



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

CIVIL DIVISION

JUN 5 1970



Lieutenant General Frederick J. Clarke
Chief of Engineers
Corps of Engineers
Department of the Army

Dear General Clarke:

The General Accounting Office has reviewed certain post-authorization additions and deletions to selected Federal water resources projects by the Jacksonville Engineer District Office.

In our letter to the Chief of Engineers, dated July 22, 1969, we cited several examples of significant additions and deletions in the Four River Basin and the Cross-Florida Barge Canal projects which raised questions regarding the adequacy of the reporting criteria in providing complete and accurate information to the Bureau of the Budget and the Congress on changes to authorized projects and the estimated cost of Corps' projects.

By letter dated October 23, 1969, you advised us that the principal means of informing the Congress as a whole of changes in an authorized project is through the Appropriations Committees in that the budget justification sheets and testimony on projects are published and become available to the entire Congress. You stated that the Corps was always ready and willing to provide information required by the Bureau of the Budget and the Congress in connection with the administration of the civil works program and concluded that the present system is satisfactorily providing the information desired.

Although we question that the Appropriations Committees were presented with the best information available for those projects cited, we recognize that the projects were in the very early stages of development and we have noted that the matters discussed in our letter have been substantially corrected. In addition, we looked briefly at several projects in the New Orleans and Fortland District Offices and found no indication that similar problems exist with regard to reporting.

Although the adequacy of information being presented to the Congress and the Bureau of the Budget is a matter of prime consideration in all of our reviews and will continue to be so in future reviews, we plan no further reporting on this subject at this time.

7-15-70
088936

We wish to express our thanks for the cooperation and courtesies extended to our representatives during the review.

Copies of this report are also being sent today to the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Army.

Sincerely yours,

Allen R. Voss

Allen R. Voss
Associate Director