



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Alarie Ray-Garcia
(505) 231-7350

Governor Bill Richardson Announces Guidelines for State Employee Fuel Saving Program

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today announced the guidelines state departments and agencies must follow when developing their Telework and Alternative Work Schedule Program policies. State Personnel Director Sandi Perez briefed secretaries and agency directors on the guidelines this morning.

“Through this program we can help alleviate the strain of high gas prices on state employees and taxpayers while ensuring that the public’s access to state government remains our top priority,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “These guidelines provide the accountability and flexibility needed for us to make this bold move without compromising our commitment to the public.”

Each agency must formulate policies related to the Telework and Alternative Work Schedules Program and submit them to Personnel Director Perez on or before September 1, 2008. Agencies considering moving to a 4-day work week, must first identify how the change will still enable them to maintain operational needs, service delivery requirements, program goals and back-up coverage in the event of an emergency.

Today Economic Development Secretary Fred Mondragon announced his department will be moving to a 4-day compressed work schedule. The department hopes to implement the pilot program by the beginning of August.

“I have worked closely with Secretary Mondragon on this move to a 4-day work week and we believe it is a good fit for Economic Development,” Personnel Director Perez said. “I will be working just as closely with other secretaries and agency heads to develop policies that work well for the specific needs of their departments, employees and customers.”

While employee participation is strongly encouraged, it is completely voluntary. Employees participating in either Telework or Alternate Work Schedules must meet eligibility requirements, including completion of their probationary period and successful job performance. Certain positions will not be eligible because of operational needs, program needs or the job duties assigned to the position.