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Environment Department Announces Effort to Harmonize State Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rules with New Federal Requirements

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department today announced that it will work with stakeholders and environmental groups in an effort to harmonize state greenhouse gas reporting rules with newly announced federal requirements. That effort, which was requested by members of industry seeking simplified reporting requirements, will negate the need for a planned hearing on reporting rules before the state Environmental Improvement Board in November.

“We understand how complicated separate state and federal reporting requirements can get for businesses and we hope that one detailed set of requirements will make this reporting more complete and easier to comply with,” said NMED Secretary Ron Curry. “I hope that this effort shows businesses that while we are serious about the need to address global climate change, we are also open to sensible solutions that work well for industry and the environment.”

NMED had proposed these new regulations in order to establish comprehensive, uniform, and accurate mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and to support the regional cap-and-trade program being developed by [Western Climate Initiative](#) jurisdictions.

“We couldn’t be more pleased that the Obama Administration’s strong federal actions on this issue that have allowed states like New Mexico to get on board with one common set of requirements,” said NMED Environmental Protection Division Director Jim Norton. “EPA’s leadership in this case is both good for business and the environment.”

The entities and facilities subject to federal reporting requirements will include:

- fossil fuel and industrial chemicals suppliers
- motor vehicle and engine manufacturers
- direct emitters of greenhouse gases who emit 25,000 metric tons or more per year. Such sources of emissions might include cement production, iron and steel production and electricity generation

The first annual report on greenhouse gas emissions, covering calendar year 2010, would be submitted to EPA in 2011. Vehicle and engine manufacturers, however, would begin reporting for model year 2011.

Although the Department has withdrawn the proposed regulations, it will continue to collect information on greenhouse gas emissions under existing authority in the air quality control regulations.

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