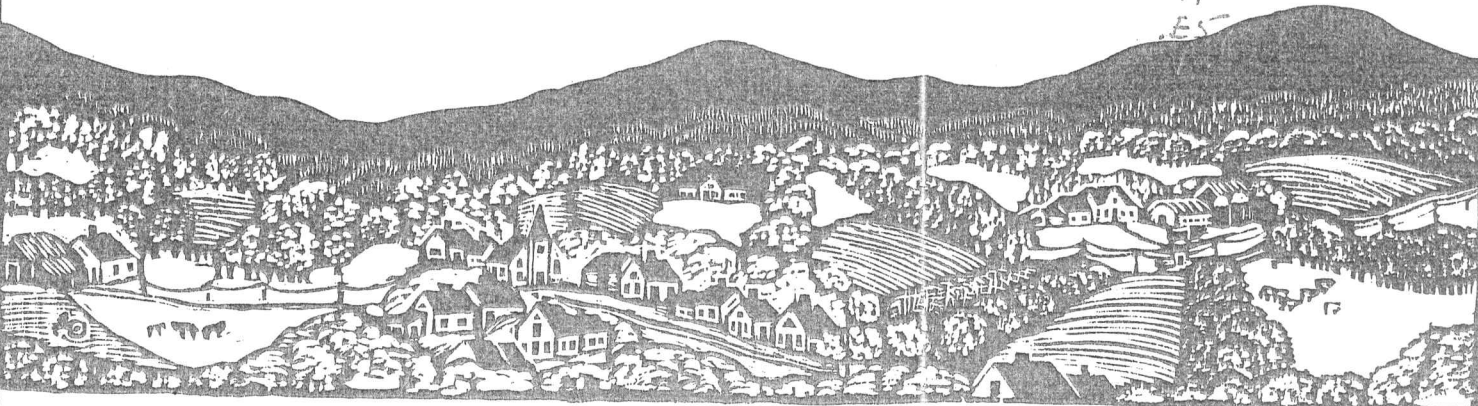


VNRC Bulletin

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CLEAN AIR ACT REAUTHORIZATION MOVING--Acid Rain Controls Possible

8/87

Three major air pollution control initiatives are expected to come together during the week of September 14th when the full U.S. Senate Public Works & Environment Committee takes up a long-overdue Clean Air Act reauthorization package. On July 29, a key portion of the bill--dealing with toxic air pollutants--passed the Senate subcommittee on Environmental Protection. Earlier in the summer, other air-related bills on acid deposition and standards for ozone, carbon monoxide reduction and clean-up schedules for smog-laden cities passed the subcommittee.

Each of the separate subcommittee votes have now been combined into a Committee "Working Paper" for consideration in September. Environmental experts in Washington are optimistic that an air pollution bill will pass Congress in some form this year. However, industries that benefit from weak air pollution laws are mobilizing for an all-out lobbying attack when the mark-up sessions begin in September.

"This is the first time we've gotten this far with such a comprehensive clean air package," reported Kathy McGough, Field Director for the Washington D.C.-based National Clean Air Coalition. "Environmentalists must keep the pressure on since the opponents of clean air legislation are focusing their efforts on the September sessions," McGough added.

WILL YOU HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Sen. Stafford needs to hear your support and thanks for his leadership on clean air. (Stafford's name is on each of the above bills.)

In addition, VNRC is asking you to take this simple action: Please write, in no more than 250 words, a letter to the editor of at least one, if not all, of the newspapers listed below. Each of these states is represented by key U.S. Senators on the Public Works and Environment Committee.

Vermonters need to convey to our neighbors, in a positive and enthusiastic way, that Senators from these states are in a crucial position to strengthen national air pollution laws. We need their help. Talk about acid rain damage in Vermont, our willingness to help pay for program costs, the respiratory problems and stress to natural systems nationwide caused by air pollution, or other ways that you feel air pollution affects you. Please address all your letters to "Letters to the Editor" in care of the newspapers below, sign them, and provide a phone number in case the paper wants to follow up. Let's get the word out!

TIME IS SHORT!!! So please jot down your thoughts about air pollution and mail them today to one of the addresses below. If you want more specific information on Clean Air legislation call Ruth Ann at VNRC: 223-2328.

* * * * *

North Dakota: (Sen. Quentin Burdick, D-Chairman)

Fargo Forum, Letters to the Editor, Box 2020 Fargo, ND 58107.

Bismarck Tribune, Letters to Editor, Box 1498, Bismarck, ND 58502.

Williston Daily Herald, Letters to the Editor, 14 W.4th St., Williston, ND 58801.

South Dakota: (Sen. Larry Pressler-R)

Sioux Falls Argus-Leader, Letters to the Editor, Box 5034, Sioux Falls, SD 57117.

Aberdeen American News, Letters to the Editor, 124 S.2nd St., Box 4430, Aberdeen, SD 57402.

Rapid City Journal, Letters to the Editor, Box 450, Rapid City, SD 57709.

Nevada: (Sen. Harry Reid-D)

Las Vegas Sun, Letters to the Editor, 121 S. Highland, Las Vegas, NV 89106.

Reno Gazette-USA Today, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 22000, Reno, NV 89520-2000.

Las Vegas Review Journal, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 70, Las Vegas, NV 89125.

Virginia: (Sen. John Warner-R)

Virginia Pilot & Ledger Star, Letters to the Editor, 150 W. Brambleton Ave, Norfolk, VA 23510.

Richmond Times Dispatch, c/o Voice of the People, P.O. Box C-32333, Richmond, VA 23293.

Roanoke Times World News, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 2491, Roanoke, VA 24010.

***** THREE VNRC VICTORIES IN RECENT LAND USE DECISIONS *****

After hours of hearings, expert witnesses, and legal fencing, VNRC recently gained a trio of Act 250 decisions that highlight issues of wildlife habitat protection, local land use planning, water usage, traffic safety and the need for cumulative impact analysis. Each case represents a strong decision in favor of the natural resources Act 250 seeks to protect. In each case, the permit denial is based largely on the developer's reluctance to either acknowledge or attempt to lessen the impacts their projects will impose on the environment.

- H.A. Manosh: Permit denied on August 4th by District Commission #5. The expansion of this Morrisville gravel pit was denied on five criteria concerning recreation, noise, dust, traffic and conflicts with local land use plans. VNRC led the charge by helping organize local residents and groups and by bringing in expert witnesses to testify on several criteria. We expect an appeal to the State Environmental Board.
- Killington Ltd.: Permit application denied on July 14th by District Commission #1. This controversial plan to build a snowmaking pond resulted in a 17-month process, due in part to Killington's unwillingness to provide basic data on water usage and their legal actions against the state in Superior Court and before the Environmental Board. The court action was dismissed and the Board sent the case back to the Commission for a complete hearing. Once evidence was finally gathered on the pond's impacts, the Commission ruled that the pond was unnecessary due to Killington's current water resources and that construction would jeopardize sensitive bear habitat in Parker's Gore. VNRC is planning to defend this decision before the Environmental Board.
- Southview: Permit application denied on June 30th by Environmental Board. This decision upheld an earlier decision by District Commission #2 which denied the second home project in Jamaica and Stratton on the basis of undue impacts to a significant deeryard. The applicant has since appealed the case to the Vermont Supreme Court.

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Each case involves important interpretations of Vermont environmental law, and VNRC will have to continue to spend time and money on these cases to keep on top of them. If you have a special interest in any of these decisions, VNRC welcomes your financial contributions. We'll be glad to give you more details on their progress. More information on these cases is also provided in the upcoming VT Environmental Report.

OTHER SUMMER ACTIVITIES OF VNRC

- VNRC submitted detailed comments on the VT Department of Environmental Conservation's draft rules to regulate hazardous air substances. VNRC took issue with exemptions for existing polluters and procedures for evaluating cumulative impacts.
- VNRC provided several recommendations to the Water Quality Division's draft management plan for the upper West River Basin in southern Vermont, including suggestions for potential Outstanding Resource Waters under the new rivers bill.
- VNRC recently met with newly-appointed Commissioner Patrick Parenteau to discuss environmental enforcement issues, specifically the clean-up of Burlington sewage treatment problems and water quality violations at Sugarbush ski area.
- VNRC released, with other New England conservation organizations, a detailed agenda for future energy conservation strategies entitled "Power to Spare."
- VNRC is currently reviewing draft regulations on groundwater and "accepted management practices" guidelines from the Department of Environmental Conservation and Department of Agriculture respectively.

* * * CALENDAR * * *

September 1-December 15: The University of Vermont Environmental Program will offer a 3-credit course in Natural Areas Management. Topics will include site protection and restoration, trail design and construction, management plans, ethical considerations, and more. Tuesdays, 4-7 pm. Call Rick Paradis, 656-4055.

VNRC ANNUAL MEETING!! Don't forget to set aside September 12, 9:30-4:00, for a trip to Okemo Mountain in Ludlow for VNRC's annual meeting. Field trips and workshops will explore this rapid growth area, and keynote speakers will include Sen. Scudder Parker (D-Caledonia) and Vermont's newly-appointed Commissioner of Environmental Protection, Patrick Parenteau. Call VNRC at 223-2328 for more information.

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