

THE HIGHLANDS VOICE

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Published monthly by the W. Va. Highlands Conservancy

Vol. 15 No. 6 July 1983

Effort Fails

124 Million Restored To Stonewall Jackson Dam Project

Claiming that he personally made 124 phone calls to Capitol Hill lawmakers, Sen. Robert Byrd was able to gather enough support to return \$26 million in funding for the Stonewall Jackson Dam to the 1983-84 \$14.3 billion energy and water development appropriations bill.

The bill had to be sent to conference committee after the House, on June 6, voted to delete funding for the dam, and the Senate, in a 91-6 vote, approved funding for the project.

On June 29, the compromise bill was sent back to Congress where the House approved the measure 377-82 and the Senate, 82-12. The bill was sent to President Reagan; it is expected he will sign the package into law.

Perhaps the most unnerving aspect of this debate was the behind the scenes lobbying effort waged by Byrd. In a news account of the debate, Byrd, who was a member of the conference committee, was said to have flashed a smile while talking about his

"exhaustive" lobbying effort on behalf of the dam.

"Most of you are very well acquainted with the Stonewall Jackson Dam," Byrd. "I've talked to most of the conferees. I've called 124 members all together. I don't feel a lengthy statement on the matter is now necessary."

Wise, who campaigned to have the House delete funding for the dam in

early June, was reported to have acknowledged Byrd's clout, but was upset that this issue was decided by the use of "political muscle" rather than its merits.

In addition to Byrd's phone calls, House members received calls from West Virginia's Gov. John D. Rockefeller IV. In a news story appear-

(Continued on Page 3)

Wise Amendment Is Passed By House

By LINDA WINTER

The amendment sponsored by Representative Bob Wise to cut \$26 million in federal funding for the Stonewall Jackson Dam project was passed by a House vote of 213-161 on Monday, June 6.

The amendment was attached to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill (H.R. 3132).

I was fortunate to be present during the testimony and House vote, and I would like to share with you some of the highlights of that day.

I began by calling the staffs of each of the three remaining West Virginia representatives to inform them of the Conservancy's positions on the amendment, and to ask how each representative might vote.

Aides to Reps. Harley O. Staggers and Nick Rahall were unable to say how the representatives would vote on the amendment. An aide to Alan B. Mollohan said, however, that "he (Mollohan) will oppose it with everything he's got."

(Continued on Page 3)

July 30-31

WVHC Summer Board Meeting

The Conservancy's Board of Directors will hold its Summer Meeting on July 30-31 at Camp Thornwood near Durbin.

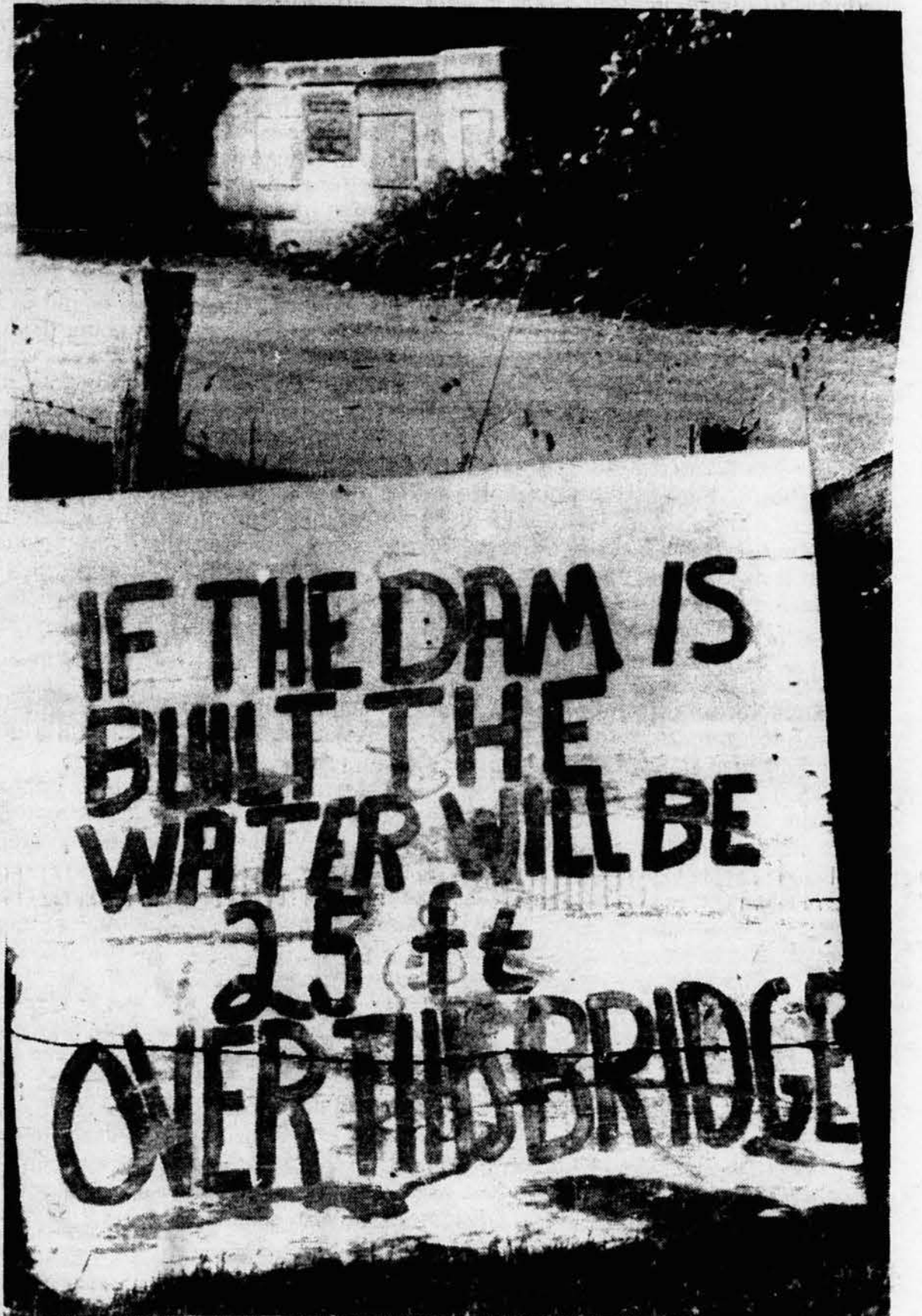
The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Conservancy business and the up-coming referendum on proposed changes in the Conservancy's By-Laws. The referendum is expected to come before the general membership in August. The Voice will carry the proposed By-Laws in the August edition. Members interested in commenting on the changes prior to the referendum are encouraged to attend the July 30-31 meeting.

Camp Thornwood, is located six-miles east of Durbin. Lodging and meals will be provided at the camp at a modest charge.

Dormitory Bunks (Saturday night)	\$4.50
Dinner (Saturday 5:30 p.m.)	\$3.50
Breakfast (Sunday 8 a.m.)	\$2.00
Lunch (Sunday Noon)	\$2.50

Reservations, with full payment for meals and/or lodging, should be sent to Dave Elkinton, P.O. Box 506, Fairmont WV 26554, no later than Wednesday, July 20. Meals can be purchased on an individual basis.

Directions to Camp Thornwood are: Take U.S. 250 east from Durbin for three miles to the first intersection of State Route 28 and U.S. 250. Turn left and drive north on U.S. 250-Routh 28, to where Route 28 veers to the left (off of U.S. 250). Once on Route 28, travel about one mile until you see the sign for Camp Thornwood. Turn left. The camp is roughly 200 feet off the highway.



Politics and perhaps intimidation has restored the \$26 million in funding Rep. Bob Wise persuaded the House to eliminate. If the dam is built, this

From The President

By LARRY GEORGE

WARREN McGRAW

On June 1, West Virginia Senate President Warren McGraw announced at a Charleston news conference, that he will seek the Democratic nomination for Governor in 1984. The gathering was attended by 300 McGraw supporters from across the state and included much of the leadership of the state's education, labor and environmental organizations.

McGraw's speech emphasized his commitment to protecting West Virginia's environmental quality, improving secondary and higher education and diversifying the state's industrial base.

McGraw is a 16 year veteran of the legislature and was elected Senate President in 1981 by a new coalition of progressive senators. During his tenure, President McGraw has developed a reputation as a tireless supporter of legislation to secure improved surface mining reclamation, water quality and proper disposal of hazardous wastes. His position as Senate President, the state's second highest constitutional officer, has often provided conservationists with a powerful and effective ally in the legislature.

President McGraw was the featured speaker at the Conservancy's 1982 Fall Review, and also made an unexpected visit with us at the recent spring meeting at the New River Gorge.

McGraw is a trial attorney in his native Wyoming County where he has developed a reputation for winning upset victories over incumbents. His candidacy, together with that of Attorney General Chauncey Browning and House Speaker Clyde See, will make the 1984 Democratic primary a very interesting race for conservationists.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

During July, the Conservancy is initiating a membership drive which will continue through this fall. Our goal is to increase the present membership of 690 individuals to approximately 1,000 members. Our present membership is at a five year high, however, I believe an expanded membership could significantly improve both our services to the membership and our effectiveness in advocating our positions.

Each Conservancy member will receive a letter from me requesting your help in this membership drive. Specifically, each member is requested to send us a list of their friends who may be interested in Conservancy membership so we may provide them with a membership brochure and an invitation to join.

The Conservancy also is interested in obtaining any organizational or other mailing lists which concern environmental interests. The assistance of all Conservancy members will be critical in this membership drive and greatly appreciated.

I am sure every Conservancy member has several friends who would appreciate the opportunity to join our organization and you will be doing them, the Conservancy and West Virginia a great favor!

The membership drive will be lead by Julia Barnett, who recently agreed to serve as chairperson of WVHC Membership Development. Julia will be organizing our membership drive primarily as a direct mail effort and expects to contact over 2,000 individuals in the next three months. The Conservancy also will be distributing membership brochures at locations across the state. Members also can help by identifying and distributing these brochures at locations which you believe to be desirable, e.g., libraries, outdoor stores and college student centers.

Assistance and inquiries regarding our membership drive should be directed to: Julia Barnett, Rt. 1 Box 107, Kenna WV 25248, Phone (304) 988-9024.

STONEWALL JACKSON DAM

In early June, Rep. Bob Wise convinced the House of Representatives to delete all funding for construction of the Stonewall Jackson Dam from the 1984 Water Resources Development Appropriations Act.

This \$215 million Corps of Engineers project in Lewis County has been opposed by the WVHC for many years on the grounds that it is a wasteful use of public works funds and requires that 1900 West Virginians surrender their homes and farms.

The opposition to the dam has long been lead by the Upper West Fork River Watershed Association (UWFRWA) comprised of affected landowners and conservationists from across the state.

The Conservancy has worked hard in recent weeks to support Rep. Bob Wise and the Watershed Association in the campaign to stop the dam. The WVHC efforts has been lead by your Washington Vice-President Linda Ann Winters, who has worked very hard at lobbying members of Congress from across the Nation.

The fight to stop the Stonewall Jackson project is far from finished with Senators Byrd and Randolph working in the Senate to add funding back to the Appropriation Act. Since this fight may continue into July, and a great deal of work is to be done, I ask that interested Conservancy members contact Linda Winters at (301) 869-3793 to assist her on Capitol Hill.

"The Highlands VOICE" (ISSN 0161-9896) is published monthly by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, P.O. Box 506, Fairmont WV 26554. Distribution is to Conservancy members. A reentry permit to mail at

second class postage rates is pending at Elkins WV. Main entry is at Fairmont WV.

POSTMASTERS should address Forms 3579 to: P.O. Box 506, Fairmont WV 26554.

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Wise Ammendment.....

(Continued from Page 1)

All three representatives voted against the Wise amendment.

I then called the offices of representatives whose districts border West Virginia.

Reps. Austin J. Murphy (D-PA, 22nd) and James R. Olin (D-VA, 6th) voted for the amendment. An aide to Rep. Clarence E. Miller (R-OH, 10th) was unable to predict how the representative would vote since he was getting, "as many calls one way as the other." Miller and Rep. John P. Mutha (D-PA, 12th) voted against the amendment.

I arrived at the House Gallery just after Bob Wise completed his testimony stating the reasons why funding should be cut for the Stonewall Jackson Dam. As recorded in the June 6 Congressional Record, Wise testified that, "the General Accounting Office in 1981 found the cost justification (of the project) greatly wanting. Flood control only constitutes 28 percent of the cost justification of this day." Fifty-one percent of the justification is for pollution control by low-flow augmentation or pollution-dilution. But, "since 1972, EPA has not recognized this as a valid means of pollution control for this type of a pollution problem.

"Approximately 15 percent of the cost justification is based on recreation," but, according to Wise, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers based this justification on recreational use of two reservoirs outside West Virginia. The

Corps apparently did not look at the four reservoirs, all located within 100 miles of the proposed dam site, where attendance is dropping.

The state of West Virginia will have to "put up something like \$25 million over 50 years for the recreational area. . ." plus \$1 million a year for operation and maintenance costs. This money is to come from a state which had a \$92 million budget deficit for fiscal year 1982-83.

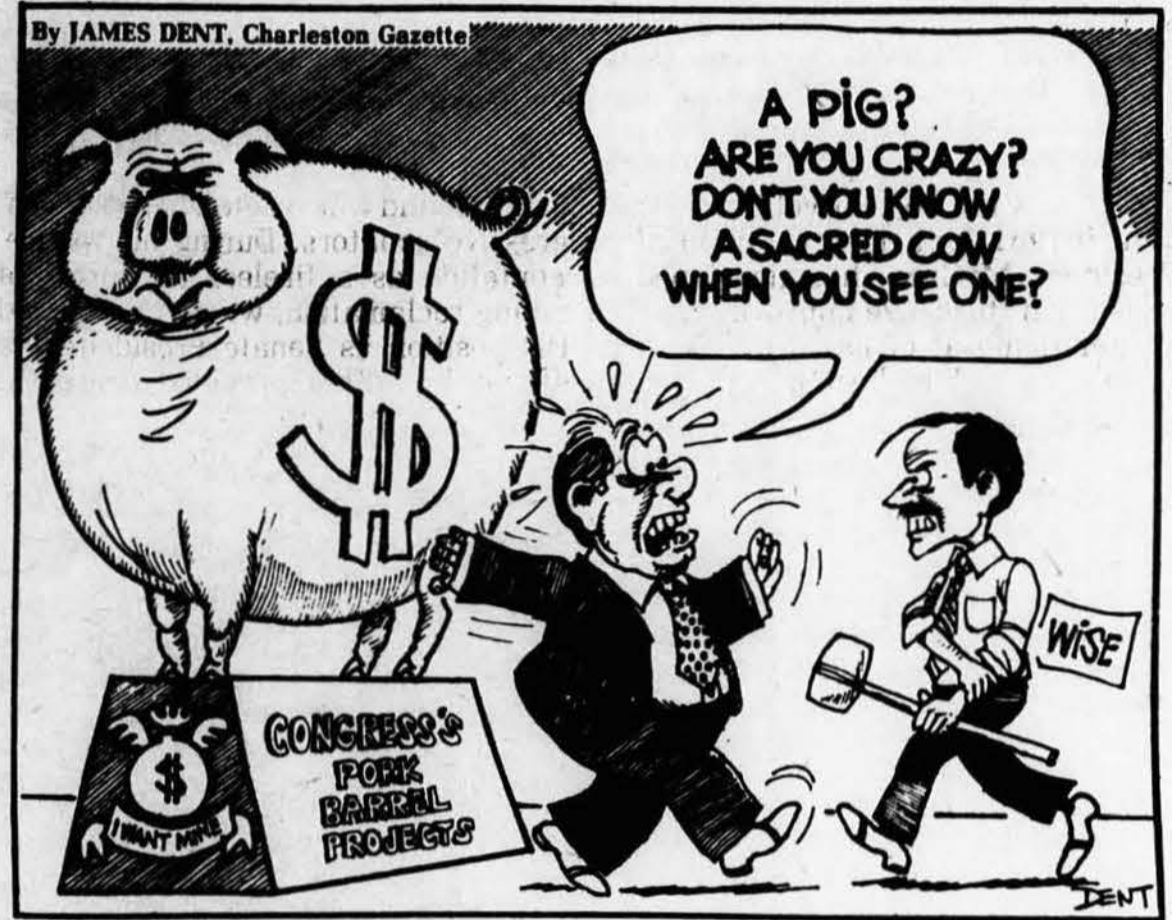
This project was "authorized in 1965 at an estimated cost of \$34 million. To date, \$83 million has been spent. . . for land acquisition, relocation, some road repair, but not construction. The estimated cost of the project is now \$205 million."

Congressmen Wise wants jobs in West Virginia and he worked hard for the jobs bills. Under the project, from 300 to 500 temporary jobs would be created for construction. "At a \$200 million project, that averages out to \$700,000 a job." According to Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA, 4th) who testified on the House floor, "this is not an efficient way to provide relief to West Virginia, it is not an efficient way to provide flood control. It is a repudiate method of dealing with water pollution."

Rep. Silvio O. Conte (R-MA, 1st) testified in support of the amendment and said, "I think that this project gives Stonewall Jackson a very bad name. I

believe that if old Stonewall knew that his name had been attached to this boondoggle, he would be turning over in his grave. I hope we kill this project. But in any case, I hope we rename it."

Mr. Conte concluded this testimony by saying, "this project is an embarrassment. It is an embarrassment to this House, and I urge the adoption of this amendment."



\$124 Million

ing in a Charleston newspaper, Governor Rockefeller said he worked hard trying to persuade federal lawmakers that it would be in West Virginia's best interests to build the dam.

But, the passage of the appropriations bill, laden like a Christmas tree with pork projects for the legislators' home districts, marked the end of Wise's campaign.

When the conference committee bill came up for a vote, Wise, himself, voted for the package because it contained projects for the state which outweighed the committee's "regrettable" decision to restore funding for Stonewall Jackson.

Under the bill, West Virginia will receive:

- \$145 million for Appalachian-region development programs.
- \$3.6 million for the Tug Fork flood control project in southwestern West Virginia.
- \$3.2 million for the R.D. Bailey Dam and lake in the southern part of the state.
- \$9.8 million for maintenance of locks and dams along the Ohio River.
- \$5.6 million for the operation and maintenance of facilities along the Kanawha River.

Although Wise said, "I have to look at the reality of the situation. This money will start construction of the dam itself. It gets harder to argue against something that is already being built," the freshman representative's H.R. 3000—to deauthorize the Stonewall Jackson Dam—is still pending in the House's water resources committee.

While lawmakers might have found it hard to kill a bill earmarking funds for their home districts, deauthorizing a project unassociated with their states might be easier.



Farmland worked by generations will become the muddy bottom of an unwanted lake if the Stonewall Jackson Dam is built. This view from atop a ridge in the take area will be

underneath water. No bales of hay, no white silo, no small fishing creek, nor grazing land for cattle, sheep and horses will grace this picturesque valley again when the area is flooded.

Hearings on Ground Water Quality and Landfill Practices Held

On West Virginia Day, the state Water Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources held back-to-back hearings on proposed ground water protection standards and hazardous waste landfill regulations.

Representatives of several environmental and citizens groups from around the state voiced their approval of the anti-degradation standards for ground water and the state-of-the-art requirements for hazardous waste landfills.

Representatives of West Virginia's industrial community, however, viewed the proposed standards as too strict.

Bob Warden, president of the W.Va. Manufacturers Association, said the proposed standards, "go far beyond what is necessary to implement the state act. . . we are opposed to zero degradation standards because it doesn't give consideration on what the ground water will be used for."

During the hearing, Warden and other industrial representatives speculated about what would be done with landfills already in operation if the new regulations are put into effect. Would industry have to retrofit those landfills as the regulations propose? And if they must, how would materials already in the landfills be moved so the installation of a second liner could be performed?

The stance taken by the state, according to Warden, should be one of "flexibility."

Elmer Fike, of Fike Chemicals, told the board that, "it (the standards) would be murder for industry because it places restrictions far and above protection of public health. If we waste money on things that are unnecessary, then we don't have money to do things that are necessary."

Fike proved to be the highlight of the hearing when, on the way back to his seat after testifying, he tripped over a reporter's microphone cable. As the microphone crashed to the floor, Fike was heard to say, "Modern technology has got me down!"

From the onset, it was clear that proponents outnumbered the opponents at the hearing.

Perry Bryant, Conservancy Charleston vice-president, spoke on behalf of the West Virginia Citizen Action Group.

"Gentlemen, the public wants and deserves adequate protection from hazardous waste landfills and surface impoundments. The best method of protecting the public, short of banning the disposal of hazardous waste in landfills and surface impoundments in West Virginia, is to adopt the anti-degradation standard..." he said.

Bryant presented the Water Resources Board and the DNR with petitions signed by over 5,000 people in support of the landfill regulations and groundwater protection standards.

In addition to endorsing the approval of the requirements, Bryant said the state should, "limit what is placed in landfills..." Examples of wastes that

should be banned from in-ground disposal are: pesticides, PCB's, cyanides and toxic metals, Bryant said.

William Sanjour, an EPA expert who testified on his own behalf, said, "It's nice to have standards which say no to ground water degradation, but EPA has shown that inevitably the wastes put into the ground will pollute ground-water."

"All experiences has shown that while its very nice to say you can't pollute groundwater, the only way to stop it is to stop the pollution where it starts," he said.

Concerning landfill regulations, Sanjour said that such research has been done on the topic, but nobody really "knows how to make one work."

"If landfills are so great, then why do they (industry) want legislation to stop their responsibility for them, five years after the landfill has been closed."

"Putting wastes in a hole in the ground is not any different them driving a truck load of wastes and dumping it in your backyard," Sanjour said.

On the topic of retrofitting landfills, with liners, Warden said the W.Va. Manufacturers Association, "doesn't like retrofitting. What do you do with the wastes?" he asked.

Conservative estimates, Warden said, by industry analysis and analysts claim that the proposed landfill regulations will add \$140 million to \$200 million to the cost of waste control in West Virginia.

"Capital expenditures of \$50,000 are needed to create one job in West Virginia. 2,000 to 8,000 jobs could be created," in the state with the money that might have to go toward complying with the new regulations, Warden said.

The comment period on the proposed standards and regulations ended June



Conservancy Charleston Vice-President Perry Bryant addresses the state Water Resources Board at the June 20 hearing on proposed ground

water protection standards. Bryant was speaking on behalf of the West Virginia Citizens Action Group.

30. The Water Resources Board and the DNR are expected to review the testimony presented during the West Virginia Day hearings and render their decisions sometime this summer. A statement of rationale will be prepared by the agencies, outlining their decisions.

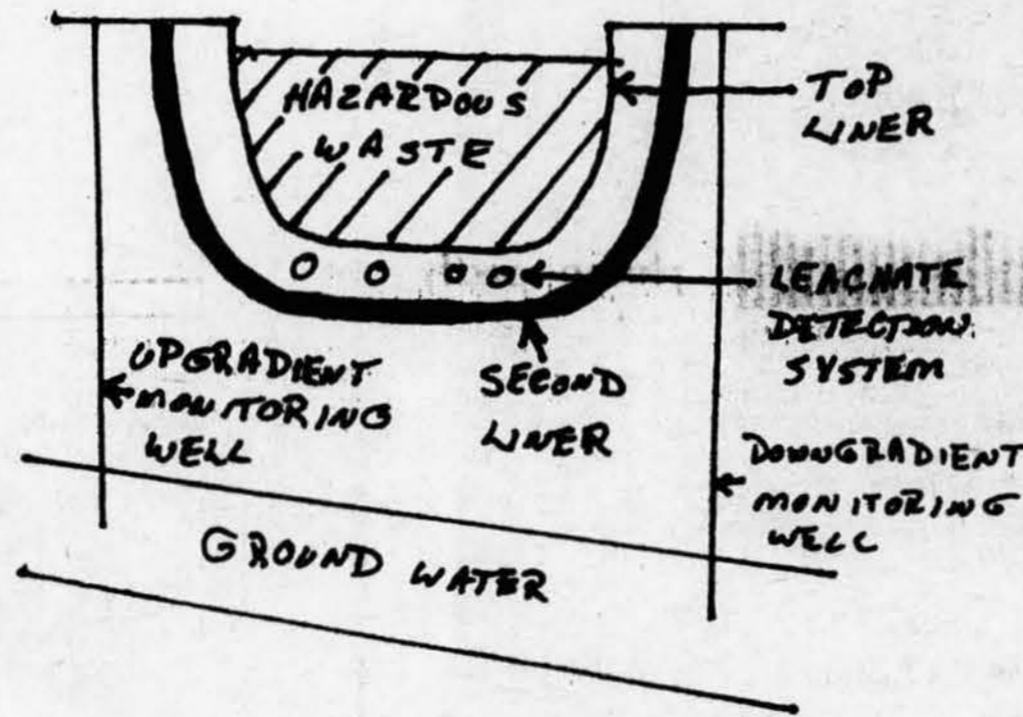
Handbook on WV's Water Issues Available

CONFLUENCE: A WATER RESOURCES JOURNAL FOR WEST VIRGINIA, an in-depth publication discussing water-related issues and problems confronting West Virginia, is ready for sale.

The publication, produced by Mountain Stream Monitors, and a host of volunteers, includes discussions and analysis of trout stream problems, acid rain, acid mine drainage, disposal of gas well drilling waste, impacts of mining on water supplies and hazardous waste disposal.

Copies of CONFLUENCE may be obtained by writing to: W.Va. Mountain Stream Monitors, Inc., P.O. Box 170, Morgantown WV 26505. The cost per copy is \$3.00 plus 50 cents for postage.

CONFLUENCE was supported by the Highlands Conservancy, the Wildlife Federation and several chapters of Trout Unlimited.



Pictured above is the state-of-the-art design for landfills and lagoons. The facility has a top liner and a second liner with a leachate detection system between the two liners. In addition there is monitoring of the ground water, since no facility is fail safe, no matter how well designed.

GIVE A HOOT! DON'T POLLUTE!



FOREST SERVICE - USDA - PUBLIC SERVICE COUNCIL, INC.

NPS Ends Bti Controversy For 1983

Efforts to introduce Bti into the New River, Greenbrier and Bluestone rivers to control black flies has been halted by the National Park Service (NPS).

West Virginia University had sought a permit from the Service to use the bacterial agent in the rivers because of the infestation of the pests, but in early June, the NPS ended speculation on whether it would allow the use of Bti.

In denying the permit application, the Park Service listed four major reasons for its action. The reasons stated were:

—Studies of potential health impact of black flies on residents of the area indicated the flies were a nuisance but not a health hazard.

This follows a report submitted to the Service from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga.. The CDC stated that while the black flies were a nuisance, wide-spread eradication measures were not necessary because the flies did not represent a health hazard.

—The potential impact of Bti on New River's flora and fauna.

—The role of the black flies in the river's ecology, principally its role in the food chain for game fish.

—Granting of the permit was not consistent with legislation, regulations and policy which guide management of units of the National Park Service.

Although the denial of the permit only stops the use of Bti on the New River National River—a 50-mile stretch which begins three miles below Bluestone Dam—a West Virginia University official said the school would not pursue another permit this year.

Dale Zinn, dean of the WVU College of Agriculture, said due to the lateness of the season, the school would not seek another permit in 1983 because "the time for effective treatment is past." He was uncertain if WVU would seek another permit in the future to control the flies, however, the school would be willing to assist in the treatment of the river if the proper permits were issued.

While the use of Bti has been prevented, for now, on the New

River—it is estimated that the heaviest populations of black flies are concentrated in a 10-mile area below Hinton—the Greenbrier and Bluestone

rivers were excluded from the ruling. Spraying of the agent into these rivers, appears unlikely though since Bti was denied on the New.

EPA Agrees To Clean Second Dump

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has agreed to spend \$868,000 to clean a second hazardous waste site near Fairmont.

The dump, located at Big John's Salvage Yard on Hoult Road in Fairmont, is the second dump owned by John Boyce which has come under EPA investigation within the past several months. The first dump, located on U.S. 250 near Fairmont became the center of attention when Polychlorinated biphenyls—PCB's—and other

materials classified as hazardous by the EPA were discovered.

The \$868,000 will be spent to construct a security fence around the salvage yard and a sedimentation basin to catch water runoff and for the disposal of 150 drums of hazardous wastes. In addition to the construction and disposal operations, the EPA will conduct a survey of the area to determine the extent of contamination caused by the toxics.

Changes Should Not Affect Davis Project

By SKIP JOHNSON
Charleston Gazette

Proposed changes in the Army Corps of Engineers' 404 permit system apparently won't affect the Davis Power Project, which was denied a permit by the corps.

This denial was challenged in court by Allegheny Power System, and, along with a state of West Virginia suit challenging the licensing of the project, is currently in a federal appeals court in Washington.

John Reed, public affairs officer for the corps at Pittsburgh, said changes in regulations don't normally affect actions already taken.

"The only question," Reed said, "is whether the court decides this (Davis) ought to be an exception. Certainly the project has been getting a lot of attention in the courts."

Reed said one of the issues is whether two federal agencies—in this case the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the corps—should be acting on the same permit.

"The court could decide in the negative," Reed said, "or it could decide that it is proper for the corps to be involved since the project does involve wetlands."

The power companies aren't directly challenging the denial, but are conten-

ding that the 404 permit system doesn't apply to Davis.

The appeals court said last October it would rule on this suit, and on the state's challenge of the licensing by FERC, at the same time. That ruling has not been made.

Highlights of the proposed 404 changes are these, said Gary Watson of the corps' permit section at Huntington:

—The time span for processing permits would be cut to 60 days. Presently it takes much longer. If another law comes into play, such as the Endangered Species Act, the time span could be lengthened.

—The process of asking other agencies for comment would be streamlined, meaning the agencies would have less time to respond. Also, presently these agencies can ask for a higher-level review of the 404 process within the corps and automatically get it. Under the proposed changes, the higher-level review wouldn't be automatic—the corps could grant or deny it.

Watson said the corps' district offices are being asked to look at state regulatory programs to see if the states have laws that could be used in place of the 404 process.

"We haven't found anything in West Virginia to date," he said.

MOVING? ATTACH OLD LABEL HERE

New Address: _____

W. Va. Highlands Conservancy

SEND TO:

P.O. Box 506
Fairmont, WV 26554

Get Involved—Join A WVHC Committee

This is your opportunity to take an active role in the Conservancy's programs and decisionmaking process by participating in one or more committees. Complete and return this form to become a member of the Conservancy committees listed below. These committees carry out the Conservancy's projects and develop recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding natural resources issues.

Please check the following committees in which you wish to participate:

- PROGRAM COMMITTEE (1983 Fall Review)
- AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE (Acid Precipitation, Clean Air Act)
- CANAAN VALLEY COMMITTEE (Davis Power Project, Wildlife Refuge and Landuse in Canaan Valley)
- HIGHWAY COMMITTEE (Corridor H, Highlands Scenic Highway)
- MINING COMMITTEE (Federal and State Coal Mining Reclamation Programs and Policy)
- OIL AND GAS COMMITTEE (State Regulations and Policy for Reclamation of Oil and Gas drilling)
- PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (Management Policies for National Forest and State lands)
- WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE (Protection of Scenic Rivers, Water Pollution Control Programs, Water Resource Development Projects)

RETURN TO: Larry W. George, 9 Crestridge Drive, Huntington, W. Va. 25705.

Join

THE W. VA. HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

New Renewal

Name
Address
City State Zip
Organization you represent (if any)

Membership category (see descriptions opposite)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Regular | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Regular |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Sustaining | <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Sustaining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 8 Senior | |

Brief statement of present position, interest, or activities in conservation activities (optional)

Make checks payable to The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

Return this part with check

The Dioxin Search Comes To West Virginia

Dioxin and health

What dioxin affects

It affects the liver, kidneys, enzyme production, sex hormones, immunity system, heart, blood vessels, nervous system, brain, muscles, blood, skin. The two major threats of dioxin exposure are cancer and suppression of the immunity system that defends the body from infection and disease. It also causes birth defects.

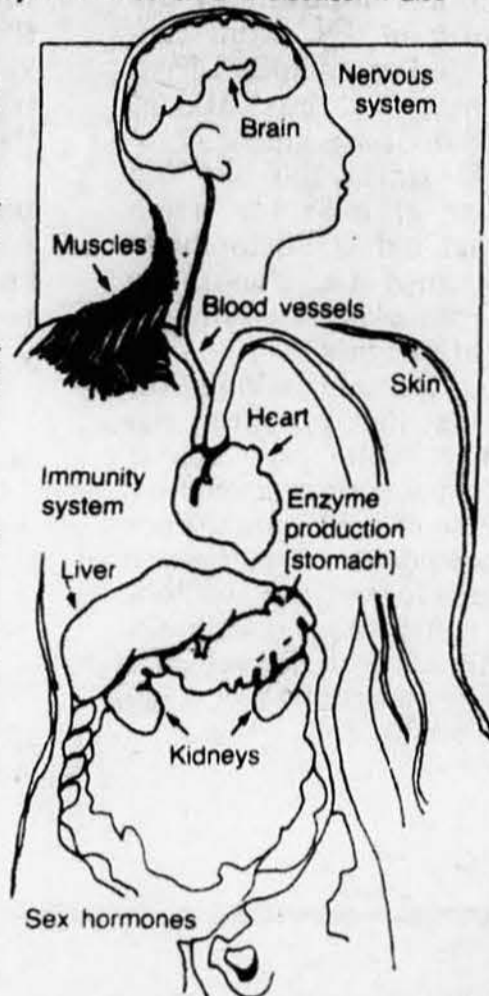
What is dioxin?

Dioxin is the most potent of all man-made chemicals. Only pure botulism and tetanus toxins are more deadly. There is no single test to diagnose the degree of exposure to the chemical, which lodges in the body and is difficult to remove. Symptoms can include severe headaches, weight loss, abnormal fatigue, weakness, memory loss, blood clots, hepatitis, or an outbreak of pimply skin known as chloracne.

Precautions

Dioxin can be absorbed by the skin, inhaled with dust or swallowed. Among the precautions that should be taken by persons living in a community tainted by dioxin are the following: Limit direct contact with soil and do not eat, drink or smoke while working in the area. Wash hands after any exposure to the soil and limit any activity that might produce dioxin-tainted dust that can be inhaled. Wear boots that can be thoroughly washed off before leaving the area. Wear coveralls over clothing or disposable clothing. Shower and wash thoroughly each day after contact with dioxin-tainted soil or water with special attention to dirt under the fingernails.

Chicago Tribune Graphic. Sources: Carrow, Conbear & Associates and Centers for Disease Control



For several months it appeared that the people of Missouri were being hard hit by dioxin discoveries. But then the chemical compounds began appearing in New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Now the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is looking for dioxin in West Virginia.

During June, EPA officials announced that the agency will begin testing four sites in West Virginia for possible dioxin contamination. All four sites are located in Kanawha County.

The EPA listed the sites as:

Roberts Chemical—now Fike Chemical—and Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co. in Nitro and Union Carbide sites in South Charleston and Institute.

Dioxin has been described as the most toxic compound ever created by man. Dioxin is the generic term given to several chemical compounds. The white powdery substance is produced as an unwanted byproduct in the manufacture of pesticides and weed killers. It is often produced during the manufacture of the herbicide 2,4,5-T, a compound used in Agent Orange, the defoliate used during the Vietnam War.

Although dioxin is very toxic, aside from causing severe skin inflamma-

tions, it has few other known human health effects.

The New Jersey Health Department, in a question-and-answer brochure, says experiments have shown that dioxin can cause cancer, birth defects, miscarriages and death at low doses in animals.

Several toxicologists have reported that accidental exposure to dioxin can cause temporary liver impairment, temporary reduction in the white blood cells that fight infection, unwanted hair growth and chloracne—a skin inflammation.

It is not known if dioxin enters the body through breathing, eating or skin contact.

In Kanawha County, Elmer Fike, owner of Fike Chemical, said his company's predecessor—Roberts Chemical—did not manufacture 2,4,5-T or other substances associated with dioxin, but in the 1950s did blend those chemicals for agricultural use.

A ground water study at Fike Chemical in 1981 did not reveal dioxin contamination at the site.

A Union Carbide official said his company was investigating the matter to see if the two sites every handled dioxin.

Visitor Center Opened

The National Park Service opened its Hinton Visitor Center early this month.

The New River Gorge National River facility will contain photographic exhibits, including historic photos, and an eight-minute sound slide orientation program about the 50-mile national river.

The Hinton center is located on the

Hinton bypass (W.Va. 3 and 20) and will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Hours have been extended for the visitor center located at the north end of the park at the north end of the New River Bridge in Fayette County. The new hours are: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week.

Dumping Sites In State Targeted By EPA

While the West Virginia Water Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources consider the implementation of hazardous waste landfill and ground water monitoring regulations, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has cited 10 West Virginia hazardous waste facilities for failure to comply with federal ground water monitoring regulations.

The EPA sent notices of violation to the 10 facilities after a regional study discovered that the 10 had not submitted federally required ground water monitoring reports to the agency. The study on compliance by the waste operators was performed under guidelines established under the interim regulations of the 1976 federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

In addition to citing the 10 operators, the EPA discovered that only four West Virginia hazardous waste facilities submitted the required reports and seven of the state's 28 waste sites could actively be contaminating ground water supplies. The 14 waste sites, the EPA said, were "mainly landfills."

The 10 facilities cited for violations have told the EPA that they either intend to close the facility or file for compliance waivers.

Because of its industrial base, West Virginia generates and stores a wide range of the more than 350 substances considered hazardous by the EPA. These substances include reactive and corrosive substances, chromium, lead, electroplating treatment sludge, tar and pitch sludge, chloroform, methanol, and variety of industrial wastes.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a reprint of a United Press International story on a report released June 28 by the Edison Electric Institute on the cost of controlling acid rain.)

Controlling acid rain pollution will raise electric bills by as much as 50 percent in some parts of the nation, the utility industry said in a report released Tuesday in Washington, D.C.

Environmentalists immediately disagreed, arguing that several government agencies using different research methods have projected rate hikes from acid rain controls will be no higher than 10 percent in any individual state.

In its survey of 24 eastern utilities, the Edison Electric Institute said it found half the companies expect rate increases of more than 14 percent during the first year of new pollution controls on their coal-fired power plants.

The projected first-year rate increases among the 24 utilities surveyed ranged from highs of 53.8 percent for Indiana & Michigan Electric Co. and 51.6 percent for Ohio Power Co., to lows of 4.9 percent for Duke Power Co. and 3.9 percent for New England Power Co.

In West Virginia, the American Electric Power System estimated customers of its affiliate, Appalachian Power Co., would experience no increase, while the average household served by a second affiliate in the state, Wheeling Electric, would pay an additional \$699 annually.

The grim financial forecast of the

Edison Electric Institute assumes that Congress will pass legislation now pending in the Senate. It would require major reductions in sulfur dioxide pollution from coal-burning plants.

"The costs of such irresponsible or ill-conceived acid rain legislation would impose a tremendous burden on an area that is struggling to cope with the effects of the recession," said W.S. White Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of the Columbus, Ohio-based AEP.

As expected, the Edison report said electric rate increases would fall most heavily on economically hard-hit Midwest industrial states—Ohio, Illinois, Michigan and Indiana.

"...The cost impacts of proposed acid rain legislation would hit U.S. consumers very hard," argued John Kearney, senior vice president of the institute.

But Elizabeth Barratt-Brown, acid rain specialist for the Natural Resources Defense Council, described the industry figures as "much higher than studies by government agencies have indicated the cost will be for acid rain control."

"The Environmental Protection Agency, congressional Office of Technology Assessment and the Congressional Research Service—all using different approaches—have forecast average electricity rate increases of about 2.5 percent as a result of acid rain controls, and no higher than 10 percent in any single state," she said.

Consumers May Have To Pay Price To Curb Acid Rain