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For Immediate Release

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Environment Department Offers Solid Waste Facility Operator Certification Training for Operators and the Public

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department – in an ongoing effort to help local governments and private businesses meet solid waste management needs and comply with state regulations – is offering certification classes on composting, recycling and landfill and transfer station facility operations.

The classes, designed primarily for individuals who operate solid waste management facilities, are also open to the public. Attendees may become state-certified operators by successfully completing classes and meeting other experience requirements. Classes are taught in cooperation with two nonprofit solid waste organizations, The New Mexico Recycling Coalition (NMRC) and the Roadrunner Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA).

The classes, which cost between \$125 and \$200, offer participants the opportunity to acquire the best and most current information on solid waste management practices. Course instructors include Environment Department staff, private sector owners and operators and staff members from other state agencies. The 3 and 5-day courses conclude with an examination. Attendees who want to become certified must score at least 70 percent on the examination and meet certain experience requirements.

The 2007 schedule includes the following classes:

Compost Facility	April 17- 19 October 23 - 25	Ruidoso Downs Albuquerque
Landfill	March 19 - 23 August 20 - 24	Silver City Moriarty
Recycling Facility	May 15 - 17 December 4 - 6	Farmington Albuquerque
Transfer Station	June 5 - 7 November 6 - 8	Tijeras Los Lunas

NMRC sponsors the compost and recycling classes. For registration forms and specific class details call NMRC Executive Director English Bird at (505) 983-4470 or e-mail him at the NMRC Web site at www.recyclenewmexico.com.

The Roadrunner Chapter of SWANA sponsors the landfill and transfer station classes. For registration forms and specific class details, call SWANA Roadrunner Chapter Executive Secretary, JoAnne Weaver at (505) 872-0164 or e-mail her at Roadrunner chapter Web site at www.nmswana.com.

The Roadrunner Chapter will also host a statewide Road-E-O June 2 at the Caja del Rio Landfill near Santa Fe. Road-E-O competitions are designed to challenge individual operators of various solid waste collection and handling equipment to demonstrate their skills. Winners of the various competitions are then eligible to compete in a National Road-E-O. The state SWANA chapter will also sponsor at least two Waste Screening classes to help solid waste facility operators better implement programs to identify unauthorized wastes. Effective waste screening programs are critical in helping to protect solid waste facility workers and to reduce environmental risks associated with disposal of unauthorized wastes in municipal solid waste facilities.

For more information contact Charles R. Ferguson, in the NMED Solid Waste Bureau, Outreach and Technical Assistance Program, at (505) 762-3728 or Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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