



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 13, 2008
For Immediate Release

Contact: Marissa Stone, NMED Communications Director
(505) 231-0475
Dennis McQuillan, NMED Liquid Waste Manager
(505) 660-1592

Environment Secretary to Tour Sites in Rio Arriba County on Tuesday to Review Enforcement of 2005 Septic Tank Regulations and Groundwater Quality Conditions
Environment Department Continues to Monitor the Quality of Public and Private Drinking Water

WHAT: New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry will accompany department staff on a septic tank inspection and well testing field trip in Rio Arriba County. Secretary Curry intends to ensure that septic tank regulations enacted in 2005 are being applied. Those regulations provide greater protections from septic tanks on groundwater in New Mexico. The tour will offer an explanation of how septic systems are the biggest source of pollution of groundwater in New Mexico. Groundwater, which provides New Mexicans with 90 percent of their drinking water, must be protected.

In addition, the tour will demonstrate how the department tests private domestic wells. That testing provides residents with a free water quality assessment and provides the department with valuable surveillance information on the quality of the aquifer.

WHERE AND WHEN:

June 17 Field Trip Itinerary:

- **2 p.m. – Meet at Onate Center, State Road 68, # 854 Alcalde.**
- **2:15 p.m. – Inspection of new septic system installation in Velarde**
- **3:15 p.m. – Test private domestic well in Alcalde**
- **4 p.m. – Gather at Alcalde Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association water tank on hill above village to discuss water and wastewater issues in the region.**

WHO: Secretary Curry, Deputy Secretary Jon Goldstein and other members of the department will take part in the inspections.

For more information, call Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314 or New Mexico Environment Department Liquid Waste Manager Dennis McQuillan at (505) 660-1592.

###