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ADEQ Director Grumbles' Statement Following EPA's Decision to Require Greenhouse Gas Monitoring, Reporting

PHOENIX (Sept. 22, 2009) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Benjamin H. Grumbles issued the following statement Tuesday after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that it will begin requiring big companies to monitor and report greenhouse gas emissions:

“The final greenhouse gas reporting rule issued today by EPA provides a uniform, nationwide reporting system that will cover the sources of 85 percent of U.S. emissions that contribute to climate change, and it will permit Arizona sources to take credit for reductions they are undertaking. Reasonable reporting requirements can help reduce emissions, reward stewardship, and inform future policy and this rule is a solid step forward.”

“EPA made a number of changes to the rules corresponding to improvements in flexibility that the Western Climate Initiative (WCI), including Arizona, had made to its own Essential Reporting Requirements that increase the level of flexibility for covered sources. In particular, EPA made changes similar to the WCI changes which allowed sources to stop reporting once their emissions fall below the reporting threshold, and allowed the use of best available monitoring methods in lieu of the required monitoring methods for January to March 2010 with the possibility of an extension to the end of 2010.

“ADEQ is also pleased that EPA made changes to the lime industry reporting requirements by allowing emissions to be reported by facility, as opposed to by kiln, a change which Arizona and WCI had worked very hard on with the lime industry in Arizona. EPA also made changes to the federal rule reducing the number of covered source categories and the record retention requirements, and allowing exemption of research and development activities. This last change is a particularly welcome addition that will give sources the time they need to install, test and begin operating monitoring equipment required by the rule.

“ADEQ applauds the establishment of this comprehensive, yet flexible, program for collecting the data needed to address climate change, and to provide Arizona business and industry with a mechanism to obtain the credit they deserve for reducing greenhouse gases.”

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