



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

New Mexico Proposed Clean Car Rule

The New Mexico Environment Department and the City of Albuquerque’s Environmental Health Department are proposing a coordinated set of rules adopting the state of California’s emission standards for new motor vehicles. The proposed rules are collectively known as the “Proposed Clean Car Rule.” The New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board and the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board (Local Air Board) will decide whether to adopt the Proposed Clean Car Rule following a public hearing, which begins on May 4, 2022. The rule before the Environmental Improvement Board is available [here](#) and the rule before the Local Air Board is available [here](#).

To further public understanding of the Proposed Clean Car Rule, here are answers to some frequently asked questions about the proposed rule.

What does the Proposed Clean Car Rule do?

The Proposed Clean Car Rule adopts California’s Advanced Clean Cars program, a coordinated package of regulations designed to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and ozone- and smog-causing pollutants from new passenger cars, trucks, and SUVs. The rule includes a combination of increasingly stringent vehicle emission standards and a requirement that manufacturers deliver for sale an increasing number of zero-emission vehicles, such as battery electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, in New Mexico starting in model year 2026.

The Proposed Clean Car Rule will not limit the types of vehicles New Mexicans can buy. Dealers will still be able to sell trucks and SUVs to those who want or need them, and no one will be forced to buy an electric vehicle. However, the Proposed Clean Car Rule will require that all vehicles are cleaner and ensure that more zero-emission vehicles are available for purchase by those who want to save money at the pump or just want the cleanest vehicle available.

Why do we need the Proposed Clean Car Rule?

Transportation is the second-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in New Mexico according to the [2018 New Mexico Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory](#), and cars and trucks contribute over 70% of transportation-related emissions. To limit the impacts of climate change, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has committed New Mexico to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by at least 45 percent by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. To help accomplish that goal, the Governor has directed the New Mexico Environment Department to propose standards to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from new vehicles sold in the state.

The Proposed Clean Car Rule is also part of New Mexico’s and the City of Albuquerque’s respective ozone attainment initiatives, which aim to reduce ozone in counties – such as Bernalillo County – experiencing elevated ozone levels. Exposure to ozone causes a variety of



respiratory health effects, including coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath, and can aggravate lung diseases such as asthma. Cars and trucks are a major source of the pollutants that form ozone, which is the main ingredient in smog.

Whom does the Proposed Clean Car Rule affect?

The Proposed Clean Car Rule mainly affects auto manufacturers, which will be required to deliver for sale in New Mexico vehicles that meet the standards in the rule, including delivering an increasing number of zero-emission vehicles for dealers to sell. The Proposed Clean Car Rule also affects:

- dealers, which will only be able to sell or lease vehicles that meet the Proposed Clean Car Rule standards (unless the vehicle will be registered in a different state);
- car rental companies, which will only be able to rent vehicles that meet the standards (unless the final destination of the rental vehicle is outside of New Mexico); and
- individuals, who will only be able to register and title new vehicles that meet the standards.

To what vehicles does the Proposed Clean Car Rule apply?

The Proposed Clean Car Rule only applies to new 2026 and subsequent model year passenger cars, trucks, and SUVs. The Proposed Clean Car Rule considers a new vehicle as one with 7,500 miles or fewer on the odometer. The Proposed Clean Car Rule does not apply to heavy-duty vehicles, such as semi-trucks, or to used vehicles. The Proposed Clean Car Rule also exempts certain vehicles from the standards, such as but not limited to inherited vehicles, custom show vehicles, and farm equipment.

Where does the Proposed Clean Car Rule apply?

The Proposed Clean Car Rule will apply statewide, as required by the federal Clean Air Act. The Proposed Clean Car Rule will be administered and enforced primarily by the New Mexico Environment Department and not the City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department.

When does the Proposed Clean Car Rule go into effect?

If the Proposed Clean Car Rule is adopted, the new standards will go into effect starting with model year 2026 vehicles, which will begin arriving in dealer showrooms sometime in 2025. However, the Proposed Clean Car Rule incentivizes manufacturers to deliver zero-emission vehicles earlier than that, which means more electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles could begin arriving in dealer showrooms as early as July 2022.

Will the Proposed Clean Car Rule standards be different in Albuquerque/Bernalillo County than for the rest of New Mexico?

No, the Proposed Clean Car Rule has one set of standards for a single, statewide motor vehicle emission program but the local rule will have some differences, like granting the City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department inspection authority along with the New Mexico Environment Department. The state and local rules are identical in many respects, but to the



extent that the state and local rules differ in administrative and enforcement authorities they do not create an undue burden for manufacturers or the public.

What is the process for adopting the Proposed Clean Car Rule?

The New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board and the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board must decide whether to adopt the Proposed Clean Car Rule after a public hearing where interested persons are given the opportunity to present their views. The Boards have agreed to hold a joint hearing on the rule beginning on May 4, 2022, at 9 a.m. The hearing is expected to last two days. For details about the hearing and how to participate:

- see the New Mexico Environment Department’s [hearing notice](#);
- visit the hearing entry on the Department’s [events calendar](#);
- see the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board’s [hearing notice](#);
- visit the hearing docket on the Air Board’s [website](#).

Where can I get a copy of the Proposed Clean Car Rule?

The New Mexico Environment Department’s proposed rule and related materials are available on the Department’s Docketed Matters [website](#) (see EIB 21-66 (R) – In the Matter of Proposed 20.2.91 NMAC). The City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department’s proposed rule and related materials are available on the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board’s Public Notices and Comment Opportunities [website](#) (see AQCB Petition No. 2022-1).

Whom do I contact if I have questions about the Proposed Clean Car Rule? How can I provide public comment?

Questions and informal comments on the New Mexico Environment Department’s proposed rule can be directed to Claudia Borchert at (505) 699-8489 or cleancarsnm@state.nm.us. Questions and unofficial comments on the City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Department’s proposed rule can be directed to Ken Miller at (505) 768-2660 or kjmillier@cabq.gov. The deadline for submitting comments is 5 p.m. on March 25, 2022.

If you wish to submit a written statement for the record you may do so at any time prior to the end of the hearing. Send your statement to either of the following:

EIB Administrator
New Mexico Environment Department
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502
pamela.jones@state.nm.us

AQCB Liaison
Environmental Health Department
P.O. Box 1293
Albuquerque, NM 87103
seapodaca@cabq.gov

Where can I get more information?

Additional information on the Proposed Clean Car Rule is available on the [Road to Clean Cars New Mexico](#) web page and on the City of Albuquerque’s [Clean Cars I Regulation Documents](#) web page.