

56th Annual New Mexico Water Conference Highlights



Most participants of the annual WRRRI water conference attended tours of the Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility in Alamogordo.



Mike Hamman of the Bureau of Reclamation's Albuquerque office presented New Mexico State University President Barbara Couture with a plaque commemorating the 2010 signing of the cooperative agreement between Reclamation and NMSU to conduct advanced water treatment research at the Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility.



Over 40 participants took part in breakout groups charged with developing project descriptions for research projects that couple renewable energy to brackish desalination systems for small communities. Reclamation's Kevin Price (standing) gave instructions to experts.

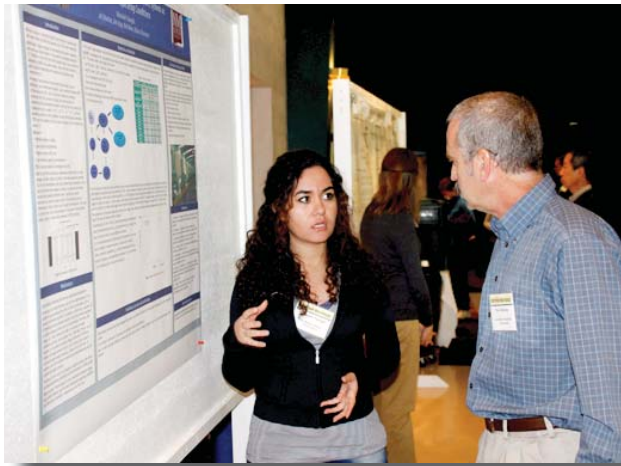


Breakout groups of five or six members met for a morning to develop project descriptions that were later presented to the afternoon plenary session.



Nearly 150 participants attended the day-and-a-half conference including desalination experts from Australia, Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, Canada, and Singapore.

New Water New Energy: A Conference Linking Desalination and Renewable Energy



The second day of the conference included fourteen poster presentations on various water-related topics. The posters and oral presentations were sponsored by Sandia National Laboratories.



After breakout group spokespersons presented their top projects, conferees weighed in on which projects they deemed most critical. The top project from this process proposed an integrated photovoltaic and solar thermal system to treat brackish water in remote areas. Breakout members from left are Michael Landis, Guillermo Zaragoza, Ardeth Barnhart, Hill Kemp, Mitch Haws, and Kevin Black.



Fifteen oral presentations were given in response to the Call for Abstracts. Topics included algae production, sources and treatment of alternative water supplies, treatment, use, and disposal of desalination by-products, and the interaction of soils and surface water.



The project conferees deemed second-most critical is an effort to better understand the role of trace contaminants in various desalination technologies. The proposal was advanced by the group including (from the left) Ali Sharbat, Sam Fernald, Ken Rainwater, and Jaya Tharamapalan.