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News Release of Senator Domenici

Domenici Applauds USDA Biomass Energy Grant to Tesuque Firm

Thursday, September 11, 2003

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Pete Domenici today applauded the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) decision to award \$1.28 million to Local Energy of Tesuque to develop Biomass-Fired District Energy.

Domenici had expressed his support for the funds, which will be used to fund research and engineering development of a biomass-fired energy system that will be ready for bidding. The company aims to create a local consortium to keep the energy supply within the community.

"I'm very pleased the U.S.D.A. awarded this grant to Local Energy," Domenici said. "Given the rising costs of fossil fuels, unique energy solutions will be needed to augment our energy options. This project could lead to the development of a clean alternative energy source that will aid our environment as well as the economy."

The grant was awarded as part of a joint effort to encourage biomass-fired energy by Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman and Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham through the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency.

Local Energy's biomass project was one of 19 selected nationwide out of nearly 400 proposals received by the departments. Their project will not only research the economic benefits from biomass-fired energy, but also engineer a system to deliver the energy to the community.

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