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For Immediate Release

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## **Environment Department Hosts Community Meeting on June 21 in Santa Rosa**

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department will host the fifth of 15 community meetings around the state June 21 in Santa Rosa 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 septic tanks and illegal dumping. Residents can also have their well water tested for free at the meeting.**

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.

"I look forward to meeting with residents and local leaders to listen to comments and concerns," said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. "These meetings provide the department with needed feedback to improve services for citizens."

"As public servants, it's necessary to reach out to communities we serve," said Deputy Secretary Cindy Padilla. "We realize the needs of every community are different and we want to make sure the department understands those needs."

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:** Santa Rosa Community Meeting

**WHERE:** Old Middle School Gymnasium, Fourth Street and Capitan, Santa Rosa

**WHEN:** 5:30 p.m., Thursday, June 21

**WHO:** Secretary Curry, Deputy Secretary Padilla and local representatives of the department will attend the meeting.

Other community meetings will be held June 28 in Sunland Park, July 11 in Gallup, July 26 in Carrizozo, Aug. 8 in Rio Rancho, Aug. 23 in Deming, Sept. 6 in Espanola, Sept. 20 in Alamogordo, Oct. 10 in Farmington and Oct. 25 in Carlsbad. Meetings are also planned for Las Vegas, N.M. and Los Alamos but have not been scheduled. Meeting locations are pending.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475.