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RON CURRY
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Immediate Release

Contact: Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Dir.
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Environment Department Seeking Nominees to Septic Tank Education Committee

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is seeking nominees to serve on an Education Steering Committee to assist with the development of a new liquid waste certification program. This certification is required of all septic tank installers by new liquid waste regulations that took effect on September 1. The regulations require that this certification program be in place no later than July 1, 2007.

Anyone interested in serving on the committee should respond by October 1, 2005. Send a letter of interest, including a resume describing your area, or areas, of expertise, to:

Tom Brandt, P.E.
Liquid Waste & Pool Engineer
New Mexico Environment Department
525 Camino de Los Marquez, Suite 1
Santa Fe, NM 87505

The members of the Education Steering Committee will be appointed by Secretary Ron Curry.

For more details on the certification program, see:

[http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/fod/LiquidWaste/20%207%203%20NMAC%20-%20LWTD-
web%20copy-7-27-05.pdf](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/fod/LiquidWaste/20%207%203%20NMAC%20-%20LWTD-
web%20copy-7-27-05.pdf) or contact Tom Brandt, NMED Field Operations Division, at 505-476-8609.

These new septic tank rules were approved by the state Environmental Improvement Board (EIB) following a public hearing on April 6. In addition to certification requirements, these regulations revise wastewater treatment standards that will reduce ground and surface water pollution, provide a mechanism to bring unpermitted systems into NMED oversight, establish monitoring requirements for advanced sewage treatment systems, and provide for better maintenance of all types of systems.

In addition to nearly 1,200 water supply wells, on-site septic systems have contaminated 355 stream miles in New Mexico. NMED has noted areas of septic contamination throughout New Mexico including in Albuquerque's South Valley, the Espanola area, Hobbs and southern Dona Ana County.

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

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