



BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

DIANE DENISH
Lieutenant Governor

New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Air Quality Bureau

1301 Siler Road, Building B

Santa Fe, NM 87507-3113

Phone (505) 476-4300

Fax (505) 476-4375

www.nmenv.state.nm.us



RON CURRY
Secretary

JON GOLDSTEIN
Deputy Secretary

December 15, 2008

The New Mexico Environment Department Air Quality Bureau (AQB) recently determined that high levels of ozone pollution in Sunland Park, NM violate the new federal air quality ozone standard of 0.075 parts per million. This standard is defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a level where public health is adversely affected. It is likely that this area will be designated by the federal government as not attaining the new federal ozone standard, which will result in significant changes in the state's air quality permitting of industrial facilities in the area, as well as required reductions in existing air pollution to ensure that the area's ozone levels eventually meet the federal air quality standard.

The AQB will hold a public meeting/open house on ozone levels in Sunland Park and the federal requirements regarding the ozone standard on January 5, 2009 in Sunland Park at the Sunland Park City Council Chambers, located at 1000 McNutt and in Las Cruces at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, located at 200 E. Picacho Ave. The Sunland Park meeting will include presentations from the AQB and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on ozone monitoring data and the federal nonattainment process beginning at 5:30 PM, followed by a question and answer session. Also on January 5 in Las Cruces, AQB will hold an open house from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. There will not be a formal presentation at the Las Cruces open house. This will be a self-guided tour through the open house with AQB staff available to answer questions.

We hope that you will be able attend one of the meetings and look forward to visiting with you. For more information on the meetings, visit our website at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us>. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Baca of my staff at 575-647-7983 or via e-mail at michael.baca1@state.nm.us.

Sincerely,

Mary Uhl
Air Quality Bureau Chief