

New Section 9 for proposed ordinance.txt

From: Jeff Steinborn [jeff@nmwild.org]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2005 3:31 PM
To: xxx@co.otero.nm.us
Subject: New Section 9 for proposed ordinance

Per Commissioner Moore's offer to allow me to recommend new language for Section 9, specially to address recharge zone issues and language, here it is. I look forward to continuing our work together to craft a good ordinance.
Jeff

Section 9. Preventing Pollution and Waste. (new language) Every person who conducts operations within the confines of the County of Otero shall use all and full precautions to prevent waste. Any person who conducts drilling operations for fluid minerals within the confines of the County of Otero shall case and cement the borehole through the deepest fresh water aquifer no matter the depth of said aquifer, as well through the identified recharge zone for any aquifer. Enforcement shall also place special focus on preventing pollution in the contributing zone to the aquifer. Fresh water aquifers and their corresponding recharge and contributing zones will be identified by a qualified, independent hydro-geological agent.

A recharge zone is defined as the geographic area that is hydrologically connected to a known aquifer, and where water flows into the aquifer.

A contributing zone is defined as the area or watershed where runoff from precipitation flows downgradient to the recharge zone.

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