

*Recommendation*

9. The New Jersey State Department of Health has adopted water quality standards for the waters of the conference area and has submitted the standards to the Secretary of the Interior for approval as Federal water quality standards under the provisions of section 10 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended. These standards require that all wastes discharged to the Atlantic Ocean receive, as a minimum, treatment that will provide at all times 85 percent removal of BOD, and that all wastes discharged to the estuaries or tributary streams receive a minimum treatment at all times of 95 percent removal of BOD.

Mr. RYAN. In light of the conference recommendation for an 80-percent minimum reduction, and therefore design removal of 90 percent, is it consistent for New York City to propose a plant today with today's technology available which will achieve only a 70-percent removal at design capacity?

Dr. WEINBERGER. Mr. Ryan, that decision would not be based on let's say our technical ability to achieve greater removal. I am not familiar with all of the circumstances concerning what action New York State or New York City may have taken, but certainly the decision could not be on a basis of our technical ability to remove more than 70 percent or 80 percent of the impurities.

Mr. RYAN. New York City apparently intends to go ahead and construct a new plant which is designed to remove not 90 percent but 70 percent when construction is completed. But, as I understand it, that will go down to some 53 percent within a few years. How is this justifiable?

Dr. WEINBERGER. I can conjecture or surmise; but, if I may, I would much prefer to give you a written statement after I have had an opportunity to review this. I would again just make this one point: In the usual practice that we have today, when treatment plants are built they are frequently built on a stage basis. The first step in the design would be referred to as a primary treatment plant which might only remove 40 or 50 percent of the pollution load. On to that plant may be added, which is frequently done, a second-stage plant which can remove all the way from the 40 percent up to the 90 or 90-plus percent.

And in addition to that, when occasion arises, we can add a third step which is essentially what they have done at this place in Tahoe I referred to, where they have added on additional facilities to an existing plant. So that this may be one of the factors, but I will look into it and give you a reply.

Mr. RYAN. The fact is the 70 percent includes secondary treatment. It is not through primary treatment. It is through secondary treatment.

Dr. WEINBERGER. It sounds as if it would be some sort of accelerated treatment that would be intermediate between the primary removal and what could be accomplished by actual utilization of secondary capacity.

Mr. DADDARIO. It would appear wise, Mr. Ryan, if we were to allow Dr. Weinberger the opportunity to answer that question for the record so it could be more definite and precise.

(The information requested is as follows:)

*Justification for the construction of a waste treatment plant constructed in New York City which will remove not 80 percent, but 70 percent when construction is completed, with the possibility of design capacity to decrease to 53 percent within a few years.*

We understand this question refers to the North River treatment plant, which is expected to provide approximately 70 percent reduction of biochemical oxygen