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New Wilderness In WV?

S. 1460, a bill dealing with wilderness areas in Virginia, is expected to be considered in the US Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry this summer. In addition to dealing with the Virginia wilderness issues, it is hoped that the senate bill, like the companion bill already passed by the House, will contain language including 2500 acres in Monroe County, WV in the existing Mountain Lake Wilderness Area of the Jefferson National Forest.

The remote area, near Little Mountain, is already federal land and is now managed as the White Rocks Special Management Area. When the Mountain Lake Wilderness Area was first created, objections by Westvaco led to the deletion of this area, but removal of those objections (reportedly based on concerns about air pollution standards at

their nearby operations) has paved the way for consideration of the area in this current bill. Inclusion of the area will make it the fifth formally designated federal wilderness area in the state (the others are Dolly Sods, Otter Creek, Cranberry and Laurel Fork, all in the Monongahela National Forest).

Thanks will be due to Senator Robert C. Byrd, whose assent is necessary for the inclusion of the area, and to Senator Jay Rockefeller and Congressman Harley D. Staggers, Jr. The Conservancy has supported the primary advocacy for this wilderness area done by Ernie Dickerman of the Virginia Wilderness Committee. Persons interested in more information on the area or on the progress of the legislation can contact Ernie Dickerman at Rt. 1, Box 156, Swope, VA 24479.

ATV Use Illegal On National Forest

A Huntington, West Virginia resident, was recently fined \$200 for riding an ATV (All-terrain Vehicle) in the Dolly Sods Wilderness, according to Monongahela National Forest Supervisor Jim Page. The ATV rider was brought before the U.S. Magistrate Court as a result of a complaint filed by Special Agent Billie Wheeler of the U.S. Forest Service. The case was appealed to the District Court, but Judge Robert E. Maxwell upheld the sentence imposed by the lower court.

The ATV rider used his vehicle in the Dolly Sods Wilderness on November 3, 1987, to transport a freshly killed deer. The 10,215 acre Dolly Sods tract, located in Randolph and Tucker Counties, was designated as a Wilderness area by the U. S. Congress in 1975. The law that authorizes the creation of wildernesses specifically pro-

hibits the use of motor vehicles and motorized equipment within the wilderness boundary.

In addition, notes Supervisor Page, the emphasis on remote wildlife habitat and semiprimitive recreation that resulted from the public input to the 1976 National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan requires that much of the remainder of the Forest be off-limits to ATV use. To prevent disruption of wild turkey and black bear populations and to provide a quiet, undisturbed recreation setting, cross-country motorized travel is prohibited and no trails are designated for ATV use. The State of West Virginia does not license ATVs for road use, hence their use on National Forest roads is illegal. Special Agent Wheeler says the Forest Service is increasing law enforcement activities regarding illegal ATV use.

Air Force Proposes September Assault On Mon National Forest

by Mary Wimmer
Conservation Chair, WV Sierra Club

If the Air Force is allowed to go through with their current proposal, September 9-11, 1988 will bring to the Monongahela National Forest the kind of disturbance it has not seen since the shelling of Dolly Sods during World War II.

The proposal by the Air (not Army) National Guard in Martinsburg involves establishing a "Temporary Military Operating Area" (MOA) for high performance jet aircraft training. To quote from their proposal. "The MOA will be used between the altitudes of 300 feet Above Ground Level and 10,000 or 15,000 feet Mean Sea Level. Approximately 50 flights per day (56) are expected using C-130, OA037, A-10, A-7, F-4, F-14, F-15, F-16, and F-18 aircraft." Eight drop zones are also in the MOA, 3-4 on National Forest Land.

The proposed operating area includes the whole northern half of our Monongahela National Forest! Four out of five of our Congressionally-designated Wilderness Areas are here, in addition to seven of our 6.2 Areas and the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area. Another 100,000 acres here is assigned to 6.1 management which emphasizes remote wildlife habitat for species intolerant of disturbance.

The current overflight use of the MNF, which has been taking place for some time in the absence of any public review, is not at all as intense as what the Air Force now proposes, although in recent correspondence, MNF Supervisor Jim Page indicates that it, too, seems to be changing: "Originally, our low level traffic seemed to consist mainly of 'second line' fighters, of the type now flown only by reservists and the National Guard . . . Lately, some of the traffic has consisted of 'front line' fighter-bombers, which leads us to believe that regular military forces are also participating. This just adds to the traffic and the impact on the Forest."

The Air Force indicates that "current" land use agreements cover their proposed operation. The agreement with the MNF is dated 1951 and, therefore, has absolutely

nothing to do with our 1986 Forest Plan dictated by the National Forest Management Act (1976). Not to mention it has nothing to do with the National Environmental Protection Act of 1969 (NEPA), which requires environmental impact review of federal actions. In fact, the proposed exercise is totally inconsistent with our Forest Plan, a legal contract with the public which places ¾ of MNF under remote, semiprimitive management.

The process the Air Force must go through to gain approval for this MOA is a simple one. They apply for a Special Use of this land and air space, and just like any special use agreement, the user prepares the application. The proposal is submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration Regional Office in NY 4 months prior to the desired date. (In our case, by May 9 and that deadline was met.) Regional FAA review includes public involvement from air space users only, with a final decision made by the Washington Office based on the Region recommendation. FAA review does not cover land use impacts.

There is, however, a provision in the FAA guidelines that refers to Environmental and Land Use Information. Accompanying the proposal, or turned in "delayed," must be a statement indicating that NEPA compliance has been met. That means that an Environmental Assessment has been done to evaluate whether or not an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will have to be prepared to cover the effects of the proposed activity, including land.

If no EIS is deemed necessary, a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) is filed meaning that the action "will not have a significant effect on the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment" (NEPA 1508.13-14). If an EIS is necessary (i.e. significant effects will occur), then a more lengthy process similar to our Forest Plan although less complicated must be done. Considering that the Air Force plans to carry out this exercise in September of this year, they must have already decided not to prepare an EIS.

Unlike the Army National Guard who has been working closely with us to come up with updated National Forest use guidelines consistent with the Forest Plan, the Air Force never mentions our Forest Plan in their documents or letters. They do not seem to think they are creating any unacceptable disturbance (or that anything has changed since 1951!), and are proceeding ahead full steam saying that they have done this exercise before. (Nothing creating this level of disturbance has ever been carried out on the Mon since WWII.)

A couple more quotes from Air Force correspondence sheds more light on the situation:

... "The area is largely unpopulated to insure compliance with NEPA requirements for the environment." I wonder what this means to the future of West Virginia? This statement clearly shows the Air Force's disregard of local residents of remote areas as well as recreational users of our remote National Forest.

... "The opposition to our exercise comes from a small group of environmentalists who only seem to see one side of the issue - the side which says they are right and anything else is wrong." They also strongly imply in the same letter that the opposition is irresponsible, anti-patriotic, and does not come from "native" West Virginians. This small group of undesirables includes the following:

- Region VII Planning and Development Council Clearinghouse Review
- Robert Trocin, Commissioner, WV Dept. of Commerce
- James Page, U.S. Forest Service
- WV Army National Guard, Camp Dawson
- Walt Ranalli, Mayor of Thomas
- Doris Cussins, Mayor of Davis
- Tucker County Planning Commission
- Tucker County Chamber of Commerce

(continued on page 6)

Dear Editor:

In April, Canada's Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, addressed a joint session of the U.S. Congress and the heart of his remarks had to do with acid rain precipitation and what it has done to Canada. Believing that you may not have heard all of the critical points raised by the Prime Minister, I would like to reiterate them:

- Over 1 million square miles of Eastern Canada are vulnerable to damage from acid rain.
- The cost of the damage now occurring is estimated to be about \$1 billion annually.
- Over 700,000 lakes currently receive high levels of acid deposit; 150,000 are being damaged; and 14,000 have been acidified.
- About half of the Eastern Canadian Forest now receives a greater loading of acid fallout than we think is healthy. In dollar terms alone, that forest generates about \$14 billion worth of products and is extremely important to the Canadian economy.
- Acid rain damage to historic buildings, materials and monuments, including our Parliament Buildings, has been widely documented.
- There are grounds for concern that acid rain has harmful effects on human health. Over 80% of Canadians live in areas where levels of acid rain precipitation are high.

The Prime Minister also informed Congress that Canada has implemented a vigorous acid rain program. For example, Canada has required all provinces from Manitoba east to cut their 1980 allowable levels of SO₂ from 4.5 million tonnes to no more than 2.3 million tonnes by 1994, a 50% reduction. Unfortunately, the volume of American-origin SO₂ entering our air space, though it has been reduced since 1980, is still unacceptably high. We in Canada are alarmed at the damage from acid rain and seek some kind of commitment from the government of the United States to reduce these emissions to no more than 2 million tonnes per year. This, of course, would require your government to commit itself to targets and schedules. And this is where I believe you can help.

By August 31, American communities must be in compliance with ozone emissions standards required by the Clean Air Act. We understand there are several bills in Congress and in the Senate that propose to deal with acid rain emissions, but these are still in committees and subcommittees. With the deadline approaching, they may well be considered.

As well, Governors Richard Celeste of Ohio and Mario Cuomo of New York have proposed legislation that would reduce acid emissions. Canada welcomes this initiative and the political foresight of both governors in proposing to break what has been called the "legislative gridlock" on the acid rain issue. And Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, Joe Clark, and U.S. Secretary of State, George Schultz have met to consider further joint action that can be undertaken to help solve this terrible problem.

I believe that a letter from you to your representatives in Congress and the Reagan Administration, urging action on the acid rain issue would carry great weight. And I believe a growing majority of Congressmen and Senators will, when given the chance, vote in favour of some form of legislation with an established timetable to reduce acid rain causing emissions, especially if given your encouragement.

Yours sincerely,

Lawrence D. Lederman
Head of Consular Post and Consul

Oglebay has new Nature Education Director

Sue B. Stroyls of Carbondale, Illinois, has been named to the post of Oglebay Institute Nature Education Director, according to Stanley H. Coulling, Institute executive director.

Stroyls, a wildlife biologist and interpretive naturalist, holds a master's degree in Zoology/Wildlife from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and a bachelor of science degree in education from Ohio University, Athens. She joins the Institute from Olympic National Park, U.S. Park Service, where she served as a ranger and interpretive naturalist.

Stroyls has served on the boards of both the Southern Illinois Audubon Society and the Decatur Audubon Society as well as the Illinois Audubon Society. She is an elected member of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee, holds a Federal Bird Banding License, and an Illinois Department of Conservation Scientific Permit. In addition, she holds memberships in the Illinois Native Plant Society, American Ornithologist's Union, and the Wildlife Society.

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**Deadline for Articles
for September Voice
August 26**



Laura Zenzan From "ECONEWS"

MRS Secrecy May Mean Backers 'Hateth Light'

by Andrew Maier

One issue, although very much alive, seems to have faded from the public eye lately. That's because the proponents of MRS, the above-ground high-level nuclear waste processing and storage plant proposed for West Virginia, are keeping their activities out of the public eye and soft-pedaling the deadly radioactive danger they plan for the Mountain State.

This might seem inappropriate as a way of forming public policy. But when your goal is to saddle a state with a giant nuclear dump that absolutely no one else wants, secrecy and misinformation are just the ticket.

This game plan of secrecy includes the "hospitality suites" set up in January by nuclear industry giants Babcock & Wilcox and Westinghouse to wine and dine our legislators. These suites were supposedly set up to promote all types of economic development, but, like a recent bus tour of legislators through the southern counties, MRS was the only item on the agenda. Signs read "All Welcome," but anyone with an opposing viewpoint was quickly shown the door. Were the suites announced to the press or public? Of course not.

Another example is Senate Resolution 21, introduced by Sen. John Pat Fanning of McDowell in the last session of the Legislature. This bill asked Gov. Moore to request federal funding for another MRS study. Did the pro-MRS people announce this bill's introduction to the press? Of course not. They wanted to slip quietly through the two-day period during which the public can demand hearings on a measure. Luckily for West Virginia, word leaked out and the Legislature received hundreds of calls asking that the bill be killed. Which is precisely what happened.

Dr. David Corcoran runs several newspapers in Southern West Virginia. He's the self-appointed chairman of a task force set up to "study" the MRS. Lately he's been more open about his true agenda: open advocacy of the MRS. He says his task force is made up of businessmen, union officials and elected officials. Will Corcoran release the names of the members to the public? Of course not.

Corcoran provides us with one misrepresentation after another. Take the position of the West Virginia League of Women Voters. It opposes MRS, saying:

"Would the MRS really bring an economic boom as promised? Could the jobs actually be filled by unemployed persons in West Virginia? What effect would this facility have on other areas of the state? For example, would it hurt the tourist industry as many claim? Because of these serious unresolved questions, the League of Women Voters believes that the Legislature should not remove the legal prohibition against nuclear facilities in West Virginia."

Seems fairly straightforward, doesn't it? But if you read Corcoran's Welch Daily News, you learn "the league doesn't oppose the MRS." Corcoran also likes to repeat the old nuclear industry lie that "no one has ever been killed in this country at a nuclear power plant." But the very reactor that he uses as an example of how clean and safe the MRS would be, the Surry plant in Gravel Neck, Va., saw the deaths of two workers in 1984 and four more in 1986.

MRS task force members have repeatedly asked Corcoran to allow both sides of the MRS controversy to be heard at the MRS presentations he organizes. Did he agree? Of course not.

The procedure he prefers works like this: A meeting is called, but not announced beforehand to the press. The joys and glories of becoming the nation's nuclear trash heap are explained, and folks are asked to vote for a resolution in favor of an MRS study. The other side of MRS is never presented. The result: another group endorses MRS. Recently such one-sided presentations were taken to area high schools when Delegate Clayton Hale of Wyoming County arranged for a Westinghouse representative to give the pro-MRS pitch to about 1,000 students at the McDowell and Wyoming County vo-tech schools. Did Hale invite anyone to give the other side? Of course not.

Hale is typical of some West Virginia politicians who claim to be neutral on MRS but work in favor of it behind the scenes. He was recently quoted in the Beckley Register-

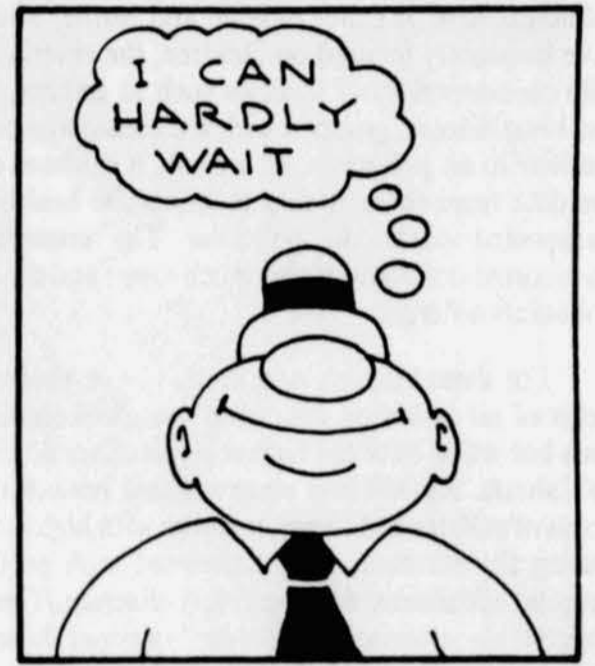
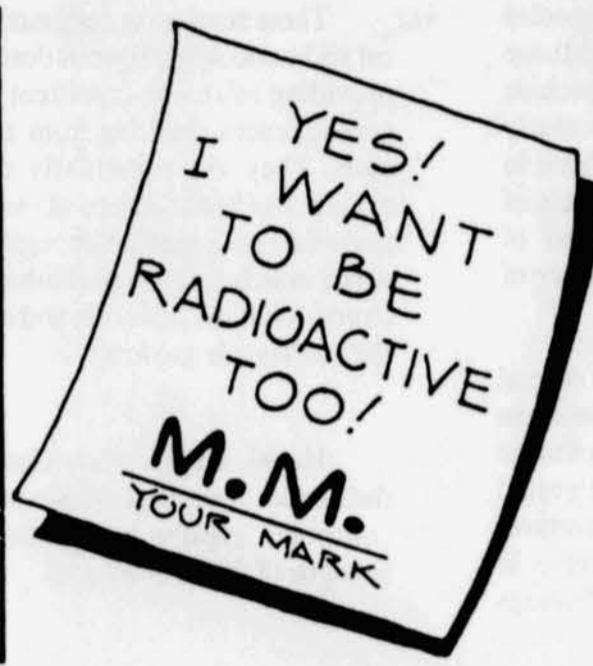
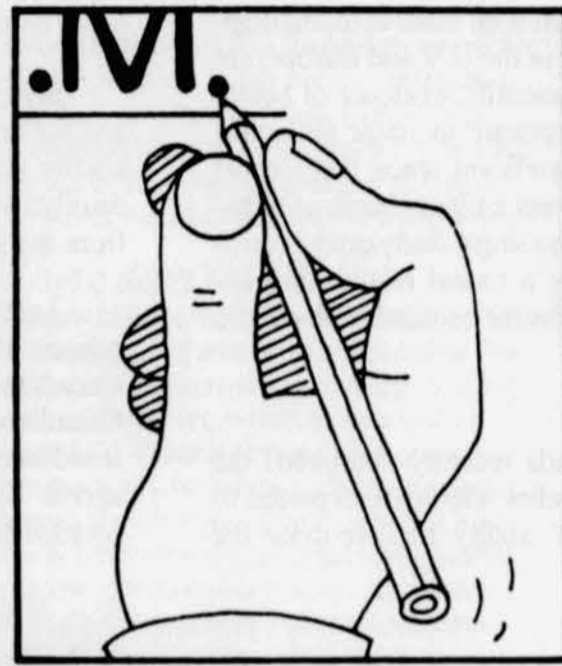
Herald as saying that we should "not rule it out without knowing anything about it." Well, if Hale would stop promoting the idea long enough to read his mail he could learn a lot. Every legislator has been sent a copy of the study that caused MRS to be overwhelmingly rejected when it was first aimed at Tennessee. It's worth noting that the Tennessee House voted the MRS down 98-1, and the Senate agreed, 28-3.

The Volunteer State set up an MRS opinion hot line. Of the 1,805 people responding, 93 percent opposed the facility. Tennessee business executives were polled. They said, "The MRS would reduce the willingness of 55 percent of the 130 respondents to locate their business in the MRS county. Only 7 percent felt that it would be a positive factor. Thirty-nine percent feel that the MRS would reduce their willingness to locate even 100 miles away." In other words, if MRS comes here we will not only lose our tourism industry, we can probably kiss substantial economic progress goodbye too.

Perhaps the biggest deception comes when we hear politicians like Hale and Clyde See say that while they personally have no opinion or oppose the MRS, they favor another "study." Make no mistake about it. The only purpose of the "study" is to let the MRS get a foot in the door of our beautiful state. The MRS has been studied to death already by Tennessee and the Congress. There is no lack of information on it. The problem with these existing studies for the MRS backers is that they all show the MRS, correctly, to be dangerous, expensive and unnecessary.

Why do the pro-MRS people act this way? Maybe they're shy. Maybe they realize that the day they let Mountaineers hear both sides is the day their plan goes down the tubes. Or perhaps we need look no further for an explanation than the Bible, which reminds us, "All that is evil hateth the light."

(Maier, of Hinton, is president of Save Our Mountains. From the Charleston Gazette.)



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DOE Acid Water Treatment Soon To Reach \$1 Million

by Paul Nyden

By labor Day, the Department of Energy will have spent more than \$1 million treating acid-mine drainage in Upshur and Braxton counties. In August 1985, the DOE assumed responsibility to treat acid water running off a 3,686-acre tract of land once mined by DLM Coal Corp.

Since September 1985, the state has spent more than \$920,000 treating discharges into the Buckhannon and Tygart rivers. Computer records show the DOE spent \$288,271 between September 1985 and June 1986, \$411,326 between July 1986 and June 1987 and \$222,337 between July 1987 and April 1988. The money comes from the Special Reclamation Fund.

Part of the money pays three or four full-time workers on the old mine site. A major portion goes to buy chemicals that neutralize the acid water. The department inherited the problem from the Department of Natural Resources, which issued DLM Coal Corp. permits for strip mining in the early 1980s. David C. Callaghan was DNR director at that time.

Coal seams in the area are laden with iron sulfides, or pyrites, which produce sulfuric acid when they interact with water.

When the DOE and DLM signed an agreement in August 1985, DLM was spending about \$300,000 a year to treat acid drainage. Under the agreement, which released DLM from any future liability, DLM gave the state about \$850,000 in cash, reclamation bonds, securities, equipment and supplies.

Kenneth Faerber, then acting DOE commissioner, said he negotiated a good deal for the state by getting the company to pay \$850,000. Some critics argued Faerber should have sued DLM's parent company, General Energy Corp. of Lexington, Ky. General Energy owns 20 million tons of coal reserves, according to the Keystone Coal Industry Manual.

George V. Piper, DOE's lawyer, said reclamation costs have dropped since the last fiscal year. Piper said the DOE has special expenses connected with getting the massive

reclamation project started. This year, reclamation costs have run about \$22,000 a month.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy sued DOE and DNR in 1986, seeking an order to require the agencies to treat acid water as long as it is discharged from the site. The suit stated that the DOE had repeatedly stated its treatment program was voluntary.

In late May, Kanawha Circuit Judge Andrew MacQueen approved a consent order. The order requires the agencies to "operate a treatment works for all waters discharged... from the former DLM property... for so long as such waters cause, or might reasonably be expected to cause, or contribute to pollution of any of the waters of the state."

John Purbaugh, president of the Highlands Conservancy, previously said he doubts he will live to see the day when treatment becomes unnecessary.

From The Charleston Gazette

Canadian Report Reviews Health Effects Of Acid Rain

Canadian federal and provincial governments recently issued a comprehensive report on the most recent Canadian and American Research on the environmental and human health effects of acid rain. "An Assessment of Knowledge of the Long-Range Transport of Air Pollutants and Acid Deposition" is the first such review since 1981.

Until recently, research on acid rain focused on the environmental impacts on lakes and aquatic life. There have been relatively few studies of the possible human health effects of acid rain and its constituent pollutants. The Canadian report identifies recent epidemiological studies undertaken to determine if acidic air pollution can be associated with increased respiratory illnesses.

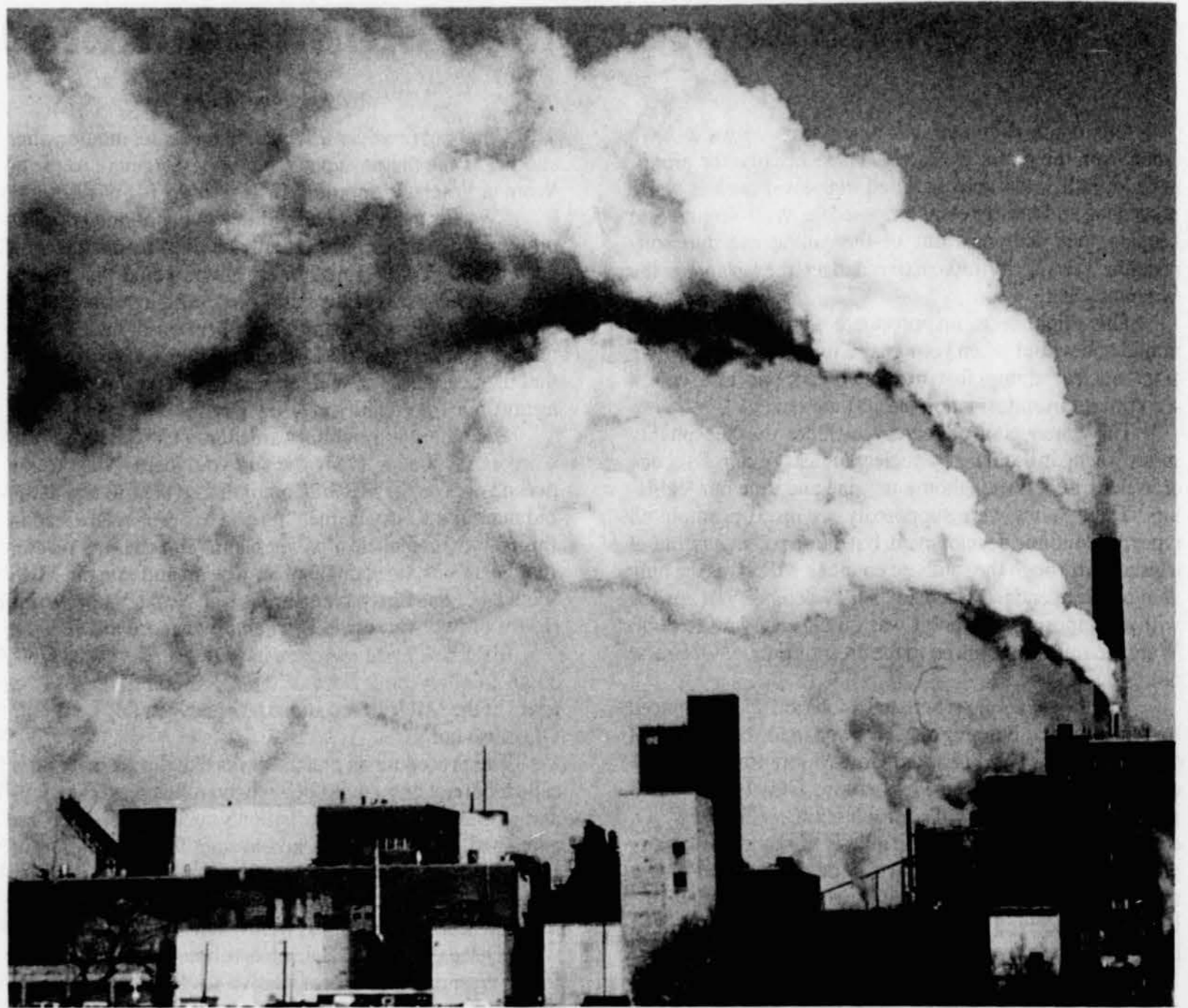
"Acidic deposition" includes both wet deposition (such as rain and snow) and dry deposition (such as gases and fine acidic particles). The pollution mixture associated with long-range transport includes regulated primary pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen and ozone. It also contains chemical derivatives and transformation products which include fine sulfuric acid and ammonium sulfate. These particles are extremely small, and can enter the respiratory passages and be deposited deep into the lungs.

In the past, there have been a number of studies of the potential health effects of high concentrations of primary pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and ozone. These studies have frequently focused on children, the elderly and those with cardiorespiratory illnesses such as asthma, bronchitis and heart disease, groups which are considered particularly sensitive to air pollutants. As a result, it has been difficult to use data from these studies to assess the health effects of transported acidic air pollution. The concentration of transported pollutants is also much lower and the mixture of pollutants different.

For these reasons, new studies have analyzed several years of air pollution data from southwestern Ontario, an area known to have the highest levels of acidic air pollution in Canada. Researchers observed that periods of elevated levels of sulfates and ozone, together with high temperatures during the summer, were correlated with an increase in hospital admissions for respiratory illnesses. These findings suggest an association between summer haze and respiratory illness.

The Canadian report includes a study of the possible long-term respiratory effects of chronic exposure to transported acidic air pollutants on 1,400 rural schoolchildren, aged 7 to 12. Researchers compared responses to a standardized respiratory health questionnaire and performance on a standard test of lung function of children living in a community having some of the highest levels of acidic air pollution in Canada (Tillsonburg, Ontario) to those of a control group of children living in a community receiving little transported acidic air pollution (Portage la Prairie, Manitoba). Children living in the high-pollution area were observed to have, on average, lung function measurements 2 percent lower than those residing in the control region—a small but statistically significant difference. They also had a higher frequency of chest colds, inhalant allergies, stuffy nose and cough with phlegm.

A 10-day study of asthmatic and non-asthmatic children attending a residential summer camp in a region known to be affected by acid rain, was designed to assess the possible relationship between current ambient acidic air pollutants and daily respiratory health and function. Children from both the asthmatic and non-asthmatic groups showed loss of lung function which was associated with ambient levels of fine particles (which carry most of the



sulfate), average sulfates and maximum daily ozone concentrations. The association between ozone and reduced lung function capacities in children has also been reported by U.S. investigators using similar research settings.

These studies, in conjunction with other epidemiological and toxicological work done in the U.S. and Europe, are providing relatively consistent scientific evidence of health consequences resulting from exposure to acidic air pollutants. They are particularly significant since they report evidence of health effects at *current* ambient levels of transported air pollutants. Although no single study can be considered conclusive in establishing a casual relationship between acidic air pollution and adverse human health effects, the evidence is growing.

Health and Welfare Canada recently completed the data collection phase of two studies which are expected to contribute greatly to scientists' ability to determine the strength of this relationship.

Using improved exposure assessment and a larger number of subjects, the studies are assessing acute and chronic influences of transported air pollutants on respiratory health and function in children. In the chronic study, 5,000 children, 7 to 12 years old, living in 10 communities in Canada, five in southwestern Ontario and five in Saskatchewan, completed a respiratory health questionnaire and were measured for lung function. For the acute study, researchers monitored, over a six-week period, the lung function of girl guides 8 to 14, attending a summer camp on the north shore of Lake Erie. Intensive on-site air monitoring identified and quantified acidic air pollution exposures. The data from these studies are currently being analyzed.

Evidence gathered in U.S. and Canadian laboratory experiments lends support to epidemiological findings. Controlled laboratory experiments using humans and animals have demonstrated that acute and chronic exposure to elevated levels of sulfates causes adverse health responses which include constriction of airways and increased lung clearance times. In one experiment cited in the Canadian report, approximately one-third of the non-smoking asthmatics studied exhibited breathing difficulty when exposed to 0.25 parts-per-million of ozone for two hours. The one-hour maximum acceptable level for ozone in Canada is 0.08 ppm.

Health effects of acid deposition may not be limited to the inhalation of airborne pollutants. The Canadian report suggests that acid rain may pose a host of *indirect* dangers to humans, largely through contamination of drinking water. Thus far, very few studies have attempted to document these health effects, and findings cited in the report are predictive or, at best, suggestive.

Scientists suspect that acid rain may affect groundwater and surface water supplies. Over time, acid deposition can acidify susceptible water sources. This acidified water can dissolve or leach toxic metals, like mercury and aluminum, from the surrounding soil or rocks.

Leaching metals may be a particular problem in regions where soils cannot neutralize acid pollutants. The Canadian report noted that groundwater supplies in the Canadian Atlantic provinces, for example, may be threatened because soils in that region lack adequate buffering agents. Studies have already shown that groundwater in Sweden and Germany has been affected by acid deposition.

Acidified drinking water may also pose health risks by corroding toxic metals from water pipes and cisterns. In one recent study of cottages in central Ontario, tap water which had been standing in the plumbing system for up to 10 days was found to contain amounts of lead, copper, zinc and cadmium exceeding source levels. The maximum values measured for copper and lead exceeded recommended Canadian standards. Similar research in the Adirondack region of the United States found that 11 percent of homes with wells and 22 percent of homes with cisterns had lead levels higher than the EPA standard.

Reports of health effects of acid deposition are likely to spur Congressional debate on acid rain legislation this Congress. Senator George Mitchell (D-ME), chairman of Environment and Public Work's Environmental Pollution Subcommittee, commented that testimony at February hearings by physicians from American public health groups provided new insight into the dangers of acid rain. "Until now, the basis for action on acid rain was its adverse effects on water resources and the potential effects on forests," Mitchell said. "Now we have independent evidence of its impact on health." Mitchell's subcommittee approved acid rain legislation in late July, and the full committee marked up the bill in October.

—From *Environmental Perspectives*, a publication of the Canadian Embassy.

Clean Coal Competition Draws 54 Proposals For Innovative Pollution Control

President Reagan's expanded Clean Coal Technology Program has attracted 54 proposed projects, valued at more than \$5.3 billion, to demonstrate a new generation of cleaner, more efficient pollution control and power generating options for the nation's coal industry.

Secretary of Energy John S. Herrington called the response "a strong indication that American industry has placed its support and resources behind a technological approach to resolving concerns over acid rain while building a greater reliance on our abundant coal resources."

The proposals met the Department of Energy's May 23 deadline for submissions under the second round of the government's Clean Coal Technology Program competition. The program provides federal funds for advanced "demonstration projects" that employ as yet uncommercialized technologies for reducing air pollution from coal use.

The 54 proposals are competing for \$536 million in federal funds, with selected companies required to at least match the government's share.

The funds are part of a \$2.5 billion, five-year initiative announced last year by President Reagan to develop a suite of advanced technologies that can reduce airborne emissions of sulfur and nitrogen-based pollutants commonly associated with acid rain.

The President's pledge expanded a \$400 million (federal share) Clean Coal Technology Program begun in 1986. To date, initial round of competition has resulted in seven agreed-upon projects and four proposals still in negotiation.

The new proposals include a variety of project ideas ranging from improved pre-combustion coal cleaning techniques to more effective stack gas scrubbing concepts. Also included are advanced power generating concepts that depart significantly from a traditional coal-burning utility plant. In all, clean coal projects were proposed in 20 states.

A proposal's technical potential will be judged on the effectiveness of the commercial version of the technology in reducing acid rain causing emissions and in improving the costs of achieving emission reductions. The Energy Department will also evaluate the technical readiness of the demonstration project and its adequacy in providing new information that the private sector can use to make commercial deployment

decisions. The suitability of the proposed site and the reasonableness of the technical approach of the proposer to design, build, operate and, if applicable, dismantle the proposed demonstration facility will also be evaluation factors.

The business and management evaluation criteria will include the adequacy and completion of the proposer's plan to finance the project, the financial condition of the proposer and the capability of the funding partners to provide the non-federal share of the project's costs. The Energy Department will also examine the degree of priority placed by the proposer on the project and subsequent commercialization of the technology.

Each proposer was required to submit a "public abstract" describing the proposed project. The compilation of public abstracts can be obtained by contacting the Office of Communications, Fossil Energy, FE-5, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585 (202/586-6503).

Acid Rain—What is it?

Acid rain is the popular name for the return to earth in rain, snow, fog or dust of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) which have been released into the air.

Where does it come from?

SO₂ emissions are mainly produced by coal-fired power generating stations (the major source in the United States) and non-ferrous ore smelters (the major source in Canada). The primary sources for NO_x emissions are vehicles and fuel combustion. Thus acid rain is mainly produced in areas of heavy industry and/or dense population. In North America the significant producers are located in the American Midwest and Ontario and Quebec.

Where does it fall?

Acid rain falls downwind of major emission sources, including areas very far downwind. (The map, top right, shows typical wind patterns in July. Source: Final Report, Impact Assessment Work Group 1, U.S.-Canada Memorandum of Intent on Transboundary Air Pollution.) In North America, the provinces of Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic region, and the New England states are unwilling recipients of millions of tonnes of acid deposition annually. The map, below right, depicts the incidence of wet sulphate deposition (acid rain) in eastern North America. Deposition levels exceeding 20 kg./ha. (18 lb./acre) per year are generally regarded as threatening to moderately sensitive aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.



Acid Rain Damage Spreads, Survey Shows

A new survey of 500 Mid-Atlantic and Southeast stream segments shows acid rain is damaging a wider geographical area than previously thought, the Environmental Protection Agency said last month.

The survey, which studied parts of small to mid-sized streams from New Jersey to Florida, found high acidity levels in 2.7 percent — or 3,257 miles — of the 120,000 miles of stream sampled.

Of the 3,257 miles of acidic streams, the study estimated the source of acidity for 2,673 miles was most likely acid rain.

More than half of the streams believed damaged by acid rain were found in upland forested areas in the Mid-Atlantic, such as the Catskill and Pocono mountains in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and the Appalachian ridges and valleys of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia.

Acid rain was also found to be a significant contributor

to stream degradation along the mid-Atlantic coast, primarily in New Jersey's Pine Barrens. Officials noted, however, that most of the Pine Barrens streams also are influenced by acidity released by decaying vegetation.

Courtney Riordan, director of EPA's Office of Environmental Processes and Effects Research, said the study indicated that damage from acid rain was not confined to New England and Canada, where the effects have been most apparent.

The survey, Riordan said shows "a broader geographical extent of environmental effects from acid rain that we previously realized."

Scientists believe acid rain is formed when sulfur and nitrogen emissions from coal-burning power plants and other industrial sources combine with water vapor in the atmosphere.

Riordan said the stream survey data showed a correlation between rates of acidic deposition from the atmosphere

and acidic sulfate concentrations in streams. The same relationship was observed in earlier studies of Eastern lakes.

The survey found the lion's share of acidic streams in the mid-Atlantic, which accounted for 2,901.6 miles of the 3,257 miles of acidic stream segments.

By contrast, only 346 miles of Southeast streams were found to be acidic. Most of the acidic stream segments in the region were located in Florida, where the source of acidity is most likely decaying vegetation.

But the survey also found that half of the roughly 54,600 miles of streams surveyed in the Southeast were vulnerable to acid rain damage. EPA officials said the chemical makeup of the soils surrounding those streams provides little buffering capacity to neutralize acid rain.

Similarly, about half of the streambeds surveyed in the mid-Atlantic region showed low buffering capacity.

(From *The Charleston Gazette*)

Trappers Search for Gypsy Moths

Nearly 100 employees of the USDA Forest Service, the USDI National Park Service, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and nine Virginia counties are combing eastern West Virginia and northwestern Virginia this summer trapping gypsy moths. This cooperative project called the Appalachian Gypsy Moth Integrated Pest Management Demonstration Project (AIPM) is headquartered in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Gypsy moths have been attacking trees in the nor-

theastern U.S. for many years, and they're now slowly working their way into Virginia and West Virginia. In 1987, the gypsy moth in the caterpillar stage of its life cycle ate the leaves of trees on 67,695 acres of Virginia and 12,490 acres in West Virginia. Allan Bullard, IPM Acting Program Manager said, "Trees that are attacked once can be weakened or reduced in annual growth, but it usually takes repeated severe attacks to kill them."

The purpose of trapping the moths is to determine where they're located before populations can increase and trees are

damaged, according to Bullard. Once an area has been identified as containing moths, other surveys can be done to estimate the moth population. If necessary, scientists can then recommend control measures.

The traps, shaped like half-gallon milk cartons and colored light green, were distributed over 13.5 million acres in the two states. In West Virginia, the traps were placed about 3 kilometers apart, and in Virginia, they were placed about 2 kilometers apart. The traps will be collected by the end of September.

Fish Dams Built

On May 14, the Allegheny Highlands Chapter of Trout Unlimited, along with other volunteers, joined forces with the U.S. Forest Service to build two K-dams on Three Spring Run, north of Alpena, on land managed by the Forest Service.

First built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's, K-dams are one of the most commonly used fish structures in mountain streams. The dams work by concentrating the streamflow to a narrow point and creating a small waterfall. The concentrated flow digs a pool below the dam, creating cover and habitat suitable for trout. Meanwhile silt is trapped behind the dam, preventing it from covering delicate trout eggs downstreams. Dams built in the 30's

and 40's are often still effective.

Research has shown such dams, built at intervals along suitable streams, can increase the yield of fish by as much as five pounds per dam. In addition a well maintained stream with structures attracts fishermen and other recreationists, further increasing the value of the dams.

The joint effort was a result of a cooperative agreement between Trout Unlimited, the Forest Service and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, says Jim Page, Monongahela National Forest Supervisor. The materials, equipment, and supervision of the project were provided by the Forest Service, while the manpower was supplied by volunteers.

Three Spring Run is no stranger to fisheries improvement work. It is classed as a high quality native trout stream supporting both native brook trout and wild brown trout. It is an excellent fishery, producing over 50 pounds of trout per acre. Both Trout Unlimited, and the Forest Service recognized the potential for even greater yields if more instream cover and pools could be provided. Four K-dams were constructed in the stream last year by T.U. members. At least one more dam is planned in addition to those built in the last couple of years.

Cal Casipit, fisheries biologist for the Forest, expressed his satisfaction with the work done this spring. "Two dams a day is really great progress. We don't always get

that done with a paid crew working all day, yet these were done by volunteers in about eight hours."

All participants were awarded special certificates of appreciation, thanking them for their contribution to the fisheries initiative on the Monongahela. Supervisor Page signed the certificates and noted the volunteers deserve a thank you for a "super job."

For more information on how you can become involved in improving the fisheries resource on the Forest, please write to: Cal Casipit, Monongahela National Forest, P. O. Box 1548, Elkins, West Virginia 26241, or call (304) 636-1800.

Air Force (continued from page 1)

- an attorney and private landowner
- a woman speaking for a 95-resident nursing home
- Brooks Bird Club
- and WV Sierra Club!

There has been virtually no open publicity to West Virginia residents about this proposal against NEPA regulations. By the time you read this, the Air Force will likely have released their Environmental Assessment for this proposed exercise. If they do not determine that an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary (I have already called for one), they will have to deal with that "small group" and others like you who will get involved to protect our Forest. I will be back in touch with you about this when I need your

help.

Meanwhile, you may feel a need to express your initial concerns (remember Stony River Reservoir - public involvement works) by writing to the person in charge of the WV Air National Guard:

General John Wilson III
1703 Coonskin Drive
Charleston, WV 25311-1085 or call him at 357-5316(0).

Convey to him your concerns about the negative impacts of the proposed Air Force maneuvers on our special remote PUBLIC recreational lands, and the lack of public involvement in the environmental review. Describe how you use or think of the Forest, and any experiences you have had with military overflights when in the Forest to make

your points. Send copies of your letter to:
Senators Robert Byrd and Jay Rockefeller
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Your Representative
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Jim Page
U.S. Forest Service
P. O. Box 1548
Elkins, WV 26241

If you have any questions, call me at 598-0136.

Park Service Team Studies Thurmond

In June, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) team, a division of the National Park Service, began a four-week study documenting Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad resources in the New River Gorge. The team of architects, engineers, and historians will focus on the railroad station, yard, shop, and facilities located in Thurmond.

The purpose of the study is to provide a permanent record of measured drawings, large format photographs and written histories of the C & O Railroad in the New River Gorge. Andy Kardos, Chief of Interpretations for the New River Gorge National River (NRGMR), said, "It is possible that some of the structures, especially those that are privately owned won't exist in the future." The team may periodically return to Thurmond to check dimensions and record changes in the study structures.

The HAER team's efforts provide source material for historians. The information will be stored in the HAER collection at the Library of Congress. To provide background information for the railroad developments in Thurmond, the team may document railroad facilities in Hinton and in other locations throughout the NRGMR.

The Thurmond study is the second one that the HAER team has done in the NRGMR. In 1986, they examined structures at the abandoned coal mining town of Kaymoor.



The Thurmond, West Virginia, railroad station as it looked in the 1940's. Photo courtesy of the NPS.

NEWS BRIEFS

Rules On Oil Spills Inadequate, Study Says

A study of Ashland Oil Inc.'s fuel oil spill, which prompted water alerts by riverfront cities in three states, exposes the inadequacy of federal regulations in such crises, Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W. Va., said.

At the behest of Rockefeller, the research was performed by the non-partisan Congressional Research Service on the Jan. 2 leak at an Ashland storage facility in Floreffe, Pa.

The study shows that 750,000 gallons of light fuel were unleashed over the side of a containment dike, contaminating both the Monongahela and Ohio rivers.

For several weeks, the slow-moving spill — often wedged between chunks of ice — floated downstream. As it oozed by them, many cities were forced to shut off intake valves and impose water emergencies.

Rockefeller said the report cites key deficiencies in 1974 oil pollution prevention regulations that pose threats to public and environmental health.

"The Environmental Protection Agency must take action to improve its regulations and prevent future oil spills," Rockefeller said.

The CRS pointed out that Ashland assumed control of the cleanup mission — an option it may exercise under federal law — and hired a private contractor, in fact, the same one the EPA would have engaged.

"Weather also affected both cleanup personnel and equipment," the report said.

"The limited time personnel could work outside in the near-zero temperatures, freezing of pumps and equipment, and the steep banks of the Monongahela River did impede the cleanup of the spill."

No ill health effects ever surfaced, but the spill either shut off completely, or limited, water supplies to about 750,000 people in 170 towns.

The Charleston Gazette, June 28, 1988

More Peregrines Stocked

If peregrine falcons can find a home at an Atlantic City casino and a bridge in Philadelphia, they should be able to survive on North Fork Mountain or New River Gorge in West Virginia.

Peregrines have been placed in the gorge for the second year in an attempt by the non-game section of the Department of Natural Resources to establish the species in the state. They have also been placed for the first time at two sites on North Fork Mountain in Pendleton and Grant counties. Six birds were stocked at each of the three sites.

The North Fork Mountain stockings are a cooperative venture with the U.S. Forest Service, which would also like to see peregrines soaring over its domain again.

One of the birds placed on North Fork Mountain hatched from an egg taken from a bridge over the Delaware River in Philadelphia. The remainder came from the World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho.

Craig Stihler of the DNR said peregrines seem attracted to man-made structures such as bridges and skyscrapers, just as they are attracted to cliffs in the wild.

He pointed out that nests have been found on skyscrapers in Boston and Baltimore, and, what is the world of nature coming to, at an Atlantic City casino, where they were storing food behind a neon sign.

The Charleston Gazette, July 1, 1988

Black Gold Meeting Favorable To People

About 110 people, some favoring a permit for Black Gold Mining and some against, turned out at Lincoln County's Guyan Valley High School for the second of the Department of Energy's "informal conferences," in which the public is given the opportunity to speak. DOE scheduled the second meeting after a circuit judge ruled in favor of Lincoln County citizens who protested the company had drastically changed plans. The judge ordered Black Gold to go through the comment process again.

Sandra Perry, president of Black Gold, returned from Indiana for the conference, but did not speak. Delbert Burchett, an associate of hers who claims no connection with the company, was absent, rumored to be in Venezuela.

Burchett filed for personal bankruptcy in Kentucky, citing millions of dollars in mining fines and unpaid federal taxes. Burchett has no connection with Black, contends Mark Sorsaia, an attorney who handled recent Black Gold litigation.

"We went to trial and in five or six days of testimony, all of those groups in Lincoln County failed to come up with any evidence linking Burchette with Black Gold," said Sorsaia. "Furthermore, there was sworn testimony from the principals of the coal companies that Burchett would not be a contract miner or would in any way financially gain from the proposed mining activity."

Robert Shostak, attorney for Homeplace, is unconvinced. "The applicant is, we feel, in common control with the suspected scofflaw from Kentucky, Delbert Burchett," Shostak said. "We have not found a paper link, but his statements toward people in Lincoln County together with those of Sandra Perry would push us toward that conclusion."

"Who is going to run this thing?" Shostak asked. "Perry is gone back to Indianapolis, we've heard, and Burchett is gone to or is going to Venezuela, we've heard. They have not named a resident agent as is required by law."

Black Gold's latest proposals have addressed some problems and call for less acreage, Shostak conceded. "But they're still going to create an acid problem and will degrade Six-Mile Creek, one of the few high-quality streams in the state that still supports a fish population."

Richard diPretoro, a consultant to the Homeplace organization, which is fighting the Black Gold Mining permit, was skeptical whether Black Gold would be able to successfully reclaim the massive highwalls the company intends to create. "I don't think they really intend to reclaim the highwalls. They've hedged that in the past by saying 'to the extent possible.'"

"I don't think DOE will deny the permit," said diPretoro. "DOE has aided and abetted the applicant every step of the way. There is very little an operator could do that (DOE Commissioner) Kenneth Faerber would consider illegal."

The Charleston Gazette, June 30, 1988

Toxic Waste Cleanup Program Largely Ineffective, Report Finds

The Superfund toxic waste cleanup program is "largely ineffective and inefficient" because officials are not making full use of new ways to permanently destroy, detoxify or immobilize hazardous materials, a congressional report said.

In a study of cleanups at 10 Superfund sites, the congressional Office of Technology Assessment concluded that Environmental Protection Agency officials have squandered billions of dollars on traditional "containment" cleanup methods that provide little lasting protection for the environment of public health.

A top EPA official said the report is "kind of a cheap shot" that ignores many of the practical problems the agency faces in cleaning up dangerous chemicals and other wastes left scattered across the nation by businesses over the years.

The report, "Are We Cleaning Up? — 10 Superfund Case Studies," said EPA officials too often simply cover up wastes or place them in landfills because that is generally cheaper than incineration, biodegradation or other new "permanent cleanup" technologies.

OTA officials noted cheaper cleanups mean EPA can address more sites — a big incentive for an agency under intense public pressure to move quickly. The report contended many "contained" Superfund sites will inevitably leak, contaminating groundwater cleanup in the future.

And it said the EPA's continued reliance on containment technology is not in line with the 1986 Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, in which Congress told the EPA to use permanent cleanup methods whenever possible.

OTA officials noted many Superfund sites — the nation's worst — presented extremely difficult technical problems and that public expectations for the program were probably too high.

Even so, they concluded the EPA had achieved little in spending more than \$5 billion since the start of the Superfund program in late 1980.

The Charleston Gazette, June 18, 1988

Nuclear Waste Plans On Hold For While

Plans for storing nuclear waste in Southern West Virginia are on hold while President Reagan mulls over whom he wants as a front man to persuade state leaders to accept a radioactive storage plant.

Under a December federal budget bill, the president will appoint a special negotiator to deal with state leaders interested in building a temporary monitored retrievable storage facility, or MRS, for spent nuclear waste.

The bill also set up a three-man panel to do a study whether temporary storage facilities are needed at all by June 1989.

Last year, a group of residents led by Welch Daily News Publisher David Corcoran began lobbying state and federal officials for a \$400,000 "feasibility study" on a temporary storage plant for spent nuclear fuel rods. The \$1 billion plant would repackage the rods in canisters and send them to a permanent site under consideration in Yucca Mountain, Nev.

Corcoran said the plant would provide jobs and improve roads in the depressed coalfields of McDowell and Wyoming counties. "We need a study because we need to not close any doors to future employment," Corcoran said.

Andrew Maier, president of Save Our Mountains, said a feasibility study could almost guarantee West Virginia would get saddled with the plant. "That's exactly like the foxes studying the chickens," he said. He said Corcoran's group is the only one in the country supporting a nuclear storage plant.

Some officials doubt a negotiator will be chosen until after the November presidential election. But a Senate Energy Committee staffer said Reagan is expected to choose a negotiator within a month.

Meanwhile Maier is worried West Virginia leaders may request a federal feasibility study during next year's legislative session. "It's the difference between an open door and a closed door. We want to keep it closed," Maier said.

The Charleston Gazette, June 15, 1988

Elkem Metals To Donate Fishing Spots To DNR

Two popular fishing areas on the Kanawha and New rivers in Fayette County will soon be deeded free of charge to the Department of Natural Resources by Elkem Metals.

The gift includes a 30-acre parcel that encompasses Kanawha Falls at Glen Ferris, and a nearby 18.5-acre tract at Cotton Hill on the New River.

The land donation stemmed from Elkem's application to re-new its license to generate power from its hydroelectric plant near Gauley Bridge. The original 50-year permit to operate the plant, powered by New River water channeled through 3-mile-long Hawks Nest Tunnel, expired last year.

Last December, when a 30-year renewal permit to operate the hydro plant was granted by the Federal Energy Regulation Commission, Elkem agreed to increase the amount of water to be released into a 5-mile stretch of the New River below the tunnel, known to fishermen as "The Dries." Anglers had sought more water to be channeled through that segment of the New, which includes the Cotton Hill site, in order to improve fishing prospects.

Prior to the permit renewal, only 25 cubic feet of water per second was released into "The Dries." Under the terms of the permit renewal, as much as 100 cubic feet per second may be released.

The Kanawha Falls and Cotton Hill sites contain productive smallmouth bass waters, as well as magnificent scenery.

While the new state-owned land is expected to be managed for public fishing opportunities, management plans will likely also include the preservation of a rare plant species, buffalo clover, that grows there.

The Charleston Gazette, June 17, 1988

Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide Now Out

Edition 5 of the WVHC Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide is now available. This edition is bigger and better than ever, with 320 pages, 60 maps, 39 photographs, descriptions of 164 trails totalling 780 miles, a new section on ski-touring, and a full-color cover. The authors are Allen de Hart and Bruce Sundquist. Allen has hiked all the trails of the Monogahela N.F. over the past few years. Bruce edited Editions 1-4. The hiking community and the U.S. Forest Service provided the authors with trail reports and photographs.

In the U.S. Forest Service's planning process that led to

the 1986 Land and Resource Management Plan, over 35,000 comments were received from the public. The gist of these comments is that the Monongahela is a "Special Place." And indeed it is. The hiking and backpacking opportunities it provides are among the best in the eastern U.S. The more outstanding areas are becoming known far and wide — Otter Creek Wilderness, Dolly Sods Wilderness, Flatrock Plains, Roaring Plains, Blackwater Canyon, Spruce Knob, North Fork Mountain, Shaver's Mountain, Laurel Fork Wilderness, Cranberry Back Country, Cranberry Wilderness, among others. This guide will help you get to know

these and other special places in the forest.

Profits from the sale of these guides support a wide variety of worthy environmental projects in the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

To order your copy of **Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide**, send \$9.95 plus 5% sales tax for WV residents (6% after June 30), plus \$1.25 postage (book rate) to West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, Suite 201, 1206 Virginia Street E., Charleston, WV 25301.

60 Years of Nature

by Jim Balow

When the first state parks opened in 1937, you could rent a two-person log cabin at Cacapon, Watoga or Babcock for \$10 a week.

For that sum you could cook dinner in the fireplace, chill your beverages in the icebox and read yourself to sleep by the light of a kerosene lamp.

Then, as now, nature was the main attraction, whether it was hiking, swimming, watching wildlife, viewing natural wonders or fishing a trout stream. But the campers of 50 years ago had fewer options. The golf courses, ski lifts and aerial tramways were not built until the '60s.

The recently published book "Where People and Nature Meet" traces the 60-year history of the West Virginia state park system from the 1925 appointment of the State Forest, Park and Conservation Commission, through the original Civilian Conservation Corps building boom of the '30s, the lean war years and expansion years of the '50s and '60s, to the transfer of the parks to the re-formed Department of Commerce in 1985.

The book was written by a group of current and former park employees headed by former Chief of State Parks Kermit McKeever. McKeever, who retired from a 29 year

tenure as the state's top parks man, spent 18 months compiling the text and many photos used in the book. Unfortunately, the committee approach to writing shows in the inevitable style changes from chapter to chapter.

"Where People and Nature Meet" is also the latest venture of Charleston and Missoula, Mont., publisher Stan Cohen, who takes credit for laying out the 184-page large-format paperback. Cohen is best known locally for "Kanawha County Images: A Bicentennial History 1788-1988" which he wrote and published last fall.

The parks book opens with a historical summary that details, in words and photos, the development of 34 current and four former parks.

Long, boring lists of park employees are balanced by fascinating facts about the state's natural wonders. In some cases the authors quote early explorers' accounts of visits to attractions like Blackwater Falls and Hawks Nest.

Did you know, for example:

That in the December 1853 issue of Harper's New Monthly Magazine, a Virginian wrote that settlers considered Canaan Valley "an ill-omened region, filled with bears, panthers, impassable laurel breaks

and dangerous precipices?"

That the pipestem plant of Pipestem Resort State Park fame is the common local name for the spirea alba, a plant whose stems Indians fashioned into smoking pipes?

That 100 years ago the virgin hemlocks of Cathedral State Park shaded the Brookside Resort hotel and its bowling alleys, tennis courts, swimming pool and croquet grounds?

That in 1860 a saloon perched like a crown atop the Grave Creek Indian Mound in Moundsville?

The state park system got off to a slow start. Though the 1925 Park and Conservation Commission identified potential park sites at Coopers Rock, Cranberry Glades, Hawks Nest, Blennerhassett Island, Seneca Rocks and Pinnacle Rock in Mercer County, only one park opened in the '20s — Droop Mountain Battlefield.

The 1929 stock market crash halted further development until 1933, when the CCC set up labor camps around the state. With technical guidance from the National Park Service, CCC crews built much of the early park system — Babcock, Hawks Nest, Watoga, Cacapon, Lost River and Grandview.

About half the land area of the current park system — roughly 30,000 acres —

had been acquired by the mid-'30s, either through gifts or purchases. Unfortunately, much of that land had been tortured and ravaged through the years.

Early photos of Babcock show newly built log cabins standing in a desolate, almost lunar landscape. Timber crews from the Babcock Coal and Coke Co. had scalped the hillsides, leaving behind treetops and slashings to burn.

The area around Blackwater Falls was similarly abused by timber baron Henry Gassaway Davis, who opened the area for development by pushing a railroad to the Tucker County town that bears his name in 1884.

"Most of the land bought then was cheap," McKeever said. "Most of Babcock was bought for less than \$5 an acre. It had been abused land. Another thing, in the '30s, a lot land was sold to get rid of paying taxes."

Time and efforts of the DNR have erased most of the scars.

"Where People and Nature Meet" is available at local bookstores as well as gift shops throughout the state park system. It sells for \$9.95.

(From The Charleston Gazette)

Book On Fish and Wildlife Agencies Available

The University of Massachusetts Press announces publication of **Managing American Wildlife: A History of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies**, by Dian Olson Belanger. Founded in 1902, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) has acted for more than eighty years as a primary advocacy organization for professional wildlife management. It is composed chiefly

of state- and provincial-level government agencies responsible for resource management, but includes a number of federal agencies such as the Fish and Wildlife Service. IAFWA member agencies employ 90% of the professional fish and wildlife biologists in this country.

Belanger presents a history of the IAFWA within the spectrum of the broad conservation movement, focusing particularly on the

debate over state vs. federal jurisdiction in wildlife management. Although literature on federal endeavors abounds, little has been written about conservation efforts on the state level, where in fact most of the responsibility for wildlife lies. This illustrated and thoroughly researched volume addresses that gap.

Born in Virginia, Minnesota, Diana Olson Belanger is senior historian for History

Associates Incorporated in Rockville, Maryland, where she resides. Formerly, she was a historian at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History.

Managing American Wildlife may be purchased from the University of Massachusetts Press for \$25.00 in hardcover and \$11.95 in paperback. Write the University of Massachusetts Press, Post Office Box 429, Amherst, Massachusetts 01004.

Reasons to join WVHC

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is a private, non-profit environmental organization started in 1967. Its objectives are "to promote, encourage, and work for the conservation - including both preservation and wise use - and appreciation of the scenic, historic, open space, wilderness, and outdoor recreation resources of an related to West Virginia, and especially the Highlands Region . . ."

Members include people and organizations diverse in their personal interests and professions but united by a common interest. Most WVHC members are West Virginians but many live outside the state.

The **Highlands Voice**, a monthly 8-page

newspaper, is sent to all Conservancy members. It is filled with environmental news on topics of interest and concern to members as well as articles about trips and outings.

The Conservancy sponsors two special weekends each year. These are usually at some scenic spot in the highlands and feature speakers, outings and board meetings.

Your contribution to WVHC is tax deductible and joining is as simple as filling out this form and returning it to the office in Charleston.

Join today and become part of an active organization dedicated to preserving West Virginia's natural resources.

WVHC Membership Categories (Circle One)

Category	Individual	Family	Organization
	\$	\$	\$
Senior/Student	12	---	---
Regular	15	25	50
Associate	30	50	100
Sustaining	50	100	200
Patron	100	200	400
Mountaineer	200	300	600

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Make checks payable to: West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
Mail to: Suite 201, 1206 Virginia St., E., Charleston, WV 25301

Membership Benefits

- 1-year subscription to **The Highlands Voice**
- Special meetings with workshops and speakers
- representation through WVHC's efforts to monitor legislative activity.

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy is a non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible. Please keep this for your records.

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