



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

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**Interstate Stream Commission accepting public comment for
water planning rule**

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) announced the [proposed rule](#) under the Water Security Planning Act, a major step toward building a more resilient and secure water future for New Mexico.

The Water Security Planning Act is New Mexico’s guiding legislation for regional water planning and management. It creates a roadmap for regionalized water planning and implementation that prioritizes the unique needs of local communities, makes use of the best available science and data, and maintains compliance with federal and state laws. It unanimously passed the legislature in 2023.

“Revitalizing regional water planning is essential as we face a hotter and drier future in New Mexico,” said New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission Director **Hannah Riseley White**. “The proposed rule emphasizes local leadership, scientific rigor, and inclusive engagement so that communities can develop regional water plans that work for them and result in the best possible outcomes for New Mexicans.”

As part of the rulemaking process, NMISC is accepting public comments for the official record through September 27, 2025. To view the proposed rule, submit a comment, and access the docketed materials visit: <https://www.ose.nm.gov/RulesRegs/rulemaking.php>. A public hearing will begin on October 15 at 9:00 a.m. in Santa Fe. Following the hearing, the commission will deliberate and adopt, amend, or reject the proposed rule. Once finalized, NMISC begin convening regional water security planning councils across the state.

Through the [Main Stream New Mexico](#) campaign, the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission conducted 16 open house public meetings throughout the state and hosted an online platform to involve communities in the process to develop the proposed rule. Over 2,300 New Mexicans provided more than 25,000 feedback points to inform the [proposed regional boundaries](#) and the [discussion draft rule and guidelines](#), which received over 100 public responses. NMISC carefully reviewed all feedback and incorporated substantive changes into the proposed rule. NMISC also partnered with the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department to create the Water Security Tribal Advisory Council, ensuring Tribal perspectives are included in all stages of water planning.

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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.
<https://www.ose.state.nm.us>