

Grants

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Department of Energy Awards \$200,000 Grant to the Eastern Idaho Community Reuse Organization

Grant Will Finance Proposed Asset Disposition and Reinvestment Program

WASHINGTON, DC — The Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that it will award \$200,000 to the Eastern Idaho Community Reuse Organization (EICRO). A CRO is an organization recognized by the Energy Department that can apply for funding for programs that can modify the impacts of workforce restructuring at its facilities and reduce community dependence on the department's activities.

The grant will fund EICRO's proposed Asset Disposition and Reinvestment Program. Specifically, the funds will be used to develop a business plan that will address management, financial, and marketing analysis of the program. The program will also benefit site cleanup through the removal of surplus assets that will allow remediation activities to take place where the assets were previously held.

"The Energy Department is a good neighbor to the communities surrounding our sites," Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said. "We will continue to work with the Eastern Idaho Community Organization and other community reuse organizations around the country, to retain, expand or create jobs for workers affected by restructuring efforts."

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.

This project addresses two objectives. The first is to help recruit, expand, or create new businesses, which in turn would lead to job creation and employment diversity in EICRO's service area. EICRO estimates this project may create over 350 jobs over the next five years to seven years. The second objective is the reduction of the Idaho-DOE Site cleanup resulting in cost savings to the federal government and the taxpayer. A similar program established at the department's Hanford Site in Washington, has resulted in over \$1.25 million in savings to the government in the past 12 months, and similar numbers may be expected of this project over the course of the program.

EICRO is the recognized community reuse organization (CRO) for the department's Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). The program was established as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding between the DOE Idaho Operations Office and EICRO, and would allow EICRO to provide surplus DOE property to various economic development efforts in eastern Idaho.
