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County Executive Officer

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PRESS RELEASE

7:00pm August 7, 2015

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For Immediate Release

Declaration of Emergency Regarding the Animas River in San Juan County

Aztec, NM – San Juan County Executive Officer, Dr. Kim Carpenter has signed a Declaration of Emergency regarding the contamination of the Animas River by the significant spill that occurred at the Gold King Mine North of Silverton, Colorado on Wednesday, August 5th, 2015.

State and Local Officials invite the public to attend an information meeting Saturday, 8/8/15, at 12:00 noon, at the Farmington Civic Center in the Exhibit Hall.

The contamination plume was last reported to be between Bondad, Colorado and the Cedar Hill Bridge on US 550. It is estimated that the plume is moving at 1 to 2 miles per hour. At its present rate, it will reach Aztec around midnight tonight and Berg Park in Farmington around 7:00am Saturday morning. State and Local Officials strongly encourage residents to avoid contact with the contaminated water as well as preventing pets and livestock from coming into contact or drinking from the river.

Residents can be assured that Municipal and Domestic Water Utilities are safe from contamination. Residents on private water wells within the Floodplain of the river, as a precaution, are asked to avoid contact with water from wells until it has been tested for contamination. Water wells that are not located within the Floodplain of the river should be safe from contamination.

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 :

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.nmedriverwatersafety.org

Information is also available on the La Plata County website 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.

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