

Title:

Water and Alternate Energy Development in North America

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This review of fresh water resources and water development in North America is presented within the framework of the North American Water and Power Alliance (NAWAPA) first proposed by Ralph M. Parsons in 1965. Parsons' highly visionary concept was more fully developed than any other study of fresh water in North America before or since. The price tag of \$100 billion in 1965 dollars made it seem undoable at that time. But history has demonstrated that the three North American countries (Canada, United States, and Mexico) should willingly have paid that price for the proposed 70,000 megawatts of green, renewable energy it promised and had the 110 million acre-feet of quality water each year as a bonus. The feasibility of segments of Parsons NAWAPA concept has been demonstrated by developments in the Canadian tar sands industry and Quebec's development of the La Grande Complex in the eastern end of Parsons' proposed catchment areas. While NAWAPA stopped short of developing a business plan for implementing the mega-water and power projects with private funds, the conceptual engineering completed in the 1960's and subsequent Congressional reviews of the concept provide a starting point for much needed action. At this critical turning point in alternate energy development, a consortium of current and prospective water and power users could develop a plan for such action using NAWAPA as a starting point. Organizations with an interest in oil shale development should have a particular interest in Parsons' concept as one leg of the proposed distribution system would have run within 100 miles of oil shale country.

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