



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

June 18, 2009
For Immediate Release

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

**Environment Secretary Re-elected Chairman of Rocky Mountain Low Level Radioactive
Waste Board**

*Board Heard Presentation Concerning International Isotopes' Proposed Depleted Uranium Deconversion
Facility for New Mexico at Recent Meeting in Colorado*

(Santa Fe, NM) The Rocky Mountain Low Level Radioactive Waste Board re-elected New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry as chairman of the board recently at a meeting in Colorado.

The board, which is an interstate government agency, administers a compact that provides for the disposal of low level radioactive waste produced within the member states of New Mexico, Nevada and Colorado.

"I'm honored to continue serving as chairman of the board position considering important decisions regarding low level waste that the board will hear," said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. "The board will make sure that all issues regarding low level waste from Louisiana Energy Services' uranium enrichment facility are addressed properly."

The board is responsible for deciding where low level waste from outside the three-state compact region can be disposed of at a regional facility for such low level waste, the Clean Harbors facility in Colorado. The board also has authority to require that any waste generated in the region that is not eligible for disposal in that area is properly exported. The board heard a presentation at its meeting June 18 in Denver, Colo. concerning International Isotopes Inc.'s proposed depleted uranium de-conversion and fluorine extraction processing facility near Hobbs in Lea County. The board re-elected Secretary Curry as Chairman at that meeting.

The compact, which was created by legislation passed by member states of Colorado, Nevada, and New Mexico, is authorized by federal and state laws. The compact is an independent regulatory organization that is not an agency of any of its member states.

The board consists of one member appointed by the governor of each member state. Governor Richardson appointed Secretary Curry to the board in 2003. Secretary Curry has been chairman since 2007. Gary Baughman serves for Colorado Leo Drozdoff maintains a seat for Nevada. Leonard Slosky, the executive director, is employed by the board. The compact regulates certain aspects of low-level radioactive waste management. The compact has jurisdiction over Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) and Technologically-Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (TENORM). For more information, visit [www. www.rmlwb.us](http://www.rmlwb.us) .

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