



# inside EPA

## Agency Honors 24 Persons, 3 Groups

EPA honor awards were presented to 24 individuals and three employee groups at the Agency's second annual Honor Awards Day in Washington Dec. 7.

In recognizing the outstanding work of "these few," said Administrator William Ruckelshaus in a statement printed on the Awards Day program, "we also acknowledge the network of support from their fellow workers."

"It is an exceptional privilege for each of us in EPA," he said, "to . . . contribute to the national purpose of cleaning up the inherited environmental problems of the past and to deal with the emerging problems before they become critical."

The ceremonies were held in the Departmental Auditorium in the Labor Department building on Constitution Avenue. The Marine Band and an Air Force color guard participated. More than 500 EPA employees from the headquarters building in southwest Washington, Crystal Mall and Rosslyn, Va., and Rockville, Md., were taken to ceremonies in chartered buses.

The award winners, with brief descriptions of their work are as follows:

### **Gold Medal for Exceptional Service**

Gary N. Dietrich, Office of Resources Management, for his outstanding contribution in developing EPA's planning, programming and budgeting procedures. Mr. Dietrich was a key member of the PPB Task Force that set up the Agency's program structure.



**Alfred W. West  
Gold Medal**

Charles L. Elkins, Office of Categorical Programs, for "exceptional effectiveness in providing direction" for four environmental programs and "successfully welding them into a cohesive, balanced, and productive organization. . . ."

David A. Schuenke, Office of Legislation, for "exceptional leadership, skill and ability in directing the Legislative Division . . . and bringing to successful completion "EPA's legislative program during the 92nd Congress."

Alfred W. West, NERC-Cincinnati, for "expert technical assistance and evaluation" of proposed sewage treatment plants that produce "effluents of substantially higher quality than had been proposed, at little or no added costs to the public."

Dr. Clara H. Williams, Office of Pesticides Programs, for "her dedication, tireless efforts, and outstanding organizational ability that resulted in the elimination of a massive backlog of pesticide petitions" and for her work in drawing up new guidelines in pesticide toxicology.

The Helicopter Field Team of the National Eutrophication Survey. Thirteen men and one woman, based at NERC-Las Vegas, were honored for their enthusiasm and selfless efforts in obtaining multiple samples from several hundred lakes three times each this year. Team members worked 15- and 16-hour days, often seven days per week, to complete the task. They were: Sal J. Bart, Tommy L. Beaver, Tommy L. Bohannon, Clarence A. Callahan, Donald W. Crawley, Charles W. Fort Jr., William C. Hinkle, Miss Winnie Howard, H. Michael Lowry, Michael G. Smith, Lindsay W. Scarborough, Robert W. Thomas, J. Jeffery van Ee, and Llewellyn R. Williams.

### **Silver Medal for Superior Service**

Richard A. Hellman, Office of International Affairs, for his work in preparation for the U.N. Environment Conference in Stockholm last June and for his contribution to EPA's legislative program.

John A. Hill, Office of Solid Waste Management Programs, for major problem analysis "which resulted in important Federal initiatives to upgrade solid waste management" in the Nation.

William C. Holmberg, Office of

(Continued on page 2)

# Honors . . .

(Continued from page 1)

Federal Activities, for leadership and skill getting other Federal agencies to work for environmental betterment. His work included persuading a State National Guard to repair damage done to a National Forest and key efforts in obtaining the cooperation of Department of Defense in the National Eutrophication Survey.

Joseph A. Krivak, Office of Water Planning and Standards, for "directing the development of an effective planning organization" for water quality improvement by individual river basins in all 10 EPA Regions.

Howell K. Lucius, Water Programs Branch, Region IV, Atlanta, for "outstanding competence and unusual success in negotiating water quality standards with State governments."

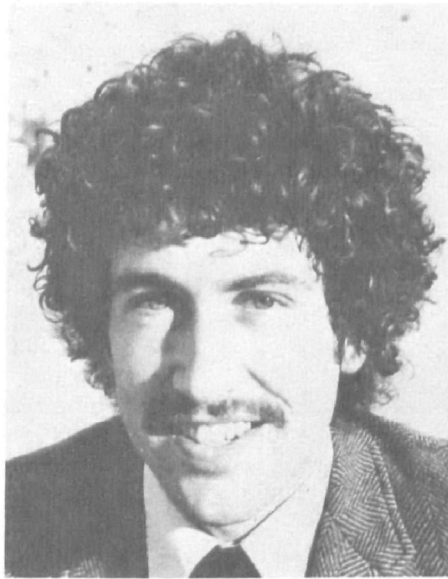
Lyman J. Nielson, Categorical Programs Division, Region X, Seattle, for "carrying forward an outstanding program of manpower development and training" including six successful youth programs in the Pacific Northwest.

Dr. Mirdza L. Peterson, senior research microbiologist, NERC-Cincinnati, for "exceptional initiative and creative research on microbial pathogens and viruses associated with solid waste processing and disposal."

Edward T. Rhodes, Office of Administration, for "outstanding leadership . . . in contracts management" and for increasing the number of EPA contracts awarded to small and minority-owned businesses.

John C. Wise, Air and Water Programs Division, Region IX, San Francisco, for his skill as a representative of EPA in coordinating the work of many governmental and private groups in efforts to protect and preserve Lake Tahoe.

The Printing Management Section, Office of Administration. This group award to seven men and nine



**John C. Wise**  
**Silver Medal**

women was for "excellence of performance in handling the printing and distribution of an enormous and accelerating volume" of printed materials required by the Agency's expanding activities. The section's output has more than doubled during the last year. Roland O. Sorensen is chief of the unit, and members are Daniel Bell, Mallie W. Braswell, Mary C. Butler, Barbara A. Davis, Edna A. French, Jacqueline Gouge, James M. Green, Thomas B. Green, William F. Hill, Esther L. Johnson, Eliza H. Jones, Edward F. McQuade, Virginia Montgomery, Dixie S. Taylor, and Sterling Wallace Jr.

Western Fish Toxicology Station, NERC-Corvallis. This group of four scientists, faced with the need for a special facility to study the effects of water pollutants on salmon and related fishes, constructed their own laboratory at modest cost and a two-year saving of time. They are Dr. Gerald R. Bouck, Dr. Gary A. Chapman, Donald G. Stevens, and Phillip W. Schneider Jr.

## **PHS Medals for Meritorious Service**

Gerald M. Hansler, Regional Administrator, Region II, New York, for leadership in "reducing pollution of the waters of New York and New Jersey and in spearheading EPA participation the development

of new control technology." Hausler has been a PHS officer for 16 years.

Dr. Bernd Kahn, NERC-Cincinnati, for "important contributions toward the safe development of the nuclear industry" through his research on the behavior and human effects of environmental radioactivity over an 18-year period in PHS.

Cornelius B. Kelly Jr., Office of Water Programs Operations, for "notable research achievements and for his valuable contribution to man's knowledge of the sanitary bacteriology of shellfish." Kelly has been a PHS officer for 22 years.

Richard P. Lonergan, Office of Solid Waste Management Programs, for "high quality performance in varied sanitary engineering programs, including typhus, malaria, and rat control programs in large cities; plague eradication in Hawaii; malaria control in Indonesia;" and in his present post as demonstration coordinator of SWM programs. He has served 28 years in the PHS corps.

William A. Mills, Office of Radiation Programs, for "creative leadership" in EPA's "initial radiation standards development activity." Dr. Mills has been a radiation expert for 20 years, 18 of them with PHS.

Harry Stierli, NERC-Cincinnati, 23 years with PHS, for "exemplary leadership and significant contributions in solid waste research and water quality surveillance."

Alfred E. Williamson Jr., Office of Water Programs Operations, for "outstanding contributions in important assignments in foreign countries in the development of sanitary facilities and water supply improvement." Mr. Williamson, a PHS officer for 16 years, has served in Greece, Lebanon, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and Brazil, and is now detailed to the U.S. Agency for International Development in Rio de Janeiro.

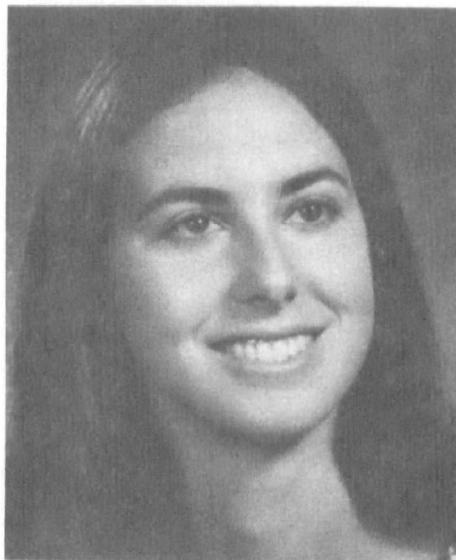
## **Youth Achievement Award**

Anita J. Frankel, urban planner, Region X, Seattle. Starting in 1971

# Honors . . .

(Continued from page 2)

as a summer interne, Ms. Frankel, now 25, did so well with region-wide noise control survey that she was rehired as a part-time employee during the 1971-72 school year (while she was earning her master's degree in urban planning) and as a fulltime staffer last June. Her award citation credits her with contributing to "a favorable Federal image" among cities, states, and colleges of the Northwest.



**Anita J. Frankel**  
**Youth Achievement**

Katherine P. Schirmer, program analyst, Office of Categorical Programs, was cited "for exceptional ability, as the first staff member of the Office of Toxic Substances, in initiating the work . . . and developing program plans for this new organization." Ms. Schirmer, 23, is a graduate of Wellesley College.

Harry M. Thron Jr., chemical engineer, Office of Water Planning and Standards, was cited for his work in developing waste effluent guidelines for the metal fabrication, metal finishing, and nonferrous metal industries. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Georgia Tech, served two years in the Army Chemical Corps, and is 27 years old.

Candidates for EPA awards are

# New Sewage Treatment Plant Looks Like a Suburban House

An automated sewage treatment plant disguised as a suburban house started operation last month in Freehold, N.J.

Supported by \$250,000 in EPA funds, the plant is designed to treat all the sewage from a neighborhood or small town without water or air pollution, odor, or noise, on a small plot of land in a residential district.

Levitt and Sons, Lake Success, N.Y., was awarded the demonstration contract from EPA in June, 1971, and contracted with AWT Systems, Inc., of Wilmington, Del., to build the plant. It is now serving 20 new homes in a Levitt housing development that is expected to grow to about 145 houses with a population of about 580.

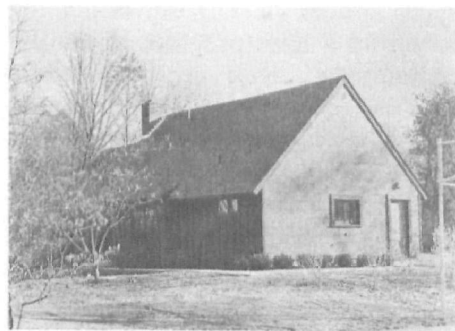
Levitt would have been unable to build the houses without having a self-contained sewer system for them, since the township has for several years had a moratorium on new connections to local sewer lines.

Irwin J. Kugelman, of the Cincinnati NERC, is EPA project officer. He said the plant is now being operated intermittently to test the new equipment and processes. Under the demonstration contract, AWT and Levitt will operate the plant jointly for a year and then turn it over to the township government.

The builders claim their combina-

chosen each year by an Awards Board headed by Howard M. Messner, deputy assistant administrator for Administration. They may be nominated by any organizational unit in the Agency.

Other board members are David D. Dominick, Alan G. Kirk, and Albert C. Trakowski, all of Washington headquarters; John A. S. McGlennon, Region I; Bernard J. Steigerwald, NERC—Research Triangle Park; and Daniel C. Knapp, Personnel Management Division, who is board member and executive secretary.



**This house hides lots of plumbing.**

tion of physical and chemical treatment eliminates from the sewage stream 99 percent of the suspended solids, 98 percent of the phosphates, and 97 percent of the basic oxygen demand. The plant is almost automatic, requiring only part-time services of one operator.

Sludge and all solids removed by coagulation, flocculation, and filtering are incinerated completely. The incinerator, which is equipped with a cyclone dust collector and a wet spray scrubber, can also be used periodically to regenerate carbon granules for reuse in the tertiary stage of the treatment process.

In the tertiary or final processing, the treated effluent is passed through an activated carbon filter, which absorbs odors and most of the remaining dissolved organic matter, and then is chlorinated and discharged into a tributary of the Manasquan River. This effluent, an AWT spokesman said, is of "considerably higher quality" than the receiving stream and would be suitable for non-potable industrial or household uses.

The plant is designed to handle 50,000 gallons of sewage per day, equivalent to the waste produced by a community of 800 people.

## Documerica in Book

About 20 photographs from EPA's Documerica project will be featured in the 1973 Photography Annual to be published next month by Time-Life Books.



# EPA Helps in Adriatic Pollution Study

Three EPA specialists in coastal water pollution problems recently spent a week in Yugoslavia helping to set up a joint program of marine pollution research in the Adriatic Sea.

The Agency's part in the three-year program involves collaboration in planning the project and the underwriting about 20 percent of the project's costs. The work will be performed by Yugoslav scientists, and the findings will be made available internationally.

T. A. Wastler, chief of the Water Quality Protection Branch, Office of Air and Water Programs, is EPA project officer, and the principal investigators are Dr. Velimir Pravdic and Dr. Dusan Zavodnik of the Rudjer Boskovic Institute's Center for Marine Research at Zagreb.

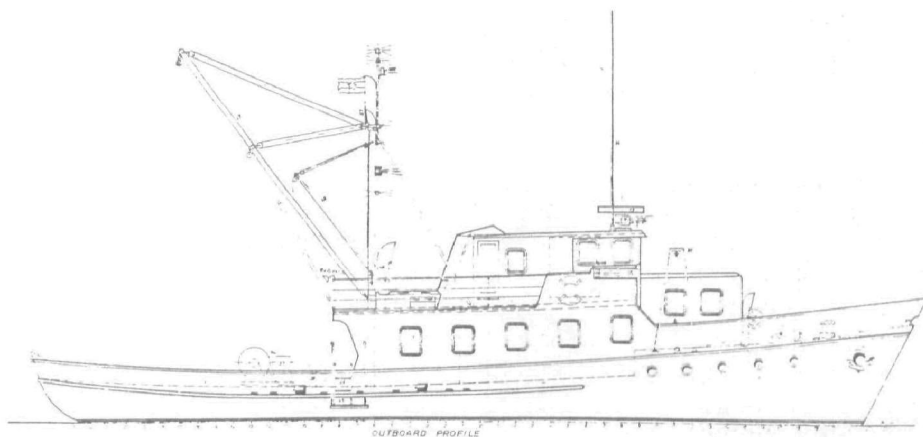
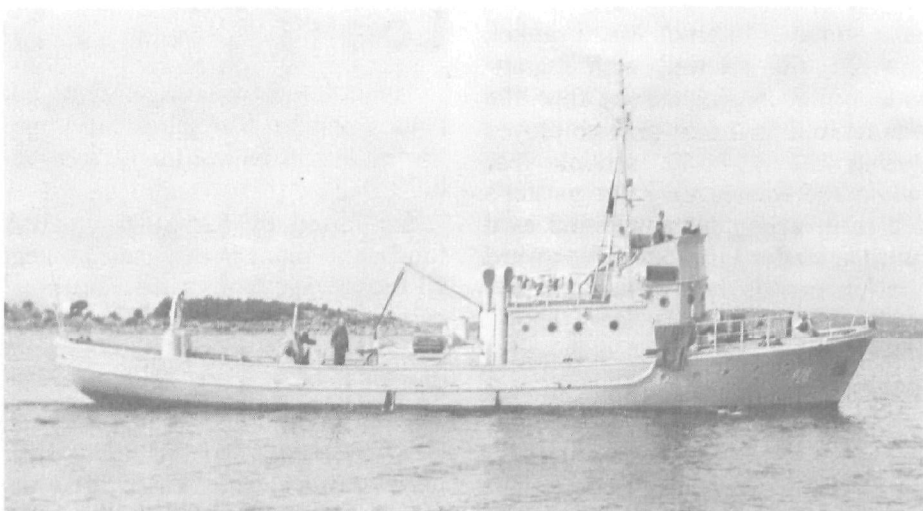
Wastler; Dr. Donald Lear, director of the Chesapeake Technical Support Laboratory, EPA Region III; and Dr. Melton Feldman of EPA's National Coastal Pollution Research Program, made the trip to confer with scientific staff at the Rudjer Boskovic Institute and to inspect the newly commissioned research vessel, *Vila Velebita*, which is based at Rovinj on the Dalmatian coast.

## Sea-Going Laboratory

The EPA delegation helped to plan the first year's scientific cruises of the *Vila Velebita*, a 25-meter, 100-ton motor vessel formerly used by the Yugoslav coastal patrol. It was refitted as a sea-going laboratory with storage tanks, cold rooms, freezers, a winch for handling sampling and coring equipment, and living and working space for six scientists and a crew of three.

EPA contributed about \$41,000 to convert the ship. Total U.S. support for the Adriatic pollution project over three years will be the equivalent of \$341,000.

The *Vila Velebita* will cruise the northern Adriatic to study the sources and rates of its heavy pollu-



**Yugoslavian coast guard ship, top, was converted to the research vessel *Vila Velebita*, sketched below, for the Adriatic Sea pollution study supported by EPA. The *Vila Velebita* will be operated by scientists from the Rudjer Boskovic Institute's Center for Marine Research, with laboratory facilities at Zagreb, and at Rovinj on the Adriatic Coast.**

tion load and pollution effects on shellfish and other marine animals.

The Adriatic is a partly closed-off branch of the Mediterranean, an even more closed-off sea that is becoming increasingly polluted. The heaviest environmental stress on the Adriatic is at its inner, north end, into which the silt-filled rivers of northern Italy, the cities of Venice and Trieste, and growing industrial establishments pour their effluents.

In many ways the Adriatic's pollution problems resemble those of Chesapeake Bay.

The Adriatic project is one of

more than a score of bi-national research programs in which U.S. credits in foreign currencies are used to pay for EPA's participation, according to Herbert Quinn, director of the International Technology Division. Seven were launched in the 1971 fiscal year, 19 last year, and three in the current year.

Quinn pointed out that these "special foreign currency programs" help to strengthen an international approach to environmental problems and provide EPA with valuable information and experience, without affecting Agency dollar resources or spending ceilings.

# Recycled Paper Approved for Bulletins

The Congressional Joint Committee on Printing has approved the use of "recycled paper" for certain EPA publications.

Early this month the Agency was given special permission to publish all its bulletins and newsletters on paper made in part from recycled materials: reclaimed fiber from a variety of sources, including waste paper, sawdust, bagasse (sugar cane stalks), and other agricultural waste.

Actual specifications for the paper are being developed with the Government Printing Office, according to Arthur Nies, director of the Data and Support Systems Division.

EPA officials have been trying for a long time to use recycled paper, Nies said, but all printing is done by the GPO or through its contractors, and paper suppliers are chosen each year from the lowest bidders on contracts to furnish paper to rigid specification.

"An agency just can't go out and buy its own paper, no matter how altruistic its motives."

"We are very happy the Joint Committee is letting us do this, he said. "We are starting in a small way for a test period of four to six months. It will apply to our 'in-

house' publications, newsletters, the Citizens' Bulletin, EPA Bulletin, and Inside EPA. Also, all regional office newsletters will be printed on recycled paper.

"That term is not quite accurate; it should be 'paper containing recycled material.' The recycled material could be scrap paper, but it could be some other kind of waste cellulose fiber such as sugar cane stalks or sawdust. There are many kinds of waste that can be used to make paper. We're interested in making use of all kinds of waste."

The Joint Committee's specifications will be sent immediately to GPO headquarters in Washington and to its branch plants throughout the country, Nies said.

Copies of all publications printed nationwide by EPA on recycled paper will be sent to GPO in Washington for inspection and testing. When the trial period is over, Nies said, the Joint Committee will consider the possibility of extending the use of such paper to other EPA publications.

The Committee's action culminates a long, quiet struggle by EPA officials to get Federal specifications that encourage the use of recycled fiber. "The Government has some

85 different specs for paper used for numerous printing purposes and they are very strict", Nies explained. They've been set up from the user's point of view, setting standards for weight, color, durability, strength, and so on. Actual contents are usually specified, for example high-quality paper specifies minimum percentages of rag fiber and certain types and grades of virgin wood pulp.

"There may be recycled fiber in many of the papers the Government is now using. If the manufacturer meets the use specs and any minimums for high-grade materials, no one cares if the other ingredients include used fibers. We just don't know.

"The new specifications being developed by the Joint Committee on Printing are the first to include recycled material. We hope they will not be the last, and that this limited experiment will succeed and result in the use of some type of recycled paper by all Federal agencies."

## Ruckelshaus Sees Signs of Progress

EPA recently celebrated its second birthday amid every indication that it has laid "a foundation for solid progress in environmental control," said Administrator William D. Ruckelshaus in an article written for "Ecology U.S.A. 1972."

"I believe that . . . there will be appreciably cleaner air, water, and land in the next three or four years, and that we are on the way to restore man to a harmony with nature and his environment," he wrote.

"EPA has not singlehandedly turned the tide against pollution. New State and city environmental control measures are giving impetus to the national cleanup program, and powerful public support has been a driving force . . .

"I think EPA may be proud of its 1972 record.

"We have gained momentum toward achievement of a better, healthier America."

## There's Rejoicing in Boston Over Joint Committee Action

Congressional permission for EPA to use recycled paper was welcomed by scores of regional officials who sought such approval, but one group of EPA employees is especially pleased.

They are the Region I Public Affairs staff in Boston, Kenneth Crotty, director, who a year ago started publishing their Environmental Newsletter on recycled paper with the permission of the Boston branch of the Government Printing Office.

Last May they were told it was

against regulations, said Paul Keough, deputy director of Public Affairs, and the newsletter, recently renamed Environment News, had to use "regular" paper.

But they tried hard through channels to get Washington to reverse the ruling. Regional Administrator John McGlennon also protested strongly. Their efforts, combined with those of many other regional officials throughout the country, are credited with helping to get the Joint Committee's approval.

## AGENCIES URGED TO FILE IMPACT STATEMENTS

Many Federal agencies fail to prepare environmental impact statements for projects they undertake or fund, according to Edward C. Vest, EIS coordinator for EPA Region VII in Kansas City.

Such failures are violations of the National Environmental Policy Act, Vest told a two-day conference of industry and government representatives held in Kansas City last month.

More than 300 persons attended the conference sponsored by the EPA Regional Office and the Environmental Quality Committee of the Federal Executive Board of Region VII. The conferees came from many other States beside the four in the Region.

EPA officials were pleased with the turnout, about double the number expected, and said it showed an increased interest in complying with the impact statement provisions of the law.

Vest, however, laid it on the line. "Many Federal agencies fail to recognize that their programs or actions have a significant effect" on environmental quality, he said.

Others seem to use some arbitrary minimum as a criterion for filing an EIS, for example: a cost figure, the size of a power plant or transmission line, or a number of housing units constructed. Vest said such criteria are illogical, because they affect the extent of environmental impact, not its existence.

In the Kansas City Regional Office, EPA has reviewed 425 impact statements in the last 10 months, and 90 percent of them were submitted by only two Federal agencies, the Department of Transportation and the Corps of Engineers, Vest said.

Vest credited "public pressure" for the better performance of these two agencies in weighing environmental aspects of their actions and

## Noise Control Law Enforcement Will Follow Standard Setting

"Aggressive action" to reduce noise in the human environment will result from the new Federal Noise Control and Abatement Act, but not right away, according to Dr. Alvin F. Meyer, deputy assistant administrator.

Specific standards must first be set before the law's stringent penalties against violators can be imposed, Dr. Meyer told a news conference at a recent meeting of the American Speech and Hearing Association in San Francisco.

The new law by itself cannot make things quieter right away, he said, but having the law and the process of determining standards will "help to keep the iceberg from getting any bigger."

EPA's noise control work was recently transferred to the Office of Categorical Programs after having been a study project under the Office of Planning and Management.

Dr. Meyer and his staff are required by the law to establish noise emission standards for railroads, trucks, and buses by next July. Compliance with the standards would probably be set six months or a year later.

Aircraft noise standards also are to be proposed by July, but the Federal Aviation Agency is in charge of their final form and their enforcement.

The more complex task of setting noise standards for products that move in interstate commerce—everything from autos and construction machinery to household appliances—will not come until April, 1974, for proposing the standards and October, 1974, for promulgat-

ing them.

in submitting pertinent data and alternatives.

Much of the conference was devoted to small-group workshop sessions on how to file an impact statement and what types of information are required.

This means, he said, that a firm with 15 nonconforming garbage trucks would be liable for fines totalling \$375,000 per day.

Other EPA noise control projects for which the law sets deadlines include:

- Compiling a list of products that are quieter than normal, for preferential purchase by Government agencies. This list is due next April.

- Setting criteria for judging the health effects of noise (July).

- Setting maximum ambient noise levels to protect human health (July) and welfare (October).

- Reporting on major noise source identification and control techniques (April, 1974).

## School Program Up

The latest tally shows 3,629 schools throughout the country participating in the President's Environmental Merit Awards Program. These schools enroll about 2,797,000 students.

**Inside EPA, published monthly for all employees of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, welcomes contributed articles, photos, and letters of general interest.**

**Such contributions will be printed and credited, but they may be edited to fit space limits.**

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## PROJECTS LISTED FOR EPA FUNDING

A list of all projects to be funded this fiscal year by EPA's Office of Research and Monitoring has been published and is now available at all regional offices.

It is expected to be much in demand because it offers research managers in universities, industrial firms, and other organizations a guide to the R and D projects the Agency plans to fund through June 30, 1973, and how much money is available in specific areas.

The 252-page booklet is called EXPRO (for EXtramural PROjects). It will be updated quarterly.

Each project area for which a grantee or contractor has not yet been selected is described, and the names and addresses of EPA officials in charge of that project are given.

## Delaware Demonstration Plant To Compost Waste on Big Scale

Large-scale composting of municipal solid waste to produce a variety of salable humus products will be tried in an EPA-supported project in northern Delaware.

The plant will be built and operated by Hercules, Inc. of Wilmington and will cost \$13.8 million, of which \$9 million will be an EPA demonstration grant expended over a three-year period. EPA project officer is Arch S. Scurlock Jr. of the Office of Solid Waste Management.

Scurlock said the Delaware plant will be the largest yet built in this country to handle waste composting by industrial, straight-through methods. It will be capable of processing more than 500 tons of waste per day and will be patterned after the Fairfield-Hardy process that is being demonstrated in a 30-tons-per-day plant at Altoona, Pa., and in a 300-ton plant in Puerto Rico.

Its chief feature, Scurlock said, will be better control of the characteristics of the humus produced, permitting the plant operators to alter the output easily and quickly. Humus is decayed vegetable matter, principally cellulose, that is free of pathogens and virtually odorless. It can vary widely in nutrient content, moisture, particle size, and other characteristics.

The Delaware plant will produce the composted material for many different markets, including mushroom growth medium, animal feed supplement, mulch and soil conditioner, pet litter, and even filler for explosives.

Before the waste is composted, all metals and glass will be removed and sold to scrap dealers.

The planned daily load will be 485 tons of domestic garbage and trash, 15 tons of light industrial waste, and up to 55,000 gallons of sludge from the Wilmington sewage treatment plant.

The plant is now being designed, Scurlock said, and construction will start next summer at Pigeon Point, near the Delaware Memorial Bridge. It is scheduled to be finished by May, 1974.

Hercules will build the plant for the State of Delaware under a "turn-key" contract, which means the company has entire charge of design, construction, and operation through an evaluation period scheduled to end April 30, 1975. It will then be turned over as a going project to the State.

Incoming refuse will be shredded and then mechanically separated into a number of different waste streams.

Combustibles not suited for composting will be pyrolyzed (heated without burning) to produce fuel gas and carbon char.

The company expects to produce 310 tons per day of various products having a total market value of \$4,355. This amounts to \$8.70 per ton of waste processed.

## Sorry! Our Switch Is Showing

In the November issue of Inside EPA, an overzealous printer switched photos of two speakers at the first Annual Conference on "Women in EPA." The printer

thought Charlie must be a man, and Carol, a woman, despite what the page layout called for. They appear correctly below.



**Charlie K. Swift**  
Director of Women's Progress



**Carol M. Thomas**  
Director, Civil Rights and  
Urban Affairs

# Safe Places Found for Closed Labs

"High-hazard" laboratory operations at Research Triangle Park, N.C., are expected to be resumed this month in rented quarters about a mile and a half from EPA's main laboratory building.

Dr. Jack Thompson, deputy director of NERC-RTP, said negotiations were "nearly complete" to lease 43,000 square feet of space in a research facility belonging to Chemstrand Research, a subsidiary of the Monsanto Company of St. Louis.

The design and construction of the Chemstrand Building, Thompson said, was "excellent" for research work involving volatile gases and chemicals. Such work is considered highly hazardous and requires isolation of one lab from another, individual venting of fumes, and strict fire-prevention measures.

More than 70 operations rated high-hazard were suddenly halted late in October by NERC Director John F. Finklea after careful safety checks had revealed many deficiencies in the Center's \$10.5 million

main laboratory building which has been in use a little more than a year.

EPA will lease 21,000 square feet of laboratory space in the Chemstrand Building, Thompson said, 7,000 square feet for office space directly associated with the high-hazard work and 14,000 square feet for hallways, storage, and other uses. Of the 74 closed-down operations in the main building, 59 will move to the Chemstrand Building, where they will occupy about 40 separate laboratories. About 170 persons will be moved.

The remaining high-risk operations will be resumed in the main building, after making certain modifications to the gas exhaust systems. For instance, Thompson said, where several fume hoods are connected to one ventilator—which would permit a fire in one work area to spread rapidly to the others—all hoods but one will be disconnected, leaving one hood per ventilator.

"Some of these projects are already back in operation," Thompson said, "but the bulk of our high-

hazard work must be done elsewhere."

"Under the terms of our lease (on the main building) we rent only the building shell and certain services. We cannot install fireproof walls."

There will be no reduction in the \$1.175-million annual rent EPA pays on the main building because of the moved-out laboratories. Some of the space will be converted to offices and some to low-hazard research operations now carried out elsewhere.

Thompson said the moves would also involve some laboratory equipment from Chapel Hill and some low-hazard laboratory operations from Chamblee, Ga.; Montgomery, Ala.; and Perrine, Fla. He estimated that about 118 people might be moved from these three places.

## Ecology Experiment Does Double Duty At Flower Show

An exhibit-demonstration of environmental stress developed by three NERC-Las Vegas employees won a Chairman's Appreciation Award at the Southern Nevada Flower Show held last month at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

The display showing the effects of different soils and watering methods on the growth of lettuce was part of an experiment already under way in the Radiological Research Program's Ecology Section headed by Dr. Craig McFarlane.

The Ecology Section had been invited to submit a display to illustrate the Flower Show's theme of State and National Objectives.

Dr. McFarlane was assisted by Harry W. Hop, biological technician, and Ms. Vicki Peterson, mathematical aide. Brian Spavin and Mike Gordon made the display posters.

## Spill Specialists Help in Real Test

Four oil spill specialists at EPA's Edison, N.J., Water Research Laboratory recently got to oversee a real-life demonstration of containment and cleanup methods they had helped to develop.

When many thousands of gallons of heavy No. 6 fuel oil were spreading on the waters of the Arthur Kill near an oil refinery at Sewaren, N.J., Nov. 28, Howard Lam'l, EPA's Region II oil spill coordinator, immediately notified the nearby laboratory.

Stephen Dorrlor, Frank Freestone, and Leo McCarthy of the lab's Oil Spills Research Branch, and Steven Schoonmaker, employed on EPA's student cooperative program, went to the spill site to observe the work of the clean-up contractors and to help in any way possible.

"We respond to oil spill emergen-

cies whenever we can," said Dorrlor, "even though EPA is not responsible. It is valuable to us to see how concepts we helped develop work out in practice."

The contractor was using a self-propelled skimmer built by the JBF Scientific Co., Burlington, Mass., with partial funding by EPA. Tom Devine of the Region I office in Boston was project officer.

The prototype skimmer was having trouble, Dorrlor said, because the oil was spreading too fast. He called on the New York City Fire Department to bring in boat-mounted, high-powered spraying equipment to confine the slick so the skimmer could work more effectively.

The Fire Department's equipment was developed a year ago with a \$300,000 EPA grant. Freestone was the project officer.