

Vermont Environmental Report

VNRC Annual Meeting September 8 Darrow to Keynote Farm Theme

Agricultural statistics show Vermont losing 73,000 acres of farmland per year — 200 acres per day. We have only 4,000 farms in the state today as opposed to 19,000 in 1949. Farming in Vermont is at a critical juncture. The present circumstances and the future prospects for Vermont farms is the topic for a panel discussion at VNRC's Annual Meeting, September 8.

The theme "The Vermont Farm: An Endangered Species?" will be addressed in several ways throughout the day. In the morning, VNRC members will be able to choose among five field trips. One of the trips will be a tour of two typical family farms in the Woodstock area led by Windsor County Extension Agent, Bill Sumner.

The other field trips include:

- The White River National Fish Hatchery at Bethel
- Outdoor Photography Workshop at the Vermont Institute for Natural Science in Woodstock
- The Appalachian Trail Rediscovered at Kent Pond Sherburne
- Windsor Minerals Tour near Ludlow

Field trip leaders have made contingency plans in case of rain, so people are urged not to be put off by threatening skies. For late arrivals there will be a back-up film program at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science headquarters in Woodstock. The Vermont classic "The Last Stand Farmer" will be among the films shown.

Everyone will meet back at the Kedron Valley Inn in South Woodstock about 11:45. A home-cooked buffet will be served or members may choose to bring their own picnic lunches. Beverages will be available from the Inn.

At 1:45 there will be a brief report on current Council activities and the election of new board members. The panel discussion will follow with William Darrow, Commissioner of Agriculture, as keynote speaker. Panelists will be: Richard Carbin, Director of the Ottauquechee Regional Planning and Development Commission; Robert

Kinsey, a Craftsbury dairy farmer and member of the Vermont House Agriculture Committee; Mark Lapping, Assistant Director of UVM's Environmental Studies Program; and Deacy Leonard, Executive Secretary of the Vermont State Farm Bureau. The meeting is open to the public and those attending will have an opportunity to question the panelists.

A map locating the field trips and a registration form are on page 6 of this issue of the VER.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Woodstock on September 8.



VNRC's annual meeting once again signals the time to fill the vacancies on our Board of Directors. On the following pages are the biographies and personal statements of each of the candidates.

The term of office for a director is three years. Of the 22 board members, 7 have terms which expire this year. Five of these will be elected "At Large" from all classes of membership, while 2 of the vacancies will be filled from nominations by organizational members, as dictated by the by-laws.

Candidates

At Large

MAURICE D. ARNOLD (Whiting)

Maurice D. "Red" Arnold, land management consultant, retired last year from the Interior Department after a varied career. An executive, planner, innovator, he helped change national policies in highway construction, flood control, flood plain programming, land protection, and critical area preservation. A writer and editor with a master's degree in economics and public administration, he now counsels several organizations, including the National Academy of Sciences, EPA, and the Forest Service. He is a director of the New England Natural Resources Center, the Center for Natural Areas, and a supervisor of the Otter Creek Conservation District.

(Statement) VNRC must continue to help us all focus on underlying policies and practices which threaten Vermont's rural character and competent governments. It quite properly has a role as tailor of institutional arrangements which deflect these threats. A partial list of future agenda items includes: (1) improve management and protection of private forest lands; (2) radically increase the profitability of farming; (3) create food and fiber reserves to protect producing lands from development, without adding regulations; (4) adopt tax and substantive policies which channel future development to existing settlements; (5) modify or eliminate some of the myriad of governmental incentives for sprawl, string development and grossly unwise resource use; (6) tailor utility and governmental service delivery to reinforce, not contravene, settlement and resource goals; and (7) introduce effective state economic planning and simultaneously dismantle most economic development activities and subsidies, to guide us and help our citizens and businesses enjoy stable economic health.

I hope to voice these concerns to colleagues, as appropriate, and share in devising reasonable solutions which are adoptable and do not threaten political leaders and our membership. I will also try to help VNRC increase public awareness and political will.

NORMAN G. BITTERMAN (Middlesex)

Norman Bitterman currently manages his tree farm in Middlesex. He spent 23 years with the Air Force both in uniform and as a civilian. Involved mainly in flight test engineering and technical planning, his positions at various bases included: Technical Director of Operations, Technical Director and Director of Test Engineering, Technical Director of Long Range Planning, Science Advisor, Deputy Chief of Staff, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. For several years the Executive Director of a citizen-supported area-wide planning and development agency for Southern Illinois, he coordinated

a University-wide social and economic study of Southern Illinois (published) and was editor of a series of studies on basic resources. He is a member of the Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and American Forestry Association.

(Statement) We have lived in four states because of employment opportunities, however, we voluntarily moved to Vermont to enjoy the pleasures offered in this State. Here the citizens have expressed themselves in favor of clean air and water, green pastures and trees, and roadsides unencumbered by billboards and bottles. We now want to help keep Vermont the leader in assuring that our renewable resources continue to be renewed and other assets wisely used.

As a tree farmer I am particularly interested in protecting this growing resource for future generations. Our need for wood is increasing, particularly the demand for wood as energy. But maybe even more importantly, we need to insure that there are always woods to enjoy, both in their wilderness state and for developed recreation. We must insist that despite the current high demands for wood, our forests will always be there for the future.

WILLIAM H. EDDY, JR. (West Burke)

William Eddy is an incumbent VNRC Board member and sits on the Communications Advisory Committee. He is a documentary film maker, author, and lecturer on international environmental affairs who received his education at Williams College and Harvard University. He has been President of Environmental Concerns International, Inc.; International Cooperation Specialist for the U.S. National Park Service; and a lecturer in Environmental Studies at the University of Vermont. He has done environmental education planning in Africa and India in conjunction with the New York Zoological Society, the Conservation Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation, and the U.S. National Park Service.

(Statement) Over the past three years on the Council I have been particularly interested in helping to develop a more effective media program. I have worked with the VER staff and on the cooperative production of the film on wood energy for VNRC and the Forestry Department.

My concern in the coming years is to help increase public awareness of the importance of saving agricultural land in Vermont as the most practical way to preserve less easily defined environmental and aesthetic qualities.

MILTON POTASH (Burlington)

Milton Potash is an incumbent VNRC Board member. He received his Ph.D. from Cornell, where he majored in Population Ecology and studied Limnology (fresh water ecology).

Since 1951 he has been a member of the Zoology Department at UVM. His main responsibilities include

teaching, research, and supervision of graduate students. Courses he teaches are environmentally oriented, such as Biology of Running Waters. His research work since 1964 has concentrated on Lake Champlain water quality and, most recently, wetlands ecology, with over 20 publications resulting. He holds membership in several ecologically-oriented professional societies. He has served on several committees of the American Water Resources Association and was elected to their Board of Directors by the members from New England.

(Statement) My ecological interests and concerns are diverse, ranging from water pollution to overpopulation problems. My greatest concern and involvement has been with water problems. As a VNRC representative and a professional with some expertise in practical problems, I have worked to fight the Lake Champlain Seaway and the construction of a dam on the Richelieu River, which would regulate the water level of Lake Champlain. I have supported legislation to ban phosphate detergents and to protect the wetlands of the State. My efforts have been directed toward providing information and helping to establish positions for the VNRC Board of Directors, and in testifying repeatedly before the House and Senate Natural Resources Committees.

Since one cannot separate aquatic and terrestrial environments, my concerns include such topics as pollution of underground water sources and the effect of clear-cutting on the increase of nutrients in a watershed.

These concerns inescapably extend to land-use planning and management. Our latest concern deals with energy and I would like VNRC to carry out intensive studies which result in formulating a program dealing with energy production, conservation and management.

CARL REIDEL (North Ferrisburg)

Carl Reidel is the Sanders Professor of Environmental Studies and Forest Policy, and Director of the Environmental Program at the University of Vermont. He is currently the President of the American Forestry Association, and a former Director and Vice Chairman of VNRC. A registered forester in Vermont, he holds a B.S. and Ph.D. in forestry from the University of Minnesota, and an M.P.A. from Harvard. He has been a board member of the Lake Champlain Committee and the Conservation Society of Southern Vermont.

(Statement) As a member of the VNRC Board of Directors I would continue to advocate VNRC's roles in two broad areas. First, as the only statewide environmental organization primarily concerned with Vermont's land resources, VNRC has a critical role in building a broad constituency for environmental policy. Perhaps the most serious obstacle to environmental protection today is the fragmentation of the environmental movement into narrow special interest groups. VNRC must compass the values and concerns of our citizens for natural resources development as well as for protection and preservation; to enhance Vermont's ability to

build a future within the capability of its natural resources — for food, fiber, water, and scenic amenities.

Second, I am convinced that VNRC must continue to focus its efforts on problems of land use. That is, regardless of the environmental issue — wetlands protection, agriculture, forestry, energy, or development — the ultimate issue is how we use land. We must be at the forefront of efforts to ensure sound use of our land resources, seeking to protect the rights of our citizens while recognizing the natural limits of the land to provide the goods and services essential to our society in the future.



PATRICIA STETSON TRIPP (Passumpsic)

Patricia Tripp grew up in rural Connecticut, attended school in Maryland and college in Virginia. She studied design in France and Rhode Island; thereafter, pursued a career of magazine art direction in New York City for 7 years. While in college, her family moved to Vermont. In 1973, she and her husband bought a farm in the Northeast Kingdom. In 1974, she was a founder of Citizens for Safe Energy, which was organized to provide better information on energy, with an emphasis on education and safety. Later that year, she became a Director of the Connecticut River Watershed Council. She and her family are involved in a small-scale horse and sheep breeding operation.

(Statement) I am extremely concerned with the dwindling acreage of farmland. Increasing energy costs, as well as the declining water tables in western farmlands that depend on irrigation, will create a greater need for regional independence. This independence, of course, will be out of the question for Vermont, should a major proportion of our farmlands be no longer available for production.

Another area in which I feel work is desperately needed is that of wilderness areas. Woodland preservation is more important than ever right now with the increased pressure to abuse or over-use woodland as an energy resource.

Among my remaining immediate concerns is that of maintaining a clean environment amidst the real need for more jobs. How do we retain or invite industries, while keeping up our standards?

There seems to be a tendency for more rural states to be compromised because of their isolation and dispersed population. Whether these areas are called upon to be sites for waste storage or sites of industries that have potential health hazards, it seems to me unfair. I see the existence of a strong VNRC as one good way to let it be known that Vermont will not be compromised.

FRANK TROST (Greensboro)

Frank Trost was raised and educated in New York. After receiving his B.S. in Ceramic Engineering at the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, he did graduate work in Business at Rutgers and the University of Cincinnati.

For the past 30 years he has been employed by NL Industries, which manufactures and sells refractory materials. At the time of his retirement he was responsible for the operation of a number of domestic and international profit centers. During his tenure, NL developed model land-reclaiming methods which are still being used by major strip-mining operations. His work involved close working relationships with environmental groups in Kentucky, Ohio, Alabama and Georgia.

His international business experience involved the establishment of technology sale centers in western and eastern Europe, Japan and the Middle East. Currently part of a consulting core for NL Industries, he specializes in international ventures.

(Statement) Since moving to Greensboro in 1977, I have spent a considerable amount of time working on improvements to benefit the community in the field of agriculture and forestry. I believe that my interests and contributions in these areas, as well as my background in business, will be of value to the Council.

I am convinced that feed-lot-beef-production could be a profitable and widespread Vermont industry. Currently we are developing programs with various types of beef producing breeds in the state. I have established marketing ties in Japan and expect to sell beef there this year. This new industry may be particularly suited to the needs and resources of rural Vermont low income families. A further advantage is that it can be practiced organically.

I have applied for patents for several agricultural devices: a) grain seed preparation leading to early maturation and harvesting; b) a new non-nitrite smoking process for pork products and c) the design of self-contained fire-retarding agents and equipment for barns and other farm building systems. I have also tried several promising methods of reclaiming woodlands from softwood to hardwood tree varieties. I see these and many other opportunities as contributions to the community in which we all live.

JOHN VON BEHREN (Worcester)

John von Behren is an incumbent VNRC Board member and sits on the Forest Policy and Planning Committee. He holds a B.S. from Cornell and is presently Executive Director of a non-profit industrial development corporation called ABLE (Association to Boost Lamoille Enterprises, Inc.). Previously, he was Assistant Director of the Lamoille County Development Council, the regional planning commission for that area of the state. Through his work in economic development planning, he has come to appreciate the need for good land-use planning and the need for new community tools to carry out that planning.

(Statement) There is a great need to stimulate employment opportunities for Vermonters. The impact of high unemployment on the local economy, decay of social fabric, loss of self-esteem and tax dollars, is staggering. It is imperative, however, that Vermont's economic development take place in an environmentally sound manner, or else we will simply trade one social ill for another.

JOHN P. WIGGIN (Woodstock)

John Wiggin is a forester with the Woodstock Resort Corporation. His forestry work involves multiple-use management whereby forest products, recreation, and educational values are viewed with equal importance. With a B.A. in Anthropology/Sociology from Colgate University and a Masters of Forest Science from Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, he also directs the Woodstock Ski Touring Center every winter. He is a member of the Society of American Foresters, the New England Wildflower Society, the Eastern Professional Ski Touring Instructors, and a board member of the Ottauquechee Regional Land Trust.

(Statement) My chief environmental concerns are the maintenance of a strong economy based on Vermont's rural character. This character must be protected from unwise development and forced land use changes which degrade our valuable scenic resources. If elected, I would hope to persuade VNRC to lobby to encourage continued positive legislative action in support of agriculture and productive forest land use — including recreation. Regarding a specific policy issue, VNRC should continue to vigorously encourage government support of private land trusts as an acceptable and enforceable method of protecting undeveloped land through the acquisition of development rights.

Organizational

JEAN S. DAVIES (Pittsford) — Vermont Camping Association

Jean S. Davies is an incumbent VNRC Board member. She has been owner and Director of Camp Betsy Cox for Girls for 26 years. A graduate of Middlebury College, she has been chairman of the Vermont Ecology Course for camp counselors since its inception seven years ago. Previously a member of the local zoning commission, she now serves on the Planning Commission. She is also Secretary of the Executive Board of the New England Camping Association, New England Representative to the American Camping Association, and Chairman of the Ice Cave Project which achieved the preservation of 56 acres of land in Pittsford this past year. She has published articles in the *Christian Science Monitor* and various magazines.

(Statement) I am very concerned about the vanishing Vermont farm situation becoming worse because of short-sighted taxation policies. The legislature needs to focus strongly not only on this issue, but also

on the assistance of open lands and forest needs through tax incentives. To achieve the necessary legislation locally and on the state level, it is necessary to educate Vermonters in the appreciation of our environment, a concern which is the focus of much of my off-season work.

It seems to me that modern man should be able to devise a non-water borne yet efficient means of disposing of sewage and wastes — and one that the average citizen can afford. This would help alleviate our wasteful use of costly purified water to flush toilets, make our streams more potable, and numerous other far-reaching benefits. Although I have no personal answer to this problem, I feel that it is within our scientific capabilities to advance to better systems than the present one.

I believe that the channels of communication between the VNRC and its member organizations might be improved for the benefit of all. Awareness of the concerns of all its members will enable VNRC to take more appropriate action. Also, keeping VNRC work in the public eye through various media is necessary for membership support and legislative effectiveness.

ROBERT KLEIN — The Nature Conservancy

Robert Klein is currently Vermont Field Director of The Nature Conservancy. After receiving a B.A. from Brandeis, and a Masters Degree in Environmental Management from Duke University, he was, for a short time, Assistant Director of the (Martha's) Vineyard Conservancy Society. He has worked as a consultant for the Maine Critical Areas Project, taught in UVM's Environmental Program, and was Director of VNRC's Natural Areas Project, Phases II and III.

(Statement) My principal interest is land preservation. I think the Council can and should take a lead in devising innovative programs for the preservation of agricultural and forest land. As a Board member, I would ask the Council to explore the options in this area, and take a firm but persuasive position. This might include lobbying for legislative mandates for government action, or creating a private land-owning trust capable of acquiring the development rights in agriculture and forestry properties. I feel that there has been enough talk about such things, and that the time to act has come.

JOHN S. MASLACK (Rutland) - The Green Mountain Chapter of the American Forestry Association

John Maslack is an active consulting forester who worked for the U.S. Forest Service, 1936-1973. Involved in timber management and National Forest administration in Alaska, California, and the Rocky Mt. region, he spent 20 years in the Green Mountain National Forest as a District Ranger and Staff Assistant to the Forest Supervisor before retiring in 1973. With a B.S. in Forestry from the University of Georgia, he is a member of the Society of American Foresters, and a former

member of the VNRC Board of Directors.

(Statement) For the past twenty-five years I have realized the need of present and future citizens to understand their environment — or lose it without a struggle. They are uneducated. Most of the manipulation of natural resources has been defaulted to a minor segment. Their interests vary from complete preservation to total exploitation. To understand the importance of renewable and non-renewable resources, citizens must be informed through education.

We must obtain natural resource education for the elementary schools and continue some compulsory courses at the secondary level. Legislation is probably needed to move the inert Board and Department of Education towards compulsory environmental subjects statewide. Some teachers will need supplemental courses and teacher colleges will need some changes. Whether or not I am elected, public environmental education is a laudable proposition for VNRC and in keeping with the Council's philosophy.

Hit-or-miss conservation courses offered at times by agencies and associations have reached only a tiny portion of public students. The majority of elementary and secondary students are denied the obligation of the public school system to provide them with an understanding of their environment — an understanding that can lead to a fuller, involved life.

MICHAEL M. RICHARDSON (Burlington) — Winooski Valley Park District

Michael Richardson is a Trustee and Treasurer of the Winooski Valley Park District. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from St. Michael's College, and has done graduate work at UVM. After graduation, he spent several years in Latin America working in Community Development as a Peace Corps volunteer and staff member. From 1970 to 1977 Michael lived in the southwest, involving himself in a number of environmental issues including timber management on Federal lands, Wild and Scenic Rivers legislation and Resource Development on Jicarilla Apache Reservation in northern New Mexico. Currently, he is Executive Director of the King Street Neighborhood Revitalization Corporation in Burlington.

(Statement) Today's energy shortage poses a greater threat to Vermont's environment than unregulated development did in the late '60's. At the same time, rapid growth in certain areas, especially along the lower Winooski, threatens the environmental gains made over the last decade. The VNRC should continue to defend those gains by advocating legislation to govern timber practices on private lands, to make the Public Service Board a regulatory body only, to promote regional approaches to the use of water resources and, of course, to further promote energy conservation. At the same time, the VNRC can heighten public awareness of these and other issues by presenting the environmental "facts of life" to as broad an audience as possible. □

ANNUAL MEETING: SEPTEMBER 8, 1979

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Names of other people in your party: _____

FIELD TRIPS: (Indicate first and second choice)

Choice No.

No. of People

Atop the Silo: A View of Vermont Farming Today

Meanwhile Upstream: The Bethel Fish Hatchery

Take Nothing But Pictures: Outdoor Photography

Leave Nothing But Footsteps: Appalachian Trail

Prospects for Mining: Windsor Minerals Tour

Registration is \$2.00 per person

\$ _____

12:15 buffet at The Kedron Valley
In, South Woodstock. The cost is
\$6.00 per person. There is no charge
for those who bring bag lunches.

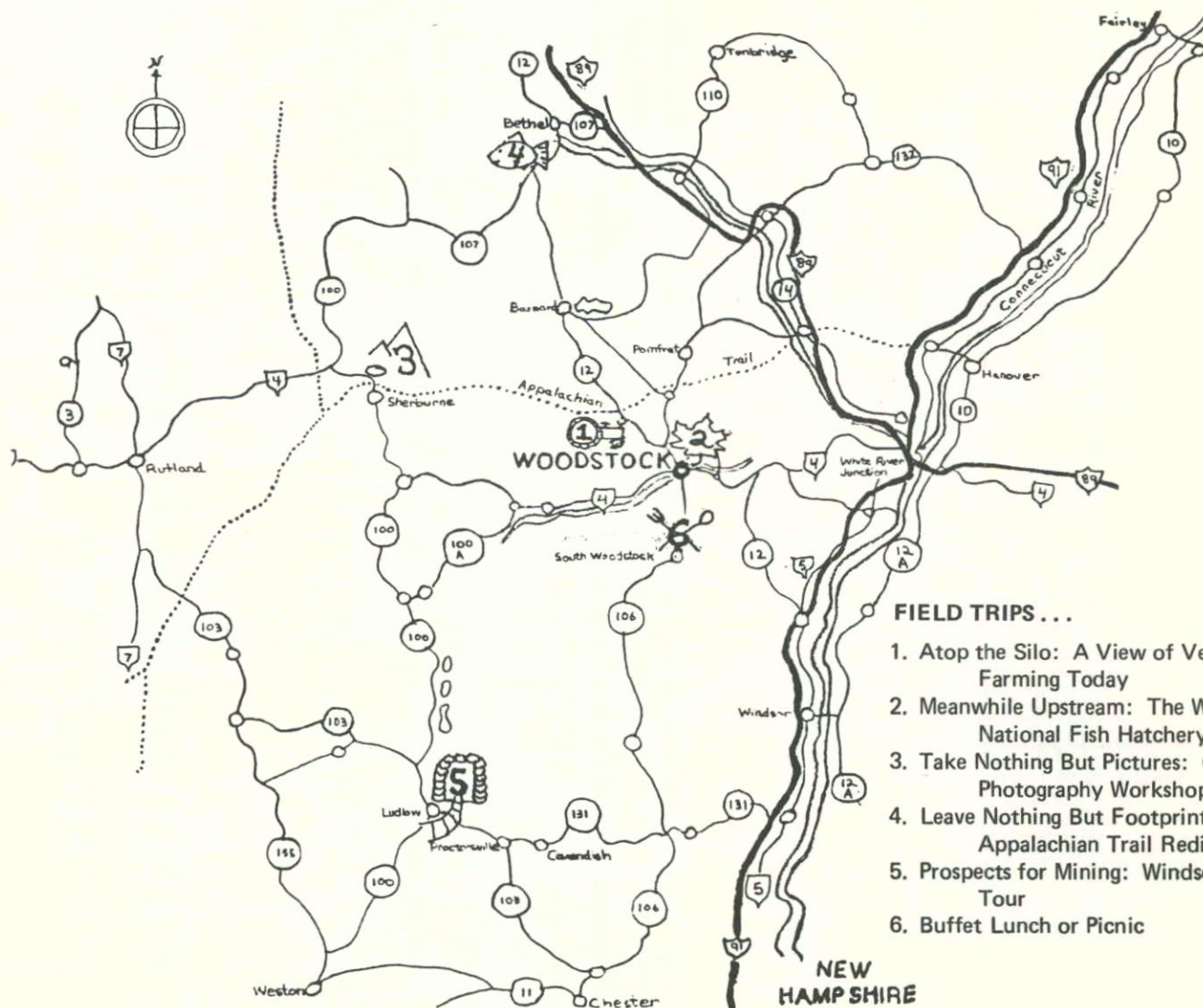
\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT

\$ _____

If you are interested in car-pooling please call VNRC, 223-2328, by August 31st. Please make checks payable to VNRC. Thank you.

Please clip and mail to VNRC, 26 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602



FIELD TRIPS...

1. Atop the Silo: A View of Vermont Farming Today
2. Meanwhile Upstream: The White River National Fish Hatchery
3. Take Nothing But Pictures: Outdoor Photography Workshop
4. Leave Nothing But Footprints: The Appalachian Trail Rediscovered
5. Prospects for Mining: Windsor Mineral Tour
6. Buffet Lunch or Picnic

Hop In!

CAR POOL . . . if you can.

VNRC is encouraging car-pooling to the Annual Meeting. If you have extra space in your car, or if you need a ride, please call the VNRC office — 223-2328 — before August 31.



Environmental Board Explores Uranium

The issue of uranium exploration, mining, and milling has not melted away with the snows of winter.

On June 21, Smith Inc., a South Londonderry, Vermont, wood products company which owns 3,800 acres stretching across Windham and Rutland counties, asked the two relevant District Environmental Commissions if an Act 250 permit would be necessary for the exploration of minerals—including uranium—on their land.

Smith's inquiry received two contradictory answers from the District Environmental co-ordinators—"yes" and "no"

It also appears that Urangesellschaft (UG), the West German mining firm which requested an Act 250 permit last December for uranium exploration, may just be waiting in the wings. The firm ostensibly gave up the pursuit of uranium in Vermont when the state Agency of Environmental Conservation denied it a permit in March.

In a letter written in April of this year to Secretary Brendan Whittaker, George Lange, Vice-President UG-USA, says, "The reason for our withdrawal is that we do not believe Act 250 is an appropriate instrument to regulate mineral exploration." Lange also states the company's "present position with regard to uranium exploration in Vermont is to maintain the private leases we have signed and to continue lease acquisition in those areas which we feel have a potential for economically minable uranium deposits." At least one of the private leases UG presently holds is with the Smith Company of South Londonderry.

The seriousness of the uranium issue and the conflicting responses from the District co-ordinators prompted the state Environmental Protection Division to request clarification of the situation from the State Environmental Board. The Smith Company also requested a ruling from the Board.

The Board had two choices: they could have made a declaratory ruling on the Smith case only, or they could have initiated a rule-making process that would cover

not only this particular case, but all future questions involving mineral exploration in Vermont.

The Board chose the latter course. The rule-making process is lengthy and involves intensive study using expert witnesses and other fact-finding methods.

The first rule-making hearing was held in Montpelier on July 10. At the hearing several issues were taken under consideration, but the question of overriding importance was—"To what extent does Act 250 have jurisdiction over the exploration of minerals, and especially of uranium?"

There seems to be some agreement among those involved in the rule-making process that exploration for non-fissionable source materials (talc, zinc, copper, etc.) should not require a permit. But uranium, some argue, is another story.

Exploration for any mineral involves many stages from aerial surveillance to taking samples of rock from the ground. Core drilling, one of the last stages in prospecting, consists of taking a "core" of rock out by boring a 1-6" hole into the ground. Sampling is used to ascertain the amount, kind, and quality of ore in an area. It is at this stage that some believe a permit should be required for uranium sampling.

Harvey Carter, attorney for the citizens group "Stop Uranium Mining" (SUM), says, "core drilling constitutes a physical change in the land and is therefore under the jurisdiction of Act 250." SUM maintains that the core drilling could "elevate radiation levels and radon content so as to endanger human health and the environment." They also warn of possible dangers to underground water supplies.

Two other groups involved in the rule-making proceedings, Conservation Society of Southern Vermont and the New England Coalition Against Nuclear Pollution, concur with SUM and are urging the Board to adopt a rule

continued on page 8

covering core drilling when the exploration is for uranium or could possibly involve uranium deposits.

Steve Sease, Land Use Administrator for the Environmental Protection Division of the Agency of Environmental Conservation, agrees with Carter and the other groups to a point. Sease says, "Act 250 already covers anything which has a physical effect on the land." But conventional exploration, such as that done in the granite industry, does not now require a permit, and Sease says, "We just don't know how different uranium exploration is. There might be a safe level of core drilling. We're waiting to learn more about uranium before we take our position to the Board."

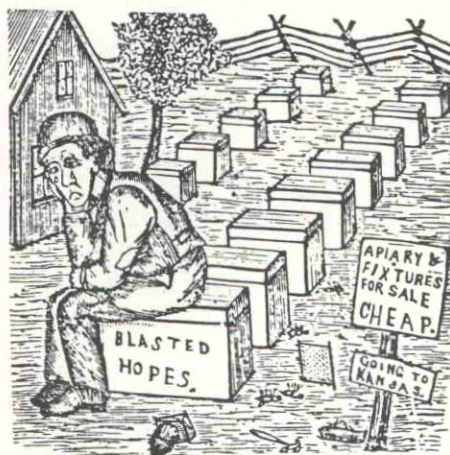
The Vermont Geological Society takes a slightly different position on exploration and, specifically, on core drilling. In a position paper written for last winter's uranium hearings, the Society stated, "In terms of environmental disruption to the land surface and biosphere, we see no difference between exploration techniques for uranium and techniques used in the exploration for other

minerals, including the drilling of water wells. The magnitude and extent of these impacts depends on the scale of the exploration program, the fragility of the area, and the care taken in site restoration." Dick Willey, President of the Society, warns, however, that while core drilling in and of itself may not present a hazard, improper abandonment of drill holes might create problems, such as radon leaking into groundwater aquifers used for drinking water."

Aside from making the distinction between uranium and other mineral exploration, and the extent to which the state should intervene in exploration, a larger question still looms. As Attorney Carter expressed it, "Can the exploratory process be separated from the larger process of mining and milling?" Or put in another way, "Is it reasonable to expect that a company which invests in uranium exploration is not also interested in mining the ore they discover?" A question raised constantly last winter is raised again this summer. □

In Short

Bees and Pesticides



The postwar pesticide era that began 35 years ago has proved especially lethal to honey bees. Their numbers have declined by 27 percent, leaving farmers scrambling to find enough hives to pollinate the 50 crops that depend upon bees and represent \$2 billion in farm income.

But this decline may seem slow in view of what is happening now. Some 20,000 bee colonies are reported to be affected by a so-called "less dangerous" formulation of the methyl parathion that has been so deadly not only to bees but also to agricultural workers. Called Penncap-M, it was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency in 1974 because it is encapsulated in microscopic pellets that protect humans but gradually release the poison onto crops.

But it turns out this doesn't make it safe for bees. Quite the contrary, the capsules are about the size of pollen grains. When bees forage for nectar and pollen they pick up the pesticide grains, too, and take them home.

Larvae and young bees that eat the stored pollen the following spring — or even as much as two years later — get a lethal dose of Penncap-M. One entomologist who has been trying for several years to warn of this new danger, Roy J. Barker, says that just a few capsules are enough to wipe out a colony of 50,000 bees.

— Audubon Magazine, July 1979

Massachusetts Waste Problems

Hazardous wastes are in the process of becoming the newest environmental issue and promises to become one of the major political areas of the 1980's. In Massachusetts alone it is estimated that some 85 percent of hazardous wastes are disposed of illegally and at least 20 communities have lost all or part of their ground water supply as a result of illegal dumping.

In connection with this, part of the hazardous waste problem in Massachusetts is due to the fact that the nearest legal dumping site is in western New York. The state now is attempting to find a dump site in Massachusetts, much to the concern of residents in the 11 targeted communities around the state.

— Massachusetts Audubon, July 1979

continued on page 9

● Canning Bottle Bills

... In Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Bottle Bill was vetoed July 21 by Governor Edward King. King claimed that the "overwhelming factor" in his decision was the possible loss of 500 jobs; a claim contrary to a recent study by his own cabinet level task force stating that the bill could create four times that many new jobs. The governors of bottle bill states also told King that the bill had "no appreciable effect on jobs" in their states.

After vetoing legislation that would have provided a 5 to 10 cent deposit on beer and carbonated beverage containers sold in Massachusetts, the Governor announced an industry-sponsored anti-litter campaign that he claimed would help provide a cleaner environment.

This conciliatory measure, however, did not appease bottle bill proponents. Mark Weber, spokesman for the Massachusetts Committee for a Bottle Bill, said, "The Governor has totally ignored the citizens of his state, a majority of state legislators, and several of his own cabinet members, who clearly support the legislation."

The bill was finally killed when the Massachusetts House voted 85-68 to sustain King's veto. The bill was 17 votes short of the two-thirds majority needed to override the Governor's veto.

Advocates of the bill do not plan to abandon their 7 year battle. They will refile the legislation for the next two years, and collect enough signatures to place the question on the ballot in Massachusetts in 1982.



Illustrations by Janet Van Fleet

... In Michigan

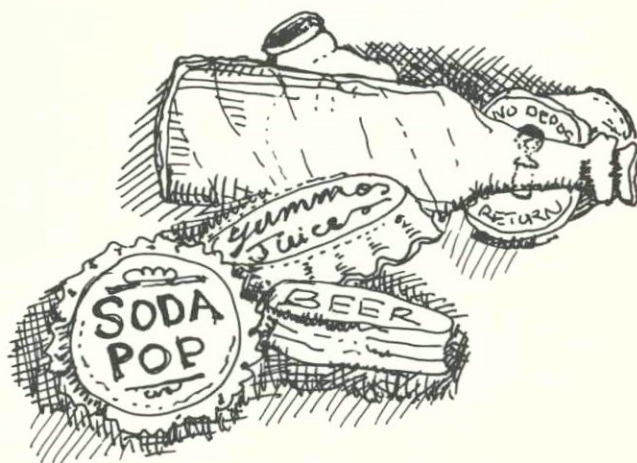
In December, the Michigan bottle bill went into effect. In spring there was a curious rise in the price of nationally distributed beers, whereas the price of non-name brand beers remained unaffected. Local environmentalists suspect a deliberate effort to discredit the bottle bill by national distributors who are the most opposed to the deposit system.

—Massachusetts Audubon, July 1979

... In Washington, D.C.

You can tell Jimmy Carter has spent little or not time in recent years in Vermont - or Maine or Oregon - states with the so-called bottle ban. Carter's special National Commission studying the litter problem submitted its report to Jimmy the other day. They said the deposit law on most bottles and cans wouldn't work. The President can get what he wants - usually - from these special National Commissions. Garbage In. Garbage Out.

—editorial from the County Courier, July 26, 1979



Recycling Conference

An all day conference on Resource Recovery in Vermont will be held on Thursday, September 13 in the Pavilion Auditorium in Montpelier, Vermont. Sponsored by the Vermont Agency of Environmental Conservation, the conference will feature two panel discussions: *Refuse to Energy—Two Projects in Vermont* and *Recycling Programs*. Registration will begin at 8:45. The Conference moderator will be Darby Bradley, legal counsel for the Vermont Natural Resources Council. For more information call Andy Rouleau at the state Solid Waste Office, 828-3395.

Georges Bank

In a brilliant end-run around oil exploiters, 20,000 square miles of Georges Bank has been proposed as a marine sanctuary. The sanctuary designation would not mean that oil cannot be removed from the bank. What it means is that fish will be considered the prime resource of this unique offshore area. □

—Massachusetts Audubon, July 1979

Congress Seesaws Over Dickey-Lincoln

The Dickey-Lincoln Hydroelectric Dam project is once again front page news. The \$1 billion dam project planned for northern Maine's St. John River Valley has been consistently contested on environmental, economic, and social grounds since its original authorization in 1965. If the dam is built, it will destroy 55 miles of the largest remaining free-flowing wilderness river in New England. Over 200 miles of prime tributaries and 88,000 acres of timberland and game habitat will be lost.

In July the project came close to being defeated in Congress, but in the funding for Dickey-Lincoln was eventually approved. The passage of more money for the dam was disappointing, but opponents see signs in voting trends which give them some measure of hope for the project's demise next year.

In mid-July the Senate voted on the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill. This bill allocated \$170,000 to the Army Corps of Engineers for a wildlife mitigation study of the Dickey-Lincoln site and constitutes approval by the Senate for the project's continuation.

An amendment introduced by Maine Senator Cohen sought to delete the funds for Dickey-Lincoln from the Energy and Water Bill. It was defeated by a narrow margin of 51-46.

When compared, however, to the 73-13 loss on a similar amendment last year, the vote on Cohen's amendment seems to signal growing opposition to Dickey-Lincoln in the Senate. The close vote and fact that two Senators, who are committed to Cohen's amendment, were absent give some hope to those who want to see a victory in the Senate next year. (Although Senator Stafford was one of the four Republicans who sided with Muskie in favor of the project, Senator Leahy continued his strong opposition against the dam.)

The passage of the Dickey-Lincoln funding in the Senate and the previous vote against it in the House, forced the bill to move on to a joint Senate-House Conference Committee. The committee voted for the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill as it had been passed in the Senate. The Bill was returned to the full House and Senate for another vote. On August 1 the House approved the bill with the Dickey-Lincoln appropriations intact.

The House Omnibus Water Resources Development Bill gives opponents another chance at bringing Dickey-Lincoln to a halt. On July 26 the House Public Works Committee voted 24-17 in favor of an amendment, introduced by Rep. Cleveland (D-New Hampshire), deauthorizing Dickey-Lincoln.

A spokeswoman from Maine Representative Olympia Snow's office commented that "the vote was highly unprecedented in the pro-public works committee. They rarely vote to stop a project." It is still too early, however, to tell how the bill will fair when it comes to the House floor in the fall.

In the meantime, Senator Cohen has prepared his own de-authorization bill, which should come before the Senate in early September.

Dickey-Lincoln observers see the dam's defeat as remote this year, but this realization has not daunted the optimism over the recent voting trends. These trends, some feel, may signal the end of the Dickey-Lincoln. □

Vermont Senatorial Split:

Even the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency contends that construction of Dickey-Lincoln will violate the Clean Water Act by lowering the water quality in the St. John River.

But by far the most important reason for scrapping Dickey-Lincoln is that the big hydro dam is totally irrelevant to the energy problem we face in New England. It would replace only 2.3 million barrels of oil a year when New England is now using 400 million barrels a year. For such a great environmental and economic cost, the dam will make a tiny dent in our energy needs.

Senator Patrick Leahy

My support for Dickey-Lincoln remained firm during this latest conflict because I continue to be confident that the project can be completed on an environmentally sound basis. If it cannot meet environmental requirements, I shall end my support for Dickey-Lincoln.

Electric power from Dickey-Lincoln can help New Englanders in our quest to reduce our dependence upon imported oil, and it can provide clear, reliable, inflation-proof electric power for our region for years to come.

Senator Robert Stafford

● VER Forges Ahead

Often during the wee hours of the morning as the last headline is put into place, we've wondered if anyone reads the **Vermont Environmental Report**. Now, we know. The response to the questionnaire of two issues ago has been encouraging and constructive. Your answers are helping us shape a new VER scheduled for September.

Out of the 112 questionnaires we received, 51% of the people have been VNRC members for five years or more. Almost everyone, 106 respondents, said the **Environmental Report** is an important part of Council membership. They read it frequently and thoroughly. 91% said they read at least half of the material in each issue.

Most people were generous in their assessments. "Clear, concise, interesting and valuable," wrote one person. "Excellent, very informative and easily understood," said another. "You're doing fine, keep it up," encouraged a third.

Our morale boosted, we went on to examine content preferences. From the list of nine subject categories, four emerged as heavy favorites: land use (81%), energy (77%), natural areas (63%), and pollution (61%).

The choice of vantage-point was evenly distributed among economic, social, political and scientific perspectives. At the same time, respondents were explicit about the geographic emphasis they expect. 87% appealed to the VER to remain narrow in focus. "Emphasize Vermont and the region" was the plea. "We can get our national and international news elsewhere, but the VER is our prime source of information about Vermont."

So, with this information gathered and our editorial ruminations over, what are our plans for the VER?

We want the publication to be both timely and comprehensive. We have recognized that, as a monthly, the VER is not capable of covering the legislative session in the same immediate fashion as a daily paper. Nor has the VER been able to report easily on events or situations which arise quickly, and which require an equally speedy response. As one irascible respondent put it, "I want Vermont news, and I want it in time to act on it!"

A weekly publication is sadly out of the question. We have neither the staff nor the financial resources to accomplish such an undertaking. Therefore we have decided to both expand and contract the VER. Here's how.

Beginning in September, the VER will have a new, larger format and will be published bi-monthly. As a supplement to this regular publication, we will begin publishing "bulletins" throughout the year which will give you fast-breaking news and other information, such as announcements of important hearings or meetings. In this way we will be able to keep the quality and depth of reporting in the VER intact while giving you additional information quickly.

Along with these changes we are planning several regular columns. "In Brief" will be dedicated to untangling, clarifying, and arguing points of environmental law in plain English. An editorial column will be a regular feature with guest editors giving us a variety of points of view. We will provide space for member organizations to report on special environmental issues and new projects. There will be interviews with naturalists, evasive politicians, humming hydrologists, farmers, fisherman, and state officials, among others. There will be special reports on such topics as mining, roads and highways, acid rain, forests, and agriculture. There will even be a science series aimed at a fuller appreciation of "nature in the raw." Amid all of this there will be, of course, news about the Berlin Mall, Burlington Electric's proposed 50 megawatt wood fired generator, lake shore development, Vermont's groundwater, and other stories we will continue to follow and report on.

We encourage you to become involved. Letters to the editor are, of course, welcome, but we also need members to help us stay well-informed. If you are aware of an issue or problem in your town or region that you feel is important and needs exposure, please let us know.

We are excited about the potential of the new VER. We hope you are too.

Thank you for your support.

RD

NEW FOREST COMMISSIONER FOR VERMONT

Leo Laferriere recently became Vermont's new Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation as James Wilkinson stepped down from the post, July 1.

Appointed by State Environmental Conservation Secretary Brendan Whittaker, Laferriere was previously general manager of a woodland management company, and Vice Chairman of the State Forest Resource Advisory Committee (FRAC). He has stated that his main tasks as commissioner will be to improve timberland management and to increase the attraction of Vermont parks.

**NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION CONFERENCE**
SEPTEMBER 28-30, 1979

*Hulbert Outdoor Education Center
Fairlee, Vermont*

"Environmental Education—Strategies for the Future," is the theme of the 13th Annual New England Regional Environmental Education Conference. Professionals and those vitally concerned with environmental education in New England will meet to discuss: What will be required of us in 15-20 years? What changes will we need to make? How can we affect the future by planning now?

Conference participants will be led through several sessions which will help them to determine what they think will be needed in the future, and to establish goal statements and indicators of success.

Other workshops planned will encompass such topics as: energy education, reading skills, the legislative process, fundraising, outdoor leadership, creating interactive displays, the arts, use of video, and natural history.

Registration deadline is September 5. For registration information, write to: NEREE Conference '79, Douglas Sherry, 14 Pearl Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602.

**Community Natural Resources Workshop
Field Trip to Upper Castleton River Watershed
Project -- August 27**

On Monday, August 27, the Vermont group of the New England Environmental Network will take a field trip to the Upper Castleton River Watershed Project. The purpose of the trip is to study the Project in conjunction with a workshop on community natural resources planning. The field trip will start at 2:00 p.m. at the West Rutland Town Hall and will be conducted by officials from the Town, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. The field trip will be followed by a picnic supper (bring your own) at VINS headquarters on Church Hill Road, in Woodstock. At 7:30 p.m. a progress report on community natural resources planning will be presented.

For further information call VNRC at 223-2328, VINS at 457-2779, or Justin Brande at 656-4055.

VNRC

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This issue ...

- Annual Meeting - pg. 1
- VNRC Board Candidates - pg. 2
- Environmental Board Explores Uranium - pg. 7
- Congress Seesaws Over Dickey-Lincoln - pg. 8
- VER Forges Ahead - pg. 11

Address Correction Requested

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