

National Journal's GREENWIRE
The Environmental News Daily

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Tuesday, August 19, 1997

===== SPOTLIGHT =====

US EPA CAPS MEDWASTE EMISSIONS

In a story missed by most major news outlets, the US EPA on 8/15 issued its first rule aimed at cutting toxic emissions from the nation's 2,400 medical waste incinerators.

The agency says the rule would reduce dioxin emissions from medwaste incinerators by 95% and mercury emissions by 94% by forcing facilities to either upgrade pollution-control equipment or shut down.

Jim McLarney of the American Hospital Assn. said he thought the rules established a "difficult, but fair" standard. But enviros have criticized the rules, saying they will allow many incinerators to escape pollution limits. (#1)

===== TOP NEWS =====

UBIQUITOUS GREENPEACE

USA Today cover story probes group's declining membership (#3); meanwhile, the Seattle bridge-hangers are arrested; the group's UK stunt draws an oil company lawsuit; and its Alaska protest continues. (#15)

LOOKING FOR THE FOREST, NOT THE TREES

Ag Sec'y Dan Glickman will appoint a panel to take a fresh look at national forest management. (#6)

PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH

Enviros are trying harder than ever to work with companies, but their actions don't always match their words, Green Business Letter reports. (#8)

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KY logging boom worries regulators (#11); majority in ME poll favors clearcutting limits, and more. (#14)

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER?

Enviros question the idea of letting new EU members delay enviro compliance. (#17)

===== QUOTE OF THE DAY =====

"It's attacking at a speed and with a level of damage that is unprecedented."

-- Thomas Goreau of the Global Coral Reef Alliance, on mysterious lesions that have been appearing on coral reefs from the Florida Keys to the Philippines. (#16)

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===== FACT OF THE DAY =====

California currently uses more than 450,000 acre-feet of water reclaimed from treated sewage every year, equal to about two-thirds of the water consumed in Los Angeles in one year, according to the CA Water Resources Board. (#7)

===== SPOTLIGHT STORY =====

*1 MEDWASTE: EPA ISSUES FIRST-EVER REGS FOR INCINERATORS

The US EPA on 8/15 issued the first federal rules to cut emissions of dioxin, mercury and other toxic pollutants from medical waste incinerators.

The agency said the standards would reduce dioxin emissions from medwaste incinerators by 95% and mercury emissions by 94% (EPA release, 8/15) by forcing facilities to either upgrade pollution-control equipment or shut down. Hospitals produce an estimated 2 million tons of waste a year, much of which is chlorinated plastic that yields dioxin emissions when burned. Medwaste incinerators account for 45% of total US dioxin emissions (Greenwire, 3/6).

The rule will apply to 2,400 incinerators used by hospitals and health-care facilities, in addition to incinerators used by

commercial waste-disposal firms. Smaller hospitals in rural areas will face looser standards but "will still have to make changes," according to the agency. Existing facilities will have five years to comply, while new facilities will have six months.

The EPA estimates the regulations will not adversely affect hospitals that currently operate medwaste incinerators and will increase the average cost of a hospital stay by less than 35 cents a day (EPA release).

ENVIROS ATTACK EPA'S MACT

Enviros have been heavily critical of the rule, saying that it will allow many incinerators to keep functioning with little pollution controls.

The greatest point of contention has centered on an explicit Congressional mandate for setting new emissions standards included in the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments. The CAA requires the EPA to set a "maximum achievable control technology" (MACT) floor for toxic emissions from various sources, including medwaste incinerators. Under the law, the EPA must base emissions standards for existing medwaste incinerators on the average of the best performing 12% of facilities.

The EPA calculated the MACT floor in its initial 2/95 proposal by pooling all sizes of incinerators together. But the final rule divided medwaste incinerators by size and computed separate emissions standards for each category -- a move that allowed the agency to avoid setting any floor for dioxin, lead, cadmium, mercury, hydrogen chloride and sulfur dioxide for the smaller facilities.

In addition, the Natural Resources Defense Council claims that the EPA used information from old state permits instead of actual emissions data to set the MACT floors, thereby violating formal rulemaking procedures outlined in the law. The group says it is considering a legal challenge. The EPA, however, defends its rulemaking methods.

MORE MEDWASTE RESPONSES

Jim Pew of the NRDC said he was skeptical that the rule would yield the pollution reductions anticipated by the agency. He also doubted the EPA's estimation that the tougher regs would force between 50% and 80% of existing incinerators to shut down.

Jackie Savitz of the Environmental Working Group, however, said the final rule would do more to address pollution prevention than previous proposals.

Jim McLarney of the American Hospital Assn. said that he thought the rules established a "difficult, but fair" standard that hospitals across the nation could meet.

The Medical Waste Institute, which represents firms that handle medwaste and manufacturers of alternative disposal technologies, praised the rules and urged quick implementation.
-- Josh Sevin

===== SOCIETY AND POLITICS =====

*2 EPA: JUDGE SAYS AGENCY MUST RELEASE INVESTIGATION MANUAL

A federal judge on 8/12 ruled that the US EPA must release large sections of its manual for conducting internal investigations in order to comply with a Freedom of Information Act request.

The EPA argued that releasing the rule book to the public "would enable wrongdoers to circumvent the law, compromise current investigations and even pose a risk to federal investigators." Judge Edward Nottingham in Denver ruled the EPA

could withhold chapters of the manual that describe investigative methods and priorities.

The Colorado chapter of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) filed the FOIA request because it claimed the EPA had conducted "retaliatory investigations" of whistleblowers. The watchdog group last year requested a copy of the manual in order to determine the criteria by which its members were being examined, but the EPA gave them a "heavily edited" version "filled with blacked-out pages."

The EPA has 60 days to appeal the decision or release a more complete copy of the manual (Joseph Verrengia, Denver Rocky Mountain News, 8/15).

***3 GREENPEACE: NEWSPAPER DETAILS GROUP'S DECLINE IN US**

USA Today profiles Greenpeace USA and its plans to slash its budget and staff in the US in today's cover story.

Despite recent high-profile protests in Seattle and Alaska (see "Protest," below), the group has faced decreasing popularity. Membership has fallen from a high of 1.2 million in 1991 to 420,000 this year. Mismanagement has compounded Greenpeace's problems, leading the group to announce earlier this month that it will close its 10 regional offices outside of Washington, DC, reduce its staff from 400 to 65 and cut annual spending from \$29 million to \$21 million (Greenwire, 8/11).

In response to questions about how the group could "have squandered widespread public support so quickly," Greenpeace "loyalists" point out "that other environmental groups have been struggling, too. ... But none of them have crashed on such a grand scale," as membership in the World Wildlife Fund has held steady at 1.2 million over the past five years and the Sierra Club has gained members annually since 1993 (Traci Watson, USA Today, 8/19).

===== AIR AND WATER POLLUTION =====

***4 CLEAN AIR: MA ATT'Y GEN SEEKS TO JOIN EPA IN LAWSUIT**

The Massachusetts Attorney General yesterday sought the legal status he needs to help the Clinton admin. defend its new air-quality standards.

"Apparently alone among his counterparts from the northeastern states," Scott Harshbarger asked a federal judge in Washington, DC, to name him a co-defendant in a suit against the US EPA filed by oil and trucking groups. Harshbarger and Gov. Paul Cellucci's (R) admin. want the EPA to "crack down" on coal-burning power plants in the Midwest, contending their emissions exacerbate Massachusetts's air quality problems (Greenwire, 8/8).

But EPA Regional Administrator John DeVillars "said it is unlikely the agency will agree with the northeastern states' demand that it shut down the 40 coal-burning power plants" in Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia. Instead, DeVillars said the EPA's likely response will be to order those states to reduce their overall pollution while allowing state officials to determine how to meet the requirements (Peter Howe, Boston Globe, 8/18).

Meanwhile, the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce has petitioned a federal appeals court to review the EPA's new air-quality standards. The chamber contends that complying with the new standards will cost the state thousands of jobs in the coal, chemical and metallurgy industries (USA Today, 8/18).

===== WASTES AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES =====

*5 SUPERFUND: SENATE GOPERS TO RELEASE DRAFT REFORM BILL

Senate Republicans are preparing to release new Superfund reform legislation at the end of the month, one week before an Environment and Public Works Cmte. hearing scheduled for 9/4. The draft is expected to expand on Superfund legislation that Senate GOPers introduced in 1/97.

Senate Republicans earlier this month scheduled a 9/11 markup session, prompting the committee's Democrats to withdraw from negotiations on the bill "saying they could not simultaneously negotiate a bill while preparing for markup." The GOPers reportedly will ask for amendments from Democrats before the hearing and markup in order to reach a consensus between the two parties (CongressDaily, 8/15).

Senate Dems recently issued a proposal dealing with Superfund cleanup standards and community participation, but they did not address "the more contentious issue" of who should pay to clean up pollution that occurred before the federal Superfund program was created (Journal of Commerce, 8/19).

===== NATURAL RESOURCES =====

*6 NATIONAL FORESTS: GLICKMAN AIMS TO REFORM MANAGEMENT

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman is establishing a panel of 13 scientists that will take a "fresh look" at future management of the US Forest Service.

Glickman said he expects the move will ensure "biodiversity, long-term sustainability and public collaboration" while streamlining management policies. The panel will evaluate the process for creating 10-year management plans for individual forests which outline uses in various parts of the forests and establish maximum logging levels. Environmentalists contend the current planning process inflates logging estimates, while timber industry officials complain that legal appeals prevent planned harvests from occurring.

Chris West of the Portland, OR-based Northwest Forestry Assn. said the Agriculture Dept. has been reevaluating the USFS's planning process for nearly 10 years without success and questioned whether another study was necessary. Timber industry officials charged that Glickman's proposal was an attempt to further delay important management decisions (Scott Sonner, AP/mult., 8/19).

A PLEA FOR THE FORESTS

The lead editorial in today's Washington Post calls on Congress to strengthen the 1976 National Forest Management Act and reject legislation sponsored by Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID) "that would weaken the management act directly" (8/19).

*7 CA WATER: TREATED SEWAGE MAY BE DRINKING WATER SOLUTION

"To help quench California's unending thirst, officials are set to embark on unusual plans to turn treated sewage into drinking water." Communities near San Diego and San Francisco recently joined the Orange County Water District in approving the injection of treated waste water into underground water supplies.

California already uses more than 450,000 acre-feet of reclaimed water a year, equal to two-thirds of the water consumed in Los Angeles in one year. Projects under construction will boost that figure by another 20%, according to the CA Water

Resources Board.

The trend could relieve the state's controversial reliance on water from the Sierra Nevada and the Colorado River because "recycled water is the one source in California that is growing." It is also drought-proof and "largely politics-proof" because the water is taken locally, and municipalities don't need to fight over allocations.

But water officials face a public-relations problem in getting people "comfortable with the idea of drinking treated sewage," according to Paul Gagliardo of San Diego's Metropolitan Wastewater Dept. Gagliardo asserts that the technology to be used will produce recycled water that is 10 times purer than existing tapwater.

But critics also say the process is expensive. San Diego officials estimate that it will cost about \$600 per acre-foot to produce drinking water from waste water, about 30% higher than the cost of buying water. But advocates counter that the near-term cost of recycled water "is still far less than the cost of desalinating water or building dams."

The uses of reclaimed water "have multiplied so quickly" that state health officials have "scrambled" to develop new regulations, expected later this year (Jill Leovy, Los Angeles Times, 8/18).

===== BUSINESS AND THE ECONOMY =====

*8 PARTNERSHIPS: STUDY RATES ENVIROS' BIZ-FRIENDLINESS

US environmental groups are "trying harder than ever" to work with companies, "but their actions don't always live up to their rhetoric," according to a study by the Green Business Letter. The newsletter interviewed people at more than 40 firms to rate the "business-friendliness" of 10 leading nonprofit enviro groups, including Greenpeace, the Sierra Club, and the World Wildlife Fund.

While all the groups "professed a desire to create partnerships, companies were much more skeptical about the groups' intentions." The "lion's share" of partnerships involved marketing or sponsorship activities, such as product-licensing agreements. Many groups "say they are willing to provide research or consulting services to companies," but study authors Joel Makower and Jennifer Gamble write that "these relationships seem vastly underutilized."

HOW THEY RATED, WHAT IS NEEDED

Wildlife-related groups were more favored as business partners than "activist" groups. Companies said the Nature Conservancy, WWF and National Wildlife Federation were most willing to work with them, while Greenpeace, the Sierra Club and the Rainforest Action Network were least willing to cooperate. Some companies "shunned involvement" with national groups, preferring to work with local groups in areas where they do business.

Firms often "complain that environmentalists don't really understand how businesses work." However, Monsanto's Larry O'Neill said that a joint project "may not be able to meet, nor should it be required to meet, some of the same financial hurdles" required in a pure-business venture.

The study shows "tremendous potential for activists and business people to work together," according to Makower. But he asserts that "bold, creative" partnerships are "desperately" needed to show what can be accomplished. The study, which

profiles each of the groups, is available by calling 800-955-GREEN (GBL report, 8/97).

===== ACROSS THE NATION =====

*9 CALIFORNIA: METHYL BROMIDE REACHES RESIDENCES -- ENVIROS

Air tested near a Castroville, CA, strawberry field contains dangerous amounts of the pesticide methyl bromide, "even though" the chemical was applied in accordance with tougher new state rules, according to a study released yesterday by the DC-based Environmental Working Group.

The group said the potent cropland fumigant, which has been linked to human health risks and ozone-layer depletion (Greenwire, 4/4), was detected in nearby backyards on 8/1. The test results "apparently contradict" testing done by the CA Dept. of Pesticide Regulation.

EWG spokesperson Bill Walker: "These results confirm that even under the best possible circumstances, you cannot reliably predict how methyl bromide is going to behave" (Marcia Alicia Gaura, San Francisco Chronicle, 8/18).

*10 FLORIDA: INTERNATIONAL GROUP ENDORSES ORIMULSION PROJECT

Florida Power & Light Co.'s "controversial" plan to burn Orimulsion, a tar-based fuel from Venezuela, in its Manatee, FL, power plant has been selected by an "international group of experts as a model" of "clean, sustainable energy."

The Hemispheric Energy Symposium, which represents agencies from 34 North and South American nations including the US Dept. of Energy, promotes development of "economical, clean energy projects and technologies."

Juan Pulgar of Boca Raton-based Bitor America, which supplies Orimulsion, said the designation "provides reinforcement" to FPL's claims that the use of Orimulsion would lower total emissions at the plant by 18% while tripling its electricity output. But local environmentalists claimed that using the fuel would boost nitrogen-oxide emissions and that the fuel's emulsifier, carbolic acid, could become toxic when burned.

A Florida state court in 5/97 reversed a decision by Gov. Lawton Chiles (D) and his cabinet to ban use of the fuel (Greenwire, 4/26/96). A hearing on the issue is expected on 9/9 (Arthur Gottschalk, Journal of Commerce, 8/18). Meanwhile, FPL has launched a \$300,000 advertising campaign to "rally public opinion" (David Cox, Tampa Tribune, 8/14).

*11 KENTUCKY: LOGGING BOOM CONCERNS STATE ENVIRO OFFICIALS

As logging in Kentucky nears record levels, the state is moving to better protect forests from "environmental abuses."

The Kentucky logging boom, spurred by an increased demand for timber and curtailed harvests in the Pacific Northwest, has led enviros to demand stricter state regulation of logging. Forestry experts said it has taken 90 years for some state forests to recover from the record-setting tree harvest in 1907.

Gov. Paul Patton's (D) administration has proposed to tighten current controls -- which rely almost entirely on voluntary compliance -- by licensing loggers and mandating best management practices. The proposals, opposed by property-rights advocates and the timber industry, will be introduced next year in the state's General Assembly (Andrew Melnykovich, Louisville Courier-Journal, 8/15).

CHICKEN PROCESSOR WOULD BRING JOBS, ENVIRO PROBLEMS

An Atlanta-based chicken processor's plans to build a plant in rural Clinton County, KY, has created "fear that the plant could create an environmental mess." The new Cagle's Inc. plant would be two miles from Lake Cumberland, the source of much of the region's drinking water and a "backbone" of its tourism industry.

The Kentucky Sierra Club believes the plant and feeder houses that supply it will contaminate groundwater. But "so far, few Clinton County residents share the environmentalists' concern." The plant would bring permanent jobs and benefits to "a work force used to seasonal jobs ... [or] minimum-wage work" (Jane DuBose, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 8/17).

***12 NEVADA: LEGAL FIGHT OVER TRUCKEE R. THREATENS WATER PACT**

Legal wrangling over water rights on Nevada's Truckee River threatens to unravel "every water-rights title on the Carson and Truckee rivers."

The dispute arose when Churchill County, NV, water managers filed a lawsuit in state district court to block the US Fish and Wildlife from transferring water from the Newlands irrigation project to the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, which provides habitat for millions of migrating waterfowl.

But Nevada Deputy Attorney General David Creekman is arguing that federal courts have jurisdiction over the issue under the 1980 Alpine Decree, which settled years of Truckee River litigation and specified that federal courts would resolve future disputes. Creekman has asked the feds to intervene in the case.

State Judge Archie Blake has disagreed with Creekman and kept the case in state court, "saying the state has significant interests involved" (AP/Las Vegas Sun, 8/13).

A REBIRTH ON THE TRUCKEE

The floods that "ripped through" the Truckee River basin in 1/97, wiping out 50,000 cottonwood seedlings, will help restore the river's health, according to Chad Gourley, who has designed a tree-restoration project along the Truckee for the Nature Conservancy. Gourley: "It may not look good now, but flooding ... will create a new floodplain and a new riparian forest" (Jon Christensen, Nature Conservancy, 7-8/97 issue).

***13 NEVADA II: ROCKET FUEL CHEMICAL FOUND IN WATER SUPPLY**

Perchlorate, a chemical used in rocket fuel and explosives, has been detected in several places in the Las Vegas Wash at levels 100 times higher than California guidelines permit, Nevada's environmental chief said yesterday. The wash flows into Lake Mead, a part of the Colorado River system, which serves as a source of drinking water for millions of people in the Southwest.

Lew Dodgion, administrator of the NV Division of Environmental Protection, said preliminary samples from the waterway will be sent to a lab for further study. But the state and the Southern Nevada Water Authority announced an "aggressive" plan to detect, monitor and remove the chemical, which affects human thyroid glands.

Two companies that have used the chemical at plants in the region -- Kerr-McGee Corp. and Pacific Engineering and Production -- are cooperating with the state probe (Mary Manning, Las Vegas Sun, 8/18).

***14 STATE LINES: NEWS FROM IL, ME, MI, PA, TX, VT, WV AND WI**

ILLINOIS: The state attorney general's office on 8/13 informed the Illinois EPA that a controversial proposed wood

incinerator in Bloom Township, IL, will face stricter air-pollution limits if the project is pursued since its permit has expired (Kevin Carmody, Chicago Daily Southtown, 8/14).

MAINE: A survey of Maine voters released on 8/13 found that 55% said they will vote for restrictions on clearcutting in the 11/97 election. The proposed "compact," which was defeated in a 1996 referendum, would limit clearcuts to 75 acres, rather than the current 250 acres. The poll of 450 voters was conducted by Portland, ME-based Strategic Marketing Services; the margin of error was +/- 4.6% (AP/mult., 8/14).

MICHIGAN: A ruptured pipe on 8/17 caused chlorosilane, a chemical used to manufacture silicone, to leak from the Dow Corning Corp. plant in Midland, MI. No injuries were reported, but nearby residents were advised to stay indoors because the gas forms corrosive hydrogen chloride when it reacts with air (AP/mult., 8/18).

PENNSYLVANIA: Despite comments made by a Pennsylvania Sierra Club member last week (Greenwire, 8/14), the club's chair on 8/15 declared it does not favor a statewide ban on fluoride (AP/Philadelphia Inquirer, 8/16).

TEXAS: Officials at the Padre Island National Seashore south of Corpus Christi, TX, are in the middle of a five-year study of the trash that washes up on the beach in order to determine its offshore sources. The trash is scaring away tourists from the barrier island -- a "once unspoiled getaway" that provides habitat for rare wildlife including endangered sea turtles and sandhill cranes (Bruce Tomaso, Dallas Morning News, 8/17).

VERMONT: More than 40 residents of a Castleton, VT, low-income housing complex are suing the state for failing to alert them of contaminated water supplies, even though the state Agency of Natural Resources knew for 13 years that the water was tainted with tetrachloroethylene (AP/Boston Globe online, 8/18).

WEST VIRGINIA: The West Virginia Dept. of Environmental Protection last week sponsored a three-day Citizens' Surface Mine Tour, showing 45 people two of the state's most polluted acid mine drainage sites. The tour was offered as an alternative to an annual government-industry mine tour which highlights successful reclamation projects (Ken Ward, Charleston [WV] Gazette, 8/15).

WISCONSIN: The Potawatomi Indian tribe has requested that the US EPA establish a special air-quality district in northern Wisconsin to prevent acid rain and other environmental damage from smokestack emissions (AP/mult., 8/15).

===== WORLDVIEW =====

*15 PROTEST: GREENPEACERS ARRESTED AFTER BRIDGE PROTEST

Eight Greenpeace activists who spent almost two days hanging from a Seattle bridge were arrested yesterday as they gathered on the bridge deck.

The activists on 8/17 repelled from the Aurora bridge and blocked Alaska-bound fishing trawlers in order to call attention to their claims that fishers are overharvesting Northern Pacific pollock (Greenwire, 8/18). Greenpeace protestor Katie Flynn Jambeck: "We've done more in the last two days and nights to stop overfishing in the North Pacific ... than the [National Marine Fisheries Service] has done in the last five years."

The five women and three men were booked and held in the King County jail on state charges of reckless endangerment

(AP/mult., 8/19).

TROUBLE IN UK WATERS ...

UK-based British Petroleum yesterday said it will sue Greenpeace UK for losses it suffered because of the group's eight-day protest on an oil-drilling platform in the North Atlantic (Greenwire, 8/18). Greenpeace UK officials said the group could go out of business if BP wins the \$2.28 million lawsuit (Michael Peel, Financial Times, 8/19).

... AND IN TURBULENT AK WATERS

Officials at ARCO yesterday charged that Greenpeace violated an 8/15 federal court order directing the group's ship to stay three miles away from the firm's mobile oil-drilling rig off the northern Alaska coast (Greenwire, 8/18). The Greenpeace ship Arctic Sunrise traveled within two miles of the rig, but Greenpeace's Paul Horsman said the ship did so to avoid polar bears and other marine mammals (Helen Jung, Anchorage Daily News, 8/19).

Meanwhile, a Greenpeace advertisement in today's New York Times describes the group's opposition to oil exploration and drilling and claims that fossil-fuel reliance will lead to "climate change beyond our worst fears."

*16 CORAL REEFS: DISEASES DEVASTATE WORLDWIDE POPULATION

Coral reefs from the Florida Keys to the Philippines, some centuries old, are "quickly succumbing to diseases never before seen," reports the New York Times.

"Strange white lesions" have been devastating corals in "waters considered to be the most pristine in the Caribbean" (Greenwire, 12/18/96). An opportunistic fungus is spreading an ailment called "sea fan disease" among soft corals throughout the Caribbean. Even corals in the Honolulu and Baltimore aquariums have been hit.

Marine researchers have deemed the far-flung destruction during the last few years "an epidemic." Thomas Goreau of the Global Coral Reef Alliance: "It's attacking at a speed and with a level of damage that is unprecedented."

But researchers don't know why diseases are "exploding" on corals. Some suspect that multiple stresses, including pollution (Greenwire, 2/10) and sedimentation, have combined to overwhelm corals with "a whole host of new pathogens."

Cures for the sick corals "appear to be a long way off." Scientist note, though, that sometimes no treatment is best since the corals remaining after the epidemic should be resilient enough to rebuild (Carol Kaesuk Yoon, New York Times, 8/19).

*17 EU: ENVIROS WARN MINISTERS ON UNION EXPANSION

A coalition of European environmental groups have warned European Union ministers that allowing prospective new member states to delay implementing the EU's environmental laws could slow the region's move towards sustainable development.

In its semi-annual report presented to the EU presidency, the European Environmental Bureau criticized the European Commission's proposals to expand the EU to include Central and Eastern Europe. Current EC proposals would allow new member states to achieve environmental compliance "sometime after they have become members."

The EEB is calling for the suspension option to be dropped and more EU funds to go towards helping potential new members meet EU environmental standards -- specifically regarding sustainable agriculture, energy efficiency and environmental

investing. The coalition is also asking EU ministers to clarify how EU expansion can benefit environmental progress, biodiversity and sustainability in Europe, as well as calling for EU ministers to tighten proposed legislation regarding emissions of volatile organic compounds.

The EU ministers are slated to debate the EC's proposals during several council meetings this fall (ENDS Environment Daily, 8/14).

***18 EU II: BAN ON BEEF IMPORTS VIOLATES TRADE RULES -- WTO**

A World Trade Organization panel yesterday released a report concluding that the European Union's ban on imported beef treated with growth hormones was not based on scientific research and therefore violated WTO rules. The decision is the first under new WTO rules that bar "health and safety" import restrictions unless they are supported by science.

European Union officials have stood by the ban, pressured by enviros and European beef producers, although "scientists have repeatedly found that growth hormones in beef pose no threat to human health" (Journal of Commerce, 8/19).

***19 RUSSIA: VOTERS DEFEAT PLANS FOR RADWASTE FACILITY**

Residents of Vladivostok, Russia, have "overwhelmingly" voted against the construction of a low-level radioactive waste storage and processing facility, according to yesterday's unofficial vote tallies.

During the 8/17 vote, 93% voted against the Japanese-financed project, which has been planned by Moscow and Tokyo as an effort to halt Russia's dumping of radwaste into the Sea of Japan (Greenwire, 9/5/96) (AP/Washington Times, 8/19).

===== THE KICKER =====

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT

The trend of keeping exotic animals as pets is posing a problem for vacationing owners this summer. Hedgehogs, chinchillas, ferrets and cockatoos are "extremely fashionable pets," but do not travel well and can get into trouble when left behind. According to Kathi Travers of the National Assn. of Professional Pet Sitters, ferrets left alone have been known to attack children, birds have died from eating avocados, and monkeys have pulled out their fur from boredom (Danielle Reed, Wall Street Journal, 8/15).

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===== SPOTLIGHT =====

AMAZON FIRES FUEL DEFORESTATION FEARS

Five years after Brazil hosted the first Earth Summit, the Amazon rainforest is in the midst of some of its worst burning ever.

Environmentalists say deforestation has increased. But government officials claim that many of the fires are set by farmers maintaining their previously cleared cattle ranges. Still, the government's own data show that Amazon deforestation jumped 34% from 1992 to 1994.

Eduardo Martins, a top environmental official, said that even if deforestation is occurring, ending the problem will be a daunting challenge for the fewer than 400 inspectors who patrol the Amazon. (#1)

===== TOP NEWS =====

ENVIRO CAMPAIGNING

Democratic contender for Connecticut governor calls for top environmental official to resign. (#2)

BABBITT, PENA ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt remains on hot seat for pointed comments about climate-change skeptics (#3); Energy Secretary Federico Pena promises to cut red tape for natural-gas industry to help reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. (#17)

WOUNDED RAINBOW WARRIORS

Greenpeace members in the US are challenging the sharp cutbacks planned by the group's leadership. (#5)

A DIESEL FUTURE FOR AUTO EFFICIENCY?

A diesel engine is the most promising power source for an affordable, fuel-efficient car, according to National Research Council report. (#13)

===== QUOTE OF THE DAY =====

"It angers me that we never knew about it. ... I have seen too many cancer patients who didn't have a history of cancer in the family."

-- Jackie Matson, a registered nurse in Challis, ID, on fallout from nuclear testing in the 1950s that may be linked to the town's high rates of thyroid cancer. (#6)

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===== FACT OF THE DAY =====

Air pollution caused mainly by vehicle exhaust led to nearly 6,000 heart attacks a year in the UK between 1987 and 1994, according to a report by researchers at St. George's Hospital Medical School in London. (#22)

===== SPOTLIGHT STORY =====

*1 BRAZIL: FIRES IN AMAZON FUEL FEARS OF DEFORESTATION

Just five years after Brazil hosted the first Earth Summit, the Amazon rainforest "has seen some of its worst burning ever."

Environmentalists say deforestation has increased, while most in the government disagree. Officials claim that many of the fires are set by farmers maintaining their previously cleared cattle ranges. Yet the government's own data show that Amazon deforestation jumped 34% from 1992 to 1994.

Brazil's National Institute of Space Research "seems in no rush" to analyze satellite photos of the Amazon that could reveal the extent of deforestation. Eduardo Martins, president of Brazil's Environment Protection Agency, said that even if the photos indicated an increase, ending the deforestation would be a daunting challenge for the fewer than 400 poorly paid inspectors who patrol the area, which is twice the size of France and Spain

combined (Michael Astor, Tucson Arizona Daily Star, 8/11).

REMOTE VILLAGE POWERED BY RENEWABLES

Wind and solar power are providing the first electricity for residents of Serra Do Talhado, one of Brazil's most remote villages. As a result of the Renewable Energy Rural Electrification Project signed at the first Earth Summit, technicians installed photovoltaic panels outside each of the village's huts and a wind-powered water pump in a nearby field (AP/Washington Times, 8/11).

Meanwhile, Brazil's EPA has created a sanctuary for imperilled sea lions off in islet near the southern coastal city of Torres (Todd Lewan, AP/Los Angeles Times, 8/10).

===== SOCIETY AND POLITICS =====

*2 CT GOV RACE: DEM DEMANDS RESIGNATION OF DEP CHIEF

William Curry, a Democratic candidate in next year's Connecticut gubernatorial race, yesterday called on the head of the CT Dept. of Environmental Protection to resign, citing "troubling instances of seemingly politically favored polluters escaping serious penalties."

Curry said a recent US EPA audit of the DEP's enforcement programs had criticized its handling of a 1/97 settlement with chemical manufacturer MacDermid Inc., in which the company was fined \$70,000 for a "major" chemical spill in 1994 and other water-pollution violations (Daniel Jones, Hartford Courant, 8/13).

As Curry made his remarks on the DEP building's steps, Commissioner Sidney Holbrook appeared with about 40 agency employees and two party officials. Holbrook said Curry's criticisms were based on politics (New York Times, 8/13), and he issued a list of the DEP's accomplishments over the past year, including 12,000 inspections, 200 investigations and more than 1,200 notices of violations. Under Gov. John Rowland (R), more than \$250 million has been committed to clean up Long Island Sound, he said.

State GOP Chair Chris Depino "took a partisan swipe of his own," noting that state Democratic Chair Edward Marcus had acted as an attorney for a Hamden landfill cited by the DEP for illegally dumping hazardous waste (Daniel Jones, Hartford Courant, 8/13).

*3 BABBITT: CLIMATE-CHANGE COMMENTS PUT SEC'Y ON HOT SEAT

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt is "under fire" for using the term "un-American" to criticize energy companies that he said are part of "a conspiracy to hire pseudo-scientists" to dispute claims of global warming (Greenwire, 8/11).

Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY), in a letter to Babbitt: "The term 'un-American' has a very evocative meaning in our country and it must not be used cavalierly against those who dare to express and defend another viewpoint."

Meanwhile, Babbitt yesterday spoke to ecologists in Albuquerque, NM, and said the Clinton administration needs their help in educating the public on environmental issues. Citing concerns about global warming, the Florida Everglades, and endangered species, Babbitt said, "These are times that simply cry out for scientific involvement" (USA Today, 8/13).

In a widely syndicated column, conservative Cal Thomas touched on the Babbitt controversy: "Liberals denounce this kind of 'redneck' rhetoric when it comes from the mouths of Bible-

thumping preachers. Now, they engage in a kind of environmental fundamentalism on behalf of their god, the Earth. ... More than a cleaner environment, their goal is expanding government power" (8/13).

***4 CLINTON ADMIN: HANFORD PARENT CO., LOBBYIST SUBPOENAED**

The Senate Government Affairs Committee, which is investigating federal campaign-finance practices, on 8/6 issued subpoenas to Fluor Daniel Hanford Inc. and its former lobbyist. Committee spokesperson Paul Clark would not reveal details, but he said the committee was studying "whether any policy or contract may have resulted from a contribution."

Federal Election Commission records show that the Fluor Corp. late last summer donated \$100,000 to the Democratic National Committee, "just weeks before" it received a \$5 billion contract to manage the Hanford Nuclear Reservation near Richland, WA. At the same time, Fluor lobbyist Peter Knight was preparing to leave his job to run Pres. Clinton's re-election campaign.

The committee also subpoenaed another of Knight's clients, Molten Metals Technology Inc., and its founder, William Haney. Since 1993, the Waltham, MA-based toxic-waste cleanup firm has donated \$82,000 to the Democratic Party and the Clinton-Gore campaign, and has received \$33 million in government contracts (Greenwire, 6/2). At one time, both Knight and Haney worked for Gore.

Neither the Fluor Corp. nor Knight would comment on the subpoenas (Les Blumenthal, Tacoma News Tribune, 8/8). Molten Metals said its donations were legitimate and did not affect the company's Energy Dept. contracts. But the firm acknowledged it is unlikely to win any new government contracts (Bailey/Syre, Boston Globe, 8/12).

***5 GREENPEACE: MEMBERS TO VOTE ON CHANGES, LEADERS**

Greenpeace members "intend to challenge" the sharp cutbacks planned at Greenpeace USA, "with one member saying the activists could use their voting clout to oust leaders who are advocating the reorganization."

According to the plan announced in late 7/97, the group will close its 10 regional offices outside of Washington, DC, reduce its staff from 400 to 65, cut annual spending from \$29 million to \$21 million, and narrow its focus to climate-change and logging issues (Greenwire, 8/11).

But the group's voting membership -- 172 "selected staff members and volunteers" -- has "taken the unusual step of calling for a vote on the changes." A vote is scheduled for 9/13 in DC.

Bradley Angel, a senior campaign coordinator in Greenpeace's San Francisco office, said the membership could vote to rescind the changes made by the eight-member board or vote in a new board (Emily Gurnon, San Francisco Examiner/Washington Times, 8/13).

===== WASTES AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES =====

***6 NUCLEAR TESTING: FALLOUT REPORT SPARKS CONCERN IN IDAHO**

The release of a report earlier this month detailing radioactive iodine fallout from nuclear-weapons tests in the 1950s has prompted concern about thyroid cancer in the region of eastern Idaho that received the highest exposure to radiation.

The National Cancer Institute study released on 8/1 (Greenwire, 8/1) found that Challis, ID, was in the center of the region most contaminated from the fallout.

But in the most-exposed Idaho counties, including Blaine, Custer and Lemhi counties, cancer-rate statistics "are confusing. ... Studies of these counties show fatal cancers at or below the state average, but when considering fatal and nonfatal cancers together, they are higher than the state average."

Jackie Matson, a registered nurse in Challis: "It angers me that we never knew about it. ... I have seen too many cancer patients who didn't have a history of cancer in the family."

FALLOUT FROM IDAHO SENATORS

Sen. Dirk Kempthorne (R-ID) last week sent a letter to Energy Secretary Federico Pena calling for "compensation for victims" (James Brooke, New York Times, 8/13). Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID) said he will introduce legislation to allow Idaho residents to qualify for federal funds for victims of Cold War-era fallout. Only residents of AZ, NV and UT currently qualify (AP/Salt Lake Deseret News, 8/11).

*7 CHEMICAL WEAPONS: DOL ORDERS REHIRE OF WHISTLEBLOWER

A Labor Dept. administrative law judge has ordered the operator of the Army's chemical-weapons incinerator in Tooele County, UT, to rehire a whistleblower who was fired in 9/94 after raising safety concerns at the plant (Greenwire, 8/6).

The judge ruled that former safety manager Steve Jones was illegally fired and that incinerator operator EG&G Defense Materials must give him full back pay and almost \$220,000 in compensatory damages. If the company does not rehire Jones, it must pay him an additional \$499,629 (Los Angeles Times, 8/13).

*8 TOXICS: NEW LABEL WOULD REVEAL FERTILIZER INGREDIENTS

A group representing fertilizer regulators from most of the 50 states has named a committee of industry executives and regulators to develop a new label that would reveal the products' "toxic tag-alongs."

Currently, fertilizers are not required to identify all their ingredients, and many list only the beneficial ones. But a Seattle Times series last month revealed that toxic industrial wastes are routinely recycled into fertilizers (Greenwire, 7/7).

Some members of the Assn. of American Plant Food Control Officials, which met last week in Providence, RI, suggested such labels would be "alarmist" and confuse the public. But David Terry, Kentucky's chief fertilizer regulator, said the move would help respond to "pressure" he and others have felt since the Seattle Times series.

The AAPFCO is expected to propose a label within six weeks and take at least two years to review it. Official adoption would depend on further state action (Duff Wilson, Seattle Times, 8/7).

Meanwhile, a US EPA expert assured the group that sewage sludge applied to farmland does not pose a health threat. Alan Rubin said such concerns stem from a lack of understanding, and the practice need not be banned. Supporters say recycling waste into fertilizer is preferable to incinerating it or dumping it in landfills (Paul Tolme, AP/San Francisco Chronicle/Examiner online, 8/6).

Michael Shapiro, an EPA solid-waste management official, said the Seattle Times story had prompted the agency to launch an investigation of the practice (Eric Nalder, Seattle Times, 8/5).

===== NATURAL RESOURCES =====

*9 SPECIES ACT: SENATORS ALMOST READY TO OFFER BILL

Senate negotiators "are close to finalizing" a bill to reauthorize the Endangered Species Act, according to sources.

Sens. Dirk Kempthorne (R-ID), John Chafee (R-RI), Harry Reid (D-NV) and Max Baucus (D-MT) met before Congress adjourned for its 8/97 recess "and were able to agree on most of the major issues." They agreed on a "no-surprises" measure that would exempt private landowners from new ESA restrictions in the future if they voluntarily acted now to protect species known to be on their property. The senators also settled on provisions limiting requirements for the US Forest Service and other federal agencies to consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on actions that may harm species.

The negotiators agreed to omit property-rights provisions sought by conservative activists. Those provisions "were seen as lightning rods that could kill the bill."

Several sources said that control of water rights remained unresolved (CongressDaily, 8/11).

WHAT'S THE ACT SUPPOSED TO DO ANYWAY?

Investor's Business Daily draws attention to a recent study conducted by researchers at the National Wilderness Inst., a DC-based anti-regulatory group, that claims the ESA has never been the primary cause of the recovery of a species (8/12).

*10 DRAGONFLIES: NEWSPAPER PROFILES INSECTS' ECOLOGY

Popular interest in dragonflies has grown in recent years, "fueled in part by the potential for finding new species," reports the New York Times.

Zoologist William Smith of the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources is preparing to report his second discovery of a previously unknown species of the snaketail family of dragonfly. While some 450 species of dragonflies inhabit North America, Smith notes "there is so much yet to learn" about them. For example, the winged predators are "valuable indicators" of water-quality deterioration, says entomologist John Haarstadt of the U. of Minnesota.

Though dragonflies are "clearly among the oldest and most successful" of insects species, they are still vulnerable to habitat destruction. Human activity sometimes reduces the flow of waters that dragonflies depend on for survival, says ecologist Donald Huggins of the U. of Kansas. Fly fishers prize their larvae as bait. Some species are endangered.

But Huggins notes that dragonflies generally resist the toxic effects of most pesticides and heavy metals and "extremes" of acidity, alkalinity and low oxygen levels in some waters (Jane Brody, New York Times, 8/12).

*11 WESTERN WATER: CA PLANS TO CUT RELIANCE ON COLORADO R.

The California Dept. of Water Resources on 8/11 unveiled a proposal to help southern California survive with less Colorado River water.

Known as the "California's 4.4 Plan," the proposal aims to reduce the state's take from 5.2 million acre-feet to the 4.4 million acre-feet to which it is entitled. But the plan contains several "important blanks" concerning the terms of water transfers and transportation rates (Steve LaRue, San Diego Union-Tribune, 8/12). Its success depends on "unprecedented cooperation between warring water agencies" and help from

neighboring states -- neither of which is "immediately evident."

Water officials from Colorado, Nevada and Arizona "immediately" opposed California's proposal to store surplus water in Lake Mead on the AZ-NV border, fearing such a move would turn the federally run lake into a reservoir for CA. Last year, officials from AZ, CO, NV, NM, UT and WY -- which all use Colorado River water -- pressured the feds to restrict CA's allocation after the state took 18% more water than it had been assigned under a federal agreement.

Now, David Kennedy, director of the California Dept. of Water Resources, is "attempting to cobble together" a water plan in case Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt "carries through on his threat" to reduce California's share of Colorado River water by 20% or more (Tony Perry, Los Angeles Times, 8/12).

TRUCE MAY SOON END IN CA WATER WARS

Meanwhile, new water controversy is arising in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta east of San Francisco. The three-year-old Cal-Fed Bay Delta program is struggling to provide a long-term solution that would deliver water to southern California while protecting northern fish and bird habitats (Steve LaRue, San Diego Union-Tribune, 8/9).

===== BUSINESS AND THE ECONOMY =====

*12 ENERGY EFFICIENCY: DOE EXTENDS ENERGY STAR TO APPLIANCES

The Energy Dept. last week launched a consumer education campaign to promote the use of its "Energy Star" label, which helps shoppers identify energy-efficient home appliances to lower energy consumption, save money and reduce pollution. The campaign is a new extension of the program, which began in 1993 with home computers.

Energy Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark Ginsberg, who kicked off the campaign in Los Angeles, said the labels are a "consciousness-raiser" for consumers: "We know the car pollutes because it has an exhaust pipe. But home appliances seem so innocent -- you just plug them in and turn them on."

Under federal law, major appliances are already labeled with an "EnergyGuide," which estimates annual energy consumption. Energy Star products exceed existing federal efficiency standards "typically" by 13% to 15%. The labels are beginning to appear on appliances at major retailers and eventually "will extend to housing insulations, lighting fixtures and even new homes" (Connie Koenenn, Los Angeles Times, 8/12).

*13 DIESEL: FUEL OFFERS BEST CHANCE FOR IMPROVED EFFICIENCY

Light-weight diesel engines offer the "most promising" power source for inexpensive, fuel-efficient automobiles, concludes a report by the National Research Council.

The report found that none of the engines or fuel cells being considered for a hybrid-electric vehicle was affordable enough to meet a government-industry partnership's goal of achieving a fuel economy of 80 miles per gallon. The chair of the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles, Trevor Jones of auto component firm Echlin Inc., said the group will not be able to meet its goal of building a prototype vehicle by 2004 without additional funding and a narrower focus.

Pres. Clinton in 1993 set up the partnership, which calls on the federal government, Ford, Chrysler and General Motors to each contribute \$300 million a year for the research (Reuters/Chicago

Tribune, 8/10).

===== ACROSS THE NATION =====

***14 NEW YORK: TNC BOOSTS ADIRONDACK PURCHASE PLAN**

In a move that New York state officials said would boost the state's chances of protecting a 15,000-acre wilderness area in Adirondack State Park, the Nature Conservancy has agreed to pay a Connecticut couple \$75,000 "to delay, and possibly drop," plans to purchase a 55-acre portion of the area.

The conservation group yesterday said it would pay the unidentified couple "for the inconvenience and possible loss of their deal" while state officials continue negotiations to purchase the entire tract from the Whitney family.

Descendents of former industrialist William Whitney had announced plans in 1/97 to subdivide and sell nearly a third of their 51,000-acre property, which is "one of the largest remaining private tracts in the Adirondacks" (Greenwire, 1/10). Environmentalists and state officials have long agreed that the Whitney property is "a critical puzzle piece" to add to the park, which is a mixture of public and private lands.

Representatives for the Whitneys "have been holding out" for a price of more than \$28 million for the 15,000 acres, while state officials say it is worth less than \$14 million (Andrew Revkin, New York Times, 8/13).

RUDY CHANGES HIS TUNE ON RECYCLING

New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani (R), who last year blasted the city's recycling goals as "absurd" and vowed to defy them (Greenwire, 7/3/96), is now appearing in a TV ad for the city's Sanitation Dept. encouraging recycling. In the ad, Giuliani tosses an empty water bottle into a recycling bin under the guidance of New York Yankees manager Joe Torre (David Firestone, New York Times, 8/13).

***15 NORTH CAROLINA: ENVIRO CHIEF TO REVIEW ENFORCEMENT**

Following a series of "highly publicized waste spills," North Carolina's new environmental chief on 8/7 ordered an investigation of whether regulators treat polluters "too lightly."

Wayne McDevitt, who on 8/1 became director of state Dept. of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, has argued that the state needs to increase fines and impose stricter penalties on repeat polluters. Agency critics question why wastewater plants in Durham -- the site of a 1.6 million-gallon spill last month -- and Kingston "have been allowed to ... violate pollution limits, often with no fines or penalties." State water-pollution officials said last week that they prefer to work with violators rather than fine them.

McDevitt's announcement "drew applause" from North Carolina's pork producers, who have been trying to shift negative attention from themselves to wastewater treatment plants. The industry hopes to stave off legislation that would limit the growth of hog farms in the state (AP/mult., 8/8).

FISHERIES REFORM GAINS MOMENTUM

The state Senate on 8/11 tentatively approved a bill that calls for stricter enforcement of fisheries laws and a limit on the number of fishing licenses issued. Bill Holman of the NC Sierra Club said his group backs the measure, which also aims to address declining fish populations in coastal waters (Wade Rawlins, Raleigh News & Observer, 8/12).

***16 VIRGINIA: SMITHFIELD ASKS STATE TO DROP ITS CASE**

Pork processor Smithfield Foods Inc., which was hit with a record \$12.6 million federal water-pollution fine on 8/8 (Greenwire, 8/11), yesterday asked the state of Virginia to dismiss its lawsuit against the company.

Smithfield, in a court filing with the Isle of Wight Circuit Court, said that a judgment has already been reached for its alleged pollution violations and that the state and federal cases are based "on the same nucleus of facts."

Don Harrison, a spokesperson for the Virginia attorney general's office, "said the [state] intended to vigorously pursue its case" (Bob Piazza, Richmond Times-Dispatch, 8/13).

The Washington Post today writes in an editorial that Smithfield's record fine for pollution violations into the Pagan River "is a suitable climax to a sorry tale" (8/13).

===== **WORLDVIEW** =====

***17 CLIMATE CHANGE: NATURAL GAS IS KEY TO US PLANS -- PENA**

Energy Secretary Federico Pena last week told Rocky Mountain natural gas producers that he will work to cut red tape that delays drilling and transportation of natural gas as part of a national effort to fight global warming (Jim Carrier, Denver Post, 8/9).

At a Colorado Oil and Gas Assn. conference on 8/8, Pena said natural-gas technology "will play a key role" in US energy strategy because it costs less and burns cleaner than other fuels. Gas-fired power plants would do well under expected emissions-trading schemes, the Denver Post reports. Julander Energy Chair Fred Julander: "A lot of people don't realize that gas is part of the solution to global warming" (Richard Williamson, Denver Rocky Mountain News, 8/9).

Meanwhile, a unique "eco-royalty relief" program proposed by gas producers, federal officials and environmentalists in Wyoming's Green River Basin would reduce the normal 12% royalty by 1% to 2% in exchange for environmental improvements by gas firms. But the idea "has been tied up in Washington." Pena "promised to break the logjam with Interior Secretary [Bruce] Babbitt" (Carrier, Denver Post).

***18 OZONE LAYER: HOLE OVER SOUTH POLE MAY BE INCREASING**

The hole in the ozone layer near the south pole may be increasing, according to early data from the satellite released last week by the space shuttle Discovery (Greenwire, 8/8).

Scientists on 8/11 got "their first peek" at the hole using the satellite. "The data hinted that a cloud forming around the south pole is much thicker and larger than anticipated." Dirk Offermann, one of the chief scientists involved in the research, said that this type of cloud plays an "important role in the destruction of ozone" and is an early indicator of an ozone hole.

Donald Anderson of John Hopkins U., who is unaffiliated with the NASA research team, said the clouds "suck in all the nitrogen compounds and water vapor" in the atmosphere, making it easier for other chemicals to destroy ozone.

Offerman said that he has received only about 1% of the ozone data, and that it will be about two months before scientists have enough information to draw firmer conclusions (Seth Borenstein, Orlando Sentinel, 8/13).

A 500-pound piece of "space junk" discarded from a 1984

Challenger shuttle mission came within a mile of "clobbering" the satellite yesterday (Steve Marshall, USA Today, 8/13).

JUST POP THOSE CFCs INTO THE MICROWAVE

"Using technology to counterbalance the [US's] futuristic 'Star Wars' defense system," Russian scientists may have found a way to microwave and destroy the chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) creating the ozone hole.

Igor Kossyi of the Plasma Physics Division at the Moscow General Physics Inst. said that Russian military microwave antennae could destroy CFCs. His plan, "still in the development stage," would "zap" CFCs with microwave rays before they reach the stratosphere. "The beams, sent from huge ground stations, would ionize the air and release free electrons," causing CFCs to break down into less harmful chemicals (Valeria Korchagina, St. Petersburg [Russia] Times, 8/11-17 issue).

*19 CANADA: GOV'T IGNORED ADVICE TO STUDY REACTOR'S EFFECTS

The Canadian government "ignored its own consultants' warnings" in 11/96 when it sold two nuclear reactors to China without first conducting an environmental study.

Consultants advised Prime Minister Jean Chretien's cabinet to hold public hearings and assess the full impact of the Candu-type reactors before sealing the deal, as required by Canadian law. But the cabinet viewed the law "as a potential stumbling block" to the reactor sale and it "approved an unprecedented order" waiving the environmental review mandate.

In their report, the consultants said more information was needed about the project's potential impact on the Hangzhou Bay south of Shanghai. They also "strongly recommended" that nuclear safety experts review data submitted by the Chinese. But eight days after receiving the report, Chretien traveled to China and signed the deal, which includes \$1.5 billion in loans to China.

The Sierra Club of Canada and other enviros are suing the government, asking the court to order an impact statement (Greenwire, 1/23) (Jeff Sallot, TorontoGlobe & Mail, 8/11).

ONTARIO HYDRO TO SHUT SOME REACTORS, CEO RESIGNS

"Addressing long-standing problems with its nuclear-power operations," Toronto-based Ontario Hydro said it plans to close certain reactors at its Bruce and Pickering nuclear power plants "for an undetermined period" and spend billions to upgrade the utility's remaining facilities.

Ontario Hydro Pres. and CEO Allan Kupcis yesterday "abruptly resigned," citing a report which he said found "endemic problems with management culture" at the utility (Wall Street Journal, 8/13).

*20 INDONESIA: MINE EXPANSION PLAN COULD REFUEL CONTROVERSY

US-based Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.'s proposed "major expansion" of the Grasberg copper and gold mine in Indonesia is "likely to lead to a rekindling of attacks by Indonesian environmental and human-rights groups."

The company wants to nearly triple the mine's daily output to about 300,000 tons of ore. Freeport's Paul Murphy said he expected the project to be approved by Indonesia by the end of the year, but added, "That doesn't mean there won't be a fight." The company plans to submit its environmental-impact statement next month (Jay Solomon, Wall Street Journal, 8/13).

Last year, guerrillas held 13 hostages in the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya, demanding that the company improve environmental and social management conditions at the mine

(Greenwire, 1/31/96).

*21 IRAN: NEW PREZ DOESN'T NOMINATE WOMAN AS ENVIRO MINISTER
"Despite expectations," newly elected Iranian Pres. Mohammad Khatami yesterday chose not to nominate any women to his Cabinet. A newspaper in Tehran had reported over the weekend that a US-educated woman, Massoumeh Ebtekar, would be nominated as vice president for environmental affairs (AP/Boston Globe online, 8/13).

*22 WORLD LINES: CHILE, INDIA, SRI LANKA, THAILAND AND MORE
NAFTA: The North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation -- the environmental watchdog agency established under the North American Free Trade Agreement -- will report by 12/31 on the methodology it will use to assess NAFTA's environmental effects on three sectors: white corn, cattle feed lots and utility deregulation and energy services (Kevin Hall, Journal of Commerce, 8/6).

US-CHINA: US National Security Advisor Sandy Berger yesterday met in Beijing with Liu Huaqiu, China's director of the State Council's foreign affairs office, to discuss a wide range of issues, including energy and the environment (Steven Mufson, Washington Post, 8/13).

CHILE: Chile and Argentina last week opened a \$325 million, 290-mile pipeline to pump natural gas from Argentina to the Chilean capital of Santiago. Chile hopes that using the gas in electricity plants, factories and homes will ease the city's severe pollution problems (Greenwire, 7/30) (New York Times, 8/8).

INDIA: "Amid rekindled concern" over India's dwindling tiger population, India's Environment and Wildlife Minister Saifuddin Soz on 8/8 said the country plans to more than double its spending on wildlife protection. The announcement came after 320 members of India's parliament sought guarantees from Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral on tiger protection (Agence France Presse, 8/8).

SRI LANKA: A plan to introduce fish into Sri Lankan rice paddies will minimize pesticide use and increase fish production, according to Minister of Agriculture and Lands D.M. Jayaratne (Anura Maitipe, Sri Lanka Daily News, 8/5).

THAILAND: In an effort to end illegal logging in Thailand, Police General Salang Bunnag of Thailand's Anti-Deforestation Command on 8/8 asked foreign governments to ban exports of chain saws and "related equipment" to Thailand (Agence France Presse, 8/8).

UKRAINE: Ukraine has shut down another of its nuclear power plants after maintenance workers uncovered a fault in the facility's cooling system. Agence France Presse reported that no radiation was released (Bridge News/Journal Of Commerce, 8/12).

UK: Air pollution caused mainly by vehicle exhaust led to nearly 6,000 heart attacks a year in the UK between 1987 and 1994, according to a report by researchers at St. George's Hospital Medical School in London (Agence France Presse, 8/5).

===== THE KICKER =====

AREN'T ELEPHANTS THE ANIMALS THAT NEVER FORGET?

"An elephant with an identity crisis" has become both a "tourist attraction and a jungle joke." Nzo, a 6,000-pound pachyderm, has "forgotten she's an elephant. She thinks she's

the leader of the buffalo herd" at Zimbabwe's Imire Game Ranch, said her caretaker, Jacob Muramebiwa. A male elephant was brought to the ranch for Nzo -- but she killed him in favor of her buffalo friends (Neely Tucker, Detroit Free Press, 8/9).

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