



**Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested No. 7020 3160 0000 0515 4888**

February 16, 2026

Michael A. Lucero  
Sanitation Director  
City of Socorro Landfill  
P.O. Box K  
Socorro, NM 87801

**Re: Notice of Violation – City of Socorro Landfill**

Dear Michael Lucero:

On January 14, 2026, Jim Chavez, Enforcement Officer, Compliance and Enforcement Division, Resource Compliance & Enforcement Bureau (“CEB”), formerly the Solid Waste Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department (“NMED”), conducted an inspection at the City of Socorro Landfill, located at 2465 Highway 1, Socorro, New Mexico, to determine compliance with the New Mexico Solid Waste Rules (“SWR”), 20.9.2 – 20.9.10 NMAC, and the New Mexico Recycling, Illegal Dumping and Scrap Tire Management Rule (“RIDSTMR”), 20.9.20 NMAC. The following violations were observed:

1. **Failure to properly store recyclable materials** – During the inspection, containers of recyclable materials were not properly stored at the facility. Containers of paint and used motor oil were found piled on the ground, lacking protection from the elements, stored among weeds, and outside of any secondary containment structures.

The SWR, 20.9.5.8.D NMAC, states that if recyclable materials such as used oil, antifreeze, paint, or similar materials are diverted from the waste stream at a solid waste facility, the materials shall be stored for no longer than twelve months and shall be maintained in a covered area, not exposed to the weather, with secondary containment.

2. **Failure to record vehicle description on random load inspections** – The load inspection forms did not have a blank for documenting a vehicle’s description nor was the information noted on the forms.

The SWR, 20.9.5.16.A(5)(c) NMAC, requires that owners and operators of solid waste facilities, to make and maintain an operating record during the active life of the facility, for each day of operations, monitoring, or closure occurs, including a record of load inspections, which includes the vehicle license number and description.

3. **Failure to control the size of the scrap tire piles** – The inspection documented a 15-foot high by 100-foot wide by 100-foot long scrap tire pile near the tire shredder at the facility, and a second scrap tire pile measuring 7-foot high by 100-foot long by 100-foot wide, approximately 350 feet northwest of the tire shredder. Both scrap tire piles exceeded the RIDSTMR’s size requirements.

The RIDSTMR, 20.9.20.37.D NMAC, states that scrap tire piles or stacks of tire bales shall be no greater than 10 feet in height, nor shall the pile or stack be more than 50 feet wide by 100 feet long.

4. **Failure to maintain a complete scrap tire manifest record** – The inspection acquired copies of scrap tire manifests that lacked the NMED Hauler Registration Number and the Final Destination Permit Number in the blanks provided on the manifest. It is the responsibility of the final destination facility to review the scrap tire manifests to make sure that they are complete.

The RIDSTMR, 20.9.20.50.F NMAC, requires that the manifests accurately reflect the required information and be signed and dated by the generator, each hauler of the scrap tires, and by the final destination, acknowledging delivery, number or weight, and receipt of the scrap tires. All signatories shall be duly authorized agents of their organizations. The generator shall keep a copy of the originating manifest for three years.

Pursuant to the NMED Delegation Order dated June 23, 2025, the Cabinet Secretary has delegated the authority to issue CEB Notices of Violation to the Chief of the Compliance and Enforcement Division. The NMED is seeking your voluntary cooperation in the immediate correction of these violations. To avoid elevated enforcement, please correct the violations within 30 calendar days of receipt of this notice. If you have any questions, please respond within 10 calendar days of receipt of this notice to Kyle Staggs, Chief, Compliance and Enforcement Division, Resource Protection Compliance & Enforcement Bureau, NMED, 2905 Rodeo Park Drive E Building 1, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505. The failure to assure corrective action or continued non-compliance may result in additional enforcement action, which may include the assessment of a civil penalty.

All documentation submitted to NMED’s CEB related to this Notice of Violation must include the following certification, signed by you or a delegated responsible official:

“I certify under penalty of law that this document and all its attachments were prepared under my directions or supervision according to a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for the gathering of the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment for knowing violations.”

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Chavez at (505) 699-7224 or [jimmy.chavez@env.nm.gov](mailto:jimmy.chavez@env.nm.gov).

Sincerely,

Kyle Staggs  
Chief, Compliance and Enforcement Division, Resource Protection Compliance & Enforcement  
Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department

KS:jc

cc: Jaime Rodriguez, Manager, CEB, NMED *[via electronic mail]*  
Daniel R. Galasso, Supervisor, CEB, NMED *[via electronic mail]*  
Jim Chavez, Enforcement Officer, Area-IV, CEB, NMED *[via electronic mail]*