



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson

Governor

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Governor Bill Richardson helps dedicate new Wind Farm

HOUSE – Governor Bill Richardson joined several dignitaries today at a dedication ceremony for the New Mexico Wind Energy Center – a new wind farm that will help provide New Mexicans with wind energy.

Governor Bill Richardson delivered the following remarks at a news conference:

During the campaign last year, I promised to forge a partnership between the State and New Mexico's Energy Industry. Today, working with the industry, we're making good on that promise.

I want our state to be a national leader when it comes to wind and solar energy. At the same time, I want to create new, high-paying jobs in New Mexico.

The creation of the New Mexico Wind Energy Center is a great first step toward fulfilling my goal of having 10 percent of New Mexico's energy come from renewable sources by 2010.

I want to commend PNM and Florida Power and Light for their investment in this facility. PNM is committed to this facility, having made the largest single purchase of wind energy by an investor-owned utility in the nation. Thank you, Jeff Sterba.

This wind farm is the third largest in the world. It makes use of a renewable resource that is plentiful here in eastern New Mexico. And as important, it creates jobs and economic opportunity in rural New Mexico -- \$40 million over 20 years in Quay and De Baca counties.

With more of this kind of investment, New Mexico will help the United States become less dependent on foreign oil. We need to explore solar, geothermal, coal gasification, and other technologies that create affordable, low-impact energy to drive our economy.

PNM has stepped up to the challenge. Now, I call on New Mexicans to invest in this renewable power. Working together, we can create a stronger renewable energy industry – and that means more jobs, and higher-quality jobs, for the people of New Mexico.