Concern grows over environment

Electromagnetic pollution coming IS it sic

art pacemaker that goes awry are mptoms of what may become one the nation's most perplexing onmental problems in the 80s — electromagnetic pollution. This is the plethora of radio waves other energy radiated from the rgeoning number of electronic ducts and components in our

WASHINGTON — A toaster that we music, a truck that brakes a CB radio transmits and a ution is only in its infancy and as engineers apply solidstate circuitry and the minicomputers known as have jobs, their unintended consequences may become more serious. The big problem is interference. Signals from one device can disrupt another

Another possible problem may be biological effects that might be caused in some cases by the non-

Natural electromagnetic waves have been around as long as the microprocessors to more and more Earth has, but the amount of manmade electromagnetic waves in the crease since then has been dramatic

nes, offices, factories and vehi- ionizing types of electromagnetic and 3,975 FM radio stations in the

Experts say the electronics revo-tion is only in its infancy and as radiation usually considered harm-less. United States, 993 television sta-tions, about 30 million CB radios and more than 35 million industrial radio frequency sources in manufac-

turing plants. In addition, there are countless environment was relatively slight until after World War II. The inports and national defense, mirowave relay communications links, shortwave radio and microwave ovens.

Even if the radiation levels are below those at which biological effects could occur, Miller said the radiation can still be intense enough to affect the performance of the mul-titude of solid-state devices in use today

Such a problem developed, for example, when electronically controlled anti-skid braking systems were installed on trucks and buses. It was found that the operation of a CB radio nearby could trigger the braking mechanism. Some 18,000 new trucks were recalled in 1975 because of this problem.

TOM'S

When electronic devices are used to control a vital function, such as the regulation of the heartbeat by pacemakers, interference can be particularly dangerous. It is possible that interference could trick some devices into erroneously allowing a heart to beat too slowly or quickly. It can also be annoying when a household toaster starts playing music because it happens to be near a radio station, or when the picture on your television suddenly looks as if a blizzard hit.

The Bureau of Standards held a recent conference to discuss the problem and specialists agreed there are few answers to their many questions.

"The question that has to be ad-dressed within the country is what are the safe levels, how do we control them, and how do we determine what they are so we know what we are living in," said Miller, manager of the Bureau's electromagnetic interference program at Boulder, Colo.



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Dredge dumping seen worse on land than sea atch a cont

erall environmental damage of t Ocean Park posal of material dredged from 1 preventi bors and rivers may be less if it's ne in deep water than on land, ate is less the Chin said, at

me in deep whee me experts believe. Evidence supporting open water sposal was presented at the 11th is very low. dging Seminar in New Orleans. redging is essential to keep nels open for export and import pes. Accidental spillage of some es in poorly maintained chanis is viewed as having worse efs on marine ecological systems an dredging.

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ance."

Dr. John B. Herbich, director of price of ed to a "o stly than open water discharge.

"We've got to re-evaluate our inking," Herbich said. "Are we g shut-offi mg more damage by dumping on mg?" He emphasized that besides wing land from agricultural auction, dredge spoil kills vege-m and prevents land from sup-

The One Word

Trindings were presented in a paper, "Impacts of Open Water Dredged Material Discharge," by Drs. Robert M. Engler and Richard K. Peddicord. Their studies were conducted at the U. S. Army Engineer Waterways. F

tion in Vicksburg, Miss. They concluded that open water disposal "may generally have a neg-ligible impact on physical, chemical and biological variables," for the site

studied Present federal regulations re-pure discharge of dredged material mand, at cost higher than if it were bue at sea. The idea was discussed earlier at the second International Sym-posium on Dredging Technology at Texas A&M in November, 1977.

The seminar was sponsored by mber said the Center for Dreging Studies at the Texas A&M dredging center and val of legis leas A&M University said that price of standdisposal is five to 15 times more tion with the Gulf Coast Dredging Association and Gulf Chapter of the World Dredging Association.

> A paper by Drs. Willis E. Pequegnat, of Texas A&M's Ocean-ography Department, and David D. Smith stated that although some temporary and local damage may occur to the species at the bottom of

Herbich, with Frank DiGeorge and Dr. Wayne A. Dunlap of Texas, also presented a paper at the New Orleans seminar. Titled "Laboratory Determination of Bulking Fac-tors," it states that bulking, a tendency of dredged material to occupy more space, tends to decrease with increasing water salinity.

Other seminar papers dealt with dredged sediment stability, dredged material as a resource, containment area performance, disposal opera-tions and others. The seminar involved 115 participants from most of the states and Korea, Venezuela, Canada and the Canal Zone.



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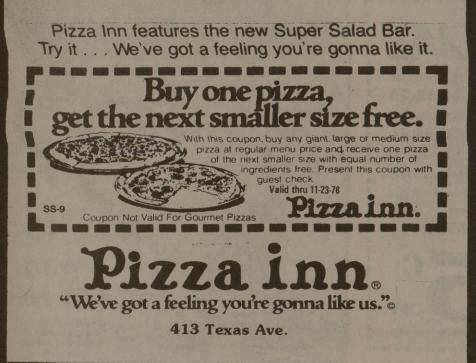
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