

Border 2012 Summary of Comments

BORDER 2012
CORBETT STUDENT CENTER
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXCO
NOVEMBER 7, 20002

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

Introductions: Carl E from EPA, Jorge Castillo from Texas.

Gedi Cibas-Border 2012 will allow local input, permitting community level activities to provide input of their priorities.

It is new for everyone, for EPA for Mexico

Video

Gedi Cibas-This plan envisions formation of workgroups.

The regional workgroups are going to be the foundation of the program – they are going to be in charge of coordination of the activities at a regional level.

The one relevant to us is the Texas-New Mexico- Chihuahua workgroup.

First, it will made-up of two co-chairs from each country at a state and federal level. Mexico and the US have agreed on having a similar number of co-chairs.

Texas and New Mexico would have to rotate co-chairs.

Some other groups will have the same issue because some will have even three states from the same country involved.

What is important is the incorporation of individuals that represent broad groups.

We have prototype and concepts of who would be able to participate.

People who know about different sectors of the environment.

Workgroups have to work in a transparent fashion.

Border 2012 rose from the Ten States. All projects are involved at a regional level and involve diverse environmental issues.

Steps involved:

Each four regional workgroups will convene in a session after 2012 has been signed; we will meet in early 2003.

Who needs to be involved....? Some of this will depend on you. Your participation is critical.

BECC and NAD Bank we hope, will participate, various NGOs community based organizations, universities on both sides of the frontier, private sector.

Regional workgroups will establish task forces to address issues and concerns.

Reporting of progress of program is very important, the first one at the end of 2003 and every two years from then on.

For the last two years, we have been conducting round tables; we were attempting to capture the concern of people, and to give us an idea of what these concerns are. These concerns will help us form an idea of specific issues.

Questions and Answers

Gedi Cibas-Everything you ask is going to be recorded, so you do not have to worry it will vanish into thin air.

We will provide answers later on .

We will be addressing your concerns, we will not by pass you.

Goals and objectives we are starting with goals and objectives. Are the regional groups going to determine if their goals and objectives going to be tied to the work groups?

These goals and objectives are preliminary, it has been done in a draft manner these are only for the time being, they are also based on science.

Border 2012 is based on Border XXI regional focus.

Environmental issues were identified, but how can we quantify? They are not pre-judged, the document you are holding is a draft; nothing that we have here is definite.

This period right here is the public comment portion.

We will ask you to be brief, you can also submit your comments on paper.

QUESTIONS

Q

Goals and objectives have been developed ...but the program mentions a bottom up approach will locals be able to contribute to new goals and objectives?? ...are funds earmarked for established goals and objectives ??

Q

For a goal such as reduction of pesticides.....are there specific grants earmarked via Border 2012?

Q (Comment)

For community level intervention you need to develop a plan for outreach and education related activities and earmark funding attached to these activities

Q

Chuck ?????? What kinds of data sharing do you envision with Border 2012?

R

There are many data challenges

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Q

Mike Noonchester NMSU Border TechnologyLooking at immediate policy development ...Santa Teresa is designated as a HAZMAT Portthere is a lot of controversy surrounding the role of this Port of Entry ...GSA has hired a consultant to reconstruct all Ports along the borderThus I would argue that it is critical that local governments address the redesign of HAZMAT ports of entry

Q

NAFTA identifies the need for a major HAZMAT Port in this regionthis needs to be translated into a decision of what should take place locallythere does not seem to be much cross agency coordination regarding port issues

Q

Follow up question ...the GSA consultant does not have a good working knowledge or even a "good feel" regarding optimal HAZMAT port design ...Does EPA have standards for HAZMAT design? If so how will these concerns be incorporated into Border 2012 goals?

R

EPA Region 6 " your concerns connect with Homeland Security issues...there are EPA standards and there are on-going efforts to deal with HAZMAT challenges and these efforts include coordination with other agencies such as TCEQ

Q

What about "sniffer" technologydoes EPA have plans to implement such technologies at the US Mex border ?

Q

For port planning in the border area there is an existing coordinating group ...however neither EPA nor state agencies are included in this type of planning. Will these agencies get involved in these issues via Border 2012?

R

See response above

Q

Jeff Marcus NMSU student
EPA Border 2012 mentions several health issues ..How will CDC and other health related agencies get involved in Border 2012 ? Will they be having similar hearings as well?

Q

Dolores Halls
American Association of University Women/AARP

I come to many meetings on the border; where is the coordination among the different agencies? When it comes to health issues and goals of different groups; why can't we collaborate together...are you saying that there can not be more coordination?

R

The new structure of Border 2012 will promote more coordination
This structure is not meant to restrict fundingit is designed to attract funding

There is a value of having what is important to a community... well defined

Q

How will people find out about when Regional Groups meetwill border health groups be notified ?

R You can start by placing your name on the sign in sheet outside?

Comment:

I commend your intentionswe need these types of initiatives. Let me tell you
Santa Fe and Albuquerque do not care about the border issues here in Las Cruces

Did anyone hear the NPR article about Mexican .Brick Makers /WEBSITE????

Q

Regarding Otero Mesa (BLM land) the private sector is seeking to drill for oil.....
How will Border 2012 impact such plans ?

R

We can begin by documenting your concerns? Keep in mind Border 2012 will not get rid of existing laws such as NEPA ...one of the big issue around the US and on the border is energy policy ...this will continue as a hot issue

Q

My name is Johnny Butler.....I have an observation/commentwhen you ask for community involvement ..it is important that the mechanisms are in place ...communities have a lot of broken promises ..enough of asking questions ..focus on responding to our community needs

Closing remarks by Mr. Cibas:

Any more comments before we close this session, I hope you let other people know about this program you can help by distributing this information, it is critical.

Thank you very much