



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For Immediate Release
September 23, 2005

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Governor Richardson Takes Action to Reduce Pressure on Gasoline Supplies and Prices

Governor anticipates potential impacts of Hurricane Rita on homes and businesses

(Santa Fe, NM) -- Governor Bill Richardson took action today to help reduce state government's demand on energy supplies and encourage fuel efficient activities throughout New Mexico. These actions are designed to help alleviate energy limitations that may result in the wake of Hurricane Rita.

Governor Richardson today signed an Executive Order that:

- Directs state agencies to reduce fuel use and report back to him monthly on their progress. Specific measures will include avoiding trips, using more efficient vehicles, reducing speed, and using public transportation where available and efficient.
- Orders the Department of Public Safety to crack down on speeding, which can increase fuel usage on high-speed roads by 5-10%.
- Asks citizens to conserve, avoid hoarding, use public transportation, and carpool or use public transportation where it makes sense for them.
- Creates a refined products task force that will identify potential problems in refined products supply in New Mexico, including refinery issues, pipelines, transportation, oilfield management, emergency management of refined product supplies, and other issues. This task force will include eight experts from the refined products business as well as consumer representatives and the Attorney General's Office.
- The Governor also signed a separate Executive Order, directing state agencies to maximize their use of renewable fuels, displacing demand for limited petroleum products.

"New Mexico businesses and households have already been hard hit by price spikes for gasoline and diesel, in particular," stated Governor Richardson. "Working together, we can reduce demand while also helping to prevent higher prices and shorter supplies."

Governor Richardson also urged the oil industry not to use the expected impact of Hurricane Rita as an excuse to unreasonably hike gas prices.

"While we do expect to see rising gas prices in the next few days as this storm bears down on our coast, I will not tolerate undue exploitation of New Mexico drivers," said Governor Richardson. "I am calling on the oil

industry not to use this storm as an excuse to gouge consumers. I will use the tough anti-gouging legislation I have proposed for the special session to investigate all allegations of unfair pricing at the pump."

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