

Planning Meetings for the New Mexico NSF-EPSCoR Track 1 Proposal: New Mexico and the Nexus of Energy, Water, and Environment (NM-NEWE)

Background

The National Science Foundation's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) supports research- and education- capacity building within the 29 jurisdictions that are eligible for participation in the program. The current New Mexico EPSCoR program focuses on impacts of climate change on New Mexico's mountain sources of water. Program funds have been used to: significantly enhance the hydrological and meteorological networks in northern New Mexico; upgrade chemistry laboratories at New Mexico Tech and New Mexico Highlands University; build water quality monitoring networks; support undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral research activities; provide professional training for K-12 teachers; build a climate change exhibit at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science; provide infrastructure for New Mexico's regional colleges and universities; fund Innovation Working Groups that support integration and synthesis activities; and support a broad array of education, outreach and diversity-enhancement activities.

New Mexico EPSCoR is now beginning the planning process for its next proposal that will focus on the nexus of energy-water-environment. New Mexico's EPSCoR State Committee chose this focus area since it is central to science, education and economic development in the state and because it is one of the five priority areas in New Mexico's Science and Technology Plan—a key requirement of NSF EPSCoR. The energy-water-environment nexus is defined as those research activities that occur at the intersection of the three foci (Figure 1).

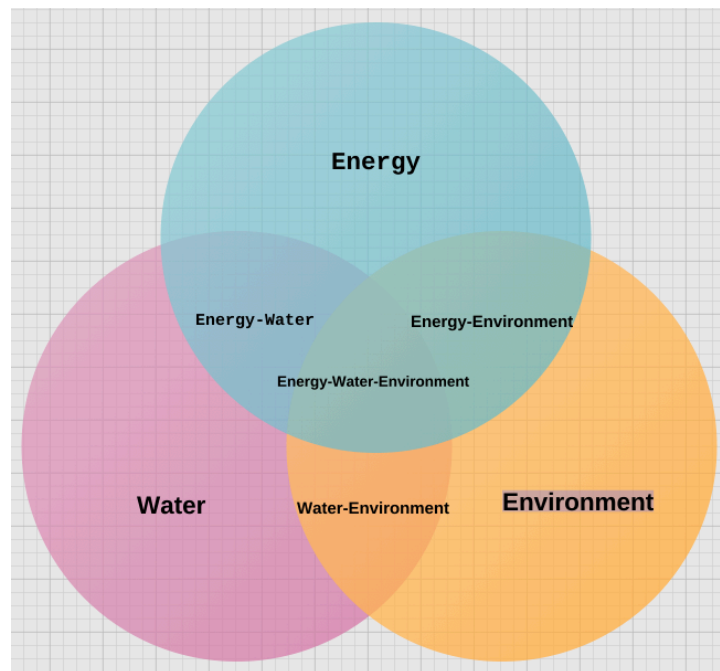


Figure 1. Interconnected research activities form the basis for the energy-water-environment focus of the next EPSCoR Track 1 proposal.

The Proposal Development Process

Three initial planning meetings will be held during fall 2011:

- Monday September 19 (10 am – 3 pm) at New Mexico Tech in Socorro. This meeting will focus on identifying the fundamental scientific questions that will be supported through EPSCoR capacity building funds.
- Friday October 21 (10 am – 3 pm) at the Science and Technology Park Rotunda in Albuquerque, NM. This meeting will focus on identifying the research infrastructure and cyberinfrastructure needed to address the fundamental scientific questions that were specified during the first meeting.
- Monday November 21 (10 am – 3 pm) at the UNM Continuing Education Building in Albuquerque, NM. This meeting will focus on identifying education and outreach activities that are relevant to the energy-water-environment nexus and that build upon the activities and infrastructure that were specified during the first two meetings.

Objectives of the three meetings are to provide guidance to the New Mexico EPSCoR Office about the research, education, and outreach activities that would be encompassed within a competitive NSF-EPSCoR proposal. Following the three workshops, a Proposal Steering Committee will be created that includes diverse representation from New Mexico's universities and colleges and that includes experts from the science, cyberinfrastructure, and education and outreach foci. The Proposal Steering Committee will contribute to proposal development that will occur through October 2012. It is anticipated that several small workshops will be held throughout 2012 that focus on developing specific portions of the proposal. Two external review teams will evaluate the developing New Mexico EPSCoR proposal and assist in specifying what is included in the final proposal that is sent to the National Science Foundation by the New Mexico EPSCoR Project Director. Presently, we anticipate that proposals will be submitted in November 2012.

Attending the Planning Meetings

The initial planning meetings are open to invited faculty and educators from throughout New Mexico. We anticipate 60-100 participants at each meeting and believe that productive planning efforts can be supported with this group size. To attend, you must register at the New Mexico EPSCoR web site: <http://nmepscor.org/content/proposal-planning-meetings-registration>. The New Mexico EPSCoR Office will send invitations with additional logistics information to up to 100 individuals from throughout the state, based upon the information provided by the registrants. Priority for attendance at the first meeting will be given to research university/college faculty and National Lab personnel with expertise relevant to the energy-water-environment nexus. For the second meeting, we will also be looking for individuals with relevant research infrastructure and cyberinfrastructure expertise. The third meeting will target individuals with relevant education and outreach expertise, as well as a subset of participants of the first two meetings so that there is a high degree of continuity throughout the process.

If you have questions, please contact the Project Director, William Michener (wmichene@unm.edu) and Associate Director, Mary Jo Daniel (mjdaniel@epscor.unm.edu).