



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON



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## **Governor Bill Richardson Applauds Decision Sending Desert Rock Air Permit Decision Back to EPA**

SANTA FE –Governor Bill Richardson today applauded the decision by the federal Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) to remand the air quality permit for the Desert Rock Energy Facility to the Environmental Protection Agency’s Region 9 office.

The State of New Mexico appealed the permit for the proposed northwestern New Mexico coal-fired power plant arguing that the EPA did not take into account important environmental factors when it granted the permit in 2008.

“This decision validates what my administration has long argued—that the Bush Administration was wrong not to look at harmful greenhouse gas emissions in issuing this permit,” said Governor Richardson. “I have full confidence that EPA will do the right thing the second time around.”

The EPA granted Desert Rock a permit in July 2008 but asked for a voluntary remand earlier this year to reconsider issues brought up in the appeal by the State of New Mexico. This week’s ruling by the EAB essentially means the EPA will start over with its review of the permit.

“This decision will force the EPA to fully analyze the best available pollution reduction methods in its technical review of the Desert Rock permit,” said NMED Secretary Ron Curry. “We are confident that EPA will agree with the State of New Mexico that there should be no new coal plants without the latest and greatest environmental controls including limits on greenhouse gas emissions.”

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