



**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*



**RON CURRY**  
SECRETARY

**DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE**  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director  
Telephone: (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475

## **Environment Department Suspends Food Service Permit for Little House Restaurant in Santa Fe**

(Santa Fe, NM) The New Mexico Environment Department suspended the food service permit for Little House Cuisine in Santa Fe today because of repeated violations of state Food Service and Food Processing regulations.

Those violations include having mouse droppings and flies in the kitchen, thawing raw meat outside safe temperature ranges and lacking sanitizer in the dishwasher and on wiping cloths. NMED delivered an order of suspension to the restaurant Friday listing the violations.

Restaurant staff must attend classes for training in safe food handling practices and restaurant managers must buy additional refrigerators for the safe thawing of raw meat before Little House's permit can be reinstated. NMED encourages restaurant staff who speak Chinese to attend a training session in that language.

NMED conducted 13 investigations at the restaurant in the past two years. Half of those investigations were performed after diners at the restaurant complained to NMED of unsafe conditions at the establishment or feeling sick after eating there.

The restaurant voluntarily closed twice since 2005 – on April 18, 2005 and Sept. 7, 2006 -- because of violations found during inspections. The restaurant reopened after managers remedied specific violations. However, this suspension requires that restaurant managers address deficiencies that led to the violations.

For more information, call Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 231-0475 or (505) 827-0314.

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