

*The Regulatory Environment for Science*

February 1986

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**THE REGULATORY  
ENVIRONMENT  
FOR SCIENCE**

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**A TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM**

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FEBRUARY 1986



MEMORANDUM OF THE OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT  
OFFICE of Technology Assessment  
Washington, D. C. 20540

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# Foreword

The vitality of American science is a principal component of our country's economic and intellectual success. Congress, among other institutions, bears responsibility for nurturing creativity and exploration in science while providing appropriate safeguards. Various direct and indirect forces, however, are continually altering the agenda for scientific endeavor, its methods and practices, and the dissemination of results. It is therefore essential that Congress, in providing direction and funding for science at the Federal level, understands these forces and how they are changing.

This technical memorandum, requested by the Task Force on Science Policy of the House Committee on Science and Technology, provides a "snapshot" of factors affecting science in the 1980s, and focuses on emerging issues that will require consideration by Congress.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John H. Gibbons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

JOHN H. GIBBONS  
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