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112TH CONGRESS
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT
112–331

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

CONFERENCE REPORT

TO ACCOMPANY

H.R. 2055

DECEMBER 15, 2011.—Ordered to be printed

agency administrative costs, overhead costs, working capital expenses, or contingencies.

(a) No assessment shall be levied against any program, budget activity, sub-activity, budget line item, or project funded by the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act unless such assessment and the basis therefore are presented to the Committees on Appropriations in the budget justifications and are subsequently approved by the Committees. The explanation for any assessment in the budget justification shall show the amount of the assessment, the activities assessed, and the purpose of the funds.

(b) Proposed changes to estimated assessments, as such estimates were presented in annual budget justifications, shall be submitted through the reprogramming process and shall be subject to the same dollar and reporting criteria as any other reprogramming.

(c) The conferees direct that each agency or bureau which utilizes assessments shall submit an annual report to the Committees which provides details on the use of all funds assessed from any other budget activity, line item, sub-activity, or project.

(d) In no case shall contingency funds or assessments be used to finance projects and activities disapproved or limited by Congress, or to finance programs or activities that could be foreseen and included in the normal budget review process.

(e) New programs requested in the budget should not be initiated before enactment of the bill without notification to, and the approval of, the Committees on Appropriations. This restriction applies to all such actions regardless of whether a formal reprogramming of funds is required to begin the program.

Quarterly Reports.—All reprogrammings between budget activities, budget line-items, program areas, or the more detailed activity levels shown in the Statement of the Managers, including those below the monetary thresholds established above, shall be reported to the Committees within 60 days of the end of each quarter and shall include cumulative totals for each budget activity, budget line item, or construction, land acquisition, or forest legacy project.

Land Acquisitions, Easements, and Forest Legacy.—Lands shall not be acquired for more than the approved appraised value (as addressed in section 301(3) of Public Law 91–646), unless such acquisitions are submitted to the Committees on Appropriations for approval in compliance with these procedures.

Land Exchanges.—Land exchanges, wherein the estimated value of the Federal lands to be exchanged is greater than $1,000,000, shall not be consummated until the Committees have had a 30-day period in which to examine the proposed exchange. In addition, the Committees shall be provided advance notification of exchanges valued between $500,000 and $1,000,000.

Budget Structure.—The budget activity or line item structure for any agency appropriation account shall not be altered without advance approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.