NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
Oct. 29, 2020

Contact: Maddy Hayden, Communications Director
New Mexico Environment Department
505.231.8800 | maddy.hayden@state.nm.us

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.

###

NMED does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED’s non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, you may contact:
Kathryn Becker, Non-Discrimination Coordinator | NMED | 1100 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050 | P.O. Box 5469 | Santa Fe, NM 87502 | (505) 827-2054 or nd.coordinator@state.nm.us
If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator.

###