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## **EPA Administrator Appoints New Mexico Environment Department Communications Director to Good Neighbor Environmental Board**

(Santa Fe, NM) – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Stephen L. Johnson today appointed New Mexico Environment Department Communications Director Marissa Stone to the Good Neighbor Environmental Board. Johnson also appointed members from other states.

The board is an independent federal advisory committee that advises the president and the U.S. Congress on good neighbor practices along the U.S. border with Mexico. Its recommendations are focused on environmental infrastructure needs within the U.S. states contiguous to Mexico (<http://www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb/>).

“Marissa Stone, a Hispanic and native of Chimayo in Northern New Mexico, has many qualities that make her an ideal candidate to represent our state on the board,” said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. “Her skills as a writer and facilitator and her understanding of the complex environmental issues New Mexico faces will complement the board's goals.”

Stone, who replaces Secretary Curry on the board, became Communications Director for the Department in 2006. As part of Secretary Curry’s staff, she serves as the spokeswoman for the department. Stone holds a bachelor’s degree in English Literature from Florida International University in Miami, Fla. She also attended Boston University. Stone, who is a Spanish speaker, communicates with reporters and facilitates conversations with citizens, leaders, legislators and others about New Mexico’s environmental issues.

Before joining the department, Stone worked as a Public Information Officer for Governor Richardson's Investment Partnership at the New Mexico Department of Transportation. She also served as a reporter for the Santa Fe New Mexican for nearly five years before working for the state. Stone was also a reporter at the Rio Grande Sun in Espanola before working for The New Mexican.

She contributed to the board’s Eleventh Report, Effects of Natural Disasters on the U.S. – Mexico Border Environment.

The board’s role is to step back as an expert, concerned observer and analyze the big picture when it comes to the problems the border region faces, as well as the opportunities at hand, according to the EPA. The new board will hold its first meeting of the year from March 18 to 20 in Washington, D.C.

For more information, call Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314.

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