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Immediate Release

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Environment Department Reorganizes Field Operations, Creates New District to Better Serve Rural New Mexico

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) today announced that it has realigned its field operations and created a new district in northwestern New Mexico. The newly created District V will serve residents in Catron, Socorro, Valencia, Cibola, McKinley, and San Juan Counties. This is the first change in NMED's field operations districts since the late 1970's.

"I think we have all changed a lot since the 70's," said NMED Secretary Ron Curry. "In New Mexico this has meant tremendous population growth, especially in the middle Rio Grande corridor. This realignment will more evenly distribute the state's population across our districts and allow us to serve rural New Mexico better."

In addition to the creation of District V, NMED's existing four districts have also been realigned. Maps are attached showing both NMED's old and new district alignments.

"Before this adjustment, NMED's District I stretched from Albuquerque and Socorro to Farmington and had almost twice the population of our other three districts," said NMED Deputy Secretary Derrith Watchman-Moore. "An update of our districts spreads the population more evenly. This will mean better customer service and improved environmental protection all over the state."

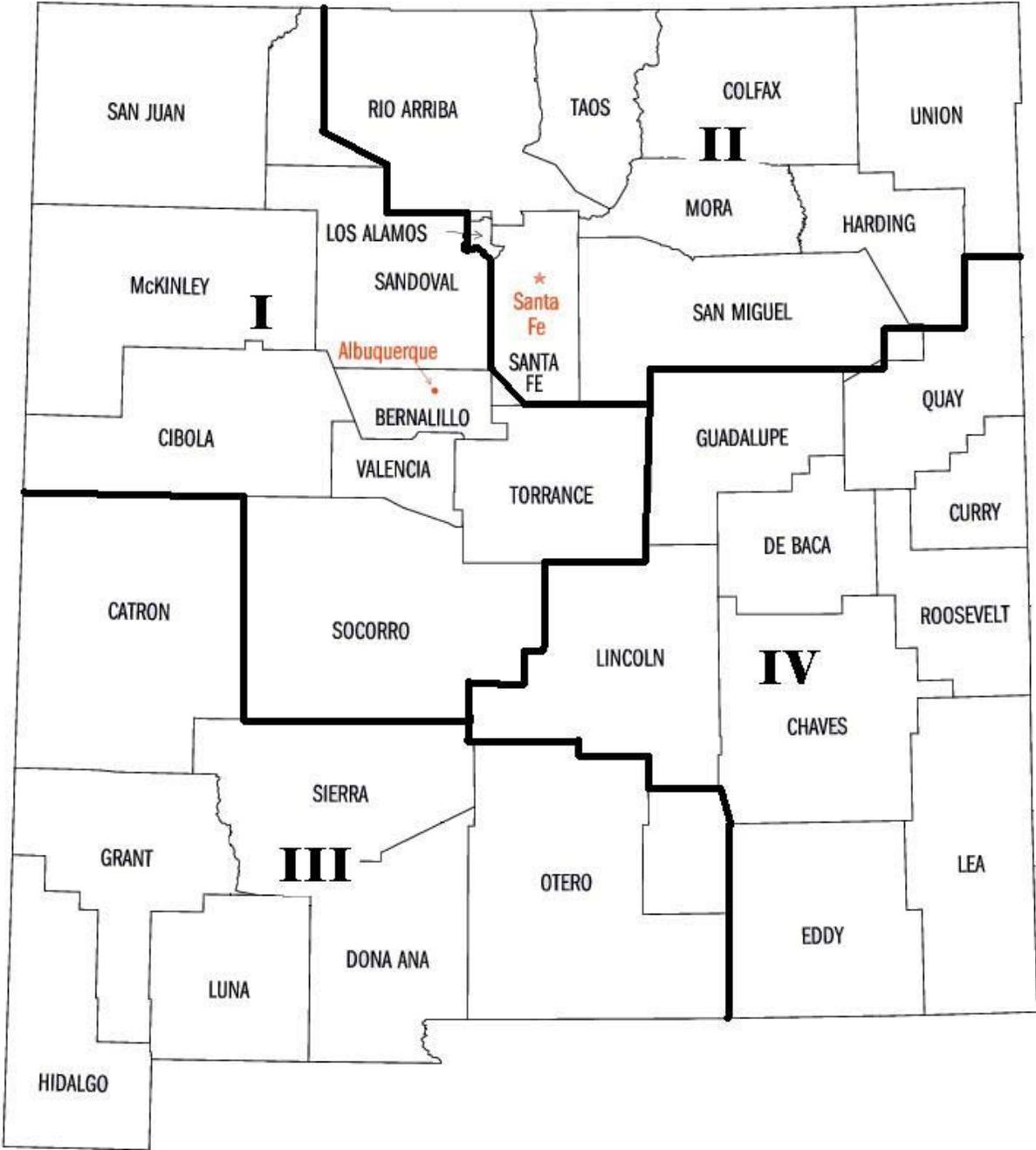
NMED's Field Operations Division operates 23 field offices around the state of New Mexico. Personnel in these offices handle food, swimming pool and septic tank inspections as well as acting as NMED's local contacts in their communities.

NMED's new District V will be headquartered in Grants.

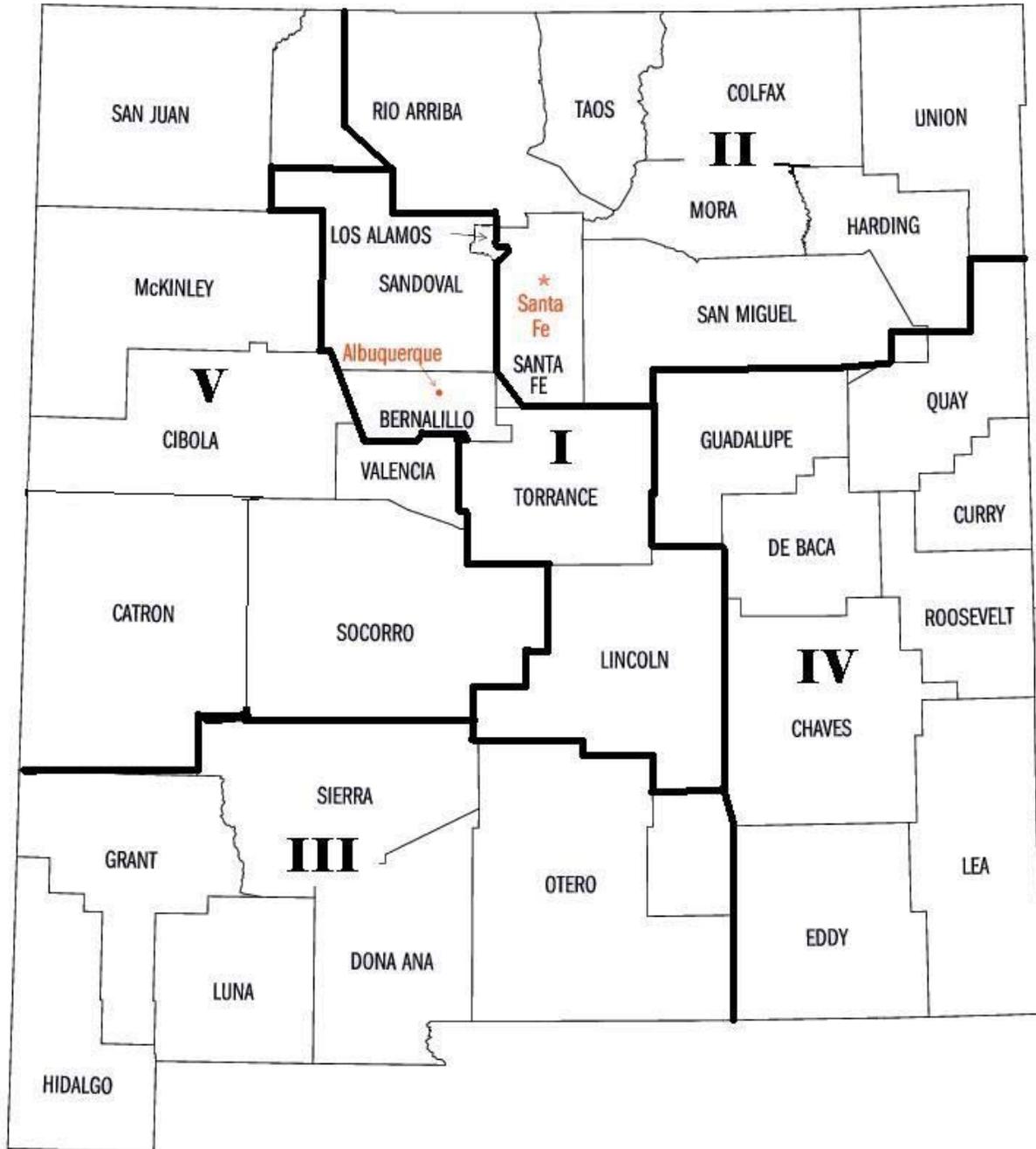
For further information contact Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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Old NMED Field Districts



New NMED Field Districts



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