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March 20, 2007
For Immediate Release

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NMED, EPA and Mexican Officials Schedule Tour at locations in Luna County and Northern Chihuahua to Discuss Water Issues in the Region

WHAT: The New Mexico Environment Department, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mexican environmental agencies and local leaders -- in cooperation with New Mexico-Chihuahua Rural Task Force -- will conduct a water tour of several communities in Luna County, N.M. and Northern Chihuahua, Mexico. Local elementary and high-school students will also participate as they celebrate World Water Day Festival. NMED Secretary Ron Curry is co-chairman of The Task Force, which is authorized by the Tri-State Regional Workgroup under the U.S.-Mexico Border 2012 Program <http://epa.gov/border2012/>.

WHY: The tour will allow federal, New Mexico and federal leaders to hear the concerns of community leaders on regional issues and concerns that may result from water quality issues, groundwater usage, the absence of information on shared trans-boundary aquifer patterns and droughts or floods that could have a long-term impact the availability of water in the region.

WHERE: The tour will stop in Deming, NM; Columbus, NM; Palomas, MX; Ascension, MX; and Janos, MX

WHEN: At 4 p.m., Friday, March 23 at the Columbus Community Center on North Boundary Street about half a block from Highway 11 in Columbus, N.M. (Call NMED for other times and locations)

WHO: Participants include representatives from NMED, International Boundary Water Commission, New Mexico State Engineer's Office, Elephant Butte Irrigation District and representatives from the offices of U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman, U.S. Sen. Pete Domenici and U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce. Representatives from the local government in Mexico will also be participating in the tour.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475 or Allyson Siwik, U.S. Co-leader of the task force, at (505) 388-4350 or (505) 590-7619.

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