

substance to this view is the introduction of a bill in the Congress by Senator Frank Moss (S. 2435 submitted on August 19, 1965) to redesignate the Department of the Interior as the Department of Natural Resources and to transfer certain agencies to the Department. Among the activities recommended for transfer are the water-pollution control functions of the Secretary of HEW.⁴

The arguments supporting such a change follow this line of reasoning: Pollution of water has an impact on the economy of the Nation that goes beyond considerations of health. Hence, the administration of control measures should be centered in an agency that has broad experience in matters relating to water resources. The Interior Department would appear to qualify in this respect by virtue of the fact that several of its component units—such as the Geological Survey, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Reclamation Service—have long been identified with varied aspects of water uses and development. Furthermore, its Bureau of Mines is a logical unit for assignment to mine-acid drainage control. What the future holds in the area of relocation of administration of Federal policy is difficult to prophesy.

(4) *Technological issues*

Any discussion on technological issues should be prefaced with some comment on the state of the art. It is not uncommon to hear it said that nothing new has been added to sewage-treatment technology for a half a century.

It is true that no spectacular innovations have occurred with respect to basic processing components. This may be regarded as a tribute to the engineers and scientists who pioneered the art. They were so thorough in uncovering fundamental principles and so ingenious in applying them to practice that latter-day contributions may be regarded primarily as refinements of component design and operating techniques. But this is no cause for belief that methods are outmoded or inadequate; they may not be fully employed, but they are available.

The technological issue that does command attention is a tardiness in the application of a system-design concept in the planning and operation of stream pollution control endeavors. The challenge here is to devise and apply a combination of measures to attain desired quality at the least cost.

The traditional approach to pollution control has relied primarily upon the installation of treatment facilities at points of waste discharge. Actually there are a variety of methods for mitigating pollutional effects and enhancing the quality of waters.

Among them may be cited low-flow augmentation, a proposition that is currently being promoted by interests allied to the construction of multiple-purpose reservoirs. Operationally, the practice of augmentation has not yet been effectively geared to quality control requirements.

Another alternative is the mechanical reaeration of streams. This technique has not yet been given the consideration that it should undoubtedly command in view of the progress made in the development of aeration equipment.

⁴This was accomplished by Presidential Order in 1966.