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Press Release - Announcement of Hearings on National Environmental Laboratory System

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UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIR AND WATER POLLUTION
4202 NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C.

TO ALL NEWS MEDIA
FOR MONDAY A.M. RELEASE

April 5, 1971

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Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D. Maine) Chairman of the Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution, today announced that public hearings on S.1113, a bill to establish a National Environmental Laboratory System, will be held in Washington on April 28 and 29, and May 3, 4, 5, and 6.

S.1113 was introduced March 4, 1971, by Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr., Senator Muskie, and 32 other Senators. It would establish an independent research institution managed by a Board of Trustees to be funded at an authorized level of \$1 billion per year.

The proposal is a result of an informal task force study conducted at the request of Senators Baker and Muskie by the staff of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The task force identified the need for an organizational entity capable of undertaking multi-disciplinary assessment of the impact of applied technology on the quality of the natural environment.

"Senator Baker and I have studied carefully the nature of the environmental crises," Senator Muskie said. "We recognize that identification of the problem is academic if we are unable to propose means to achieve solutions."

The hearings will be held in Room 4200 of the New Senate Office Building and will begin each day at 10:00 a.m.

The following information related to S. 1113 and National Environmental Laboratories is available from the Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution:

- (1) The Case for National Environmental Laboratories, January 1970; and
- (2) National Environmental Laboratories -- A Compilation of Comments, January 1971.