The Annual Symposium Season is Upon Us

’Tis the season for water associations across the Southwest to be making the final plans for their annual symposia. The Arizona Hydrological Society hosts its 15th Annual Symposium from Sept. 18-21 in Flagstaff, the Groundwater Resources Association of California has its 11th Annual Conference and Meeting scheduled for Sept. 18-19 in Newport Beach, and the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute is hosting a Water Research Symposium on Aug. 13 in Socorro as well as their 47th Annual New Mexico Water Conference on Oct. 10-11 in Ruidoso. All of these meetings are excellent opportunities to find out who’s doing what in the world of hydrology, particularly if you’ve never attended the meeting of your neighboring state(s). (Unfortunately, the schedule prevents attendance at both the California and Arizona meetings.) While deadlines for abstract submittals have already passed, it’s not too late to register for any of these meetings. Check out The Calendar (page 36) for many more educational opportunities coming up this fall.

For more information on the symposia mentioned above, visit wrri.nmsu.edu, www.grac.org, and www.azhydrosoc.org/Symposium.html.

Groundwater Resources Association of California Symposium on NDMA and Perchlorate

On April 17, 2002, the Groundwater Resources Association of California (GRA) convened the fourth Symposium in its Series on Groundwater Contaminants, “Perchlorate and NDMA in Groundwater: Occurrence, Analysis and Treatment” in Baldwin Park, California. More than 230 groundwater and water resources professionals attended the symposium.

The goal of the symposium was to provide a neutral forum in which diverse, late-breaking technical, legal and policy developments surrounding these two rocket fuel contaminants could be presented and discussed. Water managers presented case studies of groundwater contamination by perchlorate while researchers presented a variety of promising technologies capable of removing perchlorate from drinking water. Contamination of surface and groundwater supplies from NDMA (nitrosodimethylamine) at missile and other rocket fuel sites was characterized as a significant concern, but the formation of NDMA during chlorination of drinking water or the treatment of sewage for wastewater recycling was identified as an

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Fact sheet issued on small wastewater programs
—from an article originally appearing on Water Tech ONLINE, May 28, 2002.

A fact sheet titled “Wastewater Treatment Programs Serving Small Communities” is available from the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water developed the fact sheet, which highlights EPA-funded programs that provide financial and technical assistance and training to small communities to construct and operate wastewater treatment facilities, according to NSFC.

Programs include the following:
• Alaskan Native Villages Sanitation Grant Program
• Clean Water Tribal Grant Program
• Colonias Program
• National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities
• National Onsite Demonstration Program
• National Small Flows Clearinghouse
• Operator Onsite Technical Assistance Program 104(g)
• Rural Community Assistance Program
• Small Communities Outreach and Education Network

According to the NSFC, the four-page fact sheet may be useful to local and state officials, managers, the general public, researchers, state regulatory agencies, planners, public health officials, operators, contractors, developers and finance officers.

To order, call the NSFC at (800) 624-8301 or (304) 293-4191 or e-mail the NSFC.

New Mexico Water Rights Booklet Updated
—from Divining Rod, newsletter of the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute, April 2002

The New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute’s (WRRI) most popular publication over the past 18 years has been New Mexico Water Rights. It was written in 1984, and updated in 1992 and in 2002.

New Vadose Zone Journal Available from Soil Science Society of America

The Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) is launching a new electronic journal called Vadose Zone Journal (VZJ). Vadose Zone Journal is an international peer-reviewed electronic journal reporting science-based disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and assessment of the mostly unsaturated zone between the soil surface to the permanent water table. The scope of the journal covers all physical, chemical and biological aspects of the vadose zone at scales ranging from the molecular to the global in the environmental, agricultural and earth sciences. To receive the journal, visit www.vadosezonejournal.org

Staff of the Office of the State Engineer helped review the booklet.

This 50-page booklet was written for the layperson. According to the introduction, “Its purpose is not to make you a water rights expert, but to help you understand more about the history, the laws, and the administration of New Mexico’s water rights...” The new edition contains updated maps of New Mexico’s river basins, major aquifers, and areas of the state covered by declared groundwater basins. To order a copy, contact the WRRI at (505) 646-4337 or order on-line at wrri.nmsu.edu. The cost is $10.50.