



NEWS

Four Corners Air Quality Group



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of Public Health
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Four Corners Air Quality Group to Hold Public Meeting in Durango *Progress on Implementation Efforts, Air Quality Modeling Report to be Featured*

Durango, Colo. – The Four Corners Air Quality Group will meet Aug. 27 at the Durango Library to provide updates about progress in addressing air quality issues in the region. The meeting is open to the public and will be held at the library, 1-4:45 p.m., 1900 East 3rd Ave.

The first hour of the meeting will be an “open house” when the public can view posters about air quality topics and talk informally with representatives from federal and state agencies, industry and other stakeholder groups. The formal meeting begins at 2 p.m.

Agenda topics include air quality monitoring, air quality modeling and implementation efforts related to the Four Corners Air Quality Task Force Report that was published in November 2007. There will be opportunity for attendees to ask questions about the overall state of air quality, ozone designations in both Colorado and New Mexico, and other topics not otherwise covered on the agenda. Participants also are encouraged to report on their activities and actions that have reduced emissions and improved air quality. The Four Corners Modeling Project – a direct result of the Task Force report – also will be discussed.

“The modeling project revealed opportunities for air quality improvements in the Four Corners region, especially when strategies for reducing NO_x (nitrogen oxides) and VOCs (volatile organic compounds) are used in tandem,” said Michael Silverstein, deputy director of the Air Pollution Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health. “Many of the mitigation options in the task force report are geared toward reducing these ozone precursors. Another benefit is that, while addressing ozone, we also can improve visibility in the region.”

The group, originally convened in 2005 as the Four Corners Air Quality Task Force, includes federal land managers, federal and state environmental regulators, representatives from industry and tribal nations, and interested residents. Spearheaded by the states of Colorado and New Mexico, the task force

initially set out to discuss the impacts that oil and gas production, existing and planned coal-fired power plants, growth and other factors are having on air quality in the region.

The task force concluded its initial two-year effort in November 2007, with its comprehensive report devoted to a broad list of options for improving air quality in the region. The report was intended to serve as, among other things, a resource for the regulatory agencies charged with developing plans for managing air quality impacts.

Although the official business of the task force concluded in November 2007, the renamed Four Corners Air Quality Group reconvenes periodically to exchange information and discuss progress.

“I always look forward to these meetings because they give us an opportunity to discuss air quality with the public and update everyone on our progress,” said Mary Uhl, bureau chief for the Air Quality Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department. “Things are constantly evolving, and it’s important that we keep everyone who is interested updated on the wide variety of activities and initiatives.”

The final report and many related documents are available for viewing at the group’s Web site, www.4cornersair.org. New Mexico residents wanting to learn more about the group should contact Mark Jones at 505-566-9746 or mark.jones@state.nm.us. Colorado residents should contact Christopher Dann at 303-692-3281 or christopher.dann@state.co.us. Information also may be obtained by visiting the Web site.