

The Environmental Bi-Weekly

High Country News

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First in nation to make request

Northern Cheyenne want Class I air

by Marjane Ambler

An Indian tribe in southern Montana has become the first land manager to ask the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to allow it to keep its air clean.

The Northern Cheyenne tribe is asking EPA for a Class I air designation, which allows only a small change in air quality as provided for under the significant deterioration portions of the Clean Air Act.

EPA officials say they are not sure whether this will affect the planned expansion of the Colstrip coal-fired power plant from two to four units. Colstrip is located just 30 miles north of the reservation. The state of Montana recently gave its approval for the two additional units.

The announcement of the tribe's decision came within days of the Colstrip decision although the tribal council's resolution had already been passed May 3, seven weeks earlier. Although the tribe was an opponent of the expansion during the state

hearings, stopping Colstrip was not the motivation behind the tribal council's decision, according to the Northern Cheyenne Research Project. Tribal leaders indicated they assumed that the Colstrip decision was out of their hands. They are principally interested in keeping control over their air quality, which may be endangered by future coal development on surrounding lands.

Since there are many coal mines in the immediate vicinity, the tribe anticipates it would be a prime area for siting power plants. Pacific Power and Light is considering Sheridan County, Wyo., as one of the possible sites for a coal-fired plant. Sheridan County is about 30 miles south of the reservation. Montana Power Co. has indicated that Colstrip might be expanded to a fifth and a sixth unit.

The resolution passed unanimously by the tribal council says the present EPA air classification of Class II allows for an "ex-

"My own personal feeling is that I don't think Congress should say, 'Your air should be like this — this number two.' Everyone should be able to choose the kind of air they have to breathe."

— Allen Rowland, tribal chairman

cessive deterioration of current quality and is incompatible with the health, social, and cultural well-being of the Northern Cheyenne tribe and its homeland, the Northern Cheyenne reservation."

EPA UNCERTAIN

Eugene Megyesy, assistant regional counsel for the EPA, told HCN he hopes to have an interpretive ruling on the regulations within the next month or so. The ruling will then be published in the *Federal Register*. This ruling will determine whether or not Colstrip would be affected by the Northern Cheyenne decision. Before the tribe files a formal petition with EPA, he says, they must get the approval of the Interior Secretary, notify all affected government bodies at the state and local level and consider their responses, do a study of the social and economic impacts of redesignation, and hold a public hearing, among other things.

It is possible that if Colstrip's application for EPA review is completed before the petition is formally filed, the tribe's decision will not affect Colstrip's expansion. Megyesy says it is impossible for him to estimate how long the process might take since it depends upon the resources available to the tribe and upon how much information has already been collected. The Northern Cheyenne Research Project, which has a staff of 25 including lawyers and technical personnel, will be conducting the study under the direction of the tribal council.

Several tribal members attending the pow wow festivities on the reservation July 2-4 discussed the decision with HCN. Tribal chairman Allen Rowland said, "Basically we're used to breathing clean air. My own personal feeling is that I don't think Congress should say, 'Your air should be like this — this number two.' Everyone should be able to choose the kind of air they have to breathe. People are used to breathing that kind of stuff back there (back East). If they want more power, let them build them there."

EXPECT STATIC

Rowland says he knows the tribe will get "a lot of static" from the Department of

Interior, which must approve their decision, and from the energy companies. However, he points out that the tribe's constitution, which was approved by the Interior Department in 1936, gives the tribe the right to protect its environment.

The tribe has only recently started to enforce this provision, he says. The reservation lies on top of part of the Fort Union Formation, the largest concentration of strippable coal in the nation. Ninety-seven per cent of the reservation was covered by prospecting permits until the tribe protested to the Interior Department in 1973 saying the Bureau of Indian Affairs had betrayed its role as trustee of Indian lands. The tribe pointed out several serious violations of federal regulations in the permits and asked that the Interior Department declare them void. In a rather ambiguous response, the secretary of Interior said no further coal development would be allowed unless the tribe and the companies agreed to proceed.

Present tribal council members have staunchly resisted efforts since then by coal companies eager for access to the coal.

(continued on page 4)



Photo by James K. Morgan

Livestock competition with bighorn sheep is one of the problems raised in the Challis Planning Unit impact statement on grazing. The document has upset ranchers and conservationists. For the full story see page 6.



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HIGH COUNTRY

By Tom Bell

Our neighbors just down the road are an ambitious young couple. They have planted nearly 6,000 strawberry plants, several thousand raspberry plants and hundreds of peach, nectarine, apricot, and cherry trees, as well as about 60 grape vines. Their idea is to produce an abundance of fruits on a small acreage.

Like many other young couples, they are, in effect, dropouts from the mainstream of society. They have rejected the corporate, agribusiness approach to food production.

Both are well educated. (He and I jokingly refer to ourselves as "educated fools on the land." He and his wife have 11 years of college education; my wife and I, 9 years.) He has a degree in pomology (fruit growing) from the University of California, so could easily fit into the agribusiness philosophy.

They are like a number of others in this valley and the neighboring Pine Valley — engineers, sculptors, skilled artisans, and others — who have gone back to the land. For the most part, they are not well-to-do people. They buy small acreages or rent because that is all they can afford.

They are part of that growing segment of world society which believes "small is beautiful." They are concerned with the breakdown of the industrial-technological

society as it now exists. They don't like big government and all it implies in remoteness from the ordinary citizen. They wonder how a growing world population is going to continue to be fed and clothed and housed.

Last month, the United Nations Habitat Conference was held in Vancouver, Canada. In conjunction with that official conference, a Habitat Forum was held. The latter drew planners, engineers, architects, sociologists, and private citizens.

Reports from the forum indicated an apparent, global groundswell for smaller communities that are self-supporting and no longer dependent upon complex technology. But in spite of such sentiment, cities continue to grow — and the size and extent of their problems grow right along with population. Human population (expected to double from 4 billion to 8 billion in the next 30 years) will tax the world's resources. Just to provide housing for such population growth will mean that as many houses or equivalents will have to be constructed between now and the year 2000 as have been built in the whole of human history to date.

None of us knows where all of this will lead. But obviously, the potential for world-wide disaster hangs over all our heads like the sword of Damocles.



So it is that growing numbers are quietly seeking the small towns and rural communities of America. It is rather a mazing that within those numbers is such a representative cross-section of our society. Self-sufficient small communities are apparently forming of their own volition as

individuals seek to find themselves.

As we begin our third century, we may be moving back to the kind of society which made us great in the beginning. And that may save our great country from the cataclysms which will rend and tear the world in the next generations.

How to reach sun people in the Northern Rockies

The more we print about solar energy, the more you seem to want to learn. To help you find the information you need, we are printing a list of education-oriented groups in the Rocky Mountain region who specialize in alternate energy.

We probably left someone out. The field is growing rapidly. Could you let us know about our omissions? That will give us a complete list for a later issue.

—the editors

GROUPS

Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO). Publishes a monthly newsletter called *Sun-Times* with Montana, Northern Great Plains, and national coverage. Has held practical workshops on building wind generators, solar collectors, etc. Has developed the New Western Energy Show, a display of technology samples — wind, methane, and sun power — spiced with music, theatre and technical experts. A year's membership is \$10. Contact AERO at 435 Stapleton Bldg., Billings, Mont. 592.101.

Boulder Solar Energy Society. Started in Jan. 1973 with about six men eating lunch together monthly. Now about 40 meet in Boulder, Colo., the first non-holiday Wednesday of the month. Meetings are held at noon in the seminar room of the National Center for Atmospheric Research. For more information contact L. A. Matheson, 650 11th St., Boulder, Colo. 80302.

Environmental Action of Colorado and Environmental Action Reprint Service. An information clearinghouse specializing in nuclear and solar power information. Write the reprint service for a catalog of very reasonably priced reprints of important articles printed in national media — some nuts and bolts practical solar material and some general. They also sell posters and bumper stickers. The group is active in a number of energy education projects. They produced and sell the *Solar Heating, Cooling, and Energy Conservation Directory* by Carolyn Pesko for \$20. The book catalogs current uses of the sun's energy by individuals, institutions, and government agencies. Contact EARS at 2239 E. Colfax, Denver, Colo. 80206.



San Luis Valley Solar Energy Association. Over 50 families in southern Colorado joined to promote practical applications of solar energy and energy conservation technology. Many members have their own solar collectors, solar greenhouses, or passively solar-heated homes. Monthly, locally-oriented newsletter. Membership is \$5 a year. Contact the association president, Marianne North, Box 748, Center, Colo. 81125.

HELP FOR TEACHERS

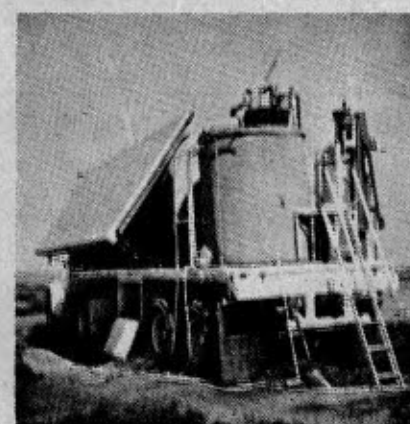
Operation Sundance. A program for children ages 6-15 which emphasizes domestic applications of solar energy and other natural energy systems. The program has been in existence for three years at the Evergreen Open Living School, Route 6, Box 63, Evergreen, Colo. 80439. Coordinator is Judy Zimmerman.

Malcolm Lillywhite, solar physicist and educator. Initiated the Operation Sundance program and has also worked teaching 4H groups and college and community classes. Is working to develop curriculum materials for school classes and alternative energy leadership training sessions. Route 3, Box A10, Evergreen, Colo. 80439.

Roaring Fork Resource Center. Has a primary interest in alternative energy, projects for schools. P.O. Box 9950, Aspen, Colo., 81611.

EXHIBITS

Methane Gas Demonstration. Designed and built by Bio-Gas of Colorado through a grant from the Four Corners Regional Commission. Will tour Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. A traveling truck powered by methane gas made from organic wastes and heat from the sun. Shows how methane technology could be used on the farm, feedlot, or ranch and by municipalities. For information about the truck's schedule contact: Bio-Gas of Colorado, 5620 Kendall Court, Unit G, Arvada, Colo. 80002 or call (303) 422-4354.



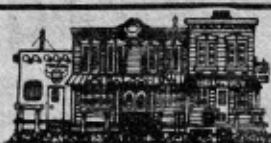
DAIRY DRIVE. A methane-powered truck goes on tour.

Colorado Solar Energy Exhibition Program. Touring Colorado in the summer of 1976. For more information contact Elizabeth Kingman, director, University of Colorado at Denver, 1100 14th St., Denver, Colo. 80202.

New Western Energy Show. Touring Montana summer 1976, contact AERO (see above) for more information.

DO-IT-YOURSELFERS

Brace Research Institute sells do-it-yourself leaflets on solar cookers, water heaters, food dryers, water desalination, swimming pool heaters, and other projects. For a catalog write Brace Research Institute, Faculty of Engineering, Macdonald Campus of McGill University, Ste Anne De Bellevue 800, Quebec, Canada.



Editorials



Will gumption get its reward?

Our spirits soared when we first learned the Northern Cheyenne tribe is seeking Class I (pristine) air redesignation. As Tribal Chairman Allen Rowland's comments indicate, the decision was not made naively, but with full knowledge that there would be many interests — including the Interior Department — that would oppose their desire for clean air.

As we learned more, we realized that many questions still must be answered before it is clear whether the tribe's request will be honored. The biggest question is whether or not the giant Colstrip power plant that looms just north of the reservation will be affected. If Colstrip units 3 and 4 receive federal approval before the tribe gets its redesignation, "Class I" air will have little meaning.

Since this is the first formal request for redesignation in the nation, officials of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) say they're not sure how to determine exactly what would be exempted by the grandfather clause.

Ironically, the timing question would likely be moot and Colstrip's application review completed in plenty of time — except that Montana Power Co. hesitated. It

applied just two weeks ago for the federal permit under the significant deterioration provisions of the Clean Air Act.

The reason? The company was appealing to the EPA to be exempted from any significant deterioration regulations. (See story page 4.)

If Montana Power had filed its application for new source review in February instead of its appeal, and if it were accurate and complete, and if EPA ruled favorably, chances are the application would be final by now.

EPA can't say now whether the two units could meet either Class I or Class II standards. The data is being evaluated at the Denver regional office.

John W. Ross, Montana Power Co. attorney, says the company can meet Class II.

However, the fact is that Montana Power Co. has persisted through the past five months in its attempts to challenge EPA's application of the rules. This must raise suspicion that the company isn't all that confident it can meet Class II standards.

As for Class I, Ross admits he doesn't know whether it could meet those high standards.

The tribe apparently had little hope of affecting the Colstrip decision. As Jim King, one tribal member, told HCN, "We're just a minority group; we don't have any political power. . . . It's money that counts."

While EPA officials will insist its decisions will rely purely on factual data and on Congressional direction, there is bound to come a moment when it must lean back and allow room for a little subjectivity to enter the decision-making process.

Disapproving the Colstrip permit would undoubtedly immerse the agency in political turmoil. The applicants and their supporters, unlike the tribe, do have political power and do have influence. The tribe has gumption.

If at some executive's desk in Denver or in Washington that moment does come, may Jim King's cynicism become unwarranted. And may the skies above the Northern Cheyenne people remain blue and clean. As they want them. —MJA



NATIVE PRIDE. Steve Little Bird's car proclaims that he is proud to be a Cheyenne. Little Bird agrees with the tribal council's decision. He has lived on the Hopi Reservation in Arizona and knows the air pollution problems that power plants there brought.

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Open up Teton Dam inquiry

The public never knew how dangerous Teton Dam really was until it collapsed on June 5. A wall of water which caused \$1 billion in damage and claimed at least 10 lives let the public know what the government's engineers refused to admit — the dam was structurally unsound.

In the wake of this needless holocaust, the public is still being kept in the dark about the cause of the tragedy. The government has appointed a blue ribbon panel of scientists and engineers to investigate the failure, but the panel's meetings are closed to the public.

To its credit, the responsible government agency — the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is not conducting a private investigation of itself. But the nine-member independent investigative panel appointed by Secretary of the Interior Thomas S. Kleppe and Idaho Governor Cecil D. Andrus should hold open meetings to dispel any fear of a cover-up.

If the panel has nothing to hide from the public, why is it being so secretive? The

panel chairman, Wallace L. Chadwick of Los Angeles, says his entire committee has threatened to quit if the meetings are opened to the public. Chadwick says closed meetings will save time and encourage frankness by witnesses. He is not even having a complete transcript of the private hearings made because "... that's an arduous task."

Would he consent to a tape recorded official record to avoid the "arduous task" of a written transcript? "No, I don't trust tape recorders," Chadwick told the Associated Press.

Chadwick may not trust tapes, but we trust them more than a press release telling us what went on behind closed doors.

This investigation is not merely a technical engineering inquiry — it could be an inquiry into criminal negligence. The public suffered an immeasurable loss when Teton Dam split open. The public deserves to know everything about this tragedy — how it occurred, and how similar situations can be prevented. —BH



HCN Letters

UTAH'S TETON DAM?

Dear Mr. Bell:

Moab environmentalists applaud your editorials on the Teton Dam disaster in the June 18th edition of HCN. We have been shuddering with premonition ever since the first news of the dam failure, because Moab is facing a problem so similar that it is uncanny. Note the similarities:

The Mill Creek Dam above Moab will be a 206-foot, earth-fill structure built in an earth-fault zone. State engineering reports note this and the high probability of leakage problems, the same kind that led to failure of the Teton Dam.

The dam is being promoted by a handful of powerful local special interests, in cooperation with state and federal agencies, with all local opposition being ignored.

Despite the grossly exaggerated benefits outlined in the dam's economic analysis, only a few local ranchers and property owners will actually benefit. Conflict of interests is rampant.

Local environmentalists and other concerned citizens have given copious and detailed voice to their opposition to the Mill Creek Dam, yet they are being ignored. ISSUE, the only locally-based environmental group in southern Utah, has submitted 13 pages of comments on the dam's "environmental working paper," with no response from its planners and no visible effect upon the project.

There are also differences between the Teton Dam and the proposed Mill Creek Dam:

The Corps of Engineers is "prime" government agency on the Mill Creek Dam, rather than the Bureau of Reclamation. BuRec rejected the project as uneconomical. The Corps' proposal will cost even more.

The Mill Creek Dam will have leakage problems, and hence a higher failure potential, far in excess of the Teton Dam,

because it will be built between sheer sandstone walls. Glen Canyon Dam, between similar walls, has a severe leakage problem around the dam. Such leakage around an earth-fill dam would wash it out.

Mill Creek, below the proposed dam, goes directly through Moab, a town of some 5,000 population. The dam will be too close to permit much warning or evacuation in case of failure. The first Moab homes are less than one mile below the dam site. Failure would result in the loss of thousands of lives and the destruction of most of the town.

Moab is too remote and little known to warrant attention from the national environmental organizations that provide funds for law suits, so the Mill Creek Dam will probably be built without legal challenge, even though there are more than ample grounds for such a challenge.

Do you see why we shudder with premonition? And anger, as we see the same old story being repeated here? And frustration, that we are too few to stop this oft-repeated crime against the public?

F. A. Barnes, Executive Director
ISSUE, Moab Chapter
P.O. Box 963
Moab, Utah 84532

P.S. Copies of the Corps of Engineers "Environmental Working Paper, Moab, Utah Partnership Investigation (Mill Creek Dam Project)" may be obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Planning Section, Room 5414, 650 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, Calif. 95814. For the other side of the picture, copies of ISSUE's comments are available upon request from any who wish to take a serious interest in our dam problem.



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Colstrip applicant misrepresented air regs

Before the decision on the proposed expansion of Colstrip was made June 25, state staff members learned that Montana Power Co. had misrepresented their willingness to comply with federal air regulations during the hearings. However, due to a technicality, the board that was making the decision was not informed of the situation, according to an attorney with the Montana Department of Natural Resources, Ted Doney.

The company had told the state that Colstrip units three and four were subject to certain federal air quality controls and that Colstrip would meet them. At the same time, Montana Power was telling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the two units were not covered by the regulations but were instead grandfathered out.

Doney, chief counsel for the Department of Natural Resources, told HCN the department learned about the discrepancy before the board made its decision — but after the hearing closed. The hearing officer consequently refused to enter the evidence into the record.

The discrepancy concerns the significant deterioration portions of the Clean Air Act, which were implemented June 1, 1975. Montana Power contends that it had applied for permits, signed contracts, and made other legal commitments prior to the implementation and therefore the regulations should not be applied. EPA says the company had not done significant site preparation work nor did it have a state air pollution permit and therefore should be covered by the significant deterioration regulations.

Both EPA and the state of Montana acknowledge that there is a discrepancy between the information given to one and that given to the other. EPA Regional Administrator John A. Green wrote William H. Coldiron, Montana Power Co. executive vice president, a letter mentioning it. The letter said, "... we also have information concerning representations by your company to the Montana Boards of Natural Resources and Conservation and Health and Environmental Sciences that Units 3 and 4 are subject to PSD (prevention of significant deterioration)."

EPA is considering no punitive action against the company since any misrepresentation was before the state boards. Doney says there is a possibility of perjury but he doubts if such a charge would get anyplace. An attorney for the applicants made the statements in both cases. Unless attorneys are sworn in as witnesses, they cannot be charged with perjury. "The only recourse would be through the bar association when an attorney misrepresents the facts," Doney says.

Doney admits that he doesn't think this one fact would have made a difference in the board's vote one way or the other.

Doney says he's sure that Montana Power would argue that their attorney's taking inconsistent positions was not wrong. They told the Board of Health that they were subject to Class II regulations, and if EPA maintains its former position, they will be subject to Class II regulations. The company has filed a petition for reconsideration, and the EPA is now reviewing it.

One of the attorneys for Montana Power Co., John Ross, told HCN he hesitated to comment on the situation. "If in fact there are differences (in the information supplied to the state and to the federal government), then I shouldn't comment while resolution is pending among the parties or

though appropriate legal forms."

Ross signed both the letter to EPA saying the regulations should not apply and the proposed findings of fact submitted to the state saying they would apply.

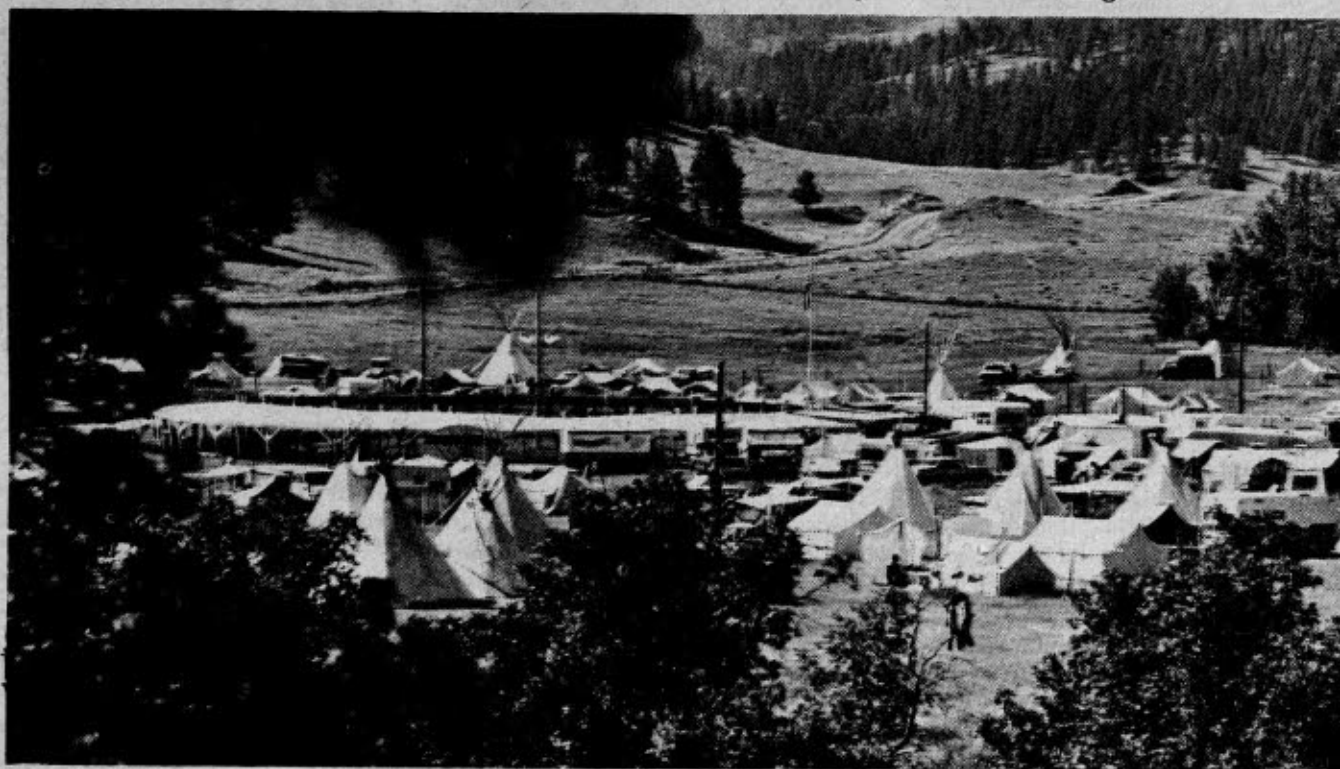
Ross says that if it is finally determined that the regulations do apply, he is confident that Colstrip units three and four could meet Class II standards. Regions of the country which are cleaner than national standards have all been classified

Class II by EPA, which allows some change from present air quality. EPA is now evaluating whether the units could meet those standards.

Asked if Colstrip units three and four could meet Class I standards, which are stricter than Class II, Ross said, "I honestly don't know." The Class I standards might affect EPA's ultimate decision on Colstrip's expansion since the Northern Cheyenne

reservation, 30 miles south of Colstrip, has asked EPA to redesignate its air Class I. (See separate story.)

Colstrip won final state approval June 25 from the Board of Natural Resources in a 4-3 vote. Part of the state's decision was based on the company's proposed finding of fact which contended that the plant would meet all state and federal air pollution control regulations.



POW WOW FESTIVITIES. Indians from throughout the region converged on the Northern Cheyenne reservation July 2-4 for the annual pow wow festivities. Some of the participants brought their tipis while others had less traditional shelters in tents, campers, and trailers. The event includes dance contests, a feast, and gift giving.

Toughest strip mine law, a pushover?

While Montana has a reputation for the toughest strip mining law in the nation, some ranchers in the state do not think the law is tough enough. They outline their concerns in a publication entitled "Stripping Montana" just published by the Northern Plains Resource Council. NPREC is an organization of ranchers, farmers, and other citizens concerned about coal development in the Northern Great Plains.

The law's reclamation requirements are strong, reports the group. "The law requires that a company return strip mined land to self-sustaining grassland. A strip mine operator must establish permanent, diverse, primarily native species on strip mined spoils. These grasses have to withstand wind, snow, and normal drought cycles. They have to sustain the same amount of livestock as before strip mining, year after year without the aid of fertilization, irrigation, or other treatments," the publication says.

The council charges that the law is weak in dealing with toxic materials, such as boron, zinc, cadmium, manganese, and lead. In the process of strip mining, soils are inverted and toxic materials normally buried below 100 feet of earth may pose a danger to underground water systems or vegetation.

"The Montana law desperately needs better standards to protect against these extremely harmful materials," says the council. While the law requires that toxic materials be buried under suitable depths, it does not specify how deep. Nor does it define the term toxic substance, according to the group.

Alluvial valley floors are not adequately protected either, the group says. While the Department of State Lands has broad authority, it is not specific enough to assure

protection of these streamside areas.

The council accuses the Department of State Lands of leaning toward "accommodating coal company pressure." The department grants permits to companies unless someone can prove beyond a doubt that reclamation will never occur, according to the council.

"The law should be changed to protect the landowners, not the coal companies," the group says. "Before issuing a permit to strip mine, the department should require a company to prove they will reclaim,

rather than make the public prove that they will not."

The group points out that despite companies' claims of "successful" reclamation, no company has had its bonds to cover the cost of reclamation released. Under Montana law, when reclamation is considered successful the Department of State Lands releases the total bond.

The 16-page booklet is available for \$1 from Northern Plains Resource Council, 419 Stapleton Building, Billings, Mont. 59101.

N. Cheyenne . . .

(continued from page 1)

although it is expected to be a key issue in the election this September. Rumors of bribes prompted the tribe to pass a trespassing ordinance, designed to control coal companies' representatives. The ordinance was approved by the Interior Department. According to a tribal attorney, this is the only energy-related action by the council that might give any indication of how the Interior Department might respond to the tribe's plea for Class I air designation.

Rowland says the tribe is submitting its redesignation request through Interior only "as a courtesy" since their constitution gives them the right to protect their environment. The question may be more complicated than that, however, amid current jurisdictional disputes.

The Interior Department in its public statements insists that tribes have sovereignty.

However, the Cheyenne's neighbors, the Crow tribe, has waited for more than six months for the Interior Department to approve its tribal ordinance enacting a 25% tax on coal. The Crow tribe hasn't decided

yet whether it will seek redesignation for its air.

To add to the uncertainty, Indians may lose their authority to redesignate their air class when Congress acts on its amendments to the Clean Air Act. According to Bob Slomski of the National Clean Air Coalition, the tribes would be "totally at the mercy of the states" if the House bill provisions pass. The House says all areas — except wilderness areas and national parks — would be Class II unless states decided to change them. Under the Senate bill, the state and the tribe must agree to request redesignation. Neither can make the request alone, Slomski says.

If the two bills pass, differences would be worked out in conference committee. Senate floor action on Clean Air Act amendments is scheduled July 22-23. The House has not set a date for its action on the bill.

Megyesy says that when Kaiparowits was being discussed, EPA held "exploratory discussions" with the National Park Service about classifying national parks as Class I. But he said this is the first "concrete" request for redesignation.

Challis EIS draws fire

BLM caught in multiple use bind

by Bruce Hamilton

Multiple use management of public lands is a great idea in theory — but implementation is a thorny problem. The idea is to please all of the people all of the time. As a result, public land managers usually end up making more enemies than friends.

The law defines multiple use as "management of all the various renewable surface resources of the land so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people — with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output."

Such a definition gives a lot of freedom to public land managers. It also invites pressure groups to attempt to tip the multiple use balance in their favor. In many cases on the public domain multiple use has been synonymous with multiple abuse. Each user has tried to optimize his position and the public land's resource base has been severely damaged.

GRAZING PRESSURE

Throughout much of the West, livestock grazing has been the predominant use of millions of acres of public lands administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. It has only been within the last two years that the traditional BLM grazing advisory boards were replaced by multiple use advisory boards to allow a broader spectrum of public input.

The ranchers' historical dominance over the use of the public lands has had mixed results. In many cases responsible ranchers have been good stewards of the land and other natural resources have been left unimpaired. But in all too many cases, livestock overgrazing has led to accelerated soil erosion, loss of fish and wildlife habitat, and a decline in the productivity of the range.

Today, according to the BLM, most of our public range land is in only poor or fair condition and is in a declining or static trend. Major changes in grazing management will be needed to improve this situation.

NATION'S EYES ON CHALLIS

In 1973, several conservation organizations, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, filed suit against the BLM demanding that the agency prepare site-specific environmental impact statements (EISs) on its grazing programs. The conservation groups won, and an agreement was made with the BLM whereby the agency would prepare 212 impact statements on grazing units all over the West.

The first EIS was to cover the Challis Planning Unit in east-central Idaho. A draft EIS was released in June and public hearings are being held this week in Challis and Boise, Idaho.

The nation's eyes are on Challis because it is the first EIS on grazing.

Ranchers are watching the situation to see if the BLM will cut livestock use of the public lands in the area. If so, it might be an indication of what the agency plans to do on its remaining 211 EIS planning areas.

Conservation groups are also closely reviewing the Challis situation because it could pave the way for much-needed grazing reform throughout the West. If the



LIVESTOCK ORIENTATION. The BLM proposes dividing the Challis Planning Unit into 53 pastures to facilitate livestock management. Resource consultant William Meiners says the agency impact statement is "completely livestock oriented and only gives lip service to wildlife."

Photo of the Challis area by Karl Holte.

BLM won't bite the bullet at Challis, another lawsuit might be in order.

Prior to the Challis public hearings, it appears that the BLM's new management plan for the area ends up pleasing no one. The BLM is caught in the multiple use bind again.

Lawrence Bradbury, a rancher from Challis and the head of the BLM district multiple use advisory board, told the Idaho Falls Post-Register, "If this is a forerunner of what's to come on the other 211 units, it's a bigger catastrophe than the Teton Dam disaster."

Another rancher, Idaho Cattlemen's Association president David Little, says some changes proposed in the Challis report may be good for the cattle industry, according to the Idaho Statesman. Little also has reservations about the BLM's plans. He's afraid ranchers may have to bear all the costs of new range improvements and feels some other proposed grazing changes are "impractical."

Bill Meiners, resource consultant, president of the Ada County Fish and Game League, and a lead plaintiff in the grazing suit, told HCN that the draft EIS was "very inadequate." He says the EIS "does not address the problems... there is no substantiation of the material the BLM presented. In a word — it stinks."

ODD-BALL UNIT

The Challis Planning Unit is a difficult piece of land to manage because there are so many conflicting demands on the area's limited resources. The 330,617 acre area supports deer, elk, antelope, bighorn sheep, and wild horses as well as domestic livestock (mostly cattle). In addition, the Salmon River and its tributaries in the area support chinook salmon and steelhead

trout spawning as well as a year-round trout population. "Some of the best remaining anadromous fish habitat in the upper Salmon River watershed is located in the unit," according to the EIS.

"They picked perhaps the oddest-ball piece of country in the U.S." for the model EIS, Bradbury told the Post-Register.

The unit was picked because it had already received national notoriety as a result of the grazing suit and articles in conservation publications. In parts of the unit it was charged that livestock and bighorn sheep were severely competing for food — and the bighorn were losing. It was also charged that streamside overgrazing was ruining salmon and steelhead spawning grounds. Competition between wild horses, big game, and livestock was another major problem.

The BLM estimates in the draft EIS that if present grazing management practices were allowed to continue in the Challis area that after 15 years the amount of range in poor condition would jump from 81,924 acres to 114,860 acres. Soil erosion would accelerate, and vegetation would be reduced so that the land could support fewer livestock and wildlife numbers.

PANACEA

To counter this trend, the BLM recommends dividing the unit up into 17 allotments with 53 intensively-managed pastures. Once the land is made into pastures,

stock movement and grazing can be better controlled.

The pastures will require new fences, new water developments, new roads, and sagebrush control (spraying, chaining, and burning).

Most of the pastures will be managed under a rest-rotation grazing system. Under this system plants are given heavy use for a period of time and then left alone to rest and recover.

Rest-rotation appears to be the BLM's panacea for mending abused ranges. Other BLM planners across the West who are now in the preliminary stages of preparing grazing EISs are showing a decided preference for rest-rotation systems.

The BLM says that after using its new Challis grazing program for 15 years the watershed conditions, vegetation production, and fish and wildlife habitat would all improve. In addition, annual ranching industry incomes and tax revenues would increase.

Adverse impacts would include periodic increases in stream sedimentation due to occasional concentrated livestock use along streambanks, occasional competition with wildlife and wild horses for vegetation, and a decrease of grazing use for some operators.

SORE POINT

Decreasing any grazing use is a sore point with ranchers in the area. The BLM maintains that actually it will be increasing livestock use as it improves the range. The agency foresees increased grazing levels in 10 allotments by 33 livestock operators and decreased grazing levels in six allotments by 20 operators. The net balance would be an increase of 2,198 AUMs (animal unit months — the amount of forage needed to supply one cow or five sheep for one month) over the present level of use.

Local ranchers say grazing cuts aren't needed in the area. Bradbury says the EIS fixes the land's current potential artificially low to inflate potential improvements.

Some local ranchers in the Challis area have threatened to sell their ranches to subdividers if their grazing privileges are cut. They claim any loss of income from grazing cuts would drive them out of business. Loren Anderson, BLM wildlife biologist, says bighorn sheep winter range could be lost in the area if the ranchers subdivided.

WILDLIFE TAKES A BEATING

Meiners agrees that there will probably have to be some grazing cuts in the area, but he can't tell from the data in the EIS what magnitude of change is needed. He says the EIS is a "pie-in-the-sky" statement full of wishful thinking.

Meiners claims the BLM doesn't have the baseline data necessary to calculate how much livestock and wildlife the range can support. "The BLM has no basis to

(continued on page 12)

If this is a forerunner of what's to come on the other 211 units, it's a bigger catastrophe than the Teton Dam disaster.

—Lawrence Bradbury
Challis area rancher

6-High Country News — July 16, 1976

Texaco gasification effort raised citizen eyebrows

by Randall Cox
Powder River Basin Resource Council

A June 25 decision by the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) to exclude WYOSNGAS from a coal-to-high-Btu-gas demonstration program climaxed an eventful winter and spring for Wyoming's Powder River Basin residents.

Texaco had formed a consortium called WYOSNGAS with Pacific Gas and Electric, Natural Gas Pipeline Co. of America, and Montana-Dakota Utilities to apply for 50% federal funding to build a demonstration scale coal gasification plant. The application was submitted to ERDA in January. The consortium proposed to build a plant near Texaco's Lake De Smet coal and water holdings in northeastern Wyoming.

The Powder River Basin Resource Council (PRBRC), a group of ranchers and others concerned about coal development, began to ask ERDA questions:

Would the project be subject to state and local property taxes?

Would the project be subject to Wyoming siting and environmental law?

Is it appropriate for the federal government to use taxpayer dollars to help large energy companies launch projects designed to yield private profits?

Should initial coal-to-gas plants be built in the West, when ample reserves of coal exist in areas with high unemployment, including the East, the Midwest, and Appalachia?

ERDA explained to PRBRC that major objectives of the program include processing of high-sulfur, caking coals. According to Dr. George Rial, Director of the ERDA Fossil Demonstration Program, "ERDA's reason for designing to process high-sulfur coal is that there is a great deal of coal available with high sulfur content. The production of an environmentally suitable fuel from coal requires substantial reduction in the raw sulfur content of most virgin coals. Process design to handle the worst case situation should then be adaptable to all others."

Data from the U.S. Geological Survey and the Geological Survey of Wyoming shows that there is no high-sulfur coal in the Powder River Basin; the coal around Lake DeSmet is as low-sulfur as any coal in the world. Powder River Basin coal is also non-caking. Caking (agglomerating) coals fuse when burned at high temperatures; this fusion has been a major problem in pilot coal-to-gas plants in the East and Midwest.

PRBRC pointed out this apparent contradiction between ERDA's goals and the Texaco application. It was PRBRC's contention that use of taxpayer dollars to fund a demonstration project in the West that was designed to process Eastern coal would not be a wise allocation of funds.

NO STATE CONTROLS

ERDA also told PRBRC that the federal government would retain ownership of all facilities under the demonstration program. Federal title to the project would exempt it from state and local taxes.

The ERDA project also seemed exempt from state environmental standards. A recent Supreme Court decision, *Kentucky v. Tennessee Valley Authority*, indicates that state environmental agencies cannot

enforce application of state air and water quality law on federal projects. Kentucky was seeking to bring TVA power plants into compliance with state air quality standards.

In Wyoming, federal facilities are free from the Wyoming Industrial Siting Act of 1975. The act specifically exempts federal, state, and local government projects from its jurisdiction.

For these two reasons, it appeared to PRBRC that the ERDA project would be exempt from control by the state. PRBRC expressed strong convictions that this situation was not in the interests of Wyoming people.

BROADER ISSUES

People in the nearby communities of Buffalo and Sheridan, including some public officials, seemed less than enthusiastic about having to pay for social costs caused by the population boom that would have accompanied the WYOSNGAS plant. Based on the announced peak construction force of 1,500 to 2,000 people, PRBRC estimated that total population increase would be between 6,000 and 8,000 people. Converting these figures to costs for social services in Johnson and Sheridan counties yielded overwhelming figures. The counties were faced with doubling and tripling school district and county budgets to handle the growth, and that without any assurances of taxes from the plant.

PRBRC also publicized the broader issues associated with synthetic fuels facilities in the West. Recent studies have shown that the low thermal efficiency of high-Btu gasification and the high cost of the technology will make the fuel too high-priced to be competitive. The federal Synfuels Task Force concluded in 1975 that the government will lose billions of dollars in the synfuels business, but ERDA is going ahead with the program anyway.

PRBRC also pointed out that the coal business in parts of Kentucky and West Virginia is declining. The shift from Eastern deep mining to Western stripping is causing growth problems here and economic downturns there. Unemployment is Appalachia and in the Midwest is high; unemployment in the Powder River Basin is less than three per cent.

TEXACO MOVES IN

Texaco moved into the coal business in 1973 by buying a major portion of Reynolds Metals' coal, land, and water holdings in northern Johnson County, near Buffalo. The package included two billion tons of low-grade coal (subbituminous "C") and Lake DeSmet itself. Texaco has built a series of dikes and dams around the lake, planning to expand storage capacity to 250,000 acre-feet. Despite the richness of the resources, Reynolds had struggled un-



EX-GASIFICATION SITE. Lake DeSmet (in the background) was to have been the site of WYOSNGAS's proposed coal gasification site. Around the lake are the coal despoits it planned to mine. The city of Buffalo (in the foreground) would have had to expand almost overnight to accommodate construction and mine workers if the plant had been funded by the government.

successfully for years to come up with a development scheme.

Texaco's success has not been any better. Last year the company put two draglines that it had on order up for sale and announced that it had no future plans on the drawing board, a claim later proved incorrect.

Texaco is unwilling to put up its own capital, and appears reluctant to borrow private capital for the risky development of gasification plants. The company was undoubtedly looking upon the ERDA demonstration program as a long-hoped for means to get its plans off the ground.

For a while, things looked good for Texaco and other members of the consortium. ERDA expressed strong interest in building a Western demonstration plant. WYOSNGAS proposed the only Western plant among the five respondents to ERDA, which seemed to enhance the company's bargaining position. ERDA then went to the Senate in April with a request for additional funding to build a second plant. It is not unreasonable to presume that Texaco viewed this move as a strong interest in its application. ERDA received authorization from the Senate Interior Committee to spend \$10 million on the second plant for the first year. Texaco's bargaining position was looking even better.

But ERDA turned out to be a tough bargainer. ERDA wanted, in return for federal commitment of up to \$300 million per plant, a share of the patent rights from new

development and a share of the proceeds from sales of product gas. ERDA also wanted to promote processes that showed comparatively high thermal efficiency (that is, efficient conversion of heat value in the coal to heat value in the final product), low risk (high probability of success), and reasonable cost of the product.

Texaco, perhaps too confident, refused to share patent rights and sales revenue. The company also insisted on the right to terminate the project at any time.

ERDA was not pleased with these positions and counted them as significant business weaknesses. ERDA's evaluation of the Texaco gasification process, which included an upgrading process developed by the Ralph M. Parsons Co., stated that the process has a low thermal efficiency, is an unproven high-to-moderate risk technology, and would be very costly. While Texaco has not released efficiency figures, rough calculations by PRBRC showed that the efficiency of the process would be about 46%. Other processes have claimed efficiencies of up to 65%.

In the end, the government subsidies went to two projects to the east, in Illinois and Ohio. Both will gasify high sulfur coal. ERDA's evaluation of the Texaco proposal stated in part that, "Even if the risks associated with this proposal can be overcome, the proposal offers little commercial promise in view of the high product cost and low thermal efficiency anticipated."

WYOSNGAS RESPONSE

Following ERDA's announcement, WYOSNGAS issued a statement saying the participants were disappointed that the project had not been accepted. "We continue to believe that such a plant to demonstrate the feasibility of Western coal gasification would be in the best interests of the U.S.," the statement said.

A Denver representative of Texaco, Inc., Frank Miller read the statement to HCN and said Texaco had no comment about whether it would seek private financing for the gasification plant.

Conservation award winners named

Four high country environmentalists have been awarded the 1976 American Motors Conservation Award, and a Colorado conservationist has been given one of the first Sol Feinstone Environmental Awards. Mrs. V. Crane Wright of Denver, a past president of the Colorado Open Space Council and a National Audubon Society director, received the Feinstone Award. Phil and Robin Tawney of Helena, Mont., Clifton Merritt of Denver, and William Meiners of Boise, Idaho, received the American Motors Awards. The Tawneys were instrumental in establishing Montana's Environmental Information Center. Merritt is the western field representative of the Wilderness Society. Meiners is an environmental consultant and has been active with Idaho wildlife organizations on various conservation issues and court cases.

California nuke initiative backers claim progress

by Joan Nice

Rarely have environmentalists seemed so optimistic after such an apparently sound defeat.

They lost the California Nuclear Safeguards Initiative, Proposition 15, by a margin of two-to-one on the June 8 ballot. And yet, Friends of the Earth (FOE), one of the groups working for the initiative, saw not the several million votes against them, but the fact that, "Over one and a half million California voters supported the initiative, a credible showing on this complex issue's first outing."

Other groups took similarly rosy views of the election results.

Perhaps the losers had no choice but to look on the bright side. Or perhaps, as they claimed, they actually had made significant gains while apparently being trounced.

If generating debate had been among their aims, then the pro-15 forces unquestionably were successful. The nuclear issue was the most publicized item on the ballot, probably overshadowing even the presidential choices.

There were other subtleties to the loss, too.

By insisting on a law that was stronger than one being considered by the legislature, the initiative backers probably forced the passage of three important bills. While they looked moderate compared to the initiative, the bills give California the toughest nuclear safeguards legislation in the country.

Several observers have noted that the defeat of the initiative was probably not a vote of confidence for nuclear power. "The vote, no matter how it was advertised, in no way was a fair test of popular sentiment on questions of nuclear safety," the *Los Angeles Times* said in a June 10 editorial. "The public quite clearly has some deep and honest concerns about the potential dangers involved in the large-scale use of nuclear fuels."

While no one on the pro-15 side seems ready to admit they lost, they have been hastily analyzing why they didn't win, before similar campaigns in other state begin. FOE cites a biased description on the ballot and a lack of money as major roadblocks to the effort. FOE also says that the pro-15 forces didn't respond to some of the issues raised the opposition. And finally, "The legislature's passage of three compromise anti-nuclear bills a week before the vote also undermined our effort," said FOE's Knight.

FORCES STRENGTHENED

The July issue of *Not Man Apart*, Friends of the Earth's biweekly newspaper, contains a comprehensive analysis of the campaign by editor Tom Turner. Among the gains he lists is a strengthening of the coalition of anti-nuclear forces, which should be "extremely valuable in other campaigns."

"Project Survival (a new organization) will be a force to be reckoned with in battles to come. The solidarity of Big Labor against anything smelling faintly environmental cracked; the statewide ILWU (the longshoremen's union), as well as a considerable number of local chapters of other unions and many individual union members, endorsed Prop. 15," Turner noted.

Environmentalists accepted their other "win" — the nuclear bills passed by the legislature — ambivalently.

The passage of the bills undermined the initiative effort by providing a weak substitute, many staunch initiative backers

felt. The three bills, like the initiative, require the legislature to approve waste disposal methods, but by a majority rather than by a two-thirds vote. Environmentalists were also skeptical of a provision that allows nuclear policy decisions to be made by the legislature only if the state Energy Commission's findings are not adequate.

"The Energy Commission has been a great disappointment to environmentalists during its first year and a half," Turner says. But if the governor made some good appointments to replace two outgoing commissioners, "the effect of the bills could be considerable," he adds.

At first the Yes-on-15 forces reluctantly endorsed the legislature's bills. When the bills were amended to allow existing and proposed plants to go ahead without legislative scrutiny, the coalition withdrew its support, however.

SETBACKS

L.A. Times writers Robert A. Jones and Larry Pryor judged that perhaps the most severe setback to the pro-15 forces came not from their opponents, but from the state courts. Early in the campaign, limitations on spending established by the Political Practices Act in 1974 were declared unconstitutional. This freed the nuclear advocates to spend about four times the money the pro-15 forces could raise. Environmentalists point to the wording of the ballot item as another force which foiled them. Under the heading "financial impact" the paragraph on the ballot stated:

"Ultimate advisory group cost may exceed amount appropriated. If Legislature requires testing in addition to federal government testing, costs may be several million dollars. Utility districts may experience loss in investment. Cost of electricity may rise. Extent of state liability, if any, to compensate for public or private loss of investment is unclear. Effect on local property taxes indeterminable."

"Everyone will agree that the description of propositions on the ballot should be as fair, accurate, neutral, impartial, and unbiased as possible," says *Not Man Apart*. "The description of Proposition 15 that appeared on Californians' ballot was none of those..."

FOE blames the ballot on the bias of the legislative analyst who, with the attorney general, must analyze the fiscal impact of legislative matters and summarize their findings for the public.

In February attorneys for Californians for Nuclear Safeguards challenged the ballot paragraph. A Superior Court judge denied the group's petition without an opinion. The result was the same when the

pro-15 forces scrambled against time to get the issue before the state Supreme Court. The petition was denied, again without an opinion.

"It was readily apparent that the Supreme Court had not had time to read the brief," according to *Not Man Apart*.

TRAPPED IN STRATEGY

One interesting post-initiative debate centers around the pro-15 forces' strategy.

"The Yes campaign got sidetracked. They wouldn't talk about the issues," an initiative opponent told the *L.A. Times*.

One of the issues proponents avoided was alternatives to nuclear power. If they talked about alternatives, they felt they were admitting the initiative was a shutdown of nuclear power plants. They maintained that Proposition 15 was not a shutdown. It was a way to ensure safe nuclear development.

The Yes-on-15 organizations shifted away from even the safety issues about

three weeks before election day. They focused on the massive contributions being made to the No campaign by large corporations.

In retrospect, David Pesonen, chairman of Californians for Nuclear Safeguards, thinks it may have been a mistake not to speak to the shutdown issue.

"Voters perceived us as saying one thing and intending another," he told the *L.A. Times*. "In part it was true; many of our workers did want a total shutdown, not some new safety system. Others didn't, of course, but the essential point was that much of the public saw us as dishonest in that regard and it hurt."

Pesonen also indicated to the *Times* that winning the initiative may have been an impossible dream. "We were running against all the currents," he said. "All their lives, people are told to connect the good life with industrial technology. With progress. We threatened all that. We scared them and they backed away."

Supreme Court coal ruling not a surprise for Northern Plains

After three years in the courts and major controversy sparked by speeches, debates, newspaper articles, and letters to the editor, there was little fanfare when the Supreme Court ruled against the Sierra Club last month in a suit on coal development in the Northern Plains.

Two weeks after the ruling the essence of what has been registered in the local press is a sign of relief from coal industries and a shrug of the shoulders from environmentalists.

The club and other plaintiffs had asked that the Interior Department prepare a regional impact statement on actions related to coal development in the Northern Plains. The Interior Department contended that there was no regional plan for coal development in the area, and that, therefore, no impact statement could be written.

While recognizing the need for regional impact statements for some groupings of related actions proposed at the same time, the court ruled in favor of the Interior Department.

Environmentalists were forewarned by the Supreme Court in January, when the justices lifted a lower court's injunction before hearing oral arguments on the case.

The Interior Department had already altered its stance on the regional statement issue, when it promised to do 10 regional statements — though none of the scope suggested by environmentalists — on coal development.

Sierra Club Northern Plains representative Laney Hicks expressed only mild dissatisfaction with the court's ruling. One of the most positive benefits of the suit, she said, was the three-year delay in coal development it caused. In Wyoming this gave the state time to strengthen environmental laws and pass new legislation on impact and industrial siting.

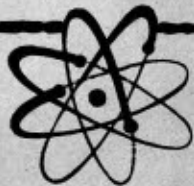
Industry has called the delays caused by the suit "obstructionism." Resolution of the conflict has relieved some of the mining companies' uncertainty. But because of state and federal regulations, no initial surge in coal development activity is expected.

For Gillette, Wyo., Mayor Mike Enzi, the Supreme Court ruling means more planning projects can begin. He told the *Sheridan Press* that the ruling should make it easier for the city to borrow money to accommodate growth. Enzi expects a tripling of the city's 10,000 population by 1980.

Officials of the federal Bureau of Land Management were also relieved by the decision. If the court had ruled in the Sierra Club's favor, the agency would have had to participate in preparing an environmental impact statement on the entire Northern Plains area. "It certainly would have taxed our organization's capability to do this sort of thing," Dan Baker, Wyoming BLM director said.

Washington correspondent Lee Catterall reported that as a result of the decision, "Environmentalists are beginning to question whether going to court to battle industrial development is worth the risk."

"Nonsense," Ed Dobson of Friends of the Earth told HCN. Dobson says his group plans to sue to require that environmental impact statements be written to cover all large leases issued or renewed by the federal government since 1970, when the National Environmental Policy Act was passed.



Brooding

We have devoted space on this page to two recent environmental losses. With the added perspective of a little time, we'd like to examine those "losses" to see what has been won.

We hope we are not like the old diehard politician who makes an "I-lost-but-I-won" speech after every election defeat. We contend that the results of both the nuclear power vote in California and the Supreme Court decision on coal development in the Northern Plains are more complex than that.

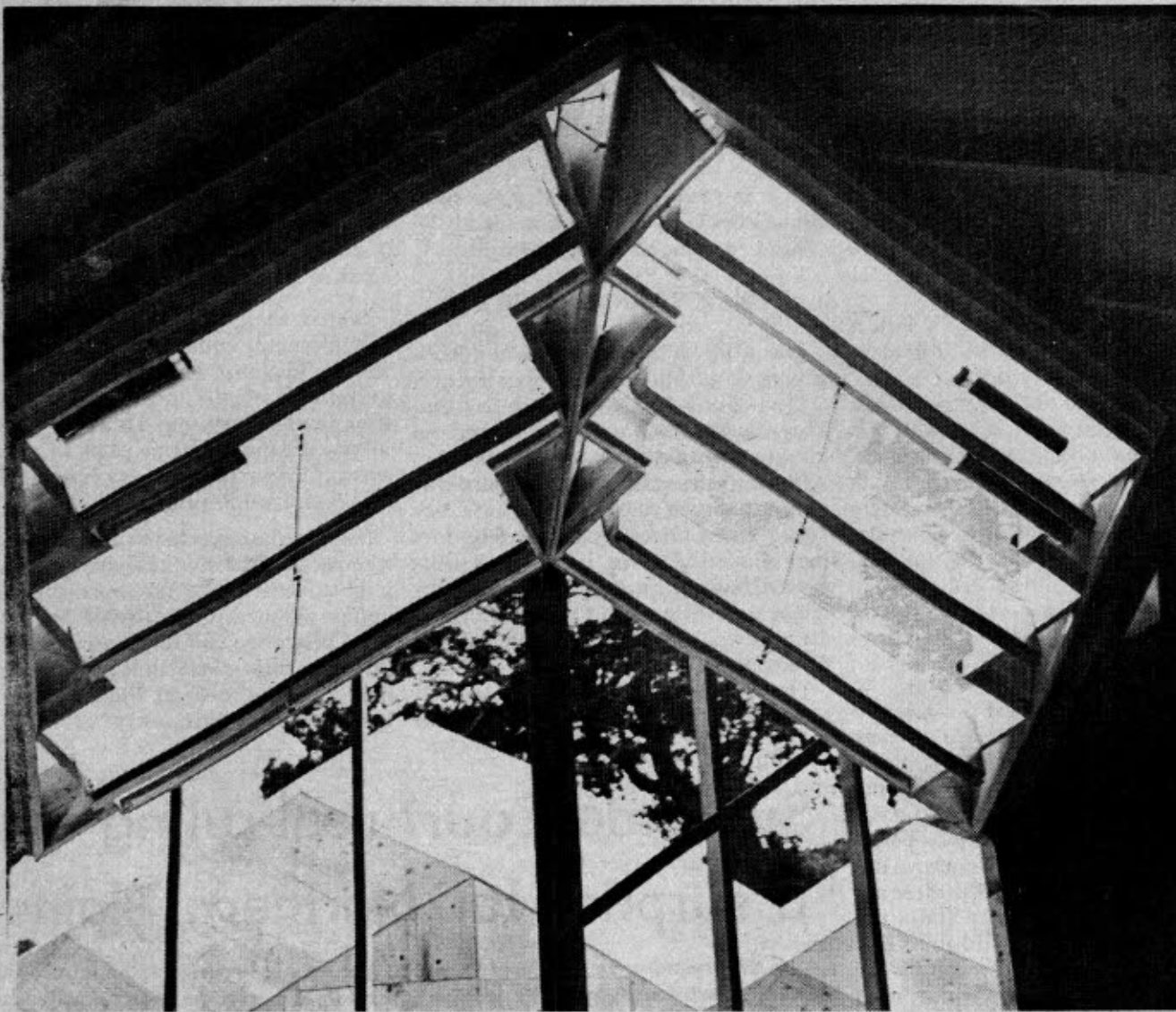
In both cases, while the environmental movement lost the final round, it had some notable winning battle leading up to that round. What was lost and what wasn't should be kept clearly in mind when searching for the next step in the next battle.

Why the loss finally came is an equally important question. And what will happen in the future — the environmentalist's old favorite — is also worth some time spent brooding.

So let us brood and report the brooding of others here. Our insight (and action based upon it) may help determine the future course of coal and nuclear development.

—the editors

8-High Country News — July 16, 1976



SKYLIDS. These insulated, louvered skylights — called Skylids — are operated automatically by freon canisters which act both as gravity engines and thermostats. When the outside canister is hotter than the inside, the freon boils and moves to the inside, opening the louver with its weight. When the inside canister warms up and the outside air cools, the Skylid closes automatically by the movement of the freon back to the outside canister. The outside can is black and the inside one silver. They are connected by a small tube. The device is patented by Zomeworks Corp.



SOLAR WATER HEATERS. At left, mounted on the roof are two solar panels which provide heat for the Kittles' hot water supply. At right, is the Kittles' sunlit outhouse.



Zomehouse

What is it? A zomehouse, built to make use of the sun.

Former Wyoming rancher Jake Kittle is its enthusiastic owner. It is his new home on a ranch near Gaviota, Calif.

When he decided on a solar house, Kittle went to a small band of inventors noted for their independent creativity and pride in simplicity. Led by Steve Baer, the group, Zomeworks Corp., has invented devices such as beadwalls, drumwalls, and skylids — all of which enable a home to become an efficient collector of the sun.

Baer and Dick Henry took up Kittle's challenge. They came up with an unusual design and special walls, skylights, and water heaters.

For six months before construction began, Kittle did his own solar research. He had a black, five-gallon can filled with antifreeze and water set inside a Coleman ice chest. The open chest and the can were covered by a piece of heavy, clear plastic. Morning and evening for six months Kittle recorded temperatures on two thermometers — one strapped to the outside of the can and the other to the ice chest. Baer did the same thing in Albuquerque. Based on the differences, Baer was able to compute the need for heating mechanisms on Kittle's site.

Kittle's contractor was Bud Bredoll of Santa Barbara, Calif.

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Photos by Tom Webster

soaks up sun

whom Kittle calls "a very patient, understanding fellow, thank goodness."

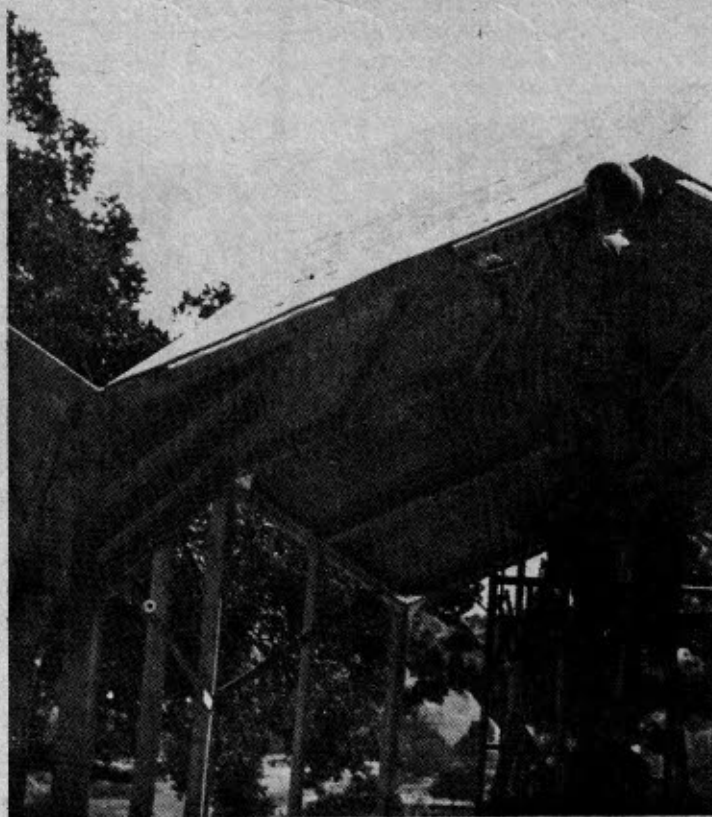
All structural timber was pre-cut in the Zomeworks shop and shipped to California. Panels were assembled and fit together like a giant jigsaw puzzle on the site.

The home was designed to capture and retain heat. Skylids, the louvered skylights invented by Baer, were installed on top of the roof. When it is sunny outside, the lids channel light and heat into the house and onto massive walls and a Mexican tile floor. The movement of freon in response to temperature differences in two canisters causes the louvers to open and close, automatically trapping the maximum amount of the day's solar power.

To help store some of the heat collected by the skylids, the house uses eight-inch thick cement interior walls. It also has thick outside walls made of a sandwich of redwood, felt, plywood, fiberglass insulation bats, and felt. The ceilings are a similarly well-insulated sandwich.

Two solar panels on the roof provide the home's hot water supply.

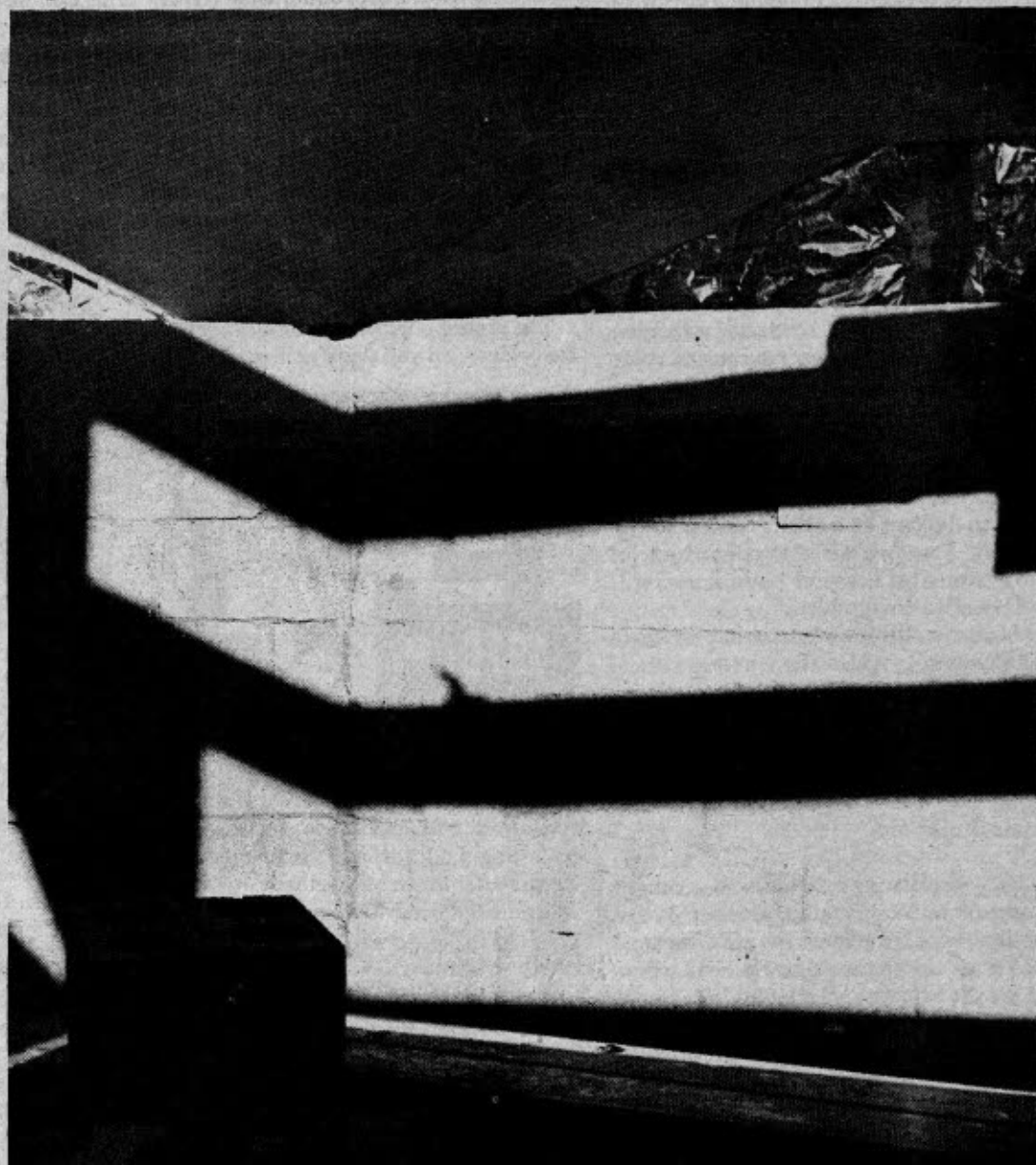
For more information about Zomeworks contact them at P.O. Box 712, Albuquerque, N.M. 87103.



SIMPLE SOLUTIONS SOUGHT. Steve Baer, president of Zomeworks Corp., fitting the pre-cut panels together like a giant jigsaw puzzle. Baer lives with his wife and two children in a cluster of solar heated zones near Albuquerque, N.M. He is considered a maverick by some people in the solar energy industry because of his insistence on simple, do-it-yourself solutions to energy problems. Nevertheless, he is among the pioneers of that industry. He is a member of the board of directors of the U.S. Section of the International Solar Energy Society and is a director and past vice chairman of the New Mexico Solar Energy Association.

How does the work done by a man compare with the energy produced by sunlight? If a man can do one-tenth horsepower of work for a period of eight hours and we wish to duplicate the heat the sun pours down on the ground by having men rub the ground with blocks to create heat, we will need at least one man for every square foot.

—Steve Baer, Sunspots



HEAT STORAGE WALLS. This interior wall doesn't hold up any of the weight of the house, but it does perform two other important functions. It divides the space and retains the heat which falls on it through the skylids. These walls are made of eight-inch cement blocks poured full of cement. They have since been plastered to look like adobe walls.

10-High Country News — July 16, 1976

Reckoning from Washington

by Lee Catterall

A copy of the following letter came into our possession in the past week:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air and Waste Management
Washington, D.C. 20400

Hon. Jimmy Carter
Jimmy Carter Presidential Campaign
2000 P Street, NW Room 400
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Carter:

The Administrator has asked me to respond to your letter of April 1, 1976, in which you proposed an environmentally acceptable alternative to the Federal Energy Administration's coal conversion program. Briefly, you recommended the use of peanut oil in lieu of petroleum in oil-fired power plants.

Although the use of peanut oil in power plants would result in no visible emissions, the sulfuric acid and acid sulfate emissions would be relatively high, hence "scrubbers" would be required to decrease these harmful emissions. Similarly, nitrogen oxides emission levels would also be relatively high. Hence, combined NOx and SOx flue gas cleaning systems such as those being used in Japan would be required to reduce adverse health and ecological effects. Finally, the increased production of peanuts may result in dangerously high levels of nitrates in the water tables.

Your recommendation is not without merit. It is quite compatible with the House and Senate versions of the significant deterioration amendments which would result in the return to an agrarian economy. It would decrease this nation's dependence on expensive foreign oil, and, since the peanut shells could be burned in utility boilers, we would expect an acceleration of our solid waste disposal program. Although we are not certain, members of my staff suggest that in the process of roasting the shells, a rather pleasant aroma would permeate the air in the vicinity of the power plants.

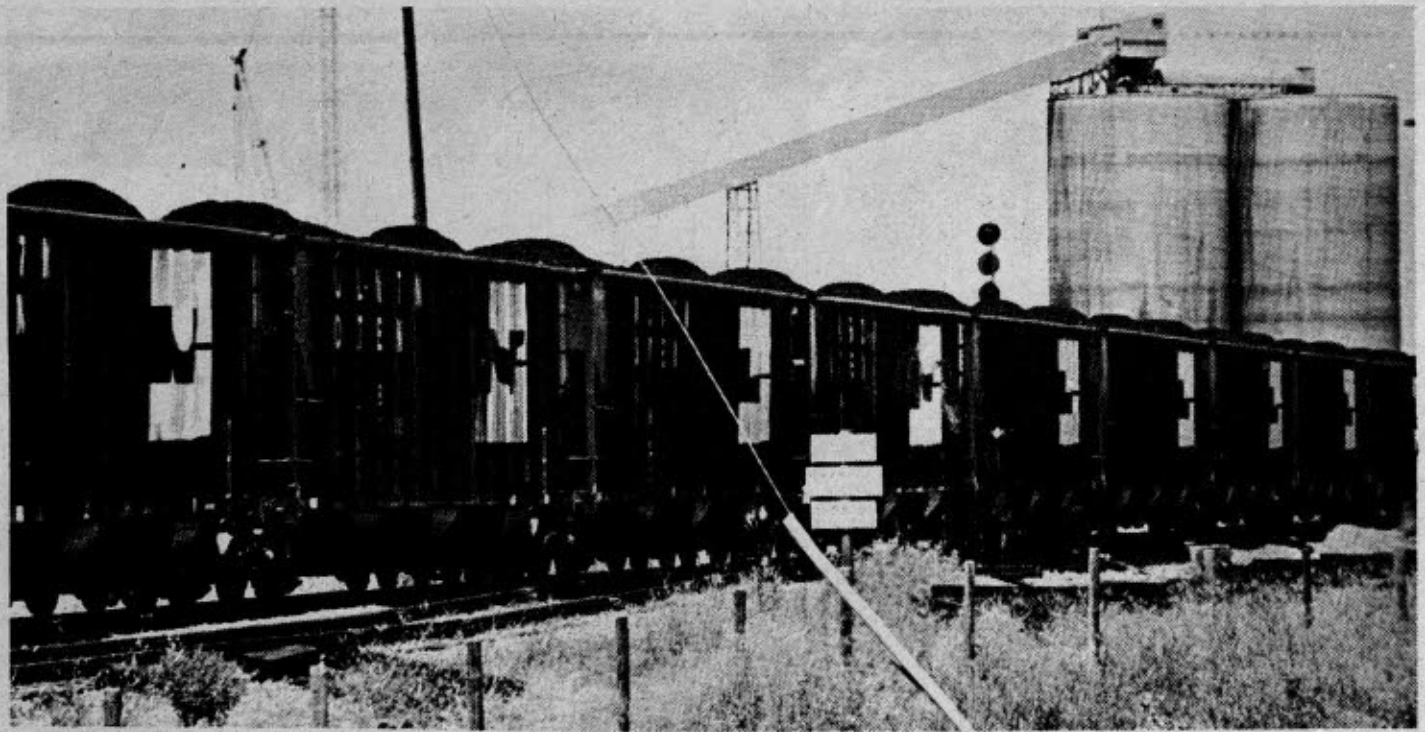
We have, of course, conducted a number of studies based on your recommendation. The most promising results come from the combustion of a paste-like derivative of peanuts which does not result in elevated SOx or NOx emissions. We do have some difficulties, however, in that the material tends to deposit as a sticky residue in the burners. I am certain that our Industrial Environmental Research Laboratories will soon resolve the problem.

I hope that this information and analysis has adequately addressed your question. If I may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely yours,
(signed)
Roger Strelow

Well, Reckoning has heard of stranger proposals in Washington, so called Roger Strelow, who is a real person and does head EPA's air and waste management office. No, he did not write the letter. (His signature was pasted in.) No, EPA is not studying the use of peanuts, or even peanut butter, in power plants.

"I don't know who wrote it," Strelow chuckled, "but I'd like to meet him. He obviously knew what he was talking about."



ROLLING OUT. The Whitney Coal operation would complement the Big Horn Mine operation. Coal will be hauled by special trucks to the Big Horn Coal Co. where it would be sold to that company's customers, according to the SHERIDAN PRESS. Pictured above is a 98 car train loading up at the Big Horn mine.

Ranchers protest Tongue valley mine

As Congress continues its five year struggle to pass a strip mining bill, the pace of mining activity is quickening in the West. Ranchers and environmentalists in the Powder River Basin are trying to use Wyoming state laws to block a mine that would not have been allowed if the federal bill had been enacted.

Peter Kiewit and Sons wants to begin stripping coal from about 550 acres in the Tongue River Valley. The mine would produce one million tons of coal per year — about one-tenth the production of Kiewits' Decker Mine.

A representative of the Powder River Basin Resource Council (PRBRC) says the stripping would affect prime agricultural land which is some of the most productive in the state. The council and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald W. Moravek, whose land adjoins the proposed mine site, have filed a protest with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. A hearing on the protest is scheduled August 3.

The protest questions whether reclamation of the land and aquifer is possible. The

protestants say the mining application does not include enough information to prove that it is.

Jack Ratchye, manager of marketing and resources for Kiewits' mining division, told HCN reclamation is easier in alluvial valleys than anywhere else. He cites a study of the Decker mine by the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology which says the water table can be restored.

In addition, he says the final contour of the mined area will increase the acreage accessible for farm machinery.

The protest filed with the state of Wyoming, however, cites a report on the rehabilitation of Western coal lands by the National Academy of Sciences. The report says, "In the planning of any proposed mining rehabilitation it is essential to stipulate that alluvial valley floors and stream channels be preserved." The report says that alluvial deposits are "highly susceptible to erosion."

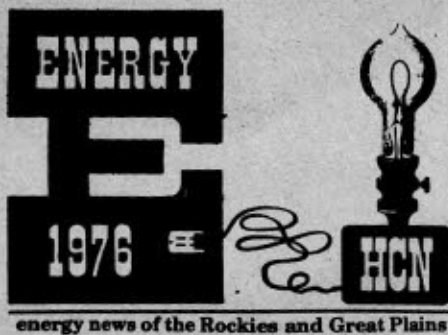
Tom France, a staff member for the council, points out that members of Congress are so concerned about alluvial val-

leys that they have dealt with the question specifically in their strip mining bill. The bill, which has been vetoed twice by the President, will come up for a votesoon after Congress reconvenes July 18.

"It is interesting to speculate that they (the mining company officials) are trying to get in ahead of the federal standards," France says.

Ratchye denies that the company's timing has anything to do with the status of the federal legislation. He says the company's lease stipulates that coal production must start within five years of the date of the lease, which is December 1974.

The protestants also say there is insufficient information to determine whether the mine would violate water pollution laws. They say the dike separating the mine from the river might not be high enough to prevent floods from carrying mine pollutants into the river. They recommend the state review the valley for possible designation as an area of unique and irreplaceable natural value.



energy news of the Rockies and Great Plains

IMPACT OVERSTATED. Both coal operators and environmentalists are criticizing the Interior's Department's environmental impact statement on coal development in northwestern Colorado. Several major operators say the statement severely overstates the impact of coal development in the region, according to Coal Week. They say the estimate of 33 million tons per year is twice the amount that can be realistically expected from northwestern Colorado. Coal Week says that some industry people feel the 33 million ton figure was tailored from Project Independence estimates. Environmentalists charge that the statement was designed to "keep all possible bases covered" rather than to predict a likely impact.

SON OF KAIPAROWITS. The Environmental Defense Fund told the Denver Post it has just opened up a new file in its office labeled "son of Kaiparowits." The file covers a newly-proposed coal gasification plant for the site of the now-defunct coal-fired power plant proposal in Utah. Southern California Edison, one of the Kaiparowits utilities, is investigating the possibility of recouping part of its investment by using the same coal and water rights for a 250 million cubic feet per day gasification plant. Environmentalists and the National Park Service were worried about air pollution from the proposed electrical plant damaging southern Utah's parks. Edison planner told the Post that a gasification plant would emit far less air pollution.

NEW TOWN SPROUTS. Atlantic Richfield, which is opening the Black Thunder mine in the Powder River Basin, has built a new town for the workers. The town of Wright is located 39 miles south of Gillette and consists now of a mobile home park with paved streets and other utilities. The master plan includes permanent housing, church sites, a school, a business district, and a recreation center. Atlantic Richfield has donated the land for the school. Robert E. Huff, a company official, says the mobile

home sites will be limited to only company employees at first.

WESTERN GROUPS COALESCE. Representatives of 85 citizen organizations in the West have formed a major regional energy policy and action program in reaction to the Interior Department's call for coal leasing nominations. Meeting in Billings, Mont., July 6-7, the groups expressed their dismay with the leasing system, which asks the public to study 92 million acres of federal coal lands in 60 days. The Western COALition adopted a policy which opposes any further leasing at this time since it would take 65 years to exhaust federal reserves already under lease in just four of the seven states of the coalition. Carolyn Johnson is coordinator of the coalition. Headquarters are at 2239 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, Colo. 80206. Telephone (303) 321-6588.

N.M. STUDIES NUCLEAR ISSUE. Hearings were expected to end soon in New Mexico concerning whether the two utilities in the state should participate in a nuclear power plant near Phoenix, Ariz. Arguments are expected to concentrate on comparative costs between uranium and coal. The plant is expected to cost \$728 million.



The HCN Hot Line

energy news from across the country

FARMERS BLOCK POWER LINE. To avert probable violence, Minnesota Gov. Wendell Anderson has asked two power associations to discontinue surveying for a proposed 400 kilovolt transmission line. The governor's action followed several weeks of confrontations between angry farmers and survey crews for the line, which would cross North Dakota and Minnesota. One farmer, Virgil Fuchs, allegedly drove his tractor over some surveying equipment and then rammed the rear of a pickup truck used by the surveyors, says the *Minneapolis Tribune*. The line is proposed by the United Power Association and the Cooperative Power Association.

SOLAR ORDINANCE. Davis, Calif., has passed an energy conservation ordinance requiring that new housing be oriented to take advantage of sunny winter days. Facing homes south could cut heating bills by 50%, according to the Sierra Club's "Energy Notes."

FEA LOGIC DISCOUNTED. The Federal Energy Administration (FEA) claims that a national moratorium on nuclear power plants will "place further environmental and socioeconomic pressures on parts of the West." However, in a letter to FEA, Rep. Lewis N. McManus, speaker of the West Virginia House of Delegates, says this is not necessarily true. He points out that West Virginia has lots of low sulfur coal. "Utilities can give long-term contracts and financial help to Appalachian

coal owners to fuel coal-fired replacements for the far more expensive nuclear plants they could abandon," he says. FEA's claim was included in its *National Energy Outlook 1976*.

URANIUM PRICE-FIXING. New Mexico, Wyoming, Colorado, and other states are feeling more and more pressure for their uranium reserves as rising prices encourage development of lower and lower grade ores. Now the U.S. Justice Department is launching major investigation of international price fixing in the uranium industry, according to a copyrighted story in the *Denver Post*. Among the factors which attracted the attention of the investigators was the fact that the spot price of uranium rocketed from \$7 a pound in 1974 to \$40 or \$50 a pound this year. The department is also investigating uranium buyers, which are now getting involved in the production of uranium.

WINDY SITES SOUGHT. The federal government is now looking at 17 locations as possible sites for large windmills designed to generate enough electricity to power dozens of homes. The 17 will be narrowed down to four by the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA). The experimental wind generators will be installed in 1977 and 1978. All 17 sites are proposed by private utilities or cooperatives. Nine of the sites are in the West, including Washington, New Mexico, California, Alaska, Hawaii, South Dakota, Oregon, and Nebraska.

PIPELINE DEATHS IGNORED. Along with the much publicized loss of wildlife habitat and environmental quality, human lives are quietly being lost to the construction of the Alaska pipeline, according to the *New York Times Magazine*. If the present rate of casualties continues, the Alaska pipe project may take more lives than any other construction project in U.S. history.

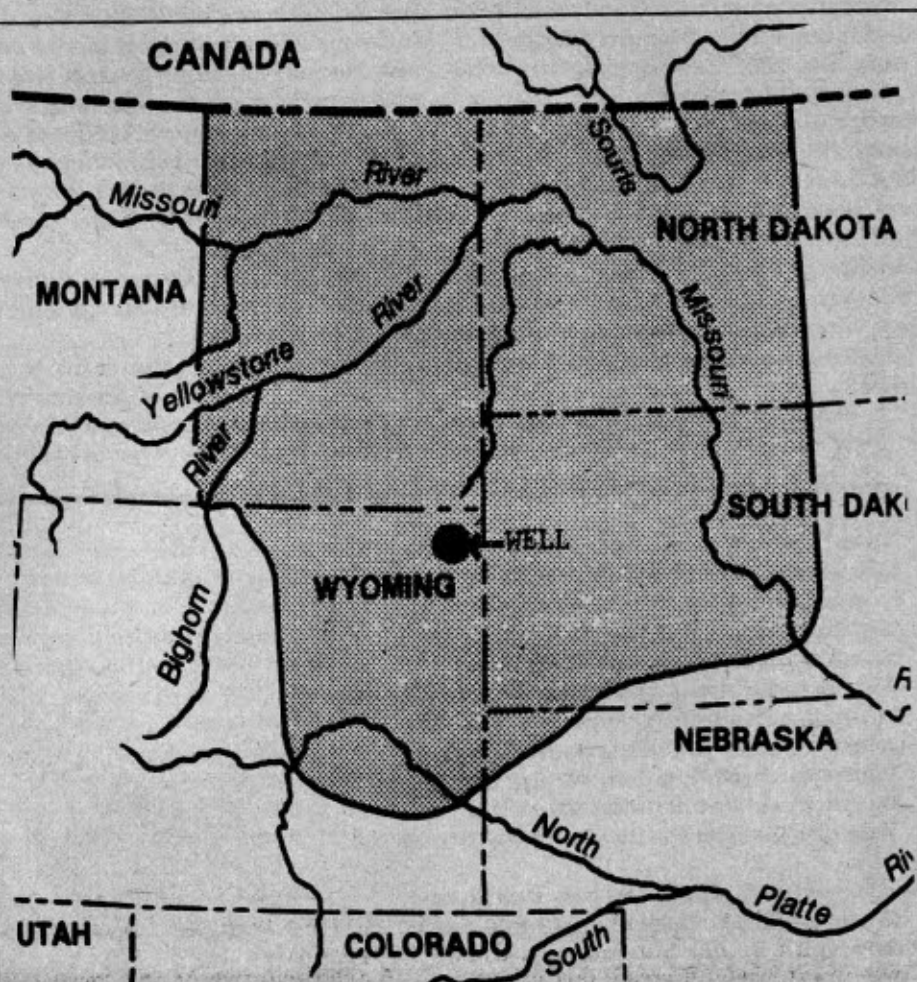


BACKING OUT OF SHALE. The Gulf Oil Corp. and Standard Oil Co. of Indiana are asking the federal government to let them suspend oil shale development and federal lease payments for two years. If their request is granted by the Department of Interior, this will bring on-site development of oil shale to a standstill, according to the *ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS*. Two other firms pulled out of the other major tract in Colorado in December. Gulf and Standard cited legislative and administrative uncertainties as the reasons for their decision. They included the Clean Air Act significant deterioration regulations; judicial review of a requested state permit for groundwater; growth plans for Rangely, Colo., where most of the workers would live; and the lack of a national energy policy that would help companies make decisions concerning the commercial feasibility of projects. Colorado oil shale country photo by David Sumner.

LEASING BILL VETOED. President Gerald Ford's veto of the coal leasing bill came as a surprise to some observers since Interior Secretary Thomas Kleppe had endorsed the bill before an unsympathetic National Coal Association convention only two days earlier. The bill drew support from many Western factions because of its mineral royalty increases to the states. Ford said he vetoed the bill because of other provisions. He mentioned specifically the provision that forces a lessee to begin de-

veloping the lease within 10 years after its purchase. That provision is designed to force coal production and prevent holding the lease for speculative purposes. Ford said the bill would "inhibit coal production on federal lands, probably raise prices for consumers, and ultimately delay our achievement of energy independence." A Congressional override attempt is expected.

High Country News-11
July 16, 1976



MADISON TEST HOLE

Drilling starts soon on an exploratory hole which is expected to help resolve the controversy over the water availability for the slurry pipeline. The U.S. Geological Survey has let a \$680,000 contract for drilling the hole near Sundance, Wyo., to test the Madison Formation. The formation extends over 188,000 square miles in Wyoming, Montana, and North and South Dakota. The proposed coal slurry pipeline would use water from the formation to transport coal by pipeline to Arkansas. The pipeline has generated controversy among the states, which are afraid the pipeline might deplete their groundwater reserves. A second test hole is planned for southeast Montana. The aquifer region is indicated by shading in the map above from the *CASPER STAR-TRIBUNE*. Meanwhile in Washington, D.C., coal slurry pipeline legislation has been slowed by the House Interior Committee's decision to table the measure. U.S. Rep. Teno Roncalio says the lack of information about the Madison Formation was one of his reasons for voting to table the bill. The vote was 21 to 19.

Colorado, Montana battles ahead

Environmentalists in both Colorado and Montana are working to gain nuclear safeguards through the initiative process. While the issues are almost identical to those on the recent California ballot, the scale of the effort for passage appears much smaller. The measures would remove government liability for nuclear accidents and require utilities to prove the safety of the technology to state legislatures.

Montana initiative organizers believe that they almost have enough signatures to qualify for the November ballot. A group called Coloradoans for Safe Power has already qualified for the November Colorado ballot.

While backers of the initiative in California spent about a million dollars and had at least 20 full time staff members to run the campaign, only one paid person will organize in Colorado and none in Montana — the effort will be all volunteer.

Coloradoans expect to raise about \$30,000 for the campaign. Montanans say

they won't spend a cent. The Montanans will rely on a required state-funded mailing to every registered voter to get their message across to the public.

Meladee Martin of Coloradoans for Safe Power points out that her initiative differs from the unsuccessful California measure in two respects. First, it does not suggest cutbacks for existing nuclear plants, because Colorado does not have any plants operating in the state yet. (Colorado's Fort St. Vrain nuclear plant is not yet operational.) Second, it does not create a new agency to assess nuclear power. The assessment is made directly by the legislature.

Martin, who led a successful initiative effort on nuclear stimulation for natural gas in Colorado, says she thinks there is tougher opposition in the state to the current campaign. Her group is headquartered at 1450 Logan, Denver, Colo. 80203, (303) 837-0644.

The Montana effort is led by Matthew Jordan, Box 2201, Missoula, Mont. 59801.

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WGREPO report:

Montana only state to plan lease nominations

Of the 10 states that are members of the Western Governors Regional Energy Policy Office (WGREPO) organization, only the representatives of Montana said they plan to participate in the initial stage of the Interior Department's new coal leasing system.

Sharon Soloman, natural resources coordinator for the Montana Energy Advisory Council, feels strongly that the states should participate since they insisted that Interior give them the opportunity. She spoke to the governors' alternates who met June 30 in Billings. Montana state departments had hesitated to meet to determine their strategy, however, she said, until after the WGREPO meeting. "We were waiting to see if the Western governors were doing anything or whether you were going to just sit on your thumbs," she said.

The deadline for the call for nominations or "disnominations" for coal leasing areas

is July 31. This is the first stage of Interior's EMARS (Energy Minerals Activity Recommendation System) program, a new system which Interior says is designed to involve more public participation in coal leasing (see HCN 6-18-76, p. 10).

Dave Freudenthal, Wyoming Gov. Ed Herschler's alternate to WGREPO, said his state would be adopting primarily a "review posture," planning to react to nominations made by industry and the public. "I don't feel we have a moral burden to exercise that prerogative the first time around. The point is that we do have that option," Freudenthal said. "We can get involved later in the process."

He and other delegates were concerned that Interior allowed so little time for the call for nominations.

Soloman explained later to HCN that Montana had formed an ad hoc committee with representatives of several state departments. Each department is determin-

ing what criteria should be considered prior to leasing. "We (the state of Montana) don't like the fact that they're leasing at all," she said. "We think more than enough coal has been leased." But several state departments want to alert Interior to their areas of special concern where leasing should not occur.

A representative of the Interior Department, Bill Rogers, attended the meeting to discuss the governors' concern over the federal government overriding states' strip mining regulations. His visit was prompted by a letter from Montana Gov. Tom Judge. The letter said that U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Curt Berkland was planning to give the federal regulations more weight than Interior had led the governors to believe would be given to them. WGREPO had demanded that when state reclamation standards are stricter than federal standards, the state

standards should be used.

For example, Judge said, Berkland told Wyoming officials that the federal reclamation regulations would likely apply to federal coal under federal land.

Rogers tried to allay the governors' fears and explained that a task force had been set up that would be reviewing each state's reclamation codes and making rulings soon.

WGREPO member states unanimously passed a resolution asking that Federal Energy Administration (FEA) conservation guidelines be revised to allow states more flexibility. Conservation is recognized as one issue the governors — who hold divergent viewpoints on many energy questions — can agree on.

WGREPO members asked for an increase in the percentage of 1978 funds available to the states and that funds be allocated on the basis of per capita energy reduction. They want the guidelines to specifically provide for substitution of renewable energy sources and to give credit to states that prompt such a shift.

Bill Dickenson, director of state and local programs for FEA, told WGREPO members he agreed there were many potential problems with the regulations and explained that many of them resulted from Congress combining a mandatory bill with a voluntary conservation bill.

He said that every state that had commented to date on the guidelines had asked that the allocation of funds be based on per capita reduction of energy use. He was concerned that the allocation formula would lead to competition among states rather than on conservation.

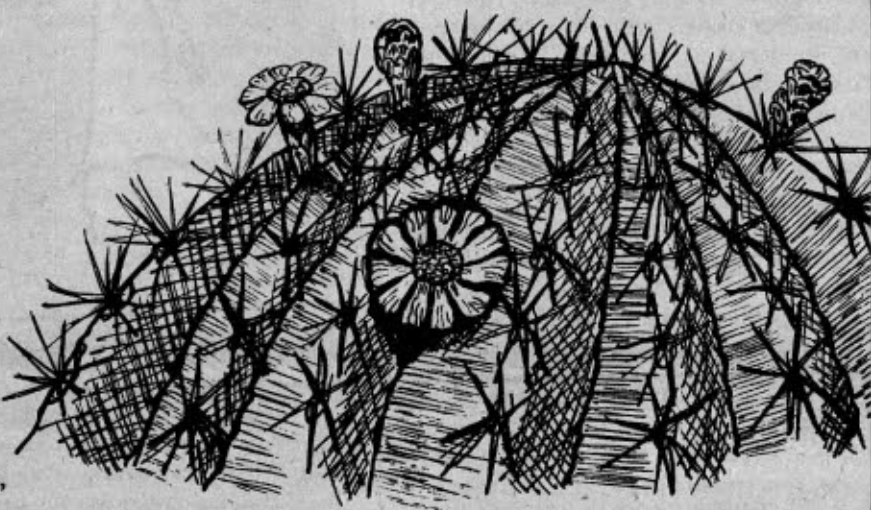
The next WGREPO meeting will be in Carson City, Nev., in September.

Observation in the Dakota Hills

1. It is most difficult to cultivate the hills,
To grow among the stones and brush
A grain that is worth the trouble.
A man can terrace the stubborn soil
Until it resembles the gardens of Babylon,
An eroding complexity of empty aqueducts,
Or he can gnaw the oblong stones to esthetic
Order and carefully arrange the gnarled sage,
But the grain will die without water,
Without rain from the flat desert sky.

2. The old men who stayed here past their
Relatives' dehydration don't say or do much.
They wait on rough boards for the sunrise
And sunset; they eat snake and drink cactus.
When I visit they resurrect the old legends
And laugh in the dust.
We watch the sun's color wash over warm hills,
Feel the wind eat sand beneath our feet,
Accept the slow and painless erosion of the brain.

—Richard Huffstodt



Environmentalist is his advisor

Carter says he opposes move West

by Lee Catterall

Plans to burn Western coal in faraway furnaces will go up in a puff of smoke if Jimmy Carter becomes President, keeps the positions he has taken, and gets his way.

Carter's views on Western coal development conform with his general outlook on environmental issues, which has environmentalists jumping with excitement.

When representatives of the American Petroleum Institute asked the Carter campaign for position papers earlier this year, they were told to see Joe Browder.

"They freaked out," an environmentalist recalled, and with good reason. Browder is head of the Environmental Policy Center, one of Washington's most active environmental lobbies. His wife, Louise C. Dunlap, is head of the center's Coalition Against Strip Mining.

Browder has been giving advice to Carter over the past two years, but insists Carter's views were developed independently. Carter is no "puppet" of the environmentalists, he said.

Carter agrees with the basic stand on coal taken by environmentalists and shunned by almost all politicians — that companies should deep mine the East

rather than strip mine the West. Coal company officials say they need to do both, and even some of the most ardent conservation-minded congressmen regard the move West as inevitable.

The League of Conservation Voters recently published a study of candidates views on environmental issues and concluded Carter is "outstanding." On the coal issue, the league said, he is "excellent, although he has never had to defend his views under controversy, or get them implemented in legislation." The study was based on candidates' records and their answers to a questionnaire.

Carter personally filled out his questionnaire while on a campaign flight last fall, a league spokesman said. His answers reveal an active hostility toward energy company designs on the West.

"With almost no debate," Carter wrote, "the leaders of both parties have taken as gospel the coal industry's advice that we must ignore the low sulfur coal reserves of the East and develop instead the federally controlled coal reserves of the West."

That view matches a position taken by Carter in an issues paper written last December: "A change in the geography of energy production — for example, an em-

phasis on expanding coal production in the Rocky Mountains and Northern Plains instead of the Midwest and Appalachia — could cause a massive shift away from the industrial East and Midwest to the agricultural regions of the West. We must question whether that is in the best interests of this country."

He reportedly repeated that position in strong language to Yellowstone County (Billings), Mont., voters during that state's presidential primary campaign in May.

As President, Carter would have great power to allow approval or encourage disapproval of rights-of-way for coal to be shipped by rail or pipeline. However, he appears to be against rapid growth in Western coal development even if the coal is burned in the West, and advocates environmental safeguards for the remaining development.

"I support the strip mining bill," he told the League of Conservation Voters, "but not the coal leasing bill because I am not convinced that demand for coal is great enough to justify massive development of non-renewable public resources for energy production."

Carter also opposes plans to use federal money for turning coal into synthetic oil and gas as too expensive.

Challis . . .

(continued from page 5)

make a prediction of potential improvement," he says.

Meiners, a former BLM planner, says livestock grazing is not applicable to all public range land and rest-rotation grazing is not the sole salvation of the West's abused land.

Meiners thinks it is a mistake that the BLM's EISs are being prepared on grazing plans rather than plans that would cover all the natural resource values.

"For example, wildlife really takes a beating in this EIS," says Meiners. He says the new fences may block big game movement, rest-rotation grazing could clean out a valuable elk winter range of available forage, and bighorn sheep-livestock conflicts have still not been adequately addressed.

Declaring that the range situation will greatly improve in 15 years as a result of rest-rotation is "a lot of wishful thinking," says Meiners. The BLM doesn't know if rest-rotation will work in all these areas.

Meiners points out that a large percentage of the Challis area has been subject to accelerated erosion and there is little if any topsoil left. In these areas it may take hundreds of years — not 15 — to restore the range.

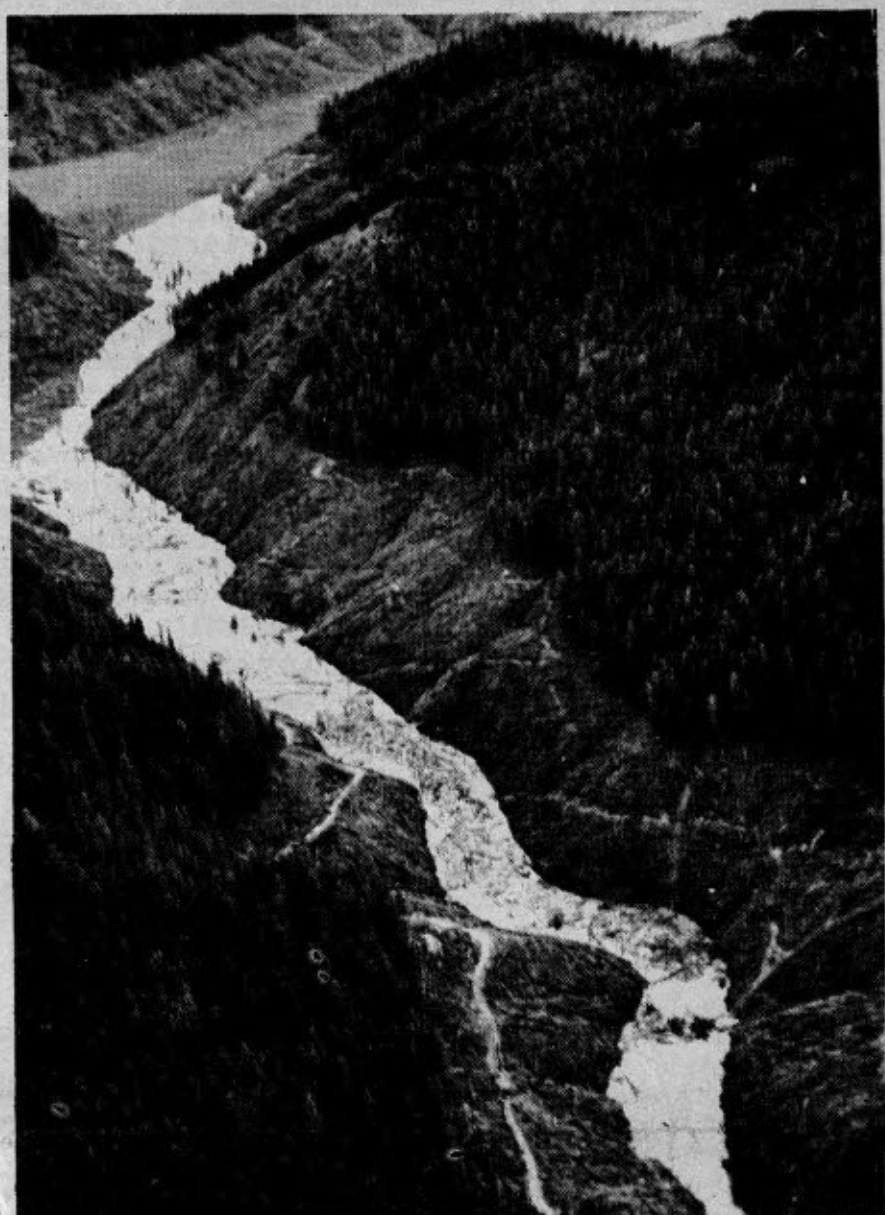
ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

The BLM is caught between a rock and a hard place. Life would be simpler for the agency if it could forget its multiple use mandate and just be responsible to one constituency. Yet many observers think it's a healthy sign to see public interest and debate over the future of our public lands.



Western Roundup

HCN



MITIGATION SLOW IN COMING

Early plans for the Dworshak Dam near Orofino, Idaho, began in 1954. Now, nearly 22 years later, an effort to mitigate the adverse impact of the reservoir may begin to benefit deer and elk. The reservoir has been a death trap for big game. In December 1971, over 100 deer fell through the ice and drowned. Another 106 deer were seen dead on the ice that same month. The reservoir inundated the animals' traditional winter range along the old river course. This year, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game is working to bring about a land trade between the state land board and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to replace flooded winter range. The department hopes to secure 4,700 acres of land at the upper end of the reservoir for big game. Joe Greenley, department director, says the mitigation effort has been "a long and difficult process." Royce Williams, a department spokesman, says, "Mitigation can almost never return fish and wildlife to pre-development levels and almost any portion of mitigation plans are subject to negotiation."

Photo of an arm of the reservoir behind Dworshak Dam. Big game winter range is reduced to slash, ice, and mud. Photo courtesy of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

EIS says Narrows Reservoir needed

The final environmental impact study by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation says the Narrows Dam should be built on the South Platte River in Colorado. The dam and reservoir will create vital new supplies of irrigation water for northeastern Colorado farmlands, the report says. However, an organization of farmers who would be displaced by the project says the BuRec estimates of irrigated cropland lost because of the project are about one-third lower than actual losses. About 825 residents will be permanently displaced and three farm communities destroyed. Colorado Gov. Dick Lamm had prematurely endorsed the project before his state agencies had completed their studies of its possible effects. The state agency review is expected to concur with the endorsement, according to the *Rocky Mountain News*. The impact statement says crop and livestock production would be increased by \$17.2 million a year.

Several Morgan County farmers who would be flooded out by the dam have filed suit to block construction. The suit, filed by the Regional Land Owners Group, claims the Bureau of Reclamation failed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and several other federal statutes. The farmers say the bureau hasn't adequately assessed the possibility the dam might wash away like the Teton Dam in Idaho. A memo from the state engineer indicates that there may be a serious seepage problem, according to a *Rocky Mountain News* report.

St. Joe River threatened by mining

An *Idaho Statesman* editorial says that plans for dredging a popular fishing stream in Idaho illustrate the inadequacies of existing federal laws governing mining. A Texas firm wants to dredge gold and garnets next to the St. Joe River, which has been proposed for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. "Our outdated federal mining laws (primarily the 1872 Mining Law) allow even the finest streams to be messed up for a handful of minerals," the editorial says. Idaho has a state dredge mining law that might help the river, but State District Court Judge James G. Towles ruled that the state law is unconstitutional because it conflicts with the federal 1872 Mining Law. The 1872 law gives the federal government sole power to regulate locatable mineral mining on federal land. The states of Idaho and Wyoming have urged the Idaho Supreme Court to uphold the Idaho dredge mining law. Idaho Deputy Atty. Gen. Terry Coffin told an appeals hearing that to overturn the state law would be to deprive the state of its right to control "hit and run" mining operations.

The U.S. Forest Service has completed a study to include the river in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The draft must be approved by the Secretary of Agriculture and then sent to Congress for approval. Idaho Gov. Cecil D. Andrus has recommended that the river be given national protection. Companies with active or proposed dredge mines along the St. Joe River include Idaho Mining Co. of Texas, and Minerals Petroleum of Texas, according to the *Statesman*.

CAP praised, decried at hearings

Citizens were given an opportunity to air their views on the Central Arizona Project (CAP) at the Orme Dam public hearings held in Phoenix on July 9. CAP, a two billion dollar project authorized by Congress in 1968, is a massive water diversion plan consisting of dams, aqueducts, and pumping plants designed to bring water from the Colorado River to Central Arizona. Orme Dam, to be constructed near Phoenix, would be the final storage point for the diverted water. Proponents of CAP see it as a rescue operation to save the state's ground water from serious depletion and the farmers from bankruptcy. Opponents, however, question the environmental impacts of the project as well as its economic viability. They maintain that according to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, "the water supply available (in Central Arizona) is far in excess of foreseeable demands for municipal and industrial purposes."

Two new regional foresters named

The high country has two new regional foresters — Craig Rupp and Robert Torheim. Rupp succeeds William Lucas as head of the Rocky Mountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service — an area that includes national forests in Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, and parts of South Dakota and Wyoming. Torheim succeeds Steve Yurich as head of the Northern Region — an area that includes forests in Montana, North Dakota, and parts of Idaho and South Dakota. Both Rupp and Torheim are career Forest Service employees. Lucas retired earlier this year and Yurich has been named head of the 20-state Eastern Region.

Grand Canyon mine leases suspended

Three uranium leases issued to the Exxon Corp. for areas in the Grand Canyon have been suspended by Interior Secretary Thomas Kleppe. The leases were suspended because the government had failed to prepare an environmental impact analysis prior to issuing the leases. The leases were in Lake Mead National Recreation Area in an area being considered for inclusion in Grand Canyon National Park and in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Sierra Club had protested the leases.

States use DDT to combat plague

Colorado and California have been granted permission by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to use DDT against rodent fleas that may transmit bubonic plague. DDT, a federally-banned pesticide, has already been applied to more than 10,000 rodent burrows in Colorado. A federal health official told the *Los Angeles Times* that eight cases of bubonic plague in humans have been confirmed in four Western states this year. New Mexico's State Health and Social Services director Fernando C. DeBaca told United Press International he doesn't feel the DDT use is necessary. He told New Mexico Gov. Jerry Apodaca that use of DDT poses such widespread and long-lasting environmental and health dangers that the treatment is worse than the plague problem. "Such use in other states is inappropriate and based only on an emotional fear of plague," he said.

Eagles Nest wilderness bill signed

President Gerald R. Ford has signed into law a bill creating a 133,915 acre Eagles Nest Wilderness in central Colorado near Vail. The bill had been opposed by the Denver Water Board which wanted to develop water within the wilderness and pipe it across the Continental Divide to Denver. Now the board will be forced to abandon its scheme or else let the water flow naturally out of the wilderness and then use expensive pumps to carry it up over the divide. The board is considering asking President Ford for a special exemption from the law to allow water development within the wilderness, according to the *Rocky Mountain News*. Colorado conservationists have supported the wilderness and opposed the water diversion.



MIDWEST PRAIRIE CONFERENCE

Midwest Prairie Conference organizers are calling for papers and displays for their fifth conference which will be in Ames, Iowa, August 22-24. For information, contact Roger Landers, Dept. of Botany and Plant Pathology, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011. Telephone (515) 294-3871. Topics can include humanities, natural sciences, applied sciences, esthetics, and management and restoration.

COLORADO SOLAR WORKSHOP

Malcolm Lillywhite, of the Domestic Technology Institute in Evergreen, Colo., will be giving a solar workshop under the sponsorship of the Greeley Committee on the Environment in Greeley, Colo., on Sunday, July 25. The workshop will include a brief slide show. Participants will make their own water and air circulating solar collectors and their own food drier. To register, send \$5 to Greeley Committee on the Environment, Box 1131, Greeley, Colo. 80631.

ABBEY ON THE ROCKS

Edward Abbey will be the guest speaker for a workshop August 23-26 in Arches National Park in Utah. College credit will be available for the workshop, which is being limited to 40 participants. The workshop, "On the Rocks," is offered to those who want to "enhance their personal creativity and environmental awareness and share ideas for strategies and curriculum in environmental education." Participants will camp, bringing their own food and equipment for the four days. Bruce Hamilton, an editor of *High Country News*, will conduct one of the sessions. The fee for registration and tuition is \$90 and must be sent with the advance registration to: Dr. Florence Krall, Department of Education, 142 Milton Bennion Hall, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112. Or call (801) 581-8584.

ANTI-NUKE POSITION

The major arguments against nuclear power are presented in an anthology entitled *Countdown to a Nuclear Moratorium*. The 200-page book includes articles by Dr. John Gofman, Dr. Thomas Cochran, Sen. Mike Gravel (D-Alaska), David Comey, and Denis Hayes. The book is \$2 from the Environmental Action Foundation, The Dupont Circle Building, Suite 724, Washington, D.C. 20036.

FREE WILDERNESS NEWS

The Wilderness Workshop of the Colorado Open Space Council is looking for both readers and writers for its newsletter, which covers Colorado wilderness issues. To be put on their mailing list free of charge, write: Wilderness Workshop, 1325 Delaware St., Denver, Colo. 80204.

BOOKLETS ON WESTERN WRITERS

Thomas Hornsby Ferril is among the artists who have been inspired by the impressive landscape of the Rocky Mountain region. Ferril, now 79 years old, is a Denver-born poet, essayist, and journalist. In an age when personal poetry has come into vogue, he has taken a more objective approach, using his knowledge of Western history and environment to convey insights to his readers.

The works of Ferril and other important writers influenced by the West are the subject of a series of booklets published by the Boise State College English Department. The booklets, about 50 pages long, are \$1.50. Other authors available in the series include John Muir, Wallace Stegner, Walter Van Tilburg Clark, and N. Scott Momaday. Booklets on the works of Zane Grey, Robinson Jeffers, Joseph Wood Krutch, and Frederick Remington are in preparation. The series is edited by Wayne

Chatterton and James H. Maguire. For more information write "Western Writers Series," Department of English, Boise State College, Boise, Idaho 83707.

KILOWATT COUNTER

Alternative Sources of Energy Magazine has published a new booklet to help consumers understand energy use concepts. "Kilowatt Counter" contains comprehensive charts, tables, and an energy awareness quiz to help consumers evaluate energy-consuming and energy-saving devices. The 36-page publication is available for \$2 from ASE, Route 2, Box 90-A, Milaca, Minn. 56353.

LAND USE MANUAL

The University of Wyoming has published a "Land Use Manual" containing interpretations of all Wyoming laws affecting land ownership and use. Copies are available for \$12.50 from Harley J. McKinney, Box 3923, University Station, Laramie, Wyo. 82071.

THE ART OF EIS ANALYSIS

A 35-page book entitled *Environmental Impact Statements — How to Analyze Them* is available from the Audubon Society. Send \$1.50 to the Audubon Midwest Regional Representative, Edward M. Brigham III, R.R. 4, Red Wing, Minn. 55066.

Opportunity is...

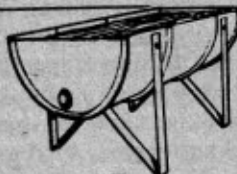
HCN Research Fund

The story in our last issue about the solar devices found in the San Luis Valley in Southern Colorado was paid for in part by the HCN research fund.

Without the research fund money we wouldn't have been able to do the story as well as we did. The research fund gives us the opportunity to find the unusual, to dig deeper. Donations to the fund are also tax deductible. Send HCN some opportunities; make your check out to Wyoming Environmental Institute — HCN Research Fund, P.O. Box 2497, Jackson, Wyoming 83001. Thank you.

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DISTAFF CORNER

by Myra Connell

The other day I rode past the land that my father homesteaded in 1900, and lost in 1925. Just 25 years were required to convince him that he couldn't earn a living there.

A new breed of cattle graze the higher parts of the old place. Several big drainage ditches with their ugly banks cut across the fields. Lower down the almost level valley shows huge white patches of alkali, entirely devoid of vegetation. It is more than 50 years since those alkali spots began to appear. When my father filed on the land they were not apparent. They resulted from irrigation, perhaps over-irrigation. Of course, Father, not being a geologist, was unaware when he chose the location that such might happen.

My parents and older brothers suffered great hardship in providing irrigation for the farm. During the summer months they camped in the mountains with the older five of their 11 children while constructing

a diversion of a stream and a canal to carry the water approximately 30 miles to the homestead.

Two oldest boys, age 10 and 12, helped some with the work. They handled horses and some of the equipment. Three younger children stayed at the primitive camp where Mother cooked for a crew of a dozen men besides caring for the family.

With fall weather the work ceased and the family moved back to the valley for the winter. Father resumed freighting between our town and the nearest railroad terminals, from 125 to 150 miles away. In this way he earned essentials for the family and money to hire help for another season of work on the ditch.

It was a great day when water flowed onto the land about 1907.

A dozen years went by and the farm produced fine crops of wheat and other grains, potatoes, hay, and cattle. But suspicious-looking wet spots appeared at the lower ends of the fields. Alfalfa would no longer grow there. Sometimes a wagonload of hay or grain would get bogged down in mud holes. Reeds, foxtail and cattails gradually took over in some places; year by year the swampy areas crept upward toward the upper end of the fields. And the white alkali appeared.

Father soon realized that the comparatively level valley was poorly drained. In vain he poured tremendous labor and money into digging drain ditches in hope of overcoming the problem. He worked as



Alkali

hard to get rid of the water as he had to bring it there. The alkali took about half of the best fields.

In 1925 the bank that held the mortgage foreclosed.

Father had no way of knowing that his irrigation water would infiltrate downward until it reached an impenetrable formation which it would follow out to the surface. The United States government that offered that section of land for homesteading didn't know it either.

Similar conditions have caused tremendous problems in other irrigated sections, for example in the Imperial Valley of California, as well as on the larger irrigation projects in this county in western Wyoming.

More than a hundred years have passed since the first homesteading in the West and land use planning is at last underway, too late to save our family's land and heartbreak.

In the planning process it appears that many disciplines must have a part: the agriculturist, geologist, meteorologist, hydrologist, botanist, sociologist, and many more. Use of the land concerns us all.

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Eavesdropper

environmental news from around the world

FOONEY LIMERICKS by Zane E. Cology

There was a young fighter named Luke
Who wanted to close every nuke.
He vowed to conserve,
Squash the energy curve,
But his efforts just earned him rebuke.

* * *

ANACONDA-ARCO MERGER.

Atlantic Richfield Co. is trying to acquire 100% of the Anaconda Co. Atlantic Richfield now owns 27% of Anaconda and is offering money and its own stock in return for the outstanding Anaconda shares. Anaconda is the country's third largest copper producer, and Atlantic Richfield is the eighth biggest oil company. The Federal Trade Commission is investigating the proposed merger for possible antitrust violations.

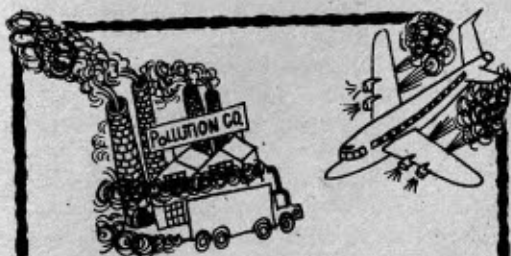
MARSH SAVED. The Minnesota Supreme Court has blocked a proposed road from destroying a marsh declaring that marshes and swamps are "something to protect and preserve." The court's unanimous decision was based on the state's 1971 Environmental Rights Act, which allows citizens to challenge governmental actions that threaten the environment.

LEGAL CENTER FOR GROWTH.

Associated General Contractors of America president Ben M. Hogan is promoting a National Legal Center for the Public Interest to counter no-growth lawsuits. Hogan told **Air-Water Pollution Report** that this country is being "victimized by environmentally backed 'public interest' law firms which are delaying or stopping one project after another through the courts." Hogan says, "Business is simply not getting its point of view across to the courts. . . . We fully expect the National Legal Center to change that."

ENDANGERED LIST GROWS.

The U.S. Department of the Interior is proposing adding 159 species of animals and 1,767 species of plants to the official endangered species list. Once officially designated, the plants and animals would be afforded federal protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.



If your midsummer night's dream is an environmental nightmare, let us comfort you.

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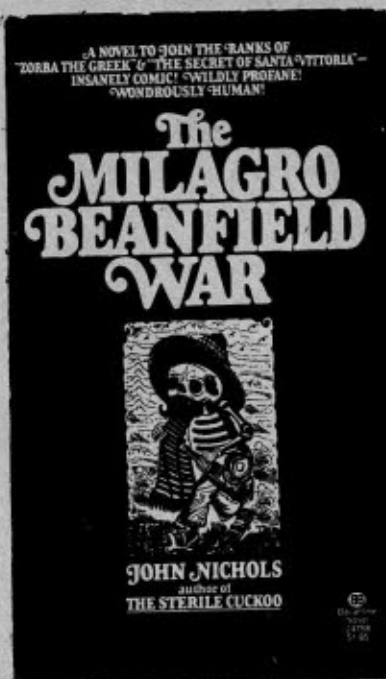
RECYCLING STEADY. The National Association of Recycling Industries predicts only a "nominal increase at best" in paper recycling this year. NARI suggests that paper recycling groups keep in close contact with local processors to avoid the problems that followed the drop in wastepaper demand in late 1974 when many organizations were stuck with unmarketable paper, according to **Solid Waste Report**.

RECYCLING BILL READIED. The House Commerce Subcommittee of Transportation and Commerce has tentatively scheduled markup of its resource conservation act for July 20, according to **Solid Waste Report**. In its present form, the bill establishes Resource Recovery Panels to assist state and local governments in planning resource recovery facilities. It requires states to include hazardous waste programs. No bans are allowed on interstate transportation of discarded materials. Another section requires special studies of marketing or institutional barriers to the effectiveness of resource recovery facilities. Open dumping would be phased out; all discarded materials would be disposed of in sanitary landfills if they were not recovered.

LOBBYING BILL ADVANCES. The Senate overwhelmingly passed, 82-9, a bill to clarify lobbying restrictions on non-profit organizations. The bill is opposed by most conservation organizations and public-interest groups with the exception of Common Cause. Common Cause helped draft the bill. Other groups argued that the rigid lobbying requirements would hamper citizen input. House action is expected soon.

HCN

Books



A novel by John Nichols, 1976, Ballantine Books paperback. \$1.95, 629 pages.

Review by Gary Nabhan

At a recent bean growers' roundup near the Arizona-New Mexico border, a "bean broker" from Denver explained to the locals who their competition was.

"Mostly, you have to contend with those Idaho and Dakota agribusinessmen, with their hybrid seed, and air-conditioned combines with stereos in them." He frowned and said, "Then again, sometimes those northern New Mexico-southern Colorado dirt farmers steal the market away. They use native seed — 'ain't even hybrid. They barely hang on, then a wet year comes and they produce so many beans at such little cost, they can undercut us all."

The broker quickly changed the subject, but the weather-worn hayseeds in his audience understood. There's at least two

ways to farm and live in the West. One way is to import and wrap up resources (water, fuel, technology, government aid) in attempt to cushion yourself from the extremes of Western environments. The other way is to **endure**: dig in during hard years; make do with local resources. Then when times take a quick turn for the better, ride the tide well.

The latter is the spirit which the Milagro Land and Water Protection Association embodied in their beanfield war. Under the

There's at least two ways to farm and live in the West. One way is to wrap up resources. The other way is to endure.

wing of a ragged Coyote Angel, the tenacious rural New Mexicans pledged, "We will be like the Vietnamese."

What's there to war about in northern New Mexico? The takeover of land and water by outsiders who neither understand the land, nor the people who have adapted their livelihoods to its intrinsic resources during the last few hundred years.

The Milagro Beanfield War breaks out as an ornery farmer illegally irrigates ancestral land which has had its water rights usurped by corporate and government interests. It's an awkward war. Few initially rise to support or reprimand Joe Mondragon. Yet all are keenly aware that his small act of defiance has broken the rural community's long-time passive stance toward being manipulated.

Politically naive, the Spanish-American farmers hardly know how to legally define or protect what they feel is theirs. Yet as they begin to rally around their hard-headed neighbor, they realize that they have a natural knack for resisting their manipulators. With black humor, pranks, and ostentatious shows of power, they mock the Anglo institutions, poking at the weaknesses in the two-faced American Dream. The weekly poker game which county politicians and police participate in is robbed. Smokey the Bear santos are ritualistically burnt as voodoo dolls, to get back at the Forest Service for taking away grazing lands.

Because Nichols' populist story line is adapted from actual events which took place in New Mexico within the last decade, his book has been compared to Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*. Yet the differences are dramatic. The Okies were forced to flee from their homeland, but the northern New Mexicans dug in deeper. Steinbeck's epic maintains its romanticism; Nichols shows not only the struggle of the rural residents, but also sheds light on their faults. They are hard on the land, hard on each other, cruel to most outsiders, and generally short-sighted.

Nichols argues, however, that as they begin to take long-term responsibility for the fate of their community and territory, they will have to educate themselves out of such short-sightedness. More important, as they begin to protect themselves, they realize that they also must protect the land and water resources which sustain them.

The Milagro Beanfield War has been in print for a couple years, but has only appeared in paperback form within the last few months. Put the little soft bound book in your back pocket when you go out to protect your local beanfield. Why should people pay so much attention to a few native beansprouts? "Quien poco tiene poco teme." (He who has little has little to fear.)

ALTERNATIVES

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16-High Country News — July 16, 1976

Not after another O'Hare

Bob LaLonde: bringing jets to Jackson Hole

by Mary Inman
and Bruce Hamilton

"When are you going to roast me in your paper?" asked Bob LaLonde as *High Country News* took his photo. LaLonde has good reason to be skeptical of fair treatment by the environmental press. His job has been constantly plagued by environmentalists' complaints for the last several years.

LaLonde is airport manager for the Jackson Hole Airport in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. Environmentalists have been critical of the airport because it is the only one within a national park and because there are plans — promoted by LaLonde — to expand the airport runway to accommodate commercial jet aircraft.



Bob LaLonde Photo by Mary Inman

NO O'HARE

"I am violently opposed to the airport becoming another O'Hare as some environmentalists fear it will," says LaLonde, a retired Air Force colonel. "I am for a modest-sized destination airport, one that will adequately serve the community. We don't want the (Boeing) 747 and there are built-in guarantees — you can't have a 450,000 pound plane using a runway that will only support 110,000 pounds. In addition, the (expanded) runway would be too short for take off with a 747 payload. With an 8,000 foot runway, only the smallest (Boeing) 737 can serve Jackson Hole."

Even "the smallest 737" is what many environmentalists oppose in a national park setting. Right now, the park and the town of Jackson are served by Frontier Airlines' Convair 580 turbo-prop aircraft. Some private jets use the airport, but the runway isn't long enough for the commercial jets Frontier would like to use.

Environmentalists oppose the introduction of jets because they fear there would be increased noise levels in the park. LaLonde believes the jets would be quieter than the Convair 580s. Tests are being conducted to see who is right.

AIRPORT PREDATES PARK

Environmentalists also oppose extending the runway because they are afraid that if the government invests more money in improving the airport site, the government will become committed to keeping the facility in the park. Many feel it is a bad precedent, and that the sooner it is removed, the better.

LaLonde points out that the Jackson Hole Airport doesn't set a precedent for putting new airports in existing parks because actually the airport was there before the park was established.

The airport was established in the early 1930s. Western Airlines put in its first application to service the airport in 1940. In 1942 the town of Jackson secured a federal lease on 760 acres for the purpose of establishing a municipal airport. It wasn't until 1943 that the site was declared a national

monument. In 1950 the site was given national park status.

EXTREME EFFECT OF NEPA

In 1974 a final environmental impact statement was released by the National Park Service on the airport expansion. Following the impact statement, the secretary of the Interior Department authorized construction of various safety improvements, but held up approval of the runway extension pending further study.

A regional transportation study was initiated to look into alternative airport sites and modes of transportation. The results of the study are expected in 1978.

"The environmental impact statement (EIS) on the airport did not handle the issue objectively," says LaLonde. "Six more studies were recommended concerning noise, wildlife, and others. A second full (equivalent of an) EIS must now be prepared by a consulting firm. One-half million dollars will have to be spent on studies related to Jackson Hole Airport alone."

LaLonde sees the proliferation of studies as "the extreme effect of NEPA (the National Environmental Policy Act)."

"EISs are rip-offs by consultants," he says. "The Environmental Protection Agency is scared of the Sierra Club and other environmental groups and so the requirements are exaggerated. It's out of control."

DICHOTOMOUS MANDATE

LaLonde, environmentalists, and the National Park Service all recognize a major conflict in the park service's mandate, which relates directly to the Jackson Hole Airport dilemma. The service is supposed to "provide for the enjoyment" by the public now, and at the same time leave the parks "unimpaired for future generations."

You can't have it both ways, says LaLonde. "You must provide for the enjoyment. Surveys show that people want to

be able to drive in everywhere and have a look. Those that want to preserve the wilderness represent only three per cent. The majority does not want wilderness."

LaLonde sees himself as a "moderate" in environmental affairs. "I see the necessity of an airport to support the economy of the community, but this does not rule out the environment. Purists who think it does, represent me as extreme," he says.

"I look at the total picture, and I am not extreme either way. I am for a moderate environment — a blend of ecology and economics. Let's not sacrifice one for the other. The farthest thing from my mind is the desecration of Jackson Hole. What we need is quality through constraints on development," he says.



Dear Friends,

Readers often ask us how a small band of three editors manages to gather all the stories necessary to fill the pages of *High Country News*. We tried just about everything in this issue, and it offers a typical example of our news gathering techniques.

The cover story on the Northern Cheyenne was one Marjane stumbled onto while traveling in Montana on a different assignment. Personal contacts led her to the sources of information.

We try to get one of us out on the road at least every other week and still keep the office covered. Generous contributions from readers to the tax-deductible High Country News Research Fund are sometimes used to help cover staff travel expenses (five cents a mile) while on assignment. We usually travel by car and stay with friends or camp out.

The story on the Challis impact statement was prepared from the office. The Bureau of Land Management sent us a copy of the statement and Bruce reviewed it. To round out the article, he relied on Idaho newspaper clippings and a few long distance phone calls.

Our office subscribes to more than 90 papers and magazines from around the region to help us keep abreast. We also depend on readers sending us clippings of articles from the publications they read.

The article on the reasons behind the failure of proposition 15 in California is a good example of an article that would have been impossible (that is, very costly) to do without reader support. A reader in California, Dorothy Nice, clips the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* for us every day. Sally Forbes of Sheridan, who keeps a close watch on nuclear power development for us, sent some other clippings.

Joan pulled together the clips and information from *Not Man Apart* and a few other publications to complete the story. She made phone calls to find out about parallel events in Montana and Colorado. More information came when Ed Dobson, who has been active in the Montana initiative effort, stopped by our office for a visit.

This issue centerspread was furnished by another HCN reader, Jake Kittle. We've been following Jake's

solar house-raising with great interest, and when he sent us the photos we'd been begging for, we decided to share them with all our readers.

The story on gasification by Randall Cox was done on a freelance basis. Randy has been following the WYOSNGAS development for the past year. Because Randy works for a group which opposed the project, we contacted Texaco for a response.

The back page portrait is a joint effort of Mary Inman of Jackson, Wyo., and Bruce. Mary conducted the interview and took the photo. She wrote up a draft of the article and sent it to our office. Bruce took Mary's work, added some information from our office files and did the final writing and editing. Mary is another writer we've been able to help support through the HCN Research Fund.

So that's the story. Most issues fall together semi-miraculously as deadline time nears — with more than a little help from our friends.

But keep an eye on us. Sometimes we miss the local perspective on issues and need some guidance so don't hesitate to scold us a little.

—the editors

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