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Environment Department's OSHA Recognizes Aztec Well Servicing for Excellence in Programs that Protect Workers

(Santa Fe, NM) The New Mexico Environment Department's Occupational Health and Safety Bureau will recognize Aztec Well Servicing Co. Inc. tomorrow in Aztec for exceeding regulatory standards by creating health and safety programs for its workers in the oil and gas industry.

NMED's OSHB granted a membership to the Aztec-based company in the bureau's Oil and Gas Safe Site Program. Companies that exceed regulatory standards are eligible for membership in the program.

"The oil and gas industry has a high incidence of on the job deaths and injuries. Companies that make the extra effort to improve conditions for employees are to be commended," said Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. "We will continue to work on reducing occupational-related fatalities, injuries and illnesses for New Mexico workers."

Aztec Well Servicing will be recognized for its exemplary performance Wednesday, July 25, during the legislature's Revenue Stabilization and Tax Policy Committee Meeting at San Juan College in Aztec. A company-wide recognition party will be held the following week.

NMED's OSHB continues to expand programs that improve work site conditions and promote health and safety in the oil and gas industry. In response to an increasing number of injuries and fatalities in that industry, the bureau introduced a new recognition program to identify companies who go exceed regulatory standards to create exceptional health and safety programs. Oil and gas companies through the program agree to reduce employee exposures to causes of injuries, illnesses and fatalities through hazard identification and correction in order to participate in the program. The most important requirement of the program is employee involvement in the daily implementation of worksite safety and health.

To become part of the program, Aztec Well Servicing demonstrated excellence in developing and maintaining a safety and health culture through programs, attention, and training. In addition, their outstanding efforts include maintaining an injury and illness rate below the national average for their industry.

Wayne and Sally Sandel opened Aztec Well Servicing in 1963 after buying five pole units for well servicing from J. P. "Bum" Gibbins. The company, which is one of the largest private employers in San Juan County, is the largest independently owned well-servicing contractor in New Mexico.

For more information on NM OSHA's Oil and Gas Safe Site Program, contact Carol Walker at 505-222-9505 or carol.walker@state.nm.us.

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