CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE
FEDERAL-STATE ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE
ON
POLLUTION OF ESCAMBIA RIVER AND BAY
FLORIDA - ALABAMA
SECOND SESSION
February 23-24, 1971

A. CONCLUSIONS

The area considered by the Conferees is the Conecuh-Escambia River in Alabama and Florida downstream from Brewton, Alabama, and Escambia Bay as well as Mulat-Mulatto Bayou in Florida.

The unprecedented numbers and sizes of fish kills in Escambia Bay during 1970 have provided even more evidence of the severe imbalance in water quality conditions which continue to exist. The seriousness of the problem requires that equally serious and stringent measures be taken to enable the Bay to regain the natural ecological balance needed to make this water body a resource rather than a detriment to the State of Florida.

Progress has been noted since the first conference session in reducing waste loads entering the Bay either directly or through its drainage system. Physical improvement in circulation and flushing patterns has also been noted. There is a lack of progress, however, in reducing or eliminating the nutrient-laden waste discharges from the City of Pensacola Northeast sewage treatment plant.

The Conferees commend the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company for eliminating the excessive piling which were adversely affecting circulation and exchange of water in the Bay.

The Conferees also take note of the fact and commend the American Cyanamid Company for substantially eliminating the discharge of acrylonitrile to Escambia Bay.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

To reduce or eliminate the accelerated eutrophication of Escambia Bay and Mulat-Mulatto Bayou, and to provide water quality suitable for a wide diversity of desirable uses, the following water quality management and waste abatement program is recommended to be accomplished, except as otherwise specified, by not later than December 31, 1972.

1. There shall be reductions of 94% BOD_5, 94% nitrogenous, and 90% phosphorus wastes, respectively, discharged to Escambia River and Bay from major sources in Florida, including American Cyanamid, Escambia Chemical, and Monsanto. Due to the distance from Escambia Bay of Container Corporation of America's plant site, a reduction of 90% five-day BOD waste will be required. These percent reductions permit the following allowable waste effluents:

	ALLOWABLE WASTE EFFLUENTS (lbs./day)		
	BOD	Tot. N.	Tot. Phosphorus
Container Corp.	4850	N.A.	N.A.
Monsanto	605	248	46
Cyanamid	425	323	N.A.
Escambia	17	477	35

The foregoing allowable waste loads shall be obtained by December 31, 1972. If further investigation shows that these limits are excessive, Monsanto, American Cyanamid, and Escambia Chemical must develop a plan for removing their discharge from the Bay completely.

There shall be maximum feasible reduction of carbonaceous organic material. All waste discharges shall monitor effluents to insure reductions and conduct feasibility studies and submit a plan of abatement for carbonaceous waste to the Conferees by February 15, 1972.

The effects or Container Corporation's expansion of the mill's pulping capacity on BOD discharged will be evaluated and reviewed by the Conferees at the appropriate time. In addition, Container Corporation shall provide secondary treatment to the bleach plant and wood yard waste.

2. The progress of the City of Pensacola waste abatement program has not been satisfactory. The State of Florida shall take appropriate action in accordance with State rules and regulations to assure that the Northeast sewage treatment plant abate its present discharge to Escambia Bay. The State of Florida will submit to the Conferees by August 15, 1971, a satisfactory plan for accomplishing this objective.

Indications are some negotiations have transpired between the Escambia-Santa Rosa Regional Planning Council and County Commissioners of Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties and the City of Pensacola; however, tangible results are not evident. The parties shall conclude negotiations at an early date and formulate a single program for the

collection, treatment, and disposal of waste waters in the Escambia River Basin. A progress report shall be furnished the Conferees by April 15, 1971, by the Escambia-Santa Rosa Regional Planning Council.

3. The Conferees recognize the in-plant changes made by the Monsanto Company to reduce its waste discharges to the Escambia River. The Conferees require that the company shall attain the recommended allowable waste effluent limit or install a closed circuit cooling system by December 31, 1972.

The Conferees support the State of Florida's actions against Monsanto for the immediate control of the discharge of toxic polychlorinated biphenyls.

4. The Environmental Protection Agency Laboratory at Gulf Breeze, Florida, shall convene a conference of experts on menhaden fisheries. This conference shall recommend methods to limit the migration of juvenile menhaden to the upper Escambia Bay and its related bayous.

The findings of this conference will be reported to the Enforcement Conferees to form a basis of future action for the control of fish kills in Escambia Bay and its bayous.

5. Color in the Escambia River at the Alabama-Florida State line as measured at the Highway 4 bridge near Century, Florida, shall be reduced to levels meeting Alabama, Florida, and Federal standards. The Container Corporation of America is to continue its studies utilizing present research findings on methods for removing color from its waste discharge. The company shall report its progress to the Conferees by February 15, 1972.

6. No further construction dredging shall be permitted at Escambia Bay and Mulatto Bayou until the artificial build-up of organic sediment deposits ceases and are stabilized. Maintenance dredging of existing channels shall be by hydraulic pipe line or by hopper dredge. Disposal of all dredged materials from hydraulic dredging shall be to upland spoil sites. The Corps of Engineers is requested to provide the Conferees with a listing of these sites.

7. The Monsanto Company and Gulf Power Company shall monitor their heated discharges to the River and Bay and the effect of these discharges on the biota and report to the Conferees quarterly results of their monitoring programs. Conferees agree to the Gulf Power Company's plans for the installation of cooling towers for its planned expansion.

8. Century, Florida, and East Brewton, Alabama, by not later than December 31, 1972, shall install secondary waste abatement facilities acceptable to their respective State water pollution control agencies.