



Media Advisory

-- December 1, 2005 --

(SANTA FE, New Mexico) – The Office of the State Engineer will conduct a **public hearing** on **Friday, December 9, 2005**, on the six new rule sets adopted by the State Engineer for declaring and extending fifteen underground water basins.

The purpose of the basin declarations and extensions is to provide for the statewide administration of underground water, accurately account for and administer the resources, and prevent impairment to valid and existing water rights.

On September 23, 2005, the State Engineer declared the Clayton, Causey Lingo, Mount Riley, Hatchita, Yaqui, and Cloverdale Underground Water Basins, and extended the Canadian River, Curry County, Fort Sumner, Lea County, Tularosa, Animas, Lordsburg, Nutt-Hockett, and Playas Underground Water Basins.

The areas being declared and extended encompass approximately 11,500 square miles, roughly 9.5 percent of the state, giving the State Engineer jurisdiction over the appropriation and beneficial use of all of the underground waters in the State of New Mexico.

Public meetings were held around the state in October to discuss the basin declarations and extensions.

Information and maps on the basin declarations and extension can be obtained on the Office of the State Engineer website at www.ose.state.nm.us. They may also be picked up at any district location of the Office of the State Engineer, or by contacting Paul Wells, Water Rights Division at (505) 827-6130 or by email at paul.wells@state.nm.us.

WHEN: Friday, December 9, 2005

TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

PLACE: Jerry Apodaca Education Building – Mabry Hall
300 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, NM 87501-2786

**CONTACT
FOR MORE
INFORMATION:** Paul Wells, Water Rights Division
Office of the State Engineer
(505) 827-6130

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