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May 2, 2006  
Immediate Release

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### **Environment Department Agrees to \$29,712 Settlement for San Juan County Company Air Quality Violations**

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has entered into a settlement agreement and stipulated final order with National Oilwell Varco for violations of the New Mexico Air Quality Control Act at the company's Varco Tuboscope Plant in San Juan County.

“Maintaining healthy air quality in San Juan County is a high priority as that energy-rich region sees air quality impacts from emissions from coal-fired power plants and increased drilling for oil and gas,” NMED Secretary Ron Curry said. “Whenever a facility exceeds its permitted emission limits or operates without a permit it is important that we work to bring them back into compliance and send a message to other operators.”

According to the agreement, which was finalized on April 25, the company has until May 15 to pay \$29,712 for operating eight diesel and gasoline engines without an air quality permit. Such engines typically emit regulated emissions including particulate matter and sulfur oxides, as well as precursors to ground-level ozone and smog, such as nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds.

Varco's Tuboscope Plant, located on 60 acres about 10 miles southwest of Aztec, provides inspection and reclamation services for new and used oil-field equipment used in the exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the Four Corners area.

NMED issued Varco a notice of violation for operating the engines without a permit on November 4, 2004, and subsequently issued an operating permit on November 10, 2004. Varco replaced six of the eight engines with electric motors on June 1, 2005.

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

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