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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 help local governments and private businesses meet solid waste management needs and comply with state regulations – is offering eight certification classes on composting, recycling and landfill and transfer station facility operations.

The classes, designed primarily for individuals 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 and meeting other experience requirements. Classes are taught in cooperation with two nonprofit solid waste organizations, The New Mexico Recycling Coalition and the Roadrunner Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America.

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. Course instructors include Environment Department staff, private sector owners and operators of solid waste facilities and staff members from other state agencies.

The three and five-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 2009 schedule includes the following classes:

Compost Facility	April 21 - 23 October 20 - 22	Ruidoso Santa Fe
Landfill	March 23 - 27 September 14 - 18	Moriarty Farmington
Recycling Facility	May 12 - 14 December 8 - 10	Ruidoso Albuquerque

Transfer Station

June 16 - 18

Ruidoso

November 17 - 19

Moriarty

NMRC sponsors the compost and recycling classes. For registration forms and specific class details, call NMRC Deputy Director Sarah Pierpoint at (505) 603-0558 or through 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.

In addition to the certification classes, solid waste professionals can participate in a statewide ROAD-E-O on May 2 at the City of Albuquerque's Cerro Colorado Landfill and motor sports complex. Road-E-O competitions are designed to challenge individual operators of various solid waste collection and handling equipment to demonstrate their skills. Winners of the various competitions can win cash prizes and are then eligible to compete in a SWANA National Road-E-O.

The chapter will also host a regional Arid Landfill Symposium Aug. 11 through 13 in Albuquerque. The NMRC will host their 2009 annual meeting on June 3 at the University of New Mexico. Recycling in rural will be discussed at the all-day session. 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/

For more information, call Charles R. Ferguson with the NMED Solid Waste Bureau, Outreach and Technical Assistance Program, at (575) 762-3728.

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