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Environment Secretary Discusses Recent Border Initiatives and Upcoming Goals at Multi-State Meeting in El Paso

Border 2012 Meeting Focused on Environmental Justice, Tribal Outreach, Climate Change, Dust Control, Water, Solid Waste Issues

(El Paso, Texas) New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry outlined the state's recent accomplishments and upcoming goals at a meeting of the Border 2012 group today in El Paso, Texas. He joined officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mexican Environmental Protection Agency (PROFEPA) and his counterparts from the states of Texas and Chihuahua.

"We are proud of our continuing initiatives that include environmental justice regulations, climate change and improving groundwater, water and air quality along the border," Secretary Curry said. "We have to work to share resources and, when necessary, work together to clean them up. The environment is not divided by state or national boundaries. By coming together and moving forward bi-nationally, we are making a commitment to protect and restore these resources we all share--our land, air and water."

NMED has participated initiatives including climate change, dust control and improvements for water, wastewater, air quality and solid waste.

The meeting, held at Chamizal National Memorial in El Paso, Texas, addressed environmental problems along the border. Topics included water supply, water quality, solid waste, environmental justice, data gathering, and working across borders.

The group worked on recommendations on new or emerging issues and priorities that should be considered in the development of a new U.S./MX Border Program.

U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program Border 2012 is collaboration between the United States and Mexico to improve the environment and protect the health of the nearly 12 million people living along the border. The bi-national program focuses on cleaning the air, providing safe drinking water, reducing the risk of exposure to hazardous waste, and ensuring emergency preparedness along the U.S.-Mexico border. The 2,000 mile boundary between the U.S. and Mexico, characterized by large deserts, numerous mountain ranges, rivers, wetlands, large estuaries, and shared aquifers, is a center of extraordinary population growth and an environmental concern for both countries. For more information on the program, visit

<http://www.epa.gov/usmexicoborder/> .

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