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cience, Information, and Natural Resources Division

OTA's Oceans and Environment Program is responsible for all ocean-related questions, including ocean resources and maritime policy, and for large-scale environmental issues, such as climate modification and water pollution. The work of the Program usually falls under one of five basic categories: Federal services, natural resources, pollution control, marine industry, and large-scale environmental issues.

The Science, Education, and Transportation Program is responsible for work on a variety of topics, ranging from transportation and infrastructure to the newer issues of science policy and education. Science policy considers viability of the U.S. scientific enterprise, as well as allocation and decision-methods available to the Congress to support and manage research. Research in education, while concentrating on schools, also includes studies using technology for alternative learning environments.

The Telecommunication and Computing Technologies Program is responsible for assisting Congress in developing national policies related to telecommunications, information, microelectronics, software, and computer technologies. The Program's responsibilities include monitoring the research



The Division comprises three programs: Oceans and Environment; Science, Education, and Transportation; and Telecommunication and Computing Technologies.

and development of new information technologies and assessing the implications of these technologies for the American industry and the public.

FY1991 Activities

The diversified nature of the subjects the Division covers made it particularly useful in the legislative process of the 102d Congress. The Division released two major environmental studies during the year, both of which were used heavily in Congressional debate. Its study of defense nuclear waste was significant in developing such legislative proposals as the Federal Facilities Compliance Act and measures incorporated into the Department of Defense authorization act. The assessment of global climate change assisted Congress in the consideration of more than 150 bills dealing with some aspect of climate change.

OTA transportation studies played a prominent role in legislative action in FY1991. The study on infrastructure technology, management, and financing provided major impetus for consideration of dramatically new surface transportation legislation. The analysis of issues related to tiltrotor aircraft and



magnetic levitation vehicles was valuable in assisting committees in determining funding, OTA's work on federally funded research has been instrumental in assisting the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee's Task Force on the Health of Research.

The Division released a major assessment of rural telecommunications issues in FY1991 which has been instrumental in legislation relevant to the Rural Electrification Administration. The Division's work on automated record checks for Firearm purchasers was critical in the debate on significant new crime legislation.

CHANGING BY DEGREES, STEPS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES, FEBRUARY 1991

Requested by:
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

COMPLEX CLEAN UP. THE ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCTION, FEBRUARY 1991

Long-Lived Legacy Managing High-Uvel and Transuranic Waste at the DOE Nuclear Weapons Complex- Background Paper, May 1991

Requested by:
Senate Committee on Armed Services
House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries
House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

FINDING THE RX FOR MANAGING MEDICAL WASTE, FEBRUARY 1991

Requested by:
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

BIOREMEDIATION FOR MARINE OIL SPILLS--BACKGROUND PAPER, MAY 1991

Requested by:
Technology Assessment Board

DELIVERING THE GOODS: PUBLIC WORKS TECHNOLOGIES, MANAGEMENT, AND FINANCING, APRIL 1991

Requested by:
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH: DECISIONS FOR A DECADE, MAY 1991

Requested by:
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

MOVING AHEAD: 1991 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION, JUNE 1991

Requested by:
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

SEEKING SOLUTIONS. HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING FOR SCIENCE--BACKGROUND PAPER, MARCH 1991

Requested by:
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

RURAL AMERICA AT THE CROSSROADS: NETWORKING FOR THE FUTURE, MAY 1991

Requested by:
Joint Economic Committee

AUTOMATED RECORD CHECKS OF FIREARM PURCHASERS: ISSUES AND OPTIONS, JULY 1991

Requested by:
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

