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A POLLUTION CODE VOTED BY COUNCIL

Rules Would Curb Sulphur in Fuel and Set Up Board to Deal With Violators

By ALFONSO A. NARVAEZ

The City Council unanimously approved yesterday a stringent air-pollution control code that reduces the allowable sulphur content in fuels burned here and limits the amount of particle emissions from ventilators and fuel-burning equipment.

The code, which is expected to be signed by the Mayor, also sets up an administrative tribunal in the form of an environmental control board with the power to hear cases and levy fines against individuals or corporations violating the code.

Under the measure, the board would order the owners of equipment that causes emission to install controlling apparatus or to shut down the equipment if it does not meet the standard set up by the code.

Schedule of Fines

Violators could be fined $100 a day and $500 if they broke the seal placed on faulty equipment.

Although the code sets a limit of .3 per cent on sulphur-content fuels burned by commercial and residential facilities by Oct. 1, 1971, it allows Consolidated Edison to burn a 0.55 per cent sulphur-content fuel past that date. The utility would have to comply with the 0.3 per cent limit by Oct. 1, 1972.

Spokesmen for the utility testified at hearings conducted by the Council's Committee on Environmental Protection that complying with the more stringent provisions at this time would cost the company about $85-million next year. This, the spokesmen said, would be reflected in an 8 per cent increase in the cost of electricity to the consumers, or an extra $10 a year to the average consumer.

The utility may pass along the increased cost of fuel to the consumer without authorization by the Public Service Commission.

Mayor Lindsay termed the Council's passage of the code "another important step toward a cleaner and healthier environment for all New Yorkers."

"In the last several months there has been a discernible improvement in the quality of our air," the Mayor said in a statement issued at City Hall. He added:

Comment by Kretchmer

Jerome Kretchmer, Environmental Protection Administrator, said that passage of the code was "a major turning point in the city's fight for cleaner air." The administrative tribunal, he said, would give his agency the enforcement powers it needs to prosecute violators.

"This will enable us to process cases efficiently and get rapid compliance from violators in a way that the old system—going through the Criminal Courts—clearly has failed to do," Mr. Kretchmer said.

The code would abolish the spraying of asbestos insulating materials six months after it is signed into law and would strictly limit how other insulating materials could be installed at construction sites.

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