



For immediate release
March 31, 2009

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Governor Bill Richardson Applauds DOE for Providing Funding for Environmental Cleanup Projects in New Mexico

Funding part of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Governor cautions more funding required

(Santa Fe, N.M.) Governor Richardson applauded today's announcement that U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Chu will award \$384 million for environmental cleanup projects in New Mexico.

"Today's announcement shows that Secretary Chu is serious about funding and implementing the cleanup agreements that DOE made with the state. That funding will translate into jobs and a cleaner environment for New Mexicans. Let me be clear- this is progress, but we will continue to push for additional funding until all appropriate cleanup and remediation is completed."

The funding will be broken down in the following way:

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL-\$212M) - Demolish 35 buildings and structures across the complex, reducing the footprint by more than 260,000 square feet as required by the state's 2005 fence-to-fence clean up order.

Carlsbad (WIPP-\$172 million) - Accelerate completion of legacy transuranic waste shipment preparation and shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant repository from one large quantity site and seven small quantity sites. Accelerate shipments from four other large quantity sites.

Chu announced \$6 billion in new funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to accelerate environmental cleanup work and create thousands of jobs across 12 states, according to the DOE. Projects identified for funding will focus on accelerating cleanup of soil and groundwater, transportation and disposal of waste, and cleaning and demolishing former weapons complex facilities.

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