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September 18, 2007
For Immediate Release

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**Meeting Concerning the Western Climate Initiative will be Held Thursday in Santa Fe
Agenda Includes Discussion of Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goal and Cap-and-Trade Program**

WHAT: The first in a series of New Mexico public information meetings about the Western Climate Initiative. Gov. Richardson joined with the Governors of California, Arizona, Utah, Oregon and Washington, as well as the Premiers of the Canadian provinces British Columbia and Manitoba this year to develop the Western Climate Initiative (WCI). The partner states and provinces have established a regional greenhouse gas reduction goal, and will spend the next year developing the design for a market-based mechanism (i.e., a cap-and-trade program) to help achieve that goal. More information about the regional goal and the Western Climate Initiative is available at: www.westernclimateinitiative.org.

WHEN: From 9 a.m. to Noon, Thursday, Sept. 20

WHERE: Harold Runnels Building Auditorium, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe

AGENDA:

1. Overview of the Western Climate Initiative, including history, goals, timelines, and international context
2. Key design considerations for a cap-and-trade system
3. Western Climate Initiative work plan, including sub-committees where much of the analysis will occur
4. Clarification of ongoing opportunities to monitor the progress of Western Climate Initiative

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

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