

Appendix C: Agency Data Limitations

During this search, several agencies were realized to have incomplete FY99 data in the RaDiUS database. This appendix describes these occurrences, how they were addressed, and what their impact may have been on the overall results of the search.

Department of Agriculture

Eight projects at the Department of Agriculture had neither project funding information nor budget authority meaning these projects had no estimate of funding.

Department of Commerce

Seven projects at the Department of Commerce had neither project funding information nor budget authority meaning these projects had no estimate of funding.

Department of Defense

Due to the desire to exercise discretion and sensitivity, DOD does not provide RaDiUS with complete and unrestricted information for all of its unclassified R&D projects. While some of this information is included in RaDiUS, it may only be viewable to employees of DOD, the federal government at large, or government contractors. Given that the results of this search were to be publicly available, no restricted records were included in this search. This means that some R&D may have been missed by the search effort.

In addition, some DOD projects have incomplete funding information meaning that funds were estimated from budget authority where possible. However 23 DOD projects had neither project-level budgets or budget authority information available. For this reason, no funding estimate could be included for these 23 projects.

A final limitation was that the Army Corps of Engineers, which does provide funding information, does not provide the project descriptions needed to assess

the relevance of 107 projects representing \$15.5 million in Corps R&D. During discussions with Corps personnel it became apparent that RaDiUS does not include all aspects of the Corps' R&D portfolio—perhaps due to the OMB coding problem discussed in Chapter 2. For this reason, even though project descriptions were not available, all 107 projects were included in the resulting database, though these records were categorized as “Unknown”.

Department of Health & Human Services

The FY99 RaDiUS data for the Department of Health and Human Services lacked project descriptions for the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH). During discussions with a representative from NIOSH, actual FY99 budget --not average annual funding levels-- and project totals were provided to RAND and substituted into the project database.

Department of Housing & Urban Development

The RaDiUS database also had incomplete FY99 information for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Fortunately, HUD was able to provide detailed project information from other sources. This information was substituted into the project database.

Department of State

While RaDiUS does not include any FY99 R&D for the State Department, contact with agency representatives determined that in the past applied R&D has been conducted jointly by Diplomatic Security and Foreign Buildings Operations. These efforts have addressed blast mitigation, perimeter wall testing, and field test verification of software simulations.

Department of Transportation

Within the Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) had roughly 170 projects worth \$135 million that lacked project descriptions. Discussions with FHA confirmed that if project descriptions were available, these projects would be properly categorized as either “Structural Engineering & Natural Hazards” or “Concrete, Cement, Pavement, & Asphalt” R&D categories. However, since it was not possible to differentiate which category was appropriate for a given project, these projects were placed along with others into the more general “Transportation Infrastructure” category.

Finally, one DOT project lacked both project-level funding and budget authority information meaning it had no associated funding.