

Title: ISC taking comments on proposed rule

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ROSWELL — The New Mexico **Interstate Stream Commission** (NMISC) recently announced it is accepting public comments on a proposed rule which will establish a framework for regional water security **planning** councils as called for by the Water Security **Planning** Act (WSPA).

The WSPA is New Mexico's guiding legislation for regional water **planning** and management, according to the NMISC. The act created a roadmap for regionalized water **planning** and implementation that prioritizes the unique needs of local communities, and the act makes use of the best available science and data and maintains compliance with federal and state laws, the commission said.

The act unanimously passed the state legislature in 2023.

The **ISC** will accept public comments for the official record through Sept. 27. To view the proposed rule, submit a comment and access the docketed materials visit ose.nm.gov.

The commission has released a map of the state's nine proposed water **planning** security regions, including the Pecos Council region, which roughly consists of the Pecos River drainage area from just north of Interstate 40 to the Texas border on the south, and includes Guadalupe, Chaves and DeBaca counties as well as portions of Torrance, Lincoln and Eddy counties.

A public hearing will begin at 9 a.m. Oct. 15, in Santa Fe. Following the hearing, the commission will deliberate and adopt, amend or reject the proposed rule. Once finalized, NMISC will reportedly begin convening regional water security **planning** councils across the state.