From: Brinegar, Hilary

To: Homer, Pamela, NMENV

Cc: Brinegar, Hilary; Maitland, Julie

Subject: WQMP-CPP request for time extension

Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2011 12:59:41 PM

Attachments: WQMP-CPP Extension Request from NMDA 16Feb2011.pdf

Ms. Homer,

Please see the attached letter for your consideration regarding the NM Water Quality Management Plan / Continuing Planning Process Comprehensive Update.

I was sorry to have missed the Las Cruces public meeting, as I was out due to illness last week. Dr. Fernando Cadena, who did attend, was able to give me a little information on the meeting. If you have any materials or information that was provided, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks very much,

Hilary

Hilary R. Brinegar
Water and Natural Resource Policy Specialist
New Mexico Department of Agriculture
MSC APR
PO Box 30005
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003-8005
Phone (575) 646-2642
Fax (575) 646-1540
hbrinegar@nmda.nmsu.edu



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR/SECRETARY MSC 3189, Box 30005 Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003-8005 Telephone (575) 646-3007

February 16, 2011

Ms. Pam Homer SPRT Team Leader New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau PO Box 5469 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Ms. Homer:

New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) respectfully requests a time extension for the submission of public comments on the Water Quality Management Plan and Continuing Planning Process Comprehensive Update (WQMP-CPP). Considering the importance of these two documents for water quality management in New Mexico, as well as the Hydrology Protocol (HP) final draft, NMDA believes there is not sufficient time allowed for a comprehensive analysis by affected stakeholders and the public.

The draft HP went through a public process in 2009; NMDA submitted comments regarding this on September 22, 2009, and appreciates the response to comments by New Mexico Environment Department staff, which was made available in January 2011. The HP is now included as Appendix 1 in the WQMP-CPP. Considering the use of the HP in determining New Mexico's water quality standards, providing a time extension on comments to the WQMP-CPP would also allow for thorough analysis on the newly announced HP.

NMDA appreciates the consideration of this request. Please contact Ms. Julie Maitland at <u>imaitland@nmda.nmsu.edu</u> with any questions.

Sincerely,

Tom Bagwell

Interim Director/Secretary

rom f Bazwell

TB/JM/hb