Industries affected by the environmental department's easing of the sulfur content rules must apply to the department for a variance.

BURDENSOME ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS CLOSE CAN PLANT

The H. C. Hemingway and Company of Clyde, New York, the nation's oldest canning plant, according to the company president, John C. Hemingway, has been forced to close because of New York's refusal to grant an extension for construction of a $200,000 wastewater treatment facility. The company, which began operations in 1876, was applying for financial assistance from the Small Business Administration and the Farmers Home Administration when the refusal was issued. Mr. Hemingway said the firm spent more than $20,000 for an engineering design for a spray irrigation treatment of the plant's waste.

Mr. Hemingway expressed particular concern about the economic impact of the closing and said, "I just think someone ought to see to it that the economic impact of closing a plant like ours is taken into account. It will deprive the nation of part of its food supply. In the long run, closing our plant and others like it could mean higher food prices for all Americans."

The plant employed 30 full-time employees and more than 100 seasonal employees. In 1975 it processed crops worth $2.5 million at the wholesale level.

NEW JERSEY EXPANDS WATER MONITORING PROGRAM

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has enlarged its water monitoring programs in order to determine the progress in pollution abatement efforts towards achieving the state's clean water goals. Dr. Rocco D. Ricci, Deputy Commissioner of the Department and acting director of the division of water resources, made the announcement. The program is being financed by federal and state matching funds. It will analyze water quality from 200 stream sites around the state. According to Ricci, the data being gathered at the stream sites includes information on major population centers, spreading industrial or commercial development, geographical aspects, and water uses. Ricci believes the increased number of sampling sites will help provide a steady, reliable source of stream data from different parts of the state on a year-round basis. Stream-site data will be analyzed and then stored in a data retrieval system.

4/12/76

MICHIGAN FINDS PCBs, DDT, MERCURY IN LAKE SUPERIOR TROUT

The Great Lakes Environmental Contaminants Survey conducted jointly by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Food and Drug Administration, the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Michigan Departments of Public Health and Agriculture, found lake trout from Lake Superior with mercury concentrations in excess of one part per million (ppm) and DDT and PCB concentrations in excess of five ppm.

Howard A. Tanner, Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources said, "Investigations to determine sources of PCBs and mercury have been carried out by Canada, Michigan, and other states bordering on Lake Superior. Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin are considering legislation to ban use of PCBs, although it will likely be a number of years before the effects of such measures are fully noted."

"In the meantime," Tanner concluded, "we must continue to seek methods of reducing inputs of contaminants to Lake Superior."

PRINCIPAL LEGISLATIVE STAFF OFFICES

The Council of State Governments has compiled a comprehensive directory of the major staff officers in the State Legislatures. The directory also lists individuals responsible for such functions as bill drafting, research, auditing, code revision and management. The directory reflects general organizational structures and provides names, addresses and telephone numbers. For member companies who follow state issues closely, this may be a helpful tool. Principal Legislative Staff Offices (RM-561) is available from the Council of State Governments, Lexington, Kentucky 40511 for $6.00.