



Public Involvement Plan

New Mexico Environment Department

Air Quality Bureau, Planning Section

Project: Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision

Planning timeframe: February 2019 – February 2025

Project Planner: Mark Jones

Approval: DocuSigned by:
Brian Polgar
B2027B7CDE124F6...

Brian Polgar, Acting Air Quality Bureau Chief

Date: 2/11/2025

Purpose

The New Mexico Environment Department (“NMED” or “Department”) developed this Public Involvement Plan (“Plan”) to provide public participation opportunities and information that may be needed to participate in the Regional Haze State Implementation Plan Revision (RH SIPr). The RH SIPr is being undertaken pursuant to the federal code of regulations, Part 51, Subpart P, which requires NMED to develop and submit to EPA a revised RH SIPr to protect visibility at federal Class I Areas. The nine Class I Areas in New Mexico are Bandelier Wilderness Area; Bosque del Apache Wilderness Area; Carlsbad Caverns National Park; Gila Wilderness Area; Pecos Wilderness Area; Salt Creek Wilderness Area; San Pedro Parks Wilderness Area; Wheeler Peak Wilderness Area; and White Mountain Wilderness Area.

The Air Quality Bureau (“AQB” or “Bureau”) has developed this Plan to increase transparency regarding the planning and decision-making processes. This Plan integrates information about potentially affected communities and identifies resources needed by the Bureau to successfully incorporate community participation activities into the decision-making process. The Plan identifies the NMED staff and resources needed to accomplish these activities.

In developing this Plan, community participation needs across the State were assessed to ensure appropriate promotion of public outreach, by identifying whether there is a combination of environmental and demographic factors (e.g., low-income communities, minority communities, limited English proficient individuals, linguistically isolated households, etc.) that may impact public participation. This assessment identifies community outreach needs, provides for public access opportunities beyond statutory requirements, and supports the provision of adequate public access to information about the RH SIPr.

The RH SIPr may require public participation throughout different stages of planning and decision-making. The Bureau will follow this Plan, designed to ensure nondiscriminatory access to all applicable public participation opportunities related to policy, regulatory actions and statutory requirements.

Project Overview

All states and local air agencies must either submit a RH SIPr by July 31, 2021 or risk the imposition of a Federal Implementation Plan by EPA. Tribes may also submit a RH SIPr but are not required to do so. NMED is in communication with EPA Region 6 and intends to submit an approvable RH SIPr as soon as possible.

Visibility is affected by many factors, including industrial source emissions, blowing dust, and smoke. The goal of the RH SIPr is to report on the progress of visibility improvement at New Mexico’s 9 Class I Areas, evaluate current programs to determine whether they are adequately protective of visibility, and determine strategies for further reducing haze (and increasing visibility) by controlling anthropogenic sources of haze-related pollutant emissions.

Because haze is regional in nature, significant consultation with other states, tribes and local air agencies is required. Additionally, consultation with federal land managers is required. The Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) is a regional planning organization for the western states that is facilitating and conducting a significant portion of the technical analyses, with the help of member state staff.

Planning for the RH SIPr is a multi-year effort, which began in 2017 with the publication of the revised Regional Haze Rule. Four phases of outreach for the Department’s planning process will include: (1) an introductory phase during which outreach will focus on educating the public about regional haze planning; (2) an analysis sharing phase where public meetings will be held describing possible strategies for achieving visibility goals; (3) a SIP revision phase where draft revisions will be shared with stakeholders for informal comment; and (4) a proposal and hearing phase for formal comment prior to a public hearing on the RH SIPr.

Because Class I Areas are located throughout the State, this project is expected to receive Statewide interest. Thus, outreach will be Statewide as well.

Contacts

The following are the contacts for this action. These contacts will be included in public notices and outreach materials

Project and Public Involvement Plan contacts:

Mark Jones
Lead Analyst, Regional Haze Team
Air Quality Bureau
1800 East 30th Street
Farmington, NM 87401
(505) 629-6626
mark.jones@env.nm.gov

Eric Peters
Control Strategies Manager,
Air Quality Bureau
525 Camino de los Marquez
Santa Fe, New Mexico
87505 (505) 476-4327
eric.peters@env.nm.gov

Cindy Hollenberg
Bureau Chief, Air Quality Bureau,
525 Camino de los Marquez.
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
(505) 629-8732
cindy.hollenberg@env.nm.gov

Brian Polgar
Planning Section Chief, Air Quality
Bureau,
525 Camino de los Marquez
Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87505
505-629-3466
brian.polgar@env.nm.gov

Website:

Outreach materials and notices will include links to the following website: <https://www.env.nm.gov/air-quality/reg-haze/>.

Non-English Language Speaker Assistance and Accommodations: The Bureau will provide Spanish interpretation services upon request at all public meetings, including public hearings, and will also include information in public notices about how persons may request interpretation services, along with accommodations for persons with disabilities. If any person requires an auxiliary aid (e.g., accommodations for persons who are disabled) to participate in any aspect of the Initiative, they may contact one of the project contacts above, preferably 14 days prior to the end of any given public comment period. TDD or TTY users may access the number via the New Mexico Relay Network, 1-800-659-1779 (voice); TTY users, 1-800-659-8331.

Community Description / LEP Analysis

To address potential or existing environmental justice areas, the Bureau completed an initial screening of the potentially affected communities, using the EJSCREEN tool developed by the EPA and the US Census Bureau website as support. This tool helps identify communities with demographic factors which may benefit from a variety of approaches for notification and outreach communication. Statistics are derived from American Community Survey reports (2019 – 2023) via the U.S. Census Bureau Website.

Table 1: Potentially affected communities and their estimated demographics.

Potentially Affected Communities	Total number of households	Per capita income	Persons of Color population (%)	Limited English Speaking Households* (%)	Predominant Language in Linguistically Isolated Households	LEP Individuals† (%)
USA	127,482,865	\$43,289	44.3%	4.2%	Spanish	8.4%
New Mexico	825,021	\$34,823	67.8%	5.2%	Spanish	8.7%

*Data taken from US Census Bureau, Table S1602, Limited English Speaking Households, ACS 5 Year Estimates.

† Limited English Proficient Individuals are those that speak a language other than English at home **and** who speak English “less than very well.”

The results of the American Community Survey Reports indicate that a significantly larger percentage of population (67.8%) in New Mexico are persons of color, compared with the persons of color population (44.3%) of the United States. Households in New Mexico are 5.2% linguistically isolated, which is comparable to the U.S. average (4.2%). Spanish is the predominant language in these households. The per capita income is \$34,823 in New Mexico; which is lower than the average of U.S. per capita income (\$43,289).

The results of this screening suggest that attention should be paid to the linguistic and logistical needs of the low income, minority, linguistically isolated and limited English proficiency populations. Attention should be paid to additional language assistance, especially Spanish, but also Navajo.

Historically, participation by LEP individuals in New Mexico-led rulemaking activities has been through organized environmental groups, such as Diné C.A.R.E. (Citizens Against Ruining our Environment), or Juntos: Our Air, Our Water, that participate in other non-regulatory issues, such as public meetings regarding VW Settlement Funds or issues related to the Four Corners Air Quality Group. Participation by Spanish-only stakeholders has recently been limited to Albuquerque/Bernalillo County. The Bureau arranged for live translation services at the public information meetings on the VW Settlement held in Albuquerque and Las Cruces in 2017. Members of Juntos attended the VW Settlement meeting in Albuquerque, advocating for the purchase of electric school buses. No Spanish-only speakers attended the meeting in Las Cruces. Public notices for the public meetings on the proposed TSP Repeal and Fugitive Dust Rule were provided in Spanish, but we did not receive any requests for translation for those meetings. Despite the historically infrequent participation by LEP individuals in similar proceedings, it is still important for the Bureau to incorporate the linguistic and communication needs of these communities when conducting public outreach and participation activities, to foster and support further participation by these communities.

To help accomplish this, the Bureau will translate all public notices into Spanish. The same materials will also be provided to the various Native American Tribes, Pueblos and Nations for distribution. Should

additional Spanish or Navajo translation services be requested, the following are average costs associated with various services:

- Costs associated with translation: \$1,000;
- Costs associated with providing a language interpreter: \$2,500 – 5,000, depending on the number and length of the proceeding(s) and the language assistance requested;
- Costs for a court reporter: \$2,000.

The Bureau strives to make public participation efforts as inclusive as possible within budget and time limitations. In addition, interpretation services will be made available upon request to the appropriate contact person listed in the “Contacts” section of this Plan.

The RH SIPr is very important to the State, local governments, and industry since submitting the required approvable SIPr avoids the imposition of a Federal Implementation Plan. The RH SIPr is important to the Department to not only meet federal standards, but also to carry out its mission of protecting the air quality for the State’s citizens. Neighborhood citizens and environmental organizations should view this planning effort as important for protecting their health as well as for protecting the scenic vistas at New Mexico’s Class I Areas. Protecting visibility at Class I Areas is of prime importance to the Federal Land Managers (FLMs).

Details of Outreach Activities

Based on the demographics outlined above, the history of public involvement for related projects, and projected impacts to potentially affected communities, the Bureau will provide important documents and public notices in Spanish as well as English, and will also provide documents to Native American Tribes, Pueblos and Nations for distribution as they deem appropriate. All notices will include information on how to request additional materials in another language or how to request other communication assistance through NMED. Due to the interstate nature of this project NMED will work with the WRAP to conduct outreach, coordination, and consultation to FLMs, EPA, Native American Tribes, and other affected states. WRAP has developed a guidance document, “[WRAP Communication Framework for Regional Haze Planning,](#)” to help states and other agencies work together.

The following table offers information on how the public will be invited to participate in this project. Note that dates may be approximate. Notices will contain final dates, and specific locations and times.

Table 2: Timeline of public involvement opportunities.

Date(s)	Activity	Venue / Location	Time	Language service
April 2019	Email announcement of web page and project	AQB Listserv – Regional Haze list and Proposed Regulations list; Native American Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos.	n/a	English and Spanish; notices will include a statement regarding availability of Spanish or Navajo interpretation services
May 2019	Web page published: 2021 Regional Haze Planning	https://www.env.nm.gov/air-quality/reg-haze	Updated monthly	English, Spanish, and Vietnamese
May 2019 – September 2021	EPA, Interstate and FLM Consultations	TEAMS meetings and calls	n/a	

Date(s)	Activity	Venue / Location	Time	Language service
October 2, 2019	Introductory Webinar: Regional Haze - 2021 State Implementation Plan Revision SIPr	Webex	10 a.m. – noon	English; Spanish and Navajo interpretation upon request
August 25, 2020	Webinar: Stakeholder Outreach Webinar #2 (Progress update and solicit feedback from stakeholders)	Webex	10 a.m. – noon	English; Spanish and Navajo interpretation upon request
February 2021 – April 2021	WRAP Results meetings on Regional Modeling	Webex - https://www.wrapair2.org/	TBD	TBD
February 23, 2023	Regional Haze Stakeholder Re-engagement Series (Part 1)	Webex		English; Spanish and Navajo interpretation upon request
March 30, 2023	Regional Haze Stakeholder Re-engagement Series (Part 2)	Webex		English; Spanish and Navajo interpretation upon request
April 27, 2023	Regional Haze Stakeholder Re-engagement Series (Part 3)	Webex		English; Spanish and Navajo interpretation upon request
May 20, 2024	Draft NMED Proposal ready for informal comment & formal FLM Consultations	Listserv, website	n/a	English; Spanish and Navajo interpretation upon request
June 6, 2024	Letter to Tribal Environmental Leaders notifying them of upcoming Initial Proposal and offering communications assistance	Letter to Tribal Environmental Leaders	n/a	English; Spanish and Navajo interpretation upon request
June 18, 2024	Tribal Informational Webinar	Webex	10:30am – 12:00pm	English; Spanish and Navajo interpretation upon request
June 20, 2024	Tribal Informational Webinar	Webex	1:30pm – 3:00pm	English; Spanish and Navajo interpretation upon request
August 26, 2024	Distribution of Draft SIP and Rule for Informal Public Comment	Website, Listserv	n/a	English; Spanish and Navajo interpretation upon request
September 9, 2024	Public Informational Webinar	Webex	5:30pm – 7:30pm	English; Spanish and Navajo interpretation upon request
September 10, 2024	Public Informational Webinar	Webex	10:00am – 12:00pm	English; Spanish and Navajo interpretation upon request

Date(s)	Activity	Venue / Location	Time	Language service
September 11, 2024	Petition and Statement of Reasons submitted to EIB	https://www.env.nm.gov/environmental-improvement/main-2/	n/a	English; Spanish and Navajo interpretation upon request
September 27, 2024	EIB meeting to consider hearing request	Hybrid – Marquez Building and Webex)	TBD	English and Spanish
December 7, November 29, and December 3, 2024	Publication of hearing postponement in local newspapers (English & Spanish)	Albuquerque Journal, Farmington Tri-City Record (Daily Times), Carlsbad Current-Argus	n/a	English and Spanish
December 10, 2024	Publication of hearing postponement in NM Register	NM Register	n/a	English and Spanish
February 9 - 11, 2025	Publication of notice of rescheduled hearing in local news- papers (English & Spanish)	Albuquerque Journal, Farmington Tri-City Record (Daily Times), Carlsbad Current-Argus	n/a	English and Spanish
February 11, 2025	Publication of notice of rescheduled hearing in NM Register	NM Register	n/a	English and Spanish
February 11, 2025	Release of Revised Petition SIPr	Regional Haze Website, EIB Docket for 24-49	n/a	English; Spanish and Navajo interpretation upon request
February 11, 2025	Email announcements for public hearing	AQB Listserv	n/a	English; Spanish and Navajo interpretation upon request
April 28-30, 2025	Public Hearing	Hybrid – TBD and Webex	TBD	English; Spanish and Navajo interpretation upon request

Public notices and outreach materials will inform the public that they can receive email updates through NMED’s listserv by signing up at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/NMED/subscriber/new>, then choosing which topics they are most interested in. This project will periodically send updates to the AQB *Regulatory and SIP Announcements* and *Regional Haze* listservs.

The following web sites provide access to the official notices electronically, per the publication outlets described above:

Albuquerque Journal

<http://legals.abqjournal.com/>

Carlsbad Current-Argus (El Rito)

<https://www.currentargus.com/submit-a-legal-notice/>

Farmington Tri-City Record (Daily Times)

<https://www.tricityrecordnm.com/classifieds/>

There are many land grants within the state. Notices to land grants will be sent to the New Mexico Land Grant Council contact:

NM Land Grant Council
1829 Sigma Chi Rd SE
Albuquerque NM 87106
nmlandgrantcouncil@unm.edu

The draft SIP was also sent to the Pueblos, Nations, and Tribes listed below via email, which the Department maintains an active list for:

- Pueblo of Acoma
- Pueblo of Cochiti
- Pueblo of Isleta
- Pueblo of Jemez
- Pueblo of Laguna
- Pueblo of Nambe
- Pueblo of Ohkay Owingeh
- Pueblo of Picuris
- Pueblo of Pojoaque
- Pueblo of San Felipe
- Pueblo of San Ildefonso
- Pueblo of Sandia
- Pueblo of Santa Ana
- Pueblo of Santa Clara
- Pueblo of Santo Domingo
- Pueblo of Taos
- Pueblo of Tesuque
- Pueblo of Zia
- Pueblo of Zuni
- Pueblo of Ysleta Del Sur
- Navajo Nation
- Navajo Council
- Jicarilla Apache Nation
- Mescalero Apache Tribe
- Fort Sill Apache Tribe
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Document Repositories

The following is a list of locations where copies of relevant documents will be available to the community. Public notices and outreach materials will inform the public of these locations, as appropriate.

NMED District I Field Offices

Albuquerque

121 Tijeras Ave. NE STE 1000
Albuquerque, NM 87102-3400
Phone (505) 222-9500

Milan

708 Uranium Ave.
Milan, NM 87021
Phone (505) 209-4042

Tucumcari

113 W. Center
Tucumcari, NM 88401
Phone (575) 461-1671

Clovis Field Office

100 E. Manana, Unit 3
Clovis, NM 88101
Phone (575) 762-3728

Los Lunas

475 Courthouse Rd SE Suite B
Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031
Phone (505)841-5280

NMED District II Field Offices

Santa Fe

2540 Camino Edward Ortiz
Santa Fe, NM 87507
Phone (505) 827-1840

Gallup Field Office

1720 East Aztec Ave
Gallup, NM 87301
Phone (505) 470-2473

Rio Rancho

4359 Jager Drive NE, Suite B
Rio Rancho, NM 87144
Phone (505) 771-5980

Española

912 N. Railroad Ave, Espanola, NM,
87532
Phone (505) 753-7256

Farmington

1800 East 30th St, Suite B
Farmington, NM 87401
Phone (505) 566-9741

Las Vegas

2538 Ridgerunner Road
Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701
Phone (505) 454-2801

Raton

1277A South Second Street
Raton, NM 87740
Phone (575) 445-3621

Taos

145 Roy Road, Suite B
Taos, NM 87571
Phone (575) 758-8808

NMED District III Field Offices

Las Cruces

2301 Entrada del Sol
Las Cruces, NM 88001
Phone (575) 288-2050

Alamogordo

811 E. First St, Suite D
Alamogordo, NM 88310
Phone (575) 437-7115

Carlsbad

406 N. Guadalupe, Suite C
Carlsbad, NM 88220
Phone (575) 885-9023

Hobbs

2120 N Alto
Hobbs, NM 88240
Phone (575) 397-6910

Roswell

1914 W. Second
Roswell, NM 88201
Phone (575) 624-6046

Ruidoso

1216 E. Mechem, Building 2
Ruidoso, NM 88345
Phone (575) 258-3272

Silver City

3082 32nd St Bypass Road, Suite D
Silver City, NM 88061
Phone (575) 388-1934

Electronic copies will be available at the following link, which will be included in public notices and outreach materials as appropriate: <https://www.env.nm.gov/air-quality/reg-haze/>.