STATE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON EXCEPTIONAL EVENTS DEMONSTRATION

(Santa Fe, NM) –The New Mexico Environment Department Air Quality Bureau has completed a draft exceptional events demonstration for periods exceeding federal air quality standards for particulate matter in southern New Mexico during calendar year 2025. This document demonstrates to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that dust storms generated by high winds, rather than man-made sources, caused exceedances of the national standard for particulate matter in the air. Without this demonstration, certain areas of the state would be in violation of federal standards and subject to stricter air quality rules and requirements designed to meet and maintain the standard in the future. The level of the federal air standards for particulate matter is protective of public health.

The New Mexico Environment Department is seeking public comment on the draft document through December 8, 2026. The document is available for review at the Environment Department's field offices and website at https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices/ or by contacting the Department at (505) 629-3242.

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For more information and to submit comments, please contact Armando Paz, Environmental Analyst, NMED Air Quality Bureau at (505) 629-3242 or at armando.paz@env.nm.gov.

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