

DOCUMENT RESUME

03706 - [B2914157] ~~(Restricted)~~

Released 10/19/77

[Review of Energy Conservation by the Government]. LCD-78-102; B-146864. October 14, 1977. 1 pp. + 4 enclosures (4 pp.).

Report to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy; by Robert G. Rothwell (for Fred J. Shafer, Director, Logistics and Communications Div.).

Issue Area: Military Preparedness Plans: Military Communications and Information Processing Needs (203); Energy: Effect of Federal Efforts on Energy Conservation (1607).

Contact: Logistics and Communications Div.

Budget Function: National Defense: Department of Defense - Military (except procurement & contracts) (051); General Science, Space, and Technology: Telecommunications and Radio Frequency Spectrum Use (258); Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy: Energy (305).

Organization Concerned: Department of Defense; Energy Research and Development Administration; Federal Energy Administration; General Services Administration.

Congressional Relevance: Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

The performance of a Government-wide review of the potential conservation of energy through the replacement of existing Government-owned and leased communications/electronics with modern, more energy-efficient equipment and facilities would be a gigantic task. Existing plant investment is in excess of \$50 billion by the Government and about \$76 billion by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, of which a significant but undeterminable portion is used by the Government under lease arrangements. Appropriations and capital funds are not available to replace these facilities except incrementally over the very long term. Net replacement costs versus cost savings would be a principal determinant for any alternative selected. Government agencies and departments are continually planning for transition to more modern facilities and the phasing out of older and less energy-efficient facilities consistent with operating, economic, and appropriations or capital funding availability considerations and constraints. (SC)

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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

LOGISTICS AND COMMUNICATIONS
DIVISION

Released 10/19/77
OCT 14 1977

B-146864

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senate

Dear Senator Kennedy:

In your letter of September 30, 1977, you requested our comments on the suggestion by your constituent that the General Accounting Office look into the conservation of energy through the replacement of existing Government-owned and leased communications/electronics with modern, more energy-efficient equipment and facilities.

We are aware of this potential. To perform such a review on a Government-wide basis, as your constituent implies, would be a gigantic task in view of the size of the existing plant investment (in excess of \$50 billion by the Government and about \$76 billion by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company - of which a significant but undeterminable portion is used by the Government under lease arrangements). Appropriations and capital funds are not available to replace these facilities except incrementally over the very long term. Obviously, net replacement costs versus cost savings is a principal determinant for any alternative selected. We know, from our work, that Government agencies and departments (and of course AT&T) are continually planning for transition to more modern facilities and the phasing out of older (also less energy-efficient) facilities consistent with operating, economic, and appropriations or capital funding availability considerations and constraints. These activities are subject to our continuing reviews; and the specific area of energy conservation will be addressed, where appropriate. We do plan to address this specific area to a limited and manageable extent as time and staff become available and priorities permit.

I hope the above comments are responsive to your request. As you requested, the enclosures to your letter of September 30, 1977, are returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

F. J. Shafer
F. J. Shafer
Director

Enclosures

LCD-78-102

United States Senate

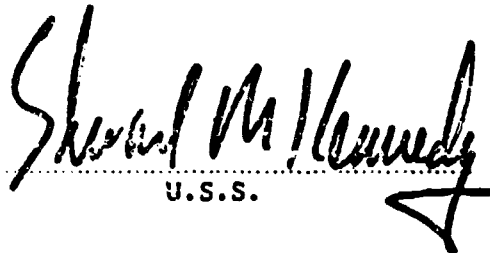
9/28 7 SEP 30 All.

Respectfully referred to:

G/O-

We would appreciate
your comments on this -
Thanks.

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by


U.S.S.

Form #2

Attn: Fran McElroy

ENCLOSURE II

ENCLOSURE II

4 Eubar Circle
Billerica, Mass. 01821

SUBJECT: Energy Conservation.

7 September 1977

Office of the Regional Manager
United States General Accounting Office
Room 1903, John F. Kennedy Federal Building
Government Center
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

Dear Sir:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of letter addressed to the Honorable Edward M. Kennedy concerning the upgrading the "GAO, " Telecommunications Report 1971, Digital Communications System " to meet the requirements of conservation of energy, and to retain our national resources.

An estimated five megawatts per hour of electric power is used to provide the United States telecommunications for leased services to each federal agency for their requirements with facilities that maybe between five and forty years old: because of design, operational restrictions require high energy for operation. These systems and facilities are both government and common carrier (telephone companies) owned need upgrading to insure lower maintenance and operational costs with considerable power reduction and energy conservation applied.

During past years, I have had the good opportunity to be associated with Mr. Foley of your Boston Office when I was at Hanscom Air Force Base, prior to my retirement.

Sincerely,

James E. O'Neil

Enc. Copy of Ltr. to
Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

NOTE * GAO Ltr. dated 2 March 1971 to
CG, ASD, L.G.Hanscom Fld. Holford, Ma.
requesting support and report.

4 Eubar Circle
Billerica, Mass. 01821

SUBJECT: Energy Conservation.

7 September 1977

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Kennedy:

This letter concerns energy conservation applied to the telephone systems owned by the federal government and the telephone companies, common carriers, with services leased to the United States. The administration of these communication services are the Department of Defense, and the General Services Administration.

A draft preliminary study is being prepared to upgrade the General Accounting Office report, "Telecommunications, Digital Communication Systems" dated 1971 to identify areas using high energy requirements for systems operation.

A conservative estimate of power required to support all services required by the United States are telephone communication facilities owned by the government and the telephone companies, that are leased, is about five million watts per hour, each hour per day, every day of the year.

A saving of 60 to 80 percent in energy conservation might be possible by the methods of modern technology practices and engineering for the upgrading all facilities government owned and leased from the common carriers.

Funding and adequate appropriations are required for a constructive study combined with a facility replacement program to be established to insure that the United States are provided services that meet the national energy policy requirements for the conservation of natural resources. The spin-off products are: (1) more reliable communication facilities; (2) Maintenance cost reduction; with improved leased service in the private sector by the common carriers.

Please advise your supporting interests and recommendations for a program of this nature.

Sincerely,

Lawrence E. Orm

Copy to the Boston Office of the GAO.

Forward for Director's Control to: LCD	
Advance Copy to:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For action Mr. Eirich	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For info Messrs. Shafer, Helmer, Canfield
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS LCD will co-ordinate with EMD on this request.	
By: <i>mjs</i>	Date: 9-30-77