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**American
Association
of
Professors
in
Sanitary
Engineering**

**SEPTEMBER 1971
VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1**

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A.A.P.S.E. MEETINGS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Two very important meetings are scheduled by *AAPSE* during the Water Pollution Control Federation meeting in San Francisco next month. These should be of interest to both members and non-members.

The *AAPSE* Board of Directors will meet at the San Francisco Hilton on Sunday, October 3. This meeting is scheduled for the Tamalpais Room and starts at 10:00 am and will run to completion, most likely after dinner. All *AAPSE* members are welcome to drop in for all or a part of this session. Committee chairmen are especially requested to be present if possible to discuss their committees' activities beyond the written reports submitted in advance to the Board.

The *AAPSE* Open Meeting is scheduled for 8:00 pm Tuesday, October 5 in the Continental Parlor of the San Francisco Hilton. There are several items of business on the agenda which should be of general interest. This meeting is open to all who are concerned with environmental engineering education in general. Non-members, as well as individuals who wish to learn more about *AAPSE*'s activities, are invited to attend.

Bob Snider from EPA and Joe Middlebrooks will comment on the subject of environmental manpower. There will also be discussion and comment on the report of the *AAPSE* Education Committee as to goals and *AAPSE*'s future participation in this area. In addition to consideration of some other committee reports, plaques and certificates will be presented to past officers and former directors of *AAPSE*.

These two meetings in San Francisco should be of interest to many persons. It is hoped that you will plan to attend one or both.

CORNELL AGRICULTURAL WASTE CONFERENCE

The focus of a national conference with its theme "Results of Waste Management Research" will be on the results of research dealing with the management of agricultural wastes and the application of the results to practice. The following areas will be emphasized: land disposal, legal and enforcement regulations, nutrient control, treatment and disposal, and management principles.

Individuals interested in presenting papers in any of the above areas are cordially invited to submit abstracts for evaluation by the conference committee. Abstracts should be on one page, single spaced, and submitted before October 1, 1971 to be considered by the committee. The conference will be held at Syracuse, New York on January 31 and February 1 and 2, 1972. All correspondence should be addressed to: Professor Raymond C. Loehr, Program Chairman, 207 Riley Robb, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850.

A.A.P.S.E. NEWSLETTER NOW ON RECYCLED PAPER

Effective with the July issue, the *AAPSE Newsletter* is being printed on recycled paper. It is hoped that in this way *AAPSE* may make a small contribution toward the alleviation of the environmental quality problem.

LAWSUIT CHALLENGES TENNESSEE-TOMBIGBEE WATERWAY

An environmental coalition has filed suit in the U.S. District Court in Washington, D. C. to stop construction of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, an immense U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project. The coalition consists of the Environmental Defense Fund, the Committee for Leaving the Environment of America Natural (CLEAN), and Dr. James D. Williams, a biologist in Columbus, Mississippi. The plaintiffs filed the suit on behalf of themselves, their members, and people who enjoy the Tombigbee River like it is. The \$386.6 million project would connect the Tennessee and Tombigbee Rivers by means of a 253-mile waterway across northern Alabama and Mississippi. It would link the Gulf of Mexico at Mobile, Alabama, with the Tennessee and Ohio Rivers to the north.

The plaintiffs allege that the Corps of Engineers is proceeding illegally and without authority; that the project is in clear violation of the National Environmental Policy Act. EDF contends the Corps has not adequately considered the environmental consequences of connecting two rivers with separate life systems. A case in point, says EDF, is the destruction of the whitefish and trout fisheries in the Great Lakes by the introduction of the lamprey via the Saint Lawrence Seaway. The Environmental Defense Fund stressed its correction of the benefits to cost ratio does not include environmental damage caused by the project. Because this damage would exceed the benefits, the plaintiffs feel the U.S. Government is spending huge amounts of public funds at the expense of Southeastern residents and their environment.

A recent report issued by the Environmental Protection Agency has also raised strong objections to the project. The report declared that the waterway is of "questionable economic value" and would "irreversibly" damage an important scenic and natural area in northeast Mississippi. Last January EDF obtained a court decision temporarily stopping further work on a similar project: the Cross-Florida Barge Canal. This injunction was granted on grounds that it too violated the National Environmental Policy Act.

[Conservation News]

BOWERMAN NAMED CHAIRMAN AT SOUTHERN CAL

Prof. Frank R. Bowerman has been named Chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Southern California. Prof. R. C. Merz, the former chairman, has been named Associate Dean of the School of Engineering.

BANKER CITES ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AS "FINANCIAL FLOPS"

Alan K. Browne, Senior Vice President and Head of Investments for the Bank of America in San Francisco, told delegates to the 91st Annual Conference of the American Water Works Association that "most schemes for financing environmental quality are dreamed up by narrow-minded, impractical incompetents." The schemes, he said, "come out of the test tube or the computer and sound great...but they defy implementation in the real world. They are simplistic, futile, inane." He was critical of the view that all that is needed is more government, more money, or more regulation and sees the "dull, unglamorous, too often neglected general obligation bond" as the least expensive method of long-term financing. He warned that revenue bonds, which don't have to win voter approval and are appealing increasingly to local officials, cost more in terms of interest, and tie up money in reserve funds. "The best approach," according to Browne, is "the bootstrap approach: sober, independent and realistic." [Water Newsletter, Aug. 6, '71, v. 13, n 15]

W.P.C.F. MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO

The country's largest meeting on water pollution control will be held October 3-8 in San Francisco when the Water Pollution Control Federation will hold its 44th annual conference. The Federation will convene its 1971 meeting at the Civic Auditorium in San Francisco where an attendance of over 6,000 water pollution control experts will meet to hear, see, and discuss the latest ideas, developments, and advances in the field. The local host will be the California Water Pollution Control Association, an affiliated member association of the Federation.

The conference will have four full days of technical sessions on water pollution control problems and solutions. Congressman Paul N. "Pete" McCloskey, Jr., will present the keynote address. The awards banquet, October 6, will be the occasion for the presentation of annual awards recognizing outstanding contributions to the field. Arthur F. Vondrick, Federation president, will open the conference on Monday morning, October 4, with a general session and its opening address. The afternoon sessions will cover automation, instrumentation, and computer applications; industrial case histories; combined sewer and stormwater overflows; and research. Tuesday, October 5, will be Industry Day, co-sponsored this year by the National Canners Association and the Federation. It represents a day set aside to emphasize industrial water pollution problems and how they have been solved. The afternoon sessions will offer information on heavy metals in industrial wastes, disposal practices to the marine environment, research, plus an operators' forum.

Wednesday, October 6, will have a general session scheduled in the morning to handle the important subject of environmental administration and legislation. Speakers for this session will be William D. Ruckelshaus of EPA and the executive directors of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Water Works Association, and the Water Pollution Control Federation. In the afternoon there will be concurrent sessions on collection systems, industrial wastes, and research. Thursday, October 7, will have sessions devoted to the consideration of combined industrial-municipal treatment and regional approaches, the design of wastewater treatment facilities, industrial waste treatment research efforts, advances in concepts of collection systems, new process equipment developments, a five-part coverage of nutrients, and plant operations research.

NEW TRAINING PROGRAM IN CHEMICAL-PHYSICAL PROCESS-CONTROL AWT TECHNIQUES

Texas A & M University has received a training grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to sponsor courses at the Dallas Facility on the operation, maintenance, and control of chemical-physical, advanced waste-treatment facilities. The grant will utilize the pilot and research facilities of the Dallas Water Utilities Department. Direction of these facilities is provided by the Environmental Engineering Division of Texas A & M University's Civil Engineering Department under contract to the Water Utilities Department. Five classes, each of five days duration, will be held during this Federal fiscal year. Attendance is open especially to engineers and managers who desire experience with these systems. Travel and per diem will be paid. Enrollment will be limited to allow maximum individual attention. For additional information, write: Dr. Harold W. Wolf, Professor and Director, Dallas Water Reclamation Research Center, 1020 Sargent Road, Dallas, Texas 75216, or call Dr. Wolf at (214) 943-1271 or 943-4556.

1971 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INDEX

America's environment continued to deteriorate during 1971 according to the National Wildlife Federation's third annual "Environmental Quality Index" to be published in the October-November issue of National Wildlife magazine. Air pollution remains the nation's most serious environmental problem. National standards required by Congress give some hope things may begin to improve as 1975 approaches, but the trend in air quality continues down. As in the past, automobiles, electrical generating plants, and coal-burning industries are the main culprits.

The nation's water is still incredibly foul, but the bottom may have been reached. The 1971 EQ Index shows no decline from 1970 levels. More and better sewage treatment plants and industrial clean-ups are given credit for holding the line against further water degradation. Industry remains the largest water polluter with 65 percent. Municipal sewage accounts for 20 percent and agriculture 15 percent. America continues to exploit mineral resources without sufficient regard for the future so the Mineral EQ Index is down from 1970. Users are outrunning explorers, and known reserves of many vital metals will not outlast the 20th century. Recycling, though beginning to spread, saves only a small fraction of the nation's minerals.

Man's growing population, and its pollution, has put additional stress on wildlife; and the Wildlife Index continued its downward trend in 1971. Loss of habitat is the major danger for wildlife with chemical pollution of air, water, and land a close second. Some 101 species are listed on the endangered species list. Population concentration near the two coasts is intense. Polluted cities have pushed the EQ Living Space Index down during 1971, and the trend appears to be headed further down. Until a sound national land use policy and public transportation systems become a reality, the EQ says living space problems are going to get worse.

Due to an 87 percent harvest of allowable cut in the National Forest last year, the Timber EQ Index is up slightly over 1970. But the upward trend is shaky in the face of pressures for increased cutting and losses from burning and disease. Soil quality, highest on the EQ Index, has slipped from 1970. Bulldozing, over-fertilization, and erosion continue to destroy America's valuable soil resources. [National Wildlife Federation]

GROUND-WATER QUALITY SIMULATOR

A ground-water simulation system being developed by Battelle-Northwest for the Atlantic Richfield Hanford Company will accept models of ground-water conditions, display the results of management changes, and forecast the effects of waste management practices on the movement and quality of water in the aquifer. The system will be used to assess any impact of nuclear operations on the Hanford ground-water regime which moves through ancient sand and gravel channels deep under the desert sand. The scientist nominates the problem for study which is then displayed on the cathode ray tube similar to a television set. The computer controlled picture changes to show what will happen as the scientist adds or subtracts events such as pollution, or a particular type of waste management plan. [Water Newsletter]

KIPP NAMED ACTING DEAN AT MARQUETTE

AAPSE member Dr. Raymond J. Kipp, has been named Acting Dean of the College of Engineering at Marquette University. Replacing Dr. Kipp as Chairman of the Civil Engineering Department is Dr. Alphonse E. Zaroni.

