



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

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

Menefee Mining Corp. near Cuba, NM to Pay State \$100,000 in Settlement over Air Quality Violations

(Santa Fe, NM) The New Mexico Environment Department reached a settlement agreement with Menefee Mining Corp. that will require the company to pay the state \$100,000 for violating the air quality act.

The violation stems from Menefee's unlawful operation without a required air quality permit. The department filed a lawsuit in state district court in 2008 to require Menefee to apply for a permit.

"The company ignored state laws intended to protect residents from breathing harmful pollutants," said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. "Mining companies like Menefee are required to obtain air quality permits expressly to protect residents and the environment from the effects of excessive pollution."

Menefee, which is located a mile and a half south of Cuba NM, mines and processes the plant fertilizer humate.

The department discovered during an inspection of the facility that the Menefee's emissions to the air of particulate matter and nitrogen oxide required the facility to have an air quality permit under the state Air Quality Act.

The department issued compliance orders against the company for the violating the state Air Quality control Act by operating without a permit. The department filed a complaint in August 2008 against the company in state District Court for the violations. Those violations included failing to comply with the compliance orders filed by the department.

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

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