



New Mexico Environment Department

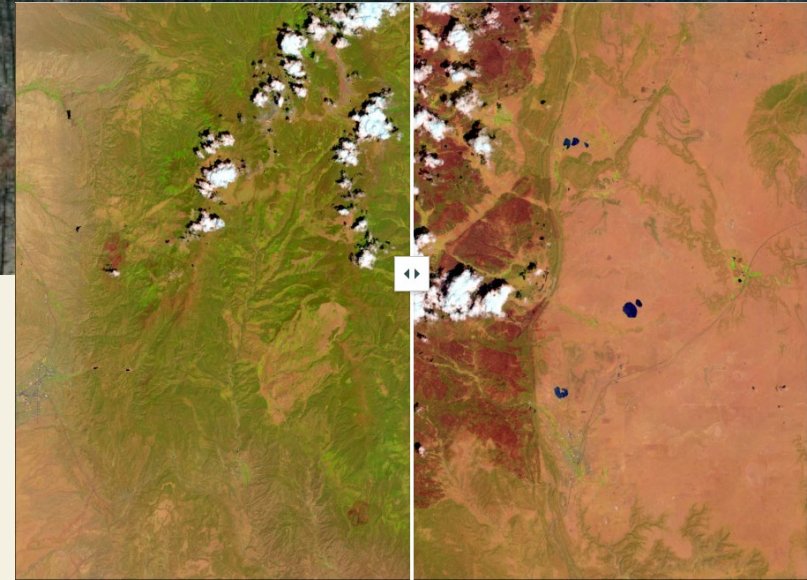
Disaster Debris in New Mexico-Be Prepared!
Shirlene Sitton, Resource Recovery Bureau Chief
October 1, 2025





New Mexico Disasters

Photo credit: New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute



The HPCC area before and after the wildfire. Imagery from the European Space Agency (ESA)

NM experiences fires and floods

- Multiple events within a season, and some repeated yearly
- Climate issues & drought worsen



New Mexico Disasters

Wildfires- lightning and human caused



Hermit's Peak and Calf Canyon Fires

May & June, 2022



New Mexico Disasters

Flooding can occur from stormwater events

Roswell Oct. 19-20, 2024

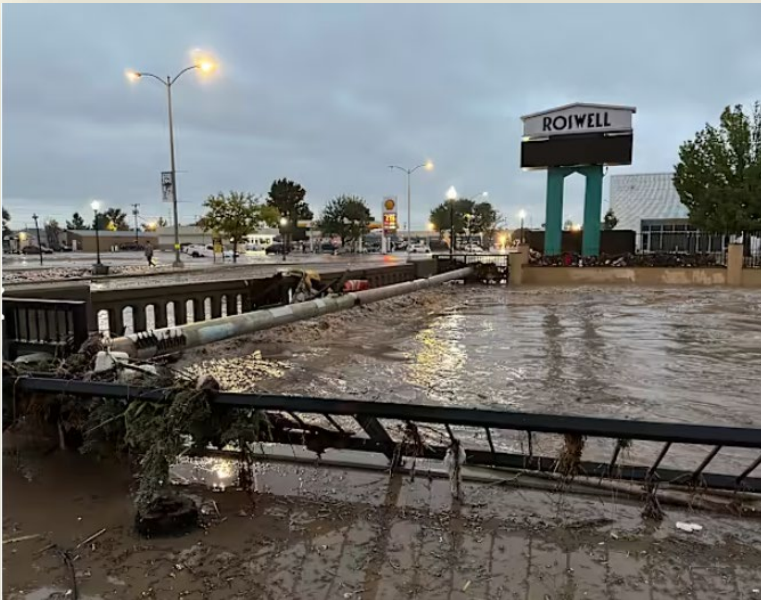


Photo credit: Tom Hudgens, AP

Mora
Aug. 26-27, 2025



Courtesy: NMDOT



New Mexico Disasters

Flooding is exacerbated by burn scars



Homes damaged by flooding in Ruidoso. July 9, 2025. (KRQE Sky News 13)



Ruidoso flooding on July 8, 2025. (Marissa Henson via Storyful)

Ruidoso 2025



Response Levels

Local and State

- ❑ Your local government Emergency Management Plan
- ❑ State Level
 - ❑ Governor declares state of emergency
 - ❑ Can activate State Dept. of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHSEM); National Guard
 - ❑ DHSEM coordinates debris management team
 - ❑ Governor can ask President to declare disaster

National

- ❑ Presidential approval allows for public assistance through FEMA
- ❑ FEMA manages debris cleanup through contracts for reimbursement
- ❑ EPA-Personal Property Debris Removal (PPDR) program to clear property of hazards before demolition and removal. Needs permission through Right Of Entry (ROE).



Types of Debris

- Natural/Organic- hazard trees, vegetation, silt/sediment
- Structural- construction and demolition
- Structural containing asbestos- built before 1988
- Recycling- metal
- Household Hazardous Waste
 - PPDR will address at residences if this is enacted and they opt-in through ROE.



Types of Debris

- Clean Fill- uncontaminated, inert earth material—including soil, rock, sand, and recycled concrete or asphalt
- Flood Debris-clean fill, ash, organics
- Sludge- WWTP flooding



Car damaged by flooding in Ruidoso, July 9, 2025. (KROE Sky News 13)

COURTESY: JESUS FIGUEROA



Ruidoso flooding on July 8, 2025. (Credit: Jesus Figueroa)



RESOURCE RECOVERY
BUREAU



Debris Management Team

- ❑ At State or Federal level response, DHSEM/FEMA coordinates contracts for various activities
 - ❑ Debris removal
 - Public & private property, waterways, etc.
 - Use of specialized companies, like DRC
 - ❑ Hauling
 - Use of local subcontractors such as haulers
 - City/Local Gov't may have own hauling



Debris Management Team

- NM Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM)- organizers
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
 - NMED Resource Recovery Bureau (RRB)
 - NMED Compliance and Enforcement Bureau (CEB)
 - NM Dept of Transportation (NMDOT)
 - National Guard or other responders
 - County and City Stakeholders and Emergency Management
 - Private contractors
- Debris Team Meetings
 - Important to communicate needs and address issues
 - Daily to weekly



Debris Management-RRB

- ❑ RRB's Role
 - ❑ Identifies solid waste facilities and options for waste disposal
 - ❑ Coordinates with solid waste facilities
 - Assess capacity at facility: space, personnel, and equipment
 - ❑ Reviews any restrictions in solid waste facility permitting
 - Temporarily lift caps on accepted waste per day or adjust operating hours
 - ❑ Reviews Temporary Debris Staging and Reduction (TDSR) applications
 - ❑ RRB may allow fast-tracked hauler certification



Debris Management- CED

NMED's Compliance and Enforcement Bureau provides technical assistance and ensures compliance with:

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 40: Protection of the Environment
- New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (HWMR) 20.4.1 New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC)
- Solid Waste Rules (SWR) 20.9.2-20.9.10 NMAC
- Recycling, Illegal Dumping, and Scrap Tire Management Rules (RIDSTMR) 20.9.20 NMAC



Temp Debris Staging Reduction

Identifying and approving TDSRs takes precious time in an emergency.

Be prepared and have an approved site ready!

- Approved site where mixed debris is sorted to reduce the amount of material hauled to area landfills
- TDSR applicants must be a government entity, even if private property
- Public owned property is preferable
- Plan for temporary fencing!

Temporary Debris Staging & Reduction

Emergency TDSR application

NMED, Resource Recovery Bureau website:

<https://www.env.nm.gov/solid-waste/>



Completing the Form

EMERGENCY TEMPORARY DEBRIS STAGING AND REDUCTION SITE APPLICATION FORM

FEMA [Click or tap here to enter text](#); DR-NM

Applicants are responsible for completing this form in its entirety, with required attachments, and submitting to New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) at daniele.berardelli@env.nm.gov for evaluation and approval. If approved, the approved form must be attached to the Project Worksheet.

EACH EMERGENCY TEMPORARY DEBRIS STAGING AND REDUCTION (TDSR) SITE REQUIRES A SEPARATE APPLICATION FORM.

REQUESTING REGISTRATION AS A (check all that apply):

Staging Site Wood Chipping Site

GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY APPLYING:

Name: [Click or tap here to enter text](#). County: [Click or tap here to enter text](#).

Contact Person Name and Title: [Click or tap here to enter text](#).

Address: [Click or tap here to enter text](#). City: [Click or tap here to enter text](#). Zip Code: [Click or tap here to enter text](#).

Office phone: [Click or tap here to enter text](#). Cell phone: [Click or tap here to enter text](#). Email: [Click or tap here to enter text](#).

TDSR SITE NAME: [Click or tap here to enter text](#).

LEGAL DESCRIPTION AND COORDINATES OF TDSR SITE:

Township: [Click or tap here to enter text](#). Range: [Click or tap here to enter text](#). Section and Quarter Section(s): [Click or tap here to enter text](#).

Latitude: [Click or tap here to enter text](#). Longitude: [Click or tap here to enter text](#). (specify degrees)

SITE OWNER:

Name: [Click or tap here to enter text](#).

If Applicant is NOT the Site Owner, then a legal access agreement must be included with application.

DATES OF OPERATION:

Beginning date: [Click or tap to enter a date](#). End date: [Click or tap to enter a date](#).

Emergency debris short-term staging sites may operate for no more than 120 days.

APPLICANT MUST FOLLOW ALL FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

The following criteria must be identified on a map¹ (any application submitted without mapping will be rejected):

- The TDSR site is located above the 100-year floodplain and outside of known wetlands. Attach a floodplain map using (1) Flood Insurance Rate Map prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, (2) Flood Hazard Area Map prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey, (3) or an equivalent map that demonstrates the limit of the 100-year floodplain on or adjacent to the proposed TDSR site.
- The TDSR site is located at least 1,320 feet (402 meters) away from a public or private water supply (e.g., well, stream, reservoir, etc.). Attach a map that demonstrates the TDSR site meets this criterion. Additionally, provide measured distance to nearest private or public water supply (surface or ground) here: [Click or tap here to enter text](#).
- If the TDSR site will receive any putrescible waste that may attract birds, it must be located at least 5,000 feet (1,524 meters) from any airport runway used only by piston engine aircraft or within 10,000 feet (3,048 meters) of any airport runway used by turbojet aircraft, except as may be approved by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. If putrescible waste will be accepted, attach a map that demonstrates the TDSR site meets this criterion. Additionally, provide measured distance to nearest airport runway here: [Click or tap here to enter text](#).



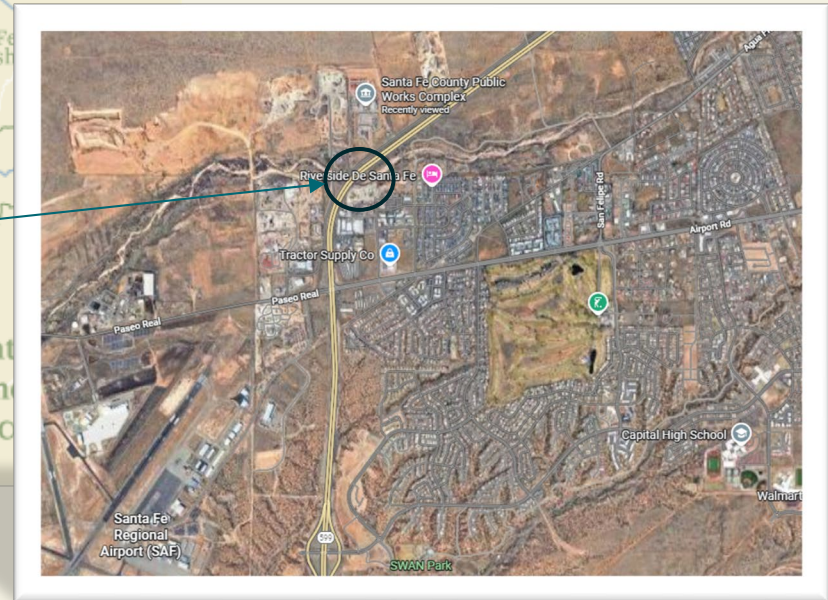
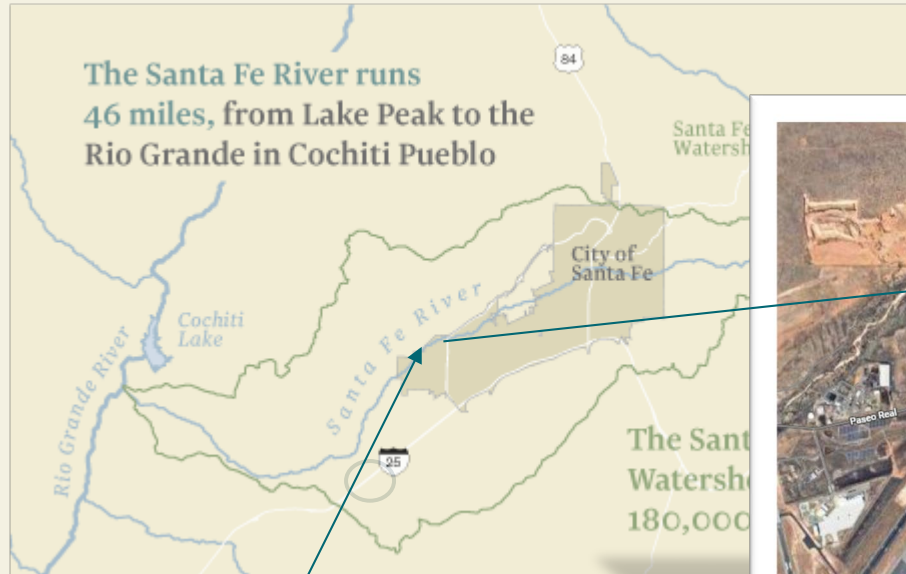
Image AI generated by Rick Shean



RESOURCE RECOVERY BUREAU



Mapping Exercise – Flooding SF River



Flood location*

Santa Fe River at NM 599 crossing

*Fictitious scenario



Mapping Exercise – Selecting a TDSR

Location dependent on:

- 1) Property ownership
- 2) Size of area needed for amount of debris
- 3) Proximity to disaster
- 4) Nearby landfills



Flood location

Santa Fe River at NM-599 crossing



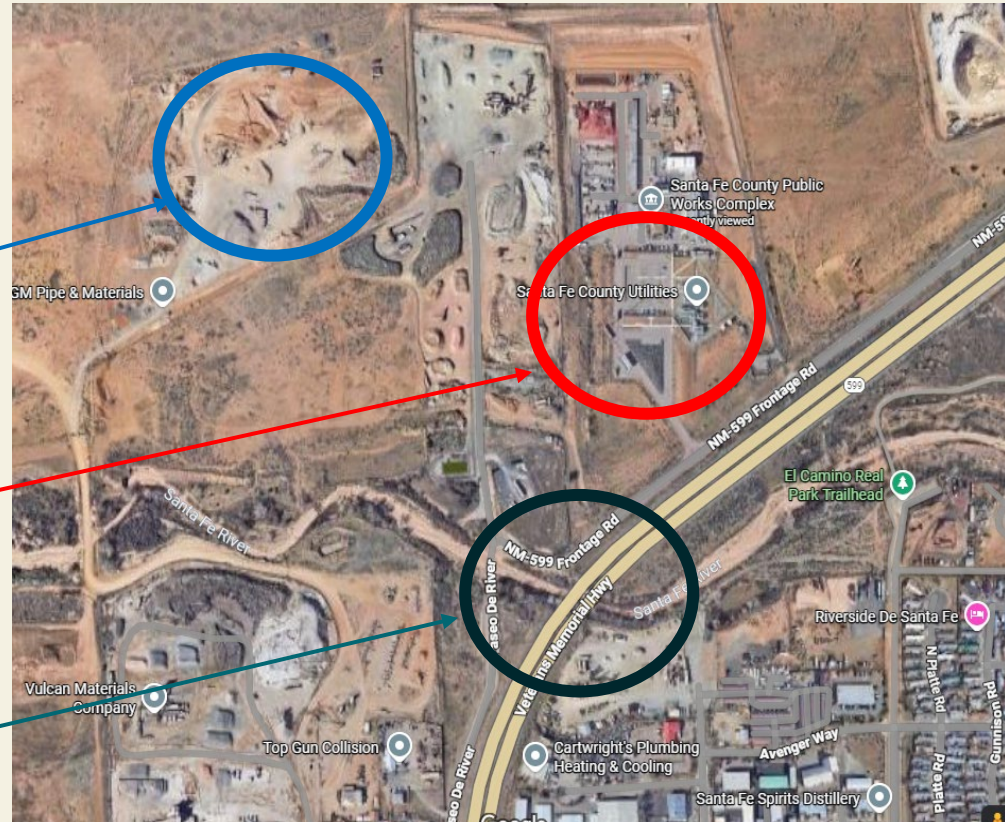
Mapping Exercise – Selecting a TDSR

Two Potential TDSR Locations:

1. Quarry (Privately owned)*

2. Santa Fe County Public Works (County owned - parking lot)

Flood location



*Fictitious scenario



Mapping Exercise – Selecting a TDSR

- ❑ 1) Ownership – County Assessor
santafecountynm.gov/assessor/
- ❑ 2) Size of area –
 - ❑ Quarry 40.5 acres
 - ❑ SFCPW 3.6 acres
- ❑ 3) Both are close to disaster
- ❑ 4) Adjacent to major roads
- ❑ 5) Less than 5 mi from Caja del Rio Landfill

Santa Fe County Tax Parcel Viewer

Quarry

SFCPW

910008675 - REAL - 0 STATE PROPERTY

Parcel Number: 910008675

UPC: 1046096455194000000

[See Sketch and Property Description Information](#)

Physical Address:
0 STATE PROPERTY
SANTA FE, NM 87507

Owner Name:
STATE PROPERTY

Owner Mailing Address:
UNDETERMINED ADDRESS
SANTA FE, NM 87501

Tax Code Area: CO-N

[Zoom to](#) Private Ownership



Completing the Form - Floodplains

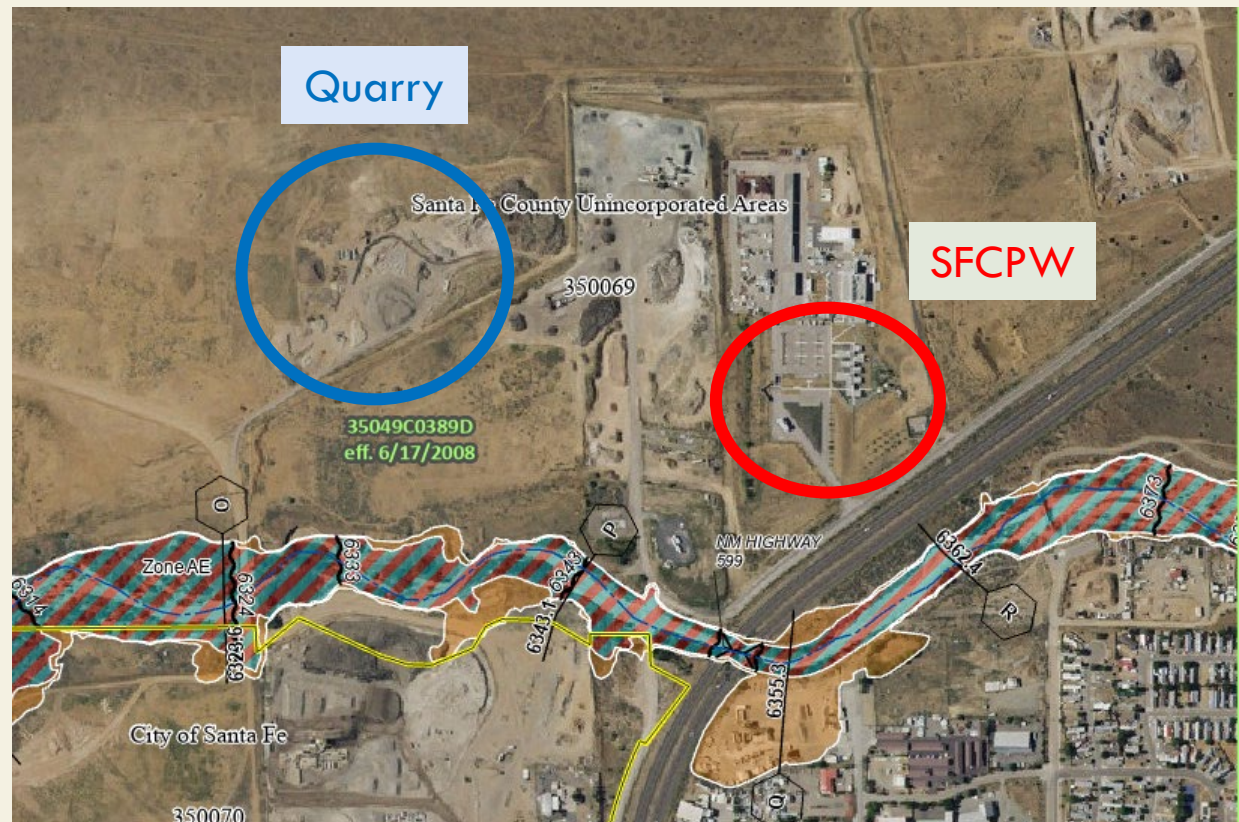
Is TDSR site located above the 100-year floodplain and outside wetlands?

FEMA

National
Flood
Hazard
Layer
Viewer

(<https://hazards-fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8b0adb51996444d4879338b5529aa9cd>)

(USFWS
NWI Maps
wetlands)





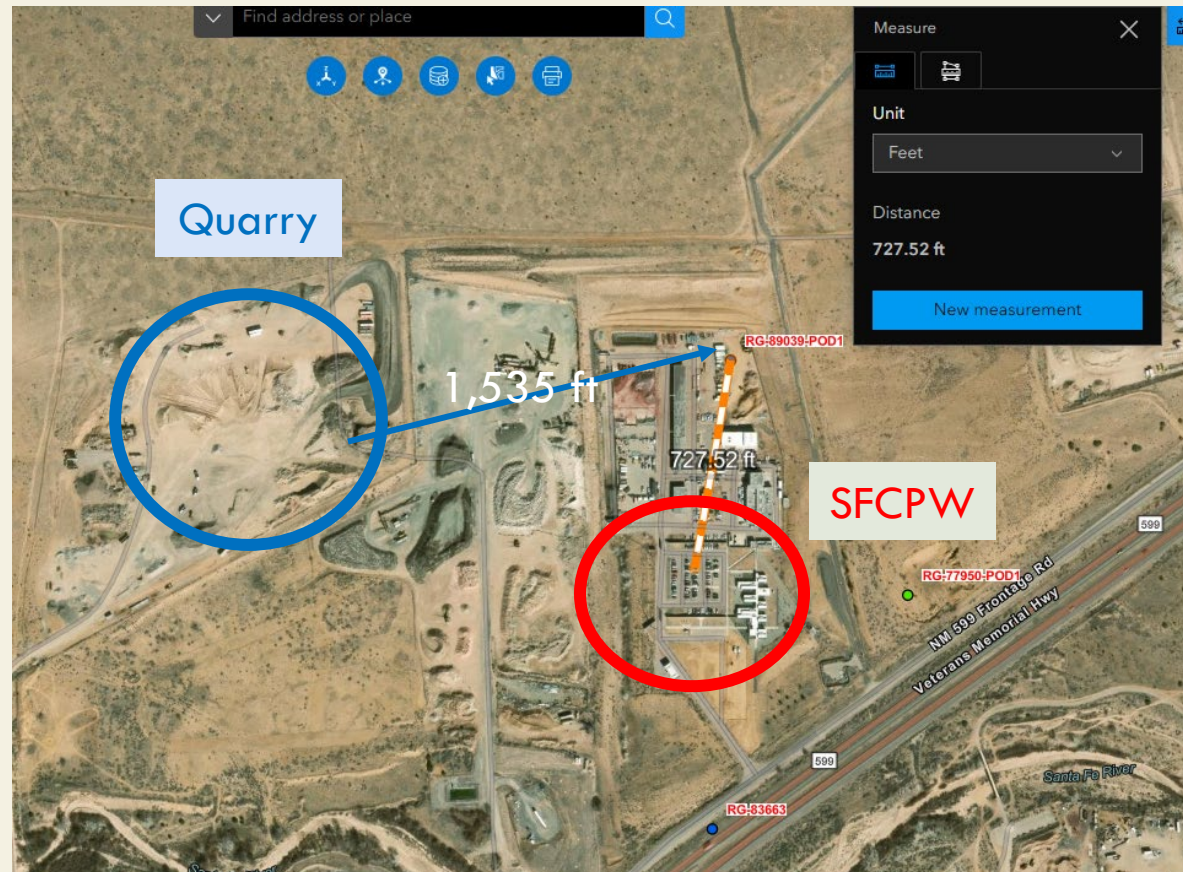
Completing the Form – Water Supply

Is TDSR site 1,320 ft from public or private water supply?

Office of
State
Engineer

OSE POD
Locations
Mapping
Program

(<https://www.ose.nm.gov/WRAB/index.php>)





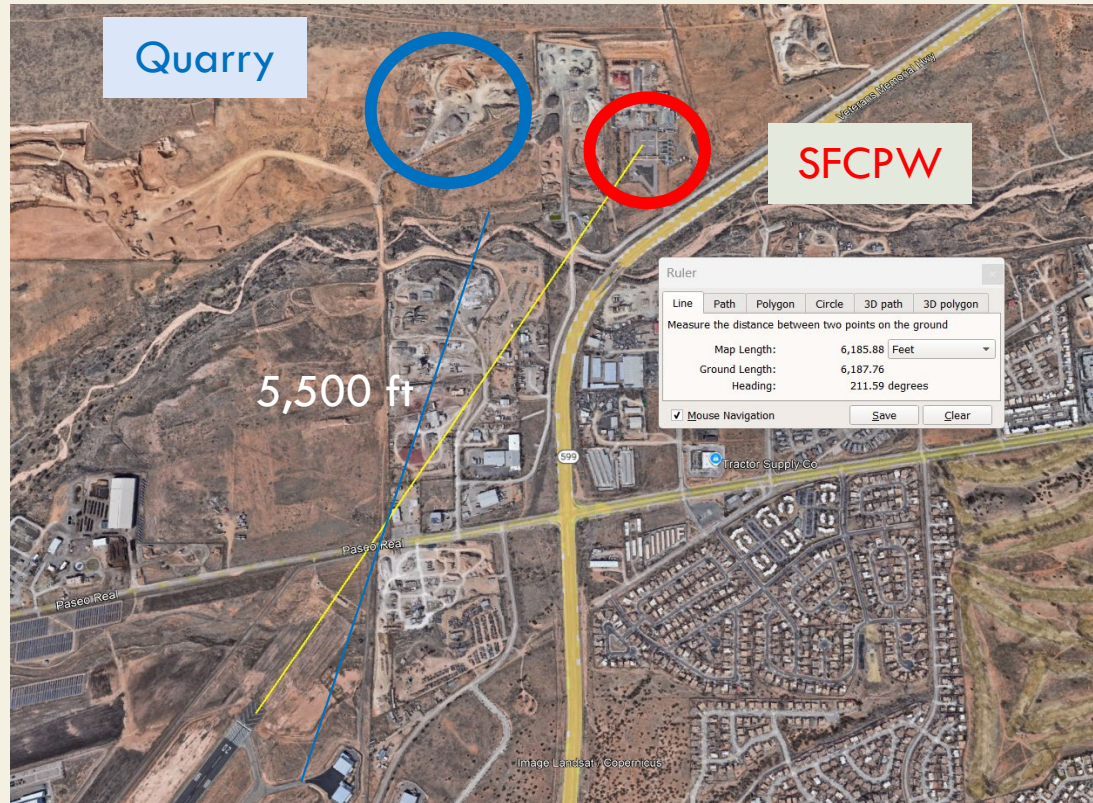
Completing the Form – Airport

Is TDSR site 5,000 ft from airport runway (putrescible waste only)?

AirNav

Airport
Search

(<https://www.airnav.com/airports/search.html>)





Completing the Form – Structures

Is TDSR site 300 ft from occupied structure on other property?

Google Earth
Co Assessor

A screenshot of the Santa Fe County Tax Parcel Viewer interface. The main window displays an aerial satellite view of a desert landscape with property boundaries. A blue box labeled "Quarry" is positioned in the upper-middle section. A red box labeled "SFCPW" is positioned in the lower-right section. A blue double-headed arrow indicates a distance of 302 feet between the quarry and the SFCPW structure. The interface includes a top navigation bar with icons for information, print, measure, and pan. A left sidebar shows a "Measurement Result" of "302.9 Feet (US)" with a "Clear" button and the instruction "CTRL to enable snapping".



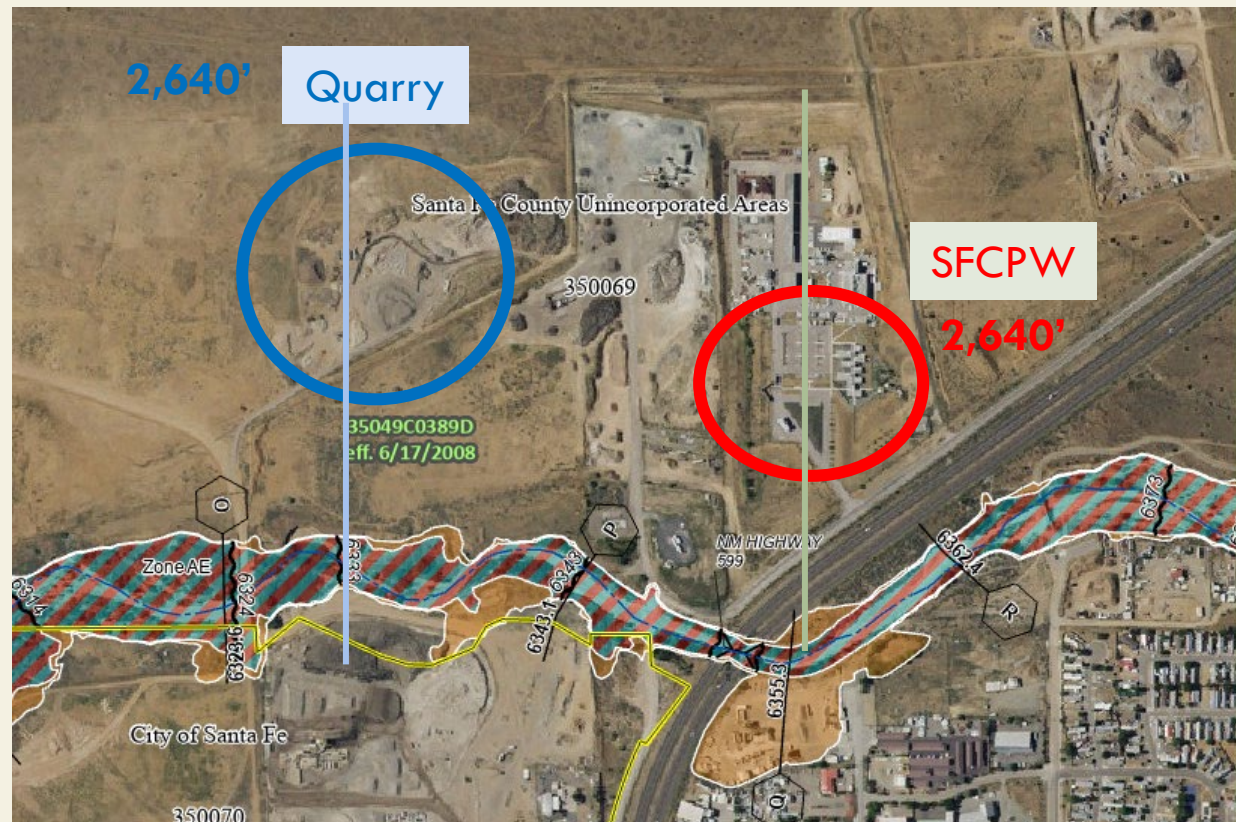
Completing the Form - Streams

Is TDSR site 2,640 ft from caves, springs, and streams?

FEMA

National
Flood
Hazard
Layer
Viewer

(<https://hazards-fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8b0adb51996444d4879338b5529aa9cd>)





Completing the Form

Sites that are unable to meet all required setbacks can utilize additional Rules:

- _____ Applicant shall limit access to the site (by fencing or other effective means) to prevent disposal of unauthorized waste.
- _____ Applicant shall inspect the site and remove solid waste at a frequency adequate to protect human health and the environment and to prevent creation of a public nuisance.
- _____ Applicant shall remove all solid waste and restore the site to its original condition by no later than **120 days after initiation of the temporary staging**. Photo documentation of the restored site and records demonstrating final disposition of wastes are required. Applicant agrees that failure to do so shall result in civil penalties not to exceed \$5,000 per day for each violation of the New Mexico Solid Waste Act, Section 74-9-31 NMSA 1978, or New Mexico Solid Waste Rules, 20.9.2 to 20.9.10 NMAC.

I have read and agree to comply with the above guidelines

_____ **Applicant Signature**

_____ *Click or tap to enter a date.*

Date

_____ **NMED Approval**

_____ *Click or tap to enter a date.*

Date

¹ Sites unable to meet all required setbacks must add a note citing which Rule below is applicable:

Solid Waste Rule 20.9.4.9 NMAC

- (1) No landfill in a floodplain, w/i 500 ft of a wetland, or w/i 200 ft of a watercourse
- (2) No portion of the disposal area is within 1000 ft of a public water supply well or a private drinking well yielding 100 gpm (or w/i 250' of less than 100 gpm)

Groundwater Quality 20.6.6.16 NMAC

- (1) Must be greater than 100 ft from 100-yr flood zone
- (2) Must be greater than 100 ft from any lakebed, sinkhole or playa lake
- (3) Must be greater than 100 ft from a private domestic water well
- (4) Must be greater than 200 ft from any water well or spring that supplies water for a public water system





Site Selection

Quarry

- Pros
 - ▣ Larger area
 - ▣ Fewer resource issues
 - ▣ Reclamation allowable by EPA
- Cons
 - ▣ Privately owned
 - ▣ Near a stream

Santa Fe County Public Works

- Pros
 - ▣ Not privately owned
 - ▣ Easy to mobilize
- Cons
 - ▣ Near a well
 - ▣ Near a stream

Which site do you choose?



Be Prepared New Mexico!



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