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For Immediate Release

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State Environment Department Issues Compliance Order to Valencia County

(Santa Fe, NM) – On September 18, 2001, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued an Administrative Compliance Order to the County of Valencia. The compliance order specifies 21 violations for the failure to perform required landfill maintenance, monitoring activities, and closure construction activities at the closed Belen Landfill, and the failure to properly operate and obtain a permit for operations at the Conejo Convenience Center near Los Lunas.

The order compels the County to comply with the New Mexico Solid Waste Act and New Mexico Solid Waste Management Regulations (20 NMAC 9.1), and includes a fine of \$927,700. The County of Valencia may respond to the compliance order by ensuring compliance and paying the fine, arranging for settlement with the NMED, and/or requesting a public hearing.

For more information, please contact Charles A. Hules, Manager, Enforcement Section, Solid Waste Bureau, NMED, at (505) 827-0186, or Cathy Tyson, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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