

often even if a plant is operating efficiently otherwise. These fertilizers, mostly nitrogen and phosphorus, stimulate the growth of algae and other aquatic plants which become nuisances to recreational uses of the lakes. Unfortunately, a continued high rate of nutrient supply is not necessary for continued algal production. After an initial stimulus, the recycling of nutrients within the basin is enough to produce algal blooms for several years. In short, as the aging process advances, the water become enriched and the lake gets shallower from accumulated sediment and organic debris, and anchoring of it by rooted aquatic plants.

Methods have been developed and perfected to produce a temporary reduction and control of excessive production under some circumstances. However, much still remains to be learned. The controls may be either mechanical or chemical, with their uses dependent upon the body of water and the type and extent of control desired. Mechanical controls generally are limited to rooted aquatic vegetation. Chemical controls have been developed for algae, rooted aquatic vegetation, and other nuisance organisms. Every control has limitations. Of course, the most important problem is controlling the basic cause of causes of pollution.

In conclusion, conservationists are agreed that much more work needs to be accomplished toward preventing, removing, and otherwise controlling the pollution of lakes, particularly those which are publicly owned and available to the public. Pilot programs demonstrating how this can be accomplished will be of broad general interest and benefit.

ACID MINE WASTES

We believe added emphasis needs to be placed on developing means of controlling acid or other mine water pollution. This problem is acute in many areas and some breakthrough is essential. Demonstrations appear to be the best answer and we hope projects of this type, including that which was suspended at Elkins, West Virginia, can be pursued with vigor and dispatch.

OIL POLLUTION

The National Wildlife Federation long has been concerned about pollution resulting from oil, either by accidental or deliberate discharges. Thus, we are in agreement with the general principles expressed in both S. 2760 and H.R. 15906, particularly with respect to establishing liability for spills and provisions for cleanup and removal. However, we cannot agree to the provision in S. 2760 that would exempt liability for an act of God. This is a loophole which must be plugged. We think it is especially essential that some means be developed to fix responsibilities when there is a divided ownership between carriers and cargoes. We also consider it urgent that dockside facilities for disposal of oil wastes be provided as integral parts of harbor services.

POLLUTION FROM VESSELS

To us, water pollution is of serious and significant concern. This is true regardless of the origin of the pollution—the malodorous messes of municipal sewage, potent and pungent wastes from industries, sterilizing acids seeping from mines, and persistent and paralyzing oil from leaks and wrecks and spills. It is equally true that we must work to control additional pollution from vessels, even though these often present special and unusual difficulties. This is another source of evil which must be removed.

We view with concern the pollution resulting from vessels even though we recognize that, from a volume point of view, the pollution from watercraft is relatively small in comparison to some other sources. Pollution originating from watercraft is readily apparent visually from direct over-the-side discharges. Thus, it presents a more offensive appearance in many instances than greater volumes of pollution originating from other sources in the same area. This is particularly true when ships are tied up or anchored in a harbor. And, because of their mobility, watercraft often create pollution problems which are undetected. And, also because of their mobility, watercraft often can pollute areas which otherwise may be thought to be safe.

In our opinion, several basic principles are involved with the problem of water pollution originating with watercraft: