

Albuquerque Basin--Studies in hydrogeology II

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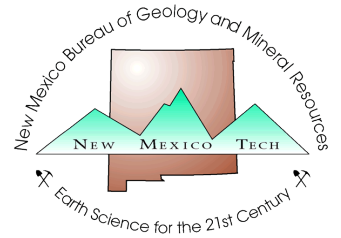
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This is the second special issue of *New Mexico Geology* to feature Albuquerque Basin hydrogeologic studies. Since the publication of the first hydrogeology issue in November 1995, New Mexico Bureau of Mines & Mineral Resources (NMBMMR) scientists and collaborators have continued to conduct investigations of both surface-water and ground-water resources throughout the state.

Hydrogeologic studies in the Albuquerque metro area are continually becoming more detailed in order to provide the in-

formation necessary to manage the aquifer system as a source of renewable water as Albuquerque turns to surface water to quench its thirst. These studies build on the general geologic framework assembled by previous investigators. In outlying areas such as the Santo Domingo subbasin, however, basic geologic studies are still necessary to understand the aquifer system. All of these studies provide information critical for intelligent water planning, including the successful use of computer models to predict the

human activities on the aquifer system.

Topics in this issue include (1) geologic mapping to better understand the aquifer system in the Santo Domingo and Cochiti areas, (2) a description of strata found during drilling of a test well on Albuquerque's west mesa, (3) the use of geophysical logs to infer details of the aquifer system beneath Albuquerque, and (4) changes in the ability of aquifer materials to transmit water under different levels of stress, for example, that might result from heavy ground-water pumping.

NMBMMR scientists are also preparing geologic maps of areas throughout the Rio Grande corridor, conducting hydrologic investigations of Taos County and the Placitas area, using computer models and laboratory tests to assess the potential for land subsidence in the Albuquerque area as a result of ground-water pumping, conducting laboratory studies of contaminant transport, and investigating new methods for contaminated soil and water remediation.

NMBMMR undertakes hydrologic studies in cooperation with federal, state, municipal, and tribal agencies. Results are disseminated through peer-reviewed NMBMMR publications, in peer-reviewed scientific journals, in open-file reports, and in presentations at scientific meetings. Publication and open-file report lists are available from our offices in Socorro (505-835-5420) and Albuquerque (505-255-8005) and over the world wide web (<http://geoinfo.nmt.edu>).

— William C. Haneberg



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