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Surface Water Quality Bureau

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 26, 2013

**Surface Water Quality Bureau Invites Public Input
For Nonpoint Source Management Program Revision**

The Surface Water Quality Bureau is initiating a revision of the Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Program. A revision must be conducted periodically as required by Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act. **The public and cooperating organizations are invited to identify issues of concern in the current Nonpoint Source Management Program and to propose revisions for consideration.**

Please note that this is the scoping phase of the revision; there will be opportunities for public comment on specific proposals at a later date.

Section 319(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act requires the Governor of each State to submit to the Regional EPA Administrator for approval a management program which the State proposes to implement in the first four fiscal years beginning after the date of submission, for controlling nonpoint source pollution. The Bureau has identified a number of issues that may need attention during the upcoming revision. Among the changes the Bureau is considering are the following:

- Specify which non-federally funded NPS management activities will be considered non-federal NPS Management Program costs.
- Continue to support watershed-based planning within a more restricted program budget.
- More closely integrate watershed-based planning and implementation.
- Describe circumstances such as emergency response following wildfires, in which a watershed-based plan is not required for Section 319 project funding.
- Use Recovery Potential Screening for prioritizing watersheds for restoration or protection.
- Edit for clarity and update summaries of related programs (maintenance revision).

Interested parties may comment on these areas or others. Suggestions may apply to statewide provisions or only to a particular watershed or stream. Bureau staffs are also available to meet with stakeholder groups, as requested, for informal discussions regarding their issue of concern. Please direct any comments **by Friday, November 1, 2013** to:

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The current Nonpoint Source Management Program document is available at www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/wps/Plan. Additional information about water quality in general is available on the Surface Water Quality Bureau's website, at www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb.