

La Fonda

On the Plaza



May 12, 2003

Re: Preparing for the Natural Gas Crisis

To Whom It May Concern:

The increase in natural gas prices over the past several years has made it more expensive to operate La Fonda, and continued price hikes could threaten the entire Santa Fe business community. I am aware that natural-gas reserves in the U.S. are at record low levels, and that failure to adequately rebuild these stocks before next winter will result in supply shortfalls and record high prices in the next heating season.

I have spoken with a representative of Local Energy, a Santa Fe-based nonprofit, about their plan to develop a biomass-fired district heating system in Santa Fe. I fully support this effort as a means to supply clean, reliable, and affordable renewable energy to local residents and businesses, and to guard against the hardships that the natural-gas crisis will bring. A biomass-fired district energy system in Santa Fe will also facilitate completion of forest thinning operations in the Santa Fe Watershed.

I look forward to working with Local Energy on this project, and to the opportunity to purchase affordable renewable energy for my business in the near future.

Sincerely,

James Clinton Bradbury, CHA
General Manager

JCB:lb