

First Aquifer Injection and Storage in the State of New Mexico of Highly Treated Reuse

Abstract: The City of Rio Rancho is the first in the State of New Mexico to inject purified wastewater into the aquifer for storage and reuse at a later date. The project from concept to completed project has taken over fifteen years. This presentation will detail the entire process including: council resolution, citizen committee involvement, design and construction of two new wastewater treatment plants, pilot tests on treatment and removal processes, injection well drilling, pilot studies on injection flows and dispersion, applications to two state regulatory agencies for discharge, tank construction, and equipping the advanced treatment facility. Final discussion will include assessment of the actual injection of up to one-million gallons per day of highly-treated effluent into the aquifer.

Presenter: **Jim Chiasson**
Title: Utilities Department Director
Organization: City of Rio Rancho

In his role as Utilities Department Director he is responsible for managing the day to day operations of the City's water, wastewater and recycled water systems serving a population of over 94,000. He previously spent the last 16 ½ years with the New Mexico Environment Department's Construction Programs Bureau where he served in various capacities including the last 6 years as Bureau Chief. He also spent 4 years directing operations for the Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency in Santa Fe and over 3 ½ years in the private sector working as a consultant in Albuquerque.

Jim graduated from Syracuse University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and holds a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of New Mexico. He is a registered professional engineer in the State of New Mexico.