

September 2000

Review of: Amer EI-Ahraf et al., *The Impact of Public Policy on Environmental Quality and Health: The Case of Land Use Management and Planning*

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Jason J. Carrier, *Review of: Amer EI-Ahraf et al., The Impact of Public Policy on Environmental Quality and Health: The Case of Land Use Management and Planning*, 11 RISK 357 (2000).

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Amer El-Ahraf et al., **The Impact of Public Policy on Environmental Quality and Health: The Case of Land Use Management and Planning** (Quorum Books 1999). Acknowledgments, introduction, appendixes, selected bibliography, index. ISBN 1-56720-065-6 [181 pp. \$59.95. Hardbound, 88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881].

El-Ahraf, Qayoumi and Dowd, authors of **The Impact of Public Policy on Environmental Quality and Health: The Case of Land Use Management and Planning**, provide a detailed analysis of land use management and planning by reviewing some of the concerns which arise when dealing with this contemporary issue. The text explores federal legislation and the impact of municipality involvement in environmental, health, and policy related concerns. The authors also provide an interesting case study, supplying the reader with a practical-application of the text, thus allowing the reader to digest much of the weighty information the authors present for review.¹ Overall, **The Impact of Public Policy on Environmental Quality and Health** provides the reader with an impressive comprehensive detailed analysis of various land use related issues while augmenting the analysis with useful statistical data and applicable resources.

The authors go to great lengths to provide their audience with an exhaustive amount of research, continuously noting several governmental agencies and legislation, pages of insightful analysis and numerous policy considerations. For example, the biography,² containing over 230 texts and periodicals, and the index³ prove to be useful supplemental resource tools. One minor shortcoming of the book, however, was the authors' failure to cite to specific resources throughout the text, thereby making it impossible to reference some of the statements made by the authors. Understanding that the authors intended to provide a comprehensive analysis for post-secondary students studying the topic⁴, citations or footnotes would prove useful for students and academics by allowing them to apply specific

¹ Amer El-Ahraf, et al., **The Impact of Public Policy on Environmental Quality and Health: The Case of Land Use Management and Planning** 137-66 (1999).

² *Id.* at 167-76.

³ *Id.* at 177-81

⁴ *Id.* at xiv.

resources to the some of the concepts discussed in the text.

Furthermore, in at least one instance, the authors present incomplete information to the reader. When discussing Congress' intent in passing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the authors write that the purpose in passing the NEPA "was to develop a national policy that encourages productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment."⁵ Interested in Congress' intentions behind the passage of the noted legislation, I researched this issue further. I found that the authors failed to mention that the act's purpose was also intended to "promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation; and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality."⁶ Although the incomplete mention of the NEPA's purpose was perhaps unintentional or done for the sake of brevity, supplying the reader with only one of four reasons for passing the act provided the reader with an incomplete picture of Congress' true intent.

Despite these minor shortcomings, *The Impact of Public Policy on Environmental Quality and Health* provides one with an insightful view of land use management while taking other considerations, not typically analyzed within the field, into account providing the reader with a strong basis of information pertinent to present-day land use management and planning.

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⁵ *Id.* at 56.

⁶ National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Pub. L. No. 91-190, 83 Stat. 852 (codified as amended in scattered sections of 42 U.S.C.).

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