

CHAPTER 1

Regional and River Basin Water Supply Systems*

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the present situation of storage for municipal and industrial water supply purposes in reservoirs constructed by the Corps of Engineers of the Department of the Army, the Bureau of Reclamation of the Department of the Interior, and the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture. In each instance, the reservoirs are the result of dams built for multiple-purpose control of the waters of river basins or other significant drainage areas. Therefore, the dams may involve flood control, hydroelectric power, flow regulation for navigation and pollution control, irrigation, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat as well as municipal and industrial water supply and other purposes.

Only storage is usually provided for the water supply purpose. Pumps, transmission lines, and treatment works must usually be furnished by municipalities or firms using the water. The storage is authorized by several Federal acts as noted below. In a few cases transmission works and pumps have been provided; but treatment works, like for the District of Columbia, are very exceptional.

Until recently there has been no call for a systematic effort by the Federal Government to appraise the total national status and need for municipal and industrial water supplies. Present Federal legislation, generally, is designed only to assure that municipal and industrial water supply is considered when Federal agencies plan dams for river basin development. However, the Water Resources Planning Act of 1965 now calls for a unified and systematic effort among the Federal agencies and the States to meet all water needs, including water supply. The act requires a biennial appraisal of the demand and supply situation for water for all purposes on a regional and drainage-area basis. Furthermore, the act provides financial assistance to the States to improve their water resources planning including that of municipal water supply. In addition, the Water Resources Council coordinates the efforts of the Federal agencies concerned, and will cooperate with Federal-State river basin commissions authorized by the act in the preparation of comprehensive plans for water resource development by river basins and major regions. The present schedule for the preparations of comprehensive water and related land resource river basin plans calls for the entire Nation to be covered by 1972.

These efforts of the Water Resources Council, related Federal agencies, and the States are designed to produce a systematic appraisal of the municipal water supply situation for the Nation to the year 2000. Until that task is further along, the following information indicates the situation as it is known today as regards the provision of municipal and industrial water supplies in reservoirs con-

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