

**1971 – EPA published *The Mineral Quality Problem in the Colorado River Basin, Summary Report*:** This 65 page (plus several hundred pages of appendices), eight-year study by EPA described the mineral quality issues in the Colorado River, their causes, projected increases and costs as well as control possibilities and an action plan. It found that 47% of the salinity concentration at Hoover Dam was from natural sources with the remaining 37% from irrigation, 12% from reservoir evaporation, 3% from evaporation and 1% from out-of-basin exports (1960 conditions). These salt concentration values, which are often cited, are not to be confused with salt load of which more than 60% comes from natural diffuse sources. Table 1 on pages 15 and 16 of the report shows that 6,691 million tons of the Colorado River’s total salt load of 10,727 million tons comes from either “Natural Diffuse Sources” or “Natural Point Sources” which may have led to the language in the salinity control act which states that: “Federal ownership of the lands of the Colorado River Basin from which most of the dissolved salts originate”. A copy of this report is found on the Forum’s website at:

<http://coloradoriversalinity.org/docs/The%20Mineral%20Quality%20Problem%20in%20the%20Colorado%20River%20Basin%20EPA-1971.pdf>

**1972 – Colorado River Water Quality Improvement Program:** In February, 1972, Reclamation published this document. It lays out a 10-year comprehensive plan to improve the water quality of the Colorado River. Within this document one will find the DNA for the salinity program. It has the following chapters:

- I. Introduction
- II. Previous Studies and Findings
- III. Program Objectives
- IV. Program Structure
- V. Effect of Program
- VI. Description of Water Quality Improvement Program
- VII. Allied Programs

A copy of this report is found on the Forum’s website at:

<http://coloradoriversalinity.org/docs/Colorado%20River%20Water%20Quality%20Improvement%20Program%20-%201972.pdf>

**1972 - Conference in the Matter of Pollution of the Interstate Waters of the Colorado River and Its Tributaries in the States of California, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and Wyoming concluded:** The final session (Session 7) of the conference, which was initiated 12 years earlier, began in Las Vegas on February 15, 1972. It was here that EPA stated its expectations for a Basin States salinity control program. A final meeting, a reconvening of Session 7, was held in Denver, Colorado, on April 26-27, 1972.

Incidentally, a bad snow storm made it so that only the conferees from Wyoming, Colorado and California were present. However, the EPA representative chairing the conference looked around the room and said: “That means four of the seven States are not here. At least it’s pretty close to a quorum if you count the Federal Government” and he went ahead with the business of the meeting (they later conferred with the other state conferees). Statements and positions were taken at the meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting, the