

PROPOSAL: CONSEQUENCES OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT

Professor Joseph Shapiro (joseph.shapiro@yale.edu)

Since the U.S. passed the Clean Water Act in 1972, public and private sources together have spent roughly a trillion dollars to decrease water pollution. Almost half of stream and river miles, however, still have water quality so poor that they violate local standards. This research will use new data to assess whether U.S. water quality has improved since the Clean Water Act and will quantify the contributions of the Act to any observed improvements. Research assistance is sought for several tasks: compiling water quality data; concordancing water pollution codes across datasets; cleaning and merging digitized historic data in Stata; and other tasks that may arise. It would be useful to have basic experience with Stata and interest in learning more.