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EPA Administrator Appoints NMED Division Director Gallegos to U.S. Governmental Advisory Committee for NAFTA Environment Side Accord

(Santa Fe, NM) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson appointed New Mexico Environment Department Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Development Division Director Karen E. Gallegos to the U.S. Governmental Advisory Committee for the implementation of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation.

Gallegos will serve on the Committee, also known as the NAFTA Environment Side Accord, to provide advice, information, and recommendations to the EPA Administrator in her capacity as the U.S. Representative to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation of North America.

“New Mexico will be well-served by Karen’s appointment,” said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. “She brings a depth of substance as well as cultural acuity to this important advisory process.”

Gallegos, who will serve a two-year term, joins 11 other representatives on the committee from state, local and tribal governments. Members, who serve in a voluntary capacity and are not compensated for their services, provide advice to the Administrator on a wide range of strategic, scientific, technological, regulatory and economic issues.

“Environmental challenges do not respect political boundaries or international borders,” Gallegos said. “Successful solutions to those challenges can only be attained through the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders. This is an exciting opportunity to engage on issues of global environmental and economic significance but that have specific resonance for the citizens of New Mexico and other border states.”

Governor Richardson appointed Gallegos as the Director of the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Development Division in May 2008. She is from Roswell and earned her Bachelor’s degree and Juris Doctorate from the University of New Mexico.

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