

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, RE-  
SEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT BY BUREAU OF MINES, DEPARTMENT  
OF INTERIOR

*Question 1: Please furnish a breakdown of research and development programs in the field of pollution abatement, including funding.*

Answer: The following table shows a further breakdown of Bureau of Mines research and development programs in the field of pollution abatement. For the case of air pollution, a breakdown of funds used directly on pollution abatement projects is given back to 1956. This constitutes funds transferred by the Public Health Service to the Bureau of Mines for specific projects on the subject. The Bureau of Mines budget structure is not such as to make possible a similar breakdown for conservation or health and safety appropriations, except for the years 1966 and 1967. For the most part, directly appropriated funds for conservation or for health and safety have resulted in pollution abatement as well as conservation of natural resources. For the fiscal years 1966 and 1967, Bureau appropriated funds having air pollution implication are given. In years prior to 1966, the funding of projects having air pollution connotation would doubtless be similar, but somewhat less, than that shown for 1966. The figures given for waste disposal are those expended under the provisions of the Waste Disposal Act of 1965.

As in the case of air pollution, a number of Bureau research programs on the conservation and development of natural resources contributed toward the elimination of waste materials. However, the exact dollar value of these programs cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy. The same difficulty occurs in connection with the Bureau's work on acid mine drainage. A small program—approximately \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year—has been in progress for many years. While the results of this work have been gratifying, the size of the program has been entirely too small to provide sufficient information for a reasonable solution to the problem. A number of other multipurpose research programs by the Bureau contribute toward the abatement of environmental pollution. For example, the mine fire control program is basically designed to conserve natural resources and to prevent subsidence. However, the fumes from the fires may contribute materially to the air pollution problem. While over \$8 million will be available in fiscal year 1967 for these purposes under provisions of the Mine Fire Control Act and the Appalachian Regional Development Act, it is impossible to say what portion of this amount should be considered as contributing to air pollution abatement. Another example of this type of effort is the program on mine area restoration. While pollution abatement is not the basic purpose for this research, it does decrease acid mine drainage in many areas and prevents pollution of soil and water by silt.