

EPA bulletin

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FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR



The eight months that have passed since establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency have been busy ones indeed--for me, for all EPA employees, and for everyone active in the environmental field.

Several actions taken by the Agency have received wide publicity. For example, a total of twelve suits have been brought by EPA against cities and major industries for violation of water quality standards. Registration of the herbicide, amitrole, has been cancelled because of evidence that it may be harmful to animal life. Final regulations have been issued on auto emission testing procedures, to be used in assuring that 1976 model cars will meet standards set by the Clean Air Act of 1970.

These, and the many other actions taken by EPA will have direct or indirect influence upon the quality of life for all Amer-

icans. They are of immediate interest to environmental health and pollution control officials at all levels of government.

This first issue of the *EPA Bulletin*, and those that will follow, are designed to keep you informed of EPA's policies and activities, in order that you can better fulfill your task as an environmentalist.

The job ahead in restoring and improving the environment cannot be accomplished by EPA alone. It is my hope that you will regard this newsletter in several ways: as an informative and useful tool in the conduct of your business with EPA; and also as a "call to action" for measures which must be taken in a spirit of cooperation, if we are to succeed.

William D. Ruckelshaus

NOISE POLLUTION HEARINGS ANNOUNCED

Under Title IV of the 1970 Clean Air Act (P.L. 91-604), an Office of Noise Abatement and Control was authorized within the Environmental Protection Agency. In operation since April 1971, the newly established Office is charged with combating environmental noise levels. The Environmental Protection Agency has been specifically empowered by Congress to conduct "...research, experiments, demonstrations, and studies..." relating to the effects of noise pollution on urban areas, the human populace, wildlife, and property.

In order to determine the dimensions of the environmental noise problem, the Environmental Protection Agency is soliciting testimony from professionals in audiology, occupational health, and related fields. Testimony is being taken from persons in government and industry as

well as from representative members of the general public. Initial hearings, held in Atlanta and Chicago in July were well attended and there was substantial press and citizen interest in the proceedings. Further public hearings are scheduled for the following cities:

Dallas	August 18-19
San Francisco	September 27-29
Denver	Sept 30--Oct 1
New York City	October 21-22
Boston	October 27-28
Washington, D.C.	November 9-10

For further information concerning these hearings, including arrangements to attend or give testimony, please contact:

Office of Noise Abatement and Control
Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460.

DDT HEARING TO START AUGUST 17

A public hearing on Federal cancellation of all remaining uses of the insecticide DDT will begin on Tuesday, August 17, 1971, in Arlington, Virginia.

The hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. in Hearing Room "C" on the 10th floor of the Ballston Towers #3, 4015 Wilson Boulevard. The proceedings, which are open to the public, will be presided over by Edmund M. Sweeney, a hearing examiner assigned by the U.S. Civil Service Commission to handle the DDT appeals. Hearings examiners occupy an independent status in the Federal Government.

The hearing was requested initially by approximately 45 formulators of DDT products cancelled in January 1971 when EPA moved against all remaining Federal registrations of this widely used, persistent insecticide.

The action was taken pursuant to an order of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The principal uses affected by the cancellation notices were those for control of pests on cotton and certain food crops.

Under the present pesticides regulatory law--the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act--companies that appeal cancellation of Federal registrations may continue to market their products in interstate commerce pending final resolution of their administrative appeals.

EPA expects to have the entire administrative review process involving the remaining DDT uses completed by the end of March 1972.

EFFLUENT 'GUIDELINES' CAUSE DIFFICULTIES

The effort to develop uniform National effluent guidelines, to be applied to industries discharging wastes to interstate waterways, has encountered unexpected technical difficulties. These difficulties have required modification of the original approach to the guidelines-setting procedure.

Basically, effluent guidelines to be applied to individual industrial facilities will be determined by the appropriate EPA Regional Administrator, rather than by Nationally applicable guidelines. Varying characteristics of receiving bodies of water, such as size and aeration rates, together with variations in size and discharge volumes of industrial facilities within a given industry, necessitated the change. In order to have taken all of these factors into account, National guidelines would necessarily have been so broad and non-specific as to leave the plant manager uncertain as to the steps he should take. On such terms, it seems likely that even the most conscientious industry would be inhibited from making a large investment in pollution control equipment, lest it later be determined inadequate.

Mr. Ruckelshaus candidly acknowledged difficulties in developing National effluent guidelines at a news conference on July 20, 1971, in Washington, D.C. He has emphasized that the change in procedure for granting industrial discharge permits --with wide discretion left to EPA Regional Offices--should not be construed as a retreat from the strong Agency position in favor of maintaining high water quality standards. Mr. Ruckelshaus has insisted that EPA will not approve an industrial permit unless the Agency is assured that 1) applicable State water quality standards have been correctly applied; 2) the industry's effluent is given at least secondary treatment or its equivalent where

the standard requires this; 3) there is the strictest adherence to a long-standing policy that high quality waters will remain high in quality and will suffer no degradation.

It should be noted that continued effort is being made to resolve the difficulties in developing National effluent guidelines. When they do become available the guidelines will be used by regional offices in reviewing industrial permit applications.

WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ACTIONS

DECEMBER 3, 1970 -- JUNE 30, 1971

One of the hallmarks of the Environmental Protection Agency is its willingness to bring enforcement actions to halt violation of pollution laws. To date, over 80 enforcement actions have been taken against cities and industries. The following summary indicates the scope and effect of EPA's resort to legal means to help abate water pollution.

On December 10, 1970, at the National Conference of Mayors in Atlanta, Georgia, the EPA Administrator, one week in office, served 180-day notices on 3 major cities - Detroit, Cleveland, and Atlanta - to halt violations of Federal-State Water Quality Standards or face the possibility of court action. Despite complaints by the Mayors that it was the lack of promised Federal funds which was holding back their efforts the notices stood.

In June, the Administrator announced in a press release that agreements had been reached between EPA and the three cities, calling for expenditures of \$1.2 billion to curb the pollution of "dying" Lake Erie and Georgia's Chattahoochee River, termed "an open sewer." Detroit and Cleveland, Lake Erie's two largest polluters will engage in a \$1 billion, six-year program to halt the dumping of sewage and reduce the discharges of phosphorous, the nutrient which spurs algal growth in the Lake. Atlanta, as a result of raising its sewage rates by approximately 50 percent, is now in a position to take bids for the first two sewage treatment plants to cost approximately \$62 million in local and Federal funds, and to be constructed within a period of two and a half years.

Issuance of 180-day notices, affecting both industry and cities, was used first by the Department of Interior, which issued a total of 10 notices before relinquishing its powers to the EPA. Since December 1970, the EPA has brought twelve such actions.

The other major enforcement weapon used by EPA has been the referral of industrial pollution cases to the Justice Department for prosecution under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, commonly known as the Refuse Act. Since EPA was formed, 26 cases have been referred to Justice which has either obtained injunctions to prohibit the offensive discharge or has brought criminal prosecution and sought penalties in the form of fines. An additional 28 Refuse Act cases have been instituted in this period by the Justice Department, or by the U.S. Attorneys throughout the country, with technical assistance from EPA's regional offices.

In addition to the two enforcement techniques already mentioned, the Agency continues to hold Enforcement Conferences. The Federal Government and the States continuous to the body of water under

consideration, come together to outline the problems and any progress which has been made toward abatement. As a result of this meeting, a schedule is set up for alleviating the polluting conditions. This schedule then becomes subject to enforcement by issuance of 180-day notices. Fourteen Enforcement Conference actions have been initiated since the formation of EPA.

EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are now engaged in administering an ambitious cleanup program known as the Refuse Act Permit Program which Mr. Ruckelshaus said is the nation's first coordinated attack on the water pollution problems of industry. Every industry which discharges material into navigable waters or their tributaries must provide data on these discharges to the Corps of Engineers in order to obtain a permit.

The original deadline for filing information concerning waste discharges was July 1. A ninety-day extension was granted in May for certain of the data requirements, due to difficulty in developing all of the information necessary. In most cases, the required data will include 14 characteristics such as rate of flow, temperature of the water, solids and nutrients, and the presence or absence of as many as 51 other pollutants.

Permits for discharges will be issued upon agreement by EPA and the States that the quality of the receiving water will be protected. Penalties for those who do not comply can be either civil, with an injunction to cease the discharge entirely until the quality is improved; or criminal, with a fine of up to \$2,500.

Future abatement actions in the areas of water, air, and other environmental fields will be reported as they are initiated by EPA.

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH: SOLID WASTE

One of the most advanced systems for recovery of municipal wastes is being demonstrated by the City of Franklin, Ohio, with EPA grant support. The basic technology applied in the system was developed for use in producing paper from pulp. Mixed refuse is fed by conveyor belt to a large tank of water with rotating blades at the bottom. Large and heavy materials are removed from the bottom of the tank and passed under an electromagnet which separates the ferrous metals. The water slurry which contains the smaller and lighter materials is passed through a battery of screens and centrifuges which extract cellulose fiber--for use in making paper--and a separate mixture of glass, aluminum and other nonferrous metals.

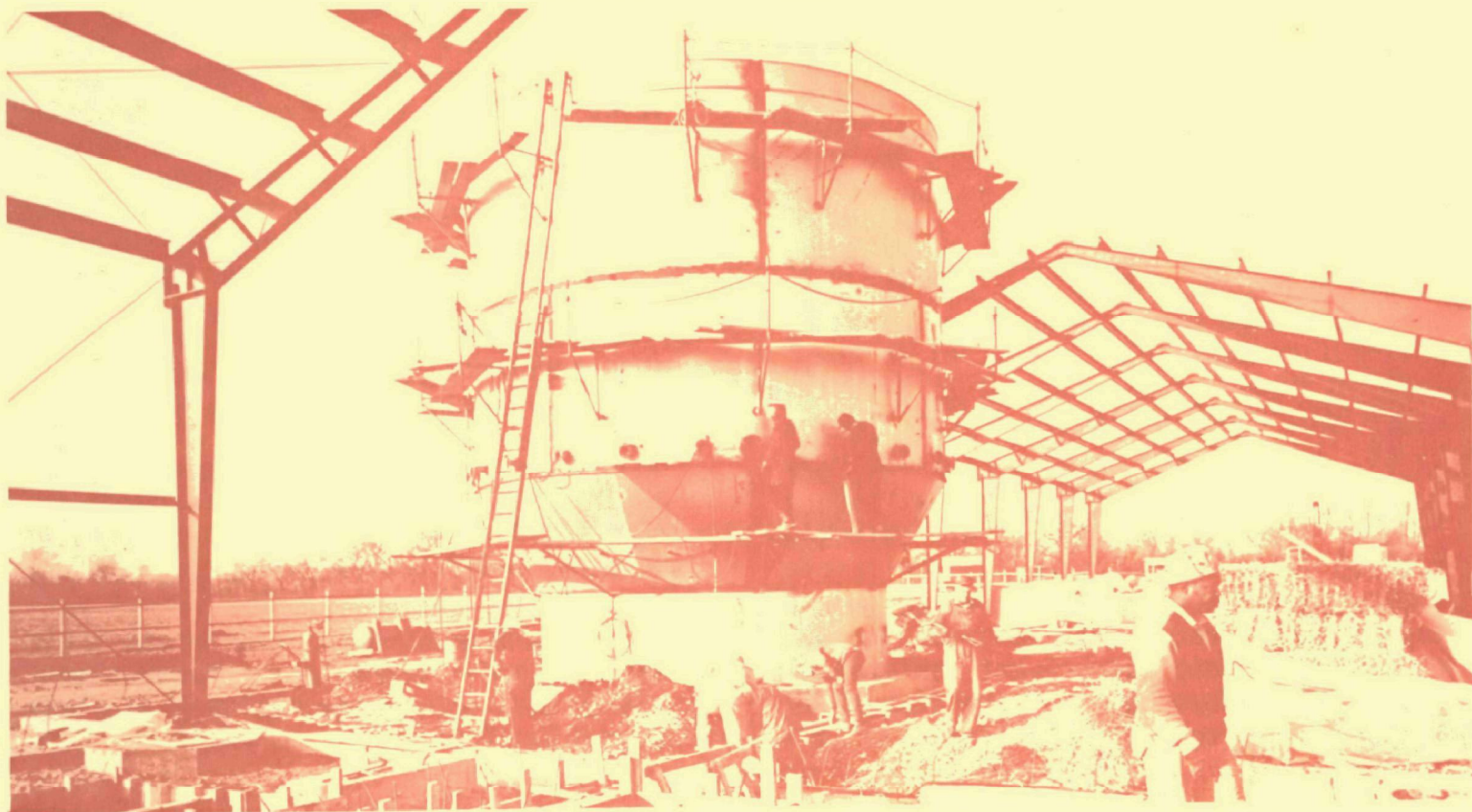
An additional step will involve extraction of glass from this gritty mixture, with separation into various colors by an optical sorting device. The remaining mixture has a relatively high percentage of aluminum, which has potential for reclamation by the aluminum industry.

It is estimated that the plant will recover 18% of the solid waste as paper pulp, 6% as iron, 4% as glass, and 0.5%

as aluminum. Most of the rest will be burned. The city, which was running out of room for landfill, will have to bury only one-twentieth the amount of solid waste it did before. If it sells all the reclaimed material, the city will recover about \$95,000 annually. This would put Franklin's cost of solid waste disposal, including plant amortization, at about \$6 per ton, or about half the usual cost of incineration.

Franklin's plant is the first municipal recycling facility of such sophistication to get beyond the design stage. The plant is also unique because it is integrated with the city's sewage plant to be constructed on an adjacent site, and will get back the huge volume of clean water needed for its slurrying operations. The recycling plant will also accept industrial liquid wastes and "burn" them in a reactor where their heat value will help dispose of sludge from the sewage plant as a settling agent in the water treatment.

For additional information concerning this project write: Mr. Ora Smith, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, P.O. Box 597, Cincinnati, Ohio 45301.



Construction phase of solid waste reclamation plant, Franklin, Ohio.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Single copies of all EPA publications are distributed without charge to representatives of State and local agencies. Address requests to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Public Affairs
Public Inquiries Branch
1626 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460.

Requests for multiple copies will be considered on an individual basis. Prices are given for publications available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Photochemical Oxidants and Air Pollution: An Annotated Bibliography. 2 Vols. 1529 p. \$6.25

EPA's Noise Abatement Program (brochure) 8 p.

Cost of Clean Water. 2 Vols. 149 p. \$1.65

National Capital Region Water and Waste Management Report. 107 p. \$2.75

Battelle Memorial Institute, Recovery and Utilization of Municipal Solid Waste. 118 p. \$1.75

Municipal Incineration, A Review of Literature. 187 p. \$1.00

Guide for Control of Air Pollution Episodes in Small Urban Areas. 60 p. \$.40

Guide for Air Pollution Episode Avoidance. 39 p. \$.70

Guide for Control of Air Pollution Episodes in Medium-Sized Urban Areas. 55 p. \$.40

YOUR COMMENTS WELCOME . . .

The *EPA Bulletin* is written for you. The news, features and announcements carried in this publication should be responsive to your interests and to your particular needs for information concerning EPA activities. Address any comments and suggestions to: Editor, *EPA Bulletin*, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1626 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.

EPA wants to publish on recycled paper, whenever possible. The Joint Committee on Printing is currently reviewing specifications for paper stocks used by all Federal agencies, with a view toward increased use of those papers containing recycled fibers. *EPA Bulletin* will be published on recycled paper when it is available.

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