

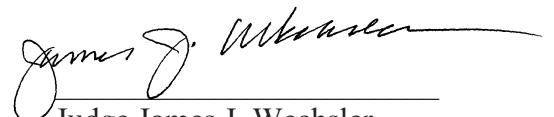
January 9, 2023

To: All Claimants and Counsel

Effective January 1, 2023, my wife's son-in-law is the state Attorney General. The attorneys for the State of New Mexico in this adjudication are designated Special Assistant Attorneys General. They are, however, employees of the Office of the State Engineer, not the Office of the Attorney General. They work solely, and are entirely supervised, within the Office of the State Engineer. Once hired by the Office of the State Engineer, they receive the designation of Special Assistant Attorney General so that they can represent the State in court proceedings. It is my understanding that the Office of the Attorney General exercises no oversight and takes no action regarding the work of the Office of the State Engineer attorneys in adjudication proceedings.

I do not believe that these circumstances disqualify me from presiding in this adjudication and have been so advised by members of the Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on the Code of Judicial Conduct. If you believe otherwise, please file an appropriate motion with the court on or before February 8, 2023.

Respectfully,



Judge James J. Wechsler