

specified in Council rules and regulations, can be decided only by the principals.

This system of decisionmaking by the Council, which has been in effect since November 1966, has worked very well. It has enabled the Council to act upon many matters which clearly do not require face-to-face consideration by the principals. On the other hand, it identifies sharply the areas of real disagreement. Thus, the process assures that the matters that the principals do consider are important.

Let me mention the Council's functions, and some examples of the Council's work relating to each function:

*First function.*—To maintain a continuing study of the adequacy of supplies of water and related land resources to meet requirements, and to prepare a periodic national assessment (sec. 102).

Early in 1967 the Council decided upon plans for making the first national assessment, within the limits of available staff and other resources. A report on this basis is in the final stages of Council approval. It is now planned for publication in the next few months.

Based on readily available data, the report establishes the water situation for a base year, 1965; identifies current problem areas; and includes projections of water requirements for larger regions of the country. To the extent proven feasible, longrun water management problems are identified. Conclusions and recommendations with regard to them are being made.

Regional chapters have been prepared through cooperation of personnel of member agencies in the field and of the States. National summaries for each water development or use function have been prepared by member agencies. Council staff, with assistance from member agencies, is performing the necessary central staff work.

This first effort cannot be considered a full-scale national assessment within the meaning of Section 102. It represents all that is possible with present analytical methods and the organization of data for simultaneous coverage of the country as a whole, the current degree of completion of comprehensive regional framework studies, and availability of staff and other resources. Future national assessments, to be more adequate, will require more deliberate planning and preparatory work over a longer period and substantially greater Council input and other resources.

*Second function.*—To appraise the adequacy of administrative and statutory means for coordination and implementation of the water and related land resource policies and programs of the several Federal agencies to make recommendations to the President with respect to policies and programs (section 102).

Council appraisal of proposed Federal-interstate compact commissions for management of water and related land resources within river basins, with a view to advising the President upon them, is a major activity at the present time. The compact proposed by the Interstate Advisory Commission for the Susquehanna River Basin in 1966 initiated this work. Subsequently, the Council has focused upon the proposed Potomac River Basin Compact, and upon generally similar proposals for the Hudson River Basin. Substantial Council staff time, along with that of member agencies, is necessary to assist the Council in the development of concerted views.