

reverse osmosis test beds, planned at a cost of \$2,100,000. This will be for a 250,000-gallon-per-day sea water desalting plant and a 500- to 750,000-gallon-per-day high product recovery desalting plant. Reverse osmosis sea water plants capable of producing 250,000 gallons per day will benefit the small coastal communities and open up a new market for U.S. manufacturers overseas. Three new positions for this category are requested—one assistant to the manager at Roswell, N. Mex., one assistant to the manager at Freeport, Tex., and one lab technician at Wrightsville Beach.

Category 3, our modules category, is decreased by \$4,170,000, which reflects the nonrecurring item appropriated for the VTE/MSF module in fiscal year 1971.

In our fourth category, administration and coordination, we are requesting an increase of \$37,000, which includes the addition of two positions.

The only change that we are requesting in our authorization this year is we are proposing that we be permitted reprogramming authority for category 4. We have reprogramming authority of 10 percent for categories 1, 2, and 3, and we are asking for a 2-percent reprogramming authority for our administration and coordination.

In conclusion, I should like to urge the committee to give favorable consideration to this authorization request. I shall be pleased to answer any questions concerning the current activities we have programed to continue the advance of desalting technology.

(Mr. O'Meara's prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF J. W. O'MEARA, ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SALINE WATER, U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. Chairman, it is a great pleasure to have the opportunity to appear before this Committee.

Up until November 1970 the Office of Saline Water was under the administrative responsibility of the Assistant Secretary for Water Quality and Research. With the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the transfer of the Federal Water Quality Administration to EPA, the position of Assistant Secretary for Water Quality was abolished. By Secretarial Directive, the Office of Saline Water was organizationally reassigned to the Assistant Secretary—Water and Power Resources. These two Offices, together with the Bureau of Reclamation provide, under a single administrative responsibility, an opportunity to coordinate a water research, a water development, and a water management program that is broad in scope and unified in purpose.

We are convinced that continued progress toward competitive desalted water can be achieved. This progress will make available large volumes of new water to meet the ever increasing demands for this vital commodity. The potential of desalination of provide alternative sources of water supply is just beginning to be realized. Its long-range impact on the water supply of this Nation, particularly in the Southwest and in major metropolitan areas throughout the country will become more important with each passing year.

I can assure the members of this committee that I have carefully studied the program we are proposing to undertake in fiscal year 1972, and I urge the committee to give the program favorable consideration.

You have previously received a justification to cover our proposed operations for fiscal year 1972. Before I present a brief highlight summary of the fiscal year 1972 program, I would like to briefly discuss the major activities we have conducted during fiscal year 1971.

FISCAL YEAR 1971 PROGRAM

VTE/MSF Module

When we appeared before this Committee last year, it was our plan to construct the VTE/MSF Module at San Diego, but we were unable to extend our