

**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**Ryan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****July 16, 2014**

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Public Meeting on Proposed Amendment to WQCC Dairy Rule, 20.6.6 NMAC

The New Mexico Environment Department Dairy Rule Technical Working Group (TWG) will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, July 29, 2014, in Roswell, NM from 5:30PM to 8:30PM at the Bassett Auditorium, Roswell Museum and Art Center, 100 W. 11th St.

This meeting is to facilitate discussion on the recent proposed amendments to 20.6.6 NMAC, the Dairy Rule. The amendments were proposed by the Dairy Industry Group for a Clean Environment ("DIGCE") and are opposed by several environmental groups collectively referred to as the "Coalition". The proposed amendments would alter the permit conditions required for ground water discharge permits for dairy facilities. The TWG met in May and June and received presentations from DIGCE. The Coalition did not participate. At the July meeting, the TWG is soliciting information from DIGCE, the Coalition, and members of the public in order to inform the NMED on the position it should take on the proposed amendments.

This is not a hearing or policy making meeting. Rather, this meeting is an opportunity for the public and interested stakeholders to present information and comment on the proposed amendments. At the meeting, members of the TWG will provide background at the outset and inform the public of the efforts it has taken to inform its position on the petition – approximately 15- 20 minutes. Then, DIGCE will be allowed up to 45 minutes to present information. Next, the Coalition will be provided the same amount of time to present information or comment. Finally, the public will be provided the remainder of time to make public comment or ask questions. There is no need to provide advance notice of intent to present information or comment.

A hearing on this matter will be held before the Water Quality Control Commission in Santa Fe in November of 2014. Public notice for this hearing, including instructions for participation, will be provided at least thirty days prior to the hearing. The proposed amendments to the Dairy Rule can be found at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/wqcc/> under matter WQCC 12-09(R).

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