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For Immediate Release

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Environment Department Denies Relocation Permit for Espanola Transit Mix
Permit Would allow Facility to Relocate Sand and Gravel Crusher and Equipment to Velarde

(Santa Fe, N.M.) The New Mexico Environment Department's Air Quality Bureau denied a relocation application today for Espanola Transit Mix that would have allowed the company to move aggregate crushers and other equipment from Espanola to Velarde.

The bureau denied the relocation, submitted by Espanola businessman Richard Cook, because it did not comply with public notice requirements. Espanola Transit Mix failed to properly post the public notice of the relocation in an area where the public would see it.

On three separate occasions, Mr. Cook's company has applied for an air quality permit to relocate the equipment but has not met the regulatory requirements. "The Environment Department is interested in the concerns of residents in the area regarding impacts from crushers and will ensure that the requirements are met," said Environmental Protection Division Director Jim Norton.

The relocation would have allowed Cook to move up to five crushers, three screens, two generators and 19 conveyors from his businesses in Espanola to a site in Velarde where Cook is working on reclaiming a high wall authorized by the state Land Office.

The bureau denied two other permits that would have allowed screening operations at the same location in Velarde.

Cook can submit another relocation application to the department. The department would have 15 days to respond after the request is received.

For more information contact Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475.

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