

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS
 BILL, 1998

JULY 21, 1997.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. MCDADE, from the Committee on Appropriations,
 submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 2209]

The Committee on Appropriations submits the following report in explanation of the accompanying bill making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

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SUMMARY OF ESTIMATES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee has considered budget estimates which are contained in the *Budget of the United States Government, 1998*. The following table summarizes appropriations for fiscal year 1997, the budget estimates and amounts recommended in the bill for fiscal year 1998.

year 2006 and after fiscal year 2006. The Committee expects the Department to provide budget quality data for each project. The Ten Year Plan should address the full life-cycle costs and schedules. The Committee urges the Department to consider risk and mortgage reduction in the prioritization and sequencing of clean-up projects.

The Committee is concerned that the Department is trying to force a scope of work to fit into an unrealistic acceleration plan using efficiency goals or management challenges that are virtually impossible to meet, especially in the out-years. While the Committee applauds the Department's efforts to be more efficient and believes that there are additional savings to be gained by doing the most important work first and by lowering the cost of doing business, relying on basically yet-to-be defined goals of the magnitude presented in discussion document challenges the overall credibility of the plan. Accordingly, the Committee strongly urges the Department to create a Ten Year Plan that completes as much as the cleanup mission as possible by 2006, with aggressive but defensible efficiency goals, using data based on the true state of the individual Environmental Management sites. The Committee discourages the Department from writing a plan and then trying to force-fit data as appears to be the case with the "Focus on 2006" draft.

The Committee also urges the Department to consider more realistic land use planning assumptions than have been used previously. Consideration should be given to existing compliance agreements; however, there should be flexibility in the process to allow for changes where an improved outcome can be demonstrated.

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Low-Level Waste Disposal.—The Committee strongly encourages the Department to pursue an open competition for waste disposal services for various categories of low-level radioactive and mixed low-level radioactive waste. This proposal should also allow for an evaluation of an alternative regulatory structure under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act. The Department should report back to the Committee by November 30, 1997, on the status of this competitive proposal.

Reprogramming Authority.—Last year Congress provided greater flexibility to meet changing funding requirements at former defense sites which are undergoing remedial cleanup activities. In fiscal year 1998, each site manager may continue to transfer up to \$5,000,000 between Defense Environmental Restoration and Waste Management programs and construction projects to reduce health or safety risks or to gain cost savings as long as no program or project is increased or decreased by more than \$5,000,000 once during the fiscal year. This reprogramming authority may not be used to initiate new programs or programs specifically denied, limited, or increased by Congress in the Act or report. The Committees on Appropriations in the House and Senate must be notified within thirty days after the transfer of funds occurs.

Economic development.—The Committee wants to reiterate the prohibition against using environmental management funds for economic development activities. The Committee appropriates funding for the "Worker and Community Transition Program" which is the only program authorized in the Department to provide eco-