



For immediate release:

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New Rules and Regulations for Surface Water Administration in New Mexico are Posted for Public Review

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) — Proposed new **Rules and Regulations for Administration of Surface Water** in the State of New Mexico were posted for public review yesterday on the Office of the State Engineer's website.

The administrative hearing on the proposed rules and regulations was held on June 21, 2004. On November 3, the State Engineer decided to extend the period to entertain public comments for 30 more days. The new deadline for receiving public comments will be December 3, 2004.

"We encourage suggestions for improvement of this draft, which will be helpful in revising these proposed rules and regulations," said State Engineer John D'Antonio. "Revisions were necessary because the existing regulations did not adequately address additions to state law, revised methods in accounting for the state's waters, nor the conjunctive management of surface and underground water."

These proposed rules and regulations, which will govern effective management of surface waters throughout the state, were last updated in 1953.

The Proposed New Mexico Surface Water Management Rules and Regulations can be downloaded from the Office of the State Engineer website at: www.ose.state.nm.us

Written comments should be e-mailed to publiccomments@ose.state.nm.us, or mailed to:

Office of the State Engineer
Attn: Paul Wells
P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504

(MORE)

The Office of the State Engineer is charged with administering the state's water resources. The State Engineer has power over the supervision, measurement, appropriation, and distribution of all surface and groundwater in New Mexico, including streams and rivers that cross state boundaries. The State Engineer is also Secretary of the Interstate Stream Commission and oversees its staff.

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