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**Environment Secretary Issues Statement on Federal Board's Decision to Grant
Environmental Review for Desert Rock Case**

(Santa Fe, N.M.) New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry issued the following statement today in light of the federal Environmental Appeals Boards' decision to grant review of all petitioners' issues on the air quality permit issued by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the proposed Desert Rock Energy Facility:

"This is a major victory for New Mexico and for clean air. The federal Environmental Appeals Board recognized the negative effect this facility will have on air quality in the region. This decision is great news for our state. This would not have happened unless the EAB recognized there are significant problems with this permit."

Background:

- The Desert Rock Energy Facility is proposed as a coal fired power plant without carbon capture or sequestration technology. If put into operation as designed, it would completely negate efforts the state has made to meet Governor Bill Richardson's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.
- Other concerns raised by the State of New Mexico include, mercury in waterways, high ozone concentrations and worsening regional haze.

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

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