STATES SET ENVIRONMENTAL RULES

Industries and municipalities in Delaware are now required to dispose of solid wastes in sanitary landfills and have a permit to operate such facilities.

Broad regulations recently adopted by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control also establish standards for the design, operation and closing of sanitary landfills.

Under the new rules, chemical and physical properties of industrial wastes and their leachability characteristics must be documented and a hydrogeological report prepared on the proposed site.

Design of the landfill should include a system for leachate collection, treatment and disposal. A method for venting and monitoring gases within the fill also could be required.

Hazardous wastes must be disposed of separately, the regulations state.

The loud, sustained whine of the sawmill is on the way out in Oregon.

The state's Environmental Quality Commission has adopted regulations restricting industrial and commercial noise levels to 55 to 75 decibels during the day, depending on the area.

For nighttime hours, noise limits will be lowered another five decibels.

The regulations went into effect on existing noise sources at the end of September. They apply to new noise sources on Jan. 1, 1975.

Noise from industrial warning devices and emergency vehicles are exempt, as are sounds from aircraft and trains.

The Texas Water Quality Board has redefined acceptable waste loads going into the Houston Ship Channel from industries and municipalities. The action should reduce total daily waste loads from the current 100,000 to 45,000 pounds by 1983.

The new allocations are required by federal regulations for streams into which many sources discharge if their total allocations as determined by federal effluent limitations exceed the waterway's assimilative capacity.

The new limits establish maximum daily biological oxygen demand and nitrogen loads that companies can discharge to the channel and the equivalent treatment level for municipal wastes.

NIOSH TAKES AIM AT 30 HAZARDS

Recommendations for federal standards on more than 30 occupational hazards are scheduled for development during fiscal years 1975-76, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Criteria documents are planned for release in fiscal 1975 on: aniline, cadmium, carbon tetrachloride, dioxane, egress from high structures, labeling of hazardous materials, fluorides, hexavalent chromium compounds, hydrogen cyanide, methylene chloride, nitric acid, oxides of nitrogen, parathion, silica, sodium hydroxide, xylene, zinc chloride and zinc oxide.

Recommendations during fiscal 1976 will be on: chlorine, ethylene dichloride, fibrous glass, fluorine, formaldehyde, hydrogen fluoride, phenol, phosgene, phosphine, phosphoric acid, phosphorous, sodium cyanide, tetrachloroethylene and 1,1,1-trichloroethane.

Seventy-three million pounds of fly ash will be kept out of the air around Akron, Ohio, each year by $3.8 million in pollution controls being installed on a coal-burning power plant of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company.

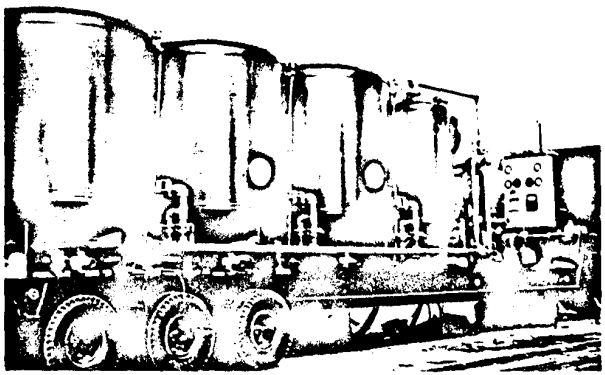
EPA'S MOBILE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TO THE RESCUE

For the second time in recent months, the Environmental Protection Agency has used a mobile wastewater treatment plant to cleanse water contaminated by a toxic material.

The latest incident occurred in Seattle Harbor when an electrical transformer being loaded on a ship was dropped and began leaking polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a material used to cool the transformer. The PCBs sank to the harbor bottom and began to spread.

To prevent the toxic material from contaminating nearby Puget Sound, the PCBs had to be physically removed and treated.

EPA called for its Mobile Hazardous Materials Spills Treatment System, a 100,000 pound, trailer-mounted, physical-chemical treatment plant. Driven from the agency's research center at Edison, N.J., it reached the spill scene in four days.



EPA put together this Mobile Hazardous Materials Spills Treatment System.

The unit was developed primarily to treat a pond in New Jersey which had been contaminated by a herbicide spill.

The PCBs, along with bottom muds and water, were removed from the harbor bottom by scuba divers using hand-held vacuums. A flocculant added in a portable tank began the treatment process. The mud-PCBs slurry was then pumped to tanks where most of the solids settled out.

The clarified water, still too contaminated to return to the harbor, was passed through the treatment system's mixed media filters and columns of activated carbon to remove dissolved and suspended PCBs.

Pure water was returned to the harbor. Mud and PCBs removed from the settling tanks were transferred to barrels for disposal.

FROM: MCA's CHEMECOLOGY, DEC 1974

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