

SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNORRyan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****August 21, 2014**

Contact: Jim Winchester
Communications Director
New Mexico Environment Department
(505)231-8800 / jim.winchester@state.nm.us

**Environment Secretary Signs Agreement With Consulate of Mexico
To Promote Occupational Health & Safety**

Santa Fe – New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Secretary Ryan Flynn today signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Consulate of Mexico Mauricio Ibarra Ponce de Leon that establishes a collaborative relationship to provide Spanish-speaking employees in New Mexico with proper training to improve workplace safety.

“All workers in New Mexico deserve a safe environment to perform their duties,” said NMED Secretary Flynn. “This first-of-its-kind agreement will allow our Occupational Health & Safety Bureau (the state branch of OSHA) to offer information and training through the Consulate of Mexico. I’m pleased we can provide opportunities through this agreement that could potentially save lives.”

New Mexico OSHA works with businesses, trade associations, unions, consulates, professional organizations, faith- and community-based organizations, and educational institutions to prevent workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses. The purpose of each alliance is to develop compliance assistance tools and resources and educate workers and employers about their rights and responsibilities. This alliance will provide workers with assistance and outreach materials in Spanish on workers' rights and OSHA standards. Under the alliance signed today, New Mexico OSHA and the consulate will provide workers with access to education and training resources in Spanish about their rights in the workplace and the responsibilities of employers under the Occupational Health and Safety and Health Act. Alliance members will also promote safety and health during speaking engagements and with appearances at each other's outreach events, including mobile consulate activities.

Today’s signing occurred at the Office of the Consulate of Mexico in Albuquerque. The 2-year agreement is the first collaborative effort to be signed between Mexico and the New Mexico Environment Department.

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