Enforcement nearer on spill regulations

A three-step schedule to launch enforcement of hazardous spills regulations, adopted in June, was approved Tuesday night by the Guilford County Board of Health.

The action was taken after the board was informed County Manager John Witherspoon had approved funding of the inspector's position necessary to implementing the regulations. The board, in adopting the regulations, specified they would become effective when funds were available to employ the inspector.

On recommendation of Owen Braughler, environmental health director, the board ruled:

- New installations for containment of hazardous liquids, not yet under construction, must have preventive measures in place by Nov. 1.
- Installations under construction, where design changes are necessary, have until Dec. 1 to comply.
- Existing installations must comply by April 1 of next year.

The board hopes the regulations will cut down on the number and severity of petroleum and chemical spills which can endanger water supplies and plant and animal life.

Braughler stressed the need for adopting an educational, rather than a punitive, approach to encourage firms to cooperate in preventing spills. Dikes around tanks and warning devices are among measures recommended to cut down on spills.

In other action, the board turned down a proposal to install a new type of septic tank in a 19-home subdivision being built on New Garden Road in the Horsepen Creek basin above the city's water supply. The board endorsed trying out the new system, developed by N.C. State University engineers, but suggested another location in the county.

Support was expressed by the board for an ordinance calling for testing of septic tanks on new houses before they are sold. Mobile home park regulations, adopted in 1968 and superseded by more recent county zoning ordinances, were rescinded.

Biologists Taking PCB Game, Fish Samplings

4/17/78

Noted Briefly Outdoors

Biologists from the N.C. Wildlife Wildlife Resources Commission are collecting small game and fish samples in several sections of the state for chemical analysis to determine the effect of recent PCB spills.

Director Robert Hazel said the collection is a part of routine investigations to check the resistance of wildlife populations.

The findings will help show what effect, if any, PCB spills have on chemical residues in wildlife populations.

Samplings are being taken from mourning doves, rabbits and various species of fish.

Three New York men are being investigated in connection with the recent PCB spills.

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