

July 30, 2020

Statement on Produced Water

Gene Harbaugh

Fresh water is probably the most precious resource there is in southeast New Mexico. In a summer where we've had over 40 days above 100 degrees and only slightly over an inch of rain since the first week of March, it is irresponsible to contaminate New Mexico's fresh water supply. This toxic water is not suitable for agricultural use and spills of produced water present a threat to the life of animals and humans. I know of an instance this spring in which a friend's dog died from lapping from a produced water spill.

The authorization of an exemption in 1937 to relieve companies from cleaning up spills is long out of date. I call upon those charged with the protection of our environment to resend this authorization and put in place regulations that will protect fresh water in the Permian Basin.

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