

# World/Nation

## EPA estimates set high cost to improve drinking water

WASHINGTON (AP) — New regulations for drinking water and waste treatment could cost homeowners an average of \$100 or more in additional municipal bills by 1996, a study by the Environmental Protection Agency estimates.

An in-house agency committee also said farms and some small businesses could face significant costs from 85 major regulations promulgated in the past year or two or expected in the next few years.

The cost estimates for the regulations affecting municipalities dealt only with new standards for drinking water, waste water treatment and solid waste.

Costs for other regulations, such as asbestos controls in schools, could not be derived, so the committee said it considered its estimates floors that could be exceeded.

Based on an analysis of the finances of 207 municipalities, the committee estimated that 21 percent to 30 percent of the smallest — places with fewer than 2,500 people — could have trouble raising loans or floating bond issues for the capital expenditures the regulations will require.

Only 3 percent to 7 percent of towns larger than that are expected to have difficulty raising money.

The panel said the states and federal officials may have to devise new ways of helping the smaller communities.

In some cases, it said, smaller towns may need to merge their services.

The panel said the increase in fees, taxes and other charges for the three environmental services would be highest in the least and most populous cities — \$170 in the smallest towns and \$160 in cities of more than 250,000.

In 20 percent of the smallest places, current charges could more than double, but nationwide only 2 percent of the households would see an increase that large.

Data for farms as a whole proved harder to come by, so the committee examined some specialty crops as well as farms of three common types — an Illinois corn and soybean operation, of which there are about 31,000; a Mississippi farm growing cotton and soybeans, of which there are about 1,800; and a Kansas farm producing wheat and cattle, of which there are about 20,000.

Assuming that the agency tried to promulgate regulations with minimum costs and that not every farmer in average fi-

financial condition had to meet every requirement, income before depreciation would fall by 3 percent for the Mississippi and Kansas farms and by 0.7 percent for the Illinois farm.

In the worst case of high-cost regulations that all farmers would have to meet, the Illinois farm would lose 26 percent of its income, the Mississippi farm would lose 24 percent and the Kansas farm would lose 84 percent.

Seventy percent of the nation's 3.5 million small businesses — those with fewer than 50 employees — are in non-polluting fields such as wholesale and retail trade, finance or other services.

The committee said it was able to identify several industries where costs to comply with future regulations had a good chance of eating up either 30 percent of annual profits or requiring capital expenditures of more than 30 percent of the owners' investment.

Most prominent are dry cleaners, who may be faced with expensive controls on solvents, and service stations faced with cleaning up any leaking underground tanks.

## World Briefs

### Group: Woman not tied to U.S. hostages

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Islamic Jihad, a pro-Iranian group holding two U.S. hostages, said Monday it was not linked to the Lebanese woman arrested in Italy with photographs of captive Americans.

The group claimed the woman, Aline Ibrahim Rizkallah, 36, had ties to Israel's secret service.

Islamic Jihad challenged Italian authorities to publish a photograph of American hostage Terry Anderson that was found in the woman's luggage at Milan airport last Thursday.

"What has been said about the presence of a photograph of captive Anderson is sheer fabrication and is absolutely devoid of truth," Islamic Jihad said in a typewritten Arabic-language statement delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut.

The 15-line communique was delivered with a photograph of Anderson to authenticate it.

The kidnapers apparently did not know that authorities in Milan had already released a copy of the photograph of Anderson that was discovered in the woman's luggage.

### European bankers offer Soviet credit

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP) — West European bankers are offering the Soviets huge amounts of credit to use in modernizing their consumer economy, but Japan's relations with Moscow are cool and its bankers are holding back.

State Department sources in Washington emphasize that the deals do not involve direct loans, but lines of credit, which become loans only as the available credit is used.

They said the credit lines appear designed to finance specific trade arrangements and cannot be classed as "untied loans" — money to be spent however the borrower chooses.

The United States does not oppose lending at market rates for non-strategic purposes but is against government subsidies of loans, the sources said on condition of anonymity.

Peter Pietsch, a finance and trade expert with West Germany's Commerzbank, told the Associated Press: "Credit not only from West Germany but from all of Western Europe will be increasing and expanding in coming years."

"This has to do with the Soviet Union's goal of opening up politically and economically, which also includes an increase in trade activities," Pietsch, whose institution is the third-largest private bank in the country, said.

### Former Marines offer peace to Vietnam

NEW YORK (AP) — Three former Marines extended a peace offering to Vietnam on Monday in advance of a mercy mission to that country in which they will look for land mines that might still be in place 20 years after the Marines left them.

The Americans presented a plaque at the Vietnamese mission to the United Nations saying: "In the hopes of preserving the peace, we come to Vietnam once again, this time to help the preservation of human life. 11th Engineers January 1989."

While the nine-day trip to be made by six former Marines from the 11th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, is a private and, in some ways,

sentimental journey, funded by an anonymous businessman, it has the blessing of both the U.S. and Vietnamese governments.

The Jan. 9 trip is the latest in a series of moves between the two countries to improve relations.

Vietnam, one of the poorest countries in the world, is seeking diplomatic relations with the United States. American aid and investment now banned by a U.S. trade embargo.

A member of Vietnam's National Assembly and a key economic adviser, Nguyen Xuan Oanh, made a rare visit to the United States earlier this month to confer with American businessmen.

### Vincennes returns from Persian Gulf

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The USS Vincennes ended a tragedy-marred deployment Monday, returning to its homeport more than three months after it mistakenly shot down an Iranian airliner in the Persian Gulf.

Sailors dressed in Navy whites lined the deck of the Aegis cruiser, which sported a red, white and blue paper wreath at its bow and carried a sign declaring the crew's love for San Diego and America.

Hundreds of relatives, awaiting a reunion with sailors absent for six months, released a cloud of red, white and blue balloons as the ship docked. A Navy band played "California Here We Come" and the "Vincennes March."

"New fathers are going to be seeing new kids for the first time," Senior Chief Petty Officer Steve Hiney said. "The wives and girlfriends, mothers and fathers are going to be there."

The Vincennes, equipped with the Navy's modern Aegis combat control system, accidentally downed the Iranian civilian aircraft over the Persian Gulf on July 3, killing all 290 people aboard.

The official Pentagon report concluded the crew mistook the airliner for an Iranian F-14 fighter jet and said crew members misinterpreted computer and radar data because of stress in their first combat situation.

## Idaho turns away radioactive boxcar from storage plant

DENVER (AP) — A steel-lined boxcar of low-level radioactive waste returned to the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant Monday after being rejected by Idaho, leaving in its tracks troubling questions about how the nation handles its atomic leftovers.

The boxcar, ordered out of Idaho by Gov. Cecil Andrus on Saturday, was moved to the Rocky Flats plant 16 miles northwest of Denver on Monday morning while officials debated what to do.

Colorado Gov. Roy Romer on Sunday turned down a Department of Energy request to expand storage facilities for low-level radioactive waste at Rocky Flats and asked that the Department of Energy not unload the rail car, which contains 140 drums of waste at 55 gallons per drum.

The state now allows storage of up to 1,600 cubic yards of radioactive waste at Rocky Flats, and the plant legally could

accommodate the boxcar's cargo without exceeding the limit, officials said.

"We'll cooperate with the DOE to find an alternative site until (a proposed disposal facility in) New Mexico is open," Romer said Monday. "But I've said, 'Look, no expansion of Rocky Flats.'"

Romer said he would press for a meeting of Western governors to discuss a long-term solution to the problem and planned to talk to DOE officials in the meantime.

It was the second time recently that Rocky Flats' operations have come under the spotlight. Earlier this month, the plant's plutonium reprocessing facility was closed by the DOE after three workers were exposed to radioactive material inside. Building 771 remains closed, but production of plutonium triggers for nuclear weapons continues at the plant, officials said.

## Underdog Dukakis claims Bush resorts to using 'outright lies'

Michael Dukakis, an underdog running short of time, accused George Bush on Monday of resorting to "outright lies" to avoid important campaign issues. Bush replied that Democrats are desperate and said Dukakis is soft on crime and defense "and that's the inescapable truth."

There was no letup in a White House campaign never noted for civility.

Democratic Rep. Richard Gephardt, campaigning for Dukakis, said of the Republicans, "Hitler would have loved these people."

With 15 days until Election Day, Bush and running mate Dan Quayle were doing their best to protect a lead in the national public opinion polls.

Dukakis purchased time for the second in a series of five-minute network television commercials as he and ticketmate Lloyd Bentsen looked for a way to catch fire.

Dukakis stuck to his late-campaign Populist theme and said Bush would per-

sonally receive a \$22,000-a-year tax break from his proposal to cut the capital gains tax.

"George Bush wants to give people like George Bush a tax break that's more than the average California worker makes in a year," Dukakis said in Los Angeles. "Look in the mirror and ask yourself: Is George Bush on your side?"

The vice president defended his tax proposal as good for creating new jobs. He said Dukakis is likely to raise taxes if he gets the chance and the nation could face an "economic disaster if the liberals take over the White House."

Campaigning through New England, Bush made an unusual departure from his prepared speech to reject Dukakis' charges of campaign distortions and deceptions. He said he could document every one of the allegations made in television advertisements criticizing a Massachusetts prison furlough program and his rival's record on defense.

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