

## DOCUMENT RESUME

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[Deferrals of Budget Authority for Water Resources Projects].  
OGC-77-16; B-115398. April 18, 1977. 2 pp.

Report to the Congress; by Robert F. Keller, Deputy Comptroller General.

Issue Area: Water and Water Related Programs (2500).

Contact: Office of the Comptroller General.

Budget Function: Miscellaneous: Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (1005).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Army: Corps of Engineers; Bureau of Reclamation; Department of Defense.

Congressional Relevance: Congress. Rep. Ralph H. Metcalfe.

Authority: Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

Two Presidential deferrals of budget authority totaling \$12.6 million that had been provided for water resources projects to be undertaken by the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation were investigated. Findings/Conclusions: The administration originally deferred \$7.76 million of fiscal year 1977 funds for Corps of Engineers construction projects. These funds were for major contracts which were scheduled for award before the completion date of the President's review of all water resources projects. The Office of Management and Budget is currently deferring only the funds for the Meramec Park Lake project, which accounts for \$2.665 million of the originally deferred amount. Funds for the other projects were apportioned on March 14, 1977. The contractor for one project has been notified to begin work; bids for the other projects have been received, and these contracts should be awarded as scheduled. The deferral for the Colorado River Basin Project under the Bureau of Reclamation was in effect for only a short time. The \$4.79 million designated for the project was released on March 15, 1977. The award of the contract for this project was delayed by 4 days. Funds for the water resources projects have been apportioned, but some delays in the use of the fiscal year 1977 budget authority may be occurring as a result of actions at the agency level pending completion of the President's review of the programs. (SC)



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COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

April 18, 1977

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To the President of the Senate and the  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

On March 24, 1977, we received copies of the President's ninth special message for fiscal year 1977 that was transmitted to the Congress pursuant to the Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

The special message reported two deferrals of budget authority totaling \$12.6 million that had been provided for the following water resources projects to be undertaken by the Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-CIVIL

D77-53 Corps of Engineers  
Construction, general

Concerning this deferral, Corps of Engineers officials told us the Administration originally deferred \$7.76 million of fiscal year 1977 funds. These funds were for major contracts which were scheduled for award before April 15, 1977 --the completion date of the President's review for all water resource projects. The contracts were for the Yatesville Lake, Meramec Park Lake and Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf, and Black projects.

As mentioned in the deferral message, CMB is currently deferring only the funds for the Meramec Park Lake project (accounting for \$2.665 million of the originally deferred \$7.76 million). The Meramec Park Lake project funds have been earmarked for abutment preparation and land acquisition activities. The Comptroller General reported this impoundment to the Congress on March 21, 1977. We have confirmed that the funds for the other two projects (\$5,095,000) were apportioned on March 14, 1977.

Corps of Engineers officials told us that a contract has been awarded for the Yatesville Lake project and that notification to the contractor to proceed on his work under the contract was given on March 16, 1977. We were also informed that

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bids for the Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Bceuf, and Black projects have been received and that these contracts should be awarded as scheduled.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

D77-54 Bureau of Reclamation  
Colorado River Basin project

Concerning D77-54, Bureau of Reclamation officials told us that this deferral was only in effect for a short time; \$4.79 million designated for reach number 9 of the Central Arizona project was temporarily deferred and this money subsequently was released on March 15, 1977. While we have confirmed OMB's apportionment of the funds on that date, we also found that the contract for this project was scheduled to be awarded on March 27, 1977, but that award did not take place until March 31, 1977.

We have confirmed that funds for the water resources projects have been apportioned by OMB. We understand that some delays in the use of the fiscal year 1977 budget authority may be occurring as a result of actions at the agency level pending completion of the President's review of the programs later this month. We are monitoring the agencies' actions and will report our findings to the Congress as more detailed information becomes available.

  
Deputy Comptroller General  
of the United States