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Mr. Jacob Rosenthal
 Director of Public Information

September 16, 1966

LAND AND NATURAL
 RESOURCES DIVISION

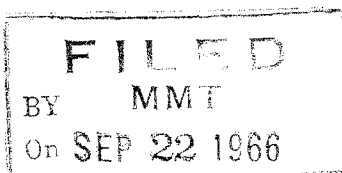
Edwin L. Weisal, Jr.
 Assistant Attorney General
 Land and Natural Resources Division

Land and Natural Resources Division - - - Operation
 and Organization

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In response to your inquiry of September 2nd, this Division is concerned with the interpretation and application in litigation of statutes which have been estimated to number in excess of five thousand. Unfortunately these are not gathered in any one place but are generally scattered through the titles of the United States Code. Still others must be sought in the many volumes of the Statutes at Large. A body created for the purpose, the Public Land Law Review Commission, is presently engaged in a three-year, several-million dollar study of a part of these statutes, and identification and collection of the statutes is occupying a substantial portion of its efforts.

In view of the above-mentioned circumstances I trust you will excuse my not attempting to furnish you with the "list of laws" referred to in the first paragraph of your memo. I refer you, instead, to the recapitulation of the responsibilities of this division set out beginning on page 219 of the United States Government Organization Manual, 1965-1966, adding that representation of the United States in suits for abatement of water and air pollution also is a function of the division. Section 0.65 of Title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations (Revised as of January 1, 1966), whereby the formal assignment of matters to the supervision of Assistant Attorney General in charge of this division is made, presents a different form of recapitulation of division functions. For a somewhat broader view of division functions I refer you to the matter beginning at page 271 of the Annual Report of the Attorney General * * * 1965. With respect to all of these, you should bear in mind that the title of this division was changed from "Lands Division" to "Land and Natural Resources Division" during the past fiscal year, in recognition of the large and growing involvement of



the division with matters related to the development and conservation of the natural resources of the United States.

The attorney personnel of this division since 1955 has fluctuated between 95 and 110. There are two very small field offices, in New York, and Florida, which are engaged in the acquisition of land through condemnation proceedings.