



NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



Office of the Secretary

BILL RICHARDSON
Governor
DIANE DENISH
Lieutenant Governor

Harold Runnels Building
1190 Saint Francis Drive (87505)
PO Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469
Phone (505) 827-2855 Fax (505) 827-2836
www.nmenv.state.nm.us

RON CURRY
Secretary
SARAH COTTRELL
Deputy Secretary

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Contact: Marissa Stone Bardino, NMED Communications Director
(505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475

Environment Department Reaches \$182,000 Settlement with Chevron over Air Quality Violations at Company's Plant near Lovington, N.M.

(Santa Fe, NM) The New Mexico Environment Department reached a \$182,000 settlement agreement with Chevron U.S.A., Inc. over air quality violations at the company's Buckeye CO2 plant near Lovington, N.M.

The department alleged the company violated the state Air Quality Control Act and Air Quality Control Regulations.

"We worked out fair settlement with Chevron that will prevent future harmful air pollution in the Lovington area," said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. "We must ensure residents are protected from potential effects of emissions from the facility."

The plant extracts carbon dioxide from natural gas streams for reuse, which results in the processing of natural gas as well.

The department's Air Quality Bureau issued a notice of violation to the company in June 2009 for failure to repair pumps in a timely manner; neglecting to comply with the permitted number of blowdown events allowed; failure to comply with reporting requirements; and neglecting to perform initial testing of the facility's flare. The department, through the settlement, allowed a technical revision of the company's permit that removes the limitation on blowdown events as long as the facility does not exceed emission limits for volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide and oxides of nitrogen.

Chevron, a Pennsylvania-based company, will pay the fine to resolve violations alleged in the notice.

For more information, call Marissa Stone Bardino at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475.

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