



**Michelle Lujan Grisham**, Governor  
**Sarah Cottrell Propst**, Cabinet Secretary  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department statement  
on Interior Department extending public comment timeline on  
the Farmington Area Resource Management Plan**

**Santa Fe, NM** – On May 21<sup>st</sup>, Secretary of the Interior Department David Bernhardt announced the extension of the public comment period on the Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement (RMPA/EIS) for the Farmington area including the Chaco region. In March, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Cabinet Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst joined tribal, federal and local leaders in requesting the extension and applauds the decision.

The public comment and review was set to end on May 28, 2020, and after visiting the region with tribal and federal leaders, Secretary Bernhardt yesterday announced the period will be extended by 120 days.

“I commend the Department of Interior for extending the comment period,” said EMNRD Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst. “This resource plan will affect not only the greater Chaco region, but a part of our state hit hard by COVID-19. As we all learn how to navigate a COVID-19 world and meet the immediate needs of our communities in response to the pandemic, allowing for additional time for the public to review and comment makes the process more equitable.”

Comments can be submitted online, via email or mailed to the Bureau of Land Management Farmington office, directions can be found [here](#).

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*The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.*

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