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