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Environment Secretary Ron Curry to Announce Major, Million-Dollar Clean-up Monday in Los Lunas

(Santa Fe, NM) — New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Secretary Ron Curry will host a press conference to kick off a major, million-dollar petroleum storage tank clean up **Monday, May 24 at 10 am in Los Lunas**.

The Bazen Site, located at the northwest corner of New Mexico Highway 314 and Park Lane in Los Lunas, is an automobile repair facility that contains seven underground storage tanks. These old tanks, possibly installed in the 1930's, have released an unknown but substantial amount of gasoline, contaminating approximately 2.5 acres of land and the groundwater beneath it.

Over the next month, NMED's Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau will oversee the approximately 17-foot deep excavation, removal and disposal of several thousand cubic yards of highly contaminated soil from the site. Soil will be hauled to Tri-Sec Landfarm in Valencia County, 15 miles west of Los Lunas, for remediation.

This work will be funded by approximately \$1.2 million from the state Corrective Action Fund, established in 1990 by the State Legislature to protect groundwater from leaking storage tanks and recently amended to address other water quality issues.

This remediation work will ensure that local groundwater resources and the Rio Grande remain protected. It will also foster site redevelopment and a return of the property to the local tax base. Pollution from this site has not been detected in any Village drinking water wells.

The press conference and brief site tour to observe excavation activities will be held **Monday, May 24 at 10 am at the northwest corner of New Mexico Highway 314 and Park Lane in Los Lunas**.

For further information contact Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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