



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

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IN REPLY REFER TO: B-196797

March 31, 1980



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

On March 4, 1980, the [President's sixth special message for fiscal year 1980] was transmitted to the Congress pursuant to the Impoundment Control Act of 1974. The special message proposed a rescission (R80-4) involving funds appropriated to the Department of Energy for plant and capital equipment for atomic energy defense activities. Specifically, the rescission proposes to rescind \$17.0 million earmarked for construction of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in southeastern New Mexico.

Based on the current legislative calendar, the 45-day period of continuous session during which funds proposed for rescission in R80-4 may be withheld pending congressional consideration of a rescission bill ends on April 29, 1980. Under section 1012(b) of the Impoundment Control Act, the funds covered by R80-4 must be made available for obligation if a rescission bill is not passed by the Congress before the expiration of the 45-day period.

James B. Streats
Comptroller General
of the United States

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