



Bill Richardson
Governor

**NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

Office of the Secretary

Harold Runnels Building
1190 Saint Francis Drive (87505)
PO Box 26110, Santa Fe, NM 87502
Phone (505) 827-2855 Fax (505) 827-2836
www.nmenv.state.nm.us



Ron Curry
Secretary
Jon Goldstein
Deputy Secretary

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Contact: Marissa Stone, NM Environment Department
(505) 827-0314 or (505) 231-0475

**Santa Fe Railyard Project Includes \$285,000 in Funding from the Environment
Department's Brownfields Program**
Brownfields Grant Writing Workshop to be Held Tomorrow in Albuquerque

(Santa Fe, N.M.) The revitalized 50-acre Railyard Property that opened over the weekend in Santa Fe included approximately \$285,000 from the New Mexico Environment Department's Brownfields Program designed to revitalize abandoned or underused properties.

The City of Santa Fe was one of the early recipients of an EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant. The city received \$200,000 in 1998 to conduct an environmental assessment of the railyard property, study clean up alternatives and organize neighborhood partnerships and community outreach programs and remove barriers redevelopment.

To supplement their award, the city also requested and received Targeted Brownfields Assessment services of approximately \$85,000 from the Environment Department.

"We enjoyed celebrating the opening of this space with the city and want to encourage other communities to take advantage of Federal and State Brownfields Programs to reinvigorate their communities," said New Mexico Environment Department Deputy Secretary Jon Goldstein.

"The Environment Department is happy to have played a small role in this project and we look forward to supporting many more," said Water and Waste Management Division Director Marcy Leavitt.

EPA will hold a Grant Writing Workshop between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. in Albuquerque tomorrow, Sept. 17. The workshop will be held at the New Mexico Environment Department's District 1 Office, 5500 San Antonio Dr., NE. For more information about the meeting, call Rick Shean, Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Coordinator, at (505) 222-9550. Grant proposals for the Brownfields Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (ARC) are due Nov. 14.

The Santa Fe Railyard property, which housed various businesses over the years, had been mostly vacant for decades. Contaminants at the site included petroleum and petroleum products, lead, and other metals in both

the soil and groundwater. Approximately 49 acres have been remediated with about 15 acres designated as green space.

Brownfields are abandoned or underused properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. The Environment Department continues to receive funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide limited services to government or nonprofit entities to investigate Brownfields. The Environment Department's goal is to help return the properties to productive economic use as determined by respective communities.

The transformation of the formerly abandoned, blighted Railyard area includes live-in artist studios, a permanent structure for Santa Fe Farmers' Market, studios, galleries, museums and more than 13 acres of open space including a park, plaza and pedestrian promenade.

The Santa Fe Rail Yard was originally established in 1879 by the Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad, via a 15 mile spur from Santa Fe to the main AT&SF Rail line running between San Francisco and Chicago.

For more information about the grant writing work shops, call EPA Region 6 in Dallas at (800) 533-3508 and ask for Brownfields, or call Monica Smith at (214) 665-2241, or visit www.epa.gov/region6/brownfields. For more information about New Mexico Environment Department's Brownfields services or the Voluntary Remediation Regulations, please call (800) 219-6157 or 505-827-0164.

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