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For Immediate Release

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## **Environment Department Secretary Approves Air Quality Permit for Clovis Ethanol Plant**

(Santa Fe, N.M.) New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry today approved the air quality construction permit for the proposed Clovis Ethanol Plant in Clovis.

ConAgra Trade Group Inc. applied for the permit, which is for a 108 million gallon a year anhydrous ethanol plant in Curry County. The permit does not expire but requires annual fees.

“I granted the permit based on detailed reports and the record,” said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. “I expect the company to be a good neighbor and comply with its permit conditions.”

ConAgra and NMED’s Air Quality Bureau submitted a joint stipulation following the hearing that addressed many concerns raised by citizens, including stack height, compliance testing and fugitive dust control from the facility, according to the Hearing Officer’s Report for the permit. The stipulation provides for an increase of stack heights from 50 to 100 feet at the plant to further disburse emissions from the facility. The stipulation also requires the establishment of a fugitive dust control plan for the existing Peavey West facility, where the proposed Clovis Ethanol Plant would be built.

The report also requires that the Peavey facility include paved haul roads at the location to provide further dust control from the facility. ConAgra must also meet with citizens to provide information about plant operations and emissions twice a year for the first five years the plant is open.

ConAgra must also submit an application to the department for a groundwater discharge permit. The permit is necessary for any wastewater generated at the plant, including processing wastewater from operations there. Residents will be able to participate in the groundwater discharge permit process.

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

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