
GLOBALIZATION AND WATER MANAGEMENT: THE CHANGING VALUE OF WATER

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MANAGING PUBLIC COMMENTS WITH A WEB-BASED COMPUTER PROGRAM

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ABSTRACT: When the United States government proposes to take an action potentially effecting the human environment, law requires that an environmental impact statement be prepared. The document discloses the potential impacts of the action and invites public comment. Controversial proposals often receive tens of thousands of comments that must be catalogued, categorized and responded to. A web based computer program has been developed to efficiently handle the comments. This method of managing comments proved to be both effective and efficient when used on a Bureau of Reclamation action regarding operation of the Colorado River from Grand Canyon, Arizona to the Republic of Mexico, involving seven States, numerous Indian tribes and special interest groups. It facilitated the participation of technical staff and consultants located in several different offices in different states. This poster demonstrates the procedure utilized in managing and responding to the public comments.

KEY TERMS: Public Comments, Public Involvement

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