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City of Grants Completes Clean Up of Illegal Landfill on City Property

(Santa Fe, NM) – The City of Grants recently completed the cleanup of an illegal landfill on city property to avoid enforcement and civil penalties from the New Mexico Environment Department.

The city excavated 155 tons of solid waste solid waste, mainly land clearing debris, from disposal pits at Lobo Canyon Municipal Operations Center. The center includes a city building and work yard.

“I commend the city for its voluntary and expedient measures to clean up the site,” said New Mexico Environment Department Environmental Protection Division Director Jim Norton. “The use of unauthorized or unpermitted disposal sites can negatively impact groundwater and the environment. The department works diligently to monitor the landfill permitting processes and protect the health of residents and the environment.”

The department issued a Notice of Violation to the city in October 2008 for violating New Mexico’s solid waste statute and rules by constructing and operating an unpermitted landfill.

The department required the city to prepare an abatement plan detailing how it planned to remove and dispose of the waste properly. The department’s Solid Waste Bureau determined in its investigation of the site that between July 1 and Oct. 16, 2008, the city or its contractor took approximately 136 tractor trailer loads of solid waste to the center. Solid waste was buried in trenches at that location. During its recent cleanup of the site, the city transported that waste to Red Rocks Regional Landfill in Thoreau.

For more information, please call Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314.

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