



NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

GAMING CONTROL BOARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Adjudication of 117 Illegal Gaming Machines To Be Destroyed

ALBUQUERQUE – June 28, 2004 – On Tuesday, June 29, 2004, at approximately 1:00 p.m., agents of the Gaming Control Board will supervise the destruction of 117 illegal gaming machines, associated gaming equipment, and components at the Cerro Colorado landfill, 18000 Cerro Colorado SW. The machines and components had been seized by the Board and were the subject of a number of seizures and disclaimers of ownership. Various district courts issued destruction orders allowing the demolition of the machines.

Property taken or detained under the provisions of the Gaming Control Act and the Criminal Code remains in the custody of the Gaming Control Board Enforcement Division, subject only to the orders and decrees of the district court having jurisdiction. Gaming Control Act section 60-2E-53 stipulates that “a person who knowingly possesses any gaming device that has been manufactured, sold or distributed in violation of the Gaming Control Act [Chapter 60, Article 2E NMSA 1978] is guilty of a fourth degree felony.” The illegal gaming machines and components were not all necessarily a result of arrests made; some were voluntarily turned over to the agency after signing a release relinquishing ownership. Since 1999, more than 1900 illegal gaming machines have been located, seized, destroyed or otherwise disposed of.

“The mission of the New Mexico Gaming Control Board is to uphold the integrity of the gaming industry in New Mexico,” said Chair Carla C. Lopez. The Gaming Control Board qualifies gaming venues through a rigorous licensing and certification process designed to ensure a fair and honest gaming environment, while recognizing the broad importance of gaming tax revenue to the state’s economy. If anyone has questions concerning a gaming device, contact the Enforcement Division at 841-9700.

The New Mexico Gaming Control Board was established by statute in 1997 and funded during the 1998 legislative session. It began operations in June of 1998. The Board is responsible for regulating legalized gambling at licensed racetracks and qualified veteran's and fraternal organizations of New Mexico. The Board is also responsible for overseeing New Mexico’s tribal gaming compacts through the appointment of the state gaming representative. The Board has 57 employees, which include licensing and background specialists, compliance auditors, attorneys, and certified peace officers.

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