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City of Las Vegas Will Receive \$8,600 Radiation Monitoring Device To Detect Radiation in Household Waste

Environment Department Orders Company To Pay For Device As Part Of Settlement

(Santa Fe, N.M.) The New Mexico Environment Department – through a legal settlement agreement with a radiation detection device company – made it possible for the City of Las Vegas to receive radiation monitoring equipment that could save the city thousands of dollars. Other communities in the state will also benefit from the settlement later this month.

The company, Thermo Eberline LLC, will provide monitors that detect radioactive contamination in garbage at the city's solid waste transfer station before it is hauled to a landfill. The city has spent a substantial amount of money in recent years when its trash was rejected by a landfill because it contained small amounts of radiation, including personal hygiene items used by cancer treatment patients who are undergoing radiation treatment.

The company agreed to conduct the work instead of paying a \$51,013 civil penalty to the department.

“Through this settlement agreement, Thermo Eberline will share its technology to help Las Vegas and other communities resolve radiation detection problems that cost a great deal amount of money,” said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. “It is gratifying when money from settlements can be funneled back into communities to benefit local governments.”

The city will begin using the portal radiation monitor, called a LFM-2, today. City workers, who will be trained to use the equipment, can isolate radioactive materials from loads of municipal waste before it is taken to the Northeastern Regional Landfill, where Las Vegas hauls its waste. In the past, that landfill rejected the city's waste because it contained radioactive waste. That waste included paper towels and other paper products, disposable utensils and other items that contained radiation after the patient used them.

As part of its agreement with the department, Eberline will also provide portable radiation detection monitors and training on the use of the equipment to emergency first responders in several other communities around the state.

NMED issued a compliance order against Eberline when Radiation Control Bureau inspectors found the company failed to maintain adequate records of the receipt and transfer of radioactive materials, did not verify

authorization to receive such materials and did not perform periodic inventories of radioactive materials and failed to perform leak test of sealed sources of radioactivity.

Thermo Eberline, which is based in Massachusetts and has an office in Santa Fe, produces radiation detection devices for the nuclear industry.

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