CHAPTER 5 - MEANS OF MAKING PLAN OPERATIONAL

Overview

The Forum has as its objective the overall coordination and implementation of projects, and the continuing review of salinity changes and program effectiveness. At least every three years, the Forum considers existing and projected water depletions and salt concentrations and, as needed and feasible, recommends revisions in the schedule for implementing salinity control measures and/or modifications of the numeric criteria. The Review includes examination of both federal and non-federal programs. The Review is transmitted to the EPA and state water resources and pollution control agencies, and is made available to others interested in the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. A key conclusion of this Review was set forth in Chapter 3 wherein the Basin states find that the present numeric criteria are appropriate and no change in them is recommended at this time.

The means of making the Plan of Implementation operational consists of having coordinated planning for additional salt removal and seeking the necessary appropriations for carrying out those goals. Accomplishment of the Salinity Control Program is dependent upon funding of the efforts included in the Plan of Implementation. This is dependent upon agency budgetary requests being made, Congressional appropriations being secured, and irrigation modifications and other salt loading reduction practices being put into place and then kept operational.

Program Development and Implementation

Several significant legislative changes concerning the Salinity Control Program have occurred over the last decade. These changes have affected both Reclamation and USDA's salinity control programs and have given direction to the BLM. The Salinity Control Program is not static; it is dynamic, and hence, the program needs to be evaluated, with changes being identified and implemented, if needed. This year Congress enacted a new farm bill and as a result of that action, changes are being implemented in the USDA salinity control program.

The Basinwide Salinity Control Program authorized in 1995 for Reclamation has proceeded in a very timely way to implement cost-effective measures. When the legislation was enacted, a $75 million ceiling was imposed by the Congress with the thought that the Basinwide Salinity Control Program would be reviewed after a period of time to see if it was as successful as had been anticipated. During the last three years, the program has been recognized as being very cost-effective and Congress has acted to increase the ceiling by $100 million. The legislation to accomplish this was drafted by and supported by the Forum.

USDA's Salinity Control Program, since the passage of FAIRA, has been inadequately funded. The EQIP authorized by FAIRA has been funded nationwide at a level far below the total funding of previous conservation programs that EQIP replaced. Even though within the EQIP the

Colorado River Salinity Control Program was recognized as a National Priority, the funds made available for the program have only been about 40 percent of the amount that the Forum has determined to be necessary to implement the USDA portion of the Plan of Implementation. With the authorization of the 2002 farm bill, the USDA program will be adequately funded. It is also hoped, that when funding allocations are considered, downstream benefits of the Salinity Control Program are recognized.

The management philosophy of BLM has not allowed for a direct approach to salinity control by this agency. Congress has directed the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a report on the status of implementing a comprehensive program for minimizing salt contributions to the Colorado River from lands administered by BLM. Recent efforts to coordinate with BLM shows some prospect that there will be more attention given to water quality issues, specifically to the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program.

The USGS streamflow gaging and water quality sampling activities, and the long-standing periods of record at existing stations, are essential to the monitoring and evaluation of salinity control effectiveness. USGS should continue to seek funding under its existing authority for flow gaging and water quality stations in order to provide necessary data for the evaluation of the short-term and long-term effectiveness of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program.

Continuation of the USGS cuts in funding for its cooperative gaging program will impact the ability to adequately assess the effectiveness of salinity control projects through the loss of data from needed gaging stations.

Education and Public Involvement

Salinity in the Colorado River is a basinwide problem, with implications ranging over the entire 246,000 square mile drainage area. The Basin's immense size highlights the need for effective public education and public involvement programs due to the physical and cultural diversities which exist across the seven states. Implementation of measures to control complex problems such as salinity requires awareness, concern and involvement, along with recognition that a problem many miles away may have direct impacts. The states individually, and together, as the Forum, have and will continue to work with concerned agencies, both state and federal, to increase the public understanding of the salinity problem and its control.

Although irrigation is the principal human-induced source of salinity, a major thrust of the public education/public involvement effort focuses on educating irrigators as to the sources, impacts and methods of controlling salinity. Further improved irrigation practices will reduce the input of salts into the River system. The goal is to encourage desirable changes in water application technology and management practices. The Basin states work within the framework of ongoing efforts by federal, state and local organizations to achieve this goal. Assistance from the Executive Director of the Forum is also provided. The plan formulation phase of Reclamation, USDA, and

BLM salinity control efforts provide an excellent opportunity for public education with regard to Colorado River salinity and the means for its control.

Meetings of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum are open, and the public is welcome to attend. All input, whether oral or written, is considered and acted on as appropriate by the Forum. The Forum also provides for public involvement in the water quality standards review process as public meetings are held to receive comments on the salinity standards during each triennial review. As a result of public input, appropriate adjustments to the program are made.

As each of the Basin states proceeds with its own process to review the standards, one or more state-wide public hearings are held. In addition, there is widespread announcement of Forum and state hearings, and copies of the Review and associated state standards are mailed to interested agencies, groups and individuals. Forum members participate with their own state's water quality planning agencies in matters related to salinity and salinity control, and will continue to do so as the need arises.

Forum Activities

The Forum meets at least twice a year, or as needed, to discuss the Salinity Control Program, the efforts of the federal agencies and the states, and the need for additional policy and/or action by the Forum. During the last triennial review effort, the Forum met on May 27, 1999 in Durango, Colorado and adopted the review report for 1999. The Forum then held public meetings on August 23, 1999 in Los Angeles, California and on August 24, 1999 in Lyman, Wyoming and, after receiving comments, prepared a supplemental report dated October 1999.

During the current reporting period, the Forum met on October 7, 1999 in San Francisco, California; May 24, 2000 in Price, Utah; October 27, 2000 in Henderson, Nevada; May 17, 2001 in Jackson, Wyoming; and November 7, 2001 in Phoenix, Arizona. Since the creation of the Forum in November 1973, the Phoenix meeting was the 65th meeting. The Forum has published a three-volume compilation of all of the minutes of the Forum meetings, one volume from 1973 through 1985, another from 1986 through 1991, and one from 1992 through 1996. The Forum held its 66th meeting on June 5, 2002 in Silverthorne, Colorado, approved the 2002 Review as a proposed report, and authorized its publication. Five public meetings were held throughout the Colorado River Basin. The comments received and the Forum's response are included in Appendix D.

A Work Group, created by the Forum, holds meetings on a more frequent basis to review technical information which is generated by the federal agencies. Membership on the Work Group is composed of technical representatives from each of the seven Basin states, and the Executive Director of the Forum. Federal agency representatives, however, attend meetings of the Work Group and informally exchange information, ideas and viewpoints. The Work Group coordinates the efforts of the Basin states and reports back to the Forum any actions which the Work Group believes the Forum should consider.

Positions have been taken on many issues, such as the need for appropriation of funds by the Congress. Federal agencies have also prepared numerous reports in the three-year period. The Forum has compiled a library of many reports relating to Colorado River salinity. The Work Group and the Forum have had the opportunity to review and comment on these reports in draft form. Notable among the reports done since the last triennial review is a report which is prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation and submitted to Congress every two years. The last of these publications is Quality of Water, Colorado River Basin, Progress Report No. 20, January 2001, U.S. Department of the Interior. In addition, the Forum and the Work Group have, over the last three years, assisted the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council in the preparation of three annual reports.

Financing Salinity Control Activities

By enacting the 1974 Act, Congress recognized the federal role and responsibility for controlling the salinity of the Colorado River, and adopted a cost-sharing formula which provided that 75 percent of the costs of the four originally authorized Department of the Interior salinity control projects under Title II of the Act are non-reimbursable. The remaining 25 percent of the costs are to be repaid from the Upper and Lower Basin funds over a 50-year period without interest. The maximum allocation to the Upper Basin fund is not to exceed 15 percent of the total costs to be repaid from the two funds, with the remainder to be repaid by the Lower Basin fund.

The 1984 amendments to the 1974 Act changed the cost-sharing formula. For the Department of the Interior program, the non-reimbursable portion was reduced to 70 percent, with the remaining 30 percent to come from Upper and Lower Basin funds in the same proportionate share as under the 1974 Act. However, the Upper Basin fund could repay its share over 50 years with interest, and the Lower Basin could reimburse its share of the annual expenditure during the year that costs are incurred.

The USDA Salinity Control Program, as amended in 1996, requires at least a 25 percent non-federal cost-share for participation. In addition, the legislation allows for the Basin Funds to cost-share up to 30 percent. Money is available in the Basin Funds for this purpose.

Table 5-1 provides a compilation of the amount of funding provided to Reclamation, USDA, and BLM for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program from FY 1988 to the present. Funding levels for salinity control activities by BLM continue to be difficult to ascertain due to the fact that the BLM budget does not contain a specific line item for salinity control.

Table 5-1
Summary of Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

Funding For the Bureau of Reclamation,
the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Land Management
By Federal Fiscal Year Since 1988
(In Dollars)[15]

Federal Fiscal Year	Bureau of Reclamation	Department of Agriculture	Bureau of Land Management
1988	20,783,000	3,804,000	500,000
1989	16,798,000	5,452,000	500,000
1990	14,185,000	10,341,000	700,000
1991	24,984,000	14,783,000	873,000
1992	34,566,000	14,783,000	873,000
1993	33,817,000	13,783,000	866,000
1994	32,962,000	13,783,000	800,000[16]
1995	12,540,000	4,500,000	800,000
1996	8,205,000	9,561,000	800,000
1997	5,000,000	3,152,000	800,000
1998	7,600,000	3,906,000	800,000
1999	11,500,000	5,132,000	800,000
2000	12,044,000	5,330,000	800,000
2001	10,850,000	5,660,000	800,000
2002 (est.)	10,800,000	9,700,000	800,000

While the USDA program has proven to be a cost-effective component of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program, Administration and Congressional funding support for the program has dramatically declined. Table 5-1 reflects the significant reduction in USDA appropriations from 1994 to the present. Funding of the USDA program at recent levels jeopardizes the ability of the Plan of Implementation to be executed in a manner that assures compliance with the numeric criteria.

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[15] Numbers do not include funds provided for the Reclamation and Agriculture programs as up-front cost-sharing from the Basin Funds

[16] Funds expended by BLM for salinity control cannot accurately be determined. This amount reflects what has been reported as having been designated within the BLM budget.

The 1984 Amendments to the Act (P.L. 98-569) provide that Reclamation is authorized to reimburse the costs of operation and maintenance expenses in excess of those that would have occurred for the thorough and timely operation and maintenance of the unimproved system. Those amendments also allow the federal government to pay for replacement costs of the facilities and the costs of operation and maintenance of works to replace impacted fish and wildlife values.

The 1995 Amendments to the Act (P.L. 104-20) did not change the cost-sharing and repayment relationships among the states or the federal government, but it did provide additional flexibility to Reclamation if the proposed project has other associated indirect benefits of federal interest, i.e., other water quality or environmental benefits. The cost of this assistance will not be considered a salinity control cost. The 1996 Amendments to the Act (P.L. 104-127) permit up-front cost-sharing by the Upper and Lower Basin Funds in lieu of repayment.

Revenues accruing to the Lower Basin fund for the Salinity Control Program are derived from a 2½ mill per kilowatt hour levy on California and Nevada purchases of hydro power generation. Revenues accruing to the Upper Basin fund are collected by the Western Area Power Administration. The Plan of Implementation, as presented earlier in this Review, incorporates a construction schedule which at the current rate of expenditure, when completed, will have a total estimated cost of $594 million, of which $178 million will come from the Basin states' funds. Under this Plan, the required salinity reduction can be made throughout the planning period (2020). The Basin funds will be adequate to provide the up-front cost-sharing.

Two potential sources of funding to assist salinity control efforts exist under the Clean Water Act. Section 319 funds are available for implementing state-adopted EPA-approved nonpoint source management programs. The construction grant program has now essentially been replaced by the State Revolving Fund (SRF) program, which provides low interest loans for pollution control projects. Under Section 603(c)(2), the SRF program can be used to fund implementation of Section 319 projects.

Responsibility for Accomplishing Salinity Control Measures

The Plan of Implementation recognizes that the Forum, participating federal agencies, and the Basin states each have specific responsibilities for furthering the Salinity Control Program. The elements of the Plan of Implementation are premised on completion of all of the salinity control measures discussed in Chapter 4 of this report. Specifically, the Forum will continue to provide overall coordination, a continuing review of salinity changes, program effectiveness, and the need to make further program changes and improvements. At least every three years, the Forum considers existing depletions and salt concentrations and, when needed and feasible, recommends revisions in the schedule for implementing salinity control measures and/or modifications of the numeric criteria. This review includes both federal and non-federal programs. The review is then transmitted to the EPA and to state water resources and pollution control agencies and made available to others interested in the Salinity Control Program.

Federal agencies must complete planning efforts and seek authorization and funding for salinity control efforts in accordance with Title II of P.L. 93-320, P.L. 98-569, P.L. 104-20, and P.L. 104-127. The Basin states will continue to encourage the agencies to request funding and to lend their support to obtaining needed funding from the Congress.

Interagency Coordination

Combined Efforts

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program is truly a unique program, and it cannot be successful without the cooperation of a multitude of agencies and governments involved at the local, state and federal levels. First, the program is reliant upon the cooperation of land owners in implementing important and cost-effective salinity control measures. Secondly, the program is dependant upon a multitude of agreements between the seven Colorado River Basin states which have always been accomplished by consensus. Lastly, the program depends upon the cooperation of a number of federal agencies for its success. P.L. 93-320, the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act, gives to the Secretary of the Interior responsibilities for implementing salinity control policies adopted for the Colorado River, and gives to the Secretary of the Interior many other responsibilities through various sections of the Act.

The Act states: "The Secretary [of the Interior], the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Secretary of Agriculture are directed to cooperate and coordinate their activities effectively to carry out the objectives of this title." The Act further provides that "the Secretary [of the Interior] or the Secretary of Agriculture, as the case may be, shall give preference to those additional units or new self-contained portions of units which reduce salinity of the Colorado River at the least cost per unit of salinity reduction." It is obvious that the federal implementing agencies, that is, Reclamation, BLM, and USDA, must coordinate and cooperate in order to advance, as required by the Act, a cost-effective Salinity Control Program. The lead in fostering this cooperation has been taken by Reclamation. The success of the program is dependent upon this coordination and cooperation. The federal agencies need to continue to communicate to ensure that the programs being implemented are being coordinated.

In addition to the three implementing agencies, there are other federal agencies which are involved in the Salinity Control Program, and cooperation and coordination with these agencies is also most essential. Three agencies are notable, USGS, USFWS and EPA.

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council

Cooperation between the federal agencies and the Basin states is also essential, and the program has advanced because of a spirit of good will and a desire to succeed in controlling the salinity of the Colorado River expressed by all of the states and the federal agencies. Congress created the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Advisory Council, which is to be composed of

no more than three members from each state appointed by the Governors of each of the Colorado River Basin states. The Act directs that the Council shall, among other things, "act as a liaison between both the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the states in accomplishing the purposes of this title." The Act further directs that the Secretary will make reports to the Advisory Council, and that the Advisory Council will "recommend to both the Secretary and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency appropriate studies to further projects, techniques, or methods for accomplishing the purposes of this title."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Pursuant to authorities and responsibilities as set forth in the Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is an active participant in the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. It is primarily through these legislative authorities that the USFWS coordinates with lead Federal agencies and the Basin states.

The Colorado River Basin supports a biological diversity of fish and wildlife resources, as well as a significant number of unique species and important habitats. The Colorado River system has one of the largest number of threatened and endangered species of fish and wildlife in the United States, while providing important habitats for other biological resources of regional, national, and international significance, including: Neotropical migratory birds, migratory waterfowl (ducks, geese, and shorebirds), rare non-migratory birds such as sage grouse, and many economically important species of big game. In addition, specialized habitats such as wetlands and riparian areas provide nesting/rearing habitat for over 200 species of mammals, birds, and amphibians.

In general, USFWS activities consists of coordination with lead Federal agencies in evaluating potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources resulting from proposed salinity control projects. Documentation of USFWS concerns and recommendations are typically in the form of Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act reports, Planning Aid Memorandum, biological opinions, and comments on Draft and Final Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements. Follow-up coordination with project sponsors to ensure appropriate mitigation is also a major thrust of the USFWS. The Salt Lake City, Utah Field Office (Ecological Services) provides overall program coordination for the USFWS.

USFWS participation in the planning process for salinity control projects is provided through a variety of planning/working/coordinating activities and interactions with Reclamation, BLM, EPA, NRCS, the Forum, state agencies, Indian tribes, and the general public. General fish and wildlife information, as well as lists of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitats which may occur within salinity control project areas, are provided by the USFWS to the lead Federal agencies and other interested parties. Biological opinions rendered under authority of the Endangered Species Act are provided for projects where threatened and endangered species may be affected. Concerns continue to arise over the anticipated effects of salinity control measures on endangered species and wetlands.

Authorization of new salinity control projects will still require in-depth review by the USFWS to ensure the appropriate protection for endangered species and their critical habitats, as well as the replacement of wetland values potentially lost due to construction and operation of new features. The USFWS will need to more closely monitor the effectiveness of EQIP in achieving adequate mitigation/compensation, both in proportion to, and concurrent with, various salinity reducing construction practices. Concepts such as mitigation banking may be explored by all participating State and Federal agencies to accomplish satisfactory compensation/mitigation results.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

The USGS's Water Resources Division provides and analyzes hydrologic information to assess the Nation's water resources. Programs are developed with cooperation and financial support from state, local and other federal agencies. The programs provide hydrologic and geochemical information for evaluation of surface and ground water systems, as well as for management and policy decisions.

To provide information required by the federal, state and local agencies to address Colorado River water quantity and quality issues, the USGS operates and maintains a network of about 520 stream gaging stations and 140 water quality stations in the Colorado River Basin. Streamflow and water-quality information from these stations provide input to the hydrologic database for Reclamation's Colorado River Simulation System. In addition to collecting hydrologic data, the USGS conducts specific studies on surface water, ground water, and water quality.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The major EPA programs relating to Colorado River salinity control are: (1) water quality management planning; (2) water quality standards; (3) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits; (4) review of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents; (5) nonpoint source control under Section 319 of the Water Quality Act of 1987; (6) wetlands protection; and (7) the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program. For the most part, these programs are either implemented by the states under federal statute, (such as the water quality standards program), or delegated to the states by EPA (such as the NPDES program). EPA maintains oversight responsibilities for the assumed and delegated programs, and has responsibility for reviewing and approving water quality standards, including those for salinity. EPA continues to encourage the Basin states to develop and implement the basinwide and state salinity control strategies.

Section 303 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to adopt water quality standards pursuant to their own laws which are consistent with the applicable requirements of the CWA. The Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum, through its Work Group, has been re-affirming the numeric criteria for salinity and developing a new Basinwide Plan of Implementation for salinity control for the seven Basin states every three years to satisfy the triennial review requirements of the

CWA. Following adoption of the standards by each state, it is the responsibility of the EPA regional administrators to approve or disapprove the standards based on consistency with CWA requirements.

Pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, EPA reviews NEPA environmental assessments and environmental impact statements for both salinity and non-salinity control projects of other agencies. Through review of NEPA documents, EPA urges the identification of potential salinity impacts and encourages discussion of mitigation of adverse impacts as required by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). For example, EPA can comment on potential salinity impacts, when appropriate, when reviewing EIS's for grazing and land management, recreational developments, mining, and water development projects. In addition, EPA encourages the development of mitigation measures for adverse impacts to satisfy state and Forum policies for salinity control and through CWA Section 401 certifications for activities subject to federal permitting actions. The Forum policy encouraging the use of water with higher total dissolved solids for industrial purposes is being supported primarily through NEPA review responsibilities.

The basis for wetland protection and mitigation is established in the regulations for compliance with NEPA, Section 404 of the CWA, Executive Order 11990, and USDA policy. However, preserving irrigation-induced wetlands and reducing salt loading to the Colorado River may present conflicts between authorizing legislation and other regulatory programs. A portion of the salt load in the Colorado River system is attributed to seepage and deep percolation from leaking irrigation canals and laterals, and inefficient on-farm irrigation systems and water management. Some of these inefficient irrigation systems and practices are the source of water for many of the wetlands associated with salinity control units. As seepage from irrigation systems is reduced and irrigation efficiencies are improved, some portion of these irrigation-induced wetlands may be impacted or lost. The concept of replacing irrigation-induced wetlands and the need to reduce the salt load in the Colorado River presents difficult choices between environmental values of improved water quality and wetland preservation. Landowners are volunteering to implement wildlife habitat practices, including wetland replacement, as was contemplated by the Salinity Control Act. EPA utilizes NEPA review and other types of coordination with state and federal agencies as the means to participate in wetland assessment, monitoring, replacement, and reporting activities.

Section 319 funds have been appropriated since FY 1990 for the states to implement nonpoint source water pollution control programs. EPA encourages the states to consider salinity control benefits as they make decisions on Section 319 funding for their priority watersheds.

EPA Region VIII administers the Underground Injection Control permit for the Paradox Well salinity control project in Colorado.

CHAPTER 6 - SALINITY STANDARD ADOPTION & IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Standards Review Procedures

The Forum, on September 20, 1974, approved a statement of "Principles and Assumptions for Development of Colorado River Salinity Standards and Implementation Plan." Under Principle 7, it is stated:

> *The plan of implementation shall be reviewed and modified as appropriate from time to time, but at least once each 3 years. At the same time, the (numeric) standards, as required by Section 303(c) (l) of P.L. 92-500 shall be reviewed for the purpose of modifying and adopting standards consistent with the plan so that the Basin states may continue to develop their compact-apportioned waters while providing the best practicable water quality in the Colorado River Basin.*

The Colorado River Basin is a large and complex area with many water-quality and water-supply problems. A wide range of research, technical studies, and actions are underway, and much knowledge is yet to be gained. Such studies can bring to the issues a better understanding of natural and human induced salinity sources, and a better comprehension of trends in salt concentrations in the River. This will assist in predictions of future water quality. Reclamation is advancing a new computer model of the Colorado River to help in this regard. Studies are underway to allow for a better understanding of the impacts of salts in the Colorado River on water users. These efforts point to the need for ongoing review of the standards. They also promise a more comprehensive understanding of the River system, which will assist in accomplishing future reviews.

The Forum's Work Group keeps current with salinity control efforts, and suggests revisions as appropriate. The Work Group was particularly active in preparing drafts of the 2002 Review, will assist in the preparation of a supplement, if needed, and will aid the Forum in holding public meetings. The Work Group meets often, as needed, and operates under a schedule which enables the Forum to take action on potential revisions in a timely manner.

For this 2002 Review, after Forum approval, and prior to state action on the review of the numeric criteria and Plan of Implementation, public review and discussion will be sought by the Forum through public meetings. The Forum will hold at least two regional meetings in the Colorado River Basin to describe the basinwide nature of the salinity problem, the ongoing control program and Plan of Implementation as recommended in this report, and to solicit comments and views from interested agencies, groups and individuals.

No change has been made in the numeric criteria since their adoption in 1975 by the Basin states and approval by EPA. After having conducted this Review, the Forum has again found the

numeric criteria to be appropriate, and recommends no changes in this criteria. By this Review, as has been the case every three years, the Forum has adopted an updated Plan of Implementation.

Adoption by States

After the final adoption of this report by the Forum in the fall of 2002, each of the seven Colorado River Basin states will include the report as a part of its own water quality standards, and through procedures established by each state, consider the Review, potentially adopt it, and then submit the report to the appropriate Regional office of EPA for approval. Because the Colorado River Basin contains portions of three EPA regions, Utah, Colorado and Wyoming will make submittals to the EPA Region VIII in Denver, Colorado; New Mexico to EPA Region VI in Dallas, Texas; and Nevada, Arizona and California to EPA Region IX in San Francisco, California.

Action

Although the planning horizon in this report for the Plan of Implementation extends through the year 2020, there is an urgency to accomplish parts of the plan prior to the next triennial review in the year 2005. With the adoption of this report, the Forum and the states become committed to that end. The federal agencies are a critical part of the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program. It is believed that by their involvement in the preparation of this report, those federal agencies will support the Plan of Implementation and its programs. It is also anticipated that EPA, by approval of the states' submittals, will fully support this salinity control effort.