



## W.A.T.E.R.S. PROJECT

### What is W.A.T.E.R.S.?

*Water Administration Technical Engineering Resource System.* W.A.T.E.R.S. is a database being populated to store and make available the information contained in an estimated 183K paper files in the custody of the State Engineer.



### Purpose?

The purpose of W.A.T.E.R.S. is to abstract and image all water right files into the W.A.T.E.R.S. database. This will enable the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) to preserve the content of 100+ year old water right paper files that may deteriorate over time, secure and maintain files in one safe location, and provide easy access to this information over the Web.

### W.A.T.E.R.S. On The Web

The Web link to the W.A.T.E.R.S. database was enabled on April 17, 2000, providing on-line access to OSE well reports and well permits in New Mexico. The *Well Information report* gives a summary of water rights use, owner, wells, diversion and location. *The Average Depth to Water report* gives the average of all the wells in the section for depth of well and depth to water. *The Water Column report* gives the water column depth for all the wells found in a given section.

The “*Water Right Summary*” and “*Subdivision Review*” modules were added to W.A.T.E.R.S. on the Web on September 8, 2000. The “Water Right Summary” module shows the purpose, status, total acres, total diversion, owner, and a list of all documents on file with the office such as applications, permits, and court orders. The “Subdivision Review” module will allow you to access summary information on subdivisions reviewed or under review by the OSE, by either county, or subdivision name.

### IMAGES On The Web

W.A.T.E.R.S. on the Web was image enabled on February 4, 2002. This means that users can view images of paper documents on file at OSE as they become available. When the user clicks on an icon of a document, the related images are retrieved and displayed in a separate browser window. Images are downloaded in a PDF format and require Adobe Acrobat reader version 5.0 or higher.

The OSE is committed to making the valuable data being assembled in W.A.T.E.R.S. available to the public. During the four years that the Web link to W.A.T.E.R.S. has been on line, 9,862 guests have registered and 1,085,916 requests for W.A.T.E.R.S. data have been met. Under the previous system, data-users had to submit their request for data in writing and pay \$60 for OSE staff time. The downloaded data was received via e-mail a day later. Using the old method, OSE received only 40 requests for data over a two-year period.

## Who uses it?

Those who register to explore and download data from W.A.T.E.R.S. include OSE and other state agency staff, engineering firms, water and environmental consultants, law firms, real estate institutions, students and private individuals.

## Mapping Water Rights

The integration of Geographic Information Technologies (GIT) into agency's enterprise system design for Water Right Administration is ongoing. The system will provide access to a map illustrating individual water right information including places of water use, points of water diversion, and water conveyances. Currently, the technology is actively supporting historical water right analyses, hydrological modeling of ground and surface water resource quantities, and legal descriptions of water right holdings.



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## How You Can Do It?

The OSE home page is located at <http://www.ose.state.nm.us>. To access W.A.T.E.R.S. from the Web, click on "Water Database" on the OSE home page. Select the blue hyperlink **[iWATERS - the Internet WATERS Database Query System](#)** in the middle of the page. For new users enter your email address and select the "New Registration" button, please follow the instructions to register with W.A.T.E.R.S. All users are asked to register using their e-mail address as their user ID in order to track the use of the system and types of users accessing the data.

Once you have registered and logged in, you can search the well reports in the W.A.T.E.R.S. database by the following criteria or combination of criteria:

- Township, Range and Section
- X & Y Coordinates
- County
- Water Basin
- Data Base File Number
- Owner Name



All reports can be downloaded to your hard drive by clicking file/save as, and saving as a text file. The saved text file can then be imported into Excel or Access as a fixed width file.

## Current Developments

A total of 17 activities have been defined to complete work related to this monumental effort. In spite of inherent complexities and limited staff, a total of 222,927 files have been imaged to date. The rate of imaging has accelerated with the expansion of both W.A.T.E.R.S staff and those of the agency's imaging house (Laguna Industries, Inc.).