



NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Office of the Secretary

SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor
JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

Harold Runnels Building
1190 Saint Francis Drive (87505)
PO Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
Phone (505) 827-2855 Fax (505) 827-2836
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



DAVE MARTIN
Cabinet Secretary
RAJ SOLOMON, P.E.
Deputy Secretary

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Contact: Jill Turner, NMED Communications
(505) 222-9548

**STATE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT
ON EXCEPTIONAL EVENTS DEMONSTRATION**

The New Mexico Environment Department Air Quality Bureau has completed a draft exceptional events demonstration for periods exceeding federal air quality standards for particulate matter in southern New Mexico during calendar year 2008. This document demonstrates to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that dust storms generated by high winds, rather than man-made sources, caused exceedances of the national standard for particulate matter in the air. Without this demonstration, certain areas of the state would be in violation of the federal standard and subject to stricter air quality rules and requirements designed to meet and maintain the standard in the future. The level of the federal air standard for particulate matter is protective of public health.

The New Mexico Environment Department is seeking public comment on the draft document. The document is available for review at the Environment Department's field offices and website at www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb, the Branigan Public Library in Las Cruces, the Marshall Memorial Library in Deming, or by contacting the Department at 1-800-224-7009.

For more information and to submit comments, please contact Michael Baca, Environmental Analyst, NMED Air Quality Bureau at (575) 647-7983 or at michael.baca1@state.nm.us.

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