

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Air Quality Bureau
2048 Galisteo
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Telephone (505) 827-1494
Fax (505) 827-1523
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



RON CURRY
Secretary

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
Deputy Secretary

June 15, 2005

Mr. Carl Edlund (6PD)
Multimedia Planning and Permitting Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Dear Mr. Edlund,

I am pleased to submit the enclosed June 2005 Progress Report for the San Juan County, New Mexico Early Action Compact (EAC) for ozone. This report documents progress achieved with the EAC and other related work in San Juan County from December 2004 through June 2005. The report provides details about public outreach since December 2004, a new voluntary program for emissions reductions, related efforts, and next steps in this important project.

The State of New Mexico looks forward to your approval of this submittal and our continued work to protect air quality in San Juan County. If you have any questions about the enclosed report, please contact Andy Berger of my staff at (505) 955-8034.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. a Uhl".

Mary Uhl
Air Quality Bureau Acting Chief

Enclosure

cc: Tom Diggs, EPA, Region 6 (6PD-L)
Carrie Paige, EPA, Region 6 (6PD-L)

San Juan County, New Mexico Early Action Compact Progress Report June 2005

Overview

This document reports on progress made between December 2004 and June 2005 with implementation of the San Juan County Clean Air Action Plan and related projects. The Clean Air Action Plan is the main deliverable from the Early Action Compact (EAC) for ozone. The signatories to the EAC, including the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), are committed to ensuring that northwestern New Mexico remains in attainment of the 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard. The Clean Air Action Plan includes a public outreach campaign and a voluntary program for emissions controls, both of which are described below.

State Implementation Plan Revision

The New Mexico Environment Department successfully submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision, including the Clean Air Action Plan, by the end of 2004. The response from EPA to date has been to publish on May 4, 2005 a Federal Register notice indicating EPA's intent to approve the New Mexico SIP Revision. The comment period for EPA's proposed approval closed on June 3, 2005. On June 7, 2005, NMED appeared again before the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board to provide answers and explanation for any outstanding questions or concerns held by Board members about the SIP Revision. The presentation was successful and NMED anticipates EPA's full approval of the SIP Revision.

Public Outreach Since December 2004

Public outreach in San Juan County is an ongoing process that includes the websites, public service announcements and educational outreach materials for children.

Materials related to the Clean Air Action Plan and the SIP Revision have been posted to the websites as the materials become available. The websites are: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/projects/Ozone.html> and <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/ozonetf/index.html>

Public service announcements will be issued during the summer months, beginning in 2005.

The educational outreach materials are the Tripper, Bear and the Air ozone activity book and poster for elementary school students. A kids' webpage is also available: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/kids/index.html>.

Voluntary Program

The voluntary program for emissions controls, Voluntary Innovative Strategies for Today's Air Standards (VISTAS), recognizes companies and organizations for voluntarily reducing emissions of ozone precursors and greenhouse gases in northwestern New Mexico, including San Juan County. To participate, companies each sign a voluntary agreement and then submit an implementation plan and annual reports to NMED. Participating companies are recognized for their reductions. Still in its initial stages, the program so far has one participating company. The program website is available at: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/projects/SJV/index.html>. Future plans include expanding and promoting the VISTAS program to encourage more participation.

Related Projects

The New Mexico Environment Department, in partnership with EPA, conducted baseline monitoring for volatile organic compounds in San Juan County during the summer of 2004. Monitoring took place at Bloomfield and Navajo Lake. EPA visited NMED on June 8, 2005 to present and discuss results of the monitoring. Plans are underway for a public presentation of the monitoring results in San Juan County in the future.

The New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) in collaboration with University of New Mexico conducted a study on the association between ground-level ozone and emergency department and urgent care visits for asthma that occurred from 2000 through 2003 in the Farmington, New Mexico area. NMDOH epidemiologists will present the results of the study at a community meeting in Farmington in September 2005.

Next Steps

One of NMED's goals is to acquire funding to enable a strengthening of the VISTAS program to form it into a more well-known and quantifiable program. To this end, NMED has submitted a funding proposal to EPA Region 6.

NMED is also working with EPA's Natural Gas STAR program to bring a Natural Gas Technology Transfer workshop to San Juan County in early 2006. The workshop will provide an exchange of information between oil and gas companies about what is being done and what is possible to voluntarily reduce ozone precursor and greenhouse gas emissions.

Other future plans include the public meetings and presentations mentioned under Related Projects.