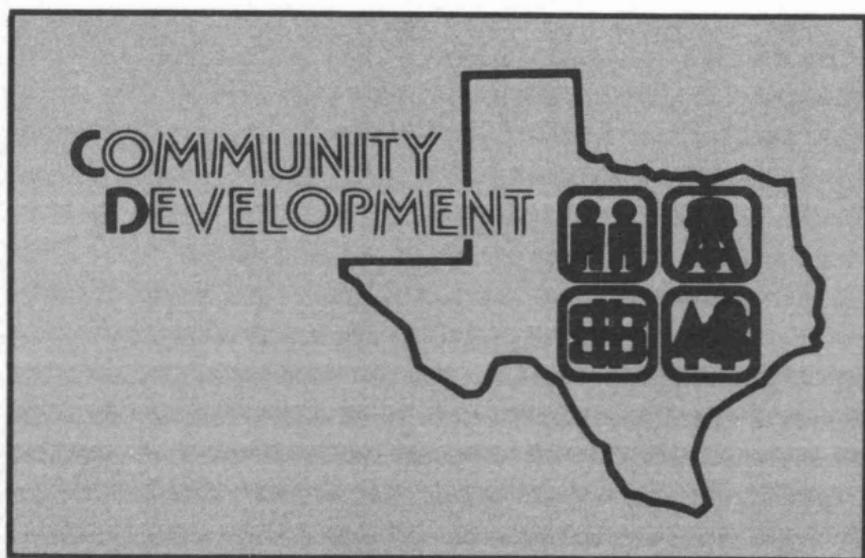


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Introducing...

The Texas Assessment Modeling System

TAMS



INTRODUCING . . . THE TEXAS ASSESSMENT MODELING SYSTEM

The Texas Assessment Modeling System (TAMS) provides information about the impact of lignite development on the private and public sectors to state and local decision makers such as elected officials and public employees.

TAMS projects the impact of energy resource development through lignite production, including economic, demographic, public service and fiscal changes. The system provides baseline and impact projections for employment, output, population, public service requirements and public costs and revenues. Baseline projections are made annually, based on past trends and occurrences. Impact projections measure the influence of economic development from a project.

Research for TAMS was supported by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, the Center for Energy and Mineral Resources and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, all part of the Texas A&M University System.

Any public or private group in Texas may use TAMS. Access is available through a direct computer terminal hook-up or in cooperation with the modeling team. A users' manual and technical description are available.

Lignite Development

As energy prices rise and other energy sources are depleted, lignite production will become more important. Production has been approximately 30 million tons per year during the early 1980's and vast increases are projected for coming years.

As lignite plants begin initial construction phases and actual production, there are positive and negative effects. Often, the impact will occur in rural areas where there has been little or no previous economic development. TAMS assesses the potential impacts of such development. Model projections are provided at the municipal, county and regional level. Decision makers should use all available information when anticipating such an impact.

Area Served

The Texas Assessment Modeling System provides these baseline and impact projections for six council of government areas in the lignite area of east and central Texas. This area includes 53 counties and 308 municipalities. The six councils of government include: Alamo Area Council of Governments, Brazos Valley Development Council, Capital Area Planning Council, Central Texas Council of Governments, East Texas Council of Governments and Heart of Texas Council of Governments.

Model Structure

TAMS describes the linkages and interrelations among industrial sectors in a regional economy. Basic exporting, trade and service sectors are included and described in terms of employment and output. Population projections are also provided for the development cities. Population is broken into age and sex groups to better interpret demographic forces. Net migration is determined by comparing available labor force characteristics with baseline and project employment requirements. Newcomers and their families must choose a place to live. TAMS provides projections of settlement patterns among cities in the development area. Baseline and impact projections of total service requirements are provided for housing, education, medical and criminal justice services. Public sector costs and revenues associated with a project are also provided.

Data

Since data requirements are related to the project to be analyzed, the user must provide a description of the project including the name, size (capacity) and type of facility. The estimated construction starting date and commercial production date and the number of acres used for a plant or mine site are also required. A data form to be completed by the user is provided with the TAMS users' manual.

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The Texas A&M
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**Texas
Agricultural
Extension
Service**

Daniel C. Pfannstiel, Director
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Educational programs conducted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, or national origin.

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, The Texas A&M University System and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating. Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8, 1914, as amended, and June 30, 1914.

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