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SECRETARY

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### **Camino Real Landfill Plans Increased Leachate Monitoring, Still Not Accepting Phelps Dodge Waste**

(Santa Fe, NM) — The Camino Real Environmental Center landfill in Sunland Park has informed the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) that it plans to step up its leachate monitoring to ensure no hazardous waste pollutants reach the groundwater below the landfill. Camino Real also informed NMED that it is voluntarily not accepting waste from Phelps Dodge following the mining company's self-reported disclosure in April that small volumes of hazardous waste material were shipped to the landfill from its El Paso refinery facility since about 2002.

"Camino Real has not taken waste from Phelps Dodge-El Paso, and will not take any waste until authorized by the New Mexico Environment Department," Dr. Joe King, District Manager of Camino Real Environmental Centers, said.

Camino Real is not permitted to handle or dispose of hazardous wastes. On April 18, Phelps Dodge's El Paso refinery submitted a voluntary disclosure of hazardous waste violations to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). TCEQ's investigation determined that hazardous wastes from Phelps Dodge were improperly disposed of at the Camino Real landfill on numerous occasions since about 2002.

Last week, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) asked Phelps Dodge and Camino Real to provide any and all information relating to the disposal of hazardous wastes at Camino Real. NMED is awaiting information from Camino Real and is reviewing information received today from Phelps Dodge. NMED has determined in the course of its investigation that one of the two waste haulers used by Phelps Dodge is not registered with NMED, as required, and will likely face enforcement actions as a consequence of failing to register.

"I am pleased Camino Real understands the seriousness of this issue and has taken steps prior to our requesting it to enhance their monitoring," NMED Secretary Ron Curry said. "All hazardous waste generators must be held accountable to properly classify their waste streams, inspect their hazardous waste storage areas and report any violations or errors before four years go by."

For more information, contact Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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