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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 8, 2011

**NMPRC to Hold Public Comment Hearing
on Sacred Wind's Recent Rate Filings**

Hearing will be held at Churchrock Chapter House Friday, April 29

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (Commission) will hold a public comment hearing to receive input from area residents regarding recent rate filings by Sacred Wind Communications, Inc. The hearing will be held at 9 a.m. Friday, April 29 at the Churchrock Chapter House, Kinlitsoh Sinili, "Group of Yellow Houses," on the Navajo Nation, approximately 15 miles east of Gallup, NM.

NMPRC Commissioner Theresa Becenti-Aguilar (District 4) will preside over the hearing, which begins at 9 a.m. and continues until all members of the public have had the opportunity to comment of the company's rate filings.

In October 2010, Sacred Wind filed an application with the Commission asking it to approve its proposed rates and to receive \$4.4 million in annual support from the New Mexico Universal Service Fund (NMUSF).

Two weeks ago (March 23), Sacred Wind, the Attorney General's Office and the Commission's Utility Division staff filed a proposed settlement agreement, which modifies Sacred Wind's original request. According to the terms of the proposed settlement, Sacred Wind seeks to draw: \$1 million from the NMUSF in 2011; \$2 million in 2012 and 2013; and \$2 million in 2014 (to be prorated monthly until the Commission determines a further amount in 2014).

As the settlement agreement is subject to the Commission's approval, Commissioner Becenti-Aguilar requested the hearing be held at the Churchrock Chapter House to ensure that customers in Sacred Wind's service area have an opportunity to weigh in on the proposed settlement and to provide input on the subject.

Visit the NMPRC on the web at: www.nmprc.state.nm.us

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.