

# Grants

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## **Department of Energy Awards \$400,000 to Eddy/Lea Regional Commission Community Reuse Organization**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded \$400,000 in the form of two competitive grants to the Eddy/Lea Regional Commission. The Eddy/Lea Regional Commission is the community reuse organization (CRO) serving the Department's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

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 Eddy/Lea Regional Commission and other community reuse organizations around the country, to retain, expand or create jobs for workers affected by restructuring efforts."

The Eddy/Lea Regional Commission applied for funding from the department's Office of Worker and Community Transition in the form of two competitive grants. Each CRO can apply for funds under the Small Capital Program (small cap) up to \$200,000 and/or the Large Capital Program (large cap) up to one million dollars.

The Eddy/Lea Regional Commission applied for one large cap and one small cap grant. The first grant in the amount of \$200,000 will be used to construct public infrastructure in support of the establishment of the National Cave and Karst Research Institute. The National Cave and Karst Institute will serve as the integrated, multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional science and technology center in the scientific investigation of cave and Karst environments and systems. In 1999, Congress officially designated the Carlsbad area as the final site for the institute. The second grant, also in the amount of \$200,000 will be used for engineering and logistical study of a project to convert oil and gas waste water to "usable water" for area agriculture.

These grants are expected to create or retain up to 500 jobs.

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