

Water shortage so sought at conference

By Priscilla O'Connor
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The burden of finding solutions to water shortages in the West, which affects Eastern New Mexico, is on the shoulders of the federal government, according to federal officials at the 27th annual New Mexico Water Resources Conference today.

Once solutions are in place, the problem of funding is the underlying factor, agreed speakers at this morning's two-day event.

William Pearson, assistant planning for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, discussed the possibility of importing water from the Mississippi and Arkansas rivers to the Ogallala aquifer which faces shortages.

Sitting on a panel which "The View from Here" were New Mexico State Engineer Steve Reynolds, Gen. Hugh G. Robinson, commander of the Southwest division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Garrey Carr, assistant secretary for Land and Resources for the Department of the Interior, John Hernandez, deputy administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency, Harold Brayman, Senate Environmental and Public Works committee staff member, and Hoyt Hutton, New Mexico state representative.

The initial cost of construction for a water importation system, without a distribution system, will be between \$3 billion and \$22.6 billion depending on the rates approved.

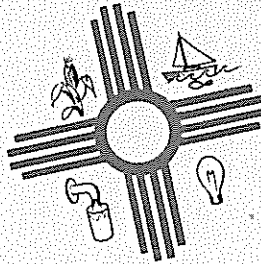
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WRRRI Report No. 145

May 1982

Proceedings of the Twenty-Seventh
Annual New Mexico Water Conference

"Hope for the High Plains"



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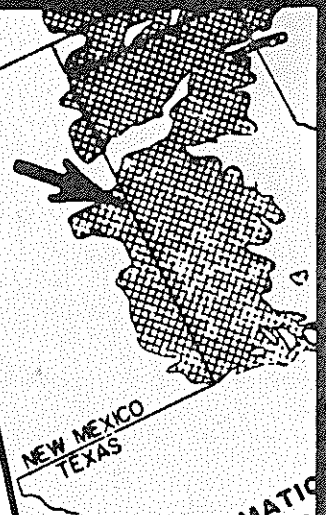
For water woes

Importation
no quick

Harvey Banks, project director of the High Plains Water Study Commission, told the 27th annual Ogallala Water Conference today that importation of water for agricultural use is far in the future. Banks, who has headed the six-year \$8 million study of underground water in the Ogallala Basin, told the members meeting in Clovis that the political implications would be formidable and that after these would take at

whether or not the state engineer could reduce the amount of ground water which could be used by a permit holder. At the conclusion of Banks' presentation, Gerald Thomas, president of New Mexico State University, raised the question "how important is it to maintain the council?" Banks replied "If you want to do anything about it (the water supply) it is absolutely essential. Thomas asked for a show of hands to indicate whether the group present favored the mechanism

COLORADO
NEW MEXICO



OGALLALA FORMATION
Ogallala Formation, is a conference scheduled at the approximate location

Water

CLOVIS (AP) — The 27th annual New Mexico Water Resources Conference here has a resolution to retain the bill to study water in the eight-state area section of the Ogallala Aquifer.

The resolution at the conference was introduced by Bruce King and approved by other state representatives. The Ogallala Aquifer is the source of irrigation water for much of the West.

The Ogallala Aquifer is the topic at the conference this year is "The High Plains."

Gerald W. Thomas, New Mexico State University, said the conference delegates would discuss the aquifer's status in the West.

New Mexico
Ogallala Project
Looks Doubtful

Federal and state officials from Oklahoma, western Kansas, and most of Nebraska. The aquifer has been depleted faster than it can be recharged, and officials have said it may be exhausted by the end of the century.

HOPE FOR THE HIGH PLAINS

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH
ANNUAL NEW MEXICO WATER CONFERENCE

New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, New Mexico

April 1-2, 1982