



GARY E. JOHNSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Office of the Secretary
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110
Telephone (505) 827-2855
Fax (505) 827-2836



PETER MAGGIORE
SECRETARY

PAUL R. RITZMA
DEPUTY SECRETARY

January 22, 2002
For Immediate Release

Contact: Glenn Saums, NMED (505) 827-2981
Contact: Cathy Tyson, NMED PIO (505) 827-0314

**State Environment Department Seeks Public Comment on
Proposed Revisions to the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan**

(Santa Fe, NM) -- The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), is inviting the public to attend any of four meetings around the state, beginning February 4, to comment on revisions to a plan which is designed to restore and maintain the health of the states lakes and streams, and their tributaries.

The Statewide Water Quality Management Plan is a tool for meeting the long-range goals of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, also known as the Clean Water Act. These goals include "restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nations waters." The Plan establishes a process that assures continuous planning for and implementation of pollution control measures.

The proposed revisions to the Plan will retire outdated work tasks and will comprehensively reformat and update the remaining work tasks.

A series of meetings will be held to present a summary of the proposed revisions and to field questions from the public. Meetings will be held as follows:

February 4, 2002: **Las Cruces**, Water Resources Research Institute Conference Room, NMSU Campus – Stucky Hall (S. Espina St.), 6:30-9:00 p. m.

-more-

February 5, 2002: **Roswell**, Eastern New Mexico University Ranch Campus, Campus Union Building, Multi-purpose Room 110, 48 University Blvd, 6:30-9:00 p. m.

February 6, 2002: **Santa Fe**, New Mexico Environment Department, Harold Runnels Bldg. Auditorium, 6:30-9:00 p. m.

February 7, 2002: **Farmington**, Farmington Civic Center, Exhibition Hall, 6:30-9:00 p. m.

The 60-day comment period on the Plan begins January 18, at 8:00 a.m. and ends March 19, at 5:00 p.m. mountain time. Formal comments for inclusion in the public record should be submitted to the NMED in writing at the meetings or to the address below (if possible, please submit an electronic copy as well). Following consideration of and revisions based on public comment, the NMED will approach the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission at its regular monthly meeting tentatively set for April 9, 2002 to request final review and approval of the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan, or to schedule a formal public hearing.

For more information, contact Glenn Saums, in the NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau, at P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502, or by calling (505) 827-2827, or e-mail: glenn_saums@nmenv.state.nm.us. The draft WQMP is available upon request and will be posted on the Surface Water Quality Bureau's website at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/swqb.html>.

For more information, contact Glenn Saums, Point Source Regulation Section Program Manager, NMED at (505)827-2981, or Cathy Tyson, PIO, NMED at (505)827-2855.

###