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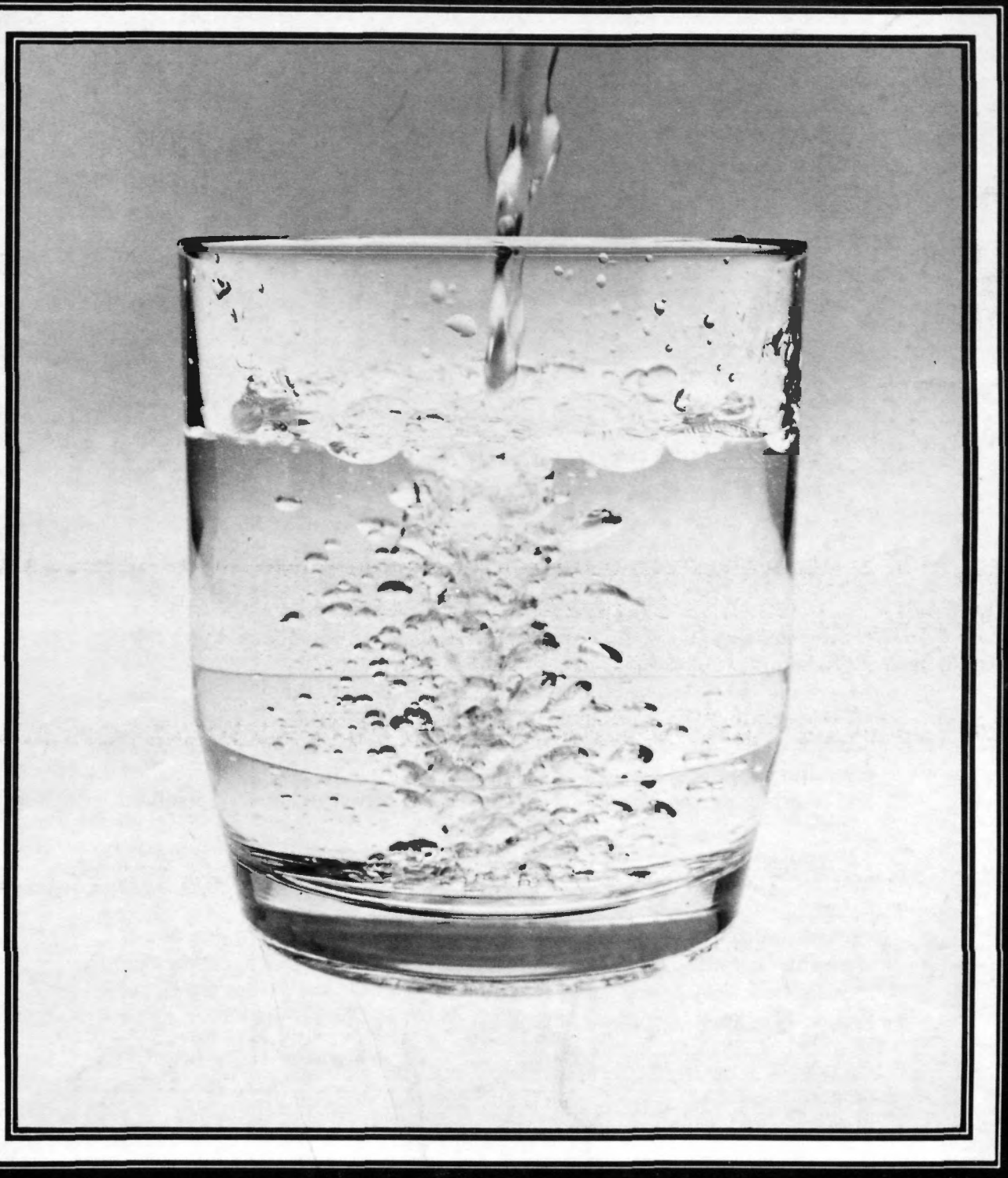


PROTECTING AMERICA'S DRINKING WATER
BY JAMES L. AGEE

IS YOUR DRINKING WATER SAFE?
INTERVIEW WITH JAMES H. McDERMOTT

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The vastness of this country and the complexity of its environmental problems are reflected in an informal survey made by EPA Journal at six widely separated Agency laboratory and field installations.

Since the main theme of this issue of the magazine is drinking water, we used our Inquiry section (Page 18) to get some random opinions about drinking water from EPA people in Honolulu, Hawaii; San Juan, Puerto Rico; College, Alaska; Ada, Oklahoma; Duluth, Minnesota; and Gulf Breeze, Florida.

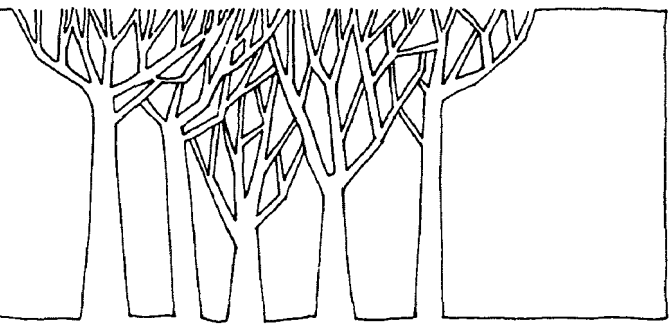
The comments ranged from concern about possible cancer-producing contaminants in the water in Duluth, Minnesota, to pride in the drinking water in Honolulu and Ada.

Of course, water may appear attractive, taste good and still be contaminated. Until about a year ago Duluth residents had always assumed that Lake Superior was providing them with some of the purest drinking water in the world.

Making this survey, we were reminded how difficult it is to develop sound regulations in Washington for the entire country. This is why EPA, one of the most decentralized of Federal agencies, places so much importance on its regional and field offices and laboratories.

These EPA outposts provide the Federal Government's frontline fighters in the battle against pollution.

GUARDING THIS LAND OF OURS



Just call the roll of our regional headquarters—Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Kansas City, Denver, San Francisco and Seattle. All cities which have played a major role in the history and development of this country.

Add to them the other places we have not mentioned where EPA has laboratories or field offices: Baton Rouge and Bay St. Louis, Wenatchee and West Kingston, Edison and Ely and nearly 150 others sprinkled across the Nation.

This is an impressive network, but the challenge of dealing with the diversity, breadth and magnificence of the American continent is staggering.

When the rising sun touches the granite headlands of the Maine coast, stars still bejewel the night sky above Hawaii and the Pacific crashes on moonlit beaches. At the same time that blizzards howl across the Great Plains, bees may be sipping the nectar of orange blossoms blooming in Florida.

It is EPA's challenge to help protect our environment with its almost incredible variety of land, water, life and weather conditions.

EPA Journal recognizes that EPA's most important work is done in our regional and field offices and laboratories. We hope to include articles about their activities whenever possible.

We are all watchmen together with a heavy responsibility to guard the natural beauty of a land that, in the words of a Woody Guthrie folk ballad, "was made for you and me."

EPA JOURNAL

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Environmental
Protection Agency

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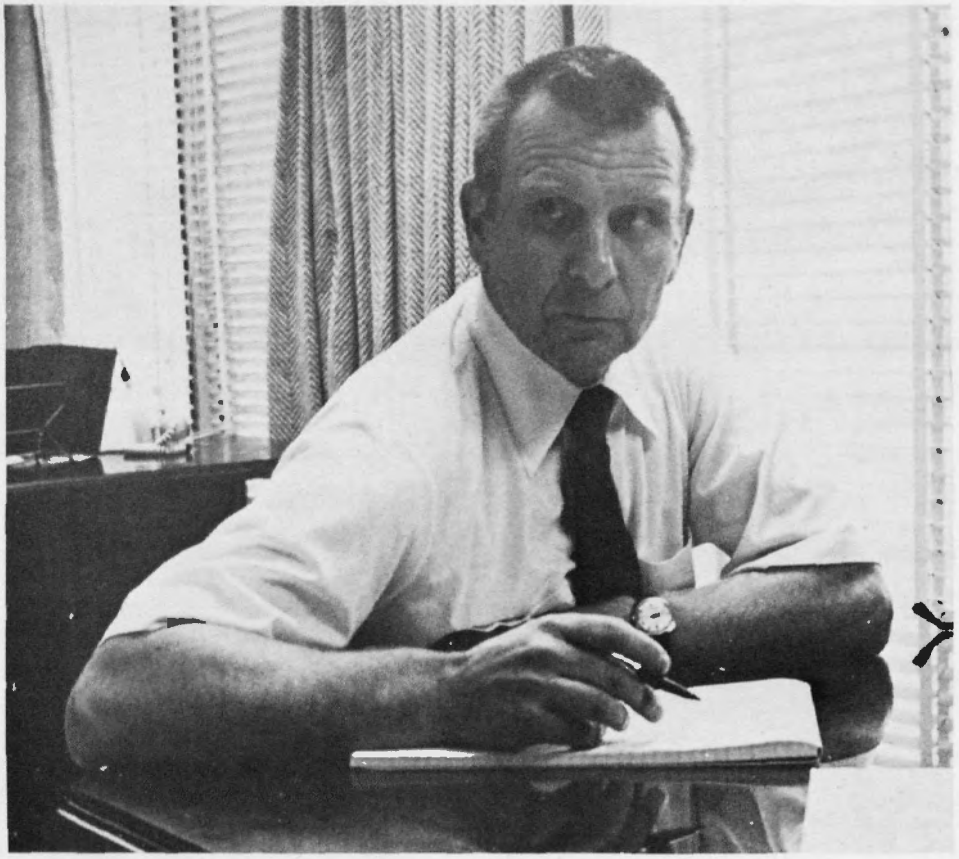


PROTECTING AMERICA'S DRINKING WATER our responsibilities under the safe drinking water act

The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 put into motion a new *national* program to reclaim and ensure the purity of the water we consume. Under the Act, each level of government, every local water system, and the individual consumer have well-defined roles and responsibilities. But both the opportunity and the challenge of implementing the Act begin with each of us in EPA.

The urgency of the task is underscored not only by stringent deadlines in the Act but by recent questions about the health effect of chemicals in drinking water.

President Ford signed the Safe Drinking Water Act Dec. 16, 1974, in the wake of newspaper headlines, television documentaries, and magazine features warning that our old assumptions about the quality of our drinking water may no longer be valid. Potential cancer-causing chemicals have been found in trace quantities in New Orleans' and Pittsburgh's drinking water. In Boston, lead from water supply pipes has been found in water drawn from the tap. Viral or bacteriological contamination of drinking water has resulted in communication of disease, often in smaller, more rural communities where treatment works are outdated or modern techniques are not available.

In other cities and towns, foul odors and tastes make the water unpalatable. While the overall quality of this nation's drinking water is well above that supplied in any other country, professional waterworks operators, government, and citizens all agree that a much better job must be done in guarding our supplies.

proposal this month

EPA was to propose interim primary drinking water standards by March 16. These standards, called the National Interim Primary Drinking Water Regulations, will specify maximum levels of drinking water contaminants and monitoring requirements for public water supply systems.

The contaminant limits are to be set at levels to protect public health to the extent feasible, using available techniques. A critically important part of establishing these regulations in final form will be the comments of all concerned parties—States, public utilities, the scientific and environmental communities, and the consumers. Final interim regulations are to be issued by June 6 after these comments are considered.

This first set of regulations is the foundation upon which State, local, and citizen participation begins. The Act places the primary responsibility for enforcement and supervision of public drinking water supply systems and sources of drinking water clearly upon the State.

As a safeguard, however, the Act requires that the States assuming primary enforcement responsibility demonstrate their competence in enforcing standards at least as stringent as the National Primary drinking water regulations, including procedures for monitoring and inspection, and adopt plans for the provision of safe drinking water should an emergency arise.

In no case, however, can the interim primary regulations go unenforced beyond December 1976, when they become law for every public water supply system regardless of whether a State has assumed enforcement responsibility. In cases where a State fails to assume this authority, or fails to exercise it adequately, the Administrator may, after notice to the State, seek mandatory compliance with these standards

BY JAMES L. AGEE
Assistant Administrator for Water and Hazardous Materials

through the courts. In any case, the non-complying system must give public notice of its non-compliance to each of its users and to the news media.

Thus, the consumer becomes an enforcer and can exert pressure on the utility, the local government, and the State, demanding water that complies with the Federal and State regulations. The Safe Drinking Water Act has real "teeth" from the Federal level down to each of us as consumers.

Getting minimum standards into effect quickly is a major thrust of the Act, and the Congress has mandated that interim primary regulations be promulgated within six months. They recognized, however, that all of the research and analysis needed to set ultimate standards for drinking water could not be completed in 180 days.

health study set

Over the next two years, the National Academy of Sciences, under contract to EPA, will conduct an in-depth study of the maximum contaminant levels which should be set to protect human health and will identify those contaminants whose levels cannot be determined but which may have adverse health effects.

Based upon this report and comments on it, EPA will issue recommended contaminant limits that are fully protective of human health, allowing an adequate margin of safety against known or anticipated adverse effects. At the same time, EPA will propose Revised National Primary Drinking Water Regulations that are as close to this recommended list as possible, taking into account technical and economic feasibility.

Full public knowledge of the level of protection offered by the revised regulations is guaranteed by these requirements. EPA must publicly issue the "ideal" drinking water standards—in effect, what the standards would be if treatment were always economically and technically possible—and it must issue enforceable standards that are as close to this ideal as can be achieved, taking cost and feasibility into account.

For both the interim and the revised regulations, the Act recognizes possible situations where compliance with the standards will be difficult for various reasons. In cases where a State has assumed primary enforcement responsibility,it can grant variances and exemptions from the regulations.

A variance could be granted because of inability to comply due to the character of the available water source, or because the raw water is of such good quality that a required treatment is unnecessary. Exemptions of up to seven years (nine years for regional systems) could be granted for systems unable to comply due to compelling reasons, including economic factors.

If a variance or exemption is granted, compliance schedules must be issued and agreed to so that the system may ultimately comply. Full public notice and an opportunity for public hearing must be provided prior to the time that either type of exception takes effect.

This is an aerial view of a portion of the 580 miles of aqueducts in California used to bring water from the northern part of the State to the San Joaquin Valley and the Los Angeles area.

guarding ground water

In implementing the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA must go beyond the immediate question of the quality of the water at the tap. Prevention of source contamination is as important as the treatment or cure at the waterworks stage. Therefore, the Act sets up, for the first time, a comprehensive program to protect underground water resources (aquifers).

Over one-half of the nation's population is dependent on groundwater, and EPA estimates that 80 percent of the nation's 40,000 community water supply systems are totally dependent on this source. As surface water resources become more scarce, underground aquifers will become more important in supplying potable water.

The Act requires EPA and the States to establish programs to control the underground injection of brine, wastewater, gases, or any other fluids that might affect ground water supplies. By June 16, EPA will propose regulations for State control programs to prohibit, start-

ing in December, 1977, any underground injection without a permit. Additional provision is made for situations where earlier protection is needed.

Any persons may petition EPA to designate an area in which no new underground injection well may be operated unless the Administrator has issued a permit.

The Act also provides EPA with authority to conduct broadscale research and individual studies on problems related to water supply, including health, technical, and economic problems. Nationwide monitoring of organic chemicals has already been started, following the discovery of some 66 such chemicals in New Orleans drinking water. EPA will submit preliminary results of this program to Congress in June.

In consultation with State officials, EPA selected 80 cities throughout the country whose water supplies will be sampled and analyzed for the presence of organic chemicals. The study is divided into two parts—in 10 of the cities, extensive and detailed analysis is under way; in the remaining 70 cities, EPA is testing for six specific compounds, some of which may be formed in the process of chlorination, a widely used technique for disinfecting water. The Agency also has asked that a special committee of the Science Advisory Board be set up to assess the health risk posed by these chemicals.

putting it together

The reader might well ask, "How is EPA ever going to put all of this together within the times required?"

My first answer must be: This is an EPA-wide job. The Water Supply Program has major responsibility for implementing the Act, but many other offices will feel the impact of this mandate, in one way or another.

Already the Office of Planning and Evaluation is deep into the development of a basic strategy, both long- and short-term, for meeting the various requirements of the Act. The Office of Research and Development has had a long involvement with developing drinking water standards and guidelines, and this role must intensify as the interim standards are put into final form. This Office also will have a critical task in contracting for and shepherding the numerous essential studies and research projects which are essential to underpinning standards and regulations for drinking water and underground injection.

Interpreting the many provisions of the Act will be the responsibility of the General Counsel's Office, and the new standards will be based on knowledge and data from the Office of Toxic Substances.

As important as any other aspect will be the leadership of our Regional Offices in working with States to develop State programs and encourage assumption of enforcement responsibility, with local water supply systems to assure their understanding and cooperation, and with community groups and the public. As a former Regional Administrator, I have a deep personal commitment to assuring the fullest degree of regional partnership in this endeavor.

A major advantage and a continuing asset in our efforts are the State and local organizations which have had a long involvement in the problems of providing pure drinking water.

The aim of the Act is not to create new institutional systems but rather to reinforce and strengthen the programs that are already monitoring and enforcing water supply standards. During the first year of the Act's implementation, EPA is placing highest priority on communication with and assistance to the States to get a vigorous start in their assumption of enforcement responsibility.

ten million sought

The President's budget proposes some $10 million for program grants to the States to guarantee that they have the resources needed to build up their programs. Three-quarters of this money is to be used by the States for developing and improving their capabilities for surveillance of public drinking water systems. The remaining $2.5 million will permit the establishment or strengthening of underground injection control programs.

EPA will maintain constant and close communication with States and local communities. A series of regional seminars is being held to brief State water supply officials on the requirements of the new Act and EPA's plans for developing regulations. Regional and State officials will work with the American Waterworks Association and communities to ensure effective, two-way communication at each level of responsibility.

The National Drinking Water Advisory Council, established by the Act, is an important channel for advising EPA on standards and regulations, and for addressing potential problems before they reach critical proportions. This 15-member group consists of representatives of the public, State and local water supply agencies, and private groups which have been active in the drinking water field.

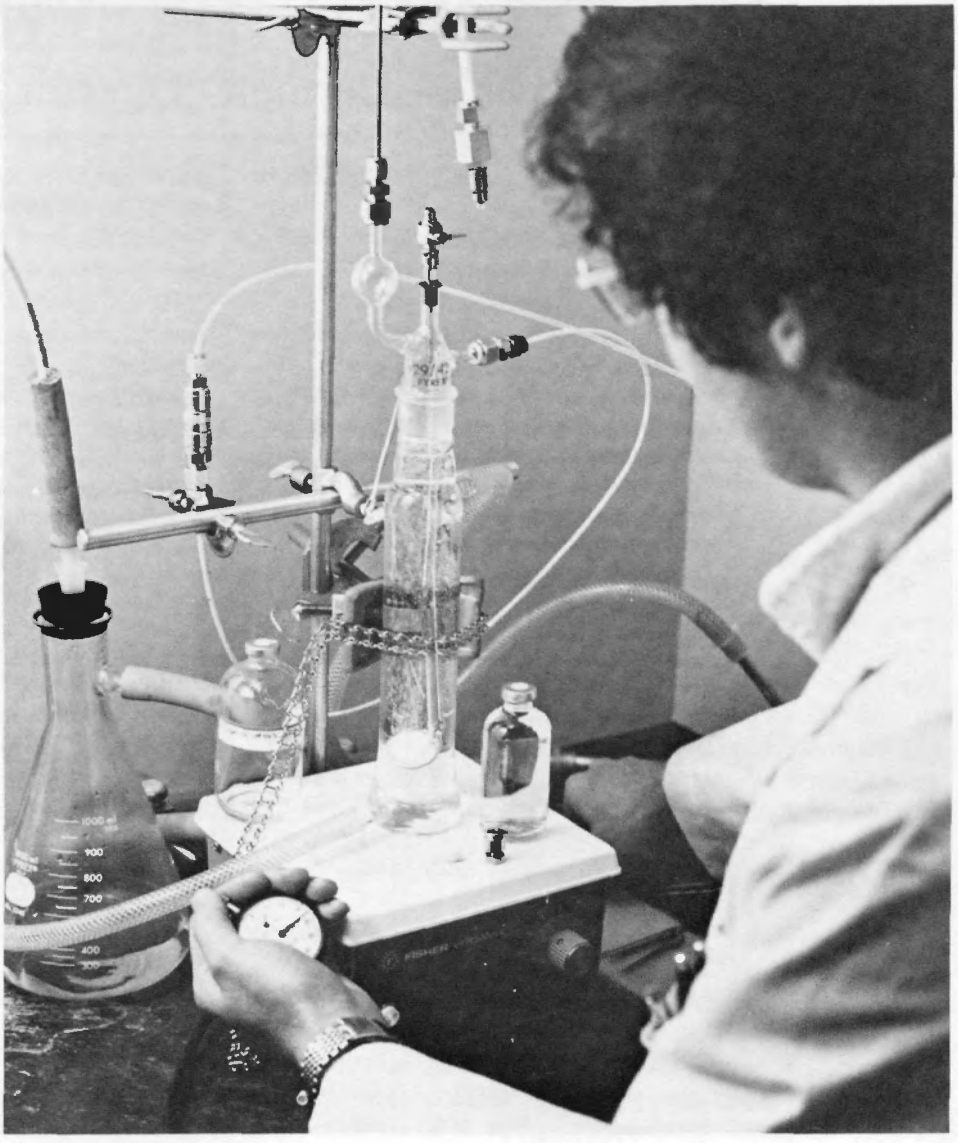
As EPA pursues its safe drinking water mission, several basic principles should be guiding. First public health has the highest priority, over and above questions of esthetics, taste or odor. The adequacy of the State plans to protect health will be paramount when approval of the plans is considered.

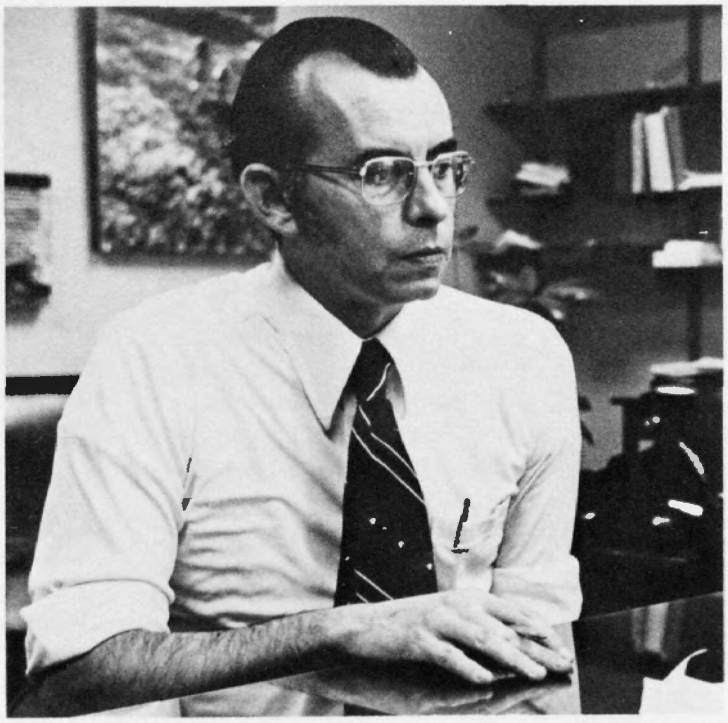
Second, we will tackle the worst problems first after assessing hazard of the contaminant and the size of the affected population.

Third, the role of States, local governments, and citizens in advising the Agency in enforcement must be encouraged to the hilt.

Fourth, paperwork and red tape must be held to an absolute minimum. This may seem to be a restatement of the obvious, but it is a principle all too often violated by the Federal government. Paperwork cannot protect health—only action can. □

Much of the research that identified potentially dangerous chemicals in municipal drinking water and thus prompted EPA's nation-wide survey of water systems was done by the Water Supply Research Laboratory, headed by Gordon Robeck, at the Cincinnati National Environmental Research Center. In this photo, Dr. Robert Melton, Research Chemist, is testing to detect the presence of volatile organics in a drinking water sample.





Is Your Drinking Water Safe?

Interview with James McDermott, Director, Water Supply Division

Q. *How safe is drinking water generally in the United States?*

A. While it is true that most Americans have a good and adequate supply of drinking water, many Americans do not.

Generally, we find most problems in the small towns and smaller systems across the nation. These are the systems that receive the least amount of technical assistance and surveillance from State and local agencies, and all too many of these systems do not follow good practice.

Q. *Are there any instances of people getting sick from drinking water in the United States recently?*

A. Yes, overt illness has occurred and continues to occur across the United States; for instance, we know that between 1961 and 1970, at least 43,000 people became sick from drinking water. This occurred as a result of 130 *reported* outbreaks.

It is possible that a significantly larger number of people were subjected to acute bacterial or viral infection or chemical poisoning that was not reported.

Q. *How does drinking water in the United States compare generally with drinking water in other countries?*

A. We believe the drinking water systems in the United States are among the best in the world, serving more good water to more people than any other nation.

Perhaps this is because so many people live in large metropolitan areas served by major systems which can provide for good operation and maintenance of their facilities. But as I said before, many of our small systems are in bad shape.

Q. *What are carcinogens? Why are they found in drinking water supplies?*

A. Carcinogens are cancer-causing agents. There are a number of organic chemical compounds found in some drinking water systems that have produced cancer in small experimental animals during laboratory testing. Principal sources of these compounds are industrial waste discharges and agriculture and urban run-off to surface water streams. Communities use these streams as sources for their drinking water supplies.

Q. *Why is the public just now hearing about the presence of these chemicals in drinking water?*

A. In recent years improved analytical techniques have enabled us to detect these trace amounts of organic compounds in drinking water. These compounds are found in such small amounts they have to be measured in parts per billion parts of water. Because of improved analytical techniques and because the lower Mississippi River is one of the streams in the U.S. most affected by industrial waste discharges, a recent EPA sampling study found 66 organic compounds in the New Orleans water supply. This was the first such comprehensive sampling survey which indicated the levels of organics in drinking water and brought the problem to the public's attention for the first time.

Q. *What is being done to determine what the health effects are?*

A. EPA is currently evaluating all of the evidence

available from the experimental animal tests and has asked the National Cancer Institute to review available evidence of the cancer-causing potential to help EPA estimate the risk of cancer from the compounds. EPA is also undertaking a nationwide study to determine just how widespread is the occurrence of certain organic chemicals in drinking water.

Q. *Some cities have particular drinking water problems. For example, I understand that Boston has a problem because some of its drinking water is delivered in old lead pipes. What is being done about the Boston situation, and are there other examples of unusual local drinking water problems?*

A. In the case of Boston, the technical solutions are known: adding chemicals to condition the water and make it less reactive to lead in the old pipes. Our Boston Regional Office has been providing technical assistance to the State and City.

Just about every system has one type of problem or another. I think it is to the credit of our metropolitan systems, the larger systems across the country, that when the problem is identified they generally move to correct it as quickly as possible. As a consequence, most people are not aware of these problems.

Q. *Some cities like New York go to a great expense to pipe in drinking water from remote sources rather than use polluted water such as the Hudson River flowing right throught the city. When will technology be able to make sources such as the Hudson River safe for drinking?*

A. The technology exists today to make the Hudson River safe to drink. One need only look at cities like Cincinnati, St. Louis, and Kansas City, which use grossly polluted river waters, to realize that the technology does exist.

You have to consider why New York chose the type of system it has. Back in the 1880's and 1890's we didn't know how to apply coagulation and filtration, and disinfection was just being thought of.

So New York City went to upstream reservoirs which promised the best in both quantity and wholesomeness. Now they have a substantial investment in dams, and we would expect New York to continue to use the upstream reservoirs.

Q. *Do any major American cities still use water that has not been treated, and what cities are they?*

A. To the best of my knowledge, all large cities in the United States now provide at least disinfection and most also apply coagulation and filtration to treat surface water prior to distribution.

New York City and Portland, Oregon, draw from upland reservoirs which are not subject to major pollution. As a consequence they get by with just chlorination.

Q. *How would you rate the drinking water in Washington, D.C., on a scale of 1 to 10?*

A. I would rate Washington as Number 10, the best.

Q. *Is it true that in the Washington area we are drinking the water discharged by Cumberland, Md., and other cities upstream on the Potomac?*

A. Yes. Whether people realize it or not, most drinking waters contains a fraction previously discharged as either municipal or industrial waste. This is true in Washington as it is in New Orleans and any city on a major river.

Q. *Can sewage be recycled directly as drinking water after treatment?*

A. As a matter of policy, EPA is opposed to such recycling. We do encourage reuse or recycling of almost all resources where the knowledge of how to operate, maintain and monitor the adequacy of recycling facilities is known.

However, we believe there are many items that are yet to be investigated and many questions to answer before direct recycling is sanctioned for drinking water systems.

Legislation passed by Congress provides specific authority to begin to answer these questions involving not only health effects of individual contaminants including alleged carcinogens mentioned earlier, but also how to measure for numerous contaminants and how to design and operate facilities to protect public health.

Q. *Didn't a city in Kansas, during a drought, actually use recycled sewage for drinking water after treatment?*

A. Yes, 15 or 20 years ago, the people of Chanute, Kansas, did in fact recycle sewage through their community drinking water system. It is said that no one got sick. It is also said that few people actually drank the water, although many used it for other purposes around the home. The reason the people didn't drink the water, we understand, is that it didn't look or taste good.

So, although the water was recycled and no one got sick, the Chanute case is not a practical example of either the technology or the reality of such reuse at the present time.

Q. *Are the increasing number of chemicals and pesticides getting into our waterways a threat to drinking water?*

A. Yes they are, for a couple reasons.

First, we don't know just how effective some of our conventional systems are. We talk of coagulation and filtration removing chemicals, but we really have to do definitive studies to establish how effective these processes are relative to the chemicals of concern.

Second, we now have legislative authority to proceed to answer these questions, so we are discouraging the idea of reuse until we know what new approaches are available to minimize the threat of chemicals to public health.

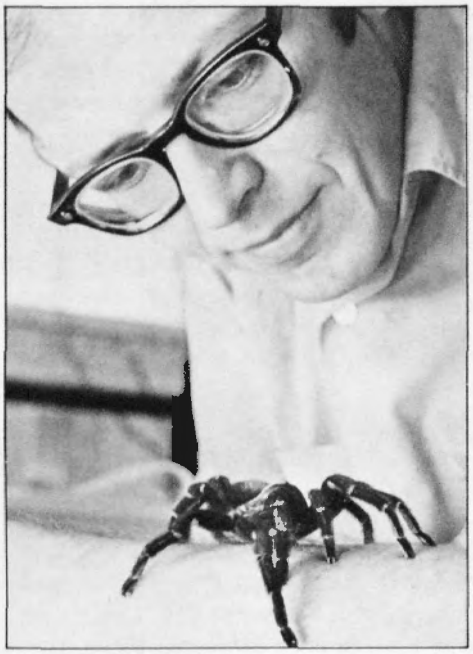
Q. *Does current water treatment remove viruses from drinking water?*

A. We honestly don't know. All we do know is that, except for outbreaks which can be traced by epidemiologists, water supplies do not appear to be a major vehicle for transmitting virus disease.

We should be aware, however, that there are a number of well-documented instances where people have contracted viral disease and the authorities have concluded

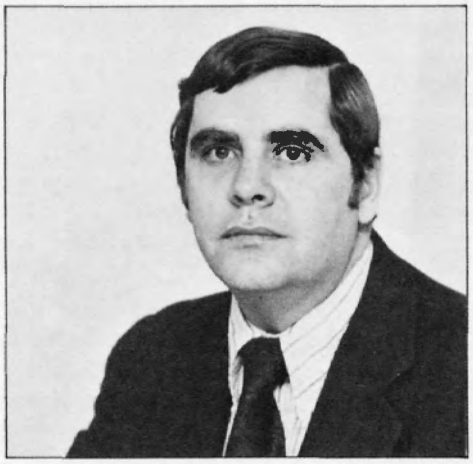
Continued on page 16

PEOPLE

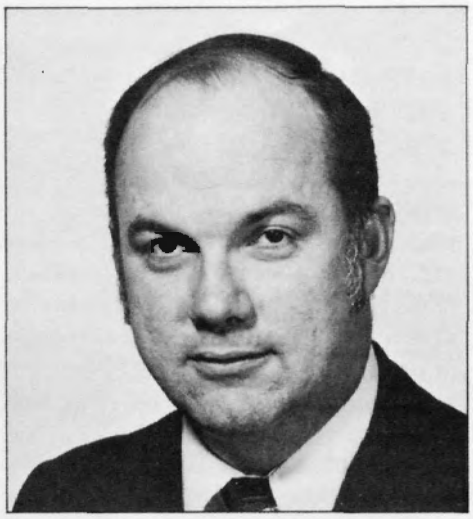


Loren Russell has an eight-legged paperweight on his desk at the National Environmental Research Center in Corvallis, Oreg., a live tarantula about six inches long. The pet spider is a 17-year-old female named Fang, who eats only once a month (a large cockroach or a grasshopper) and is quite timid as far as humans are concerned, says Mr. Russell, a biology technician for Northrup Services, an EPA on-site contractor. Fang rests in her plexiglass paperweight box most of the time, but occasionally she's allowed to prowl. A tarantula's venomous bite would probably cause only a local swelling in a human, Russell says, and she has not bitten him in the eight years he has had her.

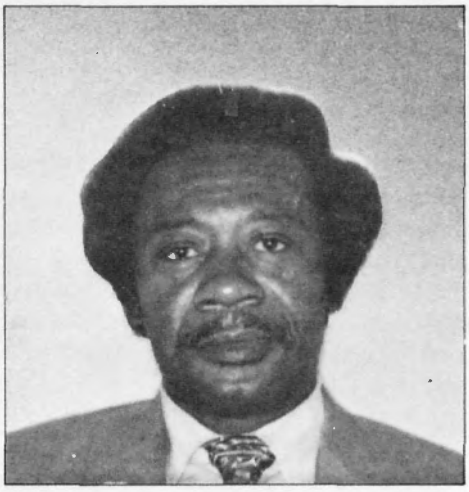
Dr. Shelley M. Mark has been named to head the new land use policy office, which Administrator Russell E. Train announced last summer would be formed to coordinate EPA programs related to land use and to strengthen ties with State and local governments on land use matters. Dr. Mark has been director of Hawaii's Department of Planning and Economic Development since 1962. During the previous decade he had taught economics at the University of Hawaii and headed its Economic Research Center. He is 52 years old, a graduate of the University of Washington, where he won his doctorate in economics. He also studied at Columbia and Harvard. He is married and the father of five children.



Roger L. Williams has been named Assistant to the Deputy Administrator and Director, Office of Operations Coordination, in the Deputy Administrator's Office. Williams, 36, who began his Federal service with the Bureau of Mines in 1958, has served since 1970 as Director of the Office of Program and Management Operations in the Office of Enforcement and General Counsel of EPA. In his new post Williams succeeds Jack Flynn, who is now a member of the Administrator's staff of the newly formed Energy Research and Development Administration.



Dr. John D. Finklea, Director of the National Environmental Research Center at Triangle Park, N.C., has resigned to become Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, headquartered in Rockville, Md. He succeeds Dr. Marcus M. Key, who left the Institute post last fall. Dr. Finklea was scheduled to start work at Rockville in March and be "on detail" from EPA for several months. EPA's research operations at North Carolina will be under an acting director at least until Dr. Finklea's new appointment is confirmed, said Dr. Wilson K. Talley, EPA's research and development chief. Dr. Finklea, 41, was a pediatrician and medical school professor before joining EPA. He had headed the EPA North Carolina center since 1972.



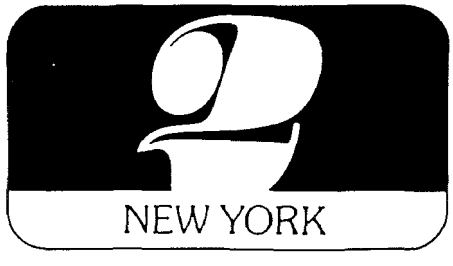
Peter J. Black, known to almost all EPA employees at the Waterside Mall building in Washington, died unexpectedly of a heart ailment Feb. 1. He was 52 years old. In his job as chauffeur, Mr. Black had driven scores of Agency officials, but he was best known for his urbanity and cheerfulness to everyone he met.

around the nation

transportation plan

Region I will hold public hearings March 19–21 at the Transportation Systems Center Auditorium in Cambridge, Mass, on the transportation control plan for Metropolitan Boston. The hearings were scheduled to be held in February, but the Region requested the Justice Department to petition for a month's extension to allow the Agency time to gather additional technical data and to compile a more comprehensive technical support document.

The hearings were ordered by the First Circuit Court of Appeals last September to allow both the Court and the public to examine the technical data used to develop the carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon reduction strategies contained in the Boston plan.



dumping fine

The Region II office recently received a $40,000 check paid as a civil penalty for two violations of ocean disposal permits issued to Pollution Control Industries, Inc.

The Delaware-based firm took legal responsibility for two cases of "short dumping" of chemical wastes off the north coast of Puerto Rico. A "short dumping" is the discharge of wastes into the sea closer to shore than is allowed under the EPA dumping permit.

Under the terms of a contract between Pollution Control Industries and McAllister Brothers, Inc., owner of the towing vessels involved in the two incidents, the towing company paid the total amount of the penalty assessed.

auto testing

Region III was scheduled to present special awards to the Maryland Automobile Club and the Maryland Lung Association on March 5 for their cooperative automobile emissions testing program.

Two series of tests were run, one in 1972–3 and a second in 1974. The first series resulted in 47.5 percent of all vehicles passing emissions tests for hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide, while 52.5 percent failed. The 1974 series had worse results, with only 33.9 percent passing and 66.1 percent failing. All tests were done in commercial shopping centers on vehicles supplied by volunteers.

The organizations concluded that test failures were a result of poor vehicle maintenance due largely to owner neglect. However, part of the blame was laid to a lack of the necessary test equipment and properly trained mechanics needed to adjust motor vehicle engines for emissions standards. The results reinforce the need for State inspection and maintenance programs if clean air standards are to be attained.

meetings set

An environmental workshop will be held March 12–15 at Manatee Junior College in Florida, sponsored by county health departments in Bradenton and Sarasota . . .A seminar on strip mining is planned for early April in Birmingham, Ala., by the Alabama Environmental Quality Association and the State Attorney General's office . . .Dr. Wernher Von Braun will be the featured speaker at the Governor's Environmental Quality Awards Program April 30 in Montgomery, Ala.

phosphate mining

EPA has recommended that long-pending industry proposals for surface mining of phosphate rock in the 155,000-acre Osceola National Forest in northern Florida be rejected as "unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality and public welfare." Phosphate is used principally in the production of fertilizer. Administrator Russell E. Train recommended that the Council of Environmental Quality deny the applications, which came from several large chemical and fertilizer companies. The recommendation also suggested that a nationwide environmental impact statement be prepared, assessing the overall impact of phosophate mining, processing, use, and exportation. Jack E. Ravan, Region IV Administrator, strongly opposed granting mining rights in the National Forest.

in the news

Six Tennessee rural electric co-ops took a two-page ad in a Sunday issue of the Nashville Tennessean to speak up for the Tennessee Valley Authority's proposed Hartsville nuclear power plant. Sponsors of the ad urged citizens to back the project for its "$65 million annual payroll."

The Miami Daily News reported that "suspect levels" of DDT were found in bass, snook, and mullet taken during a gathering of dead and ailing fish in south Dade County. The newspaper said the fish showed DDT levels ranging from 2 to 10 parts per million. Two University of Miami pathologists had no immediate conclusions. One of them, Dr. Bennett Sallman, said little could be concluded about the effects of the DDT level since there were many other variables involved: temperature, oxygen content, chemicals, bacteria, and parasites.

ohio waters

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has adopted new regulations revising Lake Erie and general water quality standards.

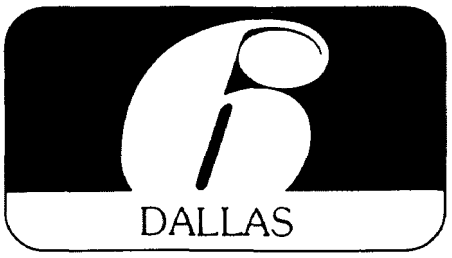
The revisions and additions establish specific standards and alter certain existing standards for effluents such as phenols, phosphorus, copper, and zinc to conform with Federal recommendations. EPA recommended the revision of these standards in December, 1973, to include more specific toxicity limits of certain pollutants.

vehicle recycling

The State of Illinois has set up a Vehicle Recycling Board to seek ways of getting the 400,000 cars and trucks abandoned each year in Illinois on their way to the recycler.

The State estimates each car recycled could save about 15 tons of iron ore, a ton of coke and a half a ton of limestone if shredded and sold to a steel mill for scrap.

The Board's job is to get more abandoned cars to a recycler faster by recommending changes in state law. These include offering a "bounty" to anyone who takes an abandoned vehicle to a recycler and more state control over abandoned car removal.



hearings in texas

Hearings were held in some major Texas metropolitan areas in February to determine whether these areas should be designated as eligible to receive Federal waste management and planning grant money.

The hearings were conducted in Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Beaumont-Port Arthur and San Antonio. To receive Section 208 funds the Governor of Texas and the EPA Administrator must designate the areas as meeting certain criteria such as substantial water quality control problems.

Elsewhere in Region VI, public hearings were held in Oklahoma City and Tulsa on final designation of these areas for Section 208 aid.

grants seminar

Hard on the heels of President Ford's release of $4 billion in construction grant funds for waste treatment facilities, Region VII held a seminar on the grants program in cooperation with Associated General Contractors.

The one-day event at the Alameda Plaza Hotel in Kansas City attracted more than 200 contractors, consulting engineers, building materials suppliers, local and State pollution control officials, municipal and state government officials, AGC officers from Kansas City and Washington, and regional EPA personnel.

Keynoter for the day was Jerome Svore, Region VII Administrator, who

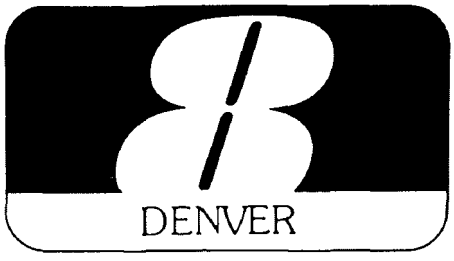
outlined to the group how EPA plans to keep the cash flow going in the grants program and eliminate bottlenecks and delays.

Grant applications, priorities, guidelines and regulations, funding, competitive bidding, and hiring of minorities by contractors were among the subjects discussed with the industry representatives.

hong kong

The Kansas City Customs Office recently contacted Region VII's John Wicklund about a pesticide control device received at that Office. The device was seized and held until Region VII personnel determined that it was ineffective when tested according to printed directions. The product was denied entry into the U.S. and returned to Hong Kong.

During 1974 the Region VII Pesticide Branch issued 65 complaints against producers or distributors of pesticides in this country for various pesticide violations and assessed nearly $100,000 in fines.



colorado permit

As early as the first week in April the Colorado Department of Health could take over a program regulating pollutant discharges into Colorado waterways. This program is currently administered by EPA in Denver.

A public hearing was held in Denver in January to consider the State's request for assumption of the program and to hear citizen comments or objections. If Colorado takes over the permit program, it will be the third state in Region VIII to do so. Montana and Wyoming took over their permit programs last year.

In Colorado approximately 760 dischargers have applied for permits. EPA has issued permits for 515. The State's pollution control agency would take over monitoring these permits and process the approximately 245 remaining permit requests.

san francisco

Calming public concern about asbestos in San Francisco's drinking water has recently posed a problem for Region IX. High levels of natural asbestos have been found in San Francisco's drinking water. But regional officials pointed out that there is no solid evidence at this time that it is a hazard to public health, that the asbestos is a different type from that found in Lake Superior, that adequate systems to filter out the asbestos are not yet available, and that EPA found the asbestos in the first place.

Perhaps the most telling point made to press and public has been that EPA employees drink the water every day.

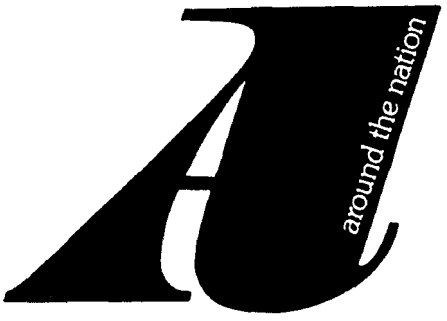
car tampering

Responding to a request by EPA, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Seattle has filed action in U.S. District Court to impose a $30,000 civil penalty on an Olympia, Wash., imported car dealer for allegedly tampering with emission control devices on a car sold to one of his customers.

The defendant is Werner Scharmach, owner and manager of European Motors. He is charged with removing pollution control devices on a new Saab in violation of Section 203 of the Clean Air Act of 1970, which is administered by EPA.

Under that section of the statute it is illegal "for any person to remove or to render inoperative any device or element of design installed on or in a motor vehicle or motor vehicle engine . . .prior to its sale and delivery to the ultimate purchaser, or for any manufacturer or dealer knowingly to remove or render inoperative any such device or element of design after such sale and delivery to the purchaser."

Clifford V. Smith, EPA's regional administrator, said the U.S. Attorney's action is the first such case brought to court by EPA in the Pacific Northwest.



northwest grants

More than 1,400 man years of employment in the construction trades were created in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington by the $57.1 million the EPA granted last year for construction of wastewater treatment facilities, according to figures released by EPA's Northwest regional office in Seattle.

The $57.1 million was awarded by EPA during calendar year 1974 to pay for 75% of the eligible costs of actual construction work on sewer interceptor lines and wastewater treatment projects in the four states. Also, EPA's regional office awarded $7.2 million for planning and design of new treatment facilities and $24 million to reimburse communities for wastewater improvement projects they financed themselves.

In all, according to Regional Administrator Smith, the Agency obligated more than $88 million to units of local government in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington during 1974.

PROFILE

EPA's new general counsel, Robert V. Zener, is a calm, methodical, scholarly lawyer who "likes lots of action."

In his new post he will certainly get it, since there are now approximately 560 law suits pending against the Agency, most of them filed by industries objecting to various rules and regulations.

"Actually," Mr. Zener said, "the number of lawsuits against us is somewhat misleading because some of them involve the same area. For example, there are 125 suits against the 21 effluent guidelines issued by EPA for various industries."

Suits by citizens groups demanding that EPA take one action or another are probably the next most numerous category of legal complaints against the Agency, Mr. Zener said.

Asked if the 40 lawyers in the General Counsel's office would be able to handle these suits and all the other functions of his office, Mr. Zener replied "I think they can. They are good lawyers. We have a lot of men and women with experience and this contributes to the overall high quality of the staff."

He also pointed out that the Justice Department, where the 39-year-old Mr. Zener formerly worked for eight years, actually represents EPA in court "although we play a major role in developing the briefs used by Justice."

Mr. Zener was named General Counsel, effective Feb. 1, by Administrator Russell E. Train after a reorganization separated the offices of General Counsel and Enforcement.

Discussing his new role, Mr. Zener said that it is his responsibility "to provide legal advice to the Agency as promptly and objectively as possible."

Commenting on the reasons for separating the offices of General Counsel and Enforcement, Mr. Zener said that he believed there were two main reasons for this action.

"First," he said, "there was a feeling that the General Counsel should be independent of any particular operating program so that there would be no suspicion that he was biased in favor of a particular activity.

"Also, as EPA's regulatory program became established its enforcement program has grown to the point that the combined job of enforcement and general counsel is too big for one person to handle."

In his spare time, Mr. Zener plays the piano. A classical music buff, Mr. Zener played the piano for a dancing school while in college. Asked if he ever played publicly, he admitted, somewhat reluctantly, that he is going to accompany a singer at a public recital on April 27 at Barker Hall in the District.

ROBERT V. ZENER

He joined EPA in March, 1971, as Associate General Counsel for Water. In this position, he was responsible for the legal aspects of the Agency's water program, the EPA role in the environmental impact statement process and the administration of the Freedom of Information Act.

His experience with the Freedom of Information Act, left him, he says, "particularly sensitive to the need for Federal agencies to be responsive to public criticism and to operate in an open fashion."

Mr. Zener had served as Deputy General Counsel for EPA since April 30, 1973.

Prior to his EPA appointment, Mr. Zener had spent eight years at the Department of Justice where he was Assistant Chief of the Appellate Section of the Civil Division. From 1958 to 1963, he was with the law firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore in New York City.

A 1954 honors graduate of the University of Chicago, Mr. Zener attended the London School of Economics and the University of Chicago Law School. He was Editor-in-chief of the University of Chicago Law Review, and a member of the Order of the Coif.

Awarded the EPA Gold Medal for Exceptional Service in 1973, Mr. Zener was also the recipient of the Department of Justice Special Commendation Award in 1968 and the Younger Federal Lawyer Award by the Federal Bar Association in 1969. He is the author of the chapter on the Federal Water Pollution Control Act in "Federal Environmental Law," a book recently published by West Publishing Company, edited by the Environmental Law Institute.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Mr. Zener lives now with his wife and two sons in Washington, D.C.

CONTROVERSY SWIRLS AROUND AUTO POLLUTION HEARINGS

Television cameras cover hearings.

Issues of critical importance to the future well being of the Nation were argued at hearings completed last month in Washington on requests by automobile manufacturers for a one-year suspension of the 1977 model year emission standards. Testimony was also presented on the automobile industry's ability to achieve a 40 percent fuel economy improvement by 1980 as called for by President Ford. Representatives of industry and various citizens groups presented often conflicting testimony.

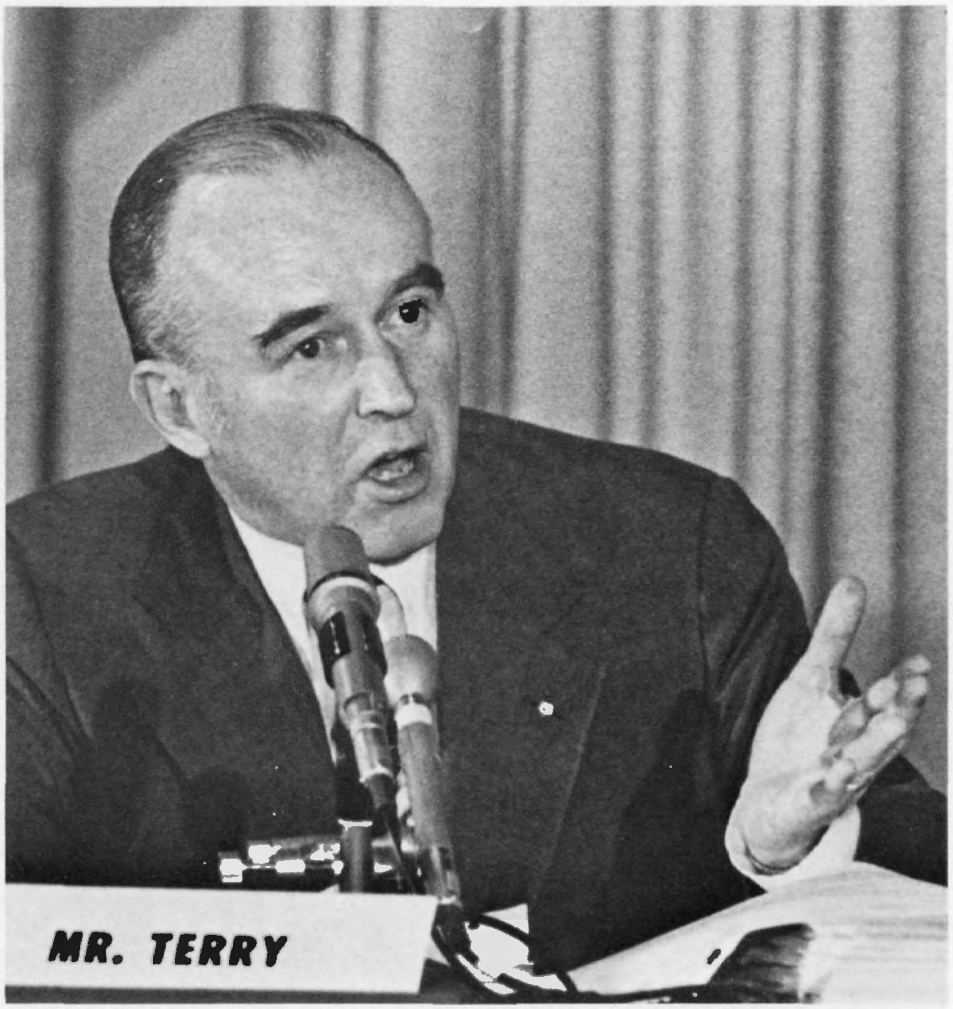
Spectators listen to testimony.

An observer standing in the door.

"The record shows that to help the country reach its clean air goals, the automobile industry has committed more of its resources to emission control than to any other single engineering project."
—S. L. Terry, Vice President, Chrysler Corp.

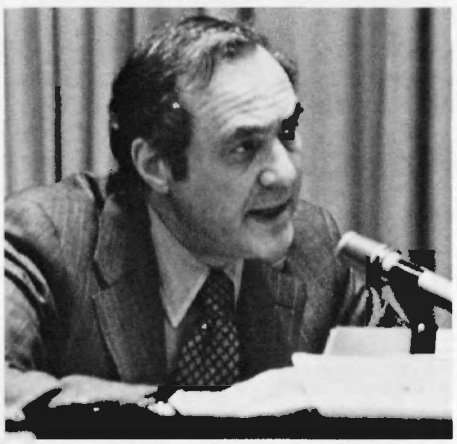
"It is the (Delaware Valley Citizens') Clean Air Council's feeling that if the automobile industry would put more emphasis on the smaller, more efficient engine, we could achieve fuel economy very close to the 40 percent gain and not give up the very important goal of improved public health and welfare. The hope that the automobile industry will cooperate on a voluntary basis is very unlikely."

—Kaysl Farrell, Executive Director of the Delaware Valley Citizens' Council for Clean Air.



Sydney L. Terry, Chrysler Vice President.

Kaysl Farrell, Executive Director, Delaware Valley Citzens' Council for Clean Air.



Robert A. Low, New York City EPA Administrator

"He (President Ford) is quite right, we think, in proposing to modify and defer automotive pollution standards for five years, so that this sizable fuel saving can be achieved."
—Washington Star-News, Jan. 16, 1975

Administrator Russell E. Train

"The economic vitality of the auto industry is closely related to the economic health of the nation . . . . . At the same time the continued reduction of pollution from autos is vital to the physical health of the American people, and public health must be our highest priority. Finally, unless we achieve substantial improvement in fuel economy in our cars, the nation cannot even begin to come to grips with the energy crisis."
—Administrator Train, opening statement.

"President Ford's proposal for lowering automobile emission standards set under the Clean Air Act offers the car manufacturers a big quid for an insignificant quo."
—New York Times—Jan. 18, 1975

Eric O. Stork confers with a colleague. —All photos by Don Moran

Continued from page 7

that the virus was transmitted by the water system.

The problem here is several fold. Principally it is a question of analytical methodology. There are few, if any, dependable methods of counting viruses in drinking water.

Lacking hard evidence and analytical data, health officials seldom *report* drinking water as the means of disease transmission.

The Holy Cross football episode of several years ago clearly indicates what can happen when the water in the drinking system is contaminated with virus. About 90 percent of the football team and athletic staff contracted infectious hepatitis.

"... we will see improved drinking water at the consumer's tap within the immediate future."

Q. *What is being done about asbestos fibers in the drinking water in Duluth, Minn., and other communities on Lake Superior near the Reserve Mining Company discharge point?*

A. In response to the asbestos issue, EPA has been operating pilot plant facilities in conjunction with the Corps of Engineers at the request of the City and the State of Minnesota. We have found several innovative approaches that result in substantial removals of asbestos. As a result of these pilot plant studies, Duluth is learning what options are available.

Q. *Is bottled drinking water safer than tap water?*

A. The safety of any water, bottled or not, has to be judged by bacterial and chemical analysis and a variety of other standards of good practice. The individual buying bottled water should determine whether it has been analyzed by competent authorities and judged against requirements of State and local regulatory agencies.

Q. *Then there is no complete guarantee that bottled water is safer than tap water?*

A. Frankly, there is no complete guarantee. There are many bottling facilities across the country. Some of them use community tap water as a source of supply. Other bottlers use their own wells. In most instances the bottlers do apply one type of water treatment or another prior to filling the jugs.

Q. *Are there any brands of bottled water that carry on their labels the name of the organization that tested the purity of their water?*

A. The Food and Drug Administration requires that a chemical analysis be stated on the label. The question then is whether and how frequently the water is analyzed, because source quality varies and effectiveness of treatment varies.

If there is a bad batch of raw water or if the treatment processes were to fail, you can receive bad water from either a bottle or a community system. Clearly, there must be frequent quality monitoring to establish that the quality on the label is the quality being distributed.

Q. *In terms of advising consumers, do you think there is any sound reason for buying bottled water?*

A. I think each individual should have freedom of choice. Some people buy bottled water for medical reasons. Some buy bottled water for esthetic reasons.

In any event I think most Americans can and should support their local public water supply system to make sure that it does the very best job possible and at a cost of between 10 and 70 cents per 1000 gallons. Since each of us uses 100 to 200 gallons a day for a variety of purposes, including drinking, people should support public systems for both health and economic reasons.

Q. *Does the application of chlorine add cancer-causing chemicals to the water?*

A. There is some recent evidence that chlorine, used to disinfect drinking water, may combine with man-made organic compounds, as well as those occurring naturally, and result in a slightly increased level of a variety of chlorinated organic compounds. The public health significance of such increases is being evaluated.

It must be remembered, however, that effectiveness of chlorination to prevent water-borne bacteriological diseases such as typhoid, cholera, salmonellosis,and shigellosis, and the infectious hepatitis virus, is well documented. EPA believes that, with the knowledge we have today, the immediate benefits of continued use of chlorine for the disinfection of drinking water outweigh the potential health risks from chlorine-derived organic compounds.

Q. *Are other methods available to disinfect water?*

A. To date no acceptable substitute has been demonstrated to be as satisfactory as chlorination in disinfecting large volumes of drinking water. Other disinfectants have been employed from time to time but these generally find a suitable application only at the smallest systems. Ozone is a disinfectant that can be utilized on a large scale; however, there is some evidence that ozonation may produce some organic compounds of concern. Nevertheless EPA recognizes the importance of exploring other means of disinfection. Until more definitive information becomes available, the use of chlorination as an effective means for disinfection of drinking water should be continued.

Q. *I imagine the cost of treating drinking water is probably going to go up in the future. If that is true, I wonder if there may be some advantage in supplying two types of water to households: one for drinking and one for flushing toilets or washing the car.*

A. That is a distinct possibility to be considered in a number of places in the United States. I believe it is Colorado Springs which now has two water systems. A secondary system supplies water that meets health standards, but not necessarily esthetic standards, and is used for industrial purposes. The primary system serves residential areas and is both esthetically and bacteriologically safe.

What you are suggesting is two tap-water lines into each house. I doubt this will materialize except where a new city is to be built. The cost of repiping existing communities probably would be prohibitive.

Q. *As I understand it, the States have the major responsibility for the safety of drinking water within their boundaries. How effective are the States in carrying out this responsibility?*

A. Our studies show, by and large, the States have not given drinking water an adequate priority in the past. This is why we find poor quality relative to past Federal recommendations. We find all too many Americans are drinking water that is sub-standard in both healthfulness and esthetics.

The reason for poor quality, more often than not, is inadequate operation and maintenance of facilities by ill-trained operators. We have found operators who cannot remember being visited by a county or State employee with a view to either technical assistance or enforcement. Clearly, State programs should be substantially improved. Under the new Safe Drinking Water Act, the States have the option to establish drinking water standards at least as stringent as the Federal standards, and then to implement these standards for all public water systems within their jurisdictions.

Q. *Which cities in the United States have the best drinking water and why?*

A. As a class, the "interstate carrier systems" are the best. These are some 700 drinking water systems certified for use by buses, trains, and commercial aircraft. These systems have been subjected to both Federal standards and State inspection for over 50 years.

The priority that the Federal Government and the States have given to these systems, which serve some 80 million people, has probably caused the smaller systems to be given inadequate attention by State regulatory agencies.

Q. *So generally the cities with the worst drinking water are the smaller communities?*

A. Correct. There are many of them. We currently estimate that 180 million Americans are served by some 40,000 conventional public water systems. Another 25 to 30 million Americans are served by private wells or cisterns, mainly in rural areas.

Q. *If you had to single out any city as having the best drinking water in the United States, which one would you nominate?*

A. I think each of us thinks of his own home town as having the best drinking water. We have been conditioned to its taste and we judge all other waters by what we're used to. While esthetics are important, it's more important to have water that's safe and healthful to drink. This can only be established by adequate bacterial and chemical analysis and frequent evaluations by State or county officials.

Q. *Is fluoridation of drinking water still desirable and safe?*

A. Yes. I believe that fluoridation is highly desirable in that it does substantially reduce the number of dental caries.

Children are the major beneficiaries. It is the policy of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to encourage fluoridation, throughout the country. Where local jurisdictions elect to begin fluoridation, the States and EPA function to provide technical assistance to make sure that fluoridation is practiced properly.

Fluoride is a rather unusual chemical. At one concentration level it reduces dental decay. At less than the critical concentration the reduction in dental decay falls off very rapidly. Good operation and maintenance are essential in order to supply the precise concentration that is beneficial. As a consequence, surveillance and technical assistance are vital.

Q. *Is water from private wells safe?*

A. Generally speaking, well water is safe if palatable and our studies of chemical quality support this conclusion. Most people find well water palatable. Occasionally there will be a bad taste, but generally speaking the chemical quality is adequate.

On the other hand, we have noted a substantial number of wells, particularly shallow wells, that are polluted with bacteria.

For systems which serve individual farms and residences, generally speaking, the individual who has such a system can call upon the County Health Department for advice.

"... the States have not given drinking water an adequate priority in the past..."

Q. *How helpful do you think the new Act will be generally in providing safer drinking water?*

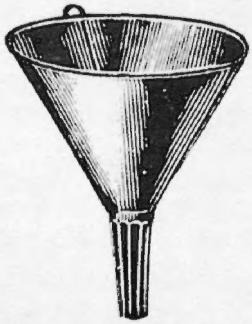
A. I noted earlier that technology exists today to solve most of our current problems.

Given the technology and the new priority this Act establishes at the Federal, State and local level, I believe we will see improved drinking water at the consumers' tap within the immediate future. There will be more technical assistance at the local level from State and county personnel. As a consequence we should see better operations and maintenance of existing facilities. Where existing facilities are inadequate, there will be a new effort to make improvements as quickly as possible.

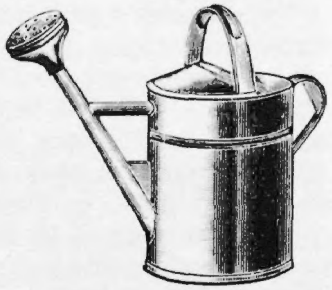
Q. *What should an individual do if he or she has doubts about the safety of the drinking water?*

A. I would suggest they contact either the local water supply superintendent or the local Health Department to find out what quality is being served. If this information is not available, they should encourage their local political structure to require the local water works to begin sampling as soon as possible. After all, people pay for their drinking water, and those who supply it have a responsibility to identify what the quality is. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act this will become a legal requirement.

Two years from now all public water supply systems will be required to regularly analyze the quality of their drinking water and report to the consumer if it does not meet the State standards, which are to be established and implemented under the Act. □



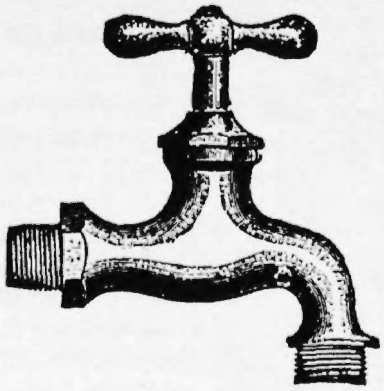
Mrs. Cynthia Herndon



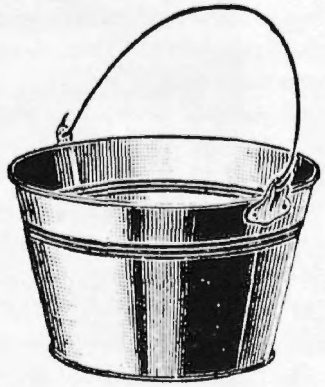
Ms. Vicki Tsuhako

Mrs. Yvonne Roddy

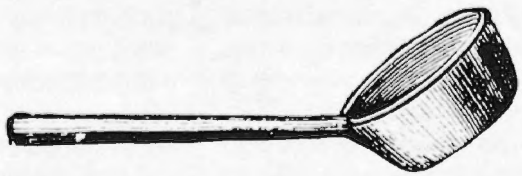
Ms. Racqueline Ruiz



Mrs. Norma Jean Nordin



Ms. Carolyn McClintock



do you ever have any problems with your drinking water ?

"We have never had any problems with drinking water."

Ms. Vicki Tsuhako, secretary, Region IX Pacific Islands Contact Officer, Honolulu, Hawaii: "We have never had any problems with drinking water. We have a unique source. Our water is pumped from deep underground where it flows between layers of centuries-old lava flows. I visited the main pumping station just outside of Honolulu once and they gave us pennies to throw in the water pool. The pool is lighted and we could see the pennies way down below because the water is so pure. Incidentally, the pennies have been treated with chlorine to avoid any contamination. We are very lucky to have such a good water supply."

"We have had our problems with drinking water."

Ms. Racqueline Ruiz, Programs Adviser, San Juan Field Office, Puerto Rico: "We have had our problems with drinking water. Last summer we had a drought and they were turning off the water during certain times of the day. There was a negative pressure in the system and so we had to ban use of this water for interstate carriers. Then after the drought ended we had a strike of the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority. So the Puerto Rico health authorities directed that drinking water should be boiled and we had to ban the water for use by interstate carriers again. Now the strike is over and the drinking water here is conditionally approved for use by planes and other interstate carriers."

". . .water from this spring just tastes delicious."

Mrs. Yvonne Roddy, secretary, Robert F. Kerr Environmental Research Laboratory, Ada, Okl.: "Our water comes from an artesian spring which flows near Ada. It has a capacity of 10.5 million gallons a day. The water from this spring just tastes delicious. The only problem is that the water is a little hard and it wears out hot water heaters faster because of the mineral buildup. But we like the taste so much we leave the water that way. We had a break in the main water line last summer, but we have three wells we can use as an emergency source of water. Our only problem is when we travel to big cities we can't get used to the taste of their water. It sure would be nice if everyone had good tasting water like we do."

"It's good water, about half way between hard and soft."

Mrs. Cynthia Herndon, secretary, Gulf Breeze Environmental Research Laboratory, Gulf Breeze, Fla.: "We are located on Sabine Island in the Gulf of Mexico and we get our drinking water from Pensacola by a pipe which reaches us on a causeway. The water comes from deep wells at Pensacola, is piped to storage tanks at Pensacola Beach and then is sent to us. The water has to travel 12 miles from Pensacola to reach us. It's good water, about half way between hard and soft. Some times when we have droughts they do cut the water off for a couple of hours. Outside of that we don't have any problems."

". . .the iron content is high and the water smells bad. . ."

Ms. Carolyn McClintock, Administrative Assistant, Arctic Environmental Research Laboratory, College, Alaska: "We have problems. The water at the Laboratory is part of the supply treated by the University of Alaska. It's hard, but not all that bad to drink. Generally, outside of Fairbanks the water comes from wells and it's pretty bad—the iron content is high and the water smells bad, doesn't taste good either. A study by our Laboratory has shown that some of the water in our area has a very high nitrate content. A number of people who live outside Fairbanks put filters on their house water intakes, but that's an extra expense."

". . .asbestos particles have been found in the raw water. . ."

Mrs. Norma Jean Nordin, Administrative Officer, National Water Quality Laboratory, Duluth, Minn.: "We have a problem with our drinking water because asbestos particles have been found in the raw water we get from Lake Superior and there has been concern that these particles could cause cancer, but nothing has been proved so far. Our drinking fountains at the Laboratory have filters on them because the Duluth water intake does not have a filtration system yet to screen out the asbestos. The City is going to build a filtration system but, meanwhile, many people in the area go to the fire stations which have filters on their water lines and people can get water free of charge for drinking. Many people are buying bottled water for children six and under and some have bought filters and put them on their kitchen sink faucets as health measures. While the water tastes all right there is quite a bit of concern here at the Laboratory because EPA people are more knowledgeable about these problems than the general public."

$46.8 MILLION INCREASE SOUGHT IN FISCAL '76

An increase of $46.8 million for EPA's operations in fiscal 1976 was sought last month in President Ford's budget message to Congress. If Congress approves, the Agency's 1976 authority would rise from $696 million to $742.8 million. This does not include construction grants, which are budgeted separately.

A detailed breakdown—by program and function—of the President's fiscal 1975 budget with that proposed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1976, is given in Table 1. The corresponding manpower budget comparisons are listed in Table 2.

"The most significant increase is $25 million and 97 new positions for the Water Supply Program," said Administrator Russell E. Train. These are needed to enable EPA to establish national standards for drinking water and to perform research as called for in the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974. Mr. Train noted that the budget proposals also reflect the high priority on air pollution enforcement and pesticides.

A major objective in the next fiscal year is to improve the management of sewage treatment construction grants, he said. For this reason EPA proposes to reassign more than 150 positions and allocate $2.9 million to expedite an estimated 8,535 construction projects that will be under way next year.

The $10-million increase for pesticides will be used to improve the registration process, establish certification programs, and train applicators.

The budget preparation process, Mr. Train said, "included an open discussion of environmental budget issues with the President, which resulted in an equitable balance not only among environmental objectives, but between those objectives and other national concerns."

Table 1, EPA's Budget Authority
Current Year and Fiscal 1976 Proposed
by Program and Function
(dollars in thousands)

Program	Research and Development		Abatement and Control		Enforcement		Agency and Regional Management		Totals	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
Air Pollution	$ 59,326	$ 51,345	$ 87,040	$ 76,985	$10,456	$12,002	.....	.....	$156,822*	$140,332
Water Quality	46,053	44,553	111,961	145,173	24,751	21,138	.....	.....	182,765*	210,864
Water Supply	4,518	12,118	3,261	20,109	.....	100	.....	.....	7,779	32,327
Solid Waste	10,214	5,014	10,329	11,618	.....	.....	.....	.....	20,543*	16,632
Pesticides	10,747	10,747	19,691	29,683	3,569	3,745	.....	.....	34,007*	44,175
Radiation	2,764	1,764	4,787	4,303	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,551	6,067
Interdisciplinary	15,362	17,362	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15,362	17,362
Toxic Substances	2,000	2,000	6,827	6,837	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,827	8,837
Noise	513	13	4,729	9,658	22	532	.....	.....	5,264	10,203
Energy Research & Devel	134,000	112,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	134,000	112,000
Program Mgt. & Support	18,660	18,484	29,863	35,334	14,045	16,383	.....	.....	62,568	70,201
Agency & Regional Mgt	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	$60,507†	$73,800†	60,507	73,800
Total	$304,157	$275,400	$278,488	$339,700	$52,843	$53,900	$60,507	$73,800	$695,995	$742,800

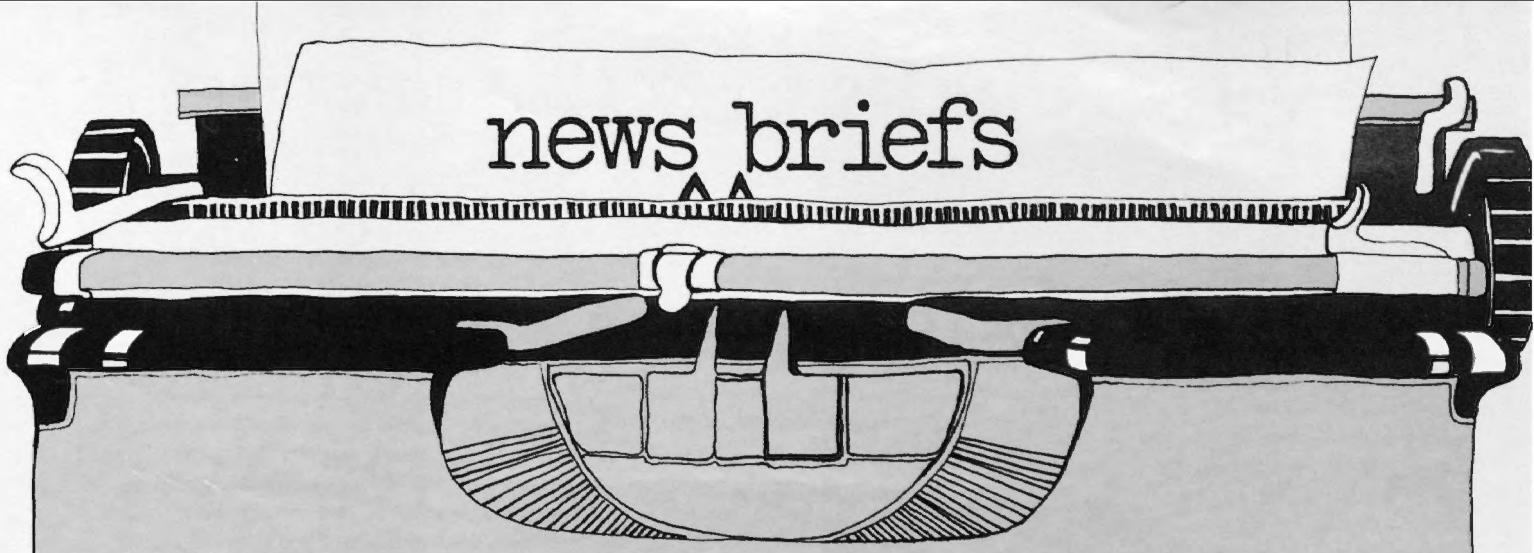
*Includes congressional add-ons totalling $30.6 million for the four programs.

N.B. Table does not include construction grants or areawide planning grants.

†Includes Buildings and Facilities and Scientific Activities Overseas totalling $1.4 million in 1975 and $8.1 million in 1976.

Table 2, EPA Manpower Budget
Current Year and Fiscal 1976 Proposed
by Program and Function

Program	Research and Development		Abatement and Control		Enforcement		Agency & Regional Mgt. & Other		Totals	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
Air	451	449	708	752	410	450	...	...	1,569	1,651
Water Quality	588	581	1,677	1,739	892	741	...	...	3,157	3,061
Water Supply	74	85	99	180	...	5	...	...	173	270
Solid Waste	24	24	151	161	...	...	...	...	175	185
Pesticides	150	150	668	668	151	151	...	...	969	969
Radiation	74	59	201	174	...	...	...	...	275	233
Interdisciplinary	251	251	...	...	...	...	...	...	251	251
Toxic Substances	...	...	44	44	...	...	...	...	44	44
Noise	3	1	45	75	1	10	...	...	49	86
Energy Research & Devel	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Program Mgt.& Support	219	179	202	202	143	168	...	...	564	549
Agency & Regional Mgt	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,826	1,840	1,826	1,840
Reimbursements and Allocations	115	85	20	20	...	...	16	16	151	121
Totals	1,949	1,904	3,815	4,015	1,597	1,525	1,842	1,856	9,203	9,300



HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL SURVEY

A comprehensive survey of all Headquarters positions and organizations was started last month as part of a program to achieve recommendations made by the U.S. Civil Service Commission. Alvin L. Alm, Assistant Administrator for Planning and Management, said in a memorandum to all Headquarters personnel that the survey would take 18 months and would be conducted by officials of three divisions in his office. "Organizations will be reviewed to determine whether functions are properly aligned and manpower and monetary resources are being effectively utilized," Mr. Alm said.

MOST MAJOR INDUSTRIES, CITIES GET DISCHARGE PERMITS

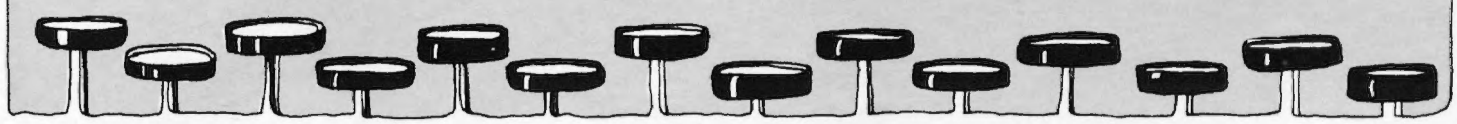
At the end of 1974, EPA and 20 States had issued wastewater discharge permits to 95 percent of major industrial polluters and 88 percent of major municipalities. The permits specify what kinds and amounts of pollutants may be discharged into the Nation's waterways to meet the 1977 clean-up goals and other Federal and State water quality standards. Ten more States are expected to win EPA approval to take over permit authority by the end of June.

PESTICIDE REGISTRATION TOTAL PASSES 34,000

The Office of Pesticide Programs had registered 34,029 products produced by 3,534 firms through fiscal 1974. During the year 1,370 registrations were cancelled and 33 suspended. Both actions prohibit sale of the product because of adverse health or environmental effects.

EAST AND WEST -- AUTO EMISSIONS TAMPERING

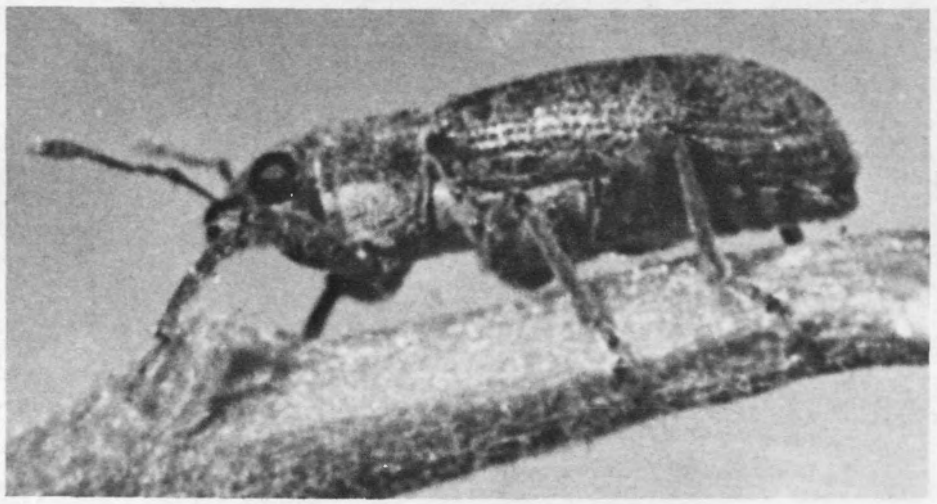
Auto dealers on both the East and West coasts got into trouble recently for allegedly tampering with emission control devices. In Larchmont, N.Y., Hory Chevrolet, Inc., signed a consent decree and paid $1,000 for installing uncontrolled, Corvette-type engines in new Vega coupes. In Tacoma, Wash., at the request of EPA, the U.S. Attorney's office filed a court complaint against European Motors, Olympia, charging the firm removed emission controls from a 1972 Saab. The Justice Department seeks a $30,000 civil penalty.



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (A-107)
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
EPA-335
THIRD CLASS BULK RATE

SCOUTING FOR PESTS



WANTED! This insect is dangerous. He is a notorious destroyer of young pea plants. If seen, please report him to the nearest county agricultural agent. He is widely known as the pea leaf weevil, alias Sitona lineata.

The Office of Pesticide Programs has taken up "scouting." This is not hikes or merit badges but a method of surveying an area threatened by a particular pest to determine if chemical controls are needed and, if so, where and how much.

Pest scouting is helpful to the environment (pesticide use is specific, more effective, and minimal) and to the farmer (his costs are kept down).

A recent EPA pest scouting project concentrated on the pea leaf weevil in northern Idaho and eastern Washington, where 95 percent of America's dried peas are produced. Since 1970 this area has been repeatedly infested by the pea leaf weevil, and the only effective pesticide has been DDT.

EPA cancelled most uses of DDT in 1972. Because no adequate alternative control was available for the recent infestation, however, EPA granted emergency permission to use the chemical on the dry pea crop during the 1974 growing season. The Agency required that great care be taken to minimize the amounts applied and continued making extensive studies to find other, less environmentally hazardous methods.

The weevil scouting project was conducted by EPA pesticide experts, university scientists, pea growers, and pesticide manufacturers.

A 15-minute, sound-and-color film of the project was produced by EPA's Office of Public Affairs.

The weevil scouting involved sifting soil and young pea shoots from sample rows and counting the weevils. Aerial spraying of DDT was limited to fields, or parts of fields, where the weevil count per plant exceeded a certain number.

The scouts were trained in carefully standardized sifting procedures and record-keeping, under the direction of Dr. Larry O'Keeffe, University of Idaho entomologist.

The documentary film includes interviews with Dr. O'Keeffe, pea growers, scouts at work in the fields, and shots of controlled aerial spraying.

The scouting records determined which fields could be sprayed and which could not. Only about 12 percent of some 89,000 acres surveyed were certified for spraying.

Pest scouting is a vital part of the pest management programs that are being evaluated under an interagency agreement between EPA and the Department of Agriculture. Pest management involves more than the use of pesticides. Cultivation methods, crop rotation, natural controls, and many other factors can also be used to reduce pest infestations.

The case of the pea leaf weevil illustrates how knowledge of an insect's life cycle can help in its control. The weevil lives through the winter on alfalfa and other leguminous plants. A pea field adjoining an alfalfa field may need to be sprayed only along its edge.

Titled, "Man Is Responsible to the Earth," the film was produced and directed by T.M. (Chuck) McDaniel. The script was written by McDaniel and Barbara Paul, both of the EPA Public Affairs Office. Other EPA people appearing in it include Thomas Holloway, entomologist, and Janet Moore, field biologist of Region X.

The Department of Agriculture has ordered 55 prints of the film for distribution to state and county agricultural agents. The movie is also being distributed by EPA Public Affairs to all Regional Offices to encourage similar scouting programs for other agricultural or forest pests when needed.