

*Ocean Margin Drilling*

May 1980

NTIS order #PB80-198302

OCEAN  
MARGIN  
DRILLING

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A TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

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MAY 1980



OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Office of Technology Assessment  
Washington, D. C. 20540

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 80-600083

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office  
Washington, D.C. 20402 Stock No. 052-003-00754-1

PREFACE

This Technical Memorandum was prepared in response to a request from the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of the HUD-Independent Agencies Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The Committee requested that OTA conduct an evaluation of the Ocean Margin Drilling Program, a major new public-private cooperative research effort in marine geology proposed by the National Science Foundation. They were particularly interested in the scientific merits of the program and whether other, less costly alternatives could yield the same or greater scientific return.

Because OTA already had a more general ongoing study of ocean research technology, the agency was able to respond quickly to this request. The Memorandum was prepared with the advice and assistance of a small panel of scientists plus a much broader group of scientists, engineers, petroleum company representatives, and others who submitted material for our use and reviewed our draft report. The study discusses the scientific merit of the program, possible alternatives to the present program plan, problems associated with technology development, aspects of petroleum company participation in the program, and government management considerations. There are also appendices including specific alternatives proposed by the OTA panel members and historical factors leading to the present plans.



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The staff wishes to acknowledge the help and cooperation of the following groups and individuals during the preparation and review of this study:

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