



Federal Register Notice on Post-2026 Colorado River Operational Strategies

Public Informational Webinars per 87 FR 37884
July 12 and 14, 2022

Purpose of Informational Public Webinars

- Purpose of this webinar is to summarize the content and purpose of the Federal Register Notice (87 FR 37884) on Colorado River Operational Strategies for Post-2026 published on June 24, 2022
- Two webinars are being offered (with identical content presented on each):
 - Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at 10:00 AM MDT
 - Thursday, July 14, 2022, at 10:00 AM MDT
- The purpose of these informational webinars is NOT to receive comments or input that is being requested in the Notice
 - Please submit comments and input to CRB-info@usbr.gov
- Please submit your input by September 1, 2022



Purpose of the Federal Register Notice

- Several reservoir and water management decisional documents and agreements that govern the operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead expire at the end of 2026
- The purpose of the Notice is to receive input on the process and substantive elements for post-2026 operations prior to initiation of a formal process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Reclamation intends to formally initiate the NEPA process through a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in early 2023
- The Notice is a tool to seek input and encourage brainstorming prior to initiating the NEPA process



Content of the Federal Register Notice

- In addition to asking for input on the process and substance for post-2026 operations, the Notice highlights the changing circumstances in the Colorado River Basin since 2007
 - Declining hydrology and drought impacted by a warming and changing climate
 - Inclusivity in Colorado River decision-making
 - Operational alignment and partnership with the Republic of Mexico
- The Notice also highlights the dire state of the system and recognizes that other processes to develop and implement near-term response actions may need to proceed on parallel timelines



Specific Areas Reclamation is Seeking Input on for Post-2026 Operations

- Process:

Suggested mechanisms for the anticipated NEPA process(es) to ensure that a wide range of Basin partners, stakeholders, and the general public can meaningfully engage and participate in the development of post-2026 operational strategies

- Substantive elements:

Potential substantive elements and strategies that should be considered for post-2026 operations and considered in the anticipated upcoming NEPA process(es)

Reclamation is particularly interested in receiving specific recommendations that can be considered and potentially integrated as the initiation of the post-2026 NEPA process is being developed.



QUESTIONS

For more information visit:

<https://www.usbr.gov/ColoradoRiverBasin/>

Submit comments to:

CRB-info@usbr.gov



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RECLAMATION