

Untitled

From: Vincent-Collawn, Pat [e-mail address redacted]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 11:17 AM
To: satelliteoffices@uspto.gov
Cc: [e-mail address redacted]
Subject: Albuquerque as future USPTO Satellite Location

I am writing to urge the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to select the Albuquerque/Central New Mexico region as the location of its next Regional Patent Office.

Placing Regional Patent Offices where there are established cultures of innovation and technological development encourages and facilitates such advancement, thus benefitting economic development and supporting the nation's standing as a global technological leader. Albuquerque and New Mexico as a whole have a proven, longstanding track record in this regard.

The Albuquerque area is a natural fit for a Regional Patent Office, as it has long been a nexus of technology research, development and commercialization. This region benefits from the long-standing presence of Sandia and Los Alamos National Laboratories as well as the Air Force Research Lab. The region is home to prominent research universities including New Mexico Tech, New Mexico State University and the University of New Mexico. The result is a culture of collaboration and innovation that has been key to advancing our nation's technical leadership.

PNM, the electric utility that serves the majority of customers in Central New Mexico, is itself a technologically innovative company, having successfully developed eight patents since 2000. We frequently collaborate with the National Labs and local universities on various energy related projects. We supply system experience, data and expert input to help inform various modeling efforts as they relate to utility systems. Our collaborative partners in turn have helped us implement numerous technological advances that have kept our systems on the leading edge.

Central New Mexico would be an ideal location for a Regional Patent Office, where employees would find a rich but affordable quality of life with excellent public transportation including bus and rail, convenient access to the Albuquerque International Airport, a vibrant cultural and arts scene, and numerous recreational opportunities that our fine climate allows our residents to enjoy on a nearly constant basis. The median household income in our region continues to grow at a rate of 1.4 percent, and median family income has grown at 2.2 percent annually while our cost of living remains comparatively low and competitive with other cities. The Regional Office would be drawing from a well-trained and productive workforce; the United States Patent Office roll of registered attorneys and agents shows 74 of them call Albuquerque home and that 113 of them call New Mexico their home.

The Regional Office would be welcomed by a well organized and active business community represented by the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce, the Association of Commerce & Industry, and Albuquerque Economic Development to name just a few.

I join others, including our federal delegation and leaders of our business community, in urging your careful consideration of Central New Mexico as the location of the next Regional Patent Office.

Sincerely,
Pat Collawn
Chairman, President & CEO
PNM Resources