



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Governor Bill Richardson Calls on US Department of the Interior to Fix Computer Problem Delaying Millions of Dollars in NM Mineral Revenue Payments

For Immediate Release

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today issued a statement regarding the temporary injunction issued against the U.S. Department of Interior that will delay federal mineral revenue payments to states. Last month, New Mexico received \$27,004,879 in federal mineral revenue, which is deposited in the state's general fund to pay for education.

"I am deeply concerned the Interior Department has not sufficiently ensured the security of the Mineral Management Service reporting system, delaying tens of millions of dollars in state mineral revenue payments," said Governor Richardson. "New Mexico relies on these payments- that total 8% of the state's entire annual budget- to fund education. The failure of the Federal Government to deal with this problem has put the education of thousands of NM school children at risk. I call upon Secretary Norton to resolve this problem as quickly as possible."

The Federal Court ruling came in the case of Cobell v. Norton, and effectively shuts down, at least temporarily, the Internet reporting system for federal mineral revenues, called the Minerals Management Service. The case is a class action suit filed against Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, and alleges the Internet system is not secure, resulting in improper payments and lost revenue, particularly for Indian Tribes.

MMS Disbursements to States in February 2004 (US Dept. of Interior figures):

Alabama	\$ 933,881
Alaska	\$ 882,023

Arizona	\$ 45,546
California	\$5,355,643
Colorado	\$5,291,916
Idaho	\$ 80,307
Illinois	\$ 12,601
Kansas	\$ 4,276
Kentucky	\$ 3,948
Louisiana	\$1,795,935
Michigan	\$ 33,992
Mississippi	\$ 101,405
Missouri	\$ 270
Montana	\$2,547,445
Nebraska	\$ 3,534
Nevada	\$ 72
New Mexico	\$27,004,879
North Dakota	\$ 650,247
Ohio	\$ 34,902
Oklahoma	\$ 160,104
Oregon	\$ 2,246
Pennsylvania	\$ 3,978
South Dakota	\$ 34,986
Texas	\$ 1,298,956
Utah	\$ 3,924,919
Washington	\$ 5,842
West Virginia	\$ 9,001
Wyoming	\$39,109,587

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