



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Office of the Secretary
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110

Telephone (505) 827-2855

Fax (505) 827-2836

www.nmenv.state.nm.us



RON CURRY
SECRETARY

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

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Immediate Release

Contact: Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Dir.
Phone: (505) 827-0314

Environment Secretary Ron Curry Approves Tukumcari Landfill Permit with Conditions to Protect Local Health and Environment

(Santa Fe, NM) — New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Secretary Ron Curry has approved a permit for the City of Tukumcari to construct and operate a landfill approximately three miles east-northeast of Tukumcari in Quay County. This landfill will serve the residents and businesses of Tukumcari, Logan, San Jon and Quay County, as well as other towns such as Santa Rosa.

“I have approved this permit because I am confident that this landfill can be operated in a safe manner with minimal environmental impacts,” said Secretary Curry. “However, due to some black marks in the City of Tukumcari’s past compliance history, I have included tighter review requirements and other measures to make sure this landfill is operated properly.”

In the past, the Tukumcari-operated landfill had a history of litter control violations. These violations were primarily due to litter blowing out of the area controlled by the landfill. New Mexico solid waste regulations require blowing litter to be controlled in order to minimize human contact with waste.

At Secretary Curry’s request, Tukumcari’s 20-year Solid Waste Permit includes an interim review after two years from the date the landfill begins operation. This is in addition to the mandatory 10-year review required of all municipal landfills. This two-year review will include an analysis of landfill’s operation, compliance, environmental monitoring, and financial assurance. Adjustments to the permit may be made at this time if necessary to assure compliance with all environmental laws and regulations, and to assure operation in a manner that does not constitute a hazard to public health, welfare or the environment.

Tukumcari’s permit also includes requirements to install hooks on all litter fences to help control blowing litter and to install a chain link fence or windbreak along the east side of the access road into the site to mitigate noise, dust and blowing litter.

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

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