STATE OF COLORADO

Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor Martha E. Rudolph, Executive Director

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Public Notice of Public Comment Period and

Public Comment Meetings Concerning a Draft Report: *Recommendations Regarding *Colorado's Smoke Management Program

As required by HB09-1199, Section 25-7-111(5)(a-d) Colorado Revised Statutes, the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division (Air Division) of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has drafted a report to evaluate its Smoke Management Program (SMP) and provide recommendations "so as to support, and increase where possible, appropriate responsible use of prescribed fire..." The law also requires the Air Division to confer with the US Forest Service, the Colorado State Forest Service, and other appropriate entities concerning this topic and the draft report.

Therefore, the Air Division gives notice of:

- 1. The availability to the public of its draft report, *Recommendations Regarding Colorado's Smoke Management Program*;
- 2. The opening of a 60-day public comment period from September 21 through November 19, 2010; and
- 3. Two open public meetings in Denver and Grand Junction, respectively.

Details follow regarding background information, accessing the draft report, the public comment period and the public meetings.

I. Background

Colorado statute requires the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division to "evaluate existing prescribed fire permit program rules and implementation so as to support, and increase where possible, appropriate responsible use of prescribed fire consistent with Section 25-7-106(7) and (8)." These sections of statute find that for Colorado's smoke management program, "all practical methods... to reduce, prevent, and control air pollution is an appropriate standard to apply in relation to air pollution emissions resulting from the use of prescribed fire in grassland and forest management." A report

¹ The full text of the sections of Colorado statute quoted above is included in attachments to the draft report.

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on the evaluation with accompanying recommendations must be presented to the Colorado Air Pollution Control Commission (Air Commission).

To develop the draft report the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division followed a process described and posted on Air Division's website at http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/smoke/Docs/HB1199ImplementationPlanFinal25Mr10.pdf. Public comment on the process itself was solicited earlier in 2010 before work on the report began. Some intended timelines have been extended since the implementation plan was finished.

As detailed in the implementation plan, meetings with invited major stakeholders have been held. The purpose was to review the draft report and, to the extent it was possible, to reach consensus. The original staff draft report has been revised accordingly. The current comment period and public meetings precede final revisions to the report.

When the Air Division's report is finalized in late-November of this year, the report will be provided to the Air Commission as required by statute. The Air Commission has scheduled a briefing by the Air Division about the final report and its recommendations at the Commission's regular February meeting, Thursday, February 17, 2011. Separate from this Notice of Public Comment, the Air Commission will accept public comment on the Air Division's report. Air Commission agendas are posted at http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/aqcc/index.html as they become available. For more information about submitting written comments to the Air Commission and/or speaking to the Air Commission, please contact the Commission at:

Colorado Air Quality Control Commission EDO-AQCC-A5 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South Denver, CO 80246-1530 Business: (303) 692-3478

FAX: (303) 691-7702

II. The Draft Report

The draft report, "Recommendations Regarding Colorado's Smoke Management Program," may be accessed from the Air Division's website at http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/smoke/Docs/ColoSMPDraftReportPublicComment.pdf or may be obtained from Dan Ely at the address shown below.

III. Written Public Comment

The Air Division's 60-day public comment period opens on September 21, 2010 and closes on November 19, 2010. The Air Division solicits and requests submission of public comment concerning the draft report. Written comments regarding the draft report as well as procedural or clarifying questions may be sent via either e-mail to dan.ely@state.co.us

or via regular mail to:



Dan Ely Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment APCD-TS-B1 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South Denver, CO 80246-1530

Any comments received by the Air Division will be considered in making final revisions to its report to the Air Commission. Formal written responses to each individual comment are not planned, as the report is not a regulatory, legal or final agency action.

IV. Public Comment Meetings

Two open public meetings will be held to take comment on the draft report:

Greater Denver/Front Range October 19, 2010, Tuesday 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

SpringHill Suites Hotel by Marriott 6845 W. 103rd Avenue Westminster, CO 80021 Hotel phone: 303-464-1999 Meeting Room A

 $\underline{http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/denwm-springhill-suites-denver-north-westminster/}$

Grand Junction/West Slope
October 20, 2010, Wednesday
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Mesa County Health Department/Main Office/Community Services Building 510 29½ Road
Grand Junction, CO 81504
Front Office: 970-246-6971
Conference Room 1060
http://health.mesacounty.us/

Each meeting will include a brief presentation by the Air Division summarizing its draft report. Following the presentation, oral and/or written comments will be welcome.

As with written comments, oral comments made at either public meeting will be considered in making final revisions to its report to the Air Commission. Written responses to each individual comment are not planned as the report is not a regulatory, legal or final agency action.

If you have logistical questions about either meeting, please contact Dan Ely at the address shown above.

