Water-Waste Disposal **Grants To Increase**

Earl L. Butz has announced that as a result of a Department survey \$120 million in grant funds are being added to the record \$500 million in Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) loans and grants currently available for rural water and waste disposal systems in the 1974 fiscal year (FY) ending June 30, 1974. This action brings the total of rural water and waste disposal grants available for FY 1974 to \$150 million, an increase of \$120 million over the amount used ın FY 1973.

The Secretary pointed out that FmHA had made a survey of grant needs in connection with water and waste disposal projects early in this calendar year as the result of the release of some \$30 million in grant funds to communities unable to

Secretary of Agriculture secure funds from other sources.

The survey found that there were many financially needy communities which presently lack sewer and water systems, and are not able to proceed on a "loan only" basis because most of the families to be served by such systems lack sufficient income to pay the higher "loan only" rates. As a result, the Department arrived at the decision to make available the additional \$120 million and is. preparing regulations which will target the funds toward the most needy rural communities.

"This further demonstrates our commitment to the development of rural communities,' the Secretary said. "These additional rural development funds will permit local leaders to push ahead with

Grid System Proposed For Mineral Discovery

If you drilled an exploratory hole every twenty miles across the length and breadth of the United States you would hit every "jackpot" of mineral resources that it took more than a century to find by trial-anderror methods.

And you'd have a jackpot far more valuable-a complete inventory of the total mineral resource potential of the country.

Dr. John C. Griffiths expounded this drastic and highly controversial approach to mineral exploration today at an energy symposium at The Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Griffiths said that traditional "wildcat" prospecting has reached a point of diminishing returns. Furthermore, it is extremely wasteful since individual prospectors--now usually large corporations-usually look for a single resource. say, oil, and either do not see other mineral possibilities or neglect them.

water and waste disposal projects that will make their communities more attractive to industry and more pleasant places in which to live. In the present fiscal year, it means that \$620 million in loans and grants will have been available to rural areas to protect the health and improve the living conditions of residents of rural America. This compares with \$320 million used for this purpose in fiscal year 1973, the previous record year for such assistance."

spectrum approach based on a grid system, said Dr. Griffiths, is the only way to guarantee adequate resources for the future.

Some 10,000 exploratory wells would be required to "cover" the U.S. if 20-mile spacing were used. Such massive drilling, Griffiths calculates, would cost about five billion dollars.

There are 23 known "jackpots"-prime deposits of oil, lead, copper, etc.-in the country, each valued at a billion dollars or more.

"If only five new prizes are discovered by the grid method," he said, "the massive prospecting program would pay for it-

More important, according to Dr. Griffiths, professor of petrography, mineral prospecting would be put on a systematic basis and would yield a complete inventory of our potential. Cores from the ten thousand holes would be analyzed not for one but for all known mineral possibilities, including fresh water.

Grid-systems, he pointed out, are in wide use by the military, either in search for potential targets, or for missing submarines, downed aircraft, etc. A 200-mile global grid is used by meteorologists in collecting for weather data forecasting.

A grid strategy would take much of the risk out of prospecting and would have important geopolitical ramifications.

"Only if we know what's in the ground," said Dr.

planning of the economy and an orderly development of natural resources with due consideration for their conservation."

Once the 20-mile grid drilling was completed, said Dr. Griffiths, and it would take only two or three years,

A systematic, broad- Griffiths, "can we have a it would provide information pectrum approach based on sound basis for national that would enable smaller that would enable smaller targets to be found with a higher success ratio than now prevails.

"This information," he said, "would rejuvenate our approach to the study of the earth's crust to the benefit of both the theory and the practice of exploration."



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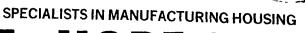
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