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Environment Department Issues Permit for the Alcalde Waste Transfer Station and Recycling Facility

Permit Allows the Construction of the Much Needed Facility Near Española

(Santa Fe, New Mexico) – The New Mexico Environment Department announced today the issuance of a solid waste permit to the North Central Solid Waste Authority (NCSWA) and Rio Arriba County for operation of the soon-to-be-constructed Alcalde Waste Transfer Station and Recycling Facility.

Under this permit, NCSWA and Rio Arriba County will be able to collect municipal solid waste, construction and demolition debris, and source-separated recyclable materials at the facility. However, the facility will not be accepting any items categorized as special wastes.

The development, construction, and operation of an engineered lined landfill can be very expensive for small or rural communities. The Alcalde Facility will provide a nearby and state-of-the-art enclosed facility for local residents, commercial haulers, and NCSWA to dispose of their waste. By transitioning to a transfer building that will consolidate wastes, Rio Arriba County and NCSWA will be able to offer a high level of solid waste management services, including access to recycling at a reasonable cost, as compared to the costs of siting, permitting, constructing, operating, and closing a landfill.

The Alcalde Waste Transfer and Recycling Facility will be located approximately six miles north of Española on State Road 68, adjacent to the former Alcalde Collection Station. Rio Arriba County anticipates that the new facility will open for business in the first quarter of 2014. The facility will be an enclosed 9,600 square foot building, and customers will be able to drop waste on a concrete floor where it will be pushed and dropped into waiting 110 cubic yard tractor trailers for transport to a permitted landfill. The building is designed to handle up to 150 tons of waste per day.

“The Solid Waste Bureau is hopeful that the new Alcalde Waste Transfer and Recycling Facility will provide a more convenient and easy to use option for solid waste disposal for the residents,

businesses, and waste haulers of Rio Arriba County.” said Solid Waste Bureau Chief Auralie Ashley-Marx. Ms. Ashley-Marx also reports that in other communities in New Mexico where similar facilities have been constructed, residents are pleased with easy drop-off in an enclosed area, availability of access to additional recycling opportunities, and the overall on-going cleanliness of these enclosed facilities. “The bureau believes the new facility will improve compliance with solid waste management rules and also help curtail much of the illegal dumping in the area.”

The facility will replace La Loma and the old Alcalde Collection Center which have been plagued with problems due to location, lack of adequate space, and chronic compliance issues. Before closure, La Loma Collection Center was noted for long lines, litter, and poor traffic flow. Some attribute the pervasive illegal dumping in that area of Española to impatience and frustration with the site limitations of the La Loma Collection Center.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Jim Winchester at (505) 231-8800 or visit the NMED Solid Waste Bureau website at www.nmenv.state.nm.us.

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