



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Richardson Responds to Iowa Request; Waives Load Limits on New Mexico Highways

Santa Fe, NM - Governor Richardson today responded to a request from Iowa Governor Chet Culver and waived load limits on New Mexico highways to aid the State of Iowa during their state of emergency. Over the past few days, the State of Iowa has been severely impacted by a winter storm causing Governor Culver to declare 60 of their 99 counties a disaster. More than 250,000 households have lost power and 117,000 remain without power after 72 hours - many in isolated rural areas that may not get power restored for several days.

As a result, utility companies are moving generators, transmission poles, and other essential items from sites around the country. To expedite this movement, Governor Culver has asked other states to lift load limits to help facilitate the transportation of critical infrastructure during this time of emergency.

“Iowa requested this assistance this morning and I directed my administration to move immediately to lift these restrictions,” said Governor Richardson. “As a state that was impacted by a severe winter storm just a few months ago, I felt it was imperative to aid Iowa during their time of need.”

The Department of Public Safety’s Motor Transportation Division will aid in the expedition of these Iowa-bound loads, while ensuring the highways of New Mexico remain safe and that bridges and roads are not compromised by the heavy loads.

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