

Section 4—Secretarial authority

Subsection (e)—S. 991 does not provide for disposal of property acquired under this Act and does not enumerate the ways in which property may be acquired.

Section 5—Prototype construction and operation

Subsection (a)—S. 991 does not provide for participation of other entities in prototype construction and operation. The Administration proposal limits the Federal financial contribution toward prototype plants.

Section 6—Report on prototype work

Section 7(b) (2) of S. 991 provides for a roughly equivalent report by December 31, 1975 (instead of June 30, 1976) and requires a recommendation for phase-out of these functions.

Section 7—Interagency cooperation; treatment of information

S. 991 specifically directs cooperation and coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency to avoid duplication.

Section 8—Effect on water law

Section 5(f) of S. 991 is identical.

Section 9—Periodic reports

S. 991 makes no provision for periodic reports to the President and the Congress.

Section 10—Implementing rules and regulations

Section 6 of S. 991 is identical.

Section 11—Authorized appropriations; use of funds

The Administration proposal provides for appropriations for fiscal years 1973 through 1977, with an additional three years to conclude projects in progress, and an additional year to prepare a final report. Section 7 of S. 991 does not provide the final additional year. S. 991 requires a status report by December 31, 1975, including recommendations for the integration of OSW functions within the programs of the Department of the Interior. The Department bill provides that 2% of any one year's research and development monies may be expended in foreign countries for research. S. 991 prohibits such expenditures.

Section 12—Contracting authority and liability

S. 991 contains no comparable provision making the liability of the United States under contracts contingent upon appropriations being available.

Section 13—Outside assistance

Section 7(d) of S. 991 authorizes the Secretary to accept outside financial and other assistance only for studies and surveys. The Administration proposal permits acceptance of such assistance for the additional purposes of research, construction, maintenance, operation and other activities authorized by the Act. S. 991 does not make any provisions for the return to the public agencies of any unexpended monies and S. 991 does not provide that the receipt of contributed funds shall not be the basis for entering contracts obligating the United States for amounts in excess of such funds unless actual appropriations have been made for such contracts.

Section 14—Short title

Section 9 of S. 991 is identical.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., April 1, 1971.

HON. SPIRO T. AGNEW,
President of the Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: There is enclosed a draft bill "To expand and extend the desalting program being conducted by the Secretary of the Interior."

We recommend that the proposed bill be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and that it be enacted.

With the enactment in 1952 of the Saline Water Act (66 Stat. 328), the Congress recognized the potential crisis that confronted the Nation in the disproportion between the available supply and the increasing demand for water. In that