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Environment Secretary Issues Statement on EPA's New Ozone Standard
Standard Could Negatively Affect Health of Residents across New Mexico and U.S.

(Santa Fe, NM) New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry issued the following statement today on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's new standard for ozone.

"This unfortunate decision once again shows that the Bush Administration values politics above people's health. The EPA's own scientific experts were recommending a standard as low as 60 parts per billion for ozone. Bowing to industry pressure and going with a higher 75 ppb standard will potentially mean thousands more heart attacks, hospital visits and asthma attacks for Americans annually — especially for children.

New Mexico will continue to fight for more sensible standards to keep our air clean from ozone, from automobile pollution and from the Asarco smelter recently approved near the New Mexico border in Texas. The Clean Air Act is our most effective tool to protect the air we all breathe from pollution. It doesn't need to be "modernized" to allow for inappropriate industry pressure, it needs to be allowed to do its job with the best scientific knowledge available."

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