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Secretary

January 4, 2010
For Immediate Release

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**Environment Department Offers Solid Waste Facility Operator Certification Training
for Operators and the Public**

Other Events for Solid Waste Professionals Announced

(Santa Fe, NM) The New Mexico Environment Department – in an ongoing effort to provide technical assistance to local governments and private businesses meet solid waste management needs and comply with state rules – is offering eight operator certification classes. Certification training will be provided for composting, recycling, landfill and transfer station facility operations.

The classes, designed primarily for those involved in the operation of solid waste management facilities, are also open to the public. Attendees may become state-certified operators by successfully completing classes, scoring at least 70 percent on a final exam and meeting other experience requirements. Classes are taught in cooperation with two nonprofit solid waste organizations, the Roadrunner Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America, and the New Mexico Recycling Coalition.

The classes, which cost between \$125 and \$200, offer participants the opportunity to acquire the best and most current information in solid waste management practices. These class hours may also be used towards continuing educational units for solid waste facility operators. Course instructors include Environment Department staff, experienced solid waste professionals/consultants, private sector owners and operators of solid waste facilities and staff members from other state agencies.

The three-day courses conclude with an examination. Attendees who want to become certified must score at least 70 percent on the examination and meet certain experience requirements.

The 2010 schedule includes the following classes:

Compost Facility	April 20 - 22 October 19 - 21	Ruidoso Albuquerque
Landfill	March 8 - 11 September 13 - 16	Las Cruces Los Alamos

Recycling Facility	May 11 - 13 December 7 - 9	Los Alamos Roswell
Transfer Station	June 15 - 17 November 16 - 18	Los Alamos Las Cruces

NMRC sponsors the compost and recycling classes. For registration forms and specific class details, call NMRC Deputy Director Sarah Pierpont at (505) 603-0558 or visit the NMRC Web site at www.recyclenewmexico.com .

The Roadrunner Chapter of SWANA sponsors the landfill and transfer station classes. For registration forms and specific class details, call SWANA Roadrunner Chapter Executive Secretary, JoAnne Weaver at (505) 872-0164 or through the Roadrunner chapter Web site at www.nmswana.com .

The NMRC will host its 2010 recycling conference on June 22 and 23 at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Recycling in rural areas, economics, and cooperative marketing approaches to recycling will be discussed. SWANA offer information on its Web site regarding future training courses to be held in 2010. Visit the respective organizations' Web sites for details.

For information on solid waste topics, including proper disposal of residential and commercial solid waste, household hazardous waste, recycling, composting, illegal dumping and scrap tire management, visit the department's Web site at www.nmenv.state.nm.us/SWB/ or contact the Solid Waste Bureau at 505 827-0197

For more information, call Connie Pasteris with the NMED Solid Waste Bureau, Outreach and Technical Assistance Program, at (505) 476-3561.

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