



DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT

ROUTE 10

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TODAY'S SUMMARIES

Change To Clinton Energy Tax Will Weaken Benefits, Environmentalists Say — Friends of the Earth express concerns that a modification to President Clinton's broad-based energy tax proposal would undermine its environmental benefits. The group refers to the House Ways and Means Committee's change to the plan that would result in collection of the tax at the consumer, rather than producer, level. FOE leaders make their comments during a press conference to announce the release of report that sharply criticizes the U.S. oil for allegedly wasteful practices. AA-1

Clinton Seeks \$400 Million For Waste Water Grants in Supplemental — President Clinton, formalizing his administration's last-ditch effort to secure supplemental appropriations for this fiscal year, asks House Speaker Foley late May 14 to endorse legislation to provide \$920 million in supplemental spending, including \$400 million for waste water treatment construction. The president says the administration would offset the additional funding with a 0.45 percent across-the-board domestic spending cut for fiscal 1993. A-5

DOE Mixed Waste Inventory Called First Step in Cleanup — A report compiling information on the Energy Department's mixed radioactive wastes is the first step of a process on deciding how to treat radioactive mixed wastes stored and generated by DOE. An DOE official says is significant because the data base it establishes will be used as the basis for discussions with states on environmental restoration of DOE facilities. A-2

54 Incinerator Opponents Arrested During White House WTI Protest — Fifty-four opponents of Waste Technologies Industries Ohio hazardous waste incinerator are arrested during a demonstration across the street from the White House. They call on the new administration to follow up on a campaign pledge and shutdown the East Liverpool incinerator. During the protest, they force the closing of westbound Pennsylvania Avenue for five hours. A-5

ASTM Releases Final Standards For Environmental Site Assessments — Two long-awaited standards defining good commercial and customary practice in conducting environmental site assessments of commercial real estate are released by the American Society for Testing and Materials. Final release of the standards—the Transaction Screen Process (E 1528) and the Phase I Site Assessment Process (E 1527)—marks the completion of a three-year long effort by the ASTM Subcommittee on Environmental Assessments for Commercial Real Estate. A-1

Chlp Consortium Rules Out Formal Advisory Role For Environmentalists — SEMATECH, the industry/government semiconductor consortium agrees only to continue a dialogue with environmentalists on its work in the areas of environmental safety and health rather than adopting a formal advisory role for environmentalists. Environmental and labor groups had sought a formal watchdog role to ensure that the consortium did not become a taxpayer-supported "giveaway" to advance the interests of



STATE NEWS

Texas

CHIP CONSORTIUM RULES OUT FORMAL ADVISORY ROLE FOR ENVIRONMENTALISTS

AUSTIN, Texas—Environmental groups this week will issue a response to an industry-government semiconductor consortium, which rejected a request for a formalized structure for input from outside organizations on environmental and health issues, an environmental group official told BNA May 17.

The consortium—SEMATECH—has agreed only to continue a dialogue with environmentalists on its work in the areas of environmental safety and health. Responding to requests from environmental groups, SEMATECH Chief Administrative Officer Franklin Squires said in a May 7 letter, "SEMATECH agrees to maintain an ongoing, constructive dialogue with external environmental organizations regarding our ESH accomplishments and future plans." Squires added that the industry/government semiconductor consortium will seek broad-based community input on local community relations programs.

But he ruled out environmentalists' requests for a more formalized advisory role, saying, "We don't believe that altering our current oversight and governance structure adds value."

Environmental and labor groups, under the umbrella of the Electronics Industry Good Neighbor Campaign, had sought a formal watchdog role to ensure that the government-industry consortium did not become a taxpayer-supported "giveaway" to advance the interests of big business at the expense of the environmental safety and health (78 DEN AA-1, 4/26/93).

Squires pointed out that the Defense Department's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is the primary federal agency charged with monitoring SEMATECH programs. The Advisory Council on Federal Participation in SEMATECH is the congressionally mandated oversight body, he added. Numerous other federal agencies and organizations are also keeping tabs on the consortium, he said.

Specific Proposals Addressed

On other proposals suggested by the environmentalists, Squires said they generally overlapped projects under way or planned by the consortium, "indicating that SEMATECH and EIGNC share common concerns in environmental protection and worker safety."

The SEMATECH official said environmentalists' proposal for a life cycle analysis of the semiconductor manufacturing process has begun and is a priority project for 1994. "SEMATECH agrees that this is a very important subject and as a methodology, has been effective in other industries," he said.

Other proposals the consortium already is working on include a program to reduce release of all toxic

chemicals from production facilities by the year 2000 and research to explore the environmental health and safety impacts of conversion to additive production technologies.

Some of the environmentalists' proposals already have been achieved, according to Squires. The consortium no longer uses glycol ethers or Group 1 ozone depleting chemicals in its manufacturing operations and it also recycles its wafer containers and reclaims its wafers.

Planned projects include a program to substitute acutely toxic gases in production operations and development of numerical risk models for hazardous materials.

SEMATECH bowed out on environmentalists' recommendation that it explore the biological and renewable material foundations for converting semiconductor production to less toxic materials, saying it lacked the basic research capability. But the consortium has asked the Semiconductor Research Corporation to review the concept, Squires said.

Rand Wilson, director of the Boston-based Campaign for Responsible Technology, told BNA May 17 that environmental groups would be issuing a response to SEMATECH this week. "The consensus will be that there's insufficient detail," he said, adding that the "oversight and governance issues haven't left us much wiggle room."

On the positive side, Wilson said, the consortium has taken environmentalists' ideas seriously. And although the consortium has ruled out formal advisory participation, it appears to be willing to discuss establishing a local advisory council in Austin for the SEMATECH facility, he said. SEMATECH officials are scheduled to meet May 21 with representatives from Austin-based PODER (People Organized in Defense of Earth and its Resources) to discuss the possibility, he said. □

STATE ROUNDUP

The following reports from BNA correspondents detail federal, state, and local actions affecting the environment at the state level.

ARIZONA

Rules Would Set Permit Fees For Stationary Sources: The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) April 14 submitted to the governor's regulatory review council proposed rules to establish fees related to air quality permits for stationary sources. The fees are based on estimated costs for the ADEQ air pollution stationary source permitting program. Sources which would be considered complex are agricultural chemical manufacturers and proces-