



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

B-221498

December 26, 1985

The Honorable Don Fuqua
Chairman, Committee on Science
and Technology
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of December 16, 1985, concerning the effect of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 on the science agencies whose programs are authorized by the Committee on Science and Technology. You asked that we provide to the Committee prior to January 21, 1986, an analysis of the impact of that Act on those science agencies.

Unfortunately, we will not be in a position to advise you of the specific effects of the Act until we have issued the report of the Comptroller General, as required by Section 251(b) of the Act. The schedule in the Act calls for the report to be issued on January 20, but since that date is a holiday, the Act provides for the report to be issued on January 21.

We expect the required report to be issued on time and to include, for each appropriation account (and in somewhat greater detail for defense programs) the specific amount of the outlay reduction required by the Act for fiscal year 1986 and the amount of the sequestration required to achieve that reduction. Because of the complexity of the process required for computing the appropriate amounts and the voluminous data required to make those computations, it would be premature for us to speculate prior to issuance of our report about the effects on particular programs.

Once our report has been issued, we would be pleased to meet with your Committee to explain any elements of the report that may be of particular interest or concern. If you would find that useful, please let us know and we will provide a briefing at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Comptroller General
of the United States