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## **Environment Department Settlement with Safety-Kleen Systems Will Lead to Household Hazardous Waste Collection in Espanola**

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department reached a settlement agreement with Safety-Kleen Systems this week over improper hazardous waste management practices at the company’s Albuquerque Service Center.

The department found several violations at the facility during an inspection in October 2005, including failure to perform annual cathodic protection testing on a hazardous waste storage tank, failure to post warning signs at the entrance to the active portions of the facility’s permitted storage unit, and failure to store containers of hazardous waste in a manner that allows the inspection in accordance with permit requirements.

The settlement requires Safety-Kleen to pay a civil penalty of \$10,000 and take steps to correct the violations. In addition, Safety-Kleen has committed to performing two supplemental environmental projects. The first project, which is already completed, involved the removal of old, unneeded laboratory chemicals from the McCurdy School in Espanola. For the second project, Safety-Kleen will coordinate with the North Central Solid Waste Authority to conduct a household hazardous collection event in Espanola.

“As a professional hazardous waste management company, Safety-Kleen is ideally suited to perform these supplemental environmental projects that will lead to a cleaner Espanola,” said Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. “This settlement will help ensure that hazardous materials that might otherwise be sent to local landfills are collected and sent to permitted hazardous waste facilities for recycling or proper treatment and disposal.”

“By working with NMED, Safety-Kleen has been able to provide a valuable service to the students and faculty of McCurdy School by completing the removal of potentially dangerous material from the school’s laboratory,” said Chip Duffie, Assistant General Counsel of Safety-Kleen. “We are looking forward to working with the citizens of Espanola to ensure the proper management of their household hazardous waste.”

The department reached the settlement with Safety-Kleen on Tuesday. Safety-Kleen’s Albuquerque Service Center is a permitted hazardous waste storage facility that receives and ships large volumes of hazardous waste annually. Safety-Kleen handles various wastes at the site, including spent solvents, ignitable wastes, and corrosive wastes. Waste at the site is stored in containers and an underground storage tank prior to shipment to off-site disposal and recycling facilities.

The department issued a Notice of Violation to Safety-Kleen on October 16, 2006. The department and Safety-Kleen have since been in negotiations on the alleged violations.

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

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