

State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For immediate release
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**WHITE HOUSE ALERTS GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON ABOUT
HEIGHTENED STATE OF ALERT**

SANTA FE – New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson today confirmed a heightened state of alert ordered by President Bush communicated to the state by the National Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge. New Mexico Homeland Security Director R.L. Stockard briefed Governor Richardson this morning.

“All of our first-responders, emergency personnel, law enforcement and National Guard personnel have been notified of the current situation,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “I have instructed New Mexico Homeland Security Director R.L. Stockard to keep me informed and I will issue further statements as required, should the situation change.”

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge called this morning at 9:15 to inform New Mexico Homeland Security Director R.L. Stockard that the national alert level was raised from a yellow, or “elevated” state of risk, to an orange, or “high” state or risk.

During the call, Secretary Ridge stated that President Bush accepted a recommendation from the intelligence community, and ordered the heightened level of risk.

No specific target has been identified. However, three sectors were highlighted: Energy, transportation and financial.

The F.B.I. is working in a coordinated effort with the office of Homeland Security to provide a list of protective countermeasures that should be taken. New Mexico state officials will be working with federal officials to put these measures into place.

The State Department of Public Safety and the New Mexico National Guard have been notified, and will assist in implementing countermeasures recommended by federal authorities.

