies’ Stage 2 Abatement Plan proposal to remediate ground water contamination. The dairies are a consortium of 11 dairies located along I-10 between the towns of Mesquite and Anthony in Doña Ana County. The hearing will be held at City Hall located at 820 Highway 478 in Anthony, New Mexico on March 25, beginning at 9:00 AM and on March 26, 2015 beginning at 8:30 AM.

Ground water is contaminated with nitrate-nitrogen, chloride, and total dissolved solids above state standards in shallow ground water beneath and beyond the dairy boundaries as a primary result of past dairy wastewater discharges to lagoons and crops. The Stage 2 Abatement Plan proposal consists of: 1) mitigating contaminant sources via synthetic liners at wastewater ponds and removal of solids; 2) monitored natural attenuation of the contaminant plumes; and 3) evaluation of the effectiveness of monitored natural attenuation.

The hearing shall be limited to the following items of the submitted proposal: 1) sampling frequency at select monitoring wells; 2) the rule and policy of ground water background and existing concentrations definitions including establishing background over time and the Upper Prediction Limit statistical method; 3) abatement options including data inconsistencies that indicate plume migration and unclear contaminant sources; and 4) domestic well impacts.

A copy of the Stage 2 Abatement Plan proposal can be viewed at NMED’s District office in Las Cruces (575 524-6300) located at 1170 North Solano Dr., Suite M. or on NMED’s website at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/gwb/NMED-GWQB-PublicNotice.htm>.

At the hearing, all interested persons shall be given a reasonable chance to submit data, views or arguments orally or in writing and to ask questions of the Secretary’s and/or Doña Ana Dairies’ designee. Interested persons wanting to submit written technical testimony must submit a Notice of Intent to Present Technical Testimony to the Hearing Clerk located in the Harold Runnels Building, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Room S-2100, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502 no later than Friday, March 6, 2015.

For more information, call Jill Turner at (505) 827-0314.