



# NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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Energy Conservation and Management Division

May 9, 2007

SUBJECT: Solar Collector Definitions and Restrictions

Dear New Mexico Citizen:

Our State's 2007 Legislative Session passed a wide variety of laws and initiatives to move New Mexico forward in clean energy. One of these initiatives was Solar Collector Definitions and Restrictions Bill. The bill amended sections of the Solar Rights Act of 1978.

The Solar Collector Definitions and Restrictions Bill amendments were established through the enactment of House Bill 611 and Senate Bill 1031, sponsored by Representative Mimi Stewart and Senator Phil Griego, respectively. The purpose of the Solar Collector Definitions and Restrictions amendments to the existing Solar Rights Act are to prohibit cities from passing ordinances or codes and homeowner's associations from passing covenants that forbid solar installations, with the exception of historic districts.

**The amendments to the Solar Rights Act were effective upon Governor Richardson's approval of the legislation in March 2007 and are retroactive to July 1, 1978.**

For more information on Solar Collector Definitions and Restrictions Bill amendments and the Solar Rights Act, please view the following links: [House Bill 611](#), [Senate Bill 1031](#), [Solar Rights Act \[Sections 47-3-1 to -5 NMSA 1978\]](#) and [Your Solar Rights](#).

If there are any questions in regard to the amendments to the Solar Rights Act, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ryan Helton

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