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Immediate Release

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New Environmental Improvement Board Members Bring Varied Experiences to Issues

(Santa Fe, NM) — The members of the Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) appointed by Governor Bill Richardson and recently confirmed by the State Senate reflect a broad range of business, agricultural and environmental interests. They include the former Chair of the Sierra Club's Rio Grande Chapter, a real estate developer and the man who created and led the Navajo Nation's Environmental Protection Commission.

"I believe that this board will be the most active in the state's history," said Ron Curry, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). "The EIB helps us do our job, which is to protect the health of New Mexico's environment and the state's citizens. With their varied backgrounds, these new board members will bring top-notch credentials and new perspectives to the table."

The Governor charges the EIB with two main areas of responsibility. One is the promulgation of rules and regulations enforced by NMED. The other is hearing appeals of some NMED enforcement actions and decisions.

The new board members are:

- Gay Dillingham, of Santa Fe, Executive Director of the Livingry Foundation
- Gregory Green, of Albuquerque, NM Director of the National Environmental Trust
- David Salman, of Santa Fe, a ranch and dairy operator and former State Legislator
- Clifford Stroud, of Carlsbad, economic development advisor to Los Alamos National Lab
- Jeff Thomas, of Farmington, businessman with automotive, real estate and oil & gas interests
- Harold Tso, of Albuquerque, founder of the Navajo Environmental Protection Commission
- Gwen Wardwell, of Santa Fe, former chair of the Sierra Club's Rio Grande Chapter

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The EIB's first meeting has been set for March 28th at 10 am in the Harold Runnels Building, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe. The meeting will be held to familiarize the new members with the board's duties.

For further information, contact Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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