

**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**Ryan Flynn, *Cabinet Secretary-Designate*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****April 18, 2013**

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Environment Department Completes Remediation at Sundowner Motel

Albuquerque -- Members of the New Mexico Environment Department will join New Life Homes, Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry and other of stakeholders on Thursday April 18, 2013 at 11 a.m. at 6101 Central Avenue NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico for a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the completion of asbestos remediation and the beginning of construction activities at the former Sundowner Motel location.

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) awarded an American Resource Recovery Act (ARRA) Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (BRLF) sub-grant in the amount of \$250,000 to the New Life Homes to fund the remediation at the Sundowner site. NMED, at the request of New Life Homes, also provided Targeted Brownfields Assistance to the project by conducting evaluations of the asbestos and lead on the property that were essential to completing the prerequisites to obtaining the ARRA clean-up grant.

The Sundowner was built in 1959 during the golden age of Route 66 tourism. The 110-room motor lodge will be redeveloped into 71 apartments. The Sundowner has been vacant for several years and is in an area that has been targeted by the City of Albuquerque for significant revival. The development will include a growers market, retail, and community space intended for small business incubators for the purpose of stimulating opportunities for residents and the immediate community. The amount of private investment in this project is estimated to be between \$5M and \$6M and the amount of other grant money is nearly \$1M. The total cost of the project is approximately \$9M. It is anticipated that the redevelopment will generate 100 construction jobs and another 46 indirect jobs during the development period. This does not include the 10-12 jobs associated with the abatement of hazardous materials identified at the Sundowner.

In fact, the Sundowner adds an interesting footnote to the annals of American enterprise. Bill Gates and Paul Allen resided at the Sundowner while working on their first version of BASIC computer language for the Altair 8800 computer, invented in 1975 by the Albuquerque MITS company, located a block away from the Sundowner.

The redeveloped site features a 71-unit apartment complex that will provide affordable housing for previously homeless residents and residents with special needs.

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