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Environment Department Awards \$435,000 in Tire Grants, Reopens Grant Cycle
Money Will be Used to Collect and Clean Up Illegal Tire Dumps

(Santa Fe, NM) The New Mexico Environment Department recently awarded nearly \$435,000 in tire grants to five counties and solid waste authorities to clean up illegal tire dumps and recycle scrap tires.

The grants were awarded to Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority, Northwestern New Mexico Regional Solid Waste Authority, North Central Solid Waste Authority, Socorro County and Taos County.

“The funding will help local communities clean up illegal tire dumps that can contribute to the spread of fires and create breeding grounds for diseases like Hantavirus and West Nile Virus,” said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. “New Mexicans generate about two million tires a year and many of those tires are improperly disposed. The grants help local communities deal with those issues.”

Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority, which received a \$153,300 grant, will use the funding to hold Amnesty Days at several locations in Bernalillo, Torrance, and Santa Fe counties. During Amnesty Days, residents are encouraged to drop off scrap tires at no cost at designated sites. Scrap tires collected at those sites will be brought to the Torrance County Landfill, where they will be loaded onto transport containers and shipped to State Rubber and Environmental Services, LLC. in Denver City, Texas. The transport containers will be brought back to the landfill and loaded with shredded tires from State Rubber, which will be used at the landfill as alternative daily cover. That project illustrates the closed loop from disposal to processing to final use.

North Central Solid Waste Authority, which received a \$23,123 grant, will use the money to haul away semi and tractor trailer tires to State Rubber Environmental. Northwestern New Mexico Regional Solid Waste Authority, which received \$82,000, will spend the money to build a bale fence at the facility. Socorro County, which received \$165,960, will use the funding to buy tire cleanup equipment, clean up a large illegal dump and bale tires from dump sites. Taos County, which was awarded \$10,420, will use the money to buy two 40-yard roll off containers.

The department deals with numerous cases involving scrap tires that have the potential to cause fires and attract rodents and insects that spread diseases including Hantavirus and West Nile Virus. Rain water often

collects in scrap tires are creates a breeding ground for mosquitoes that carry West Nile Virus and other diseases.

The department is seeking applications for another tire grant cycle with applications due on September 4, 2009. The Department is seeking applications for large projects (\$150,000 to \$450,000) that will significantly improve New Mexico's scrap tire management and clean up problematic illegal tire dump sites. The following are examples of the types of projects that are encouraged for this grant cycle:

- purchase of tire processing equipment such as a tire grinder or tire shredder;
- design and construction of innovative civil engineering applications;
- engineering services for construction of a tire bale monofill; and
- abatement of large illegal tire dumps and stockpiles.

Entities eligible for grant funds include municipalities, counties, tribes, land grant communities, cooperative associations and solid waste authorities. Grant applications and instructions are available on the Solid Waste Bureau's Web site at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/SWB/>.

For more information about tire grants or the upcoming grant cycle, contact Toni Duggan at (505) 827-0559 or www.toni.duggan@state.nm.us. For further information, call Marissa Stone Bardino at (505) 827-0314.

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