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For Immediate Release

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**State Environment Department Issues Taos  
Landfill Permit**

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Solid Waste Bureau, issued a landfill permit today to the Town of Taos. The final order for the permit, signed today by Environment Secretary Peter Maggiore, allows the Town of Taos to construct and operate a new landfill adjacent to the existing Taos landfill.

The permit was granted following a 16-month application review process that included NMED representatives meeting with concerned citizens and the Town's consultant. The NMED also held a four-day public hearing in April, which generated significant citizen participation. All of the discussions and input were considered by the Department in developing the final order on the town's landfill permit application.

The permit has been granted for 20 years and lists 11 conditions that Taos must comply with in order for the state's permit to remain in force. Some of the permit conditions established by the NMED include:

- A requirement for the town to submit a plan within 90 days to reduce or eliminate illegal dumping on and around the landfill.

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- Removal, within one week from the date the permit was issued, of any solid waste illegally disposed of on the landfill property. The town is also required to coordinate a cleanup of the area surrounding the existing landfill.
- Vehicle operation hours limited to 7 a.m. until 6 p.m.
- Working with the highway department, the town must seek improvements to the landfill's entrance road.

Because of significant public interest in this permit, the Department has offered to make a presentation on the permit to the Town Council and other interested citizens in the near future.

For additional information, contact Don Beardsley, NMED Solid Waste Bureau, Permit Section Manager, at (505) 827-2952, or Cathy Tyson, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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