

Acid and other mine water pollution control

The acid mine drainage problem is unique and has defied practical solution for many years. Therefore it appears reasonable to violate the generalization discussed above and continue special efforts toward the correction of this special problem. In the general intent this organization supports this portion of the bill.

Oil pollution control

The overall objective of the oil pollution part of the bill to reduce oil pollution in navigable waters and along shorelines is endorsed. It has been pointed out by many that a control program such as this depends on all sources. Therefore, it is important that control of oil discharges from all foreign vessels be obtained.

WASTE TREATMENT PLANT OPERATION—H.R. 16044

The Water Pollution Control Federation is dedicated to the improvement of operation of waste treatment plants as specifically covered in points 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9, of its Statement of Policy. The intent of these points includes: (1) direct responsibility for obtaining the maximum effectiveness of existing and new plants as designed (2) the encouragement of adequate financing and the use of the most practical means of financing (3) the development of new and more effective methods of treatment (4) adequate public and administrative support which will result in continuous efforts to maintain full staffs in treatment works, and (5) the strong support of mandatory certification of operating personnel so that maximum effectiveness of treatment facilities can be realized.

It is believed that the intent of H.R. 16044 fits in general certain of the objectives of this organization although the statement of policy is designed to encourage broad efforts to take advantage of all opportunities to improve treatment efficiencies. H.R. 16044 in its selection of chemical treatment methods tends to discriminate against other approaches such as biological and physical methods, in which areas much development work is well underway and in use.

If the provisions of the bill were broadened to encourage assistance for all approaches toward more efficient methods of treatment it would agree more closely with the intent of the federation's statement of policy, as well as meeting the water quality standards.

Subsection (h) of section 5 of S. 2760 makes provision for procedures to investigate and demonstrate improved methods of treatment without specifications as to the method of approach. It appears that in this respect both H.R. 16044 and S. 2760 are attempting to reach the same objective but with differing emphasis on the time frame of reference and S. 2760 is limited to lake pollution. It is believed that the objectives of this part of S. 2760 have not as yet been achieved.

THE OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE POLLUTION CONTROL ACT OF 1968—
H.R. 15906

Since the intent of the bill agrees with that in the oil pollution control section of S. 2760, the comments remain the same as for S. 2760 above; i.e., general support.