



For immediate release:

May 30, 2008

For more information, contact:

Julie Maas, Public Relations Specialist
Planning and Communication Division
(505) 765-2011

Office of the State Engineer Library

By Polly McCord, Office of the State Engineer Librarian

(Santa Fe, New Mexico) - Yes, the Office of the State Engineer does have a library! While our primary users are agency staff or other State employees, we are open to the public and handle a surprising variety and number of questions each month ranging from water levels in a particular year and municipal water use to more esoteric requests (someone recently needed photographs of previous State Engineers). A full-time professional librarian, several part-time catalogers, and a dedicated corps of volunteers keep things running smoothly.

Currently located in the east basement of the Bataan Building (below the Water Rights Desk), the OSE Library has been in operation for several decades. The collection includes:

- a complete collection of Office of the State Engineer biennial, annual, technical and hydrology reports (many of these publications are also available online at http://www.ose.state.nm.us/publications_index.html), as well as
 - Hydrographic Surveys
 - Regional Water Plans
 - Surface Water Level and Flow Characteristic Reports
 - Ground Water Level and Basic Data Reports
 - New Mexico Water Assessment for Planning Purposes and individual county profiles; and
 - Ground Water Level Maps.

Additionally, the OSE Library has:

- acequia information
- ground water notes filed by county
- selected publications of the U.S. Geological Survey, the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, and other State and Federal agencies;

(MORE)

- a large collection of independent consultant reports, such as those prepared for proposed subdivisions and water rights evaluations, filed by county;
- materials relating to the various interstate compacts;
- one-of-a kind historical documents;
- journals and texts relating to water resources, including statutory reference materials; and
- a large map collection.

Many items are available to check out, although some do not circulate due to circumstances such as age, uniqueness, condition, etc. Please see the OSE librarian for circulation policies as they pertain to a particular item.

The OSE Library continues to develop its web page (http://www.ose.state.nm.us/publications_library.html), often adding useful links and information. Each month a calendar is posted noting library closures so that users may plan their research. Staff and volunteers continually scan frequently requested documents to make available online.

The library is developing a complete policy covering access, circulation, acquisitions, collection development, coordination with other libraries, copyright, interlibrary loan, organization, disaster preparedness, etc. The OSE Library does not maintain the day-to-day records of the agency, nor does it house documentation related to legal proceedings (motions, exhibits, transcripts, etc.).

The OSE librarian is offering library instruction to agency staff, beginning with employees of the Water Resource Allocation Program. Included in the 75-minute session is an overview of the library's web resources, how to search for documents at USGS Publications Warehouse, and other information they will find useful in their jobs. This summer, librarian Polly McCord, will be taking the instruction sessions on the road, visiting the District II Office in Roswell, District III in Deming, District V in Aztec, and District IV in Las Cruces.

For additional information, please contact the librarian at 505/827-6158 or polly.mccord@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.

The Interstate Stream Commission is charged with separate duties including protecting New Mexico's right to water under eight interstate stream compacts, ensuring the state complies with each of those compacts, as well as water planning.

###