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Navajo Nation Breaks Ground on T'iistsoh Mini Mart in Socorro County *Project a collaboration between New Mexico Economic Development Department and Alamo Navajo Band Chapter*

SOCORRO, NM – The New Mexico Economic Development Department is pleased to announce that ground was broken Wednesday, November 14 on the T'iistsoh Mini Mart, to be located in Alamo, New Mexico, in northern Socorro County.

The T'iistsoh Mini Mart is the first business for the Alamo Navajo People, and is a joint project of the State Economic Development Department's Eastern Regional Business Development Office and the Project Development Department of the Navajo Nation.

Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., said the mini-mart has been a priority for the Navajo Nation Department of Economic Development and that he is pleased work has begun. With rising fuel prices, the convenience this will provide will help stretch families' tight budgets.

"This project will provide a convenience store, gas station, post office and small café to Alamo residents who normally must travel 80 to 90 miles for similar goods and services," said Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley.

More than 200 participants were on-hand to celebrate the groundbreaking, including Navajo Nation Honorable Vice President Ben Shelly, Speaker of the House Lawrence Morgan, and Chairman Lawrence Platero of the Navajo Nation Economic Development Commission, Chapter President Buddy Mexicano and Council Delegate George Apachito.

"This is truly a rural economic project that capitalizes on the vision of the community members, exemplifies teamwork and epitomizes their commitment," said Donnie Quintana, NMEDD Community Development Team Leader. "The members of the Alamo Chapter continue to work hard and take charge of their future and their opportunities for self-realization."

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“I want to commend Donnie Quintana, Jerry Sandoval and Tim Hagaman, who have worked extraordinarily hard on behalf of the Department to make this project a reality,” said NMEDD Assistant Cabinet Secretary Stuart Paisano. “This is a turning point for Alamo that will bring much-needed services, new jobs and positive economic impact to the community.”

About the Project

Sandia Oil Company will operate the new Mini Mart which will serve the 410 households of Alamo with a gasoline, convenient store, Post Office, cafe and Laundromat.

The project will establish a revenue source for the Navajo Nation and create local jobs. Business tax revenues are estimated at \$84,000 with 19 new jobs anticipated. Construction on the \$1.6 million project is scheduled to begin in March 2008.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs School Board has been the local connection with this project, having already constructed utility lines from the new Wellness School for easy access to waste water utilities. The T’iistsoh Mini Mart, once constructed, will be owned by the Alamo Navajo Band Chapter, a sub-unit of the Navajo Nation. Land for the project is held in trust by the Federal Government for use by the Alamo Navajo Band Chapter.

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