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ADEQ Announces Free Electronics Waste Recycling Event for Saturday, May 15 at Bashas' Parking Lot in Thatcher

PHOENIX – (May 4, 2010) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that a free electronics waste recycling event for the Thatcher, Safford, Pima and surrounding eastern Arizona region will be held Saturday, May 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot of Bashas' supermarket in Thatcher, 2323 W. Highway 70.

ADEQ and its partners – Town of Thatcher, City of Safford, Town of Pima, Bashas' supermarket, Gila Watershed Partnership of Arizona, Volvo Rents Construction Equipment and Westech Recyclers -- anticipate collecting tons of unwanted televisions, computer equipment, monitors, batteries, chargers, cell phones, VCRs, CD and DVD players, printers, small appliances, fax machines, stereos, cables and cords during the event.

“E-waste is hi-tech litter that's becoming one of Arizona's fastest growing environmental threats,” said ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles. “We can all make a difference by pitching in to the recycle bin and turn a potentially toxic stream of waste into useful products and green profits. This is the most ambitious regional e-waste recycling event that we have sponsored in the state since our program began eight months ago and we are expecting an excellent turnout from Graham and Greenlee counties. Come and shop and bring your electronic waste with you.”

Jan Holder, executive director of the Gila Watershed Partnership, said she is eagerly anticipating the upcoming event because illegal dumping of electronics waste has been a long-standing problem in the area.

“There's been a big increase in that kind of activity over time,” Holder said. “There are a number of small, hidden roads along the Gila River that people use to discard it. This event is the proper way to dispose of electronics waste and we are glad to be co-sponsoring it.”

Westech Recyclers recycles all material in accordance with state and federal regulations and will erase all hard drives received with state of the art software. Westech has been recycling the state's electronic material for more than 14 years and is the primary recycling partner of most of Arizona's towns and cities.

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ADEQ has sponsored e-recycling events in Show Low, Williams, Payson, Globe/Miami, Superior, Nogales, Tucson, Sun City West, Lake Havasu City, Casa Grande and the Phoenix metropolitan area and collected more than 130 tons of recyclable material.

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