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STATEMENT OF DR. DONALD F. HORNIG, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; ACCOMPANIED BY DR. IVAN L. BENNETT, JR., DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Dr. HORNIG. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee. It is a pleasure for me to respond to your request for an executive branch view of how Federal science resources can support the Nation's goals of improving environmental quality. In recent years, through legislation and new programs, a major new impetus has been given to improving the environment in which man lives, as you have indicated, both now and in the foreseeable future.

Now, to accomplish these ends research is needed in an extraordinarily diverse set of fields ranging from fuels and combustion technology to ecology, to epidemiological studies of health hazards, to studies of atmospheric circulation, to the disposal of radioactive wastes, and so on.

The principal immediate thrust is in the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration of the Department of Interior, the National Center for Air Pollution Control, the National Center for Urban and Industrial Waste, and the National Environmental Sciences Center, all in the Department of HEW, but major activities also going forward in Agriculture, in the Bureau of Mines, the Office of Coal Research, and various other bureaus of the Department of Interior; in the Atomic Energy Commission, the Environmental Sciences Services Administration of the Department of Commerce, the National Science Foundation which supports fundamental research, and in the near future HUD and the Department of Transportation will become increasingly involved. Now, what this reflects is that environmental considerations are involved in practically every activity of our society and our Government.

Environmental change, of course, is not a new phenomenon in our civilization. What is relatively new is the increasing scale, variety, and speed of the change which modern technology generates. The ever-increasing magnitude of the problems posed by air pollution, water pollution, and disposal of solid wastes has become a matter of national concern. In our attempts to cope with today's environmental problems, we have relearned what the ecologists have long known—that apparently isolated changes interact in unanticipated ways and that the eventual restoration of environmental quality will depend upon the solution of a series of interrelated problems, none of which can be understood in isolation from its fellows. We have also learned that though problems of environmental change are generated by technology, their solution cannot be viewed as a purely scientific or technological matter for there are important social, economic, and political factors to be weighed in deciding what actions to take.

It is in this overall context that I will address myself to the contributions which Federal science programs can make to improving the environment.