

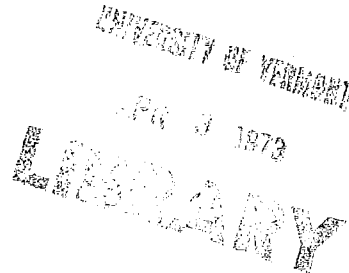
VERMONT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

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AGENCY PROPOSES RECYCLING PLAN

The Agency of Environmental Conservation and the Senate Natural Resources Committee have detailed a comprehensive recycling plan which calls for a state-wide system of solid waste separation, disposal and reclamation. The Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery Plan is the result of a three-year effort.

The plan is based on a concept of domestic, commercial, and industrial source separation of wastes. There seems to be some doubt among lawmakers studying the plan whether this would be possible.

To implement the system twenty regional collection centers would be set up to further separate wastes. Waste suitable for reclamation would be sent to one of four recycling centers while uneconomic waste would be sent to one of twelve regional landfills.

The recycling centers would be located in Chittenden County, Rutland, Springfield and St. Johnsbury. The regional collection and transfer stations would be located within twelve miles of any Vermont resident.

At a meeting early this month in Montpelier, most town officials agreed with the overall concept of the proposal. Several of the officials, however, pointed to their present solid waste problems, and called on the state to designate regional landfills immediately.

SALMON URGES NATIONAL LAND POLICY

Governor Salmon, speaking at the National Governors' Conference, urged other states and the federal government to develop a National Land Use Policy. Salmon told his fellow governors that Vermont residents realized that unrestricted expansion of recreation related development was not the answer to the state's economic problems. Salmon said that Vermont's environmental legislation, Act 250, would "one day prove as significant a public document as Vermont's constitution."

ANY LOT UNDER TEN ACRES NEEDS PERMIT
UNDER NEWEST SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

New permanent subdivision regulations, effective March 5, require a permit from the Protection Division of the Environmental Agency before any lot under ten acres is sold or developed. An earlier draft called for the permit showing the soil's ability to handle sewage only if two or more parcels of land were created by the subdivision. Originally the regulations applied when three or more lots were involved.

A hearing in early February brought almost unanimous backing for the version of the regulations offered by Environmental Secretary Martin L. Johnson. It eases testing procedures somewhat with percolation tests mandatory only on lots under three acres. Data from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service is adequate for parcels three to ten acres. No permit is required for lots on which the owner waives his rights to any development requiring plumbing.

Subdivision regulations were first issued three years ago by the Health Department to control developments which were creating water pollution and other health hazards. Controversial amendments were made on an emergency basis last November in an attempt to prevent a growing trend to sell lots over ten acres which were often redivided without review of sewage capacity.

Redivision is covered under the regulations just adopted. Control of lots over ten acres will be handled by amendments to Act 250 and a proposed law to license septic tank installation.

TOWNS ACT ON ZONING AT MARCH MEETING

The following towns took action on zoning regulations at their March town meetings:
(List not complete at press time)

ADOPTED PERMANENT REGULATIONS

- Addison (Readopted)
- Dorset
- Berlin
- Landgrove (Readopted)
- Northfield (Interim)
- Wallingford
- Waterbury
- W. Windsor
- Underhill (New Regulations)

REJECTED

- Fairfax
- Lincoln
- Ripton
- Woodford (2nd time)
- Williamstown

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For public hearing information and status reports on important environmental legislation call 223-2320.

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GRANITE INDUSTRY CONTROLS POLLUTION

The granite industry is the leading mineral industry in the state of Vermont. In excess of 100 firms are engaged in quarrying, processing granite, or in furnishing services to the industry.

Nearly all of the stone quarried in the state now comes from a few quarries in the Graniteville-Websterville area of Barre Town. Since granite processing is, in part, a wet processing procedure, this concentration of industry resulted in a major pollution problem in the area of Barre Town and Barre City. For many years it has been the custom of the granite industry to discharge the combined waste water into the nearest stream.

In 1958, the Water Resources Department initiated a study of the waste characteristics of the entire industry. It was immediately apparent that stream damage had been caused by the discharge. Desirable trout species had declined because a silt layer had covered the gravel spawning areas: aquatic plants and insects were practically non-existent because extreme turbidity had severely reduced sunlight penetration, and abrasive particles in the waste discharge had weakened the remaining fish population as a result of gill "scouring". The granite industry was warned that pollution abatement would be required.

The initial design criteria for abatement facilities resulted in the construction of settling lagoons, but it was soon evident that these lagoons could not alone solve the total waste problem. In 1969, the Department of Water Resources, the University of Vermont, and the Barre Granite Association launched a research project with the overall purpose of producing a liquid effluent suitable for discharge into the waters of the state; it was also hoped that a suitable by-product use for granite waste sludge would be discovered.

From laboratory tests performed at the University of Vermont, a design concept was adopted for the development of a tank where effluent from the lagoons could be pumped and chemically treated. The granite processing firm of Nativi & Son of Barre was selected as the site for a pilot plant to test the new method of treating granite waste.

Excellent results obtained from the pilot plant indicated that an effluent of sufficient purity could be obtained to permit the reuse of the water in the processing operation. After drying in the lagoons for several months, the sludge could be easily handled by standard equipment and used as dry fill. Since most of the granite plants purchased city water for plant processing use, an extensive program of water recycling in the granite industry would greatly reduce demands on the hard-pressed Barre water system.

After 15 years of experimenting with various treatment methods, the granite industry finally had a successful waste treatment process that could meet all the standards set forth by the State Water Resources Department. Today, nearly half of the firms, including the largest, Rock of Ages, have installed new equipment and are in compliance with State regulations; the remaining firms are well on the way to meeting the August 1973 deadline.

LEGISLATIVE LOG

BILLS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR...
NUMBER/SPONSOR

- H-19 Classifies as "B" waters all waters not used exclusively for public water supply prior to July 1, 1971.
- H-108 Extends time for zoning ordinances to conform to provisions of Municipal Planning and Development Act.
- H-216 Provides on a yearly basis for an extension of up to three years of interim zoning regulations. Interim zoning can now last a total of five years.

NEW BILLS

	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>
S-84 Smith	Would extend regulatory authority of <u>Traffic Committee</u> , (consisting of the Commissioners of Highway, Public Safety, and Motor Vehicles), with respect to limited access highways, parking places, rest and picnic areas along such highways and require that traffic control signs conform to certain federal regulations.	Highway Traf.
S-94 Gibb	Amends state limitations on awards for <u>water pollution abatement</u> to allow increased federal assistance.	Nat. Res.
S-98 Bud. & Man.	Transfers all matters relating to <u>registration</u> and operation of <u>snowmobiles</u> and motorboats to Department of <u>Fish and Game</u> .	Nat. Res.
S-99 Nat. Res.	Authorizes a Plan for comprehensive <u>state-wide system</u> of management, storage, collection, transport, separation, processing and disposition of <u>solid waste</u> and would promote the <u>recycling</u> or <u>recovery</u> of solid waste products.	Nat. Res.
S-101 Westphal	<u>Eliminates regulatory power</u> of Commissioner of <u>Public Safety</u> concerning noise levels of snowmobiles. <u>Eliminates</u> requirement for <u>permission</u> to travel over <u>private property</u> , requires that state property be posted to prohibit use by snowmobiles and provides money to establish snowmobile trails.	Nat. Res.
S-102 Alden	To <u>prohibit surface mining</u> of copper in the state.	Nat. Res.
H-279 Steventon	Transfers management authority for lakes and ponds from Water Resources to Environmental Conservation.	Govt. Oper.
H-281 Graf	<u>Restricts building near highways</u> and requires off street parking in municipal planning.	Mun. Corp.
H-282 Graf	Regulates development to control soil erosion.	Nat. Res.
H-285 Zampieri	Provides that unless a municipality has created a <u>planning commission</u> and adopted development by-laws for implementation by January 1, 1975, the <u>Agency of Development and Community Affairs</u> will <u>perform</u> that <u>function</u> for the municipality.	Govt. Oper.

<u>NUMBER/SPONSOR</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>
H-298 Steventon	Requires licensing of artesian well drillers and creates standards for protection of public.	Govt. Oper.
H-320 Zampieri	Permits <u>people over 12 to operate snowmobiles</u> on public highways, permits selectmen to <u>open highways</u> for snowmobile travel, divides registration fees between the Department of Public Safety and the Agency of Environmental Conservation.	Highway
H-322 Steventon	Provides for deferred <u>property tax</u> to be collected upon <u>change of use of land to more intensive use</u> with graduated rate based on intensity. Tax revenue to be used by towns to benefit owners of open land.	Ways & Means

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDS LAND PLAN IN BILL FORM

Vermont's proposed Land Capability and Development Plan was sent out of the House Natural Resources Committee with a 8-1 favorable vote. The plan, now designated H-326, is only slightly altered from the bill Jonathan Brownell originally wrote for the committee in January.

Before the House committee received the plan it was considered by a special committee voted by the house to advise the Natural Resources Committee. The special panel approved a plan written by Rep. John Meaker of Waterbury. That plan would have narrowed the scope of the Act 250 planning process considerably.

The House Natural Resources Committee, however, did not accept the recommendation of the special committee and the plan that will go before the full House contains most of the provisions of the document approved by the Environmental Board and Governor Davis. Natural Resources Committee Chairman Royal Cutts expects the plan to pass the House General Assembly this year.

LEGISLATORS STUDY POLLUTION PERMIT CHANGES

The Senate Natural Resources Committee is studying a bill to amend Vermont's water pollution control law so the state can administer the federal permit system established by last year's federal water pollution control act.

One of the major changes necessary to make Vermont's law consistent with the federal law is a requirement that a permit holder meet effluent standards or water quality standards, whichever are the more stringent. Vermont does not now have effluent standards, which measure the amount of wastes discharged. Its permits are based on water quality standards, which measure the amount of pollution in the water.

Also required are permits for users of municipal sewage systems whose discharges might have substantial effect on those systems. No permits are needed to discharge into municipal systems now. Industries and hospitals might be among those affected.

JACKSON HEADS ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

Governor Thomas P. Salmon has chosen Schuyler Jackson as Chairman of the Environmental Board. Jackson, Assistant Secretary of Environmental Conservation for two years, lives in Waitsfield. He has a law degree from Harvard and headed the Division of Housing and Urban Renewal in New Jersey before coming to Vermont. He replaces Benjamin Partridge, who wore two hats as Director of State Planning and Board Chairman. Partridge is now part-time legal adviser to the Windham County Regional Planning and Development Commission.

Renamed to their seats on the 9-member Environmental Board were Mrs. Margaret Garland and John Veller. Mrs. Garland of Burlington is president of the Vermont League of Women Voters and a member of the Vermont Natural Resources Council Board. Veller is an East Dover real estate broker.

Two realtors were picked by Gov. Salmon to fill the remaining vacant seats. Leo Connor of Bridport replaces Killington ski area president Preston L. Smith. Connor is a former deputy agriculture commissioner and ran for lieutenant governor last year. Stephen Wheelock of Lyndonville takes over for John Page, a Bennington County extension agent. Wheelock is president of the Vermont Association of Realtor Boards.

17 DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS NAMED

Seventeen of the twenty-four seats on District Environmental Commissions have been filled by Governor Salmon. The remaining terms on the 3-member boards expire in 1977.

District I, Rutland County: Judson Lyon of Belmont, Chairman, and Richard F. Sullivan of Rutland.

District II, Windham County and southern Windsor County: Peter Zilliacus of Brattleboro, Chairman, and Earl Howe of Wilmington.

District III, northern Windsor and southern Orange Counties: Harry H. Cooley of Randolph Center, Chairman, Alice Flannery of Norwich, and Rose Fucci of White River Junction.

District IV, Chittenden and Addison Counties: James J. McNamara of Burlington, Chairman, and Mrs. Wallace Anderson of Middlebury.

District V, Lamoille, Washington, and part of Orange Counties: A. John Holden of Montpelier, Chairman, and Gerald J. Kirchner of Stowe.

District VI, Franklin and Grand Isle Counties: Ronald Killburn of Swanton, Chairman, and Mrs. Francis Pelkey of Highgate.

District VII, Caledonia, Orleans, and Essex Counties: Frank A. Curran of Newport, Chairman, and Catherine Beattie of Danville.

District VIII, Bennington County: Sue Burton Tenner of Manchester Center, Chairman, and Gerald Cornell of Bennington.

TWO APPOINTED TO BOARDS

Thomas S. Conlon, a lawyer with a Burlington firm, begins a six-year term on the Water Resources Board this month. He replaces Walton Elliott, former Glen Ellen ski area owner. Michael A. DeBonis of Poultney was appointed to another six-year term on the Forests and Parks Board.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS DURING FEBRUARY INCLUDED...

RUTLAND - The City Planning Commission joined by local citizens and adjacent landowners will appeal the district commission's approval of a 200,000 sq. ft. shopping center to be located on a 10 acre field on the Mendon Mountain Road. The appeal, which will be taken to the State Environmental Board, will be based on a number of factors not the least being the probable pollution of the brooks in the area.

BARRE - More than 100,000 acres of forest and meadow land in 45 central Vermont towns is likely to be developed into residential and vacation homesites in the next 20 years. A four month survey of the plans of over 200 large landowners by Times-Argus reporter, Steve McLeod, indicates that development will continue to be most pronounced around ski areas although it will spread to nearby towns such as Duxbury, which is halfway between the skiing towns of Stowe and Warren.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CONN. - Residents of this affluent county have been receiving long distance calls from Vermont by complete strangers trying to get them to invest in Vermont land. The calls, which come late in the evening, are apparently from representatives of land syndicates or vacation housing developments.

MONTPELIER - The Vermont Supreme Court has ruled that loosely drawn zoning ordinances are unconstitutional. A Chittenden County Court decision which invalidated parts of the Town of Westford's zoning ordinance as too general was upheld by the State's highest court. The opinion states that zoning ordinances must clearly spell out the standards upon which they are based and specify how exemptions are to be granted.

STOWE - The Environmental Board overturned a district commission's approval of Village on the Green for Stowe's Mountain Road. The decision had been appealed by Stowe selectmen, the town Planning Commission and adjacent property owners. The Board denied the permit on aesthetic grounds as well as indications the complex could cause water pollution and highway congestion.

CHESTER - The Chester Planning Commission decided by a razor thin margin that a proposed 350 unit vacation home development for Steadman Mountain did not conform to the town plan. Unless more information is obtained by the Commission, the developer would have little chance of obtaining approval by the District Commission.

LAKE CHAMPLAIN - A National magazine catering to skin divers has called the Lake one of the most exciting places to explore Early American History found anywhere in the country because of the hundreds of wrecks that have taken place on the Lake over the last two centuries, and the uncommercialized character of the area.

MIDDLEBURY - Among the most encouraging pointers to progress in Addison County is a status report by the Regional Planning Commission showing that 17 of the 21 towns that are members of the regional group have adopted comprehensive plans for orderly development. In addition, two more towns have plans drawn up for consideration by the voters.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT ASKS

COMMENTS ON ACTION PLAN

The State Highway Department wants comments on the current draft of its Highway Action Plan by April 1. The Action Plan organizes in one document the numerous federal aid highway planning procedures which try to ensure that social, economic, and environmental factors are fully considered.

Several Vermont citizen groups have expressed concern that the impact of new highways has not been sufficiently considered in the past. Last June U.S. Circuit Court Judge James Oakes ruled in a suit brought by the Conservation Society of Southern Vermont that the Highway Department must file environmental impact statements before beginning new construction on Route 7.

The procedures described in the Action Plan, which is required by the Federal Highway Administration, include complying with the National Environmental Policy Act and the state's Act 250. One innovation is a numerical point system to help weigh the impacts of alternate routes. On a 10-point scale, a rating of 7-9 would mean minimum adverse effects, 4-6 moderate effects, and under 3 severe effects.

The Plan notes times at which public participation is requested. It suggests a public involvement committee to work with the Highway Department if a town wishes. It also calls for "early access to project information by a wide range of persons."

"The Highway Department hopes to encourage citizens to take part in highway planning before a stake is driven in someone's yard," according to R.J. Nicholls, highway planning engineer. Although governmental agencies have been approached for input, environmental groups and the public at large haven't seen much of the Action Plan to date.

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