



New Mexico Environment Department

HB-142 Progress Report
San Juan Generating Station
John Rhoderick
Deputy Cabinet Secretary
July 11, 2025



San Juan Generating Station (SJGS)

- ❑ Decades-long history of industrial activity.
- ❑ Groundwater contamination can affect drinking water, ecosystems, and public health.
- ❑ Taking steps to monitor, assess, and clean up any contamination.

During Operation



July 1, 2025





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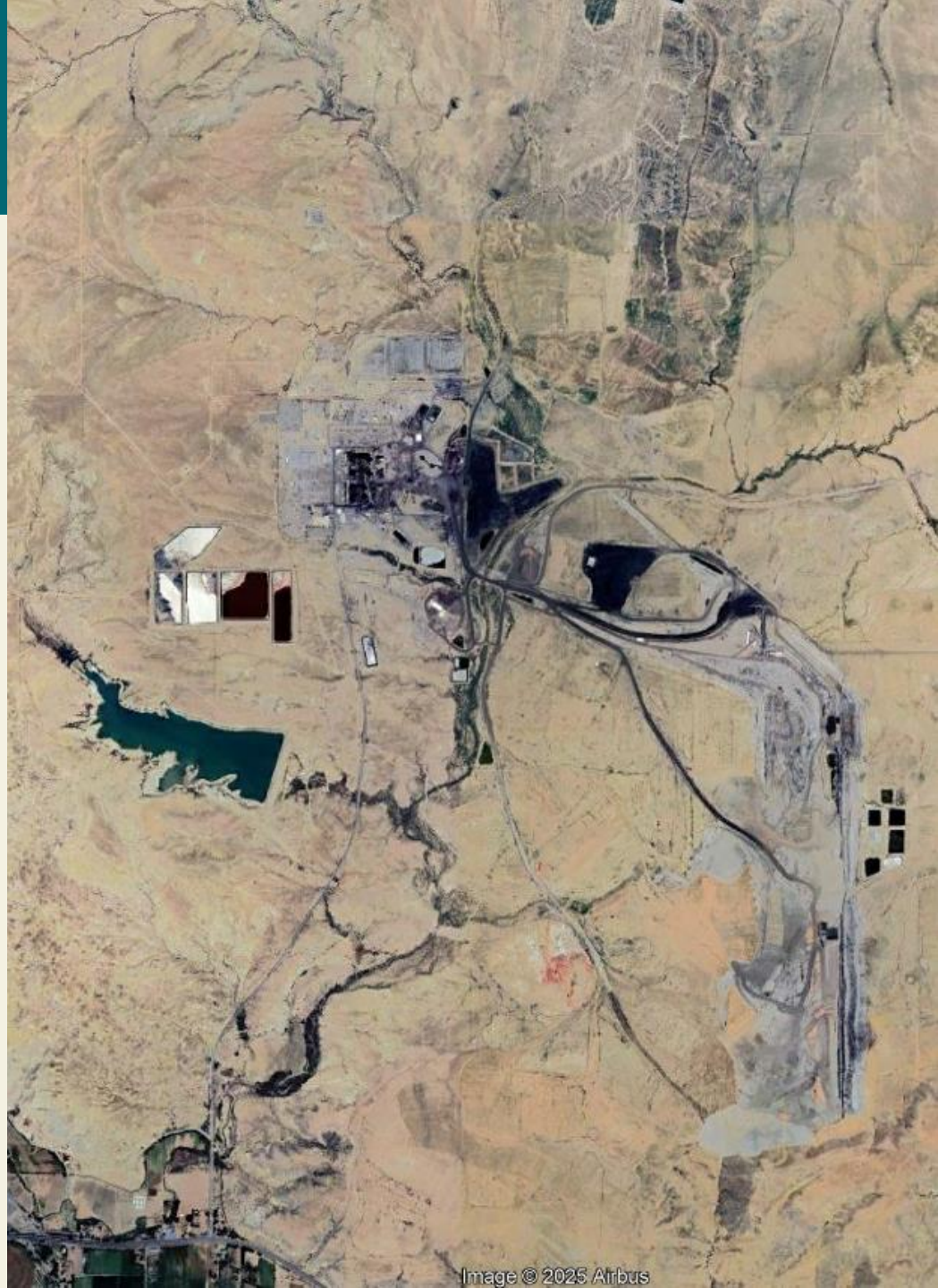
- New Mexico Environment Department (NMED):
- Regulates water quality and pollution cleanup from the SJGS.
- Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department (EMNRD):
- Oversees San Juan Mine operations and land reclamation.





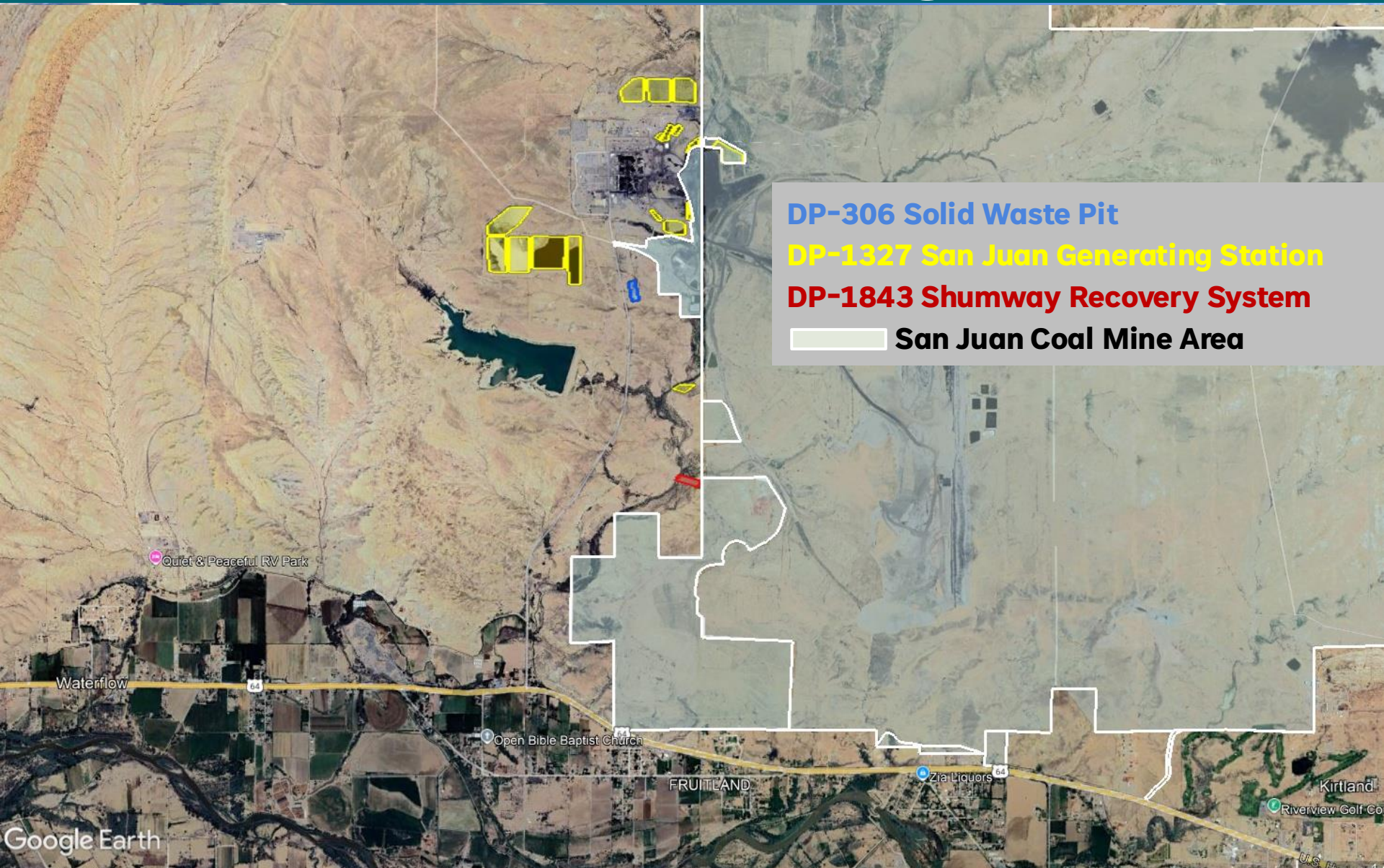
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- Requires remediation plans for SJGS and San Juan Mine contamination.
- Prevents cleanup delays by providing stronger oversight and enforcement.





GWQB Oversight at San Juan Generating Station





Looking Ahead to Remediation

- NMED is evaluating options for further characterization of site contamination under 20.6.2 NMAC (Discharge Permits; abatement regulations).
- Once the site is characterized, NMED shall require PNM to perform remediation.

Our goal is to identify contamination, track its movement, and take action to remediate and protect groundwater.



SJGS Site Assessment and Remediation Project Overview

Assess Site Conditions

- Review past groundwater data to identify gaps.
- Inspect the site for potential contamination sources.

Install Monitoring Wells

- Place wells upstream and downstream of SJGS.
- Measure pollution levels to track contamination.

Evaluate Clean-up

- Assess existing efforts and identify needed action.
- Develop a contamination clean-up strategy.

Long-Term Protection

- Implement clean-up strategy and prevent spread.



Assess Site Conditions

- Jacobs completed the SJGS Data Gaps Analysis Report in June 2025.
- Data gaps identified included:
 - ▣ Need for wells to evaluate upgradient background, downgradient of process area,
 - ▣ Pictured Cliffs sandstone wells,
 - ▣ mine impacts at Shumway and Westwater confluence identified.
- Six monitoring wells installed in May - June 2025





What may be impacting groundwater?

- Historic fuel spills
- Truck wash run-off
- Cooling tower overflow
- Brine concentrator discharge
- Leaking storage ponds
- Decant basin discharge
- Ash handling discharge
- Fuel storage tank diesel leaks
- Fire retardant foam



Evaluate Clean-Up

- New groundwater and soil sample data informing cleanup of the SJGS
- SJGS evaluated as a series of smaller clean-up projects to individually address varied contamination sources
- Ongoing collaboration between state agencies, PNM, NM legislators, and local residents is critical to effectively address this complex site



Public Involvement

- A public meeting was held in February 2025 to address public concerns
- A public comment window was open from February to June 2025
- Next public meeting followed with an additional comment period July or August 2025
- Handout summarizing actions to date available at GWQB Sites of Interest web page:





Questions?

- GWQB Sites of Interest website houses former presentations and materials:
 - ▣ Summary and Fact Sheets
 - ▣ FAQ and Q&A

<https://www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/gwqb-sites-of-interest/>

