

Santa Fe, NM – Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico’s Third District highlighted the launch today of Chevron’s new concentrating photovoltaic (CPV) solar project. Chevron Mining and Chevron Ventures Technology redeveloped the tailing site of its molybdenum mine in Questa and built the new solar technology facility.

“This new facility will not only provide clean, renewable energy by taking advantage of the abundant solar resources Questa has to offer, but it has also given a boost to the local economy,” Congressman Luján said. “By partnering with local businesses to build this facility, Chevron’s CPV solar project has helped put people to work while driving innovative new technologies that will further our efforts to reduce our dependence on foreign oil.”

The facility includes 173 solar panels on approximately 20 acres of the Questa mines tailing site, making the facility one of the largest CPV facilities in the world. Kit Carson Electric Cooperative will purchase the power produced by the one megawatt solar facility.

Concentrating photovoltaic is an advanced technology that uses lenses and mirrors to concentrate and direct the sun’s rays through a multilayer solar cell. Each cell layer captures solar energy and converts it to electricity. Concentrators are mounted on tracking systems that follow the sun so the cells are always positioned toward the light. This combination makes CPV about twice as efficient as convention photovoltaic solar technologies, which do not include a concentration mechanism.

#