Potable water: Worksheet 10.2.3

Supply and demand in the Colorado River basin

Colorado is a state in the USA that is surrounded by land. The Colorado River is the main source of the potable water for the area. The graph shows the volume of water that the river can supply and the demand/ water use. The graph is extended to predict water supply and demand until 2060.

1. What treatment does the water that is taken from the Colorado River need to be potable?

2. What is the overall trend in the demand for potable water?

3. Give a reason for this trend.

4. What changes will reduce the supply of water from the river?

5. When did the demand for water outstrip the supply?

6. What measures are needed to prevent water shortage in the future?

7. California has similar problems with its supply and demand for water. This state has a long coast line.

a. What other source of water can California use to produce potable water?

b. What process is needed to make this water potable?