

# HOW TO TELL IF YOUR WELL IS PROPERLY REGISTERED WITH THE STATE ENGINEER (and what to do if it isn't)

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Information about many wells that are known to the State Engineer is available at <http://nmwrrs.ose.state.nm.us/nmwrrs/index.html>, as shown on the screen shot below:

**New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (NMOSE)  
Welcome**

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**New Mexico Water Rights Reporting System (NMWRRS) On The Web**

The Web link to the Water Administration Technical Engineering Resource System (W.A.T.E.R.S.) database was enabled on April 17, 2000, providing on-line access to OSE well reports and well permits in New Mexico.

- The **Well Log/Meter Reports** return a list of all wells where a log has been received or a meter installed.
- The **Water Column/Average Depth To Water Report** returns the water column depth for all the wells found in a given section and returns the average of all wells in the section for depth of well and depth to water.
- The **Water Right Summary** module allows querying by the water right file number or the owner name. The WR File Nbr query shows the purpose, status, total acres, total diversion, owner, and a list of all documents on file with the office such as applications, permits, and court orders. The Owner Name search can query by current and previous owners of records as well as applicants.
- The **Point of Diversion (POD) by Location** returns a summary of water rights use, owner, wells, point of diversion and location.
- The **Driller Reports** returns all license information for well drillers and companies that have valid or expired drilling licenses.
- The **Subdivision Review** module will allow you to access summary information on subdivisions reviewed or under review by the NMOSE, by either county, or subdivision name.
- The **Subdivision Report** displays the lot, block, unit, county and file number information for a particular subdivision.

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**NOTE:**  
The database is not completely populated on a statewide basis yet. Click on the **WATERS MAP** to see the areas of the State for which information is available. In addition to the completed areas shown on the map all current applications pending before the State Engineer are available for viewing.

Clicking on the **Water Right Summary** heading circled above will bring up the screen shown on the next page. This screen can be used to search the database by *well number* (or water right file number, WR File Nbr) or *owner name*. Both approaches are described below.

## SEARCHING BY WELL NUMBER

The *well number* is the most direct way to search the database since that number is assigned when the permit for the well is first granted and the *well number* never changes. If you are lucky you may have this number on a well permit or other paperwork you have for your property. Well numbers are of the form S 01515, RG 34244, etc. where the initial letters indicate which basin the well is in (for example, S for Sandia and RG for Rio Grande) and the digits are the number of the well itself.

As an example, to search for S 01515 use the drop-down menu to select S (Sandia) in the *Basin* box and enter 01515 in the *Nbr* box. Select *HTML* for the *Format of Report Output* to enable other reports to be obtained by clicking on links later on or select *PDF (default)* format to print or save the resulting screen. Finally, click on *View Water Right Summary* to retrieve the *Water Right Summary* page for the specified well.

### Water Right Summary / Application Status

**WR File Nbr** | **Owner Name**

WR File Nbr

WR File nbr: Basin  Nbr  Suffix

Note: use \* in suffix to get a list of Water Right files

**FORMAT OF REPORT OUTPUT:**

PDF (default)  HTML

Search by Water Right file number (Basin and Number are mandatory) OR by owner name or owner name and basin.

Search for owner name as entered on application. If searching for a company name enter it in last name field only. Owner name search only retrieves current/previous owners of record. Select the appropriate radio button if you would like to search for applicants as well.

If you do not know the Water Right file number of the desired Water Right, then go back to the Point of Diversion by Location Query where you can search by pod location, county, basin, grant or usage.

The resulting *Water Right Summary* page for well number S 01515 is shown below.



## New Mexico Office of the State Engineer Water Right Summary

**WR File Number:** S 01515

**Primary Purpose:** DOM 72-12-1 DOMESTIC ONE HOUSEHOLD

**Primary Status:** PMT PERMIT

**Total Acres:**

**Total Diversion:** 3

**Owner:** JOHN S. SMITH

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**Documents on File**

Trn #	Doc	File/Act	Status	Transaction Desc.	From/To	Acres	Diversion	Consumptive
218816	72121	1990-08-30	PMT LOG	S 01515	T		3	

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**Current Points of Diversion**

POD Number	Source	Q	Q	Q	(NAD83 UTM in meters)	Y	Other Location Desc
S 01515	Shallow	64	16	4	X		

The data is furnished by the NMOSE/ISC and is accepted by the recipient with the expressed understanding that the OSE/ISC make no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability, usability, or suitability for any particular purpose of the data.

4/6/13 9:30 AM WATER RIGHT SUMMARY

This page shows that the *Primary Purpose* for this well is *DOMESTIC ONE HOUSEHOLD* and that the *Total Diversion* (or amount of water than may be taken from this well) is 3 acre-feet-per-year, afy. The *Total Diversion* for domestic wells will typically be 1 or 3 afy. The *Owner* in the State Engineer's record is John S. Smith, but this is not the current owner.

If the *Total Diversion* is 0, you do not have a permitted water right. This can happen because the original permit expired because a well log was not filed within a year after the permit was granted. In this case see the **CORRECTING YOUR WELL DATA...** section on page 6. Also, see that section if the owner name or other data are incorrect.

Clicking on the *well number* link under the *POD Number* heading will bring up the *Point of Diversion Summary* page shown below which contains a lot of interesting information, including such things as when the well was drilled, who drilled it, how deep the well is, how far below the ground the water was and what the estimated yield of the well was at the time it was drilled.



## New Mexico Office of the State Engineer

# Point of Diversion Summary

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(quarters are 1=NW 2=NE 3=SW 4=SE)  
(quarters are smallest to largest)

(NAD83 UTM in meters)

<b>POD Number</b>	<b>Q64 Q16 Q4 Sec Tws Rng</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Y</b>
S 01515	14 10N 05E		

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**Driller License:** ADKISON, W.H. DRILLING INC.

**Driller Name:** GRAHAM, DON W.

<b>Drill Start Date:</b> 09/28/1990	<b>Drill Finish Date:</b> 09/29/1990	<b>Plug Date:</b>
<b>Log File Date:</b> 11/16/2001	<b>PCW Rcv Date:</b>	<b>Source:</b> Shallow
<b>Pump Type:</b>	<b>Pipe Discharge Size:</b>	<b>Estimated Yield:</b> 10
<b>Casing Size:</b> 5.00	<b>Depth Well:</b> 265 feet	<b>Depth Water:</b> 160 feet

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Water Bearing Stratifications:	Top	Bottom	Description
	100	112	Shale/Mudstone/Siltstone
	205	217	Sandstone/Gravel/Conglomerate

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Casing Perforations:	Top	Bottom
	200	220
	235	265

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The data is furnished by the NMOS/ISC and is accepted by the recipient with the expressed understanding that the OSE/ISC make no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability, usability, or suitability for any particular purpose of the data.

4/6/13 9:33 AM POINT OF DIVERSION SUMMARY

Additional information can get gotten by clicking on the *get images* link under the *Documents on File* heading on the *Water Right Summary* page. The application and log documents are shown on the resulting document database page.



Document Database

Logoff

### WR

WR_ID	DB_File_Number	TRN_NBR	Event	Comment
S 01515 218816 479764	S 01515	218816 1990-08-28 72121	479764 1990-08-28	APP
S 01515 218816 479768	S 01515	218816 1990-08-28 72121	479768 2001-11-16	LOG


2 row/s

A portion of the application document shown on the next page shows that the well was applied for by someone other than the currently registered owner and that the location of the well was to be Lot 12 of Block 2 Unit # 1 of the Mountain Home Estates subdivision.

A portion of the log document shown on the next page shows the stratigraphy of the material encountered when the well was drilled. Additional information is in other parts of the well log.

READ INSTRUCTIONS ON BACK

Revised March 1979

**APPLICATION TO APPROPRIATE UNDERGROUND WATERS  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 72-12-1 NEW MEXICO STATUTES**

261 9065  
 1. Name and Address of Applicant: Pargad Omidvaran  
109 Matterhorn Dr  
Tijeras NM 87059  
 '90 SEP 10 PM 2 03  
 STATE ENGINEER OFFICE  
 SANTA FE NEW MEXICO  
 File No. S-1515

2. Describe well location under one of the following subheadings:
- a. 1/4 1/4 1/4 of Sec. 14 Twp. 10N Rge. 5E N.M.P.M. in Brewster County
- b. Tract No. \_\_\_\_\_ of Map No. \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Lot No. 12 of Block No. 52 of the Mountain Home Estates Subdivision, recorded in Brewster County Unit #1
- d. X = \_\_\_\_\_ feet, Y = \_\_\_\_\_ feet, N.M. Coordinate System. \_\_\_\_\_ Zone in the \_\_\_\_\_ Grant.
- e. Give street address or route and box No. of property upon which well is to be located, or location by direction and distance from known landmarks \_\_\_\_\_
3. Approximate depth (if known) 200' feet, outside diameter of casing 5" inches.  
 Name of driller (if known) ADKISON Drilling
4. Use of water (check appropriate box or boxes)  
 One household, non-commercial uses, lawn and garden not to exceed 1 acre

200

Section 6. LOG OF HOLE

Depth in Feet		Thickn in Feet	Color and Type of _____ if Encountered
From	To		
0	10	10	tan sand & gravel
10	21	11	yellow sandstone
21	43	22	tan clay
43	53	10	black shale
53	72	19	brown clay
72	100	28	grey clay
100	112	12	black shale
112	137	25	brown clay
137	147	10	green shale
147	151	4	black clay
151	179	28	tan sandstone
179	187	8	grey limestone
187	205	18	purple clay
205	217	12	brown sandstone
217	241	24	grey shale
241	249	8	tan sandstone
249	265	16	grey limestone

## SEARCHING BY OWNER NAME

An *owner name* in the State Engineer's database is assigned when the permit for the well is first granted, but this name may not be updated unless a subsequent owner files a Change of Owner form with the State Engineer. So the *owner name* in the State Engineer's database could be the name of the driller, the property developer, or the first or some later property owner, and possibly not yourself unless a Change of Owner was filed with the State Engineer to put the well in your name.

If the well is not listed under your name, you could search by the names of all the previous owners, if you know them. If you do not know the previous owners' names, they may be available as part of a *chain of deed* from a title company if you used a title company when you purchased your property. Also a list of previous owners may be available from your County Assessor's office. (The records are publically available, and you could piece together the *chain of deed* yourself, but it is a tedious and time-consuming process.)

Note that the names must be spelled exactly in this search tool. For example, "John Smith" will not match "John S. Smith", but an \* 'wildcard' can be used so that "John\* Smith" will match any "John *something* Smith".

## SEARCHING BY SUBDIVISION AND LOCATION

If you are not able to locate your well using the *well number* or *owner name*, the initial screen shown page 1 has other search options, including headings titled *Subdivision Report* and *Point of Diversion (POD) by Location* which could possibly be useful in locating your well. However, each of these search tools have significant limitations.

For example, a subdivision listed in the *Subdivision Report* may appear under many different (and sometimes incorrect) spellings – even an extra space between words can create a separate entry in the database – so great diligence and patience is needed when using this tool. Also, your property may not be in a subdivision listed in the database.

Similarly, the *Point of Diversion (POD) by Location* tool may return different results depending upon whether the location is entered in the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) of Section–Township–Range or in UTM coordinates. Also, no results are returned when the option of producing a *Report with Ownership Information* is selected. Finally, some locations have been found to be more than a mile in error, so a very large area containing possibly hundreds of wells may need to be searched to include your well – again a very tedious and time-consuming process.

## VERIFYING THAT YOU HAVE FOUND THE CORRECT WELL

The State Engineer's web site has the following caveat:

"The data is furnished by the NMOSE/ISC and is accepted by the recipient with the expressed understanding that the OSE/ISC make no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability, usability, or suitability for any particular purpose of the data."

For this reason you should carefully examine all the reports shown on pages 2 through 4 to verify that you have located the correct well.

### **CORRECTING YOUR WELL DATA (and the costs of doing it)**

If you have located your well but discovered errors State Engineer's records, you can contact the State Engineer's office in Albuquerque at 383-4000 to correct those errors. If the *Total Diversion* of your well is 0, you will need to re-permit your well at a cost of \$125. If the *owner name* is incorrect, you will have to file a Change of Ownership form at a cost of \$2. In either case you should have your warranty deed available to prove that you own the property where the well is located. Finally, a letter will be sent to you from the State Engineer's office confirming the changes that have been made, and this letter must be filed with the County Clerk at a cost of \$10 in Bernalillo and Sandoval counties.

### **...BUT AFTER ALL THIS I STILL CAN'T FIND MY WELL – WHAT CAN I DO?**

In this case you should contact the State Engineer's office in Albuquerque at 383-4000. They may have information about your well in paper archives.