



State of New Mexico
Office of the State Engineer
Interstate Stream Commission

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**Interstate Stream Commission concludes Water Security
Planning Act hearing**
Commission to consider the record before decision

SANTA FE –The New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission concluded its three-day public hearing on the Water Security Planning Act proposed rule on Friday, Oct. 17, with the commission now set to review testimony and public comments before deciding whether to adopt, amend, or reject the rule.

“The level of participation we’ve seen over the past year and during this hearing reflects how deeply New Mexicans care about the future of our water,” said NMISC Director **Hannah Riseley-White**. “We’re grateful for the thoughtful input that will help shape a rule built on collaboration, transparency, and long-term sustainability.”

The commission will deliberate on the proposed rule at an upcoming regular or special public meeting. Once finalized, the rule will guide the formation of regional water security planning councils across New Mexico and advance the next phase of regional water planning as required by the Water Security Planning Act (WSPA).

The hearing was open to public participation in person and online and brought together a broad range of voices from across the state. New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) Water Planning Program staff presented testimony and exhibits reviewing the history of regional water planning in New Mexico and the approach for future regional water planning under the proposed rule. Testimony was also presented by NMISC Director Hannah Riseley-White, who presented the vision for future regional water security planning under WSPA, and Office of the State Engineer General Counsel Nat Chakeres, who discussed elements of the proposed rule relating to public welfare.

Commissioners had the opportunity to ask questions during the hearing relating to testimony and public comment. Questions ranged from plan implementation, regional representation, and future planning considerations outlined in the proposed rule. Members of the public shared oral comments both in person and online, ensuring that perspectives from individuals and communities across New Mexico were entered into the official record, including tribal officials, acequia members, farmers, ranchers, rural water users, and environmental groups.

For more information on the Water Security Planning Act, and to sign up for updates, please visit: MainStreamNM.org.

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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.

The nine-member 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 investigating, conserving and protecting the waters of the State, in addition to water planning.
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