

State and Tribal Relations

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The Importance of Community Involvement

- Air pollution control technology is improving rapidly
- State and Tribal agencies are inundated with permitting actions
- Need to improve community involvement process at the same pace as technology improvements
- Current example: Desert Rock Energy Center Permit Application—How to involve a largely rural community in a complex permitting process?



Meaningful Public Participation

- Appropriate for the community
- New ways to reach the community (i.e., internet websites, public forums)
- Ensuring that traditional communities are not left out
- Each permitting action requires careful analysis



Encourage Solutions that result in Environmental and Economic Benefits

- Four Corners Air Quality Task Force—bringing together industry, environmental groups, states, tribes, federal land managers
- Seeking solutions that benefit the environment while allowing economic development
- Example: Recovery of vented gas product also reducing emissions to the atmosphere



Multi-pollutant solutions

- Search for solutions that address a number of environmental issues and pollutants
- Example: In Four Corners region, many of the technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions also reduce formation of ozone



The Importance of Regional Strategies

- WRAP: State/tribal/stakeholder collaboration to address regional haze successfully
- WRAP model can be used to address other regional air issues, such as transport, and even global issues, such as greenhouse gas emissions



Penalties for local violations should result in benefits to local communities

- New Mexico worked with Zuni to locate a mercury monitor on Zuni lands as a result of a SEP with Giant Industries
- State encourages energy efficiency/renewable energy SEPs in communities where industry has violations



Examples of SEPs that show Community Involvement

- Helena Chemical provided 1) \$35,000 to the Mesquite Elementary School, Gadsden Independent School District for environmental science and other programs and
- \$65,000 to the Mesquite Fire Department to provide hazardous materials training and equipment to help minimize the environmental impacts in the event of a fire at the facility or other locations.
- 2) Molycorp Inc. replaced 110 older, less efficient residential wood-burning stoves in the Village of Questa and the surrounding area with Phase II, EPA certified, non-catalytic wood stoves that reduced HAP emissions.

New Mexico's Indian Pueblos, Tribes and Nations

- New Mexico's Indian Tribes and Nations:
- Navajo Nation, Jicarilla Apache Tribe, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Pueblos of Taos, Picuris, San Juan, Santa Clara, Nambe, San Ildefonso, Pojoaque, Tesuque, Cochiti, Santo Domingo, Jemez, Zia, Santa Ana, San Felipe, Sandia, Isleta, Laguna, Zuni

The Importance of Improving State and Tribal Relationships

● What Works:

- Early Notification of issues that may be important or directly affect Tribes
- Open invitations to participate in local initiatives such as the Four Corners Air Quality Task Force and Regional Haze

● What Does Not Work:

- Last minute communication or notification.
- Not being familiar with the appropriate contact representatives of the Tribes

Governor's Executive Order On Tribal Consultation and Sacred Sites

- Tribal Consultation –State must foster long-lasting and committed relationships with the Navajo Nation, tribes and pueblos
- Protection of Sacred Places – The state of New Mexico must protect and preserve Native American historic and cultural sites and sacred places and consult tribes before making decisions related to culturally sensitive matters

Questions?

