



Bill Richardson
Governor

**NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

Office of the Secretary

Harold Runnels Building
1190 Saint Francis Drive (87505)
PO Box 26110, Santa Fe, NM 87502
Phone (505) 827-2855 Fax (505) 827-2836
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



Ron Curry
Secretary
Jon Goldstein
Deputy Secretary

May 5, 2008
For Immediate Release

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

Environment Department Issues Compliance Order with \$1.3 Million Penalty to Lea Land Inc. for Solid Waste Violations at its Landfill in Carlsbad

(Santa Fe, N.M.) The New Mexico Environment Department issued an Administrative Compliance Order with penalties of \$1.3 million to Lea Land Inc. in Carlsbad for violating its permit and state Solid Waste Rules by accepting hazardous waste and asbestos at the landfill.

That waste included 137 truckloads of hazardous waste including coated metal siding containing lead and 144 truckloads of regulated asbestos waste including asbestos-cement siding.

“Landfill workers and managers violated solid waste regulations designed to protect the environment and residents,” said Environmental Protection Division Director Jim Norton. “This company also failed to monitor potential impacts solid waste at the facility to groundwater.”

Robert G. Hall is the President of Lea Land, Inc. and the landfill is operated by General Manager Kenneth Slaughter. The department discovered the violations after receiving a citizen’s complaint alleging the unlawful disposal of asbestos waste at the landfill. The department’s Solid Waste Bureau investigated the complaint and found that regulated hazardous and asbestos waste were generated during the demolition of several facilities belonging to Intrepid Potash - New Mexico, LLC. The department also found that waste was transported to the landfill by Tripod, Inc., a commercial hauler.

The bureau’s investigation also revealed that the landfill denied department staff entry to the facility to inspect, failed to properly cover and compact solid waste and failed on numerous occasions to conduct required groundwater monitoring. That monitoring ensures the protection of the groundwater and the integrity of the disposal cell’s geosynthetic liner.

The order requires the company, which has a state permit to accept industrial solid wastes, to cap its current disposal cell and pay the civil penalty. The company has 30 days to request a hearing and submit a response to the alleged violations.

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

###