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For Immediate Release

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## **Environment Department Hosts First Community Meeting in Socorro on April 11**

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department will host the first of 14 community meetings around the state April 11 in Socorro 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.

Those programs 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.

"Our work affects every resident, family and community in New Mexico," said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. "We must continue to protect public health, ensure workers' safety and guard the quality of our air and water."

"We must remain accountable to residents by remaining receptive to their concerns and needs regarding programs the department provides," said Department Deputy Secretary Cindy Padilla. "These meetings will allow us the opportunity to listen to the varying needs of the people we serve."

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 the Eagle-Pitcher Superfund site, liquid waste permits and landfill operations. Attendees are encouraged to make suggestions about how the department can improve its services to New Mexicans.

**WHERE:** New Mexico Tech Campus, 801 Leroy Place, Workman Center Room 101

**WHEN:** From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 11. Refreshments will be served.

**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.

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