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Economic Development Department Secretary Jon Barela, PNM Celebrate Opening of New Mexico's First Utility-Scale Geothermal Plant

Cyrq Energy's Dale Burgett Geothermal Plant in Animas created 100 construction jobs, 8 eight fulltime jobs in rural New Mexico and is an investment of more than \$100 million in Hidalgo County

Animas - New Mexico Economic Development Department Cabinet Secretary Jon Barela and PNM Resource's Senior Vice President of Public Policy Ron Darnell joined Cyrq Energy on Tuesday to announce the opening of Cyrq Energy's Geothermal Plant located near Animas, NM. This is the first geothermal plant in the state capable of utility-scale production and will provide geothermal electricity to PNM over the next 20 years. The project created 100 construction jobs, will have eight full-time employees and will continue to hire local contractors.

Governor Susana Martinez, Secretary Barela and the Economic Development Department's Office of Business Advocacy were instrumental in streamlining the formerly duplicative permitting process for geothermal, which was an impediment to developing geothermal resources on a large scale in a timely manner, while ensuring the protection of the water supply.

"We are proud of Cyrq's continuing commitment to New Mexico," said Governor Martinez. "This project is an excellent example of what we can accomplish when we work together to reduce duplicative and burdensome government red tape, so that businesses can create the jobs New Mexico families and communities need succeed."

Geothermal power is generated by pumping water heated by the earth to the surface, extracting the heat, which then turns the turbines and creates electricity. The water is pumped using a closed loop system, so no water is used in the production of the power, and the geothermal system creates zero pollution and zero emissions.

"This project opens the door for an amazing future for geothermal power in our state," said Secretary of Economic Development Jon Barela. "This major project has been a tremendous economic development driver for southwestern New Mexico, and other projects we hope are on the way to continue our development of this resource."

The first phase of Cyrq's Dale Burgett Geothermal Power Plant was constructed in 2013, at a cost of \$43 million. The second phase is scheduled to be completed in 2014, for an additional \$67 million.

Geothermal is considered a renewable energy source because the water is heated deep within the earth, brought to the surface to extract the energy, then sent back down to be re-heated for future use. In addition, geothermal has the advantage of wind and solar that it can be produced 24 hours per day, unlike wind and solar which can only be produced with sun and wind.

"We are thrilled to have our first geothermal plant up and running in New Mexico," said CEO Nick Goodman. "PNM has been a great partner and we're honored to be able to help meet the energy challenge for this state. I'd like to thank Governor Martinez and Secretary Barela for streamlining this process and supporting this geothermal energy project. We look forward to a bright geothermal future in New Mexico."

The plant has been in operation since December of 2013.

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