



For Immediate Release
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Clandestine Drug Lab Regulations Go into Effect Jan. 1 *Environment Department Launches New Web Page for Cleanup Program*

(Santa Fe, NM) –New state regulations governing the cleanup and public notice of former clandestine drug laboratories in New Mexico become effective Jan. 1. The Environmental Improvement Board passed those regulations in October.

The Environment Department also launched a new Web page containing information about implementing that rule.

“The regulations that go into effect on the first of the year will protect children, the elderly and families from harmful contaminants present in homes and other properties formerly used as meth labs or in the manufacturing of other illegal drugs,” Governor Richardson said. “The rules will provide safeguards to ensure New Mexico citizens will not be harmed by exposure to toxic chemicals. The Environment Department will continue to work with law enforcement agencies to ensure the State addresses the problem of clandestine laboratories from the time the sites are discovered until they are cleaned up.”

“The Environment Department worked hard to develop a Web site that provides guidance and is easy to use,” said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. “The Environment Department met with officials and residents around the state to inform citizens of their rights and responsibilities regarding the cleanup of clandestine drug laboratories. We developed regulations that protect New Mexicans from risks related to contaminated properties.”

Drug laboratory sites can be contaminated with dangerous chemicals including drug residues, volatile organic compounds, lead and mercury.

The Web page, which can be found at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/hwb/>, contains lists of contaminated properties. That list includes addresses of locations where law enforcement agencies found chemicals or other items indicating the presence of clandestine drug laboratories or dump sites. Once a site has been cleaned up, the Web site will note that status.

The site also contains a copy of the rule, information about the cleanup process and background studies used to develop the rule and public outreach materials. Those materials include a list of cleanup companies. The department’s Information Technology Division and Hazardous Waste Bureau worked on the Web page. The Hazardous Waste Bureau developed the regulations governing clandestine drug laboratories.

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