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For Immediate Release

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## **Environment Department Hosts Community Meeting July 11 in Gallup**

### Topics for Discussion Include Uranium Mining and Fort Wingate

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department will host a community meeting July 11 in Gallup to listen to residents' and local leaders' concerns regarding the environment and programs the department oversees. The meeting, which is the sixth meeting of about 16 the department is holding statewide, will also serve to inform citizens and officials about the department's programs.

**Topics for discussion include Uranium Mining, Fort Wingate, Food Safety and Petroleum Storage Tanks.** NMED will provide **free testing of private well water**. Tests will include electrical conductivity, pH, nitrate, iron and fluoride. Residents should bring water samples from the cold water tap of their kitchen sink. Collect about 18 fluid ounces, about 500 milliliters, of water in a clean, covered, glass or plastic container such as a canning jar or water bottle, and bring it to 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.

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. These meetings ensure the department is held accountable to residents.

**WHERE:** University of New Mexico Branch College

**WHEN:** AT 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 11

**WHO:** Secretary Curry, Deputy Secretary Padilla, Intergovernmental Policy Advisor Derrith Watchman-Moore and local representatives of the department will attend the meeting.

Other community meetings will be held July 26 in Ruidoso, 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.