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Compromise Difficult—Muskie

WATER BILL FACES TOUGH CONFERENCE

It could take House-Senate conferees a month or more to hammer out differences between the water pollution control bill, H. R. 11896, passed recently by the House and S. 2770, approved by the Senate late last year.

Conferees were named in late April. Although a conference appears likely to begin by mid-May, Senator Edmund Muskie (D.-Me.) said a compromise will be difficult because of major differences in the bills.

The House amended the bill to direct the Environmental Protection Agency to encourage regional resource management utilizing land disposal systems and recycling and to permit employees to request EPA hearings on proposed plant closings or dislocations because of effluent limitations.

However, the House rejected a number of proposed amendments aimed at making the measure like its more stringent Senate counterpart.

INDISCRIMINATE OCEAN DUMPING SHOULD BE BANNED, MCA TELLS UN

MCA has told the United Nations it favors a worldwide ban on indiscriminate dumping of wastes in oceans and strict regulatory controls over ocean disposal. MCA President William J. Driver expressed the Association views in a recent letter to Richard A. Hellman, Executive Director of the Secretary's Advisory Committee of the UN Conference on the Human Environment.

In commenting on a draft convention on ocean dumping, Mr. Driver urged that evaluation of substances determined to be totally prohibited be "more meaningful and scientifically sound."

Recognizing that certain materials should be prohibited, Mr. Driver said the Association believes the mechanism for determining such prohibition should not be so generalized as to deny a choice of disposal method posing the least environmental effect.

He also urged that:

- The environmental risks of various alternative disposal means be weighed, taking into consideration technically feasible control methods and possible effects of onshore disposal;
- Regulatory controls take into account the quantity as well as the type of material to be disposed of, the disposal site and method of disposal;
- Certain potentially toxic materials, which can be practically treated, not be allowed to be discharged into the oceans;
- Disposal areas be carefully selected and monitored for any adverse effect, and
- Marine sanctuaries be maintained and fishing and recreational areas be protected.

The Association supported the convention's requirement for annual reporting of the kind, volume, location and distribution of wastes permitted for ocean disposal and urged that military agencies not be exempted from such proposals.

20 Industries Surveyed

EPA ISSUES EFFLUENT GUIDELINES FOR WASTE PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The Environmental Protection Agency has issued interim effluent limitation guidelines for 20 industrial categories including organic and inorganic chemicals, alkalies and chlorine, fertilizers and plastics and synthetics.

The guidelines and summary reports have been distributed to EPA regional administrative offices where they will be used in reviewing applications made under the Corps of Engineers wastewater discharge permit program.

A task group of technical experts from MCA's Water Resources Committee reviewed the guidelines and offered informal recommendations to EPA.

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ENVIRO-GRAM

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION . . . on ocean dumping, noise and pesticides probably will be passed by Congress this year, Russell E. Train, chairman of Council on Environmental Quality, says.

DDT HEARINGS . . . have been closed by EPA after seven months of testimony. Final decision on registrations of 32 DDT-containing products will be made by June 15.

EUROPEAN CLEANUP . . . urged by Common Market Commission in recommending that six nations adopt fixed timetable for implementing environmental program in which industry, rather than governments or communities, would bear costs. Commission proposes immediate action in urgent cases and general regulations by mid-1974.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SPILLS . . . due for tighter control under EPA's National Oil and Hazardous Materials Pollution Contingency Plan. Also being developed are revised regulations designating hazardous substances posing threat to public welfare, recommending ways of removing hazardous substances and revising administration of revolving cleanup fund.

DETERGENTS: . . . House subcommittee recommends that EPA tell manufacturers to reduce phosphates in detergents to 2.2 percent by December 31 in areas where use would contribute to eutrophication.

For additional information, contact Office of Environmental Quality Information, MCA.

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MONSANTO OUTLINES THREE-YEAR ATTACK ON POLLUTION

Monsanto Company says that during the next three years it will spend $60 million on capital investments for pollution control projects, excluding operating costs.

Part of this, $2.7 million, will be spent at the company's Decatur, Ala., plant and technical center during 1972. A wastewater control project to be installed will employ a special process developed after pilot plant studies and consultation with state pollution control agencies, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The design calls for a collection system, an equalization basin, an aeration basin using a special activated sludge process, clarification basin and drying beds.

A specific micro-organism will digest organic material, leaving a nontoxic, dry sludge which will be disposed of in a sanitary landfill. Purified water will be returned to a nearby river.

Waste treatment at Monsanto's Decatur plant began during 1952, the first year of the facility's operation, with the construction of primary and secondary treatment. During the 1960's, additional equipment was installed to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste to the river to less than one-third its former level.

The new abatement unit will further reduce this effluent by some 85 percent, leaving only small quantities of biodegradable material going to the receiving stream.

Monsanto is currently installing equipment at its Anniston, Ala., polychlorinated biphenyl plant which should reduce PCB residue discharges to an undetectable level after the abatement system is completed in July 1972. Discharges were as high as 20 pounds per day before last July. At that time, however, the company began manufacturing unchlorinated biphenyls with a resultant drop in PCB discharge to an average of one-half pound per day.

A $1.5 million wastewater treatment facility was completed at the company's John F. Queeny plant in St. Louis last April as part of a continuing program to clean up the plant's liquid effluent.

THREE PESTICIDE MAKERS HELP EPA CHECK IMPURITY

Three major pesticide manufacturers—Rohm and Haas, Du Pont [illegible] Corporation—have voluntarily agreed with the Environmental [illegible] Agency to take additional precautionary steps to assure the continu[illegible] to consumers of hundreds of registered fungicide formulations long disease control on food and feed crops.

The decision was reached after EPA determined that maneb, zineb, and similar fungicides widely applied to protect apples, tomatoes, potatoes and other fruits and vegetables contained an impurity—ethylene thiourea (ETU)—which could pose a health hazard to man if consumed in sufficient amounts.

Since the impurity disappears rapidly from sprayed surfaces and would not be expected to build up in a food chain, the danger to humans is remote based on available evidence, the agency said.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture says that ethylene bisdithiocarbamate (EBDC) fungicides are essential to control diseases that would otherwise seriously threaten many crops and that there are no satisfactory alternative compounds.

"Even though the risk to man from ETU has yet to be demonstrated," EPA Administrator William D. [illegible] haus said, "the three princi[illegible] facturers of these fungicides [illegible] unteered to work with this [illegible] reducing the established resi[illegible] ances (maximum permissib[illegible] for the major crops treated [illegible] fungicides. The permissible [illegible] val between last application [illegible] vest will be increased to as[illegible] any fungicide residue remai[illegible] crop will not exceed the le[illegible] ances."

Mr. Ruckelshaus said eac[illegible] facturer had committed its [illegible] to a vigorous research pr[illegible] cooperation with scientists i[illegible] partments of Agriculture an[illegible] Education, and Welfare as[illegible] EPA. The program is design[illegible] velop information to better as[illegible] problem and prescribe solu[illegible] if necessary before the 197[illegible] season.

SECONDARY STANDARDS FOR SIX ST[illegible] DELAYED ON PARTICULATES, SO_2

The Environmental Protection Agency has granted six states [illegible] extension of the Jan. 30, 1972, deadline for submitting plans [illegible] national secondary ambient air quality standards for particulate [illegible] fur oxides.

In letters to the states—Connecticut, Hawaii, New Jersey, Ohio [illegible] and Massachusetts—EPA Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus s[illegible] should be submitted as expeditiously as possible. The extens[illegible] July 30, 1973.

Requests for similar extensions from Idaho, Indiana and M[illegible] under review.

Specific extensions are to:

—Connecticut for particulate matter in the New Jersey/N[illegible] cut and the Hartford/New Haven/Springfield Air Quality Contr[illegible]

—Hawaii for particulate matter in the entire state.

—New Jersey for sulfur oxides and particulate matter in t[illegible] New York/Connecticut, and the metropolitan Philadelphia Air [illegible] Regions.

—Ohio for particulate matter in the metropolitan Cleveland A[illegible] trol Region.

—Pennsylvania for both particulate matter and sulfur oxi[illegible] politan Philadelphia and the Southwest Pennsylvania Air Q[illegible] Regions.

—Massachusetts for both particulate matter and sulfur oxi[illegible] politan Boston Air Quality Control Region.

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