

The Department of the Interior is assigned certain responsibilities under the Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1965. A memorandum of understanding entered into by the Departments of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Interior, a copy of which is printed below, outlines the mechanism of coordination whereby the two Departments coordinate their respective efforts under the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

Coordination with the water pollution program of the Department of the Interior is managed through the Office of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. The recent transfer of the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to the Department of the Interior has caused some disruption of communication between this Office and the FWPCA. It will be necessary to redefine effective avenues through which coordination in the area of solid waste research and development can be achieved.

Because the Department of Housing and Urban Development has certain programs and responsibilities relating to urban planning, which can involve solid waste management planning, close contact is maintained between the Office of Solid Wastes and appropriate agencies and officials of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to assure that the efforts of these two agencies complement, rather than conflict with, one another.

Enclosed for the information of the Subcommittee is a copy of a cooperative project agreement involving the Office of Solid Wastes, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and Johnson City, Tenn. (see p. 709). This agreement illustrates the type of cooperative coordinated effort which will increasingly call on the resources of two or more Federal agencies involved in programs directly or tangentially relating to the management of solid wastes and research and development in this field.

Attachments.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING; DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE; AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF MINES

IMPLEMENTATION OF TITLE II, THE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL ACT OF 1965, PUBLIC LAW 89-272

The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Public Health Service, and the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, each has an area of responsibility for implementing the provisions of Public Law 89-272, the Solid Waste Disposal Act, and are mutually desirous of developing a coordinated program toward the attainment of common objectives under the Act. The report of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce (Report No. 899, Page 27, lines 19 through 36), states that, under the provisions of the bill, subsequently enacted as Public Law 89-272, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare "would be responsible for administration of the Act, except that the Secretary of the Interior will be responsible for 'solid waste resulting from the extraction, processing or utilization of minerals and fossile fuels where the generation, production, or reuse of such wastes is or may be controlled within the extraction, processing or utilization facility or facilities and where such control is a feature of the technology or economy of the operation of such facility or facilities'. This arrangement would make the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare responsible for administration of the Act with respect to solid waste problems of communities, including those problems which may affect the general environments of communities, and including those solid wastes or solid waste residues that result from business and industrial activities and become part of the community's solid waste disposal system. The Department of the Interior,