

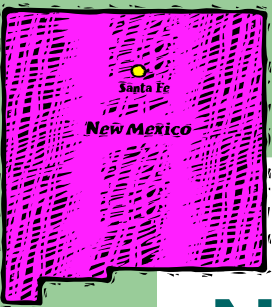
Environmental Justice in New Mexico

Derrith Watchman-Moore, Deputy Secretary, New Mexico
Environment Department

Presentation for 2004 STAPPA/ALAPCO Communicating
Air Quality and Communities in Motion Meeting

Albuquerque, NM
December 1, 2004





New Mexico Definition of EJ

“The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, income or educational level with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Environmental justice seeks to ensure that no community is forced to shoulder a disproportionate burden of the negative human health, environmental impacts and environmental risks of pollution or other environmental hazards.”



EJ Issues in New Mexico

- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Solid Waste
- Sacred Lands
- Farm worker health and safety
- Hazardous Waste
- Border Issues
- Colonias
- Indoor air quality
- Public Participation



EJ Planning Committee for Listening Sessions

- Comprised of NMED, industry, tribal and local government, grassroots organizations, citizens
- Planned 4 listening sessions around the state
- Identified key constituents and issues for each meeting

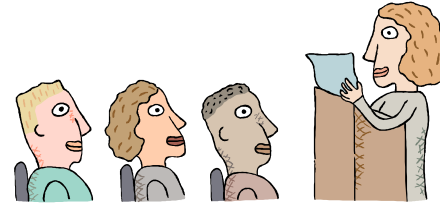


New Mexico Regional EJ Listening Sessions



- Southwest and the border: Deming, NM—June 30, 2004
- Tribal and Pueblo: Acoma, NM—July 21, 2004
- Northeast: Las Vegas, NM—July 27, 2004
- State-wide: Albuquerque, NM—September 16-17, 2004





Format of Listening Sessions

- Panels comprised of local residents and representatives of local organizations addressing regional issues
- Panelists describe concerns and provide recommendations to NMED and other state and local agencies
- Tribal, state and local officials were “listeners”
- Open microphone after each panel discussion
- Recommendations could be submitted in writing

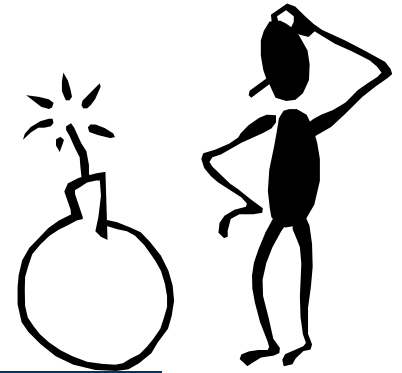


Session Coordination

- Consultant to NMED for technical assistance
- Community liaisons for outreach
- Facilitator
- Public notice
- Video
- Translators
- “Role of Listeners” Guide
- Panelists
- Summary Reports



Examples of Panel Topics



- History of Economic and EJ movement in the US and NM
- Agriculture and Land Use
- Mining, Hazardous and Solid Waste/Illegal dumping
- Colonias and the NM-Mexico border
- Water Quality, Land Grants and Cultural Issues
- Natural Resources



Listening Session Recommendations to NMED



- Reduce pollution
- Protect the environment and sacred sites
- Improve state-tribal relationships
- Improve understanding of what EJ means in Indian Country
- Increase public interaction
- Increase and enhance monitoring
- Better communication with other agencies

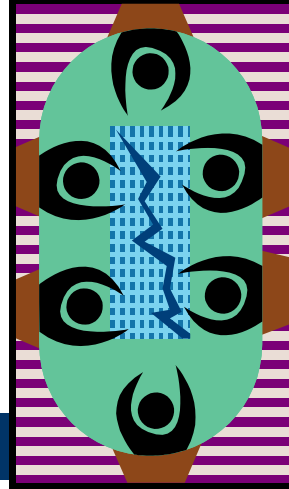


NMED Success

- 75-200 attendees at each session
- Other state agencies and local officials in attendance
- Hundreds of recommendations
- Listening sessions provide ideas for EJ policies and procedures



EJ Policy Committee



- 7 members appointed by NMED Secretary Curry
- Members represent tribal government, local government, NMED, industry, grassroots/environmental organizations
- Meet about once a month
- Goal: Make recommendations to NMED to address New Mexico EJ issues



NMED Steps to Improving Public Participation

- EARLY and meaningful Public participation
 - Especially important in the permitting process
 - Inform the public about changes
 - Make NMED technical documents available to enable timely participation in hearings
 - Ensure that input from hearings and meetings is considered in decisionmaking



Improving the Public Hearing Process

- Multi-lingual notices and translation at hearings
- Sensitivity to cultural norms for the affected area
- Transparency in decisionmaking
- Accessibility of hearings and meetings



For more information

- Websites: www.nmenv.state.nm.us and <http://www.unm.edu/~ejpc/>

