

During the Eisenhower Administration in 1955, Congress amended its original water desalting Act, extending the program through 1963 and increasing its appropriations to \$10 million.

Speaking before the United Nations on August 14, 1958, President Eisenhower said, "Much scientific and engineering work is already underway in the field of water development. . . . new horizons are opening in the desalting of water. The ancient problem of water is on the threshold of solution. Energy, determination and science will carry it over that threshold." A joint Congressional resolution introduced by Senator Clinton P. Anderson of New Mexico, was passed in that year, authorizing the Interior Department to build no less than five desalting plants to demonstrate the feasibility and potential of different processes.

President Kennedy also endorsed the desalting program, and in 1961 proposed legislation to accelerate development. When the Anderson-Aspinall Act was passed in the fall of 1961, \$75 million was earmarked for research and development during the fiscal years 1962-1967 -- and the saline water program received most of its current operating authority.