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**RON CURRY**  
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June 19, 2006  
Immediate Release

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### **Environment Department Issues Compliance Order and \$70,400 Civil Penalty to the North Central Solid Waste Authority**

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued a Compliance Order on June 14, 2006 to the North Central Solid Waste Authority. The Order assesses a civil penalty of \$70,400 for operation of the La Loma Transfer Station in Española without a solid waste facility permit.

NMED inspection of the La Loma Transfer Station, a registered facility authorized to accept no more than 120 cubic yards of solid waste per day, documented the facility's acceptance of more than 300 cubic yards of solid waste on average per day between January 2005 and January 2006. Operating at this rate exceeds the registration authorization and requires the issuance of a solid waste facility permit, which the North Central Solid Waste Authority lacks.

"We intend to ensure that solid waste facilities operate within the conditions of their permits and to take strong enforcement actions when they don't," NMED Secretary Ron Curry said. "The state and communities expect facilities to abide by their permit conditions. Failure to do so could result in disproportionate environmental impacts, which is why we take enforcement so seriously."

The failure to operate under a permit is considered a substantial violation of the Solid Waste Act and New Mexico Solid Waste Management Regulations, in part because the facility has not been subjected to siting, engineering, traffic flow, waste management, financial assurance and public notification requirements that are addressed during the permit process.

The North Central Solid Waste Authority has thirty days to respond to the Order and may request a public hearing.

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

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