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Environment Department Asks Residents to Recycle Rechargeable Batteries **Residents Can Drop Off Batteries at NMED Offices Statewide**

(Santa Fe, NM) The New Mexico Environment Department – in an ongoing effort to reduce negative environmental impacts of rechargeable batteries in landfills – continues to partner with the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation to collect and recycle rechargeable batteries. Residents can drop off rechargeable batteries at the department's offices around the state.

Rechargeable batteries are commonly found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, camcorders, digital cameras, and remote control toys. RBRC recycles the following battery chemistries: Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion) and Small Sealed Lead* (Pb).

"We have to continue to do more to recycle and to support recycling infrastructure in the state," New Mexico Environment Department Deputy Secretary Cindy Padilla said. "Environment department employees are committed to this effort. I hope residents will also begin to recycle. Of the approximately 3 million tons of garbage disposed of in New Mexico, we could be removing and recycling 750,000 tons of that garbage from state landfills."

"This is good opportunity for NMED and the public to participate in a nationally recognized program that has significantly reduced environmental risks at landfills," said NMED Environmental Health Division Director Ana Marie Ortiz. "Recycling efforts like these help protect New Mexico's natural resources."

NMED's Environmental Health Division and Solid Waste Bureau partner with RBRC in this effort.

Drop off boxes are located at 23 NMED EHD offices in New Mexico (go to www.nmenv.state.nm.us, and click on Environment Health link). The batteries will be shipped to recycling facilities by the RBRC at no cost.

"We have provided posters and other awareness materials for each field office, including handouts to provide to the public on the importance of recycling used rechargeable batteries to protect the environment," said RBRC South Central Regional Recycling Manager Tim Warren. The RBRC has a national database with battery collection locations (www.rbrc.com). Through its national program, *Call2Recycle*™, the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) is helping us recycle our used portable rechargeable batteries and old cell phones.

For more information, contact Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314.

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