



New Mexico Environment Department

Water Leader's Workshop Water Reuse Rulemaking Update

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Status of Water Reuse Regulation Development

- September of 2023 – Advisory Committee Met
- Public Comment Period Open November 1st through December 1st.
- December – NMED incorporating and responding to comments from advisory committee, public, and internal.
- December 29, 2023 – NMED will file a request for hearing with the Water Quality Control Commission.
- Request hearing in April of 2024.



Status of Water Reuse Regulation Development

- The draft regulation creates a new section in 20.6 NMAC titled Part 8 – Ground and Surface Water Protection – Supplemental Requirements for Water Reuse.
- This section will house reuse requirements for:
 - Direct and Indirect Potable Reuse.
 - Reclaimed Wastewater.
 - Industrial Graywater.
 - Produced Water (Outside OCD jurisdiction)
 - Desalination.



Produced Water Advisory Committee

- Committee comprised of members from:
 - Tribal Governments
 - Academia
 - Economic Development
 - EMNRD
 - NMED
 - Industry
 - Environmental NGOs



Coming Attractions – What's Next?

- NMED has engaged third party support to develop regulations for indirect and direct potable reuse.
- NMED engaging with NMSU to develop regulations on Desalination.
- NMED has engaged a Public Relations firm to develop public outreach resources to socialize water reuse.
- Second phase of rulemaking in latter part of 2024.



Important Notes

- Future rulemaking intended to standardize and simplify permitting of water reuse.
- NMED already permits the following reuse systems on a case-by-case basis:
 - Indirect potable reuse (Rio Rancho, NM)
 - Brackish Water Desalination – Alamogordo
 - Direct potable reuse (Cloudcroft)
 - Working with Las Vegas, NM on an indirect potable reuse pilot.



Questions?

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