

operation and maintenance of facilities necessary to carry out authorized functions; (e) acquire and dispose of property or other rights in compliance with applicable law; (f) collect and disseminate pertinent scientific information; (g) inspect projects and, in the case of projects located in the United States, join in their development and operation where the Act's purposes will be served; (h) foster and participate in desalinization conferences; (i) coordinate, correlate, publish and otherwise make available information with a view to advancing the development of low-cost desalting processes; (j) preserve disclosures and discoveries not directly related to desalting made in the course of authorized research and studies; (k) dispose of water and byproducts resulting from activities authorized by the Act; (l) cooperate and participate in these activities with others.

Section 5—provides that in undertaking construction and operation of any prototype plants which may be subsequently authorized, the Secretary may participate with a Federal or State agency. Where the other participant is a non-Federal agency, the Federal share of costs involved shall not exceed 50 percent of construction and of initial operating and maintenance costs (continued no more than 3 years).

Section 6—requires the Secretary to submit a report on the status of the desalting program with recommendations concerning the future Federal role in it, not later than the end of fiscal year 1976.

Section 7—requires the cooperation and coordination of Federal departments and agencies to effectuate the Act's purposes.

Section 8—provides that the Act shall not alter existing law with respect to ownership and control of water.

Section 9—directs the Secretary to report to the President and Congress on the desalting program not less frequently than every two years.

Section 10—provides for issuance by the Secretary of rules and regulations to carry out the Act's purposes.

Section 11—authorizes appropriations as may be necessary (a) to carry out the Act's provisions during fiscal years 1973 to 1977; (b) to finance activities undertaken within such period for an additional 3 years; and (c) to finance for not more than one additional year activities necessary to prepare a final report to the President and Congress. The section permits expenditure for foreign research activities of up to 2 percent of research and development appropriations provided the results of, or information developed in connection with, such research shall be available without cost to the Secretary and to the general public in the United States.

Section 12—provides that when appropriations have been made for any activity authorized by the Act, the Secretary may enter contracts for such duration as he may determine to be necessary, except that the liability of the United States shall be contingent throughout upon the availability of appropriations.

Section 13—permits the Secretary to accept certain financial and other assistance, with contributed funds being available for the designated purposes as if appropriated under section 11. Unused funds will be returned to the donors. The receipt of such funds shall not be the basis for entering contracts obligating the United States unless actual appropriations have also been made.

Section 14—provides that the Act's short title shall be the "Saline Water Conversion Act of 1971".

PROPOSED BILL TO EXPAND AND EXTEND THE DESALTING PROGRAM BEING CONDUCTED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

1. Nature of proposed bill

The proposed bill would amend the Act of July 3, 1952 (66 Stat. 328), as amended (42 U.S.C. 1951-1958g) to expand and extend the desalting program being conducted by the Secretary of the Interior. The details are specified in the bill which this statement accompanies, and further in the covering letters to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The proposed legislation does not provide for a substantive redirection of the existing program.

2. Environmental impact of proposed bill

Because of increasing shortage of usable water, and in view of the importance of finding new sources of supply to meet present and future needs, section 1 of the