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May 7, 2007
For Immediate Release

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Environment Department Hosts Community Meeting in Moriarty on Wednesday

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department will host the third of 15 community meetings around the state Wednesday in Moriarty to listen to residents' and local leaders' concerns regarding the environment and programs the department oversees. The meeting will also serve to inform citizens and officials about the department's programs.

The agenda includes an update on the proposed Estancia Basin Biomass Power Plant, septage disposal and septic tanks and illegal dumping.

Residents can also ask for updates on department programs, which include food sanitation, liquid waste disposal, safe drinking water, petroleum storage tanks, air quality, groundwater protection, solid waste disposal, surface water quality and radiation control. The department is hosting the meetings to increase community awareness and involvement in the protection of the environment.

"One of the most rewarding and educational parts of my job is when I am able to visit with residents," said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. "Listening to citizens' concerns helps me understand local issues and allows me to set the department's priorities."

"We are tailoring the meetings to reflect the issues residents in each area are interested in," said Department Deputy Secretary Cindy Padilla. "We heard those living in the Moriarty area want to hear about the Estancia Biomass Plant, illegal dumping and septic tanks. The last two meetings in Socorro and Silver City were productive and we learned about specific concerns — residents in Socorro wanted more done regarding illegal dumping and citizens in Silver City asked for more information about air quality."

The department will present facts about the work the department conducts, provide a forum to listen to citizens' concerns and facilitate a discussion about how the department can improve NMED programs. Four years ago, when Governor Richardson first took office, the department outlined three guiding principles for the agency — focusing on an accountable workforce, the significance and value of diversity and the importance of working as a holistic agency.

WHAT: The agenda includes a discussion of the department's goals for upcoming years and a review of community concerns with residents. Topics of discussion include Illegal Dumping, Septic tanks and the Estancia Basin Biomass Power Plant. Residents who plan to attend can ask NMED to add items to the agenda.

WHERE: Moriarty Civic Center, 202 Broadway (Head east on Interstate 40 from Albuquerque, take the Moriarty Exit, which is Main Street or Route 66, head south on Broadway and the Civic Center is on the east side.)

WHEN: From 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 9.

WHO: Secretary Curry, Deputy Secretary Padilla and local representatives of the department will attend the meeting. For more information, call NMED Communications Director Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475.