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For Immediate Release

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## **Environment Department Secretary Denies Air Quality Permit for Proposed Estancia Biomass Power Plant**

(Santa Fe, N.M.) New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry today denied the air quality permit for the proposed Western Water and Power Production LLC's Estancia Basin Biomass Power Generation Plant.

The permit is for a proposed 35 megawatt power plant about six miles south of Estancia in Torrance County.

According to the order, which was signed today, "the Secretary hereby denies the permit application for the reason that the record lacks support for the determination that the facility is not subject to 20.2.74 NMAC-Prevention of Significant Deterioration, based solely on its use of natural gas to start the boiler."

The plant will burn natural gas for up to eight hours each time the boiler starts up. The record for the facility lacked sufficient information regarding natural gas emissions.

More information concerning source review coordination is necessary, according to the order. Without the information required under 20.2.74, no permit can be issued. Any person who participated in this permitting action and who is adversely affected by the action may file a written petition for hearing by the Environmental Improvement Board, c/o Joyce Medina, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502. The petition should be filed to the Board within 30 days of the decision.

NMED's Hearing Officer Felicia Orth conducted public hearings for the air quality permit on March 13 and April 10 in Estancia.

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

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