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Immediate Release

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### **Environment Department Offers Free Radon Certification Training**

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Indoor Radon Program is sponsoring a three-day radon measurement training free of charge that is designed to prepare participants for the national radon proficiency certification exam. Passage of the exam is required for eligibility to register in New Mexico as a radon service provider.

The training will be held **May 10-12 at the Best Western Executive Suites, 4630 Pan American East Freeway, NE, in Albuquerque**. On site check-in for pre-registered participants will begin at 8:00 a.m. May 10<sup>th</sup>. Pre-registration is required for attendance. Home inspectors, environmental consultants, public health officials and real-estate professionals typically attend this training.

Participants will be trained to conduct competent radon measurements in a residential setting and to interpret results for clients. Training topics include basics of radon, health effects, measuring radon, quality assurance and quality control, and basic radon mitigation techniques.

While the NMED-sponsored training is free to NM residents, the course is open to out-of-state participants at a cost of \$495. The exam costs \$100 for all participants. The exam will be administered May 12 by the Southern Regional Radon Training Center, Auburn University.

Radon is a naturally occurring, colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that occurs in most soils and is harmlessly dispersed in outdoor environments, but can be extremely harmful when trapped in buildings. At higher indoor concentrations radon can cause lung cancer after prolonged exposure. Old or new, any home can have a radon problem. The only way to know if a home has a radon problem is to test for it. Testing a home for radon is easy and high radon levels can be fixed at a cost similar to many routine home repairs.

A National Academy of Sciences report in February 1998 confirms that radon is a serious national public health problem as the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. The report concluded that radon causes between 15,000 and 22,000 lung cancer deaths each year, or up to 60 deaths per day.

For further information, contact Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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