

## NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

### Mission:

Promote a safe, clean, and productive environment throughout the state (Environment Act by the 40<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Laws of 1991, Chapter 25, enacted July 1, 1991).

### Goals

- Protect the environment and public health using sound science and responsible regulation while balancing economic development and employment growth
- Implement a comprehensive program of outreach, permitting, inspection, and enforcement
- Articulate Department goals, standards, and expectations in a professional manner so that employees and the public can set priorities and make informed decisions
- Promote environmental awareness through the practice of open and direct communications and sound decision-making by carrying out the mandates and initiatives of the Department in a fair, objective, and consistent manner

### General Objectives

- Keep open communications with interested parties: legislators, regulated entities, and the public; Maintain a good and close relationship with the legislature; Interact with cities, counties, Tribes, IHS, EPA, CDC, FDA, NRC, USFS, BLM, DOL, DOD and DOE.
- Coordinate activities with other Departments, especially Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources, Health Department, and Economic Development
- Evaluate rules and regulations in surrounding states: benefit from lessons learned and best practices; improve our ability to protect the environment.
- Identify any deficiencies in existing rules and regulations, and seek modifications
  - Amend and improve rules and regulations when warranted
  - Propose legislation if required
- Regarding enforcement, follow the law and the processes the law sets forth.

### Departmental Objectives

- Deliberate on scientific data and facts, not opinion
- Base decisions on sound science
- Establish early dialogue between regulators and those regulated
- Encourage the agency to act as facilitators, not antagonists
- Establish expectations early on to avoid conflicts later in the process
- Establish a customer satisfaction survey to obtain stakeholder input and feedback
- Minimize the prospects of litigation
- Improve efficiency in the permitting process
- Implement internet-based permitting and filing
- Treat all applicants equally and with respect
- Articulate rules and regulations clearly
- Enforce rules and regulations objectively and with consistency and predictability
- Avoid real or apparent conflicts of interest
- Maintain the highest possible ethical standards
- Establish a better appreciation of the costs of regulations to those individuals, businesses and entities being regulated
- Balance regulatory policy with economic development
- Improve performance measures that track the Department's record in protecting environmental health, water and waste water management
- Provide a healthful and safe working environment for NMED employees and contractors
- Instill a team approach and improve employee morale