

# Grants

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## **Department of Energy Awards Eddy/Lea Regional Commission \$300,000 Grant**

**WASHINGTON, DC** — Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham announced today that the Department of Energy will award \$300,000 to the Eddy/Lea Regional Commission, the community reuse organization (CRO) for southern New Mexico. This grant will fund part of the commission's operating costs, as well as other specific projects, including continuing the business expansion and retention of a 28-block downtown area and assisting in efforts to create new jobs by recruiting new business and industry.

"The Energy Department is a good neighbor to the communities surrounding our sites," Secretary Abraham said. "We will continue to work with the Eddy/Lea Regional Commission and other community reuse organizations around the country to retain, expand or create jobs for workers affected by restructuring efforts."

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 Eddy/Lea Regional Commission was recognized as the community reuse organization for southern New Mexico in 2000. The commission's main objective is to create new jobs and businesses that can absorb displaced workers and reduce the dependency of the region's economy on the Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

The Energy Department and the Eddy/Lea Regional Commission have created or retained 585 new economy jobs, and estimate that 775 jobs will be created or retained by 2005.

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