



HOW MUCH PRODUCED WATER IS GENERATED EACH YEAR?

In 2025, 2.74 billion barrels (bbl) of produced water (PW) were generated in New Mexico, which is the same volume as 315 million gallons per day (MGD) or 353,000 acre-feet per year (AFY, Figure 1).¹ This is an increase of 7.7% from the previous year, and 99% of the produced water generated in NM is from the Permian Basin in the southeast corner of the state, with the remaining 1% generated from the San Juan Basin in northwest NM.



2.74

BILLION BARRELS
of produced water
in 2025



+ 220%

PW VOLUMES
over the past
decade (2016)



99%

NEW MEXICO PW
generated in the
Permian Basin



~ 60%

OF PW AVAILABLE
for treatment and
reuse outside O&G

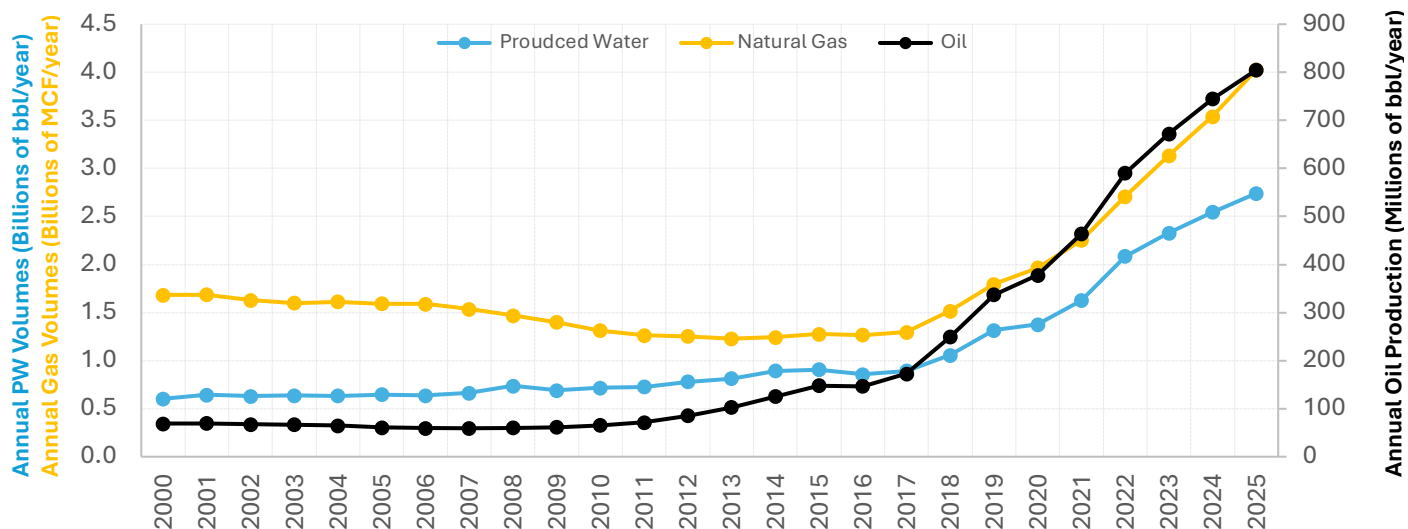


Figure 1: Annual New Mexico PW (blue), natural gas (yellow), and oil (black) volumes.

PRODUCED WATER MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

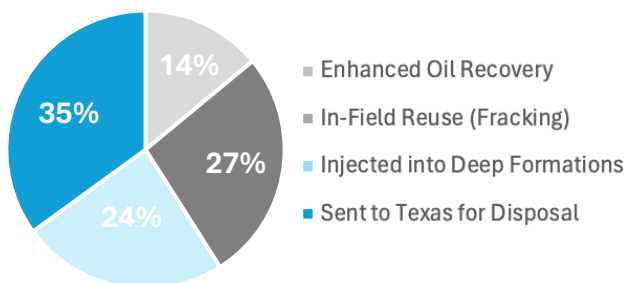


Figure 2: How PW was used or disposed of in 2024, with blue pie pieces indicating the fraction of PW that is available for reuse outside the oil and gas (O&G) field, and grey represents PW already being reused inside the O&G field and is not available for other reuse activities.

WHAT THIS MEANS

Since 2016, PW volumes have increased significantly at an average rate of 12% year-over-year and is correlated with increases in oil and gas extraction, with about 3 to 6 bbl of produced water generated per bbl of oil. About 40% of the PW generated was reused *inside* the oil and gas field in enhanced oil recovery and fracking activities (Figure 2).

THE OPPORTUNITY

PW that is injected or sent to Texas – about 60% of the total volumes or 1.6 billion barrels per year (186 MGD, 208,000 AFY) could be available for treatment and beneficial reuse applications such as closed-loop industrial processes, surface discharge, agricultural irrigation of non-edible food crops, or environmental restoration.

