

# Our environment. . . Utility official hits anti-energy 'zealots'

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — A power company official, equating environmental protection with anti-energy activity, has accused President Carter of giving power to a group of "coercive utopians" who want to force their no-growth philosophies on the nation.

H. Peter Metzger of the Colorado Public Service Co., in a

speech distributed by the pro-industry National Environmental Development Association, said Carter has placed almost 100 former environmental and consumer activists in federal policy jobs.

"Like most zealots, they are very different from ordinary people," Metzger said. "True believers all, they exude party line and exclude from serious atten-

tion any person or opinion which doesn't conform with theirs."

What Carter has done, he said, is not just another example of the political spoils system in action because "for the first time in history, those in power have decided that the goose has laid enough golden eggs, and she's going to be retired."

Environmentalists, "Naderites" and other "anti-energy ac-

tivists" in the administration have caused a virtual roadblock for both coal and nuclear power, Metzger said. He said they also have halted water and land development.

"I call these people 'coercive utopians,'" Metzger said.

He said their goals are "very murky" except for a few broad areas — cutting per capita energy consumption in half and halting growth, shifting from central generating plants to small neighborhood power stations under local control and turning from fossil and nuclear fuels to solar energy.

Metzger's speech, delivered April 28 at the American College of Nuclear Medicine, was an unusually bitter public denunciation of federal environmental activities.

It has been reproduced and distributed both by NEDA — a coalition of industry, labor, agriculture and other interests that campaigns for less environmental control — and by national representatives of the electric utility industry.

Just as environmentalists charge that giving government jobs to former industry officials causes a conflict of interest,

Metzger accused Carter of creating a conflict of interest by giving Interior and Justice Department jobs to lawyers from the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

He cited as an example a recent suit over environmental impact statements for new coal development which ended in an agreement that will bar most new coal development on federal lands until at least 1981.

In that case, Metzger said, two of the government lawyers came from environmental groups and had been colleagues of the lawyer representing the plaintiff.

## How to fight 'city hall'

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Private citizens should play a larger role in the complex environmental impact statement process, which can be used to change the course of major federal projects, says Charles Warren of the Council on Environmental Quality.

"Citizens are, after all, the only 'experts' capable of making the basic value choices that underlie federal programs and projects," Warren says in the foreword of a new handbook on how to influence or use impact statements.

"It is one thing for an impact statement to identify the environmental consequences of a project; it is another to decide whether they are acceptable," he said. "A government official in Washington, D.C., has a different perspective than a resident of the region who will benefit

from the proposed project or a citizen of the immediate area affected by it."

Warren recommended the use of the new handbook — "The Environmental Impact Statement Process, A Guide to Citizen Action" — written by former CEQ official Neil Orloff, now an associate professor at Cornell University and published by Information Resources Press.

Orloff's 242-page book gives step-by-step instructions on how the EIS process operates and how citizens can use it to influence government decision making. It acknowledges there may be many obstacles to getting information on proposed projects, but says they can be overcome.

Among its suggestions and comments:

- Projects generally look benign on paper, but may pose severe environmental impacts when they are actually built.
- Not every project requires an EIS, but a statement will be needed for those posing major environmental impacts if they involve a federal agency or federal funds. A monthly government printing office document called "The 102 Monitor," describing projects for which statements already have been filed, is a good guide to what kind of project requires an EIS.
- Citizens trying to influence an EIS should contact the federal official in charge of preparing the draft statement even before the draft is published. They should comment formally and very selectively on the draft after it comes out.
- No project has been blocked by the EIS process alone, but many have been changed to make them more environmentally acceptable.

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## Study could improve fish management

People don't normally expect Ph.D.s digging postholes in stock tanks.

But that's exactly what Texas A&M University biologist Norman Dronen is doing and it's all part of an unusual study of lifeforms.

Dronen is preparing for a detailed examination of the small, diverse universe most ranchers and farmers in Texas have come to depend on the stock tank.

Dronen hopes the information gained may help producers, shrimp and fish farmers, manage their animals and water more efficiently.

Dronen has dug 10 tanks at Texas A&M Research and Extension Center near Bryan for the study and hopes to have them filled with water by spring.

The study will measure the impact "introduced predators" (other words) have on amphibians, insects, parasites and microorganisms.

The parasite Dronen is studying does not have harmful effects on livestock or wildlife, however, the lung parasite in amphibians and fish search might eventually be expanded to review such organisms.

The basic experiments Dronen is undertaking will study the impact of the food chain in an environment where the food chain is dependent on snails and aquatic insects, fish's most abundant food sources.

In some circumstances, the introduction of bass or catfish might tip the delicate balance of a stock tank. Since no two tanks on the same ranch are similar, the fish might produce different results.

Dronen will rigidly control the activities in eight of the ten ponds to produce similar environmental study.

## Latest study on rats indicates DDT, now banned might not cause cancer

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — A two-year government-sponsored animal test indicates that DDT may not, after all, cause cancer.

The findings contradict earlier studies which indicated the once widely-used insecticide DDT is capable of causing cancer in mice.

The National Cancer Institute reported Monday that DDT fed to laboratory rats and mice for 78 weeks produced no evidence the chemical caused tumors.

The report noted, however, that negative results "do not necessarily mean the test chemicals are not carcinogens (cancer causers) because the experiments are conducted under a limited set of circumstances."

DDT was banned from most uses in the United States in 1973, not only because it was a suspected carcinogen, but because of its apparent impact on animal life.

The compound was included in the NCI's broad chemical testing program because of its wide use na-

tionally for more than two decades and because it persists in the environment for years.

DDT still is used to kill malaria-carrying mosquitos in other parts of the world.

In addition to DDT, two related chemicals, TDE and DDE were tested. Both are by-products of DDT.

The NCI said the tests produced suggestive but inconclusive evidence that TDE caused thyroid cancer in male rats. DDE caused liver cancer in mice.

DDT was developed as an insecticide in the 1940s and was used widely until the mid-1960s when environmentalists detected an apparent link between it and various

ecological problems such as unusual fish kills and the decline of certain bird populations.

In announcing the ban on DDT in 1972, William Ruckelshaus, then head of the Environmental Protection Agency, said mice fed DDT developed tumors. And in a 1975 report, EPA said DDT should still be considered a potential human carcinogen.

In the NCI tests, rats were served for 35 weeks and mice for 78 weeks after being fed DDT for weeks. Although some animals died during the test period, the report said enough survived long enough to be at risk from late-developing tumors.

## World Series betting tip: check team biorhythms

United Press International  
OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — A pair of science professors at Johnson County Community College think they have a hot tip for persons wanting to win a few cents on the outcome of the World Series.

If the Los Angeles Dodgers don't win it in five games, the New York Yankees will win it in seven.

So says Kevin Gratton and Paul Tebbe, who base their prediction on the biorhythms of the two teams.

Biorhythms are based on three behavioral cycles: physical, intellectual and emotional. By juggling the

three with the help of a computer, Gratton and Tebbe say they are able to ascertain the periods of maximum and minimum efficiency as well as a player's average performance during a specified period of time.

Some of Gratton and Tebbe's — and the computer's — observations about the World Series that opened Tuesday night in Los Angeles:

"Rick Monday should be effective early because his cycles are up in all areas. Ron Cey should be of more value late, being up physically and emotionally. Tommy John and Dick Ruthven should pitch as much as

possible. Don Sutton will be the par the entire time. Burt Hooton should be held out until the end of the games.

"Mickey Rivers and Reggie Jackson, if they were not such outstanding players, should sit out. Both will be in low cycles most of the time. Clayton Kumbly could be the star of the Series for the Yankees. His physical cycle is on the up side during the entire period. Catfish Hunter, Ed Figueroa should pitch and Rich Gossage should be effective the entire series with Sparky Lyle being par late.

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