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## **Environment Department to Assist Navajo EPA with Air Monitoring Equipment Audits**

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department agreed to assist the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency’s Air Quality Bureau in conducting annual audits for air monitoring equipment at five monitoring sites on the tribe’s property.

The nation wants assistance with the audits for three air monitoring sites in Arizona, Fort Defiance, Nazlini and Tuba City and two sites in New Mexico, Shiprock and Crownpoint.

“We are happy to grant this request to assist the Navajo Nation improve our shared air,” said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. “We assisted the nation with similar requests in the past.”

NMED, which has auditing equipment that is used to check the performance of monitors, will use that equipment to verify whether the tribe’s monitors are operating within correct ranges. The nation’s monitors check concentrations of fine particulate matter, PM 2.5. Those particulates can be inhaled deep into the lungs and therefore can adversely affect health. The department will also help determine the performance of some of nation’s monitoring sites that measure for meteorological parameters. Those parameters include wind speed, wind direction and temperature.

NMED, which occasionally offers assistance to the nation, does not have jurisdiction over Navajo Nation EPA.

The nation requested assistance from Secretary Curry in a letter from Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency Executive Director Stephen B. Etsity. “As you are aware, Quality Assurance and Quality Control is important in maximizing data consistency and reliability,” Etsity writes in the letter. “In this regard, we appreciate the past assistance NMED has provided towards our continued work in air quality management on the Navajo Nation and the region, and we appreciate NMED’s willingness in continued support.”

For more information call Marissa Stone Bardino at (505) 827-0314.