

SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNORDavid Martin, *Cabinet Secretary*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****September 25, 2012**

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Diesel Emissions Reduction Act Grant Helps Reduce Diesel Emissions in New Mexico

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce the completion of the New Mexico 2008 through 2012 Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Grant Program.

The EPA awarded the New Mexico Environment Department, Air Quality Bureau, \$857,034 through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act for implementation of diesel emissions reduction projects in the State. The goal of the New Mexico Clean Diesel Program is to reduce the amount of air pollution created by diesel-fueled heavy-duty trucks to which the residents of New Mexico are exposed.

Since 2008, the Air Quality Bureau has administered these grant funds for qualifying diesel emissions reduction projects. Grant funds were used for the following projects throughout the state:

Bloomfield School District – School bus retrofits

Central Consolidated School District – School bus retrofits

City of Deming – Early off-road vehicle replacement (partial funding)

Farmington School District – School bus retrofits

Gallup/McKinley County School District – School bus retrofits

New Mexico Association of Food Banks – Electrical dock outlets for trailer refrigeration units, aerodynamic fairings, and low rolling resistance tires

Taos County – Early vehicle replacement (partial funding)

The Diesel Emissions Reduction Act gave EPA grant and loan authority for promoting diesel emission reductions. Since 2008, EPA has funded nearly 60,000 pieces of clean diesel technology through the National Clean Diesel Campaign. These technologies included emissions and idle control devices, aerodynamic equipment, engine and vehicle replacements, and alternative fuel options.

Federal legislation (H.R. 5809) has been signed reauthorizing DERA grants to eligible entities for projects that reduce emissions from existing diesel engines. The New Mexico Environment Department has applied for a grant from EPA to continue implementing diesel emissions reductions projects in New Mexico.

"Reducing diesel emissions on diesel-fueled fleets throughout the state helps to protect the health and welfare of the residents," said Environment Department Cabinet Secretary David Martin. "We are very fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate in this program and look forward to future funding for diesel emission reduction projects in our state."

"We are delighted to team up with the EPA and NMED in reaching some of our 'Green Energy/Emission' goals," stated Mayor Andres Silva of Deming. "I would also like to thank our Project Coordinator, Wes Hooper, for taking the initiative in forwarding the City's efforts, to create a cleaner environment for our residents. Smaller communities in the state, such as Deming, want to create a better environment for their residents, but lack the funds to initiate such programs. My thanks to NMED and EPA for recognizing this fact and assisting the city with the resources needed to help achieve our environmental goals."

Teresa Johansen, purchasing manager for the Roadrunner Food Bank, spoke about the projects for the New Mexico Association of Food Banks. "It really is working and it is working as well as was predicted which almost never happens. How cool is that? For the aerodynamics, the predicted savings per vehicle was an 18% increase in mileage and we are totally getting that. Doing some 'test' runs pre and post the changes easily show a jump in mileage from the low 6 mpg to the mid 7 mpg, an approximate 1.5 mpg improvement. The latest estimate is that they are saving us 20% off the trailer refrigeration unit fuel costs."

For more information on diesel emission reduction projects implemented in the state please visit our website at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/NMCleanDieselProgram.htm>.

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