



**NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
GROUND WATER QUALITY BUREAU**



**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN  
(PIP)**

**Facility Name:** Sagebrush Substation- Former Yale Landfill

**Facility Location:** Northeast of intersection of Sunport Blvd & University Blvd  
Albuquerque, NM  
Section 33, Township 10 North, Range 3 East

**Latitude/longitude:** 35.050569, -106.628278

**County:** Bernalillo

**VRP Applicant:** Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM)  
2401 Aztec Road NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

**Agency:** Ground Water Quality Bureau  
Voluntary Remediation Section

**GWQB Action:** VRP Site No. 53211001

**Bureau Contact:** Jennifer Muus, VRP Project Manager  
(505) 670-2496  
[jennifer.muus@state.nm.us](mailto:jennifer.muus@state.nm.us)

Main bureau telephone number:  
(505) 827-2900

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 2022

**REVISION DATE:** N/A

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**Karen Menetrey, Program Manager**  
Remediation Oversight Section, Ground Water Quality Bureau

## Element 1 – Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Overview

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED or Department), Ground Water Quality Bureau (Bureau) has developed this PIP for the Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) site located at 35.050569, -106.628278. This VRP site is referred to as the **Sagebrush Substation site** or **VRP Site No. 53211001**.

The purpose of this PIP is to provide public participation opportunities and information that may be needed for the community to participate in the Voluntary Remediation process for this site. This PIP identifies information about the community and resources needed by the Bureau to incorporate community participation activities into the decision-making process. This PIP is developed in accordance with the Department's *Public Participation Policy* (Policy 07-13 or Policy), and incorporates the requirements of the Policy, as well as applicable regulatory and statutory public participation requirements.

This PIP implements the “elements” set forth in the Policy. Those elements include:

1. An overview of the Public Involvement Plan for the community affected by the activity;
2. Bureau contact names and contact information, specifically for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) language assistance services (e.g., translation, interpreters) or for disability accommodations;
3. A summary of the regulatory public participation framework associated with the Voluntary Remediation process;
4. A description of community/stakeholder groups based on results of a preliminary environmental justice (EJ) screening; and
5. Details about planned public outreach activities.

In developing this PIP, community participation needs were assessed to ensure appropriate public outreach. This was accomplished by using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJSCREEN) to identify whether there is a combination of environmental and demographic factors that may impact public participation (e.g., low-income community, minority community, LEP individuals, linguistically isolated households). Because the community located near the **Sagebrush Substation site** includes a significant percentage of Spanish speakers, the Bureau will provide appropriate information in both English and Spanish.

The Bureau plans to conduct the public involvement activities related to the Voluntary Remediation process outlined in Table 1 - *Public Involvement Activities*. The activity timeline and dates are tentative and subject to change.

**Table 1 - Public Involvement Activities**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Placement of a hardcopy of the PIP in the local NMED office:</b> Harold Runnels Building Room N2250 1190 Saint Francis Drive Santa Fe, NM 87502	March 2022
<b>Public Notice</b> <i>See Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities at the end of this PIP for details.</i>	April 2022
<b>Public Meeting Notice</b> <i>(Only if requested by public as part of initial public notice</i> <i>See Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities for details.</i>	TBD

All notices for upcoming meetings or hearings, if applicable will include a statement that any person who requires assistance, an interpreter, or an auxiliary aid to participate in the process may contact a specifically identified Department person to request those services. Requested interpretation services during the meeting and accommodations or services for persons with disabilities will be arranged to the extent possible.

This PIP is a “living” document that may be amended for numerous reasons, including the consideration of public comments and feedback.

## **Element 2 – Bureau Contact Information**

### **PIP Specific Contacts**

The Bureau contact for this Voluntary Remediation site is:

Jennifer Muus, Project Manager  
NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469  
(505) 670-2496  
Jennifer.Muus@state.nm.us

## **Non-English Language Speaker Assistance**

All public notices will contain a statement that non-English speakers may call the Bureau contact listed above and request language assistance in order to learn more about this VRP site or VRP process. Arrangements may be made for document translation or interpretation related to the process as necessary and as resources allow.

## **Individuals with Disabilities Assistance**

All public notices will contain a statement that disabled individuals may call the Bureau contact listed above and request assistance needed to participate in activities associated with the process.

The following information will be provided in public notices so that hearing-impaired callers can contact the Bureau and ask questions about the activity or proceeding: Toll-free numbers are available for TDD or TTY users to access the New Mexico Relay network (for deaf or hearing-impaired callers), 1-800-659-1779; TTY users: 1-800-659-8331.

## **Websites**

Outreach materials and notices will include links to the following website, where the Bureau's public notices and PIP information are posted:

Ground Water Quality Bureau – <https://www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/public-involvement-plans/>

## **Element 3 – Regulatory Framework for Public Participation Related to the Voluntary Remediation Process**

The public participation regulatory framework associated with the VRP process is identified in the *Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities* at the end of this PIP. The Table identifies activities subject to statutory or regulatory deadlines, the associated regulatory requirements, and the associated dates or time periods.

## **Element 4 – Description of Community/Stakeholder Groups Based on the EJSCREEN**

### **EJSCREEN Summary**

To provide for adequate public participation opportunities and meaningful involvement of persons in the Voluntary Remediation process, the affected communities must first be identified, informed about proposed environmental actions affecting the community, and invited to share their comments and concerns. The EJSCREEN tool developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) helps identify communities that are low income, have minority populations, and have limited English proficiency that may benefit from a variety of approaches for notification and

outreach communication. This information is used to help plan for the community's involvement in the public process for environmental activities or actions. In addition to the EJSCREEN results, the Bureau may consider additional information such as the U.S. Census Bureau website or NMED's EJ Mapping Tool.

The Bureau considers the affected community to be those persons living within a 4-mile radius of the VRP site. However, according to NMED Policy 07-13, if an activity or proceeding is related to a facility that is located in an urban area or is proposed to be located in an urban area, it may be more representative of the community to be captured if a one (1) mile radius is applied. VRP site No. 53211001 is located in Albuquerque; therefore, a one-mile radius was utilized. The results of the EJSCREEN American Community Survey (ACS) Summary Report (attached to this PIP) are summarized in the table below.

**Table 3 - EJSCREEN Results for the Affected Community**

Total population	3,048
Total number of households	1,134
Percentage minority population	84%
Percentage Hispanic population	59%
Percentage of the population by race	Population reporting one race: White: .....61% Black: .....15% American Indian: .....3% Asian: .....9% Pacific Islander: .....0% Some Other Race: .....9%
Total number of persons greater than the age of five who speak English "less than very well"	521
Percentage of persons greater than the age of five who speak English "less than very well"	19%
Total number of linguistically isolated households	173
Percentage of linguistically isolated households (Total number of linguistically isolated households ÷ total number of households X 100)	15.26%
Languages by percentage in linguistically isolated households	Spanish: ..... 75% Other Indo-European languages: ..... 13% Asian-Pacific Island languages: ..... 12%

	Other languages: ..... 0%
Percent linguistically isolated population, New Mexico*:	5.4%
Per capita income	\$17,075
Per capita income, USA**	\$29,979

\* U.S. Census Bureau. 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1602. Limited English Speaking Households. [https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_5YR/S1602/0400000US35](https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_5YR/S1602/0400000US35) (date of access: 7/26/2018).

\*\* U.S. Census Bureau. 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table S0201. Selected Population Profile in the United States. [https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15\\_1YR/S0201/0100000US](https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/S0201/0100000US) (date of access: 7/26/2018).

The EJSCREEN results indicate that for the affected community the proportion of the population with limited English proficiency (LEP) is significant, and that the predominant non-English language is Spanish. The Bureau has therefore performed a LEP assessment for the community and attaches that assessment to this PIP.

Because the affected community has a significant percentage of persons with difficulties communicating in English, the Bureau will consider the language and communication needs of this community when conducting public outreach and participation activities. To accomplish this the Bureau, to the extent its budget and time limitations allow, will provide the same information in Spanish as in English in public comment notices, public meeting notices, and other announcements (e.g., radio broadcasts, brochures, signs, postcards) and will strive to make public participation efforts as inclusive as possible. See Element 5 for more specifics on the public outreach and participation activities.

## **Element 5 – Detailed Actions and Outreach Activities with the Affected Public**

Public involvement activities required by statute or regulation associated with the Voluntary Remediation process are listed in the *Table 2 of Mandated Public Involvement Activities*.

### **Public Participation – Outreach Activities**

The Bureau will conduct the following outreach activities associated with the Voluntary Remediation process:

- Placement of this PIP on the Bureau website and in nearby NMED office
- Notice posted on NMED website
- Document repositories
- Public meetings, as determined by the Secretary

Newspapers utilized in the notification process include:

- Statewide circulation (English and Spanish): Albuquerque Journal

Local, state, and federal government agencies, tribal entities, colonias, and land grant officials will be notified about the Abatement. A list of the agencies and officials notified can be provided upon request.

Indian Tribes, Pueblos and Nations will be notified about the permitting action through the contacts maintained by the Indian Affairs Department at the following URLs:

<http://www.iad.state.nm.us/apaches.html>

<http://www.iad.state.nm.us/navajo.html>

<http://www.iad.state.nm.us/pueblos.html>

Because of the proximity of Albuquerque Land Grant, a courtesy email will be sent to the environmental director or manager of the land grant.

Timelines and methods for submitting public comments are specified in the *Table 2 - Mandated Public Involvement Activities*. Final documents will be available from the Bureau's contact identified in Element 2 of this PIP.

### **Postal Mailing or E-Mailing of Notices to Persons on the Facility-Specific Mailing List**

The Bureau solicits the names and contact information of interested parties with all public notices. The Bureau maintains those names on a Facility-Specific Mailing List and provides the individuals with information about regulatory activities for the facility. Individuals, organizations, and other interested parties are added to the mailing list as requested. All public notices will contain a statement directing interested individuals to contact the Bureau contact for this permit if they want to be added to the facility specific mailing list.

Other means of outreach such as fliers announcing public comment periods and/or public meetings, or hearings may be posted in locations throughout the community (e.g., local businesses, schools, libraries) and on the Department's website, at the Bureau's discretion after consideration of public interest and input.

### **PIP Contingency Plan**

During a public health emergency or other unforeseen event outside the control of the Department, the Department will make every effort to ensure the public remains involved in and informed of the decision making and permit processes. The purpose of this PIP Contingency Plan is in part to address circumstances when public spaces are closed because of potential human exposure risks. The Department will attempt to identify and utilize alternate methods of document delivery to the public and public viewing when conventional methods and locations are

unavailable. When it is unsafe to utilize the physical PIP and document repositories, the Department will consider utilizing electronic delivery methods deemed appropriate for the permitting action. While operating under the PIP Contingency Plan, the public notice will include a statement specifying that the PIP Contingency Plan is in effect and that, “instead of placing a copy of the PIP for this permitting action in a public location, NMED will make the PIP available to the community by sending the PIP by email or US mail to any community member requesting a copy. An individual may request a copy of the PIP utilizing the Bureau contact information in this public notice. When making such a request, please specify how you would like the document delivered. If you request a copy of a PIP, you will receive a revised PIP should the PIP be updated in the future.” During the times of potential human exposure risks and the resultant implementation of this PIP Contingency Plan, public meetings and hearings will only be held when or through means by which the Department can ensure the public’s health and safety and this PIP can be fully adhered to.

**Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities**

Activity	Dates
<p><b>Public Notice &amp; Comment Period:</b>  <b>NMAC 20.6.3.300.B(1)</b>  <b>The applicant must post the public notice and make the proposed Voluntary Remediation Agreement available for public review and comment. Interested parties may submit comments to the Department concerning the proposed Agreement. Interested parties may submit a request for public meeting.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice posted on-site</li> <li>• Newspaper ads</li> <li>• Notice to government agencies</li> <li>• Notice to interested parties</li> <li>• NMED website</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/public-notice/">https://www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/public-notice/</a></p>	<p>The proposed Voluntary Remediation Agreement shall be made available for public review within ten (10) calendar days of the receipt of the Conditional Eligibility Determination from the Department</p> <p>Public comment period is at least thirty (30) calendar days following the newspaper publication of the Public Notice</p>
<p><b>Public Meeting Notice:</b>  <b>NMAC 20.6.3.300.B(4-5)</b>  <b>If a public meeting is requested during the initial public notice and comment period and if the Secretary determines that there is significant public interest, the applicant shall mail a notice of the time and place of the meeting to all persons who have submitted written comments or a request for public meeting.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newspaper ads</li> <li>• Notice to interested parties</li> <li>• NMED website</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/public-notice/">https://www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/public-notice/</a></p>	<p>At least ten (10) calendar days before the public meeting</p>

<b>Notice of Determination</b> <b>NMAC 20.6.3.300.E</b> <b>A notice of determination shall be mailed to the applicant and all persons who presented written and oral comments at public hearing indicating whether the proposed Voluntary Remediation Agreement has been approved, approved with modifications, or disapproved.</b>	Within thirty (30) calendar days of the final determination that the applicant is eligible
<b>Additional Public Participation</b> <b>NMAC 20.6.3.300.G</b> <b>If requested, interested parties will be kept informed of the availability of key project submittals related to the voluntary remediation activities. Such submittals will be made available for public review and comment by the Department upon request.</b>	After execution of the Voluntary Remediation Agreement

## Attachments

- Attachment 1 - LEP Assessment
- Attachment 2 - A copy of the EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report, and a map showing the area evaluated

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

### **Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Assessment**

**Facility: Sagebrush Substation, VRP Site No. 53211001**

#### **Factor 1: The Number and Proportion of LEP Individuals Eligible to be Served or Likely to be Encountered in Community of Concern**

See Public Involvement Plan (PIP), Table of EJSCREEN Results for the Affected Community.

##### Conclusions:

1. The number of LEP individuals (persons over the age of 5 who speak English “less than very well” in the affected community) is 521;
2. The percentage of LEP individuals in the affected community is 19%;
3. The percentage of linguistically isolated households is 15.26%, which is somewhat more than, the statewide average;
4. Spanish is the predominant non-English language spoken by LEP persons; and
5. Historical participation: No one has requested to be placed on a facility-specific mailing list. A review of the administrative record for this facility indicates limited public interest/participation overall during the past 10 years. The portion of that public interest attributable to the LEP community cannot be determined from the record.

#### **Factor 2: Frequency with which LEP Individuals Might Come in Contact with the Program**

Contact with the VRP would occur when an application is under review. The applicant provides notice to the public and the GWQB encourages participation. Individuals may participate by requesting information, submitting comments on the VRA and the preliminary Voluntary Remediation Work Plan, requesting hearings, and taking part in hearings. Some sites generate considerable public interest, but participation is low for most sites. Historical participation in VRP activities for this facility is summarized under Factor 1.

##### Conclusion:

LEP participation and overall public interest in this facility have been limited historically. Based on this record, the Bureau considers the potential for LEP contact with the permitting process to be “infrequent.”

#### **Factor 3: Nature and Importance of the Activity or Service Provided by the Program**

The Voluntary Remediation activity is deemed by the GWQB to be “important” to NMED, the impacted community, and the State of New Mexico. The VRP activity is important to NMED because it establishes site-specific requirements that must be met to ensure protection of public health and groundwater quality and provides a means to enforce those requirements. The VRP

activity is important to the impacted community because abandoned, blighted, and potentially contaminated property can pose environmental risks to the surrounding community. The VRP activity is important to the State of New Mexico because state oversight of voluntary assessment/cleanup of contaminated sites ensures that the State's limited groundwater resources are not impacted.

**Conclusion:**

The GWQB considers the VRP activity "important" to NMED, to the state as a whole, and to the impacted community.

**Factor 4: Resources Available to NMED for LEP Services and Associated Costs**

For outreach to LEP communities associated with this VRP action, NMED employs an in-house Spanish translator/interpreter and utilizes a phone interpretation service to assist during direct communication between LEP individuals and NMED staff. The costs of newspaper publication of public notice and public meeting or hearing costs are borne by the applicant. The GWQB will provide interpretive services if needed.

**Conclusion:**

The Bureau can accommodate the costs of the LEP services identified in this plan. If additional services are requested, the budgetary implications will be reviewed.

**LEP Services Plan:**

The Bureau plans to:

1. Translate the Public Notice and any subsequent public notices into Spanish.
2. Provide interpretive services at any public meeting or public hearing, if requested.
3. Interact with members of the LEP community using certified interpreters, when needed.

The Bureau will consider requests from members of the affected community for additional LEP services.

Location: User-specified point center at 35.050569, -106.628278

Ring (buffer): 1-miles radius

Description: Sagebrush Substation

Summary of ACS Estimates		2014 - 2018	
Population		3,048	
Population Density (per sq. mile)		1,005	
People of Color Population		2,550	
% People of Color Population		84%	
Households		1,134	
Housing Units		1,285	
Housing Units Built Before 1950		44	
Per Capita Income		17,075	
Land Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1)		3.03	
% Land Area		100%	
Water Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1)		0.00	
% Water Area		0%	
		2014 - 2018 ACS Estimates	Percent MOE (±)
<b>Population by Race</b>			
Total		3,048	100% 656
Population Reporting One Race		2,957	97% 1,629
White		1,866	61% 609
Black		452	15% 289
American Indian		105	3% 159
Asian		261	9% 179
Pacific Islander		0	0% 12
Some Other Race		274	9% 381
Population Reporting Two or More Races		91	3% 232
Total Hispanic Population		1,788	59% 597
Total Non-Hispanic Population		1,260	
White Alone		498	16% 207
Black Alone		378	12% 280
American Indian Alone		94	3% 155
Non-Hispanic Asian Alone		246	8% 179
Pacific Islander Alone		0	0% 12
Other Race Alone		0	0% 12
Two or More Races Alone		45	1% 63
<b>Population by Sex</b>			
Male		1,581	52% 423
Female		1,467	48% 383
<b>Population by Age</b>			
Age 0-4		243	8% 123
Age 0-17		684	22% 256
Age 18+		2,364	78% 383
Age 65+		236	8% 134

**Data Note:** Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2014 - 2018

Location: User-specified point center at 35.050569, -106.628278

Ring (buffer): 1-miles radius

Description: Sagebrush Substation

	2014 - 2018 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
<b>Population 25+ by Educational Attainment</b>			
Total	1,857	100%	402
Less than 9th Grade	280	15%	160
9th - 12th Grade, No Diploma	144	8%	95
High School Graduate	557	30%	227
Some College, No Degree	450	24%	159
Associate Degree	115	6%	86
Bachelor's Degree or more	426	23%	156
<b>Population Age 5+ Years by Ability to Speak English</b>			
Total	2,805	100%	603
Speak only English	1,488	53%	510
Non-English at Home <sup>1+2+3+4</sup>	1,317	47%	415
<sup>1</sup> Speak English "very well"	796	28%	306
<sup>2</sup> Speak English "well"	271	10%	136
<sup>3</sup> Speak English "not well"	151	5%	169
<sup>4</sup> Speak English "not at all"	100	4%	201
<sup>3+4</sup> Speak English "less than well"	250	9%	262
<sup>2+3+4</sup> Speak English "less than very well"	521	19%	296
<b>Linguistically Isolated Households*</b>			
Total	173	100%	115
Speak Spanish	130	75%	105
Speak Other Indo-European Languages	22	13%	36
Speak Asian-Pacific Island Languages	21	12%	26
Speak Other Languages	0	0%	12
<b>Households by Household Income</b>			
Household Income Base	1,134	100%	197
< \$15,000	187	16%	113
\$15,000 - \$25,000	373	33%	156
\$25,000 - \$50,000	237	21%	124
\$50,000 - \$75,000	146	13%	80
\$75,000 +	191	17%	100
<b>Occupied Housing Units by Tenure</b>			
Total	1,134	100%	197
Owner Occupied	515	45%	147
Renter Occupied	618	55%	149
<b>Employed Population Age 16+ Years</b>			
Total	2,382	100%	477
In Labor Force	1,605	67%	342
Civilian Unemployed in Labor Force	104	4%	98
Not In Labor Force	777	33%	257

**Data Note:** Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS)

\*Households in which no one 14 and over speaks English "very well" or speaks English only.

# EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report



Location: User-specified point center at 35.050569, -106.628278

Ring (buffer): 1-miles radius

Description: Sagebrush Substation

	2014 - 2018 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
<b>Population by Language Spoken at Home*</b>			
Total (persons age 5 and above)	4,629	100%	516
English	2,525	55%	680
Spanish	1,744	38%	529
French	10	0%	87
French Creole	N/A	N/A	N/A
Italian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Portuguese	N/A	N/A	N/A
German	8	0%	27
Yiddish	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other West Germanic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Scandinavian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greek	N/A	N/A	N/A
Russian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Polish	N/A	N/A	N/A
Serbo-Croatian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Slavic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Armenian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Persian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gujarathi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hindi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urdu	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Indic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Indo-European	97	2%	143
Chinese	28	1%	66
Japanese	N/A	N/A	N/A
Korean	0	0%	17
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hmong	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thai	N/A	N/A	N/A
Laotian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vietnamese	29	1%	60
Other Asian	0	0%	17
Tagalog	0	0%	17
Other Pacific Island	N/A	N/A	N/A
Navajo	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Native American	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hungarian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arabic	22	0%	70
Hebrew	N/A	N/A	N/A
African	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other and non-specified	163	4%	159
Total Non-English	2,104	45%	854

**Data Note:** Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2014 - 2018.

\*Population by Language Spoken at Home is available at the census tract summary level and up.

☐ Draw a Site

(Select one of the buttons to start drawing)

☒ Enter a location or a latitude/longitude

35.050569, -106.628278

(example, Fairfax, VA or 37.751204, -122.431539)

☐ Click on map to select a census block group

☐ Enter a census block group id

(example, 060750229021)

EnviroMapper®  
New Mexico State University, City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, NM, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, INCREMENT P, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA