



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

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Energy Secretary Chu Announces \$384 Million in Recovery Act Funding for Environmental Cleanup in New Mexico

New Funding Will Create Jobs and Accelerate Cleanup Efforts

WASHINGTON, DC -- Energy Secretary Steven Chu today 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 – including a major investment in New Mexico. 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.

“These investments will put Americans to work while cleaning up contamination from the cold war era,” said Secretary Chu. “It reflects our commitment to future generations as well as to help local economies get moving again.”

These projects and the new funding are managed by the Department’s Office of Environmental Management, which is responsible for the risk reduction and cleanup of the environmental legacy from the nation’s nuclear weapons program, one of the largest, most diverse and technically complex environmental programs in the world.

Today’s announcement includes new funding for the following cleanup efforts in the state:

New Mexico (Total funding \$384 million)

- 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.
- Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL-\$212M) - Demolish 35 buildings and structures across the complex, reducing the footprint by more than 260,000 square feet.

For more information on the Department's Environmental Management activities, visit <http://www.em.doe.gov/pages/emhome.aspx>.

For regular updates on Department of Energy's efforts to implement the President's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, visit energy.gov/recovery. The page includes a map with state by state summaries of recent investments by the Department of Energy through the Recovery Act -- from state weatherization funding to grants to specific cities, counties and tribal governments.

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