



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

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Governor

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Governor Richardson Sets Target for Renewable Energy Use, Boosts New Mexico Agriculture

Governor Requires State Agencies to obtain 15% of fuel from biomass by 2010

SANTA FE – Governor Richardson today announced at the Abengoa/Portales Ethanol Plant Expansion that he would continue the state’s progress on clean energy and boost New Mexico agriculture by putting New Mexico’s buying power behind the growing bio-fuel industry.

“I am going to increase the state’s support for these renewable fuels by requiring state agencies to obtain 15% of their fuel from renewable fuels, such as biomass, by the year 2010,” said Governor Bill Richardson.

Governor Richardson will issue an executive order that will contain the 15% renewable fuels requirement, and will set up a structure for the state’s vehicle acquisitions so that they comply with the existing law.

Renewable fuels include biodiesel, often created from canola seed, as well as ethanol manufactured from sorghum.

Abengoa is a strong promoter of new technologies and innovation. Through partnerships with the U.S. Department of Energy and other entities, Abengoa has committed more than \$80 million in ethanol research and development over the next four years.

The State of New Mexico has also supported Abengoa with job creation tax credits tied to the 45 good jobs they provide in Eastern New Mexico.

“That will boost the market, and show the state’s commitment to this industry. It will make New Mexico’s air cleaner, it will help us meet our greenhouse gas reduction targets, and it will provide good jobs for New Mexicans,” said Governor Richardson. “We look forward to continuing our work to expand New Mexico’s ethanol market, develop renewable energy resources - making New Mexico the ‘clean energy state’.”

Last year, farmers planted 140,000 acres of grain sorghum, yielding 46 bushels to the acre. Each bushel will produce nearly 3 gallons of ethanol.

Ethanol is clean burning, domestically produced, good for the environment, and good for the next generation of energy jobs. E85 is an 85 percent ethanol fuel, and can be used in flex-fuel vehicles. E10 unleaded with ethanol, which is more common, can be used to fuel any vehicle.

Governor Richardson today also addressed the Southwest Renewable Energy Conference in Santa Fe, where he outlined his ambitious clean energy program, including:

- Western Governors’ Association target of 30,000 MW of clean energy by 2015, with an increase of 20% in energy efficiency by 2020
- Production tax credits expanded to include more wind, biomass, and solar potential
- Want utilities to get 10 percent of power from renewable resources by 2011
- Proposal to create nation’s first ever renewable energy transmission and storage authority, to move renewable energy to larger markets
- Nation’s first ever statewide Clean Energy Bond, taking savings from energy efficiency in public buildings and investing in conservation and renewables
- Clean energy grants, as well as renewable energy projects throughout state
- Global warming greenhouse gas emission reduction targets: 2000 levels by 2012, 10% more by 2020, and 75% reduction by 2050