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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Animas River Contamination Plume Update and Residential Precautions

Aztec, NM - On Wednesday, August 5, 2015 the former Gold King Mine, located above Silverton, Colorado experienced the breach in their contamination dam, triggering a large release of water containing unknown contaminants into Cement Creek which is a tributary of the Animas River. At last report, the contamination plume had reached the Colorado/New Mexico State Line.

This morning at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., local officials along with Cabinet Secretary Ryan Flynn from the State of New Mexico Environment Department and New Mexico State Engineer, Tom Blaine held two informational meetings. San Juan County Communities and the Media were updated with the most current information on state and local responses, as well as information regarding the movement of the sediment and currently imposed public safety precautions.

At this time test results performed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have not been announced. Local officials and the media were asked to remind community members that until the contents of the plume are identified, the best course of action is to avoid contact by people, pets, and livestock with the contaminated water, including any recreational or agricultural activities.

Community members who use wells in the proximity of the Animas or San Juan River (below Farmington), are being urged by Cabinet Secretary Ryan Flynn not to use their wells for drinking, cooking, or bathing, until they have been tested. The New Mexico Environment Department will be providing FREE testing at the San Juan County Fair on Monday, August 10, 2015.

Potable water stations have been set up for residents at the following locations:

Center Point Fire Station # 1 – 16 Road 2755

Flora Vista Fire Station #1 – 2 Road 3275

Valley Fire Station #4 – 4 Road 6200

Stations will be open :

Friday 8/7/15 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday 8/8/15 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 8/9/15 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Bring your own water containers. No large tanks.

As more information becomes available, updates will be sent out via media releases and on Facebook at the following locations:

San Juan County Office of Emergency Management

City of Farmington (www.fmtn.org and www.facebook.com/cityoffarmingtonnm)

Farmington Fire Department (www.facebook.com/Farmingtonfire)

Farmington Police Department (www.facebook.com/farmingtonpolicedepartmentnm)

City of Aztec Municipal Government Offices

NMED web site www.env.nm.gov.

Information is also available on the La Plata County website at at <http://www.co.laplata.co.us/emergency>,

San Juan Basin Health Department's Website at www.sjbhd.org, La Plata County Government Facebook and

San Juan Basin Health Department Facebook.