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Environment Department Issues Enforcement Action Concerning Pecos Sewage Spill

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department has issued a Notice of Violation to the owner of a mobile home park in Pecos after sewage from the park’s system overflowed onto nearby land.

Martin Quintana, the owner of Pinon Mobile Home Park on Pinon Lane, was ordered to fix the system by Monday, Sept. 24. Since he did not, he now faces penalties from the department. Civil penalties could exceed \$15,000 a day for each violation of state regulations or \$10,000 a day for each violation of the Water Quality Act.

“Raw sewage poses health risks to nearby residents and the environment,” said Water and Waste Management Division Director Jon Goldstein. “That is why the department is taking swift action to ensure the owner of the park fixes problems with the system as soon as possible. Technical staff has been at this site every day since the spill was reported and we will continue to focus on this situation until it is resolved.”

The notice alleges the facility is in violation of the Water Quality Act and state Water Quality Control Commission Regulations. The discharge is “in such a quantity as may with reasonable probability injure or be detrimental to human health, animal or plant life, or property, or unreasonably interfere with the public welfare ...,” according to state regulations.

“While this trailer park is outside of the Village limits, the Village of Pecos will continue to work with the Environment Department to get this problem resolved as quickly as possible,” said Pecos Mayor Tony Roybal.

A sewage leak, which resulted from a block in a line in the system, flowed onto Pinon Lane. Sewage from the private system discharges into the Village of Pecos’ Wastewater Treatment Plant. However, the village is not responsible for the leak from the private system.

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

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