



# Environmental Bulletin

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*from the Savannah River Site*

## **New Mexico Community Foundation Announces APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FUND**

### **Fund to Increase Public Participation and Input in DOE Environmental Cleanup Decisions and Activities**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico** - The New Mexico Community Foundation (NMCF) has received a \$1 million grant from the US Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management to launch a Community Involvement Fund (CIF) intended to increase public participation in the DOE's environmental cleanup efforts at nuclear waste sites nationwide.

**Funding is now available to qualified nonprofit organizations nationwide that represent communities and residents who are most likely to be affected by the DOE's environmental cleanup process and decisions.** As community representatives, grantees will be responsible for researching and reporting about environmental management projects, activities and decisions at cleanup sites in or around their communities. If the project is successful, the funding has the potential to be renewed by the DOE for five consecutive years up to a total grant amount of \$5 million.

"DOE decisions about environmental cleanup sites have the potential to affect public health and the environment today and for future generations," said Jenny Parks, NMCF President and CEO. "The Community Involvement Fund will enable communities that are most directly affected by these decisions to have their input be part of the decision-making process. The DOE's willingness to involve the public not only will foster public confidence, it will protect the long term well-being of many individuals throughout the U.S."

Specifically, the Community Involvement Fund is expected to:

- Increase public involvement at DOE sites and in the environmental management decision-making process
- Assist stakeholder groups with analyzing environmental management plans and proposals, including building an understanding of cleanup models and data, as well as alternatives for cleanup
- Increase public awareness of the impact of contaminants released into the environment during the cleanup process, as well as understanding of how priorities are established for cleanup and safety purposes
- Build long term regional and national support for a successful DOE cleanup program that is responsive to public input
- Provide opportunity for community groups to propose alternative plans that may achieve better cleanup results
- Provide accountability and transparency for the DOE Environmental Management Program and its cleanup activities

For application, grant criteria and more information log on to <http://cif.nmcf.org>.

#### **About New Mexico Community Foundation**

As an endowment-building and grant-making organization, the New Mexico Community Foundation serves and invests in New Mexico's people, communities and environment. With partners in every county, we promote philanthropy as a tool for building community assets, relationships and self-reliance. Working together, we maximize resources to meet the unique needs of New Mexicans today and create lasting change for tomorrow.

#### **For More Information About NMCF or the Community Involvement Fund:**

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## **The SRS Environmental Bulletin**

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