



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Secretary
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110
Telephone (505) 827-2855
Fax (505) 827-2836



RON CURRY
SECRETARY

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Immediate Release

Contact: Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director
Phone: (505) 827-0314

Environment Department to Hold Public Meeting on La Luz Mesa Verde Gravel Operations

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will hold a public meeting regarding the gravel operations of Mesa Verde Enterprises, Inc. (Mesa Verde) located near the La Luz Elementary School in La Luz.

The meeting will take place at the **Alamogordo Convention Center, 800 East First Street, Alamogordo, on Thursday, June 15, 2006, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

Mesa Verde currently mines gravel at the site, but is seeking to operate an asphalt plant there, which would be contrary to a 1996 settlement agreement between NMED, local citizens and Mesa Verde's subsidiary. The 1996 settlement agreement, still in effect, states that Mesa Verde's subsidiary will not conduct asphalt production at the site. The parties also agreed that Mesa Verde's subsidiary would not route its trucks through La Luz except under limited circumstances. Mesa Verde filed a lawsuit in September 2005 in Otero County state court against NMED and the local citizens who were part of the agreement asking the court to void the settlement agreement and to allow the company to operate an asphalt plant on the La Luz site.

NMED is holding the public meeting in order to gather the views and opinions of residents in the community on Mesa Verde's request to void the settlement agreement and to permit an asphalt plant to operate at the site. NMED welcomes all input from the local community on this matter and on gravel operations generally in the community of La Luz.

All interested people will be given reasonable opportunity to provide oral comment and/or to submit a written statement at the meeting. People may also submit written comments by mail, facsimile or email prior to the meeting to: Mary Uhl, Air Quality Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department, 2048 Galisteo St., Santa Fe, NM 87505; fax 505-827-1523; mary.uhl@state.nm.us. A copy of the settlement agreement and complaint filed by Mesa Verde may be obtained through Julie Skibyak, (505) 955-8094; julie.skibyak@state.nm.us.

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

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