



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE RURAL WATER SYSTEM

Making Your Comments Count - Helpful Hints

Commenting on public policy issues or documents as a private citizen can be daunting, especially if the issues are technical. Consider the suggestions below to help make it a little easier and more effective to participate in the NEPA process.

► **Once a draft document is issued, review the document, then make your comments on:**

- Issues not addressed or addressed inadequately.
- Accuracy, substantive errors, or omissions.
- Consistency with other information.
- Relevance to issues you consider important.

► **During draft document comment periods, write your comments. Cover the following:**

- Establish your authority to comment, whether it is as a concerned citizen, representative of an interest group, or an expert.
- For extensive comments, summarize your major concerns first, then describe them in detail.
- If you are recommending changes to a document, suggest specific language when possible.
- If you believe technical information contained in an EIS or other resource document is in error or inadequate, cite the reference. Provide copies of back-up material.

- Offer solutions – draw on your expertise as an agency or “interested stakeholder” to suggest innovative ideas.
- Consider these format and style suggestions:
 - Start by offering general or summary comments
 - Use headings, topic sentences, and short sentences
 - Avoid asking questions – rather, pose your questions as comments to be considered
 - Be respectful of your fellow commenters and agency representatives

► **Finally, understand comment deadlines (see below).**

Excerpted and adapted from “Successful Advocacy: Tips for Public Comment” by Wendy L. Wilson, and Elizabeth D. Mullin, from the Environmental Law Institute website at <http://www.eli.org>.

Public Comment Period

Submit comments on the project website or by mail to:

**Phoenix Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation,
Attn: WMAT RWS NEPA Project Manager**

**6150 West Thunderbird Road,
Glendale, Arizona, 85306-4001**

or e-mail: **bor-sha-LCB-WMAT-EIS@usbr.gov**

Comments must be received by *September 12, 2022*