

EID FIRST ANNUAL GROUND WATER QUALITY AWARDS ANNOUNCED

At the 34th Annual New Mexico Water Conference, the New Mexico Health and Environment Department's Environmental Improvement Division awarded its first annual Ground Water Quality Awards to three businesses that have shown excellence in their efforts to protect ground water. The three organizations were Romig Dairy, Browood Homeowners' Association, and the City of Albuquerque's Double Eagle Soil Amendment Facility.

The Romig Dairy north of Las Cruces has been run by B. J. Romig for forty years. Romig has taken actions beyond the EID discharge plan requirements for dairies by upgrading his disposal facility and has maintained a good record fulfilling the self-monitoring requirements of the discharge plan.

The water used to wash Romig's 300 cows twice daily is pumped into two holding ponds where the manure is allowed to settle before the remaining water is siphoned into a larger pond. After the manure dries in the holding ponds, it is spread as fertilizer in nearby fields. The waste water also is recycled for irrigation after it is diluted.

The Browood Homeowners' Association in Pueblo Los Cerros near Corrales operates a 50,000 gallons-per-day domestic waste-water treatment

facility. The treated effluent is chlorinated to kill pathogens and used to spray irrigate landscapes in the subdivision with no ground water quality degradation. The effluent quality is tested monthly and two wells nearby are tested twice annually to determine any ground-water impacts.

The Double Eagle Soil Facility handles approximately 30 tons of treated sludge per day from Albuquerque's southside waste-water treatment plant at its 700-acre site. According to EID, the facility's excellent location and professional management ensure continual ground-water protection efforts.

David Brosman, assistant director of Albuquerque's Public Works Department says the site is "just a good application site" not only because it is remote, but also because there is no off-site drainage, it is 1200 feet above ground water and has "excellent geological characteristics."

The Double Eagle Facility began Phase I of its operations two years ago with an investment of approximately \$5 million by the city to build roads and obtain power as well as build the facility. Although now the facility is only a depository for anaerobically digested sludge, Phase II of its operations will turn the sludge into environmentally approved compost.



David Brosman from the City of Albuquerque's Public Works Department, B. J. Romig of Romig Dairy Farm, and Nancy O'Neal from the Browood Homeowners' Association listen as Governor Garrey Carruthers announces the EID's First Annual Ground Water Quality Awards.