



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

December 7, 2005

S. 1025

Wichita Project Equus Beds Division Authorization Act of 2005

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
on November 16, 2005*

SUMMARY

S. 1025 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the funding and implementation of the Equus Beds Aquifer Recharge project in Wichita, Kansas. This aquifer is a primary source of water for the city of Wichita, along with the Cheney Reservoir. The legislation would limit the federal share of the project's cost to 25 percent of total costs, or a maximum of \$30 million, plus adjustments for inflation.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amount, CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost \$15 million over the 2007-2010 period and another \$20 million after 2010, including adjustments for anticipated inflation. Enacting S. 1025 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 1025 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The funds authorized in the bill would benefit the city of Wichita. Any costs incurred by the city for operating and maintaining the project would be incurred voluntarily.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1025 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Estimated Authorization Level	0	5	5	5	5
Estimated Outlays	0	1	3	5	6

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 1025 will be enacted in fiscal year 2006 and that the authorized amount—including adjustments for inflation—will be appropriated in equal amounts over the 2007-2013 period.

Currently, the estimate of the project's total cost is \$120 million; therefore, under S. 1025, the federal share of the project's current cost (before adjusting for inflation) would equal the maximum level of \$30 million specified in the bill. After adjusting for anticipated inflation, CBO estimates that the federal share of the project would cost \$35 million.

Based on information from the Bureau of Reclamation and historical spending patterns of similar projects, CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost \$15 million over the 2007-2010 period and another \$20 million after 2010.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1025 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The funds authorized in the bill would benefit the city of Wichita. Any costs incurred by the city for operating and maintaining the project would be incurred voluntarily.

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