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DECEMBER 12, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSEFACT SHEETFIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITYBACKGROUND

The Council on Environmental Quality was established in the Executive Office of the President by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on January 1, 1970. The Council is charged with developing and recommending environmental policies, gathering information on environmental conditions and trends, reviewing Federal, State, and local environmental activities, and preparing an annual report on environmental quality for the President and the Congress.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The fifth Annual Report contains six chapters:

Chapter 1, Land Use, summarizes current knowledge about the process of development, particularly on the urban fringe. The chapter:

- reviews environmental, economic, and social impacts of land development, the various stimulants which affect development, and the different tools available to control the pace and character of development
- summarizes information on leisure home developments
- describes how various policies and actions of the Federal Government -- ranging from Federal tax laws through pollution control regulations to decisions on energy development -- impact on patterns of land use
- shows that sewers and sewage treatment plants have replaced highways as prime determinants of the location of development in urban areas
- reviews tools available to communities to control and direct the development process.

Chapter 2, Perspectives on the Environment, discusses major developments in the past year in Government programs to protect the environment. The chapter:

- includes sections on energy, air quality, solid waste, water quality, hazardous pollutants, radiation, noise, pollution control at Federal facilities, costs of pollution abatement, and protecting our natural heritage
- analyzes the impact of last year's energy crisis on the national perspective toward environmental policy
- estimates that the Nation will spend \$194.8 billion over the 10-year period from 1973 through 1982 for environmental improvement as the result of Federal environmental legislation. This will involve an average cost per person of

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\$35-\$40 in 1973 and approximately \$80 in 1976
(about 2% of family income)

- reviews experience with predator control since 1972

Chapter 3, Environmental Conditions and Trends, provides information about the condition of the environment and important trends in environmental quality. The chapter:

- includes sections on population, air and water quality, minerals and materials, pesticides, and wildlife
- reports on recent trends in air and water quality which show some long-term improvements in urban air quality and mixed trends in water quality
- provides for the first time a set of statistical tables summarizing conditions and trends in environmental quality

Chapter 4, The National Environmental Policy Act, reviews the evolution of NEPA over the first five years. This chapter:

- reviews recent administrative and judicial developments
- analyzes the adoption of the impact statement mechanism by foreign nations and 21 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

Chapter 5, A Global Environment, describes the development of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and the broad range of international environmental efforts now underway around the globe.

Chapter 6, CEQ Studies, provides brief descriptions of some of CEQ's analytical work over the past year.

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