



Regional Plan Association

... a research and planning agency supported by voluntary membership to promote the co-ordinated development of the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut Metropolitan Region.

235 East 45th Street • New York, New York 10017 • (212) 682-7750

NEWS RELEASE

No. 1353
February 7, 1979

For Further Information:

William B. Shore
(212) 682-7750 (office)
(914) 631-0053 (home)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EPA EXECUTIVE LOANED FOR NATIONAL URBAN POLICY TASK FORCE

Eric B. Outwater, a regional executive of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and former Deputy Regional Administrator, has been loaned by EPA to Regional Plan Association's National Urban Policy Task Force.

Regional Plan is a citizen research and planning organization which has advocated since the early 1960's the recentralization of jobs in urban centers and a national urban policy to contribute to that goal.

The National Urban Policy announced by the President March 27, 1978, aims at revitalizing America's cities through a congeries of proposed laws and Executive Orders, some already in action.

The Task Force will concentrate on job location and economic development as a first step toward city revitalization. Initially, the Association will work with experts on city economic revival to ascertain what the several cities of the Tri-State New York Urban Region need in order to recapture dominance in office and service jobs, retailing, higher education and the arts within their areas. Among the cities included in the Association's definition of the Region are New York--with attention to downtown Brooklyn, Jamaica (Queens) and Fordham Road in the Bronx as well as to Manhattan--Newark, Paterson, New Brunswick, Jersey City, Hackensack, Trenton, Elizabeth, White Plains, Stamford, Bridgeport, New Haven and others.

After Regional Plan compiles recommendations for National Urban Policy action from economic development experts, the Task Force to

support the National Urban Policy goals of city revitalization will be put together. Suburban and rural residents, environmentalists as well as those dedicated to improving cities will be included.

Financing for the program has come so far from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as well as the loan of Mr. Outwater from U.S. EPA.

The Federal Regional Council, the assembly of chief spokesmen for federal agencies in the Region that includes New York, New Jersey, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, has pledged cooperation.

"This interest by the federal government in the New York Region's older cities is encouraging," John P. Keith, Regional Plan President, observed.

The Task Force goals are:

1. To promote wide public understanding of the reasons for a National Urban Policy.
2. To explain the Carter Administration's National Urban Policy as well as alternatives to it.
3. To identify the key levers for city revitalization and the obstacles to its achievement.
4. To identify the effects of the National Urban Policy on the New York Region.
5. To organize a task force of business and civic leaders in the Region to consider and react to the National Urban Policy.

A report on the status of National Urban Policy proposals in Congress and the Executive Branch and on accomplishments of elements already implemented will be compiled first. A statement of needs of the New York Urban Region cities will follow--both due by the first anniversary of the President's Urban Policy, March 27.

###

Biographical information on Mr. Outwater and a brief summary of the National Urban Policy stated last March and Regional Plan's comments at that time are enclosed.

BIOGRAPHY

Eric B. Outwater
Special Assistant to the Regional Administrator
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
26 Federal Plaza, Room 403
New York, New York 10007

Telephone: (212) 264-5548

Eric B. Outwater, a lifetime resident of New York City, is Special Assistant to the Regional Administrator of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency for New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Mr. Outwater, formerly Deputy Regional Administrator, now advises the Regional Administrator on policy matters relating to Region II Federal environmental programs to abate pollution of the air and water, and to help control pesticides, toxic substances, ocean dumping, solid waste, noise, radiation hazards, and drinking water.

A graduate of the Choate School and the N.Y.S. College of Agriculture at Cornell University (of which he now serves on the Council), he entered government in 1972 after 20 years in the paper, glass, and metal industries, including executive positions with the National Steel Corporation, Lord Baltimore Press, and the International Paper Company. He also ran his own businesses in the design, chemical, and computer fields.

Mr. Outwater was one of the originators of the First National Conference on Packaging Waste and started the Foundation for Responsible Conservation of our Environment. He has co-authored various books in the field and holds several patents. He is on the Environmental Committee for the Lake Placid Winter Olympics. He is married to the former Iris Miller. They have one child, Tommy.