

(continued from page 1, column 1)  
 not know is that they aren't necessarily going to agree with each other. Why bother to have a panel if there aren't various viewpoints represented? There will likely be some rousing discussions. If you haven't registered yet phone Ruth Housek at 606/873-4964 and reserve a spot for you and your friends now! Today! Don't wait!

You may write to ask for a copy of the final report the Kentucky Groundwater Protection Strategy which will be out soon. Contact the Kentucky Division of Water, 18 Reilly Road, Frankfort, KY 40601, and request a copy.

**SOIL EROSION--SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGING AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES**

After determining the specific cause of agricultural erosion in the different physiographic regions of the state, decide what erosion control practices are best and what agricultural practices are worst for each region. Chart 10 point gradations from 0 (worst practices) to 100 (best practices) specifically indicating the conditions necessary for each gradation. Choose a fairly readily attainable starting point, say 50 (which could mean that either half the production acreage is under best management practices, or that all the cultivated property has some minimal erosion control measure in effect) and require the owner to certify at the time of property tax payment that their farm meets the required level. If their farm doesn't meet the requirement, they pay more taxes, if they are above the level they pay less. In a set number of years the required level shifts upward until soil losses equal normal replacement levels. This might be at level 80 for instance. Above that the farmer would be actively improving the soil and saving tax money. Obviously, tax burdens within the community would be shifted somewhat in this scenario. However, this technique clearly links the long-term welfare of the public (maintenance of agricultural land) and the long-term welfare of the farmer (deep, rich soils grow the best crops). At the same time, public costs from non-point surface water pollution, fish habitat degradation, and floodplain and drainageway damage will be much reduced while farmers will be able to reduce their tax burden. It is likely that absentee landowners and major corporate farmers would be greatly affected by this proposal as these groups now have no personal incentive to control soil loss, unlike many farmers who plan to leave the farm to their children. --- Adapted from Soil and Water Conservation Journal

**SOLID WASTE --- THE NEW YORK DRAFT PLAN**

New York is running out of landfill space and faces a solid waste disposal crisis according to a draft solid waste management plan released January 6, 1987 by the state Department of Environmental Conservation. Calling for a 50 percent reduction in the solid waste stream by 1997, the draft also states that the amount of waste landfilled should drop from 80 percent to 10 percent. These goals are "reasonable and achievable" objectives. Recommended waste management techniques are: waste reduction, recycling and reuse, resource recovery (including energy), and landfilling.

The plan's recommendations for achieving the waste management goals include: 1. Legislation empowering the state to impose siting decisions on local government, when localities fail to reach a decision on a "critically needed" facility; 2. Restrictions on packaging to reduce packaging wastes; 3. A fee on goods sold, depending on the recyclability of the packaging used; 4. Increased use of recycled products by state government; 5. Creation of a model resource separation ordinance for local government use.

--From Environmental Planning Quarterly, Spring 1987

**FEDERAL GROUNDWATER LEGISLATION**

Sen. Moynihan (D-N.Y.) has introduced S.20, the Groundwater Protection Act of 1987. It would direct EPA to establish criteria for 100 groundwater contaminants and provide other assistance for their identification. The bill would authorize \$25 million annually for three years, in a 75 percent federal/25 percent state cost sharing basis, for the states to undertake groundwater assessments; and \$50 million over five years, on a 50 percent matching basis, to assist states in setting strategies, and operating groundwater protection and monitoring programs.

Another groundwater bill, H.R. 791, was introduced by Rep. Gejdenson, (S-Conn) which would authorize the U.S. Geological Survey's water research activities and establish a national groundwater quality assessment [program] at USGS. The bill has provoked debate over which agency should have the primary responsibility for groundwater research; EPA has criticized the bill for posing difficult interagency coordination problems. The bill has been referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. --From Environmental Planning Quarterly, Spring 1987

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# The Kentucky Conservation Committee Guardian



A Review of Kentucky's Commitment to Protecting  
Its Environment and Conserving Its Natural Resources

May 18, 1987

**KCC MEETING HAS GROUNDWATER FOCUS**

Make your reservations now for the Annual KCC meeting on Saturday, May 30th at Shakertown. See the enclosed schedule for reservation information. Our Annual meeting will be dynamite! Professors Ralph and Lynda Ewers, our opening speakers, will lay the foundation for two panel discussions in their illustrated talk about the groundwater geology of Kentucky and contamination problems from improper waste disposal. Ralph Ewers, a hydrologist at ECU has been involved with groundwater geology projects throughout Kentucky and elsewhere. Lynda Ewers teaches in the Environmental Health Sciences Department, also at ECU.

If you aren't sure how to pronounce aquifer, let alone know what it is, if you wondered why your water tastes funny, or you think karst is a kind of deposit that forms on bones, or you don't understand how rainwater and spring water are related, this is definitely the talk for you. The Ewers are most entertaining and their talk will be an eye opener for us. So come early, enjoy, relax, learn, and socialize. Groundwater quality is a major public concern these days. The federal government has decided to let the states take charge, never mind the fact that groundwater pays no attention to state boundaries. Two proposed federal bills may change that situation a bit (see accompanying story).

Kentucky published a Groundwater Strategy as a separate part of the Water Management Plan. Geary Schindel, the staff person for the Groundwater Advisory Council will be on one of our panels along with others knowledgeable about Kentucky's groundwater efforts, problems, and opportunities.

Representative Walter Blevins, Chairman of the Water Management Task Force will comment following the afternoon panel. Please look at that schedule carefully because the people taking part have most impressive credentials. Something you may

**CROSS COMPLIANCE, A POWERFUL INCENTIVE**

Since there are a limited number of laws and regulations which promote water quality, and since the enforcement of these regulations is sometimes spotty, the state could and should undertake additional measures to get municipalities, industry, and individuals to comply with wise environmental practices. On a county by county basis (or other appropriate scale) the state would first decide what constitutes wise environmental planning and implementation practices. Then whenever the state is deciding where to spend money (whether it be federal or state funds), assuming that many localities are competing for a share of these limited dollars, the state could give special preference to those localities which are already demonstrating their commitment to being good citizens.

Additionally when legally possible, the state should consider withholding permits when certain major environmental problems are not being addressed locally, such as solid waste plan implementation, or municipal compliance with water or wastewater treatment standards. When The state is paying for major public investments, whether it be for infrastructure or industrial development bonds, the state should reward localities which have developed prudent land use planning practices with the environment being a major factor in that plan. KCC recognize that counties which develop and adhere to good land use and planned growth practices save taxpayers a great deal of money in the long run.

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