

The Environmental Project Of The Year Award was presented to Jemez Pueblo Governor Madalena in a ceremony on Wed. July 5th, based on the below nomination:

Environmental Project of the Year
Pueblo of Jemez
Solar Wastewater Treatment Project

The Pueblo of Jemez is nominated for Environmental Project of the Year, given by the New Mexico Association of Energy Engineers (NMAEE). The Pueblo has addressed several issues with their community wastewater treatment by applying solar energy to power mobile water circulators. The "Solar Bee" water circulators are packaged units manufactured by Pump Systems, Inc. in North Dakota. They have been in operation since July 2004 and have provided the following benefits:

- Eliminated discharge into the Jemez River;
- Elimination of odor;
- Improved water quality.

See the Solar Bee website at <http://www.solarbee.com/index.shtml>.

The Pueblo has approximately 20 acres of wastewater lagoons located adjacent to the Jemez River. Wastewater handling needs have been increasing gradually through the years as the community population grows. The options being evaluated by the Pueblo all involved challenging and costly issues (e.g., increasing lagoon area, construction of a conventional treatment plant). The interim measure of solar-powered water circulators was lower in cost and delayed lagoon expansion several years. The Pueblo purchased a total of four Solar Bee water circulators for approximately \$120,000, with two purchased through funding provided by the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department.

*Brian K. Johnson, PE, CEM
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and
Natural Resources Department
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