

Grants

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Dolline Hatchett, 202/586-5806



Thursday, June 20, 2002

Department of Energy Awards \$300,000 to Eastern Idaho Community Reuse Organization

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that it will award \$300,000 to the Eastern Idaho Community Reuse Organization (EICRO). EICRO's mission is to diversify the regional economy by creating the widest possible range of employment opportunities for the region's residents, while preserving and enhancing their quality of life.

"The Energy Department is a good neighbor to the communities surrounding our sites," Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said. "Working with EICRO and other community reuse organizations around the country, the Department has retained, expanded or created over 25,000 jobs for workers affected by restructuring efforts at DOE sites."

The EICRO operates several programs including economic development initiatives, advocacy for the region's emerging information technology industry, and support of entrepreneurial efforts, particularly for businesses operated or created by former Idaho Nuclear Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) employees. The eastern Idaho region has relied on the INEEL for employment and economic support for almost 40 years. EICRO was organized in 1993 under the auspices of the Eastern Idaho Economic Development Council.

The Office of Worker and Community Transition and the EICRO have created or retained 5,160 new economy jobs, and estimate that 9,384 jobs will be created or retained by 2005.

For more information please sign-on to the Office of Worker and Community Transition's website: www.wct.doe.gov.
