

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

NEWS RELEASE*For Immediate Release***December 1, 2021**

The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

Contact: Stephanie Stringer, Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Acting Director of Communications
New Mexico Environment Department
505.382.1655 | Stephanie.Stringer@state.nm.us

**Environment Department petitions Environmental Improvement Board
with clean car rules**

Today, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) petitioned the Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) to consider clean car rules at a hearing proposed for May 2022. The [petition includes the proposed rules and a statement of reasons](#) for their recommended adoption.

Pollution from transportation accounts for a large portion of New Mexico's greenhouse gas emissions and contributes heavily to the state's growing ozone problem. Seven New Mexico counties are nearing problematic ground-level ozone levels, which cause respiratory illnesses and disproportionately affect the state's most vulnerable populations. Vehicle standards can significantly improve air quality, including ground-level ozone levels, including in urban areas which are often made up of traditionally disadvantaged populations.

"The Environment Department is proposing to adopt rules that will bring more alternative powered vehicle choices to auto dealerships across the state," said Cabinet Secretary James Kenney. "When adopted, New Mexico will join over a dozen other states where consumers already have greater access to cleaner vehicle options. In bringing more clean cars to New Mexico, air quality will improve as we commute to work, take our kids to school, run errands around town, or explore this great state."

The proposed clean car rules will decrease health risks to New Mexicans from heart attacks, chronic lung disease, bronchitis, and asthma. By 2030, the rules will result in the reduction of about 400 tons of harmful air emissions and 270,000 tons of greenhouse gases annually.

The Environment Department developed the clean car rules over a period of seven months with extensive stakeholder engagement. Constructive feedback was received throughout the process from auto dealers, auto makers, the agriculture industry, community advocates, environmental organizations and over 100 individual New Mexicans.

The EIB will consider NMED's petition at their monthly 9 a.m. meeting on [December 17th, 2021](#). At this meeting, NMED will ask the EIB for a coordinated rulemaking proceeding in May of 2022 alongside the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board. NMED and the Air Quality Control Board are requesting the joint rulemaking to ensure the standards are consistent statewide. Members of the public and other interested persons will have opportunities to provide input on the proposed rules before and during the regulatory hearing. Additional information is available at [The Road To Clean Cars New Mexico](#) website.

For additional information on the clean car rulemaking, contact Claudia Borchert at NMED at 505-699-8489 or cleancarsnm@state.nm.us. Sign up to receive Clean Cars New Mexico email updates [here](#).

###

NMED does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED's non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, you may contact:

Kathryn Becker, Non-Discrimination Coordinator | NMED | 1190 South St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050 | P.O. Box 5469 | Santa Fe, NM 87502
(505) 827-2855 or nd.coordinator@state.nm.us

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator.

###