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**RON CURRY**  
SECRETARY

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**State Board Takes Action to Protect Workers; Environment Secretary Ron Curry Pleased with New Store Safety Regulations**

(Santa Fe, NM) -- New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Secretary Ron Curry has expressed his pleasure with the convenience store safety regulations approved today by the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) at their meeting in Las Cruces.

“These regulations will have an immediate impact protecting convenience store workers on the graveyard shift,” said Secretary Curry. “I would like to thank the members of the EIB for their work on this issue. I am pleased that NMED can now move forward and get started on the important work of protecting store clerks late at night.

These regulations have withstood a healthy debate. Now that the board has acted, I hope these regulations will be allowed to stand and do their job.”

Today’s action is a direct result of Senate Joint Memorial 4 sponsored by Senator Richard Martinez during the 2003 session.

“I am so happy that these regulations have been adopted,” said Senator Martinez. “These provisions will ensure that safety is a top priority in stores across the state.”

The regulations approved today by the EIB direct convenience stores open between the hours of 11 pm and 5 am to either have two workers on duty, one clerk and a security guard or to limit public access to store clerks through bulletproof glass or other safety features. These regulations join other store safety guidelines recently approved by the EIB which are already in effect statewide. These include rules mandating the use of safety cameras, panic alarms and adequate lighting at convenience stores.

The “late night” safety measures approved today by the EIB will take effect in mid-November.

For additional information, contact Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0260.

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