DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES AND STABILIZATION OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

PART II. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

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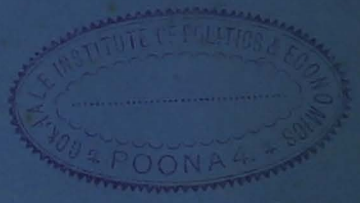
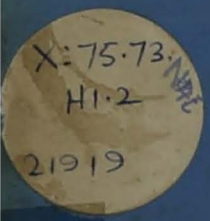
JANUARY 1941

NATIONAL RESOURCES PLANNING BOARD





DEVELOP S AND
STABILIZAT T IN THE

PART II. R PLANS

NATIONAL RESOURCES PLANNING BOARD

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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

FOREWORD

Well considered programs for national development must, of course, reflect local, State, and regional points of view as well as the best judgment of administrative groups and functional policies. This Part IV of the report on *Development of Resources and Stabilization of Employment* reproduces statements on Regional Development Plans prepared in the field in cooperation with Regional and State Planning agencies and with representative citizens.

What is a Region? Americans have always recognized the existence of regions or groups of States within the United States which have distinctive problems or unifying backgrounds. From the earliest Colonial days of the New England Confederation, through the time when the "South" was clearly recognized, down to the more recent realization of great geographic areas like the Dust Bowl, or the Tennessee Valley, we have thought in terms of regions. In 1935, the National Resources Committee issued a report on "Regional Factors in National Planning and Development" which reviewed the many types of regions and regional organization in this country. Since that time, many further efforts have been made to organize regionally or on a sub-national basis for both public and private purposes.

The desire of the National Resources Planning Board and its predecessors to aid decentralized planning has contributed a number of experiments in this field. The Board has organized its field staff in regional centers serving areas with no fixed boundaries and using a variety of different planning methods adapted to the special situations in each area. For strictly administrative and budgetary reasons, the number of "centers" which the Board could staff was limited to 10 located as follows:

1. Boston, Mass., serving New England.
2. Baltimore, Md., serving the Middle Atlantic Region.
3. Atlanta, Ga., serving the Southeastern Region.
4. Indianapolis, Ind., serving the Ohio-Great Lakes Region.
5. Dallas, Tex., serving the South Central Region.
6. Omaha, Nebr., serving the Missouri Valley.
7. Denver, Colo., serving the Intermountain-Great Plains area.
8. San Francisco, Calif., serving the Southwest.
9. Portland, Oreg., serving the Pacific Northwest.
10. Juneau, Alaska, serving Alaska.

From each of these Field Offices or regional centers, the Board has received preliminary statements of the objectives of regional developments as seen by the Regional Officers of the Board. These programs have been revised, re-worked and expanded during the last year with the cooperation of State planning boards, regional planning commissions, special advisory groups, and with the active assistance of the field representatives of many Federal agencies. The resulting statements are called "Regional Development Plans." They are obviously first approximations of plans rather than full specifications.

The criteria or statements of objective which these Regional Plans suggest for testing public works projects vary as might be expected in accordance with the widely different problems which the regions face. It is hoped that these first statements and the revisions and improvements in these Regional Plans which are already under way may aid in the public understanding of regional points of view towards development projects and aid the Congress in making decisions concerning them.

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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

NEW ENGLAND

REGION I

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

1940

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NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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National Resources Planning Board

NATIONAL RESOURCES PLANNING BOARD
FIELD OFFICE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

September 30, 1940

Hon. Frederic A. Delano
Chairman, National Resources Planning Board
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Delano:

I transmit herewith copy of a Comprehensive Regional Development Plan for New England, based on objectives adopted by the New England Regional Planning Commission, and compiled from plans and recommendations submitted by the Commission, the State planning boards, Federal agencies, regional organizations interested in the development of water resources, of land resources, of air navigation facilities, of highways, of recreation, and of industry, and other official and unofficial groups. This plan presents the principal objectives toward the achievement of which we believe all public endeavor and private enterprise should be directed.

As a background for these objectives and to make clear the reasons for their selection, we submit in brief form a summary of present conditions and anticipated trends in respect to the people of the Region, where they live and what they do. So far as our research and studies will permit, we have also indicated those lines of attack which offer the greatest opportunity for early attainment of the objectives.

The purpose of a New England Regional Plan is not to spend money, but rather to save it by making sure that such money as is spent will be spent wisely. The function of our plan is not to require that public and private activity be carried on according to the preconceived ideas of a few individuals, but rather to permit the desires and needs of the people as a whole, as expressed through democratic media, to be obtained in an orderly and efficient manner. With these views in mind we have prepared the attached Comprehensive Regional Development Plan for New England.

Sincerely yours,

VICTOR M. CUTTER
Chairman