



**For immediate release:**

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## **New Rules and Regulations for Dam Design, Construction, and Safety Are Effective Today**

**(SANTA FE, New Mexico) — New Rules and Regulations for Dam Design, Construction, and Safety** in the State of New Mexico, adopted by the State Engineer on March 9, 2005, will become effective March 31.

The rules and regulations apply to the design and construction of all jurisdictional dams in New Mexico and the continued safe operation and maintenance of all non-federal jurisdictional dams.

“Prior to these rules and regulations, the agency evaluated dam design and construction through guidelines and criteria,” said Dam Safety Bureau Chief Elaine Pacheco. “With adoption of these rules and regulations the Office of the State Engineer will be better able to ensure that dams under the jurisdiction of the State Engineer are designed and constructed to acceptable standards, and that dam owners are operating and maintaining their dams in a safe condition.”

A public hearing on the rules and regulations was held on June 24, 2004. A public comment period on the final draft of the rules and regulations was held from December 13, 2004 through January 11, 2005.

The New Mexico Dam Design, Construction, and Dam Safety Rules and Regulations can be downloaded from the Office of the State Engineer website at: [www.ose.state.nm.us](http://www.ose.state.nm.us)

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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