56-52A AIR/WATER POLLUTION
REPORT
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HOUSE MERCHANT MARINE UNITS LAUNCH HEARINGS ON OCEAN DUMPING, OIL SPILL LIABILITY, PCBs 1800 Three subcommittees of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee conducted public hearings last week on water pollution control-related issues. Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation and the Environment launched oversight hearings on the impact of polychlorinated biphenyls and similar toxic substances on fisheries and wildlife resources, then joined with the Subcommittee on Oceanography for oversight and authorization hearings on the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries (Ocean Dumping) Act. Meanwhile, the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Navigation continued hearings on oil spill liability.

During the hearings on PCBs, Monsanto Co. reiterated its intent to discontinue manufacture as soon as alternatives are available (see page 45); other witnesses, however, demanded further action. Interior Department's Nathaniel P. Reed, for example, urged a national ban on all domestic and imported PCBs as rapidly as possible. National Fisheries Institute's Lee Weddig agreed, urging compensation for commercial fishermen whose livelihood is destroyed by prohibitions against the sale of fish in which the presence of PCBs exceeds the Food and Drug Administration tolerance. Both Weddig and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Russell E. Train urged immediate passage of toxic substances control legislation.

At the ocean dumping hearings, EPA Assistant Administrator Andrew Breidenbach and three regional officials described EPA's role in the ocean dumping program, while FDA's James L. Verber outlined his agency's National Shellfish Sanitation Program. In sharp contrast to EPA's position that ocean dumping should ultimately be eliminated, Philadelphia's Carmen F. Guarino urged that more research be undertaken on the potential benefits of ocean dumping. "Ocean disposal should be properly managed," he said, but the problem "may have been overmanaged... resulting in elimination, rather than control."

Finally, in the continuing hearings on oil spill liability (A/WPR, Dec. 22, 1975, p. 506), Federal Maritime Commission's Clarence Morse fully supported the Administration's proposed H.R.9294 with "but a few reservations that pertain to what we recognize as possible enforcement loopholes in the bill as drafted." American Maritime Association's Alfred Maskin recommended that the committee consider eliminating individual liability for the damages flowing from oil pollution, establishing instead exclusive liability of the fund in all but criminal cases.

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FOR THE RECORD

Revision to New Hampshire plan. Environmental Protection Register p. 3085.

Approval and promulgation of revision to Vermont air quality implementation plans. EPA. Jan. 21 FR 3085.

Notice of postponement of meeting of Hazardous Meterials Advisory Committee of Science Advisory Board. Jan. 29-30 in Arlington, Va. EPA. Jan. 21 FR 3117.

Notice of meeting of Executive Committee of Science Advisory Board Feb. 4 in Washington, D.C. EPA. Jan. 21 FR 3118.

Miscellaneous amendments to general requirements for financial assistance for public works projects. Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce. Jan. 22 FR 3286.

Proposed approval and promulgation of Idaho SO_2 control strategy. EPA. Jan. 22 FR 3320.

Notice of public meeting of Marine Petroleum and Minerals Advisory Committee Feb. 24 in New Orleans, La. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Jan. 22 FR 3329.

Consideration of data by the administrator in support of an application for registration of a pesticide product. EPA. Jan. 22 FR 3339.

Mass transit priority incentives for state of New Jersey. EPA. Jan. 23 FR 3475.

Notice and agenda for meeting of Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Studies Advisory Committee. Feb. 18-19 in Washington, D.C. Bureau of Land Management. Jan. 23 FR 3491.

Notice of meeting of Outer Continental Shelf Advisory Board Feb. 10 in New Orleans, La. BLM. Jan. 26 FR 3765.

Standards of performance for new stationary sources

inger statement on environment and the economy, rticle by Nicholas von Hoffman. Jan. 19 CR H52.

nsmittal of reports on release of budget authority vironmental spending upon disapproval of deferral proposal, from General Accounting Office. Jan. 19 CR H71.

Transmittal of report on need for study of radioactive waste disposal sites, from GAO. Jan. 19 CR H71.

Sullivan introduces H.R.11406 to implement international protocol on marine pollution by substances other than oil. Jan. 20 CR H114.

Further Senate debate on S.961. Jan. 20 CR S167 to S177.

Stevens submits amendment to S.961. Jan. 21 CR S206.

Further Senate debate on S.961. Jan. 21 CR S253 to S282.

Transmittal of report on progress in bilateral environmental program, from EPA. Jan. 22 CR H215.

Young statement on environmentalists versus power development, with letter from North Dakota utility executive. Jan. 22 CR S340.

Further Senate debate on S.961. Jan. 22 CR S366 to S371.

Cranston introduces compromise amendment to S961, preserving fisheries management provisions while striking assertion of unilateral 200-mile jurisdiction. Jan. 23 CR S398.

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