



STAFF MEMO

July 26, 1978

TO: OTA STAFF

FROM: Russ Peterson *Russ*

SUBJECT: Citizen Involvement / *public participation*

One of the ways in which the Office of Technology Assessment makes its unique contribution is by involving the public in its work. Since technology impacts people, the value of looking at citizens' perceptions and concerns is an essential component of each assessment. OTA has made an excellent beginning in this respect and has contributed to the body of knowledge on meaningful public participation.

I look forward to an expansion of this activity. Bob Niblock (Oceans) is responsible for this assignment, and Nancy Shirk (Energy) has recently been given the coordination responsibility formerly held by Emilia Govan. Nancy has extensive experience in the public and private sectors, the legislative and executive branches and in the public interest area. Bob and Nancy will be assisted by Nancy Ikeda and Anne Fenn (Oceans). Project leaders will continue to have primary responsibility for developing the public participation component of specific projects.

We are planning a full staff meeting early in September to share our experiences, talk about new approaches and allow everyone to express views and raise questions relating to citizen involvement. You will be notified of the time and date. I hope that you will attend and help to shape this program.