



New Mexico Environment Department

Neglected Contamination Sites Project:
Remediation of New Mexico's Neglected Contamination Sites

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New Mexico Neglected Contamination Project

- ❑ What is a Neglected Contamination Site?
- ❑ Why do Neglected Contamination Sites Exist?
- ❑ Where are Neglected Contamination Sites Located?
- ❑ What is Currently Being Done?
- ❑ What are Next Steps?





What are Neglected Contamination Sites?

- ❑ **Neglected Contamination Sites are locations where:**
 - ❑ **Known or suspected contamination is causing a threat to human health or the environment,**
 - ❑ **The site cannot receive cleanup assistance through an existing state or federal program, and**
 - ❑ **A responsible party (RP) is not identifiable to assess and cleanup the contamination, reasons include:**
 - ❑ **RP has not or cannot be identified or located,**
 - ❑ **RP does not acknowledge responsibility, or**
 - ❑ **RP is unable or unwilling to proceed.**



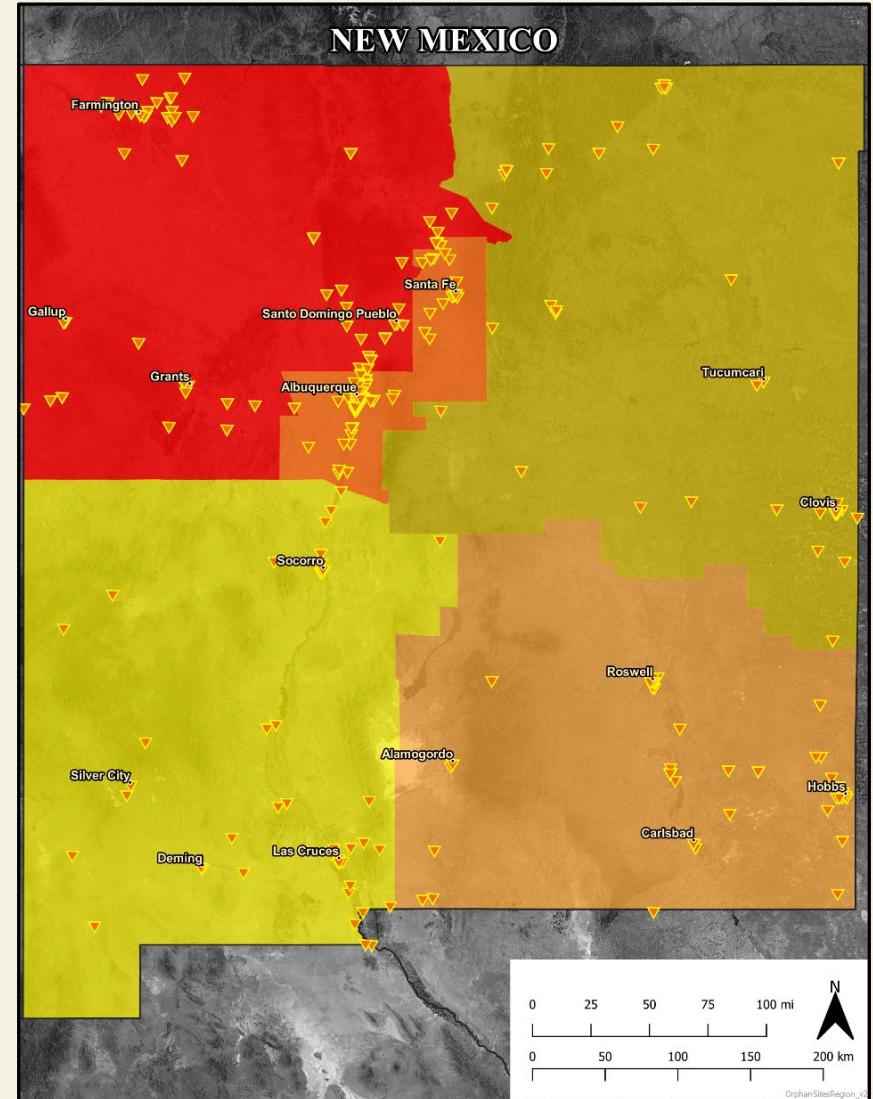
Why Do Neglected Contamination Sites Exist?

- ❑ Neglected contamination sites are created when:
 - ❑ an RP cannot be identified,
 - ❑ the site does not meet the federal cleanup funding requirements under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) to be placed the National Priorities List (NPL), and
 - ❑ it falls on the state to assess and cleanup the contamination.
- ❑ NMED's state cleanup programs require an RP or property owner take the initiative to assist and participate in the cleanup of a contaminated site.
- ❑ NMED does not have the means nor the mechanisms in place to address contaminated sites without an RP that cannot be remediated under CERCLA.



Where are Neglected Contamination Sites Located?

- ❑ These sites exist in every region of New Mexico.
 - ❑ Releases may have occurred decades ago,
 - ❑ RPs may be long-gone, but
 - ❑ Contamination persists.
- ❑ Current Potential Site List:
 - ❑ 300 potential legacy sites with know or suspected contamination across the state,
 - ❑ 130 with documented onsite release(s) of contamination.





Neglected Contamination Site – Carlisle Village Cleaners

- ❑ **Carlisle Village Cleaners:** NMED identified two historic dry cleaners at the South Carlisle Shopping Village strip mall in October 2021.

- ❑ **Objectives:**

- ❑ Continue the removal assessment; and
- ❑ Evaluate the site for placement on the National Priorities List.



- ❑ **Activities Conducted:**

- ❑ Indoor air and sub-structure vapor sampling at a subset of residential properties in the study area to further characterize the extent of contamination
- ❑ EPA installed 125+ sampling devices and found elevated PCE and TCE concentrations within the 1,000-foot study area.



Neglected Contamination Site – Carlisle Village Cleaners

- Next Steps:
 - NMED - Direct push drilling to characterize soil, soil vapor, and ground-water at depths, up to 100ft below grade (Planned: November 2023).
 - EPA-Removal – Indoor air and- crawlspace/ subslab sampling at more structures within the 500 ft radius of the source strip mall (Planned: November 2023).





What is Currently Being Done and Next Steps?

- ❑ **Progress Thus Far on Neglected Contamination Sites:**
 - ❑ **The Orphan Site Report (2021)**
 - ❑ Overview of neglected contamination sites in the state and steps forward.
 - ❑ Neglected Contamination Potential Site List.
 - ❑ **Neglected Contamination Sites Programmatic Gap Analysis (2022)**
 - ❑ Main programmatic gap is resources (funding and staffing).
 - ❑ **Neglected Contamination Sites Implementation Plan (2022)**
 - ❑ Outlined programmatic development of a state-lead neglected contamination site cleanup program with a state cleanup fund.
- ❑ **Next Steps**
 - ❑ **Legislative Session 2025, NMED plans to request legislative assistance to develop a state-lead neglected contamination site cleanup program, including a state cleanup fund to provide the necessary resources for NMED to address the cleanup of neglected contamination sites.**



Resource Links

Orphan (Neglected Contaminated Site) Site Report

- ▣ <https://service.web.env.nm.gov/urls/WqpaPfwV>

Gap Analysis Report

- ▣ <https://service.web.env.nm.gov/urls/gjjHmkRd>

Implementation Plan

- ▣ <https://service.web.env.nm.gov/urls/kQsubncu>



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QUESTIONS???

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