

The background of the slide is a photograph of a pond. The water is a deep blue-green color, and the surface is covered with numerous lily pads. In the background, there is a dense line of green reeds or tall grasses. The sky above is a clear, bright blue with some light, wispy clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Water Resources "Principles and Guidelines"

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What are the Principles and Guidelines?

- Establish a national approach to water projects
- Developed by the Water Resources Council under the Reagan Administration to replace the "Principles and Standards"
- Reflect the evolution of U.S. water policy through 1983



Essential Elements

- Establish National Economic Development as the primary objective in formulating water resources projects
- Plans should be considered in terms of:
 - Completeness
 - Effectiveness
 - Efficiency
 - Acceptability
- Allow for consideration of environmental quality (EQ), regional economic development (RED), and other social effects (OSE) in plan selection

WRDA 2007

- Section 2031 directs the Secretary to issue revisions within two years
- Requires that Principles and Guidelines revisions address:
 - Best available techniques
 - Public safety
 - Value of projects to low-income communities
 - Interaction with other projects in a region
 - Use of “contemporary water resource paradigms”
 - Evaluation methods that ensure projects are justified by public benefits
- Requires consultation with members of the Cabinet

Draft Revisions

- Published in Federal Register September 2008
- Emphasizes peer review
- Requires a minimum of three plans:
 - National Economic Development (NED)
 - Environmental Quality (EQ)
 - Non-structural
- Adds a Public Safety account
- Plan selection based on combined NED/EQ benefits and costs
- Establishes a benefit cost ratio of 1.5 as the threshold for recommending navigation, flood damage reduction, shore protection, and hydropower projects

A dense forest with tall, thin trees and a blue-tinted background. The text "Questions?" is overlaid in the center in a bright yellow-green color.

Questions?

PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES