INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

PART I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

1. Objectives

The Appalachian program objective is to promote the economic development of the Appalachian region comprising parts of 11 States: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia; and all of West Virginia. Further, it is to assist the region in meeting its special problems and to establish a framework for joint Federal and State efforts toward providing the basic facilities essential to its growth and attacking its common problems and meeting its common needs on a coordinated and concerted regional basis. Funds are available to invest in public facilities in areas with significant potential for growth.

2. Operation

The program operates through a State-Federal agency, the Appalachian Regional Commission, composed of 12 Governors, one of whom is State cochairman, and a Presidential appointee, the Federal Cochairman. All decisions require the concurrent vote of a majority of the States and the Federal Cochairman, and no project can be implemented which has not been recommended and submitted by a State.

The Commission operates from a Washington headquarters. With the exception of small personal staffs for the Federal Cochairman and States' regional representative, the Commission staff is composed of "State-Federal" employees (i.e., not Federal Government). There are no field offices.

Project funding proposals are submitted to headquarters by the States, analyzed by the Commission staff, and submitted to the Commission for recommendation. Upon a favorable vote the projects may be funded by the Federal agency to which funds have been appropriated. No Appalachian money may be spent by such an agency without Commission recommendation. Through its staff and consultants the Commission conducts a program of research, intergovernmental development programing, and technical assistance to the States.

3. History

The Appalachian program is the result of the work of the Conference of Applachian Governors on interstate cooperation for economic development dating from 1960. The President's Appalachian Regional Commission produced a report on the region's situation in 1964, the Appalachian Regional Development Act was passed in March 1965, and the Appalachian Regional Commission held its first meeting in April. After a "quick-start" operation to get projects, particularly highways, underway during the summer construction season the Commission is working with the States on a strategy for