

**SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR**David Martin, *Cabinet Secretary*Butch Tongate, *Deputy Secretary***NEWS RELEASE****March 18, 2013**

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Environment Department Completes Remediation at Historic Luna Lodge

Albuquerque -- Members of the New Mexico Environment Department joined New Life Homes, Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry and group of stakeholders this afternoon for a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of remediation and redevelopment activities at the historic Luna Lodge located at 9119 Central Avenue NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

“The New Mexico Environment Department is proud of the collaborative work that’s gone into preserving a historic Albuquerque landmark,” said Secretary David Martin. “The safe and effective clean-up of asbestos and lead paint was a key component of the Environment Department’s role in this project. I’m proud of the work that was done by our staff and congratulate New Life Homes on a job well done.”

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) awarded an American Resource Recovery Act (ARRA) Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (BRLF) sub-grant in the amount of \$50,000 to the New Life Homes to fund the remediation at the Luna Lodge 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.

Luna Lodge was built in 1950 during the golden age of Route 66 tourism. The twenty- eight room lodge was built in the typical motor court style of the time and is largely unaltered. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. Luna Lodge has been vacant for several years and is in an area that has been targeted by the City of Albuquerque for significant revival.

New Life Homes, a nonprofit agency that provides permanent housing for clients with special needs and other disabilities, has rehabilitated Luna Lodge into apartments units. The facility will include a community room and a training kitchen that will serve as a small business incubator and a resource for residents looking to learn food industry skills. The restoration project preserves the historical significance and Pueblo Revival style architecture of Luna Lodge. The redeveloped site features a 30-unit apartment complex that will provide affordable housing for previously homeless residents and residents with special needs.

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