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State Environment Department Settles Conoco Air Quality Violations

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department and Conoco, Inc. have reached a settlement agreement over air quality standards violations at a compressor station and gas plant the company owns in southeastern New Mexico. Conoco took actions at both facilities to correct the violations prior to settling with the Department.

Permit violations at Conoco's Skelly Compressor Station in Eddy County involved emissions of carbon monoxide from one compressor engine exceeding the permit limit between April 17 and December 5, 2000. The company violated the air quality permit at its Maljamar Gas Plant in Lea County by exceeding the permitted capacity of the plant and exceeding the plant's permit limits for carbon monoxide emissions from six compressor engines between March 3 and May 13, 2000. The Environment Department also identified technology standard violations at Maljamar where various requirements of the federal volatile organic compound (VOC) equipment leak detection and repair program were not met.

Conoco has agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$240,000 for the violations.

Under state law, the Air Quality Bureau is responsible for reviewing proposals for new and modified sources of air pollution to ensure compliance with air quality requirements and standards, and for enforcing these requirements and standards when violated.

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