

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION



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From the Office of NMPRC Commissioner Theresa Becenti-Aguilar

NMPRC Commissioner Making Tracks for Youth Conference

Theresa Becenti-Aguilar and her staff will attend fair, discuss railroad safety issues with youth, community groups during May 10-11 conference at Red Rock State Park

SANTA FE – Theresa Becenti-Aguilar is passionate about railroad safety issues along the Interstate 40 corridor.

Becenti-Aguilar, who serves as one of five New Mexico Public Regulation Commissioners, has twice traveled to Gallup in 2011 where she has helped to establish a Railroad Safety Task Force and has been instrumental in facilitating a dialogue among residents and government officials with the ultimate goal of reducing avoidable accidents along the state's rail lines.

This week, Commissioner Becenti-Aguilar (District 4) is again making tracks toward Gallup as she takes her railroad safety message on the road to the Safety 2Day 4 a Healthier 2Morrow youth conference. The conference is being held May 10-11 at Red Rock State Park, 15 miles east of Gallup in Churchrock.

Event organizers anticipate between 250-300 area youth will attend the two-day conference. Commissioner Becenti-Aguilar said she's hoping the event will be the perfect opportunity to engage young constituents and to instill within them the importance of railroad safety.

"From the moment I joined the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, railroad safety has been one of my top priorities," Commissioner Becenti-Aguilar said. "Educating people about the importance of being safety-conscious when you live near a railroad is critical. This week's conference will see a lot of area youth come together to learn about many important things; I am looking forward to getting the chance to interact with these school-aged children and to hopefully help them understand just how important railroad safety is."

In addition to Commissioner Becenti-Aguilar's initiative, youth participants will attend breakout sessions including Healthy Relationships, Bullying, Navajo Wellness Model, Gangs, Domestic Violence (emotional and physical abuse), Acceptance of Different/Diverse People, Preparing for College, and Suicide.

Commissioner Becenti-Aguilar said she hopes that some of the students who listen to her message will get excited enough to help fly the railroad safety banner – for the ultimate benefit of those communities whose daily lives are impacted by the railroad.

"I'm really hoping that we can spark the fire of interest in some of these young students," Commissioner Becenti-Aguilar said. "We have had a lot of interest from officials and adults, but if we could get a few energetic and passionate youth involved, it could really lead to positive things for this very important initiative."

Commissioner Becenti-Aguilar will be accompanied to the youth conference by her executive assistant, Jay C. McCray, PRC Transportation Division Investigator Paul Montoya, PRC Pipeline Safety Bureau staffer Sefie Anaya and New Mexico Operation Life Saver Director Stephanie Paiz.

The Commissioner said she welcomes input, thoughts, ideas and suggestions from anyone who attends the Safety 2day 4 a Healthier 2morrow conference.

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About the NMPRC

The NMPRC regulates public utilities, telecommunications companies and motor carriers operating in the State of New Mexico. It also administers the State Fire Marshal's Office, the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy in Socorro, New Mexico, Pipeline Safety Bureau and the Corporations Bureau, which registers state corporations. The NMPRC is also responsible for the oversight of the New Mexico Insurance Division and the state's superintendent of insurance.