



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

Office of the Regional Administrator

April 27, 2022

Mr. Angel Martinez,
Director, City of Albuquerque,
Environmental Health Department
P.O. Box 1293
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Mr. Martinez:

I am writing to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has finalized a list of additional areas subject to the mitigation plan requirements found in the 2016 Exceptional Events Rule and codified at 40 CFR 51.930. The EPA has determined that Bernalillo County, New Mexico has frequently recurring exceptional events of the same type and pollutant as shown in the enclosed table. The process that the agency followed to identify additional areas subject to mitigation plans and the required components of mitigation plans is contained in the enclosed background document, in the docket established for this rulemaking, Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0313, and on the EPA's Exceptional Events web site at <https://www.epa.gov/air-quality-analysis/treatment-air-quality-data-influenced-exceptional-events-homepage-exceptional>.

Although tremendous progress has been made to improve air quality across the nation, climate change conditions make it more challenging to attain national air quality standards and to protect public health. Over the last few years, we have experienced more frequent and intense weather conditions and more adverse impacts from wildfire smoke and windblown dust on communities. As you develop your mitigation plan, we strongly encourage you to evaluate and incorporate measures that can be taken under your authority to mitigate PM₁₀ emissions in all communities including vulnerable and disproportionately impacted communities.

Section 319(b) of the Clean Air Act expresses Congress' intent that, in promulgating the Exceptional Events Rule, the protection of public health be the highest priority. The EPA believes fulfilling its obligation to identify additional areas with historically documented or recurrent exceptional events is an important step in fulfilling the agency's mission to protect public health and the environment.

We look forward to working with you as you develop your mitigation plan. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact David F. Garcia, Region 6 Air and Radiation Division Director, at garcia.david@epa.gov or at (214) 665-7593.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Earthea Nance".

Earthea Nance, Ph.D., PE
Regional Administrator
EPA Region 6

Enclosure

cc: Mr. James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department

Enclosure

Attachment
Additional Areas Subject to Mitigation Plan Requirements

New Mexico		
County/Area	Pollutant	Data Years¹
Bernalillo	PM ₁₀	2018 - 2020

¹ 3-year period with 3 or more exceptional events or event seasons that made the area subject to mitigation plan requirements.