



## **Liquid Waste Assistance Project For Indigent Households In the Middle Rio Grande Basin May 2011**

The Office of the Natural Resource Trustee (ONRT) and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) are conducting a project within the Middle Rio Grande Basin (MRGB) to eliminate illegal cesspools or other substandard household septic systems serving indigent households that threaten water quality and public health. Many of these substandard systems also pose threats of entrapment, asphyxiation and drowning, especially to children. ONRT is funding the project with \$230,000 from natural resource damage settlements for hazardous substance contamination sites in the MRGB. The funds are being used to either replace illegal cesspools or improper septic systems with a modern liquid waste system or connect the household to public sewer, if available. The project area includes Sandoval, Valencia and Socorro Counties. Bernalillo County already has an indigent assistance program in place. NMED will administer the project and will recruit and screen indigent households, issue work orders to a licensed construction contractor, and oversee and inspect the construction work.

NMED estimates that there are approximately 5,300 indigent households with on-site septic systems in Sandoval, Socorro and Valencia counties. While it is unknown how many of these 5,300 septic systems are substandard, funding should be sufficient to assist 25 to 30 households.

Applicants who are within 150% of the most recent Poverty Guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/10poverty.shtml>, will qualify as indigent and will be eligible for assistance. Eligible applicants will be provided with assistance on a first-come, first-serve basis and prioritized by the likelihood their current system could contaminate groundwater. Assistance will be provided until the funds are depleted.

NMED will issue work orders to a licensed construction contractor on a site-by-site basis. Funds will not be transferred to homeowners, and homeowners who have had work done on their own will not be eligible for reimbursement. Funds also will not be used to install liquid waste systems for new homes being constructed or at existing homes to accommodate increases in design flow.

The application form for this project is attached below. Additional information about the ONRT Liquid Waste Groundwater Protection Project can be found at: <http://onrt.state.nm.us/SouthValleySuperfundSite.html#liquidwastegwprotectionproject>.

For additional technical information contact:

- Dennis McQuillan, NMED Liquid Waste Program Manager, [dennis.mcquillan@state.nm.us](mailto:dennis.mcquillan@state.nm.us), 505-476-8607; or
- William Fetner, ONRT Environmental Scientist, [william.fetner@state.nm.us](mailto:william.fetner@state.nm.us), 505-243-8087.

# **LIQUID WASTE GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PROJECT**

## **SHORT FORM APPLICATION\***

**NOTE: All confidential data will be protected.**

**Please mail the signed original of this form, with all required documentation and records, to: New Mexico Environment Department, Liquid Waste Program, Indigent Assistance Project, 525 Camino de los Marquez, Santa Fe, NM 87505.**

*Background: The Liquid Waste Groundwater Protection Project pays for septic system replacements or public sewer connections for indigent (low-income) owners of properties located in the Middle Rio Grande Basin in Sandoval, Socorro and Valencia Counties. Licensed contractors will be retained through the Project to repair or replace substandard septic systems or to connect households to public sewer systems. No direct payments to households are authorized through the Project. Penalties will not be assessed for illegal systems that were installed prior to February 1, 2002.*

### **I. APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Name (include Jr. or Sr. if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

### **II. RESIDENTIAL INFORMATION:**

Physical Address (Street, City, State, Zip):

\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different from physical address):

\_\_\_\_\_

Former Address (if residing at present physical address for less than 2 years):

\_\_\_\_\_

Own or Rent \_\_\_\_\_ If owned, how many years? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Title Holder \_\_\_\_\_

Attach Copy of Deed or Property Tax Assessment.

Home Phone (include area code): (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

### **III. INCOME INFORMATION:**

Please provide a copy of the most recent federal tax return filed by your household or, if you do not file a return, a copy of your most recent SSA-1099 benefits statement. These documents will be returned to you after copying for NMED records.

*These records will be kept strictly confidential.*

**IV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED:**

Have you ever obtained a loan/grant from the State of New Mexico? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, describe \_\_\_\_\_

Are you related to a New Mexico Environment Department or Office of Natural Resources Trustee employee? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, who? \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Child Support Payments: current \_\_\_\_\_ delinquent \_\_\_\_\_

If delinquent on support payments, list amount owed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**V. CHARACTERISTICS OF PRESENT HOUSING**

Size of lot (acres): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of bedrooms: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a well for drinking water? \_\_\_\_\_ Irrigation well? \_\_\_\_\_

If you purchase water, is the residence metered? \_\_\_\_\_

Utilities:

Electric Company \_\_\_\_\_

Gas Company \_\_\_\_\_

Water Company \_\_\_\_\_

**VI. LIQUID WASTE SYSTEM:**

Describe Present System:

Tank capacity in gallons \_\_\_\_\_

System Type: septic tank \_\_\_\_\_ cesspool \_\_\_\_\_ shared \_\_\_\_\_ unknown \_\_\_\_\_

Age of system: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a Liquid Waste Permit: \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, list permit number \_\_\_\_\_

Do you intend to connect your home to a public sewer? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If not connecting to sewer, describe envisioned improvements to system.:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* Please note we may need to request additional information before making a determination regarding your eligibility for assistance.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_