

STATE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON EXCEPTIONAL EVENTS DEMONSTRATIONS

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department Air Quality Bureau has completed draft exceptional events demonstrations for periods exceeding federal air quality standards for particulate matter in southern New Mexico during calendar years 2019 and 2020. This document demonstrates to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that dust storms generated by high winds, rather than man-made sources, caused exceedances of the national standard for particulate matter in the air. Without this demonstration, certain areas of the state would be in violation of federal standards and subject to stricter air quality rules and requirements designed to meet and maintain the standard in the future. The level of the federal air standards for particulate matter is protective of public health.

The New Mexico Environment Department is seeking public comment on the draft documents through October 25, 2021. The document is available for review at the Environment Department's field offices and website at <https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notice-2/> or by contacting the Department at (505) 629-3242.

NMED does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Part 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED's non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, or if you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact: Kathryn Becker, Non-Discrimination Coordinator, NMED, 1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502, (505) 827-2855, nd.coordinator@state.nm.us. You may also visit our website at www.env.nm.gov/non-employee-discrimination-complaint-page/ to learn how and where to file a complaint of discrimination.

For more information and to submit comments, please contact Armando Paz, Environmental Analyst, NMED Air Quality Bureau at (505) 629-3242 or at armando.paz@state.nm.us.

###