

Six states join forces to fight acid rain

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania has joined five other states in an effort to change federal air pollution policies in the midwest that have aggravated acid rain and caused other environmental and economic problems in the northeast.

Environmental Resources Secretary Clifford L. Jones said officials from the six states will meet Wednesday in Washington with Douglas Costle, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to discuss the problem.

Jones said he will meet afterwards with members of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation's steering committee to brief them on Costle's response.

Joining Pennsylvania in this effort are the states of New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

"Basically, we want EPA to recognize that air pollution doesn't respect political boundaries and that each state should be responsible for cleaning up its own fair share of air pollution," Jones said.

"Unfortunately, EPA has failed to recognize these basic facts and Pennsylvania and the other northeastern states are paying the environmental and economic prices."

Jones said EPA permits power plants in the midwest and in the heavily industrialized Ohio River Valley to burn uncleaned, high sulfur coal and discharge the pollution from extremely tall stacks.

This strategy allows those states to meet the federal

ambient air pollution standard, but the pollution discharged from the tall stacks into the upper atmosphere has to go somewhere.

And there is growing evidence that the prevailing west-to-east weather patterns carry it long distances into Pennsylvania and the rest of the northeast.

"We have measured some of the most acidic rainfall in the world in Pennsylvania and we fear that continued acid precipitation will endanger our high quality trout streams and the fertility of our forests and farmlands," Jones said.

"We have been lucky that Pennsylvania's soils and streams have a relatively high buffering capacity. New York, for example, has been losing its high mountain lakes to acid rain at an alarming rate."

Jones said Pennsylvania and other northeastern states have to pay a high economic price for this midwestern air pollution.

"Not only do we have to suffer the economic impact of acid rain, but we also have to require our industries and power plants to meet much stiffer air pollution control requirements," Jones said.

"This makes our states less attractive for industrial development than the states that benefit from EPA's narrow, shortsighted policies.

"It forces our industries to pay more for air pollution controls and it requires customers of Pennsylvania's electric utilities to pay higher rates."

Jones said this violates the basic purpose of the federal clean air act, which was to impose uniform pollution control requirements so that one state wouldn't gain a competitive advantage over another.

"What's more, the EPA policy jeopardizes the health of people who live in portions of southwestern Pennsylvania," Jones said.

"We have evidence suggesting that the level of pollution transported from the midwest are so high that these areas will not meet the federal health standard, even when all sources in that part of the state are in compliance."

Jones said Pennsylvania has asked EPA to impose regional air pollution standards that take into account the long distance transport problem and require the states involved to share equally in the control requirements.

Pennsylvania has filed a lawsuit challenging an EPA decision to relax sulfur dioxide control

requirements at two West Virginia power plants and asking the court to order EPA to impose regional standards.

DER has also threatened to take similar actions to stop proposed relaxations at two power plants in Ohio.

"We're not trying to discourage the use of coal," Jones said. "We just want other states to impose the same requirements for cleaning and blending the we have imposed on power plants that burn Pennsylvania coal."

Amer. Simmental Assoc. on upward swing

BOZEMAN, Mt. — The American Simmental Association continued its steady growth pattern during 1979 according to year end statistics released by Executive Secretary Earl B. Peterson.

New lifetime memberships in ASA increased by 31 per cent, totaling 1,265 as compared to 963 in 1978, and 988 in 1977.

The strong surge in memberships occurred even though the lifetime membership fee was increased on March 1 from \$100 to \$150. ASA is unique in that it is one of the few breed organizations that requires only a one-time lifetime

membership rather than annual renewable memberships.

"The growth during this past year has been extremely encouraging", Peterson said in pointing out that sizeable increases also were experienced in the number of Simmental registrations and transfers and in Simbrah registrations.

Registration certificates were issued for 65,455 head during the year, an increase of 8 per cent over the previous year. The number of transfers increased by 22 per cent, from 33,714 in 1978 to the current total of 41,257.

The Simbrah registry, which features crossbred genetics of two established breeds, the Simmental and the Brahman, recorded a startling increase of 69 percent, jumping from 1,152 in 1978 to 1,953.

"Transfers for the year were at an all-time high, indicating the healthy, current demand for Simmental breeding animals," Peterson remarked. "Sale averages were consistently above a year ago. The large number of new members shows that the demand for Simmental cattle will remain strong for the coming year."

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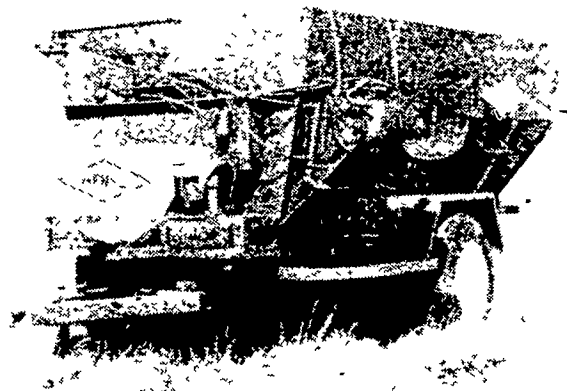
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