



NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Office of the Secretary

BILL RICHARDSON
Governor
DIANE DENISH
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

RON CURRY
Secretary
SARAH COTTRELL
Deputy Secretary

August 10, 2010
For Immediate Release

Contact: Marissa Stone Bardino, NMED Communications Director
(505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475

Environment Department to Hold Meeting on Dry Cimarron River Quality Standards

(Santa Fe, NM) The New Mexico Environment Department will hold a public meeting about water quality standards for the Dry Cimarron River at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 12 at the Village Hall in Folsom, N.M.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the status of the department's investigations into the appropriate designated use for the lower Dry Cimarron.

The state, as required by the Clean Water Act, developed water quality standards for New Mexico waters, including the Dry Cimarron. The standards describe the classification of the waters into similar segments, with designated uses and water quality criteria.

The New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission in 2005 divided the Dry Cimarron into two segments: an upper one from the headwaters to Oak Creek, and a lower one from Oak Creek to the Oklahoma border. The upper and lower segments are currently designated as having a cold water aquatic life use. Based on data collected by the department, the lower segment does not meet the criteria associated with the cold water use.

Both local residents and the department have expressed concerns that the cold water use may not be appropriate. The department is conducting an investigation to document the appropriate use of the river because changing its use requires a scientific analysis. The department invites the public to provide input into the investigation by attending the public meeting.

For more information contact Tim Michael at tim.michael@state.nm.us or visit the Surface Water Quality Bureau Standard website, <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/Standards/>.