

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR)
HEARING TO ADOPT NEW REGULATIONS)
AND TO AMEND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF)
20.2.1, 20.2.2, 20.2.70, and 20.2.72 NMAC,)
STATEWIDE CAP ON GREENHOUSE GAS)
EMISSIONS)
_____)**

No. EIB 08-19(R)

**ENTRY OF APPEARANCE OF
NEW MEXICO INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT**

COMES NOW New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light (“NMIPL”), and pursuant to Rule 20.1.1.303 hereby enters its appearance in this proceeding. In support thereof NMIPL states the following:

1. New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light (NMIPL), representing more than one hundred faith communities in the State of New Mexico, mobilizes an active response from faith communities to the reality of global warming by promoting energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy in houses of worship and in the homes of congregation members representing every major faith denomination.

2. NMIPL supports the Petition and deems it necessary that New Mexico establish a mandatory, science-based cap on global warming pollution. The cap should be set at levels consistent with what science tells us is necessary to prevent the worst impacts of global warming. At minimum New Mexico needs to reduce total emissions by 25 percent below current levels by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050. To assist in this goal strong public policies designed to accelerate the transition to 100 percent clean renewable energy are needed.

3. Globally, the year 2007 tied for the second warmest year on record, behind the record warmth of 2005. This warmth is part of a long-term trend toward rising temperatures and

extreme weather events resulting from global warming. Global average surface temperatures have increased by more than 1.4°F since the mid-19th century. In 2007, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that the evidence of global warming is "unequivocal" and that human activities are responsible for most of this rise in temperature. To examine recent temperature patterns in the United States, Environment New Mexico compared temperature data for the years 2000–2007 with the historical average, or "normal," temperature for the preceding 30 years, 1971–2000. Data was collected at 255 weather stations—those with the highest quality data—in all 50 states and Washington, DC. Overall, temperatures were above the 30-year average across the country, indicating pervasive warming.

New Mexico average temperature degrees above normal from 2000-2007:

Albuquerque—3 degrees

Clayton—1.4

Roswell—1.8

The above-average temperatures in 2007 are consistent with the trend toward rising temperatures in states across the country. For example, between 2000 and 2007, Arizona experienced its 3rd, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 10th warmest years on record; Colorado its 4th, 5th, 6th, and 9th warmest years; New Mexico its warmest, 4th warmest, and 9th warmest years; and Utah its 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 6th warmest years. (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, National Climatic Data Center, generated using query system at "Climate at a Glance," U.S. Statewide Analysis, accessed at www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/cag3/state.html on 23 September 2008.)

4. In the last 150 years, human activities— primarily the burning of fossil fuels—have substantially increased the concentration of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The burning of fossil fuels—coal, oil, and natural gas—produces the majority of U.S. emissions of heat-

trapping gases. According to initial government estimates of 2007 emissions, energy-related carbon dioxide emissions grew by 1.6 percent in 2007. From 1990 to 2007, total U.S. carbon dioxide emissions from energy use increased by approximately 19 percent. (U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, U.S. Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Energy Sources, May 2008.) The United States is responsible for far more of the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere than any other country. From the beginning of the Industrial Revolution through 2005, the United States emitted approximately 28 percent of the carbon dioxide released into the earth's atmosphere.

5. Human-caused warming over the last three decades “has had a discernible influence on many physical and biological systems.” (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, April 2007.) A July 2008 report by the Bush administration’s U.S. Climate Change Science Program found that global warming will pose substantial threats to human health in the coming decades. The report said “it is very likely” that more people will die during extremely hot periods in future years. Other dangers to human health identified by the report include increased air pollution, more powerful hurricanes and other storms, wildfires, and the increased spread of diseases contracted through food and water.

6. All major faith traditions call us to be good stewards of the earth. We believe that global warming represents a grave threat to humanity and all of Creation and that responding to this threat from a faith perspective is the greatest moral imperative of our time.

7. Likewise, all major faith traditions call us to care for our neighbors, particularly the disadvantaged. Our concern for the environment is inseparable from our commitment to social justice and civil rights because the most devastating effects of climate change will be felt earliest and most profoundly by those least equipped to deal with them. Our faiths have always championed equal protection under the law, regardless of one’s economic status or racial

background.

In addition, all of the faith traditions represented by New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light are committed to actions to care for creation and justice based on contemporary published documents including, but not limited to:

God's Creation and the Church, United Methodists, 1996, Amended and Readopted 2000

We support strenuous efforts to conserve energy and increase energy efficiency. A transition to energy efficiency and renewable energy sources will combat global warming, protect human health, create new jobs, and ensure a secure, affordable energy future.

Unitarian Universalist, 2006

Stopping Climate Change & Global Warming was chosen as the collaborative priority. This priority meshes with that of the UUA, given the passage at General Assembly 2006 of the Statement of Conscience on "Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change".

Presbyterian Church 210 Assembly, 1998, Commissioners' Resolution 98-5. On Global Climate Change.

Whereas, the 1990 General Assembly adopted a comprehensive policy entitled "Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice" which signaled the need to address climate change and called upon the United States to "reach firm international agreements for steady and substantial reduction of the gases causing climate change..."

United States Catholic Conference of Bishops letter to Senators, 2004

...In this atmosphere, the search for the common good of the human family as well as the planet are neglected or lost. Too often, the voices of the poor and of the poor countries are muffled or ignored.

...The United States bears a special responsibility to lead and help shape responses that serve not only its own interests but those of the entire human family. The adoption of even modest efforts

could help send a signal that the time has come to move forward. Technological advancements and entrepreneurship are hallmarks of our society. Applying them innovatively could help usher in a more environmentally benign affect on global climate.

Episcopal Church United States

Resolved, that the 75th General Convention affirm that Global Warming threatens the future of God's good creation; and be it further

Resolved, That the effects of Global Warming disproportionately hurt the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable in the United States and around the world

Society of Friends Statement on Climate Change, 2002

Protecting God's Earth and its fullness of life is of fundamental religious concern to the Society of Friends. The links between human activity, the dramatic rise in atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations, and the rise of average global temperatures are now of sufficient concern to lead us to action.....

Coalition on Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL)

Many mitzvot (commandments) found in the Bible and laws found in the Talmud instruct us to protect what the Jewish tradition views as “God’s creation”— the totality of the physical world in which we live. Bal tashchit (do not waste) teaches us to conserve resources. *Shiluach ha-keyn* (chasing away the mother bird) teaches us to safeguard all species. *Shmita* (sabbatical year) teaches us that economic justice and ecological sustainability are intimately related.

8. New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light enters its appearance in this proceeding to examine and present comments, evidence and argument concerning this matter.

9. New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light should be served with copies of all pleadings and other documents filed in this proceeding by any participant. Service should be provided to:

Name: New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light
Joan Brown, osf
1004 Major Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107
joankansas@swcp.com
505-266-6966

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light enters its appearance in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light

Joan Brown, osf
1004 Major Ave. NW
joankansas@swcp.com
505-266-6966

Dated: May 15, 2009