

**Michelle Lujan Grisham**, Governor  
**Sarah Cottrell Propst**, Cabinet Secretary  
**Todd E. Leahy, JD, PhD**, Deputy Cabinet Secretary  
**Gerard Schoeppner**, Mining and Minerals Division Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Contact:** Susan Torres  
Public Information Officer, EMNRD  
[susan.torres@state.nm.us](mailto:susan.torres@state.nm.us)  
505-476-3226



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## **EMNRD Mining and Minerals Division Secures Hole from Old Mining Activity Outside Animal Humane Society Shelter**

**SILVER CITY** – The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department’s (EMNRD) Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has successfully completed the first phase of a safeguarding project outside of the Animal Humane Society offices in Silver City. In early April, MMD was alerted to a new hole opening from old mining activity outside the Humane Society office in Silver City and took immediate action to secure the area. After collaborating with partners at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) the hole is now secured for the safety of the community while a more permanent closure plan is developed. The Abandoned Mine Land Program is developing a comprehensive plan to address the safeguarding needs of the entire Boston Hill Historic Mining District.

This project highlights the important work of the Abandoned Mine Land program within MMD and our robust partnerships throughout the state. While reclaiming the site, all social distancing measures were maintained.

“Our work safeguarding and reclaiming mining sites for the safety of all New Mexicans continues,” said Mining and Minerals Director Gerard Schoeppner. “Mining activity happened all across New Mexico and long closed mines can still have an impact, which is why our work to bring these lands back to a safe and beneficial use is so important.”

The hole not only impacted the Humane Society’s business but reduced access to a popular hiking trail. The Abandoned Land Mine program plays a large role in transitioning former mining sites into outdoor recreation opportunities while preserving their historical significance.



*Initial hole outside the Humane Society.*



*A Humane Society worker safely walks one of the dogs next to newly installed fence.*

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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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