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## Introduction

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## INTRODUCTION

In the arid Southwest, water quality and quantity issues will play a prominent role in determining which energy resources will be the most practical. A shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy cannot overlook the effects on the Southwest's limited water supply, as water is a necessary resource consumed in the production of all energy. Additionally, the regulatory and legal constraints associated with water and energy are inextricably intertwined. Therefore, finding a balance between future energy production and constrained water resources becomes a water-energy conundrum that the Southwest's decision-makers must solve.

This issue of the *Natural Resources Journal* (NRJ) highlights the current predicament this nation faces, upcoming developments, and the future of this critical area of law and policy. It contains a combination of scholarly articles and support material submitted in connection with the symposium commemorating the 50th anniversary of the NRJ. The symposium, entitled "The Water-Energy Conundrum: Water Constraints on New Energy Development in the Southwest," was held February 12, 2010, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Special thanks for the success of this symposium are due to primary funding sources and supporters as follows: current UNM School of Law Dean Kevin K. Washburn and former Dean, Leo M. Romero; the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation (RMMLF), whose generous grant ensured the costs of publication and printing this issue were covered; and the Natural Resources, Energy & Environmental Law Section (NREEL) of the New Mexico State Bar. UNM School of Law's Melissa Lobato and Daniel Ortega are owed particular recognition for their able guidance and time. We would also like to thank all of the symposium participants, including our distinguished guest speakers, the authors of this issue's articles, and the respected group of professionals who submitted abstracts in response to our call for papers.

With the publication of these symposium articles, the NRJ seeks to contribute to the ongoing dialogue about these pressing issues. The articles showcased here exemplify the core mission of the NRJ: to publish and encourage interdisciplinary collaboration on relevant resource-related topics and to provide relevant solutions for both policymakers and practitioners.

The NRJ was honored to begin the symposium with remarks recorded especially for it by Senator Jeff Bingaman. The transcript from his presentation—which provided an overview of recent congressional advances relating to the water-energy nexus—opens this issue. Then, an article by H. David Gold and Jason Bass explores the potential socioeconomic impacts of water for renewable energy in the Southwest. Next, Debbie Leonard's article provides a legal perspective on how the federal

reserved water-rights doctrine, especially in the West, could impact renewable energy development. The issue continues with an article by Christopher A. Scott and Martin J. Pasqualetti that discusses energy and water infrastructures, and highlights the need for comprehensive management and conservation of these resources. In the last professional article here, Stacy Tellinghuisen analyzes the value of water throughout the region and argues for the integration of water into electric resource planning by utilities and regulators. The issue wraps-up with a student article, Kristina Caffrey's writing on solar energy rights.

Faithful to the multidisciplinary mission of the NRJ and true to the spirit of the symposium, we are proud to present you with this special issue on the Water-Energy Conundrum.

Katie Gwartney Roehlk & Kenneth Rooney  
Symposium Co-Chairs