

STATEMENT BY PAUL TSONGAS
June 2, 1977

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is simple and should be non-controversial. I believe that it places into language everyone's intent that environmental concerns be considered on the front end of energy development decisions as well as on the back end.

Section 621 specifically authorizes the Secretary to make a report to the President for submission to the Congress on the activities of the Department at the end of each fiscal year. The report is to include a statement of the Secretary's goals, priorities, plans and an assessment of the Department's achievements during the preceding fiscal year. The report shall further include information currently required by Section 15 of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 and Section 307 of the Energy Research and Development Act of 1974. Although the reporting requirements of the Department as currently stated in H.R. 6804 and the Senate bill, S. 826, are consistent with the reports currently required of the Administrators of ERDA, FEA, and FPC, they provide insufficient information upon which the Congress and the President can base their assessments of the activities of the Department so as to assure protection of the environment.

The language of this amendment is consistent with the intent of the Administration as referenced in the numerous statements before the Congress on the formation of both the new Department and the National Energy Plan, and, specifically, in the Report of the Senate Government Operations Committee on S. 826.

Further, the House Science and Technology Committee has, in the ERDA 1978 Authorization legislation, H.R. 6796, seen fit to amend Sections 6 and 15(a) of the Federal Nonnuclear Research and Development Act of 1974 so as to require that similar information be provided to the President for submission to the Congress.

Mr. Chairman, simply stated, my amendment will specifically place into the legislation the stated intent of the Administration to have reported the activities of the Federal Government, including the Department of Energy, which have been and are intended to be undertaken to guarantee the maintenance of the environment.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that such a responsibility will add to the efficiency of the Department's development of energy resources. We are all painfully aware of circumstances in which the failure to consider environmental impacts on the front-end of the process have led to costly difficulties, delay and waste when such impacts arose on the back-end of the process. In my area of the country, we are witnessing such a sad occurrence with respect to the construction of the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant at Seabrook, New Hampshire. Although this example relates to the interaction between NRC and EPA and not directly to activity which will be carried out by DOE, it is a startling example of the economic havoc and waste which can be generated by the failure to factor environmental considerations at an early stage.

I am sure that we can all agree that the monitoring activities necessary to guarantee that technological programs, funded by the Department, are undertaken in a manner consistent with the quality

of the environment ^{are} ~~is~~ desirable and necessary. My amendment is basically a "housekeeping effort" to insure that specific mandate in the legislation.