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Environment Secretary Approves Discharge Permit for Food Processing Company in Deming

(Santa Fe, N.M.) New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry today approved a discharge permit for Border Foods Inc. in Deming, N.M. that allows the company to modify its existing permit to allow for increased wastewater discharges from the processing of chile and jalapeno peppers.

The company plans to discharge up to 1.1 million gallons a day of chile wash water for those operations.

“I approved the permit after reviewing data from the department’s Ground Water Quality Bureau that reflects the facility’s operations will protect human health and the environment,” said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. “The facility will create economic opportunities for the state while at the same time providing measures to protect the quality of groundwater at the site.”

The company’s permit modification will allow an increase in its discharge volume from 826,000 gallons per day to 1.1 MGD. The plans include discharging wastewater from the facility through a screen solids separator to a concrete sump, pumped into a synthetically lined lagoon for storage, and land applied by gravity to 136 acres of cropland under cultivation. Groundwater below the site is 73 to 89 feet deep and has a total dissolved solids concentration of 900 to 1,000 milligrams per liter, below the state standard for protectable groundwater under the Water Quality Control Regulations of 10,000 milligrams per liter (mg/l).

The company will also monitor groundwater in the area through monitoring wells to ensure pollution does not occur. The department held a public hearing on the matter Dec. 3 in Deming. More than 200 people from the Deming area attended the meeting. Many, including officials from the City of Deming, voiced support for the facility.

For more information, call Marissa Bardino at (505) 827-0314.

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