Mr. MEEDS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Dominy, if I might ask just some questions here to clarify some things in my own mind, the costs of production of the water at oceanside, as I recall, are 9.8 cents per thousand gallons?

Mr. DOMINY. Yes, roughly $30 an acre-foot.

Mr. MEEDS. Is that based on the present state of technology?

Mr. DOMINY. No, sir, that is based on the projection of the technology and the improvements of about 1990 to 1995.

Mr. MEEDS. All right.

This project runs considerably beyond that, does it not?

Mr. DOMINY. Yes, the proposal would be to put the plants in in three stages. The last stage would not come until about 2010.

Mr. MEEDS. And the projections are made on the state of the technology as of 1985.

Mr. DOMINY. 1990–95; yes, sir.

Mr. MEEDS. So that two-thirds of this will come after those projections. Now the state of technology can be that much advanced over that time?

Mr. DOMINY. Yes, that is possible.

Mr. MEEDS. So that it is probable that the cost of the water after that time will be even lower than you have projected, is it not?

Mr. DOMINY. It is certainly possible, because under these kinds of plants, you have to figure a replacement life of only about 30 years. So the replacements would also be made at a higher level of technology and advanced science.

Mr. MEEDS. Right.

And this again is based on the 2 million acre-feet, is it not?

Mr. DOMINY. Yes, two to two-and-a-half million.

Mr. MEEDS. And when we are talking about diversions from the Columbia, we are talking about getting into a substantial greater volume, to even be feasible, are we not?

Mr. DOMINY. That is my judgment, yes.

Mr. MEEDS. If we were talking about substantially greater volumes in desalting, is it not true that the costs would also be lower per thousand acre-feet?

Mr. DOMINY. It would be true on the conveyance, which is the highest cost of movement of water for augmentation in any event.

Mr. MEEDS. Then it is not true that you think you could get the costs down——

Mr. DOMINY. I doubt it would greatly affect the desalting costs, because we are figuring about the optimum size plant for the production of atomic power as well as for desalting.

Mr. MEEDS. OK, let's get to the conveyance portion of this.

Again, in comparing this to what would be needed to even get into the realm of feasibility from the Columbia Basin, you are talking in substantially larger numbers. In the conveyances cost of 15 and 16 cents per thousand gallons at 2 million, is it not true that if you were talking in substantially larger volumes, the conveyance costs would also be down from the desalting process?

Mr. DOMINY. Yes, if I am following you. The unit cost for tunnels, for example, decreases rapidly with size. So if you build them to the most economic size, you can probably move 10 or 15 million acre-feet of water through at a much smaller unit cost than for 2 million.