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Water for Energy in the Southwest: Where Will it Come From?

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The Role of Policy in Energy and Water Development

The Energy-Water Nexus

- There is an inextricable link between energy and water supply
- Water is needed to produce traditional sources of energy
- Energy is needed to purify and distribute water

The Demand for Energy is Growing

- Population growth
- Migration to warmer regions

Water Supplies Are Constrained

- Increased demand for a finite supply
- Drought
- Global warming

The Role of Conservation

- Conservation and efficiency are critical first steps, but cannot fill the demand
 - Saving water saves energy
 - Saving energy saves water

The Role of Technology

- Technology can help
 - Create efficiencies
 - With new sources

The Role of Policy

- Policy: constraints and incentives
 - E.g., tax incentives
 - Legal incentives, e.g. “use it or lose it”
 - Regulatory disincentives, e.g., level of cleanup required
 - Economic incentives

The Role of Policy in Technology Implementation

- Without policy evaluation, implementation can fail
- Examples:
 - Public understanding
 - Public acceptance
 - Current laws and regulations
 - Economics

Legal and Regulatory Policy Issues

- Complex, overlapping, and sometimes contradictory, laws and regulations
 - Federal
 - State
 - Tribal

Policy Issues Raised by Roadmap Workshop Participants

Planning

- Need for regional planning related to energy and water use
 - regional drivers on water variability
 - regional differences on energy generation

Regulations

- Integrate regulatory agencies into cooperative energy water resource planning
- Develop new permitting processes for energy/water infrastructure development

Water Rights Reform

- Engage in water rights reforms to support water conservation and reuse, and energy development

Water Treatment Needs

- Clarify ownership of produced waters to facilitate beneficial use
- Clarify effluent standards of produced waters
- Clarify role of water allocation agencies in the management and disposition of produced waters

Today's Program

- Issues
 - Federal priorities and concerns
 - State planning
 - Development on Tribal lands
- Regulatory issues
 - Transfers
 - AWRM
 - Produced water
- Directions for NM?



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