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NMED Names Outstanding Employees for Third Quarter 2008

(Santa Fe, N.M.) The New Mexico Environment Department's Employee Recognition Committee recognized four staff members for their outstanding work during the third quarter of the year.

Those recognized for their exemplary work are Abe Franklin, Santiago Rodriguez, Michael Leger and Ericka Martinez.

In addition, the department recognized a group of 27 employees for their assistance with the Ruidoso floods in July. The group winners are: Jennifer Ickes, William Chavez, Johnathan Gerhardt, Jack King, Sherry LaMay, Ben Arguijo, Tom Gage, David Kirby, Roy Littleton, Maria Median, John Pijawka, Joe Savage, Matt Scarsella, Steve Baumgarn, Chris Canavan, Danny Davis, Jane DeRose-Bamman, Doug Eib, Teresa Musial, John Wells, Steve Connolly, Doug Hopinkah, Loreen Lithgow, Sandra Martin, Frank Rodarte, Art Vollmer, and Chris Whitman.

"Abe, Santiago, Michael, Ericka, and the group who assisted during the Ruidoso floods are true civil servants whose work ethic makes us proud," said New Mexico Environment Secretary Ron Curry. "Each day we must focus on the needs of those we work for – the residents of New Mexico. Those individuals achieved high goals for the community."

Performance highlights of the winners are as follows:

Abe Franklin, Surface Water Quality Bureau

The committee recognized Abe for temporarily filling a program manager position while continuing to handle the responsibilities of his own job. He was able to complete both jobs with efficiency and perfection. Abe is conscientious, dependable and known for engaging staff on important issues. In addition, he keeps people informed about progress in their programs.

Santiago Rodriguez, Radiation Control Bureau

The committee recognized Santiago for demonstrating a high level of productivity and commitment to the mission of the bureau and the department. He is an enthusiastic participant in the bureau's outreach efforts, including providing information to residents about programs within the Radiation Control Bureau.

Michael Leger, Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau

The committee recognized Michael for contributing to the protection of public health by managing the cleanup of a soil contaminant plume cleanup project in Grants. Michael is known as the “go-to-professional” in the bureau who is able to successfully manage on the job challenges creatively. He excels in communicating with residents and facilitating cooperation among diverse entities.

Erika Martinez, Construction Programs Bureau

The committee recognized Erika for her cheerful attitude, eagerness to assist staff with any project, and dependability. Erika fields calls from across the state regarding project-related questions, staffs exhibit booths at conferences and workshops, and cheerfully volunteered to spend a week helping another bureau reduce a backlog of administrative paperwork.

Ruidoso Emergency Response Team

The committee recognized the department team that helped residents dealing with effects of flooding in Ruidoso and the surrounding areas. The group provided outreach to residents, conducted sampling of private well water and issued boil water advisories. The team’s work, which sometimes included 13-hour days, provided vital information and services to the public in a time of great need. In addition, the team met after the event to develop recommendations on how to improve the department’s handling of responses to emergencies in the future.

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