

Border 2012 Summary of Comments

BORDER 2012
Deming, N.M.
Nov. 6 2002

Welcome and introductions – Moderator – Gedi Cibas-Environmental Protection Agency for the State of New Mexico at the Santa Fe Office.

Program Explanation

Introduction – Jorge Castillo – Texas Commission for Environmental Quality.
Allyson Siwik and Veronica Corella-Barud from the El Paso EPA Border Affairs Office.

Gedi Cibas-Latest Border Program Border 2012 replaces Border XXI Program. This new program is multi-annual, Binational that involves issues in Mexico and the US program. Both countries have to agree on issues. The proposed Program comes from the La Paz Agreement signed by presidents De la Madrid and Reagan in 1983. The video is about 10 minutes long, is a short overview of the 2012 Program which will be explained later to show you how this program will be implemented in the Border.

In this meeting, there will be an hour for comments or you can submit them in writing. The steps involved in this meeting involve: presentation process, which includes a video of the Program, some more presentations, and then we will receive your proposals.

Allyson Siwik –You all have some forms to present your comments in writing, don't you? Also, you have an option, you can present them orally at this meeting, whichever you prefer. For those of you who feel more comfortable standing up and making your comments orally that is fine too. You can present your comments up until November 22. In the Agendas you have a fact sheet and also our office's telephone number.

VIDEO

Questions

1. Who will be eligible?
2. Can you be from outside the border area 30 miles vs. 2 blocks from the Mexico border?
3. Will regional work groups include city and county government? Many cities and counties had no idea of border 21.

4. How many EPA staff is assigned to Border 2012 what is your budget?
5. Who is going to be in workgroups? Who, what, when, and how?
6. Two years reporting of status. Is that sufficient? In the management world that is unacceptable; why not a monthly report, how can you not know the budget?
7. Is there not a line item on EPA for Border 2012?
8. Who is going to sign off in this project at the state level the Ten Border States?
9. Is there a tie from Border XXI to Border 2012? Is this tied to Agenda XXI?
10. I am a results oriented person, this plan is too long-range. Water and air are critical issues are you really going to do anything and have any results?
11. What about funding?
12. NADBank, BECC where does money come from???
13. The goalslist specific objectives such as connecting 1.5 million people to water and wastewater; what is the budget for this specific objective?
14. There are several people in the room who would like to participate in task forces; can a local community start a local group, create a local network?
15. Last night's election reaffirmed a government that is not interested in the environment, and will it not ask industry to pay for environmental improvements? Based on last night's results, is Border 2012 Program still realistic?