ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT DATA BOOK

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by

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PREFACE

This book will serve as a data reference, to supplement other sources used regularly in the preparation of environmental impact assessments and statements (EIS). It assumes the user is already involved in the environmental impact process and knows the format and data required by law. The intent of the book is to provide needed data from one composite source. Information is presented, usually in tabular format, to aid in quantification of impacts. Far too many EISs quantify only descriptive data for the existing environmental setting. When the impact chapter is written, words such as minimal, moderate or significant begin to creep into the text. It is our intent to provide quantifiable data to predict these impacts.

Another goal is to provide summary data that are used almost daily in environmental impact statement preparation. The data book is a compilation of other regularly used sources, from the *Federal Register*, to environmental law books, technical papers, textbooks and government publications. Since the authors are all involved professionally in EIS preparation, we have gathered the most often used data into shortened tables for ready reference. This allows the user to turn quickly to one source, rather than to hundreds of papers, to find needed information. The time and shelf space saved is intended to help shorten the normal 31-month time frame for EIS preparation. Data are provided on a national and statewide scope. No data are used which would be useful only on a site-specific case study.

This book, by its content and structure, addresses the environmental scientist or analyst rapidly drowning in the data made available to him through the marvel of technology. While this is a data book, it is not a "cookbook"; it does not provide ready-made, easy answers to complex and difficult problems. Chapters in the book represent the major technical aspects of an environmental assessment. This is not a book to be read but a book to be used.

The authors have exercised their best efforts to obtain the large volume of technical data contained in this book from reliable sources; but to avoid

some errors that may have occurred in tables and text, it is recommended that users of this work evaluate carefully the data, facts and figures prior to their use. Figures and tables are referenced as to origin, unless specifically prepared for this book. Hopefully, only primary references or citations are used; if a secondary citation is used, please accept our apologies.

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