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For Immediate Release

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### **Environment Department Issues Notice of Violation to Chamisa Hills Country Club**

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department issued a notice of violation to Chamisa Hills Country Club in Rio Rancho after determining the facility is violating state regulations. Ponds located at the country club have been the source of contamination causing the death of countless ducks.

The country club, at 500 Country Club Drive, violated the Water Quality Act and Water Quality Control Commission regulations by failing to issue notice to the public concerning the facility's groundwater discharge permit and failing to submit information for the permit in a timely manner.

“We need this information in order to move forward quickly on a permit that will protect wildlife and local residents,” said NMED Deputy Secretary Cindy Padilla. “We will keep the pressure on until we receive the information we need so the permit can go into effect.”

Chamisa Hills failed to meet a deadline of April 17 to supply additional information for the permit and did not meet a deadline of April 23 to issue public notice regarding the permit. Managers of the country club are required to submit proof of public notice and submit the additional information for the permit by May 10 to avoid fines or further legal action.

If Chamisa Hills provides necessary information and public notice, the department's Ground Water Quality Bureau could have a draft permit for the facility sent out for public comment this month. The permit would contain wildlife protection measures that would ensure the safety of ducks.

The department has been working since the problem of duck deaths arose to put in place a permit for Chamisa Hills that will eradicate problems in the ponds that have resulted in duck deaths from avian botulism. Those problems include accumulated sediment, degradation of water quality and varying water levels in the pond. The permit will also contain provisions for cleaning up the ponds, including the installation of liners, the maintenance of clean water for the ducks and the protection of groundwater beneath the ponds.

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

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