



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

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

**Dr. Jonathan Overpeck Testifies Before EIB on Cap and Trade Program**

(Santa Fe, NM) Dr. Jonathan Overpeck with the University of Arizona testified today before the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board during a hearing for a proposed regulation to cap and trade greenhouse gas emissions. Dr. Overpeck, who was a Coordinating Lead Author of the Nobel Prize winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Assessment Report, serves as a Lead Author of the Chapter on Terrestrial and Inland Water Systems for the IPCC's Fifth Assessment.

He testified regarding the theft of e-mails from the University of East Anglia Climatic Research unit that led to what has been dubbed "Climategate" by some. Dr. Overpeck cited numerous investigative reports and concluded that "allegations of wrongdoing made by climate change deniers on the basis of the stolen e-mails were unsubstantiated." He also noted that those reports make it clear that the scientific evidence for human-caused global warming, including the evidence produced in the 2007 IPCC Fourth Assessment reports, remains valid.

Dr. Overpeck also stated that a scientific process has revealed that parts of the Earth were colder during medieval times than in the last 50 years.

Lastly, he explained that climate change is not a hypothetical issue for the Southwest. "The projections made years ago are now coming true largely as expected, although perhaps at a rate that is faster than anticipated," Overpeck said.

The proposed regulations will enable the state to participate in a regional greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program. New Mexico will not implement the program unless there are sufficient greenhouse gas emissions allowances within the region to make the trading program efficient and cost-effective. In addition, the proposed rule includes language that "sunsets" the state regulation if the federal government implements an equally effective national cap-and-trade program.

For more information, call Marissa Stone Bardino at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475.

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