



*For Immediate Release*

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## **Public Education Workshop on the Fit-for Purpose Treatment and Reuse of Oil and Gas Produced Water in New Mexico**

**Las Cruces** – The New Mexico Produced Water Research Consortium (Consortium or NMPWRC) and San Juan College School of Energy are pleased to announce a public education workshop. The workshop will be focused on the status of current research and development on the fit-for-purpose treatment and reuse of oil and gas produced water. This work is being coordinated by New Mexico State University for the New Mexico Environment Department. The meeting will be held November 3, 2021 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm with the doors opening at 6:00 pm to allow time for signing up for breakout groups. The meeting location will be the San Juan College Center of Excellence, School of Energy, at 5301 College Blvd, Farmington, New Mexico. Attendance is free to the public and seating will be limited. Covid safe practices will be implemented, including masks and social distancing. To register and obtain the meeting agenda, go to: <https://nmpwrc.nmsu.edu/>

Workshop topics and sessions will include: An overview of produced water generation in New Mexico, Consortium activities including: current research and testing of produced water treatment technologies, public access and availability of a new data portal of produced water quantity and quality in New Mexico, research on the social and economic impacts to New Mexico of the reuse of treated produced water, and current research regarding human health and toxicology of treated produced water.

The workshop will allow participants to attend different educational sessions of their choosing to get detailed information and ask questions. A closing session will be held to encourage additional participant dialogue and questions and answers with all session instructors.

As background, in 2020, New Mexico's oil and gas industry generated approximately 60 billion gallons of produced water, over 160 million gallons per day. Treated produced water has the potential to augment or substitute for fresh water in many fit-for-purpose uses in a time of long-term climate aridity and declining fresh water availability in New Mexico.

The New Mexico 2019 Produced Water Act (House Bill 546) provided the impetus for the New Mexico Environment Department and New Mexico State University to enter into a memorandum of understanding to create a Consortium to perform vital research related to the treatment and fit-for-purpose reuse of produced water. The Consortium is working closely with the US Environmental Protection Agency to lead a national effort on research and development in this area to support the development of appropriate science-based regulations, permitting, and guidance for the safe use of treated produced water.