

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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## **Newly Enacted Rule Will Save Fresh Water in New Mexico Oil and Gas Production**

*New Rule Would Allow for Use of 100% Recycled Water*

**SANTA FE** – The New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission adopted a new rule that will reduce the oil and gas industry’s fresh water consumption by promoting recycling and reusing produced water. Produced water is a byproduct of oil and gas exploration and production that is typically discarded, requiring more freshwater to complete future projects. This new rule provides requirements for the storage and use of recycled water in oil and gas production which could lead to producers using 100% recycled water on projects and preserving freshwater. The rule provides for “recycling facilities” and “recycling containments” and establishes requirements that protect fresh water, public health and the environment.

“These common-sense guidelines will reduce fresh water consumption by the industry which makes sense both environmentally and economically,” said Secretary David Martin, head of New Mexico’s Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department. “We’re proud to have worked with many partners on this new rule which we believe will save New Mexico’s freshwater while still providing resources for oil and gas production in our state.”

Several oil producers in New Mexico have taken the initiative to recycle produced water in their operations, but this new rule gives those operators a stable regulatory environment to use recycled water. These rules are designed to not only save freshwater, but could also save dollars the industry currently spends on the transportation of water in production areas.

The new rule, Title 19, Chapter 15, Part 34 of the New Mexico Administrative Code was approved after a public hearing before the Oil Conservation Commission and will become effective on March 31, 2015.

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