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For Immediate Release

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### **NMED Releases Draft Rule for a Greenhouse Gas Cap-and-Trade Program**

(Santa Fe) – The New Mexico Environment Department today released a preliminary draft rule for a cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state. NMED has not yet filed the draft rule with the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board.

Cap-and-trade has proven to be an effective means of reducing air pollution and is considered one of the most cost effective ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As described in the draft rule, the program would initially apply only to sources that emit 25,000 metric tons or more of carbon dioxide per year.

The draft rule defines the conditions that would allow New Mexico to implement the greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program as part of the Western Climate Initiative regional program. One of the conditions in the draft rule is that New Mexico will only participate in the cap-and-trade program if there are sufficient pollution allowances within the WCI to make the trading program efficient and cost effective. The WCI states include California, Washington, Oregon, Utah, Montana, Arizona and New Mexico. The Canadian provinces include British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and Québec.

The department requests public comments on the draft rule. Comments maybe submitted through the Department's Web site at any time, though preferably no later than May 28 at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/cc/> . The draft rules are also available at the same web address. NMED will meet with stakeholders about the proposed rule including a meeting at the Santa Fe Community College from 4 to 6 p.m. May 25.

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

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