



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 6**

and



**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
and  
ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

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For Immediate Release

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**EPA, State of New Mexico Offer Support for Solar Facility at Chevron  
Mining's Questa Tailing Site**

*Facility Would Produce Power to be Sold and Distributed Locally*

(Santa Fe, NM) — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and State of New Mexico issued a letter of support today for a proposal by Chevron Mining to build a concentrating photovoltaic solar technology facility at the company's Questa tailing site.

Chevron Technology Ventures, in conjunction with Chevron Mining Inc., submitted a plan to conduct a pilot demonstration project to EPA, the New Mexico Environment Department and the New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department's Mining and Minerals Division.

"We appreciate Chevron's desire to support EPA's and New Mexico's renewable energy initiatives," said EPA Region 6 Superfund Division Director Sam Coleman. "One of Chevron's conditions for moving forward with the project was the agreement by the agencies that they would be willing to consider a pilot demonstration project for an alternative cover depth for the tailing facility as part of the solar energy pilot."

The project, which would be situated on approximately 30 acres in the northeast portion of the tailing facility, would include between 100 and 250 solar panels. The facility would be designed to produce approximately 1 Megawatt of power that would be sold locally and connected to the local power distribution system. If the Questa site is selected, the project would be completed by late 2010.

"We appreciate Chevron's commitment in developing solar projects that also provide beneficial uses for contaminated properties," said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. "We look forward to working with Chevron in turning former waste management units into productive and viable alternative energy sites."

“Re-use and redevelopment projects are happening and New Mexico can be a testing ground for the Brownfields-to-Green Power concept,” stated Joanna Prukop, Cabinet Secretary for New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department. “Locating renewable energy projects on brownfields, avoiding sensitive areas, helps us achieve meaningful balance between protecting water, wildlife, and promoting energy development.”

The agencies state in the letter that they agree to a conceptual plan by which Chevron would test several different cover depths, including 1 foot, 2 feet and 3 feet. The purpose of the cover depth tests is to determine the thickness of cover that is necessary to successfully protect human health, surface and groundwater resources and the environment of New Mexico. The main contaminant of concern at the tailing facility is molybdenum which has potential to impact human health and wildlife. Technical staff from Chevron and the agencies plan to meet next week to discuss design, monitoring and assessment of the test plots.

Operations at the tailing facility are regulated under an NMED Discharge Permit to protect ground water quality. Specific operational and closure requirements for the solar facility would be addressed through an amendment of that permit. NMED has stated its willingness to expedite that process.

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