

# Development in Mexico: As Established Policies Are Nurtured, the Hopes of Many Mexicans Wither on the Vine

Experts on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border agree that an essential ingredient in any recipe aimed at stemming Mexican migration to the United States is creating more hometown opportunities south of the border. But while the two countries' shared migration dilemma sits front and center on the U.S.-Mexico agenda, the majority of development projects that have emerged for Mexico under the Fox and Bush administrations do not reflect that assessment. Rather, the development envisioned is more of the same kind that has failed to alleviate migration in the past: maquiladoras, megaprojects, and greater trade liberalization.

by Talli Nauman

Mexican President Vicente Fox has promised that his administration will make a special effort to revitalize local economies and create conditions that allow community members to improve their quality of life. "Good government and society are taking new steps on the road of sustainable development. For our part, we are working with our eyes firmly set on growth that combines economic expansion, poverty reduction, and environmental protection," Fox said in a July speech.

Fox's first state-of-the-nation speech, delivered to Congress on September 1, reiterated this posture. His policy "seeks economic growth, but also an equitable distribution of the benefits of that growth. It promotes the development of every inhabitant of Mexico, but it also is concerned with those who have had to emigrate," he said.

Despite an economic downturn that recently led to several federal budget cuts, Fox contends that his government hasn't left Mexico's poor behind, pointing to the fact that his administration is mustering \$200 million—including \$150 million in loans from development banks—to stabilize prices and subsidize coffee

harvests that begin in October. The effort also includes a \$2 million government advertising campaign to encourage domestic consumption of Mexican coffee.

Despite budgetary limitations, "spending on the fight against poverty rose 16.2% in real terms, compared to the figure for 2000," Fox claimed in his state-of-the-nation report. Welfare allocations subsidizing food, housing, health, and education and targeting aid to rural people have accounted for the increase. Meanwhile, Fox says, "we have set ourselves a goal to fully and quickly include all those left behind by development so that their standard of living does not depend on welfare programs."

*continued on p. 2*

---

## INSIDE

- **BIOS action kit: contacts & websources p. 6**
- **border briefs p. 8**
- **crossborder energy development p. 9**

## WEB SOURCES:

### Escalera Nautica

*borderlines UPDATER*,  
18 April 2001  
[www.us-mex.org/updater](http://www.us-mex.org/updater)

### Plan Puebla Panama

[ppp.presidencia.gob.mx](http://ppp.presidencia.gob.mx)

### National Development Plan

[www.pnd.presidencia.gob.mx](http://www.pnd.presidencia.gob.mx)

### Mexican Government Progress Reports

[www.presidencia.gob.mx/  
?P=220](http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/?P=220)

## *continued from p. 1*

Toward this end Fox has launched a new scheme dubbed “Adopt a Micro-Region” aimed at stopping migration at its roots. His office has identified 90 poor communities around the country that are exporters of migrant labor, and it is trying to pair them with Mexican entrepreneurs in the United States willing to invest in job creation back home. The government is also providing an incentive to the prospective private investors: three-for-one matching funds. Every investor dollar would secure one federal, one state, and one municipal dollar for manufacturing or construction projects in Mexico. The adoption program puts a new twist on an old practice. It seeks to institutionalize at the federal level Mexican emigrants’ custom of civic-club fundraising in the United States for community needs in their hometowns. Several Mexican governors began state matching fund programs like this in the early 1990s.

Touted as an “unprecedented national effort” and “an ambitious program” in the mainstream international press, so far the scheme is barely off the ground. Its first participant, announced in late July, is a New York City-based investor who is financing women’s garment maquiladoras in the destitute town of El Seco in the southern Mexican state of Puebla. The effort was presented as one of the two achievements of the fledgling administration in meeting its commitments to migrants when Fox submitted a semester report at the end of his first half-year in office. The other was a 30% reduction in Western Union money-wire rates to benefit Mexican residents in the United States who send earnings to their families in Mexico.

Other Fox initiatives directed toward securing a decent living for the 40-50 million poor people who constitute about half of Mexico’s population include a microcredit program to launch family businesses, which he promised in his presidential campaign, and another loan program for small- and mid-size enterprises. Despite these measures, however, in Fox’s semester report, the column labeled “Progress” in the section designated “Promote Models of Local Development” was empty.

## More of the Same

On the other hand, the report showed quite a bit of activity in the “Progress” column regarding areas of free trade and megaprojects. Assessing Fox’s commitment to “take full advantage of the globalization process,” the report highlighted the free trade agreements with the European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland), which commenced on July 1,

and with the European Union, the first trade deal to take effect under this administration.

Beach megaprojects represented the most tangible achievements noted in the report’s tourism development section. For example, the report highlighted the inauguration of Mahahual Pier in the Caribbean state of Quintana Roo as the beginning of a new megaproject named Maya Coast, expected to generate 30,000 permanent job positions and \$950 million a year in wages.

The report also highlighted the signing of a covenant between the federal government, four states, and 13 municipalities regarding the Escalera Nautica development program in the Gulf of California area. The megaproject is a six-year, \$221 million, public-private investment catering to an anticipated market of nearly 1.7 million pleasure boats, mostly from the United States.

Meanwhile, the flagship of Fox’s development scheme is his Plan Puebla-Panama (PPP), a combination of megaproject, maquiladora, and free trade promotion. The plan envisions using foreign loans and private investment to create infrastructure that will attract maquiladoras to provide jobs in southern Mexico by assembling products for export to an ever-expanding portfolio of free trade partners.

The PPP is supposed to help the poor peasants and indigenous people concentrated in Mexico’s southern states of Puebla, Veracruz, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Chiapas, Tabasco, Campeche, Yucatan, and Quintana Roo as well as those in the Central American countries of Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Panama. Toward that end, the Mexican government plans to spend \$440 million on the endeavor this year.

## NAFTA-plus?

To a significant extent, Mexico is pinning its future on the global economy. Over the past nine months, Fox and Economy Secretary Luis Ernesto Derbéz have traveled around the world to drum up private investment and establish more trade accords, visiting Japan, China, Singapore, Europe, Argentina, Chile, Central America, and the United States.

In the Americas, especially, Mexico’s president is pushing for deepened North American commercial and development relations—what he has called NAFTA-plus. Preparing for the Americas Summit in Quebec City this past April, he declared: “If the United States and Canada want [trade deals] simply to win trade and room for investment, it seems to me that’s a very meager

vision.”[1] Although Fox has toned down his message of late, he is still arguing for the creation of a development fund to narrow the disparity between Mexico and its partners in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Such a mechanism could also be built into the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas, he says. It would look something like the European Union’s structural adjustment funds, in which the better-off countries have contributed billions of dollars to the poorer ones to buffer the blows from market openings.

As part of this thrust, in ongoing high-level binational discussions on migration, Mexican negotiators have proposed expanding the mandate of the North American Development Bank (NADB), to transform it into a promoter of economic development projects designed to reduce pressures leading to emigration. Fox first embraced the idea at the end of a summit with U.S. President George W. Bush in February. The expansion would direct some of the NADB’s efforts away from its current emphasis on border infrastructure financing; such a shift is likely to be a continuing topic for the two governments.

However, U.S. officials recently threw cold water on expectations that Washington might engage in a wider effort to foster development in Mexico. On September 1, the *Los Angeles Times* reported sources in the Bush administration as saying that although the United States is willing to tinker with the NADB role, Mexico’s proposal that the bank take on a larger development mission faces resistance. “We’ve come back to them and said: ‘This dog won’t hunt. It can’t even do what it was supposed to do. It cannot and it will not become a huge development channel to all of Mexico,’” the *Times* reported.[2]

The source added that Washington is also resisting suggestions that the United States and Canada might funnel development funds to Mexico. “This is not an administration that is in the realistic position of providing massive support to Mexico. We’re no longer in the business of Marshall Plans in the United States, [and] the political realities on the ground are just not in favor of this.”[3]

Meanwhile, foreign direct investment (FDI) in Mexico amounted to nearly \$6.8 billion in the first half of this year, a historic high. Much of that money is coming from the United States. During the 1995-7 period, U.S. direct investment in Mexico grew by 27%, and in 2000 nearly \$9 billion of the approximately \$13.2 billion of foreign investment that entered Mexico came from U.S. corporations—making them by far the leaders in

FDI in Mexico. Revenue from foreign tourism arrivals has also reached unprecedented levels,

---

Seven years after NAFTA’s institution, some 10 million more Mexicans have joined the ranks of the poor. Penury is worst in rural Mexico, where at least 82% of people are living below the poverty level, according to the World Bank.

---

with tourists contributing some \$4.7 billion to the economy, 8.6% more than in the same period last year.

Feeding off Mexico’s strong nationalist sentiments, the FDI trend has fostered uneasiness over Mexico’s role in the global economy and has even sparked violence. After Mexico’s second largest bank, Banamex, was acquired by the U.S. giant Citigroup, a small guerrilla group called the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the People detonated bombs at three Banamex branches. The blasts were read as a protest against the takeover by a foreign company, the biggest corporate deal in Mexican history. Anger was fueled by the fact that Citigroup made the acquisition on the Mexican stock exchange, thus evading capital gains tax on its purchase of Banamex. Mexico’s top three banks are now foreign-owned.

## Unsustainable Development

Even though trade between NAFTA countries has grown from \$297 billion in 1993 to \$676 billion in 2000, real wages in Mexico have dropped. Seven years after NAFTA’s institution in 1994, some 10 million more Mexicans have joined the ranks of the poor, according to studies by the Economic Research Institute of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Other sources say the number of poor has doubled in the last seven years. Penury is worst in rural Mexico, where at least 82% of people are living below the poverty level, according to the World Bank.

*continued on p. 4*

## CONTACTS:

**Gilberto López y Rivas**  
Partido Revolucionario  
Democratic (PRD)  
lopezyrivas@yahoo.com

**National Development  
Plan**  
Plan Coordinator  
pnd@presidencia.gob.mx

**Semarnat Rio+10 Office**  
(5) 490-09-00 Ext. 25868  
r10@semarnat.gob.mx

**continued from p. 3**

Since Fox's approach intensifies the social and economic policies employed by previous administrations—which have been blamed for increased poverty and emigration—he has come under fire from Mexican intellectuals, politicians, administrators, activists, and nongovernmental organizations. They argue that strategies like the Plan Puebla-Panama will just repeat the mistakes of the past.

“The Plan Puebla-Panama is the most recent example of projects that seek the authoritarian, discriminatory insertion of Mexico in the globalization process,” observes Gilberto López y Rivas, former rector of the National Anthropology and History School and now a federal deputy for the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD). “In the context of the Plan Puebla-Panama, indigenous people and communities are considered merely a labor force, susceptible to being exploited and taken advantage of by the big national and transnational capital consortiums that have their interests pegged on the bonanzas of future investment in the region,” he adds.

Indeed, despite foreign investors' contribution to job creation, a number of analysts express serious concerns about the wages, working conditions, training opportunities, and environmental compliance in the maquiladora sector—as well as with its lack of participation in Mexico's national economy. In 1999, only 3% of the components used in maquiladoras were manufactured in Mexico. Maquiladora assembly line workers, meanwhile, earned only an average of \$426 a month last year.

A study jointly released in June by the San Antonio, Texas-based Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras, the New York City-based Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, and the Hartford, Connecticut-based Center for Reflection, Education and Action (CREA) found that border-zone maquiladoras, many of which produce for Fortune 500 companies, pay a mere 20-30% of what an average family needs to live on. Even highly skilled workers in Mexico's more sophisticated “third-generation maquilas” aren't earning above average wages, according to studies conducted by the Colegio de la Frontera Norte.

Observers cite the fact that maquiladoras pay only minimal taxes as another reason why the sector can't aspire to be the mainstay of Mexico's economy. In areas with high maquila development, public services such as schools, hospitals, garbage collection, and sewage systems are in bad shape for want of a tax base. But the Fox administration's fiscal reform initiative, rather than seek-

ing tax support from maquiladora investors who find Mexico so lucrative, proposes to tax the poor at the same rate as the rich, beginning with a new 15% levy on food and medicine—a measure that has drawn heavy criticism.

Others raise serious questions about the environmental impacts of Mexico's approach to industrialization, pointing to widespread pollution and environmental health problems on the border as an example. “The importance of modifying production and consumption models has not penetrated collectively; up to now, only isolated actions exist,” notes Mexico's Environment and Natural Resources Secretariat (SEMARNAT) in a draft national progress report being prepared for next year's second UN Earth Summit, Rio + 10.

Fox's response to environmental degradation and unsustainable land use in Mexico's countryside, where the ecological consequences of inappropriate farming techniques promoted in recent years have forced many campesinos off the land, is also drawing fire. This year Mexico created a National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) under SEMARNAT to promote reforestation that provides rural sustainable development. But according to Greenpeace Mexico Director Raúl Benet, the administration's intentions in that regard are mainly to increase GDP by attracting investment in plantations where local people will have no participation other than to rent land and work as peons.

Mexico's tendency, like that of the rest of the world, said Benet in a recent *La Jornada* interview, is to favor industrial and tourist development, spawning environmental degradation and rural neglect. Sustainable development, as conceived by the UN, is not being put into practice, just into speeches, he complains. “The term sustainable development is being used to define any kind of investment that has a minimal coat of conservation,” he says, adding, “Ninety-nine percent of investments are oriented in a nonsustainable direction.”[4]

## **Dependence on U.S., Economic Slump Provoke Citizen Responses**

Few things have brought home the lack of sustainability of Mexico's maquiladora-based, free trade development model like the negative impact on Mexico of the current U.S. recession. With more than 80% of Mexico's export manufacture products destined for the United States, the slowdown in the northern neighbor's economy has had a heavy impact south of the border. Some 100,000 maquiladora jobs have been lost this year, accord-

### **WEB SOURCES:**

**Rio+10 Progress Report**  
[www.semarnat.gob.mx/rio10](http://www.semarnat.gob.mx/rio10)

**SECOFI**  
[www.secofi.gob.mx](http://www.secofi.gob.mx)

**RMALC**  
[www.rmalc.org.mx](http://www.rmalc.org.mx)

ing to official figures from the national statistics institute; that's half of the total employment reduction experienced so far in Mexico during 2001 but perhaps only one-seventh of what may occur if the recession lasts through December. Moreover, researchers at think tanks such as the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) and the Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económica (CIDE) say actual job losses in the first half of the year may be double what the government admits.

Mexico's agricultural sector has been hard hit as well. Over the past three years, the selling price of corn has fallen by nearly half, severely affecting corn farmers in Mexico. For its part, Mexico's sugar industry is imploding in the face of imports of cheap U.S. corn syrup. Similarly, a record low in world coffee prices has drastically reduced revenues for Mexico's coffee farmers. The result: increased emigration and, more recently, mounting discontent with Mexico's participation in the global economy.

In July, nearly 5,000 sugar workers protested in Mexico City, blocking government offices and demanding more than \$400 million in crop payments from bankrupt private mills. Recently, corn farmers in northern Sinaloa and rice producers in Campeche have mounted similar demonstrations. In late July, farmers in Chihuahua attempted to blockade a border customs port to stop U.S. produce from entering Mexico. And on August 8, the birthday of Emiliano Zapata, thousands of farmers descended on Mexico City as part of a nationwide protest against the deepening agricultural crises. Among their demands were a return to subsidies and the revision of NAFTA.

"They are desperate. They have seen their communities disintegrate as the young leave to find profitable work in the cities or the United States," Max Correa, national head of the Central Campesina Cardenista (CCC), a farmers advocacy group, told the online English-language daily *The News Mexico*.

For the most part, Fox's response has only fueled farmer unrest. In one of the first acts of his administration, he vetoed a rural development bill that producers' organizations had pushed through Congress. In June, while pursuing his free trade agenda in China and other Asian countries, Fox signed a decree reducing Mexico's import tariffs on NAFTA corn to 1-3%, infuriating small growers in the Asociación Nacional de Empresas Comercializadoras de Productores del Campo, A.C. (ANEC). They filed an appeal of the action on the grounds that the administration failed to meet its legal obligation to consult with producers. Many of them are demanding a minimum 30% tariff on

imports of the commodity, which has been their traditional mainstay for decades. More recently, during a trip to Baja California, the president responded to a request for aid from area farmers by suggesting they use new technologies to grow their crops and then posing a question of his own: "What are you doing to help yourselves?" [5]

Eleventh-hour efforts to address Mexico's agricultural crisis—such as the government's \$200 million coffee-bailout program and the recent expropriation of bankrupt sugar mills—have been welcomed to a certain extent by farmers, but have also been criticized as a sign that Fox's vision for the Mexican campo is anything but coherent.

Several disenfranchised and disenfranchised factions of the public are responding to the challenges facing Mexico's economy. Transcending the prevailing fad of questioning Fox's popularity and his ability to keep campaign promises or rout corruption from the political system, these critics are focusing on the message that the new administration is continuing the unsuccessful, old-line development policies of recent decades. Many are organizing to push for changes in Mexico's development strategy or are pioneering alternative approaches to community development via fair trade based on environmentally friendly techniques and grassroots decisionmaking. Many others have already joined together to create alternative economic networks based on local initiatives, slowly building a movement of fair trade in green goods and services. Their approach's potential—and the government's willingness to lend it serious attention—has yet to be evaluated. ■

*BIOS editor-at-large Talli Nauman has worked on both sides of the border and is currently based in Mexico. She has an MA in International Journalism from the University of Southern California, a BA in Visual and Environmental Studies from Harvard, and is a cofounder of the nonprofit media project Journalism to Raise Environmental Awareness.*

---

**Notes:** [1] Paul Knox, "Mexican President Fox Says America's Pact Pointless Unless It Includes Help for Poor," *Toronto Globe & Mail*, April 12, 2001; [2] Esther Schrader, "Mexican Development Aid Not in the Offing, U.S. Says," *Los Angeles Times*, September 1, 2001; [3] Ibid: [4] Angélica Enciso, "Pervirtieron Países Compromiso de Desarrollo Sustentable: Greenpeace," *La Jornada*, July 29, 2001; [5] "Mexican Farmers Resist NAFTA," *The Desert News*, July 28, 2001.

## CONTACTS:

### ANEC

(5) 661-5914 or 662-9297  
anec2@laneta.apc.org

### CIDE

(01) 800-021-4293  
buzon@cide.eduwww.cide.mx

### CJM

(210) 732-8957  
cjm@igc.apc.org

## Guidelines For International Calls

To call Mexico from the U.S., dial: 011-52 (city code) + the number

To call the U.S. from Mexico, dial: 001 (area code) + the number

## Contacts

### AFSC Maquiladora Project/Comité Fronterizo de Obreras

1501 Cherry St.

Philadelphia, PA 19102 USA

Tel: (215) 241-7000

Fax: (215) 241-7275

Email: RHernand@afsc.org

Web: <http://www.afsc.org/pdesc/pd141.htm>

Works to deepen public understanding of globalization, trade, and workers' rights issues on Mexico's border.

### Alliance for Responsible Trade

927 15th Street NW

Washington, DC 20005 USA

Tel: (202) 898-1566

Fax: (202) 898-1612

Email: [dgap@igc.apc.org](mailto:dgap@igc.apc.org)

Web: <http://www.art-us.org/>

Network of labor, family-farm, religious, women's, environmental, development, and research organizations that promotes equitable and sustainable trade and development.

### Asociación Nacional de Empresas Comercializadoras de Productores del Campo, A.C. (ANEC)

Miguel Angel de Quevedo 50-400

Col.Chimalistoc, Del. Alvaro Obregon

DF, Mexico C.P. 01050

Tel: (5) 661-5914 or 662-9297

Fax (5) 661-5909

Email: [anec2@laneta.apc.org](mailto:anec2@laneta.apc.org)

Web: <http://www.laneta.apc.org/anec/>

Group of Mexican basic grain cultivators working to respond to the challenges of economic liberalization and globalization in Mexico by developing campesino commercial networks.

### Centro de Apoyo al Desarrollo Sostenible (CADS)

Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey

Edificio CETEC Torre Sur 3er. Piso

Av. Eugenio Garza Sada #2501 Sur

Monterrey, NL, Mexico C.P. 64849

<http://www-cads.mty.itesm.mx/>

Tel: (5 8) 358-14-00 ext. 5090 a la 5095

Fax: (5 8) 328-42-19

Email: [info@academ12.mty.itesm.mx](mailto:info@academ12.mty.itesm.mx)

CADS' mission is to encourage the concept of sustainable development via education and training and disseminate it to individuals, organizations, and communities in order to help them play a larger role in Mexico's development process.

### Centro de Educación y Capacitación para el Desarrollo Sustentable (Cecadesu)

Progreso No.3, 1er. piso

Col. Del Carmen, Del. Coyoacan

DF, Mexico, C.P. 04110

Tel: (5) 658-3380

Fax: (5) 658-3381

Email: [tiahoga@semarnat.gob.mx](mailto:tiahoga@semarnat.gob.mx)

Semarnat office charged with fostering collaboration between various sectors that promotes sustainable development, improved environmental conditions, and better quality of life for residents.

### Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE)

Carretera México-Toluca No. 3655

Col. Lomas de Santa Fe, Del. Alvaro Obregón

DF, Mexico C.P. 01210

Toll free: (01) 800-021-4293

Email: [buzon@cide.eduwww.cide.mx](mailto:buzon@cide.eduwww.cide.mx)

Web: <http://www.cide.mx/>

One of Mexico's leading research and higher education institutions. Surfing through the "publications" subdirectory will guide you toward economic studies.

### Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras (CJM)

530 Bandera Rd.

San Antonio, TX 78228 USA

Tel: (210) 732-8957

Fax: (210) 732-8324

Email: [cjm@igc.apc.org](mailto:cjm@igc.apc.org)

Web: [www.pctvi.com/laamn/cjm.html](http://www.pctvi.com/laamn/cjm.html)

A trinational alliance of religious, environmental, labor, Latino, and women's organizations that seeks to pressure transnational corporations to adopt socially responsible practices within the maquiladora industry.

### Equipo Pueblo

Francisco Field Jurado No. 51

Col. Independencia

DF, Mexico C.P. 06760

Tel: (5) 539-0015, 539-0055

Email: [pueblodip@laneta.apc.org](mailto:pueblodip@laneta.apc.org) or [mpri@webtelmex.net.mx](mailto:mpri@webtelmex.net.mx)

Promotes alternative economic and social projects at the local/regional level and seeks to influence the decisionmaking policies of multilateral organizations, foreign governments (particularly the United States), and the Mexican government regarding Mexico's economy, democracy, and public policies.

**Greenpeace Mexico**

Andalucía 218, Col. Álamos  
 DF, Mexico C.P. 03400  
 Tel: (5) 590-6868  
 Fax: (5) 590-9474  
 Email: [greenpeace.mexico@dialb.greenpeace.org](mailto:greenpeace.mexico@dialb.greenpeace.org)  
 Web: <http://www.greenpeace.org.mx/>

**Instituto de Investigaciones Económicas, UNAM**

Torre II de Humanidades,  
 Ciudad Universitaria  
 DF, Mexico C.P. 04510  
 Tel: (5) 623-0122 or 623-0102  
 Fax: (5) 623-0123  
 Email: [direcc@servidor.unam.mx](mailto:direcc@servidor.unam.mx)  
 Web: <http://www.iiec.unam.mx/>

**Instituto Tecnológico de México (ITAM)**

Av. Camino a Santa Teresa #930  
 Col. Héroes de Padierna, Del. Magdalena Contreras  
 DF, Mexico C.P. 10700  
 Tel: (56) 28-40-00  
 Email: [caie@itam.mx](mailto:caie@itam.mx) or [cie\\_itam@itam.mx](mailto:cie_itam@itam.mx)  
 Web: <http://www.itam.mx/>  
 Maintains several research centers whose work focuses on Mexican economic issues.

**North American Integration and Development Center (NAID), UCLA**

3250 Public Policy Building  
 Los Angeles, CA 90095-1656 USA  
 Tel: (310) 206-4609  
 Fax: (310) 825-8574  
 Web: <http://naid.sppsr.ucla.edu/>  
 Conducts ongoing research concerning North American integration and assists communities and governments with policies and investment projects for sustainable and equitable development across borders.

**Red Mexicana de Acción Frente al Libre Comercio (RMALC)**

Godard No. 20, Col. Guadalupe Victoria  
 DF, Mexico, C.P. 07790  
 Tel/Fax: (5) 556-0642  
 Email: [rimalc@laneta.apc.org](mailto:rimalc@laneta.apc.org)  
 Web: <http://www.rimalc.org.mx/>  
 One of Mexico's leading nongovernmental networks working on trade and economic issues.

**Red para el Desarrollo Sostenible de México, A.C.**

Calle 7 No. 1, Eesquina Carretera Picacho Ajusco  
 Col. Ampliación Hidalgo, Del. Tlalpan  
 DF, Mexico C.P. 14250  
 Tel: 54 46 45 59  
 Fax: 54 46 39 16  
 Email: [rds@rds.org.mx](mailto:rds@rds.org.mx)  
 Web: <http://www.rds.org.mx/servicios.shtml>  
 Created with support of the UN and Semarnat in order to promote the participation of civil society in the design, implementations, and evaluation of programs related to sustainable development and the conservation of Mexico's biodiversity and natural resources.

**Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales**

Coordinadora de Participación Social y Transparencia  
 Blvd. Adolfo Ruiz Cortines #4209  
 Jardines en la Montaña  
 Tlalpan, DF, Mexico C.P. 14210  
 Tel. (5) 490-09-00 Ext. 25868 or 5628-06-00 Ext. 12072  
 Email: [r10@semarnat.gob.mx](mailto:r10@semarnat.gob.mx)  
 Web: <http://www.semarnat.gob.mx/rio10/>  
 Charged with developing Mexico's "Agenda 21" and with meeting commitments made by Mexico to the UN Commission of Sustainable Development.

**Websites**

**Borrador del Informe Nacional Sobre los Avances en el Cumplimiento de la Cumbre de la Tierra**  
<http://www.semarnat.gob.mx/rio10/>

**Centro de Estadística Agropecuaria (CEA)**  
<http://www.sagarpa.gob.mx/cea.html>

**Centro de Estudios para el Cambio en el Campo Mexicano (CECCAM)**  
<http://www.laneta.apc.org/ceccam/>

**Coordinadora Nacional de Organizaciones Cafetaleras**  
<http://www.laneta.apc.org/cnoc/>

**INEGI**  
<http://www.inegi.gob.mx/>  
 The Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía, e Informática (INEGI) provides information and statistics on Mexico's economic structure, short-term economic indicators, and infrastructure.

**Mexican Federal Government Semester Reports**  
<http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/?P=220>

**National Development Plan**  
<http://www.pnd.presidencia.gob.mx/>

**Plan Puebla-Panama**  
<http://ppp.presidencia.gob.mx/>  
<http://www.rimalc.org.mx/ppp.htm>  
<http://www.iadb.org/ppp/>  
 Information and analysis regarding the plan from Mexico's government, RMALC, and the Interamerican Development Bank.

**Red de Estudios de la Economía Mundial**  
<http://www.redem.buap.mx/>

**Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación (SAGARPA)**  
<http://www.sagarpa.gob.mx/>

**Secretaría de Desarrollo Social**  
<http://www.sedesol.gob.mx/index1.htm>

**Secretaría de Trabajo y Previsión Social**  
<http://www.stps.gob.mx/>

**Secretaría de la Economía**  
<http://www.secofi.gob.mx/>


# border briefs

## Maquila Meltdown

As many as half a million Mexicans, by some estimates, have lost their jobs as a result of the economic downturn north of the border, and many more are struggling to survive on reduced incomes in a nation where nearly half the population lives in poverty. Throughout Mexico, companies have been shutting down factories or laying off workers to cut their costs in the face of the U.S. economic downturn. The maquiladora industry—especially plants in the electronics, textile, and automobile assembly sectors—has been hit the hardest. Maquiladoras along Mexico's northern border have laid off an estimated 100,000 workers this year. Baja California has lost 23,000 maquiladora jobs, and Chihuahua maquiladoras have laid off 59,000. Many factories that remain open are cutting back employee hours to avoid more layoffs.

The situation illustrates the degree to which Mexico's economy is tied to that of the United States. According to Alfredo Thorne, chief Latin American economist for J.P. Morgan Chase in Mexico City, "the correlation of manufacturing job losses in Mexico to the deceleration of the U.S. economy is about one-to-one." Mexico sells 80-90% of its exports to America.


Recent studies indicate that roughly 20% of Mexicans are unemployed or work less than 35 hours a week. Mexico does not offer unemployment benefits to its workers. The government of the border state of Sonora, however, has announced a new \$1.1 million fund available to support border maquiladoras that are facing economic hardships. The strategy of the program is to prevent further firings of maquiladora employees by paying their salaries for up to three months.

In Ciudad Juárez, the maquiladora industry has asked all levels of government for a tax amnesty until the economy recovers. These firms are seeking federal relief by requesting a suspension of health coverage obligations and housing payments for their workers. The maquiladoras are asking the state government to suspend the payroll tax currently paid by companies. The reasoning behind the requests is that if employees cost less to retain, the maquilas will have to lay off fewer workers. 

## Mexico Misses Water Delivery Deadline

In July, Mexico failed to meet its deadline to deliver water north of the border in order to repay a debt owed to the U.S. for agricultural uses. Under an agreement that Mexican President Vicente Fox made with U.S. President George Bush in March, Mexico was to release 300,000 acre-feet of water into the Rio Grande by July 31 as an installment on its total water debt.

Angry farmers and water officials in Texas say it is now too late for any delivery of water to salvage the drought-stressed cotton and grain crops in the area. The Texas Department of Agriculture recently said that 80% of this year's crop of dry-land cotton in one Texas county could not be harvested due to dry conditions.

Agricultural experts said that if Mexico were to release the water soon, however, it could still help sugar cane, citrus, and fall vegetable production in Texas. 

## Migration Roundup


According to the most recent edition of *Migration News* ([migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/index.html](http://migration.ucdavis.edu/mn/index.html)), the number of Mexican-born U.S. residents has increased from 760,000 in 1970 to 8.8 million in 2000. Mexican-born U.S. residents now make up 29% of all U.S. immigrants; in California, they account for 44% of the immigrant population.

In other related migration news, the new Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) commissioner, James W. Ziglar, was confirmed on July 31, 2001. Ziglar said he will soon begin a major restructuring of the agency, splitting it into separate service and enforcement branches. The 2002 INS budget is \$5.5 billion, up from this year's \$4.8 billion budget. Currently the INS has 34,000 employees and is opening 1,364 new positions in 2002.

Despite these pending changes and a U.S. commitment made to Mexico this past June to review its Southwest enforcement strategy, the INS continues to advocate increased militarization of the border. The Border Patrol's fiscal year 2001 budget is about \$1.2 billion, a 9% increase over its FY 2000 budget. Of the approximate 9,000 agents currently active, 93% are located on the border. Still, the Border Patrol estimates

that it needs between 11,700 and 14,000 total agents as well as "hundreds of millions of dollars" in advanced technology to watch the border region.

A U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) report issued in August, however, concluded that there is "no clear indication" that fewer unauthorized aliens are attempting to enter the United States as a result of Border Patrol expansion. Instead, the GAO concluded, INS operations Gatekeeper, Rio Grande, Hold the Line, and Safeguard have pushed border crossers into remote areas, where an estimated 1,013 have died since October 1997, mostly of heat exposure or drowning.

Additional *borderlines* coverage of migration-related issues, especially ongoing high-level talks between the United States and Mexico, is available online at [www.us-mex.org/updater](http://www.us-mex.org/updater). 

## As the Global Economy Cools, Trade Disputes Heat Up...

The current downturn in the global economy appears to be producing an increase in international tensions related to trade disputes. A growing number of trade battles are raging between producers in Mexico and the U.S., with bitter complaints of protectionism or "dumping" of goods at unfair prices, depending on the perspective of the aggrieved party.

Mexican producers of a wide range of products are angry over U.S. trade restrictions that they say violate international trade pacts or purchasing agreements. Sugar farmers in Mexico are on strike, protesting increased imports of corn syrup from the U.S. sold to Mexico's soft-drink manufacturers, the farmers' biggest customers. At the same time, they argue that restrictions on imports of Mexican sugar to the U.S. are in violation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Additional U.S.-Mexico trade flashpoints include: the standoff over NAFTA provisions that permit Mexican trucks to operate on U.S. highways; a U.S. investigation into allegations that Mexican grape growers are dumping their goods north of the line; Mexican threats to take action regarding U.S. restrictions on Mexican tuna; a recent Mexican ban on imports of U.S. potatoes;

*continued on back page*

# Environmentalists Eye Cross-border Energy Schemes

by Jonathan Treat

An impending energy crunch in Mexico, coupled with the current push by the administration of President George W. Bush to bolster U.S. energy stores, has led to a surge in binational efforts to develop power plants along the U.S.-Mexico border. The rush to build new plants has activists and environmentalists in both countries worried. They warn that the planned facilities could have dire consequences for area communities already suffering from air and water pollution. In response, several groups have joined a cross-border campaign to forward concrete, alternative proposals for meeting energy demands in environmentally friendly ways.

Forming the Border Power Plant Working Group (BPPWG), they are spearheading efforts to convince U.S. and Mexican officials to consider building "sustainable" power plants that would reduce the negative environmental impacts of electricity generation. The group consists of some 15 leaders of health and environmental organizations, academics, and authorities from California, Baja California, Arizona, and Sonora.

On Aug. 23, the BPPWG sent a letter to 160 elected officials on both sides of the border to persuade them to influence their respective governments to take action on the BPPWG alternative proposal. The proposal features a multi-level agreement between U.S. and Mexican agencies for environmental requirements for new power plants in the border region. The group requested the proposal be addressed at the Sept. 4-5 Binational Commission meeting that Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox recently convened in Washington, DC.

"We realized we have to jump on this now, because all kinds of things are happening," Bill Powers, a border-region energy consultant and a leading organizer of the BPPWG effort, recently told the *San Diego Union Tribune*. "We have a pretty simple agenda of what we're looking for." [1]

## Simple Agenda

What the BPPWG is looking for, specifically, are standards that limit emissions of air pollutants and regulate water use by power plants.

BPPWG organizers argue that the U.S. and Mexican governments can ensure that new power plants cause no net increase in air pollution by requiring them to use state-of-the-art air emission control systems. Additionally, the organizers say that power plants at inland sites should rely on dry, air cooling technology, rather than the water cooling systems currently proposed, in order to prevent the depletion and pollution of already scarce and fouled water resources.

Mexico's northern border region, and particularly that of Baja California, has recently attracted the attention of several major energy developers as a choice site for power projects—ranging from electric plants to liquid natural gas terminals. One reason is the opportunity for exporting electricity north to meet U.S. demand. Many observers say that U.S. companies are enticed by the prospects of building power plants south of the border both to avoid the United States' more stringent permitting processes and to utilize cheap Mexican labor in their construction.

For its part, Mexico is interested in developing new sources of energy generation as a result of projections indicating that by 2004 the country could begin experiencing nationwide power blackouts unless it dramatically increases its capacity. According to Mexican regulators, to address the situation, the country must build as many as 40 power plants and double its current generating capacity over the next eight years.

## Mexico's Energy Challenge

Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex), Mexico's state-run oil monopoly and the world's fifth-largest oil producer, imports 15% of its natural gas, even though the company controls some of the world's richest hydrocarbon deposits, including one in the Gulf of Mexico, ranked third-largest in the world. The reason: Mexico lacks the infrastructure and money to develop these resources. As a result, much of the natural gas that the country extracts—worth up to several million dollars a day—is burned off, rather than processed. Currently, Mexico is experiencing a serious deficit of natural gas, and some analysts say that the

## CONTACTS:

### Bill Powers

BPPWG  
(619) 295-2072  
bpowers@pacbell.net

### Dick Kamp

Border Ecology Project  
(505) 471-4808  
bepdick@worldnet.att.net

### Imperial Valley Clean Air Stakeholders Group

c/o American Lung Association  
of Imperial and San Diego Counties  
(619) 297-3901  
info@lungsandiego.org

*continued on p. 10*

## WEB SOURCES:

### **“Citizens Group Calling for Action to Curb Border Air Pollution”**

*San Diego Union-Tribune*  
[www.uniontrib.com/news/mexico/20010907-9999\\_1n7mexair.html](http://www.uniontrib.com/news/mexico/20010907-9999_1n7mexair.html)

### **“Cross-border Energy Connections: Truth and Fiction”**

*borderlines* vol. 9 no. 4,  
April 2001  
[www.us-mex.org/borderlines](http://www.us-mex.org/borderlines)

### **“Energy Firms Get a Foothold in Mexico”**

*Los Angeles Times*,  
19 August 2001  
[www.latimes.com/business/la-000067402aug19.story](http://www.latimes.com/business/la-000067402aug19.story)

### **“New Border Plants Will Take Toll on Air Quality”**

*San Diego Union-Tribune*  
[www.uniontrib.com/news/reports/power/20010627-9999\\_1n27plants.html](http://www.uniontrib.com/news/reports/power/20010627-9999_1n27plants.html)

*continued from p. 9*

country’s gas consumption could nearly double within five years.

Pemex recently issued a statement saying that the company could collapse unless it receives major infusions of capital. Raúl Muñoz Leos, the company’s director, said that Pemex needs to invest more than \$30 billion in production and exploration for oil and gas over the next five years—money the company doesn’t have.

Fox, pragmatic and business-minded, is looking abroad for that money. He is building on efforts by previous Mexican presidents Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Ernesto Zedillo to allow greater private investment in the country’s energy sector. Zedillo proposed a privatization plan in 1999, but he quickly abandoned the idea as too politically charged during an election year.

Under the Mexican Constitution, energy resources are controlled by the state. The country nationalized its oil industry in 1938, after decades of what many Mexicans still consider unfair exploitation of their oil and gas resources by U.S. petroleum companies. This nationalization has been a source of pride for Mexicans, and the date of the event remains a national holiday. State control of energy resources is strongly associated with national security and independence.

## **Private Investment Generates Controversy**

Nevertheless, Fox is moving forward with his efforts to attract private foreign investment into Mexico’s energy sector, largely due to assessments that Mexico needs a massive injection of capital if it is to avert a serious energy crisis. Industry analysts estimate that the country needs to invest a total of about \$70 billion over the next 10 years to sufficiently develop its oil and gas resources to meet national energy needs.

Fox’s efforts, however, have met with formidable opposition. Many Mexicans reject private involvement in the development and distribution of their country’s energy resources. The Mexican Congress, for example, recently filed a complaint with the country’s highest court accusing Fox of violating the Constitution by unilaterally taking steps to open up the electric power sector—the first such challenge to a Mexican president in the nation’s history. The majority of Congress is also bitterly opposed to Fox’s proposed amendments to the Constitution to allow an increase in the amount of electricity that private companies can sell to the state-run Federal Electricity Commission (CFE).

Responding to congressional complaints, Fox contends that his administration is acting in the best interests of Mexico in deciding to expand the CFE’s purchases of electricity from private sector sources like the numerous foreign-owned generating plants springing up on the border. “We should be discussing whether we want to have sufficient electricity in the coming years or whether we want to experience continued blackouts,” he said recently. [2]

Attempting to allay concerns that he is surrendering the country’s energy autonomy—particularly to U.S. companies—Fox has promised that the government will retain control of Mexico’s electricity under all circumstances.

The president is pushing ahead with plans to expand electricity generation with the help of private investors, using a strategy of limited privatization that allows concessions for construction and operation of generating facilities in Mexico for specified time periods in exchange for promises to sell power to the CFE.

Federal Electricity Commission records show that the Mexican government has already entered into such contractual agreements with several foreign companies, forming binational partnerships to construct 23 plants in an effort to guarantee adequate supplies of power to the country through 2004.

Many of these plants are to be located in the border states of Baja California and Sonora.

New plants, or major expansions of existing facilities, are planned in three locations along the border in Sonora.

Six new plants are slated for Baja California, two of them in Mexicali. A plant at Rosarito Beach near Tijuana, started operations in July, and another is planned nearby.

In addition, a huge coal-fired plant proposed for the Mexican border state of Coahuila is currently in the permitting process.

North of the border, meanwhile, 16 new electric power plants are slated for construction in Arizona.

## **Border Health and Environmental Concerns**

Bracing for the onslaught, area residents are expressing concern about the effects the new plants will have on the health and livelihoods of their communities.

The BPPWG is critical of the fact that the proposed power plants will be constructed in binational air basins that already fail to meet U.S. and

Mexican emissions standards. For example, the group's alternative proposal points out that the most intensive construction of new plants will be near the desert city of Mexicali, an area now suffering from serious levels of air pollution.

One of the Mexicali plants, Termoeléctrica de Mexicali, owned by Sempra Energy of San Diego, will be outfitted with state-of-the-art pollution control devices and continuous emission monitors, which are required of all new U.S. power plants. But the other plant, being built by the global power generation firm InterGen, will not have these features.

By locating their plant on the Mexican side of the border, Sempra will enjoy potential savings of as much as \$55 million. But, say environmentalists, the price paid by area residents will be high. When the plants begin operating in 2003, they will pump more than 4,000 tons of pollutants per year into the skies above Mexicali and neighboring Imperial County, according to a recent report by the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District. Exposure to pollutants produced by power plant emissions can cause asthma, emphysema, respiratory infections, lung damage, and heart attacks.

Sempra's Mexicali plant will export all of its 500 megawatts of electricity to U.S. consumers. InterGen's planned facility will export about 30% of its power to the U.S., with the remaining electricity serving Baja California residents. The plants, located just 10 miles from the California city of Calexico, will export enough electricity to power about 600,000 California homes.

Mexican officials say that although the Sempra plant will provide no electricity for Mexican citizens, it will bring jobs to the area, adding that Sempra and InterGen probably decided to locate in Mexico to take advantage of lower construction costs and an easier permitting process. The BPPWG agrees, but it takes that analysis a few steps further.

"The people who pay the price for poorer air quality as a result of a power project locating on the Mexican side of the border are the U.S. and Mexican citizens that live in the Imperial Valley-Mexicali binational airshed," the BPPWG's proposal states. "The financial beneficiary is the power project developer that chooses to locate in a polluted Mexican border city, in part to avoid the time and cost delays associated with complying with U.S. regulations designed to ensure air quality improvement and economic growth at the same time." The BPPWG's proposal adds that the new plants will offer few jobs to area residents.

The environmental alliance is also critical of the fact that power plants proposed for inland sites

along the border are designed to use wet cooling systems that will evaporate millions of gallons of water per day. The Mexicali area, in particular, faces acute water shortages. Already the area's rapidly growing population competes with agricultural interests for scarce water resources.

## A Little Conservation Regulation Would Go A Long Way

Requiring state-of-the-art emission controls on each proposed power plant would cost less than 2% of the plant's overall projected budget, argues the BPPWG; installing dry cooling systems for inland power plants would save 95% of the water that would otherwise be lost to evaporation, it notes.

The dry cooling system, according to BPPWG, is a proven alternative with a 40-year history of commercial success, is already in use at several Mexican power plants, and has been recommended by the World Bank for power plant projects in all climatic conditions due to its more rational water use.

"This is a historic opportunity to renew a binational commitment to environmental quality improvement in the border region while promoting expansion of the border economy," BPPWG's Aug. 23 letter to U.S. and Mexican leaders states. "We believe that a policy requiring environmentally sustainable power plant development in the border region is in the mutual benefit of the U.S. and Mexico. Such an agreement may serve as a model that can and should be applied anywhere within our borders to address the transnational nature of power generation and transmission in North America."

*Jonathan Treat, a journalist and independent documentary filmmaker with extensive experience in Mexico and Central America, writes regularly for borderlines. He is currently on staff at the Spring Institute, a Denver-based nonprofit corporation offering English as a Second Language and job training classes to immigrants and refugees.*

---

**Notes:** [1] Diane Lindquist, "Group Calls for Pollution, Water-use Limits," *San Diego Union Tribune*, Aug. 24, 2001; [2] "Congress Files Constitutional Complaint Against President Fox for Decision on Purchases of Electric Power," *SourceMex*, vol. 12 no. 26, July 18, 2001.


### WEB SOURCES:

**InterGen**  
[www.intergen.com](http://www.intergen.com)

**Mexico Energy Intelligence**  
[www.energia.com](http://www.energia.com)

**Sempra Energy**  
[www.sempra.com](http://www.sempra.com)

**continued from p. 8**


protests by California farmers regarding imports of Mexican avocados; and U.S. complaints regarding protections shielding Mexico's telecommunications industry. 

### **...And Anti-NAFTA Sentiment Grows**

Since the passage of NAFTA, Mexico has seen a major increase in imports of inexpensive American corn from major producing states like Iowa and Illinois. Mexico currently is Illinois' second-largest corn buyer, purchasing about \$950 million of U.S. corn each year. The cheap imported corn is squeezing many Mexican corn growers out of the market. As a result, Mexican farmers are becoming increasingly outspoken in their belief that Mexico, under NAFTA, is getting the short end of the stick.

Corn prices south of the border have dropped 45% over the past three years—a devastating blow to Mexican growers. As many as 400,000 corn farmers in Mexico have either sold or rented out their farmland in the seven years since NAFTA's implementation. Many have been forced to migrate to Mexico's urban centers or cross the border to look for work in the United States.

Mexican farmers argue that the government needs to return to higher tariffs on corn imports, expressing fear that thousands more of them will be forced out of business when the corn market opens up completely to free trade in 2008. Mexico's corn producers' association is waging a legal battle for a 30% increase in tariffs on corn

imported beyond NAFTA quotas. It opposes a recent government decision to decrease such tariffs to only 1-3%. 

### **Miscellany and FYI**


BIOS recently released the preliminary results of our survey on the BECC and the North American Development Bank (NADB). The survey report is available for download at [www.us-mex.org](http://www.us-mex.org).

The Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) has a new main telephone number: 011 (521) 688-4600.

The 2001 Southwest Center for Environmental Research and Policy (SCERP) Annual Technical Conference: Sustainable Development in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region is slated for October 16-19 in Mexicali, B.C. For more information, visit [www.scerp.org](http://www.scerp.org).

The GAO has recently released two reports that may be of interest to some readers. *North American Free Trade Agreement: U.S. Experience with Labor, Environment, and Investment Dispute Settlement and Trade Adjustment Assistance: Experiences of Six Trade-Impacted Communities* are available at [www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?gao-01-933](http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?gao-01-933) and [www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?gao-01-838](http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?gao-01-838), respectively.

The Good Neighbor Environmental Board will be meeting October 10-11 in Laredo, TX. See [www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb-page.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb-page.htm) for more information.

The Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Basin Coalition's annual Dia del Rio is scheduled for October 20. Visit [www.rioweb.org/dia\\_del\\_rio.html](http://www.rioweb.org/dia_del_rio.html) for more information. 

## **borderlines**

VOLUME 9 · NUMBER 9 · OCTOBER 2001

Editor: George Kourous

Writer: Jonathan Treat

Production: Tonya Cannariato

ISSN: 1065-1411

### **POSTMASTER**

Send change of address information to:

IRC · Box 4506 · Albuquerque, NM 87196-4506

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

*borderlines* is produced by the Border Information and Outreach Service, a project of the Interhemispheric Resource Center. Funding is supplied by the Ford, Kellogg, and Charles Stewart Mott Foundations.

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Individual subscriptions are \$12 per year in the United States, and free on a limited basis in Mexico. Institutional subscriptions are \$20 per year. All subscriptions in other countries add \$5 to the cost. Email [borderlines@irc-online.org](mailto:borderlines@irc-online.org) or call (505) 842-8288 to subscribe.

### **EDITORIAL OFFICE**

Box 2178 · Silver City · NM 88062-2178

Voice: (505) 388-0208

Fax: (505) 388-0619

Email: [borderlines@irc-online.org](mailto:borderlines@irc-online.org)

Website: <http://www.us-mex.org/>

## **INTERHEMISPHERIC RESOURCE CENTER**

**BOX 4506**

**ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87196-4506**

**NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
ALBUQUERQUE, NM  
PERMIT NO. 990**

## **ISSUE 82**

The information at the top of your mailing label indicates when your subscription ends.