

The decision means that any buses advertised for bid after February 15, 1977, must meet this standard if buyers are to qualify for federal funding assistance. Currently, most buses are bought with federal financial help.

Following the decision, a coalition of elderly and handicapped groups issued a statement denouncing the ruling as "a boon to General Motors and disaster for the elderly and disabled and all mass transit riders."

The low-floor advocates were seeking a 23-inch floor height, but Patricelli said that would be too costly and impractical.

Patricelli said the "marginal" additional benefits of a 22-inch floor don't merit its "substantial additional costs." He also noted that the agency recently issued rules that transit be provided to the elderly and handicapped.

Requiring a 22-inch floor would delay initial use of improved buses for three to five years, and could involve government financing of bus retrofitting, the administrator warned.

The 24-inch maximum floor height can be accomplished in two ways, Patricelli said. The manufacturer can design the bus so the floor is 24 inches from the ground or he can use a higher floor if the bus has a device that allows it to "kneel," so that the floor height drops to 24 inches or less when passengers are boarding.

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ELECTRIC POWER: GAO REPORT RECOMMENDS CHANGES IN WAY HYDRO PLANTS DETERMINE POWER CAPACITY

A General Accounting Office report has recommended changes in the methods used by the Interior Department's power-marketing agencies to determine how much capacity can be sold.

The GAO report, "Federal Hydroelectric Plants Can Increase Power Sales," says that the agencies can increase the electric capacity available for sale from federal hydroelectric systems by planning to purchase power from other systems during low-water years.

Federal hydroelectric systems maintain larger generating reserves than are warranted, the report states, and this excess "could be reduced and made available for sale."

Hydroelectric power accounts for about 15 percent of the nation's electric-generating capacity. About 40 percent of that is government-owned. Five agencies within the Interior Department and the Tennessee Valley Authority market federal power.

The report recommends that the agencies establish uniform guidelines for determining the power system's generating capabilities under "adverse conditions," determine the feasibility of establishing dependable capacity based on purchases of power, identify and obtain modifications which would be required to implement this method, and sell any additional capacity.

In response to the report, the Interior Department said it would make appropriate studies to determine the feasibility of implementing the recommendations on a system-by-system basis, but added that although the recommendations may be very workable for some systems, they might also be impractical or have no significant impact on the capacity of other systems.

The report, CED-76-120, is available for \$1 from GAO, Distribution Section, P.O. Box 1020, Washington, D.C. 20013.

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ENVIRONMENT: EPA PROPOSES RULES TO LIMIT INDUSTRY ON DISCHARGES OF PCBs INTO WATERWAYS

The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed regulations to limit the discharge of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) into waterways by industrial plants.

EPA said its proposals will significantly reduce future contamination of the environment by these chemicals, which have been shown to be highly toxic to test animals and to cause adverse health effects in humans.

The proposals would prohibit any discharge of PCBs by industries manufacturing the chemicals. Plants which use PCBs to produce electrical transformers and capacitors would also be subject to a prohibition on PCB discharge in most manufacturing process wastes, with strict limitations on all other discharges of PCBs into waterways from their operations.

These industries are the principal specific or "point" source of PCB discharges to the nation's waters, EPA said.

"Discharges from plants manufacturing electrical equipment have been identified as the source of high levels of PCBs in fish taken from parts of New York's Hudson River. This prompted the State to recommend limits on the consumption of sport fish and to ban commercial fishing in certain areas. Similar controls have been implemented to protect the public from high PCB levels in certain species of fish from Lakes Michigan and Ontario," EPA said.

EPA's proposed standards were developed to protect human health and organisms in the aquatic food chain. Laboratory tests conducted with a wide range of aquatic animals and mammals have demonstrated a variety of toxic effects, including liver damage, tumors and reproductive problems. EPA believes that the proposed standards will provide a reasonable degree of safety to organisms which are likely to be exposed.

PCBs are highly mobile, EPA said, and remain present in the environment for many years. They are particularly harmful to aquatic organisms, in which they accumulate in concentrations many times greater than those found in surrounding waters. In many cases, these large concentrations are then passed up the aquatic food chain to consuming organisms, including man.

About 1.25 billion pounds of PCBs have been used in the United States over the past 45 years. EPA estimates that at least 3,000 pounds of PCBs are discharged to the aquatic environment each year by industries subject to these regulations.

EPA has so far identified as being affected by the regulations 10 plants which use the chemicals in the production of transformers and capacitors.

The agency recognizes that its regulations can address only the problem of future contamination from industrial plant discharges. Past widespread use of the chemicals in the production of lubricant additives, hydraulic and compressor fluid, carbonless copy paper, plasticizers, paints and other products has resulted in PCBs being present throughout the environment.

Although most of these uses have now been substantially curtailed, PCBs already present in the environment pose a problem for which no feasible and effective remedy exists. The public will be alerted to potential hazards by careful long-term monitoring of PCB levels in food, EPA stated.

EPA's proposals complement a number of related government actions taken to reduce human exposure to PCBs.

For example, EPA said the Food and Drug Administration has established tolerances for PCBs in food and has banned use of the chemicals in processing food and feed. The American National Standards Institute has issued guidelines for industry on the use, labeling and disposal of PCBs. The Department of Interior has prohibited the use of PCBs in offshore oil operations. Also, EPA has proposed regulations (Federal Register, December 30, 1975) to control spills of numerous identified hazardous substances, including PCBs. In addition, EPA has issued recommended procedures for disposal of PCBs by industrial users (Federal Register, April 1, 1976).

The standards were proposed under Section 307(e) of the 1972 Water Pollution Control Act, and they appeared in the July 23, 1976 Federal Register. Following a public hearing beginning August 20, 1976 in Washington, D.C., and the development of additional data on economic effects, EPA said the regulations will be issued in final form no later than six months after proposal. They become effective one year after issuance of the final regulations.

The 10 plants identified by EPA as using PCBs in the production of transformers and capacitors are:

Aerovox Industries, Inc., New Bedford, Mass.; Cornell Dubilier Electric Corp., New Bedford; General Electric Co., Pittsfield, Mass.; Sprague Electric Co., North Adams, Mass.; General Electric Co., Hudson Falls, N.Y.; Research Cottrell, Inc., Flindore, N.J.; Westinghouse Electric Corp., Power System Transformer Division, Sharon, Pa.; General Electric Co., Rome, Ga.; Sangamo Electric Co., Capator Division, Hickens, S.C.; and Westinghouse Electric Corp., Distribution Apparatus Division, Bloomington, In.

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GOV'T CONTRACTS: RAYTHEON CO. WINS \$33 MILLION CONTRACT FOR NAVY RADAR SETS

The Navy has awarded Raytheon Co., of Wayland, Mass., a \$23,204,300 negotiated fixed price incentive fee contract for AN/SPS-49 radar sets, spare parts, engineering services, and data. The Naval Sea Systems Command is the contracting activity. (N00024-76-C-7209)

Other contracts announced by the Defense Department on July 29 include:

ARMY

AVCO Corporation, Lycoming Division, Stratford, Conn., is being awarded a \$3,987,692 cost plus incentive fee contract for conversion of T55-L-11D engines to T55-L-712 configuration and related testing, repair, calibration and engineering services to support the CH-47 Modernization Program. The U.S. Army Aviation Systems Command, St. Louis, is the contracting activity. (DA-AJ-01-76-C-0551)

Honeywell, Inc., Government and Aeronautical Products Division, Hopkins, Minn., is being awarded a \$7,054,011 fixed price with escalation, fourth increment of a five year multi-year procurement contract for add-on stabilization system and modification kits, following competition in which 32 bids were solicited and two bids were received. The U.S. Army Armament Command, Rock Island, Ill., is the contracting activity. (DA-AA-09-74-C-2039)

Matanuska Maid, Inc., Anchorage, is being awarded an estimated \$1,218,220 firm fixed price contract for milk and dairy products for the period 1 August 1976 through 31 January 1977, following competition in which five bids were solicited and three bids were received. The Procurement Division, Fort Richardson, is the contracting activity. (DA-KF-70-76-C-0085)

RCA Corporation, Camden, N.J., is being awarded a \$5,207,122 modification to a previously awarded cost plus incentive fee contract for classified electronics, following competition in which three bids were solicited and two bids were received. The Maryland Procurement Office, Fort George G. Meade, is the contracting activity. (MD-A9-04-76-C-0337)

NAVY

United Technology Corporation, Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Division, East Hartford, is being awarded a \$3,379,327 negotiated Type A redeterminable contract under a basic ordering agreement for engine spare parts in support of the F-14 aircraft. The Navy Aviation Supply Office, Philadelphia, is the contracting activity. (N000383-75-A-0546-1818)

C. A. Farhall, Inc., New York, is being awarded a \$4,560,000 negotiated indefinite quantity firm fixed price contract for the development and reproduction of training kits for the Army's T8C-V (Training Extension Course). The Naval Training Equipment Center, Orlando, is the contracting activity (N61339-76-D-0017)

Vought Corporation, Systems Division, Dallas, is being awarded a \$7,328,100 modification to a previously

awarded cost plus incentive fee type contract for additional advance procurement funding for FY 76 procurement of the A-7E aircraft. The Naval Air Systems Command is the contracting activity. (N00019-75-C-0154)

Vought Corporation, Systems Division, Dallas, is being awarded a \$5,843,000 modification to a previously awarded fixed price type contract which will increase limitation of Government liability for modification of A-7B/C to TA-7C aircraft configuration. The Naval Air Systems Command is the contracting activity. (N00019-76-C-0029)

AIR FORCE

McDonnell Douglas-Tulsa, is being awarded a \$3,753,284 firm fixed price contract, of which \$1,894,134 is being obligated today, for long lead time material in support of 600 gallon external fuel tanks for the F-15 aircraft. The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Robins AFB, is the contracting activity. (F34601-75-A-1728)

McDonnell Douglas Corporation, McDonnell Aircraft Company, St. Louis, is being awarded a \$5,816,224 fixed price, incentive firm target, letter contract for long lead time materials for manufacture of spare parts in support of the airborne radar fire control system. The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Robins AFB, is the contracting activity. (F09603-76-C-0947)

ITT Continental Baking Company, Anchorage, is being awarded a \$1,249,305 firm fixed price, definitive contract for procurement of bakery products. Work will be performed at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, and Fort Richardson, Alaska. The 21st Composite Wing, Elmendorf AFB, is the contracting activity. (F65501-76-9-0304)

General Electric Company, Reentry & Environmental Systems Division, Philadelphia, is being awarded a \$15,438,300 increase to a cost plus incentive fee contract for Mark 12A reentry vehicle research and development program reassignment for the Minuteman Missile. The Space and Missile Systems Organization, Norton AFB, Calif.,

- Denotes labor surplus area
- Denotes small business firm

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ENVIRONMENT: DOT ISSUES REPORT ON PREDICTING EFFECT OF TRANSPORTATION ON AIR QUALITY

A report to help predict the impact of transportation on air quality today was released by the Transportation Department.

Entitled, "Assessing Transportation-Related Air Quality Impacts," the report is a compilation of scientific papers presented at the Conference on the State of the Art of Assessing Transportation-Related Air Quality Impacts held October 23-25, 1975, at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C.

The conference was sponsored by the DOT's Office of Environmental Affairs and Federal Highway Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Experts in the areas of chemistry, meteorology, and transportation were brought together and discussed the use of scientific modeling to determine the impact of transportation and transportation-related activities on air quality.

Discussion subjects included oxidant modeling; photochemical diffusion models for air quality simulations; ambient air monitoring for highway environmental analysis; and estimating the air quality impact of vehicular emissions.

Copies of the conference report may be obtained at a per copy cost of \$8.40 by ordering: Special Report 167, Transportation Research Board, National Academy of Sciences, 201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418.

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