



For Immediate Release
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Department of Workforce Solutions Closes Building in Response to Power Outage

(Albuquerque, NM) The Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS) will be closed this afternoon and statewide offices will be unable to provide services such as unemployment insurance due to a power outage within blocks of the DWS headquarters. As a result of this incident, power, phone and information technology services for DWS are not operational.

“As a result of the power outage, the DWS building has limited lighting and phone service, and our staff is unable to safely work in those conditions. Therefore, I have closed our offices for the afternoon,” said Secretary Betty Sparrow Doris. “Once PNM gets our power restored, our personnel are prepared to reestablish services to the public as quickly as possible.”

“Today, our statewide online services, such as filing for unemployment insurance, are not functional as a result of this outage,” said Secretary Doris. “Individuals should contact their local Workforce Solutions offices for information about filing their UI claim or other workforce solutions service affected by this power outage. Our Albuquerque office will be closed this afternoon, but we are making every effort to reopen our doors tomorrow morning at 8am.”

The power outage affected the TIWA building, which houses the communications and technology center for state agencies with offices in Albuquerque such as the Retiree Health Care Authority, TVI Workforce Training, MRCOG, Game & Fish, Regulation and Licensing Department, Human Services Department, Commission on the Status of Women, and Expo NM. When power went out state phone and internet service switched over to backup battery systems and is currently operating on generator power.

“Our backup emergency power system is working, generating power for phones and internet service and enabling our agencies to continue to provide service to the public” said Secretary Roy Soto, State Chief Information Officer.

Susan Sponar, Spokesperson for PNM, has advised that power to the area is expected to be restored by 6pm.