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For Immediate Release
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Environment Department Seeks Public Comment on San Juan Refining Company and Giant Industries Arizona, Inc., Draft Order

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) today is releasing for public comment a Draft Order to Giant Refining Company, Bloomfield Refinery, pursuant to NMSA 1978 §§ 74-4-10.1 and 74-4-13 of the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act.

Releases of hazardous wastes and petroleum products to the environment at the Giant's Bloomfield facility have resulted in contamination of the soil and groundwater and threaten to contaminate the San Juan River. The Draft Order contains investigation and cleanup requirements for the pollution and a schedule for implementation of the cleanup requirements.

Giant's Bloomfield Refinery is a crude oil refining facility owned by the San Juan Refining Company and operated by Giant Industries Arizona, Inc. The Bloomfield Refinery has changed ownership over the years and has been in operation since the late 1950's as a crude topping unit. Currently, the facility has the refining capacity of 18,000 barrels per day. Throughout its history, Giant has been processing crude oil into petroleum products, and as a result of its operations has released a variety of hazardous and solid wastes to the environment.

NMED has identified 26 contaminated sites that Giant will be required to clean up based on a series of investigation work plans that must be submitted to and approved by NMED over the next several years. The first investigation work plan will be due to NMED by December 31, 2006, according to the Draft Order. NMED is also requiring Giant to implement a facility-wide groundwater monitoring plan to ensure groundwater quality is protected.

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Hazardous constituents released at the facility include: organic contaminants, such as benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes; other volatile organic compounds; semi-volatile organic compounds, including polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons; separate-phase hydrocarbons, diesel-range organics, gasoline-range organics, oil-range organics; metals, such as arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, manganese, selenium, and zinc; and other inorganic contaminants, such as fluoride, chloride, nitrate, and sulfate.

Most contaminants detected beneath the facility are found in the northwest portion of the refinery and primarily consist of xylenes, gasoline-range hydrocarbons, diesel-range hydrocarbons, and separate phase hydrocarbons. Surface water, groundwater, and soil have all been affected, to varying degrees, by the release of contaminants. Based on monitoring results no public drinking water supplies have been affected by contamination from the refinery.

NMED invites the public to submit written comments on the Draft Order during a 60-day public comment period that begins today. The draft Order may be reviewed at the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau located at 2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303. Procedures for submitting written comments and a copy of the Order are also available at the NMED Web site <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/HWB/grcbperm.html>, under Draft Order. Written comments will be received through **5:00 p.m., August 21, 2006**. NMED will issue the Final Order after considering all written comments received.

For more information, contact Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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