

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

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The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

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Environment Department issues Notice of Violation to Waste Management of New Mexico, Inc. for violations at Rio Rancho Landfill

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued a Notice of Violation to Waste Management of New Mexico, Inc., owners and operators of the Rio Rancho Landfill, for failing to properly classify and document waste that was disposed of in the landfill.

In March 2018, IMH Financial Corporation, operator of a groundwater well site called Rio West located near Rio Rancho, hired Alpha Southwest, Inc., to transport sludge from an earthen surface impoundment at the well site to the Rio Rancho Landfill for disposal.

Sludge is considered a “special waste,” and must undergo specific regulatory testing and meet certain criteria prior to disposal in a solid waste landfill. Pursuant to state rules, the owner or operator of a solid waste facility authorized to accept sludge shall have an approved plan that describes the methods used to obtain representative samples for analysis and to analyze the sludge for the required parameters demonstrating it is not prohibited from disposal, and to document other procedures to ensure proper disposal.

NMED reviewed landfill disposal tickets documenting 51 truckloads – 288 tons – of the waste and determined it was not classified as or disposed of as sludge thus bypassing state rules to ensure prohibited waste was not disposed of in a solid waste landfill.

Waste Management of New Mexico, Inc. must remedy the violations and provide certified documentation of the actions they have taken, or plan to take, to prevent recurrence in the future. Failure to assure corrective action or continued non-compliance may result in additional enforcement action.

The Notice of Violation is available [here](#).

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Kathryn Becker, Non-Discrimination Coordinator | NMED | 1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050 | P.O. Box 5469 | Santa Fe, NM 87502
(505) 827-2054 or nd.coordinator@state.nm.us

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