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Environment Department Seeks Input on Hydrology Protocol Used to Distinguish Between Ephemeral, Intermittent, and Perennial Waters

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department’s Surface Water Quality Bureau is soliciting comment on the draft *Hydrology Protocol for the Determination of Ephemeral, Intermittent, and Perennial Waters*.

The protocol is a technical document that was developed to distinguish between ephemeral, intermittent and perennial streams and rivers in New Mexico. The ability to make such determinations is often key to assuring that the appropriate water quality standards are applied to a waterbody. The protocol is designed solely to aid in water quality standards determination and the resulting determinations have no bearing on water rights or other non-SWQB programs.

Copies of the draft Hydrology Protocol can be downloaded from the SWQB’s website at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/hydrology/>. If you experience trouble downloading or require a CD or hardcopy, please contact Gary King at gary.king@state.nm.us or (505) 827-2928.

Comments on the draft Hydrology Protocol will be accepted until the close of business on September 25, 2009. Comments must include contact information and should be emailed (preferred) to shelly.drinkard@state.nm.us, or mailed to: NMED-SWQB, 1190 St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505, ATTN: Shelly Drinkard. SWQB will continue to review and seek public input related to the Hydrology Protocol on a biennial basis as part of our review of water quality assessment methodologies.

For additional questions regarding this public notice, contact Shelly Drinkard at (505) 827-2814 or the above e-mail address.

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