

WATER RIGHTS

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Chairman, members of the panel, ladies and gentlemen, we began the workshop with a brief report on New Mexico water rights and administration. On completion of the report, the session addressed questions that were presented by the workshop members regarding water rights and related matters rather than the earlier suggested topics. The participation by the workshop members was excellent. Individual opinions were expressed, and sufficient interest was generated that it was not possible to close on time. It is evident that water rights is a timely subject and the concern of people in a wide variety of vocations. Since the comments were not pursued by other members of the workshop, no recommendation is made at this time, but are brought to the panel's attention for possible further input from the floor. Here are some of the topics that were discussed:

- * There was some concern as to whether there was adequate policing to assure that the water user's diversion of water was kept within the limit of his rights.
- * One person reminded the group that only irrigation wells in the Roswell Basin were metered and he believed this to be inequitable. Of course, metering is also required in the Gila, San Francisco, and San Simon Basins where the water rights have been adjudicated.
- * Possible conflicts of the city-county ordinances and planning codes which restrict population density and water laws which require that water be applied to beneficial use within a reasonable time.
- * Some discussion was given to the interstate compacts to which New Mexico is a party.
- * Concern that the Federal Government will attempt to override New Mexico's water laws.
- * Some apprehension as to the final quantifications of Indian Water Rights by Pueblo and Reservation Indians.
- * More communities in New Mexico should require subdivisions and industry to provide the necessary water rights to supply their needs before allowing new tie-ins to the municipal systems.
- * Concern about the granting of domestic wells on land on which water rights have been removed and transferred to another place of use. It was referred to as "double dipping."

- * A question was raised as to how to provide in-stream minimum flow for fish and recreation purposes in a fully appropriated stream system.
- * One person expressed concern over the present statutory procedure in giving notice to the public for a proposed change in point of diversion, place, and purpose of use of an existing water right.