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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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State investing \$17.3 million in geothermal energy projects

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department has awarded \$17.3 million in grants to four projects that will harness and expand geothermal energy resources across the state, driving clean energy development and reducing energy costs for New Mexicans.

The awarded projects range from initial feasibility studies to industrial development and installation, showcasing New Mexico’s rich geothermal potential and commitment to renewable energy innovation. New Mexico currently has one operating geothermal powerplant, and these targeted development projects are expected to support the creation of additional facilities.

The funding is part of the Geothermal Projects Development Fund included in House Bill 91, passed during the 2026 legislative session. The fund, managed by EMNRD’s Energy Conservation and Management Division (ECAM), is aimed at supporting local communities, educational institutions and other entities seeking to advance geothermal power generation.

“These investments advance New Mexico’s leadership in clean energy innovation, strengthen long-term sustainability efforts, and deepen our understanding of the state’s geothermal resources,” said EMNRD Acting Cabinet Secretary **Erin Taylor**.

“These projects will expand scientific understanding of our geothermal resources and ensure that Tribes and academic institutions are central in shaping the future of renewable energy in our state,” said ECAM Division Director **Rebecca “Puck” Stair**. “We look forward to the discoveries, partnerships, and opportunities these projects will create for communities across New Mexico”

Entities eligible for Geothermal Development Projects are New Mexico municipalities, counties, state agencies, public schools, universities, and Native American Nations, Tribes and Pueblos.

The list of projects approved for funding:

- Jicarilla Apache Nation, \$2.5 million, characterizing the area around Dulce, NM for geothermal potential.
- New Mexico State University, \$2.85 million, geologic and geophysical characterization of geothermal features outside of Las Cruces, NM.
- New Mexico Institute of Technology, \$10 million, drilling of a stratigraphic test well for geothermal potential in Socorro County, NM.
- San Ildefonso Pueblo, \$2 million, conducting geothermal modeling and exploration in San Ildefonso Pueblo, Santa Fe County.

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