



The W A V E Newsletter

Upcoming Events

See what's happening this month.

Join Us

Our board meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month. The meetings are open to members and the interested public. Contact us at board@nmdesal.org for more information or to become a member.



A Change of Seasons

Drought is on the wane this spring and summer across New Mexico. It's been a surprisingly wet year so far, but NMDA is still keeping our sights on long-term water supply improvement, particularly for rural regions in the southeast and northwest.

Here's what's been happening...



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Desalination Treatment Testing in Alamogordo

In a followup to the NM Desal conference in November 2018, KMX Membrane Technologies (www.kmxtech.com) in May 2019 moved their vacuum membrane distillation (VMD) pilot desalination treatment plant to the Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility (BGNDRF) in Alamogordo, NM to demonstrate the ability of their technology to desalinate brackish and saline waters including produced water. Vacuum membrane distillation is a membrane process in which warm saline water at low pressure passes along the face of a hydrophobic nanofiltration membrane containing pores that are 0.1 um in diameter. The pores are sufficiently small that water will be prevented from passing through them by surface tension. A vacuum is applied to the other side of the membrane causing water to evaporate and the vapor passes through the pores. The water vapor subsequently condenses as distilled water. The system has the ability to use waste natural gas as a fuel to run the system. The University of New Mexico held a field trip to the BGNDRF to view the technology, which was used to treat brackish and produced waters.

Legislative Roundup



The New Mexico legislative "long" session was held from January 15 to March 16 this year. NMDesal members were asked to review and comment on draft legislation pertaining to the Oil Conservation Division and produced water ownership and handling (HB546). The bill passed after amendment and was signed by the Governor. The bill increases clarity on the ownership and possession of produced water, and is intended to reduce fresh water use by the oil and gas industry.

NM Desal also reviewed and commented on another bill, the Water Data Act (HB651), which intends to bring water data management in

New Mexico into the 21st century through common water data standards, management, and a common hosting location. The act intends to make water data searches easier with improved access to a variety of data systems and locations. The bill was signed by the Governor and a pilot project is underway through the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources (see <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu>; contact stacy.timmons@nmt.edu for more information).

NM Desal members have been working with the two freshman State Representatives, Melanie Stansbury and Abbas Akhil, as legislative contacts. We look forward to assisting them on developing future water-related legislation and participating in interim committee meetings this summer.

NM Desal hosts MSSC Board Meeting

The Multistate Salinity Coalition (MSSC) held a semiannual board meeting in May 2019 in Albuquerque, hosted by NM Desal at the Bohannon Huston offices. A key topic was the co-hosting of the next International Salinity Summit in 2021, in conjunction with the annual MSSC conference. NM Desal is the latest member of the MSSC, which also includes desalination associations from Texas, Nevada, California, and Arizona. NM Desal will help MSSC to develop sessions at their annual Summit, held each February in Las Vegas, NV. NM Desal brings unique experience with industrial applications including the oil and gas sector, cooling water pretreatment and recycling, desalination for powerplant use and municipal needs to the MSSC Coalition. See <https://www.multistatesalinitycoalition.com> for more information.

November 2018 Produced Water Reuse Conference

We are pleased to have had a successful meeting as our first try at meeting our mission goal of educating the public about water treatment and supply challenges. We anticipated about 100 registrants and planned accordingly. We were pleasantly surprised to have a final total of 157 registrants. We thank our conference coordinator, Christine Kimberling (ckimberling@q.com), for keeping us organized and for finding space for a 50% larger crowd. We also thank the Hotel Santa Fe, for providing a great Southwestern venue. Our speakers provided a high-quality, intense day and a half of up-to-date information about produced water disposal, handling, treatment, and reuse opportunities. Final report: <https://nmdesal.org/nm-produced-water-conference-2018/>

We are also happy to announce that two conference program participants, James Kenney and John D'Antonio, have major new positions in state government. James Kenney is the new Secretary of the Environment Department, and John D'Antonio is our new State Engineer. John also is a board member of NM Desal. **Congratulations to James and John!**

Produced Water White Paper published by EPA

A draft Produced Water white paper from EPA has been published (see <https://www.epa.gov/eg/oil-and-gas-extraction-wastewater-management-study-documents>). Comments from NM Desal members and conference attendees were included in this document.



New Website Name and Officer Contact Information

We have updated our website name to www.nmdesal.org. This is a more intuitive name that clearly indicates that we are a nonprofit organization, following the branding of other state-based desalination organizations in Texas and California. Please update your search pages! We also have added officer-specific email addresses. When you click on our "Contact Us" link, the board now receives your queries automatically.

