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CONTACT: Mark Shaffer, Director of Communications, (602) 771-2215

ADEQ Director Owens Announces Tarome Inc. to Pay \$70,000 for Hazardous Waste Violations at Eloy Facility

PHOENIX (March 11, 2008) - Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) Director Steve Owens announced today that Tarome, Inc., a company that makes food supplements for the dairy industry, will pay \$70,000 for violations of federal hazardous waste regulations involving improper handling of calcium oxide materials that burst into flames.

“Tarome’s mishandling of these combustible substances presented unacceptable risks to its employees and the surrounding community,” Director Owens said.

ADEQ investigators determined that the company improperly stored a ton of calcium oxide in a dumpster, where it was exposed to rain three times in 2005. When the substance is exposed to water, it undergoes a chemical reaction that releases heat. The dumpster was filled with a variety of combustible materials, resulting in a fire at the site.

The first fire occurred on Aug. 10, 2005, when the Eloy Fire Department responded. Fire personnel also observed large amounts of calcium oxide stored outdoors, including in a water-retention basin. ADEQ inspected the site two days later, but before the company took steps to store the calcium oxide in a safe, dry place, two more fires occurred the following month.

Calcium oxide is mixed with palm oil to produce cattle feed.