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State Engineer Adopts New Rules and Regulations Governing Well Driller Licensing and Construction, Repair and Plugging of Wells

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) — The effective date for New **Rules and Regulations for Well Driller Licensing and Construction, Repair and Plugging of Wells** in New Mexico is August 31, 2005. State Engineer John D'Antonio signed and adopted the regulations on August 16th.

The regulations govern the drilling of wells, licensing of drillers, and registration of drill rig supervisors throughout the state. The rules, which were last modified in 1966, were updated to reflect revisions to state law; new methods of drilling, construction, and plugging of wells; and to address safety and protection issues regarding underground aquifers.

"Due to the increasing dependence on New Mexico's groundwater by the public, recent updates in state law, and new well drilling methods, it was necessary to revise the regulations," said State Engineer John D'Antonio. "The adoption of these updated regulations will allow the Office of the State Engineer to better ensure that the public, well drillers, and environment are protected."

A public hearing on the regulations was held in Santa Fe on January 10, 2005.

The New Mexico Rules and Regulations for Water Well Driller Licensing, and Construction, Repair and Plugging of Wells can be downloaded from the Office of the State Engineer website at:

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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