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### **State Environment Department Settles With Northern New Mexico Drilling Company Over Alleged Air Quality Violations**

(Santa Fe, NM) -- The New Mexico Environment Department and Benson-Montin-Greer Drilling Corporation (BMG) have reached a settlement agreement over alleged air quality violations at BMG's Cañada Ojitos gas plant near Llaves in Rio Arriba County. BMG took actions at the gas plant to address the violations prior to settling with the Department.

BMG allegedly violated the New Mexico Air Quality Act at the Cañada Ojitos gas plant by failing to implement a program to detect and repair leaks of volatile organic compounds, failing to test the fuel used to fire the plant's compressor engines for sulfur content, failing to test the performance of air pollution control devices on the engines, and failing to meet various record keeping and reporting requirements.

BMG has agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$110,000 for the violations.

For more information, contact Debra McElroy, NMED-AQB Enforcement Section Manger, (505) 827-1494, or Cathy Tyson, NMED Communications Director, (505) 827-0314.

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