



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) — New Rules and Regulations for Administration of Surface Water in the State of New Mexico were adopted by State Engineer John D'Antonio on Friday, January 14, 2005.

These rules and regulations, which will govern effective management of surface waters throughout the state, have not been comprehensively updated since 1953.

"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," said State Engineer John D'Antonio. "Updating these rules and regulations provides the Office of the State Engineer with guidelines that will allow us to effectively manage and administer surface water in the State of New Mexico."

An administrative hearing on the proposed rules and regulations was held on June 21, 2004. The deadline for the public comment period for the final draft of the rules and regulations was on December 3, 2004.

The 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, once they become effective. To request a copy, contact Paul Wells, Office of the State Engineer at (505) 827-6130.

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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