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THIRD YEAR OF EMERA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARDS ANNOUNCED NEW MEXICO GAS COMPANY HANDS OUT MORE THAN \$1 MILLION

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – New Mexico Gas Company has awarded more than \$1 million to 34 innovation and economic development groups in the third year of a five-year program to boost economic development across New Mexico.

The awards are available through a \$5 million fund provided by NMGC's owner, Canadian-based energy company Emera Inc.

This year's contributions include \$100,000 to the Arrowhead Center at New Mexico State University, \$75,000 to CNM Ingenuity at Central New Mexico Community College, \$50,000 to the University of New Mexico's Innovation Academy and \$50,000 to the New Mexico Institute for Mining and Technology.

NMGC awarded 11 regional economic development organizations statewide, as well as several technology and innovation groups, including ABQid, CE Lab, Explora, Fat Pipe Rio Rancho, New Space New Mexico, the Santa Fe Business Incubator and WESST.

Arts and culture groups that received awards included the National Hispanic Cultural Center, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and the New Mexico Philharmonic.

Community and health programs that were awarded included Leadership New Mexico, the Sandoval Health Collaborative, United Way of Santa Fe's Kaune Learning Center, Healthy Futures, the New Mexico Senior Games Meals on Wheels, ReadWest Inc., New Mexico Professional Surveyors and Women Rise.

Emera agreed to provide the funds as part of its purchase of NMGC in July 2016. The program is funded at Emera shareholder expense, so NMGC customers will not see any rate increase because of the awards.

"We continue to distribute awards across New Mexico to groups and organizations that we believe will promote growth and benefit our state," New Mexico Gas Company President Ryan Shell said. "These contributions will promote business growth, job creation and economic opportunities for New Mexico residents." In the program's first year in 2016, Emera and NMGC provided approximately \$1.5 million in awards. In the program's second year, the awards totaled just over \$1 million. After the latest round of contributions, about \$1.5 million remains for the program's final two years.

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About New Mexico Gas Company

As the largest natural gas distribution utility in the state, New Mexico Gas Company serves 527,000 customers in 27 New Mexico counties. New Mexico Gas is a subsidiary of Emera Inc. Visit our website at www.nmgco.com

About Emera

Emera Inc. is a geographically diverse energy and services company headquartered in Halifax, Nova Scotia, with approximately \$30 billion in assets and 2017 revenues of more than \$6 billion. The company invests in electricity generation, transmission and distribution, gas transmission and distribution and utility energy services with a strategic focus on transformation from high carbon to low carbon energy sources. Emera has investments throughout North America and in four Caribbean countries. Emera continues to target achieving a minimum of 75% of its adjusted net income from rate-regulated businesses. Emera's common and preferred shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange and trade respectively under the symbol EMA, EMA.PR.A, EMA.PR.B, EMA.PR.C, EMA.PR.E, and EMA.PR.F. Depositary receipts representing common shares of Emera are listed on the Barbados Stock Exchange under the symbol EMABDR and on The Bahamas International Securities Exchange under the symbol EMAB. Additional Information can be accessed at <u>www.emera.com</u> or at <u>www.sedar.com</u>.