faster than other systems in use, but that the present sensitivities for some chemicals, such as phosphorus and ammonia, are too high for EPA use at this time. Elly said that the system is good for highly polluted water, but not for clean water. EPA has been testing the IQAS for the last four to six months.

Elly said that if purchased the instrument would be used by EPA primarily to test lake water, rather than water samples required for granting a National Pollutant Discharge elimination system permit.

John Wilson, of the Department of the Interior's Geological Survey laboratory at Denver, Colo. said that USGS has purchased one of the machines, and is continuing testing of another one at this time.

Wilson said that the instrument is being used on a "broad range of natural water samples," such as lake water. USGS decided to purchase the machine primarily because the speed at which the tests are done compensates for its inability to do multiple testing simultaneously.

Radiation

EPA ISSUES TECHNICAL REPORT ON GUIDANCE FOR TRU EXPOSURE

The Environmental Protection Agency issued a technical report containing its responses to all comments received on its proposed radiation protection dose guidelines for persons exposed to transuranic elements in the environment (44 FR 61104).

The guidelines were proposed in the Federal Register on November 30, 1977 (42 FR 60956). The final guidelines, which currently are awaiting the signature of EPA Administrator Douglas M. Costle, will be subject to Presidential approval and would apply to all federal agencies which have statutory authority for producing or using transuranic elements, or licensing or regulating such activities.

The guidelines would limit the radiation dose the general population may receive from exposure to transuranic elements to one millirad per year to the lung and three millirad annually to the bone (Current Developments, September 21, p. 1197).

Single copies of the technical report, EPA 520/4-78-010, are available upon request from Gordon Burley, Environmental Standards Branch Chief, Criteria and Standards Division, Office of Radiation Programs (ANR-460), EPA, Washington, D.C. 20460, or telephone (703) 557-8610.

General Policy

EPA ADVISORY PANEL PLANS MEETING TO DISCUSS CADMIUM REPORT, SLUDGE RULES

The Science Advisory Board's study group on cadmium in sludges will hold a meeting November 7 to discuss a draft report by the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development (ORD) on the human health effects on cadmium (44 FR 61105).

The group is expected to focus on ORD's support of proposed interim regulations for land application of treatment plant sludges (Current Developments, September 21, 1193).

Persons wishing to attend the meeting, which will be held at 9 a.m. in room 2117 of Waterside Mall, 401 M St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460, should contact Joel Fisher at (202) 472-9444, by November 5.

Copies of the health effects document may be obtained from Richard Marland, in EPA's R&D office at (202) 755-2532.

Economic Analysis Subcommittee Meeting

SAB's Economic Analysis Subcommittee also is planning to meet November 20 to prepare a report to EPA on "The Potential Role of Economic Analysis in Environmental Policy" (44 FR 61105).

Person wishing to attend, participate, or obtain information concerning the meeting, which will be held at 9 a.m. in room 1101 West Tower at the above address, should contact Douglas B. Seba on (202) 472-9444 by November 16.

Chemicals

HAZARDS OF PCBs CALLED OVERBLOWN, CAUSING NEEDLESS DISPOSAL PROBLEMS

TAMPA, Fla. — (By an Environment Reporter staff correspondent) — The hazards of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are overblown, causing needless disposal problems, according to scientists, engineers, and Environmental Protection Agency officials speaking at a hazardous waste management seminar.

PCBs are a "political pollutant" — a substance which EPA, the Food and Drug Administration, or some other federal agency has banned, resulting in no one wanting to touch, or dispose of the material, said John Dickinson, chief of the hazardous waste section of EPA Region IV in Atlanta, Ga. Dickinson told the October 16-19 seminar, sponsored by the Toxic Substances Control Institute, that "political pollutants" are ones which can be safely and securely disposed of, but ones which industry does not want to handle or "take the heat" from society for disposal.

Dickinson said the reason for concern about PCBs is that the substance is bioaccumulative and persistent in the environment and does not break down into simpler chemicals.

Dickinson said, however, that other chemicals are much more dangerous than PCBs, but just have not received the media attention that PCBs have.

He said that incineration of PCBs is the "sleeping giant" because EPA has not yet begun evaluating emissions from burning PCBs, and EPA does not know the products of its combustion.

PCBs Caught in Political Controversy

Dickinson's views were supported by Raymond D. Harbison, director of the toxic substances control laboratory at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. Harbison said PCBs are totally immobile and not carcinogenic to humans. According to Harbison, benzpyrene and other chemicals are far more hazardous to humans and the environment than PCBs and are proven human carcinogens.

Harbison pointed to many cases of human ingestion of PCBs without resulting carcinogenic side effects.

An April 1979 EPA environmental impact statement and economic impact analysis of the PCB regulations said that PCBs are carcinogenic to rats and mice and "pose a carcinogenic risk to man."

"The hysteria and money spent over PCBs are not worth the human health effects," Harbison said. "I see no reason why we are having problems disposing of PCB," he said in referring to industry problems in obtaining PCB disposal permits because of public opposition to disposal facilities.

PCBs, the only substance specifically outlawed by Congress in the Toxic Substances Control Act, are the target of very strict federal disposal regulations.

Robert Landmesser, president of Advanced Environmental Technology Corp., Morrisplains, N.J., recommended that industry get rid of its transformers and capacitors containing PCBs as soon as possible. Many seminar participants

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