

## **Emera provides \$500,000 to Innovation Central**

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – As part of an effort to promote regional economic development, the New Mexico Gas Company and its owner Emera Inc., are directing \$500,000 to the City of Albuquerque's Innovation Central project.**

Emera Chief Executive Officer Chris Huskilson and Gas Company President Ryan Shell presented the award to Mayor Richard Berry after the Mayor's annual State of the City address Monday.

Innovation Central is an entrepreneurial district where multi-purpose companies are working to create technological innovations and opportunities for expanded business growth throughout the State of New Mexico.

"Emera is excited about Innovation Central. This enterprise zone promises to promote and support innovation and business development throughout the State of New Mexico and we are excited to be a part of this effort," Huskilson said. "Indeed, it is an effort we are hoping to learn from and export to the other states and communities we serve, both in the United States and Canada."

When it acquired New Mexico Gas Company last summer, Emera and New Mexico Gas Company agreed with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission's Utility Staff and the New Mexico Attorney General's office \_ with approval of PRC commissioners \_ to establish a \$5 million economic development fund to support projects in New Mexico communities. This contribution is part of that effort.

Ryan Shell added, "This contribution by Emera to the State is exciting. These funds, contributed by Emera, will not affect gas rates but hopefully will stimulate growth and development in the State."

New Mexico Gas Co., the largest natural gas distribution utility in New Mexico, serves about 520,000 customers across New Mexico. New Mexico Gas is a subsidiary of Emera Inc., a geographically diverse energy and services company headquartered in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.