

"The public wants clean air, clean water, sensible use of resources; no brown-outs and no smog-outs, no products, conveniences or services that poison them slowly or quickly; no beautiful high-sounding claims by industry or Government that are not backed by solid performance; no short-term gains and long-term losses; no lame excuses; NO NONSENSE."

NO NONSENSE!

December, 1971

PUBLISHED FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The Winter solstice has always been a period of hope, of renewal and of expectation for mankind. During these sacred holidays we traditionally lay aside daily routines in order to examine the purpose and direction of our lives, relating our own actions to the cosmic order we see around us. I believe there are unmistakable signs that this kind of serious thinking is no longer just a seasonal activity.

In recent years the ancient spiritual thrust symbolized by Christmas has taken the paradoxical form of a renewed dedication to the world environment--a determination to take nothing from the earth that we cannot give back, to safeguard every living thing, to preserve the beauty and balance of nature, to purify the water and the air, to recycle our wastes, to diminish the clamor of machines, to control technology, and to limit population.

Every day more people turn from the vain striving and false gods of the past and begin to act as responsible members of a planetary household.

Indeed, what mankind is struggling for today, despite superficial evidence to the contrary, is not material goods but the reassurance of universal values and the primacy of common sense.

We in EPA can help provide that reassurance. We are engaged in a noble work, an endeavor which must succeed if mankind is to survive.

The past year has brought us closer to the goal of a clean and orderly society in which man can live at peace with himself and in harmony with his natural surroundings. We still have a long way to go but I am confident we shall attain our objective.

We must not relax our efforts.

In celebrating the accomplishments of the old year, we anticipate and welcome the challenge of the new.



**SEASONS GREETINGS
FROM THE
ADMINISTRATOR**

NEW RATES ON HEALTH INSURANCE

Premium rates for the high options of group health insurance plans participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program were recently announced by the Civil Service Commission. The new rates will become effective in January 1972.

The new premiums have been held to an absolute minimum, the Commission said.

While premiums generally will be higher in 1972, a few plans, including the Government-wide Indemnity Benefit Plan (Aetna), will be the same in 1972 as in 1971.

As previously announced, benefits will not be changed in 1972. An open season will be held from November 15 through December 31, 1971, during which employees may enroll in a plan or change plans and options and change from self to family coverage, annuitants may change plans and coverage but may not newly enroll in a plan.

The standard Government contribution to health insurance premiums is fixed by law at 40 percent of the

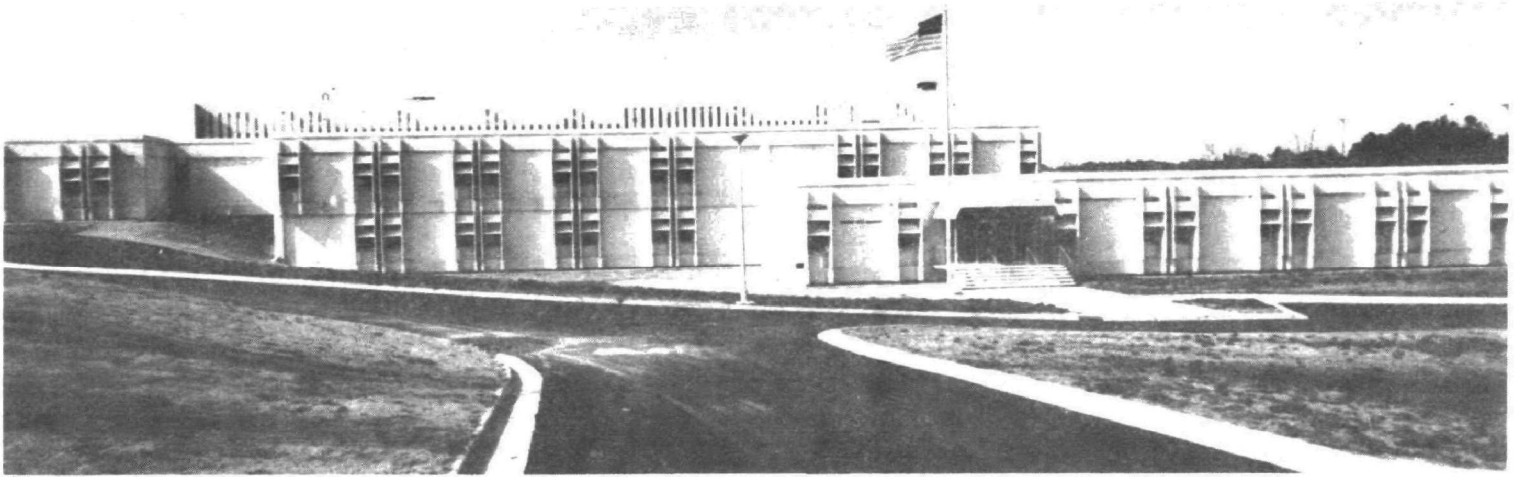
average high-option premium of the six largest plans. Since this average biweekly premium for self-only coverage will be increased in January from \$8.65 to \$9.75, the Government's standard contribution will be increased from \$3.46 to \$3.90 biweekly, and since the average premium for family coverage will be increased from \$21.60 to \$24.46 biweekly, the Government's standard contribution will be increased from \$8.64 to \$9.78 for a family enrollment.

Thus for employees in some plans whose premiums are not being raised, the higher Government contribution will result in a slightly smaller pay deduction in 1972 than in 1971.

A new plan in the 1972 program is the Compcare Plan. It is of the group-practice prepayment type, and will be available only to EPA employees in the Milwaukee and Marshfield, Wisconsin areas.

A comparison of the 1971 and 1972 high-option biweekly premiums of the major plans, whose average determines the Government contribution, is attached.

Plan & High-Option Enrollment*	Total Premium			Employee Deduction			Government Contribution		
	1972	1971	Increase	1972	1971	Increase or Decrease	1972	1971	Increase
Blue Cross - Blue Shield - 1,449,200									
Self Only	\$12 15	\$ 9 06	\$3 09	\$ 8 25	\$ 5 60	\$2 65	\$3 90	\$3 46	\$0 44
Family	29 65	22 11	7 54	19 87	13 47	6 40	9 78	8 64	1 14
Aetna - 317,900									
Self Only	9 79	9 79	0 00	5 89	6.33	-0 44	3 90	3.46	0 44
Family	24 26	24 26	0.00	14 48	15 62	-1 14	9 78	8 64	1 14
Kaiser of Northern California - 44,800									
Self Only	8 58	7 75	0 83	4 68	4 29	0 39	3 90	3 46	0 44
Family	22 35	20 18	2 17	12 57	11 54	1.03	9 78	8 64	1 14
Kaiser of Southern California - 31,100									
Self Only	9 84	8 99	0 85	5 94	5.53	0 41	3 90	3.46	0 44
Family	25 60	23 43	2 17	15 82	14.79	1 03	9 78	8.64	1 14
* As of June 30, 1971									



The Southeast Water Laboratory (SEWL) at Athens, Georgia is a major EPA facility for the conduct of water pollution research. Here, over 100 employees are at work to help solve some of the urgent environmental problems found in the southeastern region of the United States.

ATHENS LABORATORY: EPA AT WORK IN THE SOUTHEAST

On a typical day in the small town of Athens, Georgia, scientists and researchers at EPA's Southeast Water Laboratory (SEWL) might be involved in any one of a number of exciting projects. They may be collecting water samples from nearby inland waters, analyzing runoff from agricultural lands, or perhaps studying the environmental effects of the many textile, paper, or phosphate mining industries indigenous to the Southeast. Whatever the activity might be, it is indeed busy at the Laboratory, which houses the Southeast Region's technical assistance, training and manpower functions, as well as certain portions of EPA's national research, development, and demonstration effort.

Located on a spacious 12-acre site donated to the U.S. Government by the University of Georgia, the Laboratory houses approximately 125 employees. Their professional fields of specialty range from analytic chemistry, environmental engineering, and aquatic biology to systems analysis, computer programming, and management sciences.

In addition to the main Lab, SEWL facilities include an annex built on 6.5 acres of land donated to the U.S. Government by the City of Athens, and a Laboratory Barge at Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Major research programs at the Athens Laboratory include industrial pollution control technology, for problems caused by pesticides, fertilizers, and textile mill products; agricultural pollution control technology, primarily problems of agricultural run-off; and mining pollution control technology, including problems associated with phosphate mining. A large program on water quality control technology is also underway at SEWL, in which pollutants are identified and traced in fresh surface waters.

Scientists at the Laboratory's Barge at Ft. Lauderdale, who are currently engaged in a study of Biscayne Bay, boast a unique piece of equipment under construction: a 75 million dollar Aquatic Ecosystem Simulator (AEcoS). This

facility, when completed, will permit a complete study of freshwater ecosystems by simulating and controlling the physical forces of nature as accurately as existing technology permits. Temperature, humidity and light will be varied during experiments to imitate climatic conditions. At the same time, the significant physical, biological, and chemical processes in freshwaters will be simulated in a 64 foot flume, where water quality, flow and turbulence will be precisely controlled to imitate a stream in the real world. Upon completion this facility will be used to perform experiments, now impossible to achieve in a real river, that will determine the behavior and fate of pollutants which find their way to freshwaters. Special computer facilities have been designed to operate the AEcoS systems. They collect, store, and process data generated within the systems from laboratory instrumentation and field monitors.

SEWL has an impressive record of accomplishments over the past years. They range from development of a mathematical model to describe the rural run-off of pesticides, to perfection of a fluorescent spectrometric method for comparing samples from oil slicks that in turn, allows the identification of the source of oil slicks.

Recently, a process for treating textile dye waste was developed in conjunction with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. This process, which involves high air or oxygen pressure in conjunction with gamma radiation, destroys up to 99 percent of the dieldrin in textile waste samples. This radiolysis process, which also removes all color from dye waste samples, has now been patented.

Because of the new and rapid growth of the catfish processing industry, Athens Lab scientists are now studying the wastewaters from that industry. The results of this study are a first step in developing water pollution abatement technology for this industry, and they will aid in waste treatment system design for similar new processing plants.

AIR POLLUTION EPISODES MONITORED

EPA has adopted four-state episode criteria to which air quality and meteorological data are compared for the purpose of determining the severity of an episode. The first state, *Forecast*, is based on an indication that adverse meteorological conditions conducive to the buildup of pollutants will exist. The second stage, *Alert*, and the third stage, *Warning*, are based on the actual measurement of pollutant concentrations and the prediction that the meteorological situation will be such that the continuation of elevated pollutant concentrations can be expected. At these levels, short-term health effects may be expected. At the fourth stage, *Emergency*, air quality is continuing to degrade to the point where a substantial danger to the health of the population will exist. The most stringent avoidance actions must then be taken.

The emphasis of the criteria is on avoiding an emergency rather than reacting to an existing emergency situation. Each step beyond the Forecast stage calls for initiation of control actions designed to prevent the conditions described by criteria for the succeeding stage. Control actions may include such measures as elimination of open burning; requiring manufacturing industries to curtail or defer production; or cessation of municipal incineration.

During periods of temperature inversion, or other meteorological conditions which cause stagnation of the atmosphere, particulate and gaseous air pollutants cannot be readily dispersed. As their concentration increases an air pollution incident, or "episode", ensues.

The Clean Air Act, as amended, sets forth the authority of EPA to prevent and control such episodes. In the event that State and local authorities do not take steps necessary for abatement during air pollution episodes, the EPA Administrator may seek injunctive relief in the U.S. Courts. Action may be taken against any source whose emissions are presenting an imminent and substantial threat to public health, including area-wide or point sources, large or small polluters, and on an intra- or interstate basis.

However, air pollution episode-avoidance actions should be taken at the lowest level that is legally, technically, and politically competent to achieve results. Therefore, the principal aim of EPA lies in advising and assisting State and local agencies in developing and implementing their own episode-avoidance plans. Such plans are required as part of the Implementation Plan, prepared for each of the Air Quality Control Regions.

An Emergency Operations Control Center (EOCC) has been established under EPA's Office of Air Programs at Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. The Center gathers air quality data on a daily basis, by teletype and telephone, from 90 monitoring sites in 60 cities throughout the Nation. Seven of the monitoring stations in National air quality network are operated by EPA, with the remaining 83 by personnel from State and local air pollution agencies. When needed, the EOCC can dispatch emergency sampling teams to any area from which insufficient air quality and/or meteorological data are available.

Darryl Tyler, Director of the Emergency Operations Control Center, examines facsimile and teletype printouts of weather information received from the National Weather Service. Assisting him is Carl Bramble, an employee of the Office of Air Programs.

Current meteorological and air quality data are shown on the episode display map for various parts of the country. Here the situation in Denver, Colorado is indicated by means of color-coded lights.



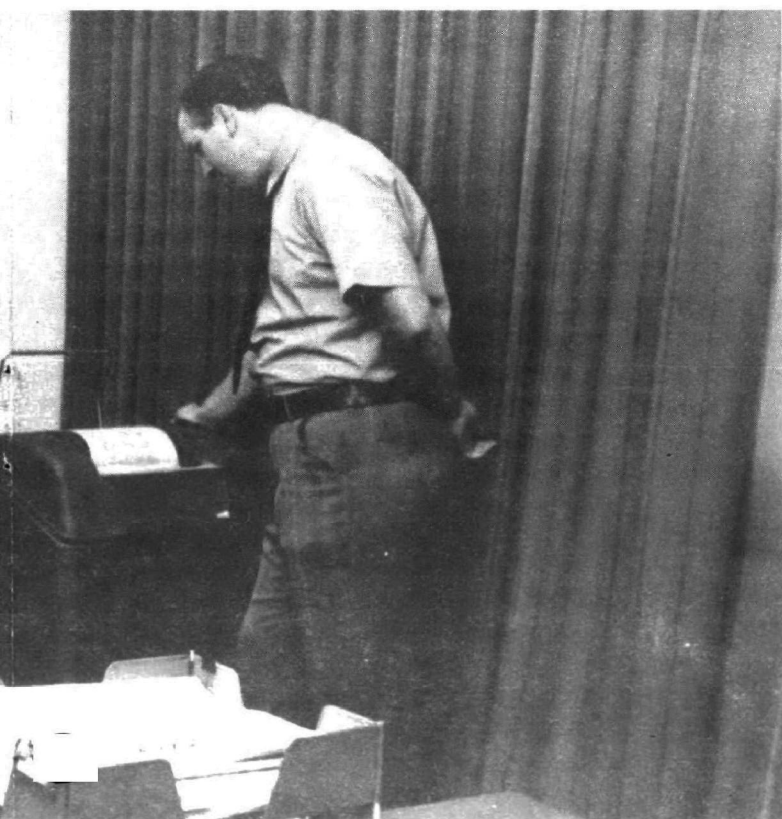


MINORITY EMPLOYMENT RISES

Despite decreases in overall Federal civilian employment, minority group Americans hold more Government jobs, and a greater proportion of the better paying jobs, than ever before, according to the U.S. Civil Service Commission. In releasing results of a survey of minority group Federal employment conducted last November 30, Commission Chairman Robert E. Hampton expressed particular pleasure at the new evidence of upward mobility for Negroes, Spanish-surnamed Americans, American Indians, and Oriental Americans. "These new statistics show that agency actions are producing the kinds of results expected from the new equal employment opportunity directions outlined explicitly by the President in Executive Order 11478," said Chairman Hampton. The order, issued August 8, 1969, called on department and agency heads to carry out the equal opportunity policy as an integral part of every aspect of personnel policy and practice.

The Commission reported that minority employment in Federal agencies increased by 4,527 jobs between November 1969 and November 1970, while total Federal employment decreased by 30,107 jobs. Minorities held 505,035 fulltime positions as of November 30, 1970. Of the 2,571,504 employees on Federal rolls last November, 19.6 percent were Negroes, Spanish-surnamed Americans, American Indians, or Orientals, up from 19.2 percent of total Federal employment a year earlier.

More minority employees are moving into white-collar jobs, the survey showed. Although there was an overall decline in the total number of white-collar employees paid under the General Schedule (GS) or similar pay plans during the 12-month period, minority employment nevertheless increased significantly under these pay plans. Total employment in these white-collar occupations decreased by 5,115, while minority employment increased by 7,177.



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EPA RADIO NEWS SERVICE

The Division of Communications, OPA, EPA, recently inaugurated its Radio News Service. This is a facility, whereby radio stations across the country may receive a recorded statement from Administrator Ruckelshaus, other EPA officials, or an EPA spokesman, relative to a current environmental problem.

Radio stations are alerted as to the availability of the recorded message through the press wire services of the Associated Press and United Press International. Radio stations receive this information from the news wires in their news rooms and are invited to call the EPA Radio News Service at a designated number.

The Radio Station News Director calls the EPA News Service, tapes the complete recorded message from the telephone line and incorporates it within the local station news broadcast.

While only in operation for a short time, the Radio News Service has been well received by the broadcast media. Over 50 calls per day are now being received and it is expected that the number will increase as the awareness of this facility becomes known to all the radio news directors across the country.

Mr. Raymond E. Mulderick, Radio-TV Officer with the Office of Public Affairs, examines newly acquired Spotmaster machines. This enables radio broadcasters throughout the country to make use of taped interviews with key EPA officials.



EPA CHRISTMAS TREE

On December 22nd Administrator Ruckelshaus will light EPA's first "living Christmas tree." The tree, which will be placed in a planter in the vicinity of the headquarters building at Waterside Mall, will serve as EPA's recognition of the Holiday Season. The fact that it is a living tree holds particular significance for employees, as we strive to promote the natural aesthetic qualities of the environment.

When construction of the building is complete, the tree will be permanently planted on the grounds of Water Mall.

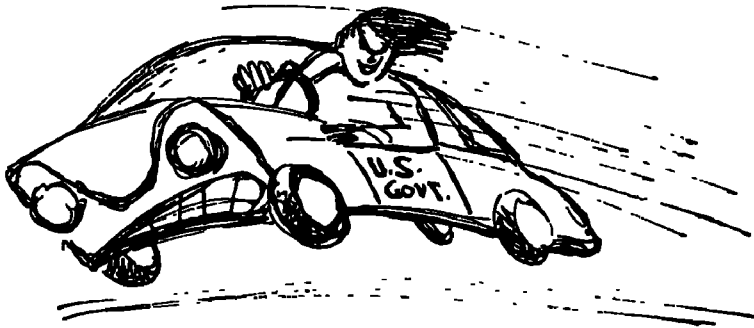


NOTE TO DRIVERS . . .

The U.S. motor vehicle operator's identification card (Standard Form 46) is not a valid driver's license to operate a Government vehicle on a public highway, according to the U.S. Civil Service Commission.

Any operator of a Government vehicle must also have a permit or license issued by the state or other licensing jurisdiction where he or she resides or is principally employed.

Some employees reportedly have continued to use their U.S. motor vehicle operator's identification card after suspension or even revocations of their driver's license by the issuing jurisdiction.



In some instances, this illegal use has become known to the employing agency only after the employee has been involved in an automobile accident.

EPA is responsible for ensuring that anyone to whom a motor vehicle identification card (SF 46) is issued has a valid driver's license. All employees should be aware of their duty to surrender the card immediately if their license is revoked, and to offer to do so if it is suspended.

Any questions regarding your government vehicle identification card may be answered by your administrative officer.



OFFICIAL EPA LOGO

Have you been wondering about that attractive little flower you see around the agency on EPA publications, posters, movies, or office doors? It is the new and official "EPA Logotype." Established by the President of the United States by Executive Order 11628 on October 18, 1971, the logo is of floral design, symbolic of all the elements of the environment. The bloom is a sphere, the component parts of which represent the blue sky, green earth, and blue-green water. A white circle within the sphere denotes either the sun or the moon. All are symbolic of a clean environment and are superimposed on a disc with a white background, circled by the title "United States Environmental Protection Agency" in blue letters.

Selected from among many design suggestions, including some from EPA employees, the new logo has received White House approval through the Commission on Fine Arts.

The official EPA logo, the floral symbol with "Environmental Protection Agency" surrounding it, may be used for official purposes only. A forthcoming directive on its use will be issued shortly. However, the floral symbol *alone without words*, may be used by anyone for purposes of identification with a clean environment.

TEST DATES FOR SUMMER JOBS

The U.S. Civil Service Commission has announced test dates for 1972 summer jobs in Federal agencies, including EPA.

Candidates whose applications are received by January 7 will be tested February 12 and those whose applications are received by February 2 will be tested March 11. Applications postmarked after February 2 will not be accepted.

Complete instructions for filing, and information on opportunities available, are contained in CSC Announcement

No. 414, titled Summer Jobs in Federal agencies. This may be obtained from Personnel Management Division, EPA, Washington, D.C. 20460. Such information is also available from the Civil Service Commission, many major post offices, and most college placement offices.

Applicants rated eligible in 1971 need not take the written test again unless they wish to improve their scores. They will be sent a special form by December 1 to update their qualifications and indicate their availability for employment in 1972.

HI AND LOIS



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