



BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Office of the Secretary

Harold Runnels Building
1190 Saint Francis Drive (87505)
PO Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
Phone (505) 827-2855 Fax (505) 827-2836
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



RON CURRY
Secretary

March 16, 2010
For Immediate Release

Contact: Marissa Stone Bardino, NMED Communications Director
(505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475

Environment Department Seeks Public Comment on Draft Document Outlining Options for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading in New Mexico

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department is seeking public comment on a draft document outlining options for developing a cap-and-trade program for greenhouse gases in New Mexico.

The Environment Department plans to petition the Environmental Improvement Board later this year to adopt a cap-and-trade program for greenhouse gases.

"It's important for the Environmental Improvement Board to adopt a cap-and-trade program that will best suit the needs of our state," said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. "This paper helps to clarify the options that are available for us."

The department released the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Allowance and Trading in New Mexico draft issues paper today. The department requests that comments on the issues paper are submitted by March 29, 2010. The paper is available at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/cc/>

The white paper is consistent with the design recommendations of the Western Climate Initiative, a collaboration of 11 states and Canadian provinces that have been working together since 2007 to develop a market based mechanism for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Cap-and-trade programs have historically been implemented to address air quality issues by setting a mandatory cap on emissions and providing economic incentives for achieving emissions reductions. By comparison, cap-and-trade programs cost less to the overall economy than traditional regulatory emission reduction programs that require each source to reduce emissions by a set amount. A cap-and-trade program will establish a market based program to reduce greenhouse gas GHG emissions and create additional incentives to develop New Mexico's Green Economy.

For more information, call Marissa Stone Bardino at 505-827-0314.