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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548



OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

IN REPLY REFER TO: B-196797

May 8, 1980

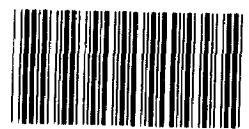
To the President of the Senate and the  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

The purpose of this letter is to report on the status of budget authority that was proposed for rescission, but for which Congress failed to pass a rescission bill as defined by section 1011 of the Impoundment Control Act. 1974

In his sixth special message for fiscal year 1980, dated March 4, 1980, the President proposed the rescission of \$17.0 million in budget authority that had been made available to the Department of Energy for plant and equipment for atomic energy defense activities (rescission proposal R80-4). The funds proposed for rescission had been earmarked for construction of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in southeastern New Mexico.

Section 1012(b) of the Impoundment Control Act requires that funds proposed for rescission be made available for obligation unless the Congress completes action on a rescission bill within the 45-day period of continuous congressional session following the day such a proposal is received by the Congress. For rescission proposal R80-4, the 45-day period ended on April 29, 1980, without the Congress having passed such a bill.

9/2 We have confirmed that on April 30, 1980, the subject budget authority was apportioned by the Office of Management and Budget to the Department of Energy and that the funds were allotted to the program.



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Harry R. Van Cleve  
for Milton J. Socolar  
General Counsel

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