

Rancho Viejo Solar Project

New Mexico Environmental Department Septic Permit

The Rancho Viejo Solar Project (Project) includes a septic tank and associated leach field to meet the on-site operation building's wastewater needs. Santa Fe County's Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Submittal Checklist identifies an approved septic permit issued by the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) as a document to be provided by the applicant.

The Project, consistent with other utility scale solar and storage projects, has a protracted development timeline. Currently, commercial operation of the Project is anticipated for late-2028. Because of this timeline acquiring a septic permit from NMED at the land use approval stage is impractical. Specifically, New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) 20.7.3.401, provides that *"The department [NMED] may cancel a permit if the installation or modification of the on-site liquid waste system has not been completed within one year after issuance..."*

Rancho Viejo Solar, LLC, will obtain all applicable permits and regulatory approvals prior to initiating Project construction. As part of Santa Fe County's review of the CUP application submittal, Rancho Viejo Solar, LLC, requests deferral of the requirement of an approved septic permit until prior to construction. This would ensure that the septic permit remains valid within the timeline for obtaining Project-related building permits.