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San Juan County Early Action Compact
Four Corners Ozone Task Force Steering Committee
Progress Report – January 2003

The Four Corners Ozone Task Force Steering Committee held its most recent meeting on January 15, 2003 in Farmington. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the next steps for work under the San Juan County Early Action Compact (EAC). San Juan County, the Cities of Aztec, Bloomfield, and Farmington, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signed the EAC on December 20, 2002. The EAC entails milestones over the next several years that are designed to keep San Juan County in attainment of the federal standard for ground-level ozone. Through its air monitoring program, NMED has in recent years recorded levels of ozone that approach but do not yet exceed the ozone standard.

The agenda for the January meeting included discussion of the EAC timeline, State funding for the EAC, the relationship between the Task Force and local governments, and what formal voting structure, if any, should be created within the Task Force.

A timeline showing the milestones to be met under the EAC and a summary of each milestone was developed by NMED and is available on the Task Force website (<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/ozonetf/index.html>) under "Early Action Compact Details."

State funding is needed to match federal dollars that are available from EPA to support the EAC. The entire EAC-required analysis is estimated to cost between \$300,000 and \$500,000 and approximately \$200,000 to \$250,000 in support is expected to come from EPA. Working with Representative Tom Taylor from District 1, NMED has put together legislative language to support a State appropriation of \$200,000 for EAC work. More news on the progress in securing funds will be disseminated as soon as it is available.

Most of the Task Force Steering Committee's January meeting was devoted to discussion of the relationship and communication between the Task Force and the local governments that are signatories to the EAC. There are many different ways for effective communication to take place between the bodies so that a productive working relationship is created. One option is for each signatory to have representation on the Task Force and/or Task Force Steering Committee. Another option is for NMED to report each Task Force meetings' results in a progress report like this one. A third option is for NMED to make

personal presentations during meetings with the signatories as each EAC milestone approaches. The Task Force and NMED would like the signatories' input as to your preferences with regard to communication and a working relationship.

The final agenda item for the January meeting was a discussion of whether or not a formal voting structure should be put into place within the Task Force Steering Committee. A majority of the Committee felt that consensus should be the goal as much as possible, but a formal voting protocol is not necessary at this time.

For more information, please contact Mary Uhl, NMED Air Quality Bureau Planning and Policy Section Manager, at (505) 955-8086 or mary_uhl@nmenv.state.nm.us.