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# *NM-TX-CHIH REGIONAL WORKGROUP*

*Norma L. Duran, Ph.D.*

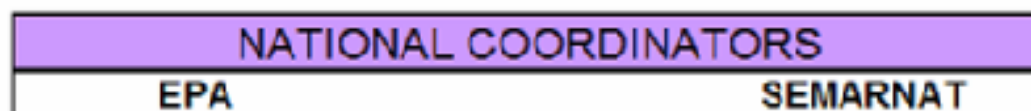
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*El Paso Border Office*

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# NEW MEXICO-TEXAS-CHIHUAHUA REGIONAL WORK GROUP



## NM-TX-CHIH RWG CO-CHAIRS

Sam Coleman-US FED.  
Ron Curry-US STATE  
Ing. José C. Treviño -MEX FED.  
Lic. Victor Valencia de los Santos -MEX ST.

## PROGRAM PARTNERS

Ralph Marquez-US STATE  
Arturo Senclair-US TRIBAL

## STAFF SUPPORT

Gedi Cibas-NMED  
Diana Borja-TCEQ  
Norma Duran-EPA (El Paso Border Office)  
Maria Sisneros-EPA (El Paso Border Office)

## BECC/COCEF

Logistic Support-Mynham  
Cruz

## TASK FORCE CO-LEADERS

### WATER

Lorenzo Arriaga-US  
Dr. René Franco B.-MEX

### WASTE/LAND

Jorge Castillo-US  
René Franco Ruiz-MEX

### JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE/AIR GROUP

Gustavo Córdova-Mex  
Bob Currey-US

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Dr. Enrique Suárez-MEX  
Dr. John Haynes-US

### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Erin Ward-US  
Alma L. Figueroa-MEX

### COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Archie Clouse-US  
Lilia A. Gonzalez & José  
Mario Sánchez-MEX

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Dennis Pepe-US  
Maria del Rosario Diaz  
Arellano & Efrén  
Matamoros-MEX

### CHIH/NM (WEST)

Alyson Siwik-US Celso  
Jaques-MEX

### CH/TX (EAST)

Thomas F. Nance-US  
Jorge Montoya-Mex

# *Tri-State RWG Co-Chairs*

- **Sam Coleman**, Director, Superfund Division, U.S. EPA,
- **José Treviño**, Delegado, Secretaria de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, SEMARNAT
- **Ron Curry**, Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department, NMED
- **Lic. Victor Valencia de Los Santos**, Secretario, Secretaría de Desarrollo Urbano y Ecología, SEDUE
- **Ralph Marquez**, Commissioner, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, TCEQ

# *Tri-State Task Forces and Co-Leaders*

- Water Task Force - Dr. Rene Franco Barreno & Lorenzo Arriaga
- Air Task Force - Gustavo Cordova and Bob Currey
- Soil Task Force - Rene Franco Ruiz and Jorge Castillo
- **Environmental Health Task Force - Enrique Suarez and John F. Haynes (Paso del Norte Region)**
- Emergency Response Task Force – Maria del Rosario Diaz and Dennis Pepe
- Enforcement Task Force - Jose Mario Sanchez and Archie Clouse
- Environmental Education Task Force – Alma Leticia Figueroa and Erin Ward
- **West – Chihuahua/New Mexico Task Force - Alyson Siwik and Celso Jaquez (Palomas/Columbus)**
- **East – Chihuahua/Texas Task Force – Thomas F. Nance and Jorge Montoya (Ojinaga/Presidio)**



# *Goal #4 Improve Environmental Health: Tri-State RWG Priorities*

- **Objective 1: AIR**

- *By 2006, evaluate various measures of respiratory health in children that might be tracked to assess changes that may result from actions to improve air quality in border communities*
  - Complete statistics and studies on child asthma
  - Demonstrate linkages between environmental quality and health conditions
  - Start a database and register the most common illnesses in the border and gather data in a compatible fashion on both sides of the border for ease of sharing information
  - Conduct surveys to study illnesses related to toxics in the air and research the general impact of air quality on the community
  - Document respiratory health improvements in colonias and/or rural areas as a result of implementation of road paving projects and/or solid waste infrastructure
  - Implement measures to reduce burning of trash and work with the Air Task Force to improve air quality monitoring data
  - Work to standardize diagnosis and treatment of patients on both sides of the border
  - Develop binational programs for lead education that will include environmental exposure routes

# 2004-2005 Projects/Activities

## Paso del Norte Region

- **Objective 1: AIR**

- **Funded: Binaltional Tracking Network for Environmentally Related Diseases in the Paso del Norte Region (PAHO, TexasTech, FEMAP, IMSS)**
  - *Phase I: Considers Respiratory-based diseases. This project will initiate a tracking network to provide comprehensive data of diseases and their relationship to environmental conditions it is designed to provide common criteria and methodology for the U.S. / Mexico border region on disease tracking and data reporting (Contact: Dr. Haynes)*
- **Will be Funded: Effects of Diesel Exposure and Traffic Related Air Pollution on Asthmatic Children in Ciudad Juarez (Emory Univ.)**
  - *development of an exposure model and its validation using personal sampling in sub samples of participating children, and the analysis of the particulate composition and the biological sampling to measure markers of inflammation and oxidative stress.*

# 2004-2005 Projects/Activities

## Rural Task Force

- **Objective 1: AIR**

- **Funded:** Develop a “Lower Mimbres Valley Air Quality Plan” for the Columbus, New Mexico and Palomas, Chihuahua, border region that reduces air pollution due to burning of trash
  - *Develop English and Spanish educational materials to inform the residents of the new NM air quality regulations concerning no burning trash in open containers*
- **Proposed Idea by WPF:** Conduct a pilot project to showcase how BECC/NADB funding process can be facilitated to rural communities that lack the technical expertise for the building of basic infrastructure (landfill and/or road paving projects)
- **Planning Phase:** Air Quality Monitoring (PM10) to demonstrate a linkage between airborne dust pollution problems and the high incidence of respiratory disease found in Columbus/ Palomas



# *Goal #4 Improve Environmental Health: Tri-State RWG Priorities*

- **Objective 2: WATER**

- *By 2006, evaluate various measures of gastrointestinal illness that might be tracked to assess changes that may result from actions to improve water quality in border communities*
  - Supplement existing databases that will help assist local health agencies to evaluate various measures of gastrointestinal illness;
  - Strengthen monitoring program to track incidence of gastrointestinal illnesses; work with the Water Task Force on this effort
  - Evaluate incidence of gastrointestinal diseases before implementing projects
  - Assess gastrointestinal disease due to poor water quality in the Presidio/Ojinaga region
  - Assess the use of water from wells to ascertain potential health risk in colonias and rural areas

# *2004-2005 Projects/Activities*

## *Paso del Norte Region*

- **Objective 2: WATER**

- **Funded: Evaluation of Infrastructure on Rio Grande River Water Quality**
  - *Determine the environmental and health impacts along the Rio Grande from various types of potable water, wastewater, and water conservation projects that are aimed at safeguarding human health, improving river water quality, and conserving water*
- **Proposed: Phase II of the Binational Tracking Network for Environmentally Related Diseases; gastrointestinal disease data and relate it to water quality**
- **Planning Phase: Working with the Water Task Force to obtain water quality data and relate the data to public health**
- **Planning Phase: Several Wastewater Treatment Plants have been recommended to provide needed infrastructure**

# 2004-2005 Projects/Activities

## Rural Task Force

- **Objective 2: WATER**

- **Funded: Prevention of Groundwater Contamination from Septic Tank Sources in the Border Region of New Mexico-Chihuahua**

- *Develop a Septic User's Guide, in both English and Spanish, as well as education workshops, to educating septic tank owners on the proper maintenance of their tanks to prevent contamination of groundwater*

- **Funded: Feasibility Study of Constructed & Natural Wetlands for Wastewater Treatment and Wildlife Habitat (County of Luna)**

- *Conduct a feasibility study for the purpose of building a Constructed Wetlands for Wastewater Treatment and Wildlife Habitat to eliminate and prevent groundwater contamination from septic tanks on multiple ½ acre lots by diverting the waste products to a common treatment area*

- **Planning Phase: Improve water quality in the Presidio/Ojinaga region**

# *Goal #4 Improve Environmental Health: Tri-State RWG Priorities*

- **Objective 3: PESTICIDES**

- *By 2006, an assessment and pilot program will be completed that explores the feasibility of harmonizing a binational system for reporting acute pesticide poisonings.*
  - Develop adequate training on pesticide exposure and diagnosis for doctors, nurses, and other health professionals including promotoras
- *By 2004, reduce pesticide exposure by training 36,000 farmworkers on pesticide risks and safe handling, including ways to minimize exposure for families and children.*
  - Identify toxic substances in urban and rural populations along the border region
  - Assess the potential for pesticide exposures in children living in colonias and Rural areas and farm workers
  - Develop education programs for farm workers; Coordinate with Education Task Force to accomplish this objective



# *2004-2005 Projects*

## *(Environmental Education Task Force)*

- **Objective 3: PESTICIDES**
  - **Funded: Pesticide Safety Education Project for Farm Workers**
    - *Targeting Farm Worker Population Along the New Mexico-Mexico Border*  
*Regionutilization of existing curricula developed by the Paso del Norte Health Foundation to farm workers and their families on pesticide training.*

# *Goal #4 Improve Environmental Health: Tri-State RWG Priorities*

- **Objective 4: CAPACITY BUILDING**

- *By 2006, establish a “distance-learning”, post-graduate degree program to support advanced training on environmental health in conjunction with Pan American Health Organization regional offices and academic institutions.*
- *By 2004, extend current efforts in binational environmental health training for 100 health care providers each for pesticides and water.*
  - Build capacity for Program Partners to gather data in a compatible fashion on both sides of the border for ease of sharing information
  - Increase binational coordination in diagnosis and treatment of patients
  - Develop education programs for farm workers; Coordinate with Education Task Force to accomplish this objective
  - Establish associations through MOUs with other organizations and enhance collaboration with other Task Forces and Border Wide Groups

# *2004-2005 Projects*

- **Objective 4: CAPACITY BUILDING**
  - Proposed Project: Help build capacity for Mexican partners of the Binational Tracking Network of Environmentally Related Disease through computer equipment and training for data entry and database management.
  - Proposed Project: Help train health professionals and promotoras on both sides of the border for standardization of diagnosis and treatment of patients



# *FOUR-STATE REGIONAL WORKGROUP*

*(Texas-Coahuila-Nuevo Leon-Tamaulipas)*

*Gina Weber*

*USEPA, Region 6*

*Dallas, Texas*



# *Four-State Regional Workgroup Co-Chairs*

- **Miguel Flores**, Director, Water Division, U.S. EPA,
- **Dr. Alfonso Martinez**, Delegado, Secretaria de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, SEMARNAT
- **Lic. Sergio Aviles de la Garza**, Director General, Instituto Coahuilense de Ecologia
- **Ralph Marquez**, Commissioner, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, TCEQ

# *Four-State RWG Environmental Health Task Force*

- **Co-Leaders**
  - Norma Yolanda Mota Palomino – Universidad Autonoma de Coahuila
  - Hector Gonzalez – Public Works City of Eagle Pass
- **Major Sister Cities**
  - Del Rio/Ciudad Acuna
  - Eagle Pass/Piedras Negras
  - Laredo/Nuevo Laredo
  - McAllen/Reynosa
  - Brownsville/Matamoros

# *Goal #4 Improve Environmental Health: Four-State RWG Priorities*

- **Objective 1: AIR**

- *By 2006, evaluate various measures of respiratory health in children that might be tracked to assess changes that may result from actions to improve air quality in border communities*
  - Disseminate air monitoring information to the public about air quality on a daily basis. Verify data from known emission sites.
  - Promote vehicle emission inspections and periodic supervision to centers of vehicle inspection
  - Demonstrate linkages between environmental quality and health conditions
  - Develop binational programs for lead education that will include environmental exposure routes

# *Goal #4 Improve Environmental Health: Four-State Priorities*

- **Objective 2: WATER**

- *By 2006, evaluate various measures of gastrointestinal illness that might be tracked to assess changes that may result from actions to improve water quality in border communities*
  - Supplement existing databases that will help assist local health agencies to evaluate various measures of gastrointestinal illness;
  - Strengthen monitoring program to track incidence of gastrointestinal illnesses work with the Water Task Force on this effort



# 2004-2005 Projects/Activities

- **Objective 2: WATER**

- **Funded: Evaluation of Infrastructure on Rio Grande River Water Quality**

- *Determine the environmental and health impacts along the Rio Grande from various types of potable water, wastewater, and water conservation projects that are aimed at safeguarding human health, improving river water quality, and conserving water*

# *Goal #4 Improve Environmental Health: Four-State RWG Priorities*

- **Objective 3: PESTICIDES**

- *By 2006, an assessment and pilot program will be completed that explores the feasibility of harmonizing a binational system for reporting acute pesticide poisonings.*
  - Promote technology transfer of best management practices to reduce pesticide exposures, cross training and information sharing
  - Develop adequate training on pesticide exposure and diagnosis for doctors, nurses, and other health professionals including promotoras
- *By 2004, reduce pesticide exposure by training 36,000 farmworkers on pesticide risks and safe handling, including ways to minimize exposure for families and children.*
  - Promote scientific research, including epidemiological, for prevention of disease
  - Measure and reduce childhood exposure to pesticides in the TX-MX Border Region
  - Assess the potential for pesticide exposures in children living in colonias and Rural areas and farm workers
  - Develop education programs for farm workers; Coordinate with Education Task Force to accomplish this objective

# 2004-2005 Projects

- **Objective 3: PESTICIDES**

- **Funded: Measure & Reduce Childhood Exposure to Pesticides in the TX/MX Border Region**

- *Measure pesticide exposure in urine of 20 children ages 6-48 months, determine if children with an under expressing form of Paraoxonase-1, empowers families in rural community to take actions reducing exposure & improving children's health.*

- **Funded: Environmental Health Prevention & Intervention**

- *Determine the extent of environmental health risks, conduct an education/promotion as well as disease detection intervention that will concentrate on lead exposure, water and air contamination reduction, chemical and pesticide exposure (Dr. Gonzalez is the contact)*

# *Goal #4 Improve Environmental Health: Four-State RWG Priorities*

- **Objective 4: CAPACITY BUILDING**

- *By 2006, establish a “distance-learning”, post-graduate degree program to support advanced training on environmental health in conjunction with Pan American Health Organization regional offices and academic institutions.*
- *By 2004, extend current efforts in binational environmental health training for 100 health care providers each for pesticides and water.*
  - Establish associations through MOUs with other organizations and enhance collaboration with other Task Forces and Border Wide Groups
  - Preparation and training on environmental hazards
  - Support advance training on environmental health in conjunction with PAHO regional offices and academic institutions
  - Assist in creation of environmental university programs at the postgraduate level
  - Promote Environmental Education
  - Partner with other health care provider son environmental health as well as other Task Forces



# *COMMON GROUND*

- Asthma: All RWGs
- Pesticide Exposure: All RWGs
- Data gathering; reporting; tracking: All RWGs
- Lead Poisoning: CA/Baja CA; Tri-State; Four-State
- Opportunities to partner with WPF and other Task Forces on projects to show linkage between environmental quality and health condition improvements