



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson says state will continue to inspect waste

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson released the following statement today in response to reports that the New Mexico Environment Department discovered possible, illegal hazardous waste during inspections at the Camino Real Landfill in Sunland Park, N.M.

“Given the disturbing findings of illegal substances, our decision to inspect trucks was the right one. Our efforts have been well worth it,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “We will continue to inspect these trucks in order to protect the health and safety of the people in Sunland Park.”

Environment Department enforcement personnel inspected every truck that entered the landfill property today, and discovered one truck carrying infectious waste, which Camino Real is not permitted to accept.

Three other trucks were found to have what is expected to be asbestos. Another truck was carrying waste contaminated with possible heavy metals. Asbestos and heavy metals are also prohibited.

Governor Richardson ordered inspections, which started today, following an anonymous tip that hazardous waste was being dumped at the landfill.