

Rolf Schmidt-Petersen

Director, NM Interstate Stream Commission

Rolf Schmidt-Petersen is the Director of the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC); New Mexico's water planning and development agency. The NMISC has broad powers to investigate, protect, conserve, and develop New Mexico's waters including both interstate and intrastate stream systems and oversees activities associated with the eight interstate stream compacts to which New Mexico is a signatory. The Commission is also authorized to investigate and develop the water supplies of the state and to develop plans for conservation, protection and development of its public waters.

Prior to being appointed Director in June 2019 by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, Mr. Schmidt-Petersen served as the NMISC's Chief of the Colorado River Basin Bureau and, earlier, its' Rio Grande Basin Bureau. He has almost thirty years of experience working on water resource management, interstate compact, endangered species, environmental, and hydrology related issues in New Mexico. His responsibilities include investigation, development, conservation, and protection of New Mexico's water resources and the stream systems, interstate stream compact administration and compliance, and resolution of interstate and federal water resource issues affecting New Mexico's water resources.

Amongst other interstate stream responsibilities, Mr. Schmidt-Petersen currently serves as New Mexico's alternate Commissioner for the Upper Colorado River Commission and alternate Colorado River Compact principal. Mr. Schmidt-Petersen has been involved in Rio Grande Compact activities since 2000 and served as New Mexico's Rio Grande Compact Engineer Adviser from 2010 to 2017. Prior to working for the ISC, Mr. Schmidt-Petersen worked for nine years as a hydrologist for an environmental consulting firm doing work across the southwestern United States. Mr. Schmidt-Petersen graduated from the New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology in Socorro New Mexico with a Masters of Science degree in Hydrology.