



# Newsletter

## WSERC NEEDS YOUR HELP

The WSERC NEWSLETTER is the only publication dedicated to keeping you up-to-date on energy developments on the Western Slope. At present we have a mailing list of 150 but less than half of our subscribers have paid their \$5.00 fee for this year. We cannot continue to publish forever without financial support. Many people tell me how much they appreciate the NEWSLETTER, but the real demonstration of your appreciation comes in sending your dollars. If you wish to continue to receive this publication, please send your \$5.00 immediately to Box 746, Hotchkiss Colorado 81419.

David Johnston, Co-Chairman

## HOW NOT TO BUILD YOUR SOLAR HOME

As part of its public information series, WSERC will present a talk by Linda Lindsey called "How Not to Build Your Solar Home: Pitfalls to Avoid" on September 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hotchkiss Elementary School Band Room. Linda will show slides and discuss some of the results of her research for her book AT HOME IN THE SUN: AN OPEN HOUSE TOUR OF SOLAR HOMES IN THE U.S. There will be no admission charge.

## WCRC JOINS REGIONAL ASSOCIATION

The Western Colorado Resource Council announces its participation in the formation of a new regional association of resource councils. The purpose of the organization is to provide a unified approach to common issues faced by western states. Meeting in Sheridan Wyoming last month Richard Nilsen, Mark W Welsh, Craig Sabatke and Brad Klafehn talked with representatives of the Montana Northern Plains Resource Council, Wyoming's Powder River Basin RC, the Dakota Resource Council, and the Northern Colorado Resource Council (based in Fort Collins). Joining together will enhance the political clout of the individual groups. In addition to local memberships, outside funding will be sought to provide a regional field agent and a Washington lobbyist.

According to Board Member Sabatke, this effort is particularly needed now because of the Carter Administration's announced policy of placing the burden of providing national energy independency on the western states. In its latest submission to the Congress concerning synfuels, the Administration is seeking to abrogate the rights of local governments and citizens to control the use of their own land and resources. Under the proposed legislation an Energy Mobilization Board would have the power to override local controls and state and federal environmental legislation. Judicial challenges to Board decisions would have to be taken directly to Federal Appellate Court.

The Resource Council is conducting a membership campaign and encourages all citizens to join in order to increase their influence in the decision-making process.



### SYNFUELS AND YOU

One of the issues of utmost importance and urgency--both to the nation as a whole and more particularly to residents of Western Colorado--is that of "Energy Independence." Two basic approaches to solving this problem are now before the Congress: the conservation approach and the "do something now, even if it's wrong" approach. Current Carter Administration proposals include some elements of conservation but rely heavily on a crash program to develop synthetic fuels. The latter program would bring drastic changes to Western Colorado, including the North Fork Valley.

Among the Administration's proposals to promote conservation are an import ceiling of 8.2 million barrels of foreign oil per day and the appropriation of \$16.5 billion for better transportation initiatives.

Under the crash synfuels program the Administration would spend \$88 billion in an effort to produce 2.5 million barrels per day by 1990. The project is fraught with difficulties. The technology for making artificial crude oil and natural gas from coal, oil shale and other substances, has not been demonstrated to be viable. Conversion processes produce a number of known carcinogens, use enormous amounts of water, and create huge quantities of waste. (Every barrel of shale oil leaves over a ton of crushed rock to dispose of.) Development of synthetic fuels will be largely associated with strip mining.

Leading American and German scientists recently warned the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (Conn.) about the dangers that increased reliance upon synthetic fuels would mean for the earth's atmosphere. Greater use of synfuels would accelerate the accumulation of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, producing a "greenhouse effect" or heating of the earth's climate. Panelists warned that such CO<sub>2</sub> increase could have important environmental effects within 20 years: loss of marginal agricultural lands, threatening the stability of the world's food supply; change in rainfall patterns; possible melting of the western part of the Antarctic ice cap, leading to flooding of low-lying coastal areas and consequent relocations of people and industries. Synfuels from oil and shale produce more CO<sub>2</sub> for each unit of useful energy consumed than any other source, according to the National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Report.

Associated with the Synfuels proposal is the creation of an Energy Mobilization Board (EMB) charged with "cutting red tape" in order to speed up the permit process for energy facilities. Several proposals now before the Congress deal with the powers of the EMB. The Carter proposal would give the board power to waive certain procedural requirements, reducing the time allowed for environmental and other reviews of priority projects. The proposal by Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) would also give the EMB authority to overturn state laws and regulatory decisions on substantive issues as well as on procedural matters. Rep. Timothy Wirth (D-Colo.) has called the Dingell proposal "the most blatant challenge to Colorado and the Rocky Mountain West we've yet seen." Rep. Ray Kogovsek (D-Colo.) is one of the sponsors of the EMB bill.



If such legislation passes it could have a major effect on the future of the North Fork Valley. Both Atlantic Richfield and Gulf Oil have water decrees that would allow them to build synfuels plants in this area.

While ARCO recently announced a company decision to open its Mt. Gunnison No. 1 Mine at a low (250,000 T/yr.) level of production because it has no contract for the coal, it would like to expand more rapidly if at all possible. ARCO has already acquired a water decree specifically for the liquefaction of coal, permitting it to dam the Anthracite and to store 50,000 acre feet of water. If under a "windfalls profits" tax, ARCO is required to re-invest some of its excess profits, or if government subsidies are provided for synfuels projects, the likelihood of the company opening such a plant becomes much greater.

In addition, Pittsburg and Midway Coal Mining Co., a subsidiary of Gulf Oil Corp., has plans for a giant coal processing and power plant complex on the Gunnison. A 162,700 acre-ft. capacity Cedar Flats Dam and Reservoir would provide the water for liquefaction of 8 to 10 million T/yr. of coal into synthetic fuel and generate 500 MW of hydroelectric power. A 3,000 MW thermoelectric (coal fired steam) power plant would be built adjacent to the Sulphur Gulch Reservoir, 38,600 acre ft. in capacity. Additional water for cooling would be provided by the Cedar Flats Reservoir and a 50 MW hydroelectric plant at the Austin Dam and Reservoir (27,400 ac.ft.) Designation of the Gunnison Gorge as "wild" would largely preclude the possibility of these projects becoming a reality, however.

#### STUDY SHOWS COUNTY CANNOT AFFORD GROWTH COSTS

##### County Commissioner Urges Increased Mining Anyway

At a meeting organized by County Attorney Tim Jones last week Arthur Oldham of RSWA Denver, Inc., a consulting firm, announced results of a study of the ability of Delta County to pay for increased services that will result from increased coal mining. The purpose of the meeting was to inform our legislators--U.S. Rep. Kogovsek, State Reps. Dan Noble and Bob Burford--of the problems the county faces. Also in attendance were Bob McCleary of Sen. Gary Hart's office, David Leinsdorf, Gunnison County Commissioner, Fran Cherry of the BLM, Steve Schmidt, the Governor's chief officer in charge of socio-economic impacts, Lew Sterns of the Division of Highways, coal company representatives as well as those of WCRC, the League of Women Voters, and the Quality of Life Committee.

Basing calculations on the West Central EIS, which assumes there will be no new federal leasing, but includes the ARCO project, and assuming that every new miner will bring in 3 additional service personnel, RSWA concluded that the county and all the towns in it except Delta will find themselves deeply in the red by 1985. 50% of the new population is expected to settle within 30 min. of the mines, meaning the Paonia/Hotchkiss area, and 64% of the people will live in unincorporated areas. Thus the towns will be expected to provide services to the rural areas. By 1985 the study predicts the county will show a net loss of 1.2 million and the school district, a loss of 4.7 million. The recently passed 13 million dollar bond issue will bring the schools up to a level of "adequate" only until 1982. Dr. Frossard confirmed this estimate, and said he found the thought of increased growth "frightening."



Only Delta was shown to be prepared for the anticipated growth, with a \$69,500 net gain in 1985. Net losses predicted for other towns were: Paonia, -\$52,000; Hotchkiss, -\$85,000; Cedaredge, -\$33,000, and Crawford, -\$3,000. By 1990 the total county-wide loss was set at 4.7 million, including the school district.

Officials from the towns outlined the needs they foresee in the short term due to expected growth without new federal coal leasing, and made pleas for state and federal assistance in dealing with the impacts. Representing the BLM, Fran Cherry indicated that his agency is trying to help mitigate the possible impacts by restraining federal leasing. The BLM has no present plans to issue new competitive coal leases in the North Fork until a new Management Framework Plan is prepared or the Uncompaghere Basin Resource Management Plan is completed (scheduled for 1987). This is the decision made under the 1974 MFP and updated in 1977 utilizing much public input, Cherry said. However, Commissioner John Hawkins objected, saying that he did not feel that elected officials, i.e., county commissioners, had been consulted in this matter and that "we (sic) have never said we don't want more leasing." He did not elaborate on how the county expects to pay for the services required by increased leasing.

According to David Leinsdorf, Gunnison County Commissioner, there is no answer to the question, "How do you make growth pay its way." Growth does not pay for itself, he said. The Citizens who reside in an area of impending impact have to decide if they want to pay for it themselves. The counties can control the pace of growth, he pointed out, through land use planning techniques. "The county should take the lead in setting the time-table for development," he urged, and gave examples of how Gunnison County is doing just that.

Lew Sterns of the State Division of Highways indicated that the entire budget earmarked for this area is dedicated to improvements to Highway 130, with virtually no funds allocated for secondary roads. Thus any new population will bring further deterioration of highways, but the Highway Department will have no means of doing anything about it.

Representative Kogovsek said he feels that in these days of tight budgets it will be difficult to get impact funds from the Congress, but that Senator Hart is introducing bills to aid communities in Colorado and the western states and that support for his proposals is needed.

Copies of the RSWA report will be made available to the public as soon as they are printed, as well as transcripts of the meeting. As the public was not invited to this meeting, it is important for citizens to express their views to the various elected officials.

#### URANIUM TAILINGS IN GRAND JUNCTION

At a public information meeting sponsored by WSERC on July 26, Bob Weiss of the Two Rivers Citizens' Association revealed the extent of the tailings problems in Junction. 2.2 million tons of tailings from the Climax Uranium mill operated from 1952-70 still lie in the city--1.9 mil. T in a pile alongside the Colorado River, 50,000 in buildings, and 250,000 in streets, sidewalks, etc. Grand Junction has double the expected leukemia rate and a high lung cancer rate. A program currently underway to remove tailings from buildings with the highest radiation levels (gamma and radon daughter concentrations, or alpha radiation) is strictly voluntary and many homeowners are not participating. A new program would remove the tailings pile at the risk of releasing more radiation.





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# Newsletter

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Number 6

## CONGRESS TRIES TO WEAKEN SURFACE MINING ACT

A set of proposed amendments to the 1977 Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act has been passed by the Senate in Bill 1403 and is now under consideration in the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. The amendments would weaken the Act by 1) requiring proposed state programs conform to the general statements of the Act, not to specific regulations promulgated by the Office of Surface Mining; 2) postpone for an additional year implementation of the act (a 7 mo. extension has already been granted by a district court); 3) permit a 15 month delay in implementation of the Federal Lands Program; 4) severely reduce the OSM's inspection authority during the interim program.

Chairman of the House Interior Committee, Morris Udall, opposes weakening the Act, and thus in order to avoid his opposition, amendment proponents will attempt to bring the matter to the House floor. Rep. Ray Kogovsek is a member of the House Interior Committee now considering the amendments, which are expected to be dealt with by November 15. Any communications with him should be written before that date.

In the Senate, Bill Armstrong voted in favor of the amendments, while Gary Hart voted against the attempt to weaken the Act. President Carter has already indicated that he would veto a bill with such amendments attached, if it comes to that.

## REA TO DO ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT ON COLO. UTE TRANSMISSION LINE

Early in 1980 the Rural Electrification Administration will begin to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed 286 mi. 345-1000 kV power line that Colorado Ute plans to route through the North Fork Valley on its way from Rifle to San Juan generating station in New Mexico. The current 4 mi.-wide study path shows the line entering the North Fork via Stevens Gulch, then paralleling the river (on which side of Highway 133 is unclear). At Austin it crosses the river near the proposed site of a Colorado-Ute coal-fired electric generating plant and heads south toward Delta, Montrose, and eventually to New Mexico.

Comments on the proposed plan and on what should be included in the EIS are now being accepted by the REA. C. Ute spokesman Jerry Walker said at a September 17 meeting in Delta that the utility wants to avoid taking "prime farmland." But Paonian Sally Swain reported at the Oct. 23 meeting in Hotchkiss (sponsored by the Quality of Life Committee) that in Rio Blanco County Ute used only private land even though 78% is federally owned. County Development Coordinator Glen Fuhrman has said that while Delta Co. does not now have regulations on siting of transmission lines, it will have them by the time C. Ute gets their project underway. The public may suggest to the REA alternative routes for the line, as well as considerations such as NF Times editor Ed Marston's suggestion of the exchange of power between the federal



WAPA project and Colorado Ute. Power is now being sent northward from the Curecanti (WAPA) project, while the Ute project would bring electricity south from Rifle over largely the same territory, meaning a duplication of lines and transmission losses, etc.

Other issues include effects on endangered species, big game, and human health.

At the Delta public meeting Dan Norwood, representing the Colorado Division of Wildlife, rose to express the Division's opposition to the route proposed, referring particularly to the crossing of the river at the Forks near Austin. Within the last year and a half, he said, the Division has actively pursued improving access to the Forks by purchasing land, in order to promote recreational use. In addition, he pointed out, the Gunnison canyon area is one of three primary areas in which the Division is trying to introduce the endangered river otter in the State.

When questioned about possible effects on human health, Mr. Walker replied that the Power Research Institute (financed by utilities) has conducted studies showing no detrimental effects on health at the 345 kV level. "Voltage is particularly critical," he said. It was later revealed, however, that Colorado Ute 's future projections include the possibility of putting in a second transmission line using the same towers, bringing the voltage to nearer 1000 kV. In fact, depending on the economics, they may propose to install two lines from the beginning. It is not clear at this time whether the impacts of a 1000 kV line will be addressed in the EIS.

"How realistic are the cost estimates provided by C. Ute," was a question asked by Joan Reback at the Delta meeting. The utility representatives indicated that one reason they preferred to put the line across BLM land is that they would not have to purchase rights of way. Were cost estimates made on this assumption? What if private land must be used? Reback also suggested that strong local opposition such as has occurred in other areas leading to acts of sabotage, could drive up costs. How would this affect the price?

Orchard owner Ben Eastman sought at both meetings assurances that the line would not bisect farms, making cultivation difficult or impossible. Walker indicated that the line should go in the valley rather than through the higher elevations because "that's where the power is consumed." However, power is not drawn directly from these huge lines, but rather from a sub-station to be constructed on a 60 acre unidentified site in Hotchkiss. The Delta-Montrose Electric Association has plans to construct a 115 kV line from Hotchkiss to the coal mines in the Paonia/Somerset area.

Comments on these and other issues should be addressed to:

Assistant Administrator--Electric  
Rural Electrification Administration  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250

The REA is acting as the lead federal agency in this matter because C. Ute has requested from it loan funds to be used to construct the project. A recent study of the rural electric program by the Environmental Policy



Institute, Washington, D.C. charges REA's with losing interest in providing service to farm members, according to a report in Colorado Country Life Magazine. Instead, REA's are seen as promoting the development of rural areas by expanding into suburbs, heavy industry and recreation areas.

The response of the REA's is that they are obligated to serve whoever locates in their certificated territories. The question remains, how far should REA's go toward promoting development within their territories.

#### CLARIFICATION ON SMITH FORK

On October 4 WSERC sponsored a meeting between parties concerned about the Smith Fork Project and Delta City Manager Dennis Kirtland. The meeting was inspired by an exchange of letters to the editor between Chuck Worley of Cedaredge and Kirtland concerning the designation of the Gunnison Gorge and Delta's plan to build a 35 MW hydroelectric plant on the Smith Fork, backing water up to within a mile of the Black Canyon National Monument, and was intended to clear up any misunderstandings that might exist.

Kirtland explained in detail the position of the City of Delta, which is opposing a wild designation for the Gunnison Gorge because it wants to keep open the option of building the hydroelectric plant, even though it is a long shot. Support for the project depends, he said, on "whether you believe that the survival of a municipal utility is important." Most of the cities and towns in the country have been forced by economics to give up their energy independence. Delta, which now generates 35% of its own power and buys the rest from Delta-Montrose Electric Assoc. and the Bureau of Reclamation, would rather not be dependent on outside sources. The city needs 6 MW of electricity to maintain the status quo, and 10 to 15 MW to provide for future growth.

If Delta were allowed to absorb a large portion of the anticipated population growth stemming from coal development, it would take some pressure off the North Fork, Kirtland pointed out. However, the chances of the Smith Fork Project becoming a reality were estimated by him to be only 10%. The city does have a letter of intent from Colorado Ute to purchase the excess electricity generated by the plant. This is necessary in order to secure financing through the sale of bonds on the open market. Several bonding companies have indicated that it would be possible to market bonds to finance the project.

In case the project falls through, Delta is exploring other possibilities. Representatives Kogovsek and Johnson have been asked to include a rider on any bill authorizing the Dominguez project reserving minimum amounts of power to the cities of Delta, Glenwood Springs and Aspen.

Delta is concerned about air quality in the Valley, Kirtland said, and would not oppose a wilderness designation for the Gunnison Gorge. The hydro project could probably be built in a wild area, although a presidential designation would be required (there are precedents for such an approach in



California.) A coal-fired power plant would be prohibited unless federal and state air quality standards are weakened or an Emergency Mobilization Board were empowered to abrogate existing legislation, etc.

#### BUREAU OF RECLAMATION STUDIES SITES FOR SMALL HYDRO PLANTS

The BuRec began a year ago Phase I of a study inventorying existing facilities for small hydroelectric plant potential. One hundred and forty sites were inventoried and 46 were selected as having promise. Six sites in Colorado were identified as the Lemon Dam, Paonia Dam, Vallecito Dam, Southside Canal (Collbran), Taylor Park Dam (Uncompaghere Project), and Four Canal drops, South Canal, Uncompaghere Project. Of the Colorado sites, the last--canal drops on South Canal--was said to appear to be the most attractive. The report on Phase I will be available early in 1980. Phases II and III will involve a broader inventory and more detailed analyses with recommendations for action.

#### DR. JACK STANFORD SPEAKS TO WSERC AUDIENCE

Dr. Jack Stanford, a native of Cedaredge and limnologist for the University of Montana, spoke on the Gunnison River at the WSERC public information meeting held on October 11. The greatest effects on fish and wildlife resulting from a dam on a river is due to thermal changes, he said. It makes a great deal of difference whether water is drained from the top of the reservoir or from the cold bottom. In most Colorado dams the water is drained from the bottom, at a constant temperature of 4°C. Throwing a dam across a river therefore reduces variety in the ecosystem, creating new headwaters with fewer organisms and less biomass below the dam.

Dr. Stanford indicated on a map of the Colorado River Basin that almost every desirable spot for a dam has already been used and the last two areas for serious consideration are sites of the Smith Fork Project and the Dominguez Project. The Gunnison is already a totally regulated river with its water being recirculated three times. The 26 mile stretch of the Gunnison from the National Monument to near the confluence with the North Fork is still free-flowing, however, and is currently being considered for designation as a wild river by the National Park Service. If it is preserved it would be one of the few remaining free-flowing stream segments of over 100 kilometers in the country. A dam on the river at the Smith Fork site would produce drastic changes in the fisheries that could not be mitigated by any known means.

We will look forward to seeing Dr. Stanford's forthcoming book on stream regulation in the U.S. which will be published this winter. It will be added to our library collection, which is now located in the Hotchkiss Public Library.

#### WHEATLAND WYO. POLICE CHIEF TO SPEAK NEXT

The WSERC speaker for November will be Chief Buck Evans of the Wheatland Wyoming Police Department, who will talk about law enforcement in a "boomtown." The talk will be held November '8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hotchkiss Elementary School Band Room.



COLORADO CREATIVE EDUCATION RECEIVES GRANT FOR  
COMMUNITY SOLAR FRUIT DRYING FACILITY

With the aid of WSERC's consulting services, Colorado Creative Education has successfully competed for an \$8,000 grant from the National Center for Appropriate Technology. The funds will be used to build a solar fruit dryer of commercial capacity to be used by a farmers' cooperative sponsored by the non-profit educational corporation based in Paonia.

Dave Howard of Paonia contributed designs of the project, while Linda Lindsey of WSERC helped write the grant application. Other groups or organizations are encouraged to request the services of WSERC members and staff in applying for funding of their projects too.

The solar fruit dryer will demonstrate the feasibility of using solar power on a commercial scale as well as the possibilities of cooperative marketing of organic fruit. CCE also plans to construct a community solar greenhouse on the Thornburg Packing Shed, which it is currently renovating.

LEAGUE SPONSORS PROGRAM ON HAZARDOUS WASTE

Orville Stoddard of the Colorado Department of Health will speak on Disposal of Solid and Hazardous Waste at the Paonia Home Ec Room on Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m., sponsored by the League of Women Voters. He will reveal what materials are currently being moved through Colorado and what regulations govern transport and disposal of hazardous wastes.

CONFERENCE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES

The Colorado Coalition for Full Employment is sponsoring a Colorado Conference on Renewable Energy Resources in Crested Butte November 15-17. There will be plenary sessions on such topics as "Jobs and Renewable Energy Resources," "Solar Design in Severe High Altitude Climates," "Land Use and Solar Planning," and "Women in Energy," as well as workshops and caucuses. Scholarships are available. For more information contact Linda Lindsey at 527-4586 or CCFE at 355-3554.

ENERGY MOBILIZATION BOARD DEBATED IN THE HOUSE

Mike Lopez of Rep. Ray Kogovsek's office in Washington reported via telephone Tuesday that a vote on the Energy Mobilization Board bills is expected Wednesday--Thursday at the latest--in the House. Under consideration are two versions, the House Interior Bill sponsored by Morris Udall and Tim Wirth, and the House Commerce Bill sponsored by Dingell and Brown. The two bills both provide for an EMB of 5 members appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Dingell bill, however, involves a "substantive fast track" which would allow the EMB to waive federal and state law if it was seen to impede the progress of priority projects.

The Udall bill permits the EMB to designate only 75 such priority projects, with no more than 20 in any one year, while the Dingell version sets no limits on the number. Both bills allow for time schedules and provide for measures to cut red tape, such as consolidating hearings and eliminating layers of review, and both include a "grandfather clause" allowing the EMB to waive new regulations.



Both Colorado Representatives Kogovsek and Johnson were said to be supporting the Udall bill.

On Wednesday (Oct. 31) the House passed the "Santini Amendment" to the Dingell bill, which provides for some states' rights, Kogovsek's office reported. After the House final vote the issue returns to the Senate.

#### NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY CORPORATION

The week of November 5 the Senate is slated to take up debate on its versions of the National Energy Security Corporation. The Senate Energy Committee is presenting a bill similar to that introduced in the House providing for a private government-supported corporate vehicle designed to stimulate the development of synfuels and "unconventional gas." (S. 1308 the Jackson omnibus energy bill)

An alternative bill will come out of the Senate Banking Committee. This bill does not specify an ESC, but rather provides general incentives to private investment. The Banking Committee bill is broader and allows more latitude in use of funds for energy sources other than synfuels. It is the approach favored by those who feel that environmental problems and lack of proven technology make it undesirable to rush into a giant synfuels program. This is the Banking Committee version of S. 932 (Proxmire bill).

Also before the Senate next week will be the Windfall Profits Tax question. Some forces are attempting to weaken the bill by granting exceptions and by funneling most of the revenues back into synthetic fuels projects.

Other proposals include using some of the funds generated to offset high energy bills for low income families and funding of alternative energy projects, including solar research, and conservation.

Comments on these issues should, of course, be addressed to Senators Bill Armstrong and Gary Hart, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C., 20015.

#### FILM ON NUCLEAR RADIATION AND CANCER

The film "Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang" will be shown in the Hotchkiss Memorial Hall Friday, November 2 at 8:00 p.m. Premiered nationally by the Public Broadcasting Service in February this year, it graphically describes the effects of radiation for weapons and power projects on human beings, and cover-up attempts on the part of government agencies.

A donation of \$1.00 is requested to cover the cost of renting the film.

JOIN WSERC!

Don't forget to send in your \$5.00 membership fee in order to continue to receive the Newsletter and sponsor WSERC's public information programs.

*Linda Lindsey*



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# NewsLetter

March 18, 1980

Number 8

## COLORADO-UTE MEETING TO BEGIN "ENERGY & ETHICS" FORUM

A PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING will be held Monday, March 31, 1980, at 7 p.m. in the Hotchkiss Elementary bandroom to hear and discuss Colorado-Ute Electric Assn's. plans for power generation on the Western Slope. Representatives from C-Ute will show slides and present their plans. This will be followed by questions from a panel which includes Sally Swain, president, Delta County League of Women Voters; David Smith, Meeker, Colo., rancher, and Rio Blanco County Planning Commission chairman; Steve DeFeyter, Mesa County air pollution control division; and Theresa Erickson, Montrose Social Services Dep't., and member Uncompaghre Resources Council.

After questions from the panel, the audience will be asked for their comments. The major issues concerning Delta County are the proposed 345 kV transmission line and the two Delta area coal-fired power plant sites C-Ute is studying.

This program will be the first of several the Research Center is sponsoring as part of an "Energy & Ethics" forum funded by a mini-grant from the Colorado Humanities Program in Boulder. The Research Center will receive \$1,000 in matching funds from the Humanities Program to arrange a series of meetings dealing with energy development. If you have any ideas for programs--movies, slide shows, debates, speakers, etc--please contact Carolyn Landes at the Research Center, 872-3902.

## RESOURCE COUNCIL - CWI SUBMIT RECOMMENDATION

AFTER MONTHS OF MEETINGS AND REWRITES, the Western Colorado Resource Council and Colorado Westmoreland have submitted a joint recommendation to the state BLM office on the selection of a land-use planning option for coal development in the North Fork area.

The issue came to life in August, 1979, when CWI wrote the BLM asking that the limit on their production ceiling be lifted and steps be taken toward issuance of a long-term lease. The BLM held a public hearing early in December and members of the Resource Council also met in December to discuss their concern over the the precedents that might be created by CWI's requests. Meetings between Craig Sabatke and Mark Welsh of the Resource Council and Dan Snyder and Jerry McPhee of CWI began in January 1980.

The agreement which was finally signed March 11 by both the Resource Council and CWI recommends that the Management Framework Plan (MFP) be amended to review for further consideration for leasing the three areas prioritized for coal development in the existing MFP. (This includes an area adjacent to CWI's mine and an area west of Cedaredge near the Fairview mine), and that the amendment must use the new BLM land use planning regulations. "The review should include the identification, analysis and resolution of multiple-use conflicts and consideration of the effects which mining might have on impacted



communities or areas, but not limited to impacts on the environment, agriculture, and other economic activity and public services."

In the joint recommendation, the Resource Council asked for written commitment from the BLM stating that no further coal amendments be considered until after the scheduled completion of the Uncompahgre Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP), and that the schedule for completion remain 1987. If the recommendation is accepted, CWI has agreed to support the 1987 schedule. On the conveyor belt issue, CWI agreed to begin installation no later than upon issuance of a long-term lease.

"This option," states the recommendation paper, "is not the ideal option (for either the Resource Council or CWI). It does, however, represent a compromise solution which both organizations are willing to recommend and support."

Welsh could give no idea about when the BLM might respond to this joint recommendation.

#### BLM WILDERNESS DEADLINE APRIL 30

THE PUBLIC COMMENT DEADLINE for proposed BLM Wilderness Study Areas (not to be confused with the Forest Service RARE II proposals) is April 30, 1980. This phase of the BLM's intensive wilderness inventory began in February and included several workshops around the state to explain the inventory process to the public. About 40 people attended the Delta meeting March 18. That meeting was well-attended by real estate people, snowmobilers and loggers.

In the Montrose district, 31 units (339,853 acres) are being proposed as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA); five units (68,177 acres) are not being proposed. In the Grand Junction district 13 units (239,810 acres) are proposed; 15 units (228,882 acres) are not. A final decision on which areas will be WSAs will be released in July or August, 1980. A 30-day appeal period will follow, and the study phase--which will determine other than wilderness resource value in the WSAs will begin. The BLM must submit final reports on all WSAs to the President by Sept. 21, 1991. Don Lotvedt, Montrose area manager said recommendations on areas in the Delta area will probably be submitted by 1987.

Proposed WSAs include the Dominguez Canyon, near the proposed Dominguez Dam Project, and the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, which is also being studied for inclusion in the Wild & Scenic Rivers system. The Black Canyon area is also the site of the proposed SMITH FORK HYDRO PROJECT and City Manager Dennis Kirtland has said that although Delta is opposed to inclusion of that area in the Wild Rivers system, they would not oppose Wilderness designation. There is no precedent for a hydro project in a wilderness area, but according to the BLM's John Sering, the President could change that.

CLUB 20 is sponsoring three public hearings to "help decide how much BLM Wilderness". Testimony from these hearings will be included in the BLM study and also be sent to Congress. Meetings are set for: Montrose, March 26, 8:30-5:00, C-Ute Auditorium, and Grand Junction, March 27, 10-4, Holiday Inn.

We've got several copies of the WSA information book, maps, and comment sheets at the Research Center office in Hotchkiss. If you'd like to comment on the proposed WSAs, please come by for information or write the BLM in Denver or Montrose.



### WILDERNESS BILL BREAKING OPEN IN SENATE

COLORADO SENATOR WILLIAM ARMSTRONG is now considering introducing his own wilderness legislation. We talked to Paul Driessen at Armstrong's Washington office March 19. He said Armstrong and Sen. Gary Hart were meeting March 20 to negotiate on the wilderness issue. According to Driessen, Armstrong is interested in provisions for mineral exploration and grazing as well as a "release" provision. He also wants to keep open the option of holding another hearing on the wilderness issue in the Senate.

According to a press release from the COLORADO WILDERNESS NETWORK, "Apparently it is with the 500,000 acres in 11 areas recommended for Wilderness but not included in the House or Hart bills that Armstrong has difficulties. He insists that the bill specifically release these areas from further Wilderness consideration at this time. If this release clause is not included in the bill, Armstrong has said that he would rather have no bill at all. Conservationists...maintain that the areas in question deserve Wilderness protection."

After several delays, hearings on Sen. Hart's Colorado Wilderness Bill (S.2123) were held March 13 in Washington. S.2123 would designate 1.5 million acres of Colorado national forest lands as Wilderness. According to articles in the CRESTED BUTTE PILOT, Sen. Hart's office is anxious to move the bill through Congress with no further delays, although Sen. Armstrong has been unsure of what action to take and has reportedly questioned whether Colorado needed "any more wilderness at all." Two million acres of Colorado lands have been recommended for Wilderness under the RARE II Forest Service proposal. These lands remain in a "no-use" category until Congress acts.

If a Senate version of the wilderness bill passes, a conference committee must work out differences between the Senate and House versions. The Kogovsek-Johnson 1.3 million acre Colorado Wilderness Bill, H.R.5487, passed the House in December. Hart's bill is similar to the House version, but still .5 million acres less than the Administration originally recommended after its RARE II study.

The hearing record on the Hart Bill is open to letters from all citizens, and according to the PILOT, will remain open for at least two weeks. Anyone interested in providing additional testimony which would be included in the Congressional Record should mail comments to Sen. Hart's office, 254 Russell Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. If you would like to comment on Sen. Armstrong's ideas, his address is also the Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

### LAND RECLAMATION BILL DUE SOON

GEORGE BALLIS called the other day from Washington to let people in our area know that the House subcommittee on land reclamation will have a bill out by April 1. Both Colorado Reps. JOHNSON and KOGOVSEK are members of that subcommittee. George had spoken to Rep. Kogovsek who, at that time, was still uncommitted on the land reclamation issue.

George and his organization, NATIONAL LAND FOR PEOPLE, have been working for 20 years to support small family farms and bring to light the violations of the 1902 NATIONAL LAND RECLAMATION ACT by large landowners and big business conglomerates in California. For more information on the Land Reclamation issue, call 872-3902



## ARCO SHOWS SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY TO DELTA COUNTY

ARCO REPRESENTATIVES gave Delta County officials their first look at the SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY for the planned MT. GUNNISON #1 MINE at the March 19 County Planning Commission meeting.

ARCO's official date for starting construction on the mine is 1981, with production to reach 2.8 million tons per year by 1990, but according to ARCO's Scott Ronzio, the company would like to start construction this summer if they can get the "land-use change permit" from Gunnison County. Gunnison officials have indicated they would like more involvement from Delta County. The Gunnison Planning Commission will meet April 4 to discuss the permit process further.

Although the March 19 Delta meeting was held mainly for the purpose of presenting the socio-economic impact study, some discussion came up on housing and land subsidence.

The Mt. Gunnison mine would employ about 500 miners. ARCO officials said they have no intent of developing their own housing at this time; they want to leave it up to private developers.

The problem of subsidence from the Mt. Gunnison mine was touched on briefly at the planning meeting. Craig Sabatke, spokesman for the Western Colorado Resource Council later said, "we feel subsidence is going to be a major area of concern, and under present conditions won't be adequately dealt with." As of yet, Gunnison County has not required ARCO to include their Mining & Reclamation Plan in their Sketch Plan submitted to Gunnison County. "We feel the two county planning commissions should substantially deal with the subsidence problem," Sabatke said.

The next Delta County Planning Commission will be Wednesday, March 26, 7:30 p.m. at the Courthouse annex. Other town planning commissions will be there to discuss ARCO's socio-economic study. Interested parties are welcome to attend.

## BUILDING CODES IN DELTA COUNTY?

DELTA COUNTY IS LOOKING AT BUILDING CODES! In particular, the UNIFIED BUILDING CODES (UBC), which are presently being implemented in Mesa County. These codes, although intended to protect the consumer, leave little room for the owner-builder.

George Gault told us March 17 that the public can provide input through their community representatives:

Delta---Roger Dodd, 1846 Hwy 50, 874-3267; Jack Musser, St. Rt. Escalante Canyon, 874-7372; Bob Frossard, 765 2075 Rd., 874-4438; and Pete Tarr, P.O. Box 4, 874-4194.

Cedaredge---Orville Williams, Rt. 2 Box 120, 856-3395

Crawford---Betty Wilkening, Rt. 1 Box 76, 921-5241

Hotchkiss---Joan Queen, Rt. 2, 872-3537

Paonia---Hershiel Hayden, P.O. Box E, 527-4135 and Clinton Clock, Rt. 1 Box 186, 527-4400

Some issues include solar access, consumer protection, energy efficient standards, plumbing requirements, and exclusions for the owner-builder. The Research Center would like to hear what you think so we can serve as a community liaison to help voice your opinions. Call us at 872-3902. send a postcard to Box 746, or stop in the office at Memorial Hall. -----David Carpenter



## EARTH DAY 1980--TEN YEAR CELEBRATION

THE FIRST EARTH DAY on April 22, 1970, launched a nation-wide teach-in for informing people about environmental problems and what they could do to solve them. The ten year anniversary is again being celebrated nation-wide. In our area the Western Colorado Resource Council is planning an EARTH DAY CELEBRATION on Sunday, April 20 at the Delta County Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss. Tentative plans include movies and slides, booths, games for the kids, raffles, and music. Watch for more information on this.

An overall Western Slope celebration, THE LIFE VISION ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR, will be held at Friendship Hall in Montrose April 27, sponsored by the UNCOMPAGHRE RESOURCES COUNCIL.

## ANNUAL MEETING GETS GOOD TURNOUT

ABOUT 40 PEOPLE attended the Research Center's annual meeting February 7. George Ballis from National Land for People in Fresno, Calif., was the featured speaker. (See related story)

Elections for board members also were held at the annual meeting. The current WSERC board is:

Chuck Worley -- co-chairmen  
David Johnston -- co-chairmen  
Ron Gill -- secretary  
Tige Herndon -- treasurer  
Steve Wolcott, Doris Ellis, Bill Palmer  
Tim Brater, Ron Dessain

Thanks to Theo Colborn and Rita Murphy for their work on the board over the past three years.

## FARMERS UNION MEETING

THE RESEARCH CENTER PARTICIPATED in an OPEN FORUM on using ALTERNATIVE ENERGY, sponsored by the Delta County chapter of the ROCKY MOUNTAIN FARMERS UNION on Feb. 28 in Hotchkiss. About 30 people attended the day-long workshop which discussed the need for developing renewable energy resources--alcohol fuels, solar & wind energy, aquaculture--and how to get help funding your project.

Participants in the workshop were: Jamie Jacobsen, Joan Riback, Craig Sabatke, Beau Foulk, Steve Rubick, and W. Fritzlan and Teddie Zang from the Farmers Union.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE DIRECTORY

OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS AT THIS JOB I've met many people working with RENEWABLE RESOURCES and it's becoming obvious that we have all the expertise needed within the community to start practicing these new technologies now. If you are working in these areas on any level or knew someone who is, and are willing to share your experiences, please give us a call or come by the office. We plan to compile a directory of people in the area who are working on any type of renewable energy project and we'll have forms out soon for collecting the information. Human energy is our most valuable resource. Let's network our efforts to beat this energy crunch together. --- David Carpenter



## REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

THE CRESTED BUTTE LEGAL WORKSHOP has recently issued a position paper on the ~~use and interpretations~~ of the 1872 Mining Law by the Forest Service. "...the Workshop concludes that the development of a modern, space-age mine on Forest Service land is a 'privilege' and not an absolute right. Therefore, the Forest Service should be able to decline the development of such mines if they are deemed not to be in the 'public interest.' "-----HIGH COUNTRY CITIZEN'S ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

STATE HEALTH DEPT. OFFICIALS are asking Union Carbide to make some big changes in it's Uravan, Colo., uranium operation. "...ground-water is chemically and radioactively contaminated. Many areas of the mill and town register above normal radiation levels. The (San Miguel) river is polluted." And eight million tons of radioactive tailings sit atop a mesa above the town.-----HIGH COUNTRY NEWS

MORGAN SMITH, COLORADO DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER, says that "the cost of energy has also devastated the agricultural community... It seems clear that Colorado agriculture will, even under the best of circumstances, face a continuing struggle for water and energy." The problems may be lessened, Smith says, by passing HB 1145 which would provide funds for developing agricultural renewable energy and by researching crops which would be profitable to grow in Colorado. Some examples of new plants worth investigating are jojoba (which produces a high quality lubricating oil), guayule (which yields a substance similar to natural rubber), and certain species of milkweed (which produce a liquid hydrocarbon similar to petroleum. ----DENVER POST

CONTROVERSEY SURROUNDING THE HEALTH EFFECTS of a proposed 345 kV line in Missouri has prompted the Missouri Public Service Commission to commission the University of Missouri Rolla Electrical Engineering Dept. to do a \$5,000 study on the electrical fields around kV lines and the subsequent health risks.-----MISSOURI SAFE ENERGY NEWS

A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON A MINNESOTA SURVEY suggests that many people are noticing effects from the 800 kV powerline which runs through that state. Of the 500+ questionnaires sent out, over 50% have been returned. Of those, some 60% report effects; primarily headaches, nosebleeds and respiratory problems. About 20% are unsure, and the remainder haven't noticed any effects, but a large portion of those indicated that wildlife is gone from the area.----HOLD THAT LINE

### UPCOMING EVENTS

March 24 & 25	Gasahol Workshop, CSU, Ft. Collins
March 26 & 27	Club 20 BLM wilderness Hearings, G.J. & Montrose
March 26	Planning Commission Meeting, Delta
March 31	Colo-Ute Meeting, Hotchkiss
April 10	Oil Shale Workshop, Grand Junction
April 11	Rocky Flats slideshow & "War without Winners" Hotchkiss
April 19	Passive Solar Workshop, Ft. Collins & Rocky Flats Rally, Denver
April 20	Earth Day Celebration, Hotchkiss
April 27	Life Vision Environmental Fair, Montrose

HELP KEEP THIS NEWSLETTER GOING--Send \$5.00 to Western Slope Energy Research Center, Box 746, Hotchkiss, Colo. 81419 (872-3902) Also please let us know what you think about the NEWSLETTER. Thanks.

*Carolyn Linder*



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WESTERN SLOPE ENERGY



# NewsLetter

April 30, 1980

## "ENERGY FOR FAMILY FARM"--MAY 23

"Energy for the Family Farm" will be discussed at the next WSERC public information meeting, Friday, May 23 at Hotchkiss Memorial Hall. This program is part of the "Energy & Ethics Forum" funded in part by the Colorado Humanities Program.

Two color films will be shown--"Farming the Land" and "Sun Power for Farms". The first film, produced by Michael Hall, deals with small farmers in the Northeast, some of the problems they face, and how they deal with them. This film received an excellent review in the Small Farmers Journal.

The second film is produced by the Dep't. of Energy and according to A Guide to Films on Appropriate Technology, it is "an excellent introductory film for the farmer considering alternative sources of energy in farm buildings. It shows four working solar units: a greenhouse heated with gravel heat retainers, a solar pond using a brine (salt) solution for heat retention, a solar heated poultry house and milking house, and a solar preheating system for a swine shelter."

Linda Lindsey, one of the participating humanities scholars in the "Energy & Ethics Forum", will moderate the program. There's no charge. Everyone's invited so tell your neighbors and mark it down on your calendar--Friday May 23, 7:30 p.m.

## SECA QUESTIONS RATE STRUCTURE

The Small Electric Consumers Association (SECA) was formed recently to work for electrical rate reforms. The consumers group plans to challenge the current declining block or "promotional" rates which allow lower rates for bigger users.

According to SECA spokesman, Thomas Lawley, the present electrical rate structure does not encourage conservation and is unfair to the small user.

One of SECA's first activities was a May 1 workshop on utility structure and regulations by the Colorado Energy Advocacy Office. Bill Schroer from the Denver-based office told workshop participants about the functions of his office, how REA is structured, and how Delta-Montrose Elect. Assn. and Colo.-Ute are related. He also explained electrical utility regulation issues and described options open for public participation in rate cases. About 15 people from the Delta-Montrose area attended the workshop in Hotchkiss.



SECA (con't)

SECA is one of several groups and individuals in the area who are protesting DREA's most recent rate increase, which was to have gone into effect May 2. A Public Utilities Commission hearing on the proposed rate increase will be held June 3 at Montrose City Hall beginning at 9 am.

"Our argument is basically with the rate structure," said Lawley. SECA is planning a public workshop on rate structure and the need for rate reform prior to the June 3 hearing. (Time and place to be announced) The group is actively seeking more public participation, and urges people to learn about the rate structure and find time to testify at the PUC hearing.

EARTH DAY 1980--"TIME TO REEVALUATE THE COMMITMENT"

Earth Day 1980 drew interest and participation from many individuals and groups in Western Colorado.

The Western Colorado Resource Council's "Day in the Park" gave people the opportunity to be together in a setting that was much more relaxed than the usual meeting place of hearings, conferences, "scoping sessions", etc. Folks (big and little) enjoyed homemade ice cream, tofu sandwiches, games, balloons, and "just visiting" with each other. In addition, two high quality films were shown--"Grassroots Energy" which showed the Minnesota farmers struggle to keep a high voltage powerline from crossing their lands and their subsequent evolution into developing their own renewable energy resources, and "Black Coal-Red Power," which showed how the extensive coal development in the four corners area has affected the environment and the Native American way of life.

Also on April 20, about 100 people took a raft trip down the Gunnison River in Dominguez Canyon. The excursion was sponsored by the Two Rivers Citizens Assn. in Grand Junction for Earth Day and to give people the chance to "experience the river canyons, wildlife, and people that are influenced by the proposed Dominguez Project." (TRCA)

In Aspen, people celebrated Earth Day with an alternative energy fair and a run for the earth foot race. Montrose sponsored several activities including a trashathon and the Life Vision Environmental Fair on April 27.

The folks in Crested Butte had an Earth Day parade and track meet for the kids. The Crested Butte PILOT published poems and essays on Earth Day by local school children. In the weekly, "They Told the PILOT" column, kids were asked, Why is Earth Day important? Here are a few of their answers: "We hope it will keep Crested Butte Cleaner", "Because the Earth is where we live and we need to take care of it", "To remind people that there's something besides themselves", "Because if we're not conscious of our environment we're going to end up very sorry", "Because if the Earth wasn't here, I wouldn't be either...", and "If we didn't celebrate it, pretty soon the whole earth would be trashed."



### WESTERN GROUPS MEET

At a breakfast meeting before the Life Vision Environmental Fair in Montrose April 27, representatives from some of the 42 conservation-environmental groups in Colorado discussed the possibility of forming a coalition to help get people's views expressed in government and to have a greater efficiency in research and public education.

Tentative plans were made for forming such a coalition last summer. The April 27 meeting took things a step further. The Uncompaghre Resource Council in Montrose is coordinating a directory of Western Slope groups which will probably be available this summer. The next organizational meeting for the as yet unnamed group will be in Montrose, May 31. One of the overall sentiments expressed at the breakfast was the need for an alternative to the Club 20 representation which has historically been Western Colorado's link to the federal government and eastern slope.

### DMEA HIRES CONSERVATION SPECIALIST

Delta-Montrose Elec. Assn., in response to federal requirements, has hired a conservation specialist. Dick Bussing, formerly of Salt Lake City, has become the first Member Services Director in Energy Conservation for DMEA. The department will probably be expanded in the future, as REA regulations require.

Bussing, who holds a pharmacy degree from Colorado University, has been actively interested in solar energy and conservation for the past ten years. His overall goal is to "curtail America's huge energy appetite" and reduce the need for large power plants and transmission lines. Bussing noted that accomplishing this would also keep electrical rates lower.

Bussing was hired by DMEA president, Ward Armstrong, in April. He is currently in the process of designing the conservation department. He hopes to create a department that would be "superior" in encouraging conservation and helping people implement the methods in their homes. Bussing says he has contacted several electric co-ops since he began work and has been "disappointed" in the conservation capabilities of most of them so far.

"I want to establish a good program for overall conservation, not just in electrical use," Bussing said. He has two general goals: 1) retrofitting and conservation and 2) public information and education for future buildings. Bussing says he hopes to help people "envision energy-efficient homes" and says that building efficiently and using passive solar now will help avoid expensive retrofitting in the future. He also wants to work with local builders in planning efficient housing developments and help local industry conserve its energy use.

Bussing hopes that within the next two-three months he will have the DMEA conservation department organized and be able to offer services to the public in the form of energy audits and resource information.

"I want to be a clearinghouse for energy information and new conservation ideas," Bussing stated. He also expressed his intention of working with WSERC and other groups interested in renewable energy and conservation.



### C-UTE PLANS 1600 MEGAWATT PLANT

If the site six miles northwest of Delta is chosen by Colorado-Ute for its southwestern generating facility, it would eventually accomodate four generating units of 400mw each, says C-Ute president, John Bugas. "...initially we would probably construct only two units and reserve space for two future units to be constructed at some unspecified point in time," Bugas said in an April 17 letter to WSERC.

At a March 20 Delta Energy Impact Team meeting, Ken Norris from C-Ute said construction of two 400mw units would require 3 million tons of coal per year, 15,000 to 20,000 acre feet of water per year, and about 1500 to 2000 acres of land for the facility. He said availability of coal and water resources are the main factors in locating a coal-fired generation facility.

According to Norris, the socio-economic impacts of C-Ute's southwest project would be 1800 workers at peak construction with a permanent work force of 325. The project would mean bucks for Delta County. The annual projected payroll of the plant, according to Norris, would be \$10 million in 1991.

Both Norris at the March 20 meeting and Bugas at the March 31 WSERC meeting in Hotchkiss stressed C-Ute's "dedication" to insuring clean air and water in the area of its generating facilities. C-Ute's official position on clean air regulations in 1977 said "that clean air standards should be uniform throughout the state, in order that industries located, or locating in rural regions not be at an economic disadvantage."

At the March 20 meeting Norris stressed that C-Ute is not a profit motivated utility...that it is run by its consumer members. Bugas also stressed C-Ute's classifaction as a "co-op". According to news released March 25, the Ute co-op is in excellent financial shape. The company has managed to turn its \$1.3 million deficit in 1977 to a \$4.5 million surplus in 1979. Company officials contribute this success to several factors: growing sales, fewer mechanical problems, and quicker responses from the Colorado Public Utilities Commission on C-Ute rate increases.

(For more information on C-Ute, and its attitude toward growth and conservation, be sure to read Ed Marston's article in the April 10, 1980 NORTH FORK TIMES.)

### POTENTIAL FOR PROBLEMS

The Colorado Health Department in Grand Junction sent WSERC the following information in answer to questions about the meteorological and air quality conditions in the Delta area:

"The valleys of the Western Slope have the potential for very bad air pollution problems under wintertime conditions. If the Montrose, Delta and Grand Junction areas receive any significant snow fall and the temp. remains cold, the inversion of warm air over the cold air may persist for weeks. When this happens the cold stagnant air within the Valley remains confined. Thus, any air pollutants emitted into the cold air mass continue to build air pollution concentrations. "



### COLORADO MINE WALK IN PAONIA JULY 2

The Colorado Open Space Council (COSC) Mining Workshop is planning a 350 mile walkathon through "past, present, and future state mining regions" from June 14 to July 15. COSC, in conjunction with citizen groups around the state, is sponsoring the Walk in order to increase public education and awareness about energy and mineral development issues facing the people of Colorado.

According to COSC, Colorado supplies more than 60% of the world demand for molybdenum and over 10% of the U.S. uranium reserve, half of the West's bituminous coal reserves, and 80% of the high grade oil shale are found in Colorado. Coal and uranium production is projected to increase 10-20 times by 1985. Oil shale is the center of an \$88 billion synfuel development plan.

"The question," says the COSC Mining Workshop, "is not whether, but how, Colorado will control this development to both meet the needs of the present and to safeguard our heritage for the future."

Two forks of the walkathon, one beginning in Canon City and the other in Durango, will join together in Paonia on July 2. A field trip and public meeting are planned for July 3. Much of the walk will be through backpacking country. From Paonia, the two forks will join together and head to Gray Reservoir, Leon Lake, Plateau Creek, and on into Rifle where the next town meeting will be held. The money raised by walkers on the day following their local town meeting will go to that person's organization.

Anyone may participate in the Colorado Mine Walk, either by joining the walk for a day or longer, helping organize the town meeting in your area, or sponsoring a walker. For more information call 872-3902.

### MORE EMERGENCY COAL LEASES

Grand Mesa Coal Company and Western Slope Carbon are in the process of applying to the BLM for additional emergency leases. These leases, if granted would be for a maximum of eight years.

According to Craig Sabatke, president of the Western Colorado Resource Council, approval of these lease applications would be in violation of the joint recommendation recently submitted to the BLM by the Resource Council and Colorado Westmoreland, Inc. As of April 30, the state BLM office had made no decision about the joint recommendation.

### AS USUAL, WE NEED SOME MORE \$\$\$\$\$

Everybody seems to be fundraising and WSERC is no exception. The costs of printing and mailing the Newsletter keep rising, so if you haven't sent us \$5 in awhile, now's the time. (We will, of course, accept larger donations....) Send your \$ to WSERC, Box 746, Hotchkiss, Co. 81419.

Also, KVMF COMMUNITY FM RADIO, is trying to get funds to help them stay on the air. Since KVMF is one of the major ways WSERC distributes information (besides this newsletter), it'd be great if you could contribute to the station too. Thanks.

Carolyn Landes



The Western Slope Energy Research Center is compiling a directory of people in the area who are involved with any type of renewable or alternative energy project. This directory will hopefully help people learn from each other's mistakes and make better use of the vast knowledge and resources that exist within our community.

If you can't use this form, please pass it on to someone who can. Return all forms to Box 746, Hotchkiss, Co. 81419 and we'll get it put together as soon as possible.

\*\*\*\*\*

RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE PEOPLE  
in the Delta County area

General project type (solar, ethanol, conservation, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of your Project(s):

List of available books, plans, and other resources:

Information you would like to get:

(If you don't have time to fill this out, just call 872-3902 and give us the information over the phone. Thanks for sharing your knowledge)



information you would like to see:

information you would like to see:

list of activities, projects, events, and other resources:

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Description of your project(s):

Name:

Ralph E. Clark  
519 E. Georgia Ave.  
Gunnison, Colo. 81230

Address:

Phone:

General project title (subject, acronym, description, etc.):

IN THE DEPT. COMPLEX AREA  
RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE PEOPLE

\*\*\*\*\*  
If you desire to know more about the  
Western Slope Energy Research Center, Inc. or to  
learn more about the activities, projects, events, and  
other resources that exist within our community,  
please contact the Western Slope Energy Research Center, Inc.  
or the Western Slope Energy Resource People.  
The Western Slope Energy Resource People are a group of  
volunteers who are dedicated to providing information  
and assistance to the community.



# NewsLetter

August 7, 1980

Number 11

## AMORY LOVINS WILL VISIT DELTA COUNTY

AMORY LOVINS, THE YOUNG BRITISH PHYSICIST who created such a stir with the publication of his *SOFT ENERGY PATHS* in 1976 will be the next speaker in WSERC's "Energy and Ethics Forum". Amory and his wife, Hunter, will be at Delta High School Thurs., Aug. 28 at 8 pm for a free public program sponsored by WSERC and the Colorado Humanities Program. They will also be guests on KVNK public radio's *VALLEY VIEWS* on Aug. 29 at noon in Paonia.

Lovins is British Representative of Friends of the Earth (FOE), Inc. He is a consultant physicist active in energy policy in 15 countries. A recent FOE publication states, "Amory Lovins' seminal article, 'Energy Strategy: The Road Not Taken?', in the Oct. 1976 *FOREIGN AFFAIRS* received world-wide attention and, we think, entitled Mr. Lovins to nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize."

In *SOFT ENERGY PATHS*, Lovins presented the idea that the world could, in fact, choose between what he called "hard" and "soft" energy technologies. The hard path is recognized by central power stations which are large, concentrated to the point of being extremely vulnerable, very capital intensive, and disruptive to the general quality of life. An example of soft technologies would be neighborhood generating stations, which Lovins says would be cheaper, more manageable, and more reliable than the centralized systems. Lovins suggested a national energy policy that abandons nuclear power, uses a small amount of coal to help in the transition to renewable energy, and helps control energy demand through reusing large amounts of wasted energy.

In *SOFT ENERGY PATHS*, Lovins writes, "We are more endangered by too much energy too soon than by too little too late, for we understand too little the wise use of power" and "The economic and social problems... of many energy technologies are exceedingly unattractive and should be developed and deployed sparingly or not at all (i.e. nuclear fission and fusion, large coal fired power stations and conversion plants, and many current coal mining technologies..."

After the publication of *SOFT ENERGY PATHS*, Lovins became the center of much debate and subsequently published a book about this controversy. The following material is from that book, *THE ENERGY CONTROVERSY*:

"Amory Lovins' soft energy paths are being debated in Congress and attacked by the energy industry. Lovins is changing the face of energy planning all over the industrialized world, while pointing out better futures for the undeveloped nations. Soft energy paths would do away with nuclear power, cut pollution, cut oil imports, use alternative, renewable energy systems--and make us energy-independent within 50 years. In *THE ENERGY CONTROVERSY*, Lovins explains his energy plans and answers the well-financed attempts of critics to demolish them. The text is drawn from two volumes of Senate testimony by Lovins and by leading advocates of the "hard energy road..."



## NUCLEAR POWER AND NUCLEAR BOMBS--

Lovins works as a team with his wife and colleague, L. Hunter Lovins, who is a lawyer, sociologist, political scientist, and forester. Together with Leonard Ross, a former Calif. public utilities commissioner, they have recently finished a book (Amory's eighth) to be published soon under the title PROLIFERATION IS THE ANSWER (BUT WHAT WAS THE QUESTION?).

Here are a few quotes:

"The collapse of nuclear markets has already sealed the fate of an industry tooled up to meet the inflated expectations of the early 1970's. While rhetorically the world nuclear enterprise is pressing forward, in reality it is grinding to a halt and even slipping backward. The greatest collapse of any enterprise in industrial history is now underway."

"The collapse of nuclear power in response to the discipline of the marketplace is to be welcomed, for nuclear power is both the main driving force behind proliferation and the least effective known way to displace oil."

"Apologists often state that since power reactors themselves are only one of (say) eight ways to make bombs, restraining power reactors is like sticking a thumb in one of eight holes in a dike. But the other holes were made by the same drill. Arguing that reactors have little to do with bombs is like arguing that fishhooks do not cause the catching of fish."

"In most industrial countries, a third to a half of all electricity generated is already being used, uneconomically, for low temperature heating and cooling. Additional electricity could ONLY be so used. Arguing about what kind of new power station to build is thus like shopping for brandy to burn in the car or Chippendales to burn in the stove."

"As an impressive literature attests, centrally aided decentralized action toward a soft energy path can benefit enormously from a few simple tools: (Among them)

--'Classic designs' that can spread rapidly and attract local refinements, like Chinese biogas plants (nine million installed in 1972-1978), New Mexican greenhouses, Indian bamboo tubewells, and Saskatchewan superinsulation. The incredibly rapid flowering of clever, accessible designs worldwide is a tribute to the most powerful known tool in the universe: four billion minds wrapping around a problem.

--Reliance less on specialized technical institutions, high technologies and credentials than on smart people, who are to be found everywhere. Technical skills and facilities are valuable but have been overrated as prerequisites. Many of the best soft technologies can be made in any vocational high school or by a good blacksmith.'

--Small business soft-energy credit systems and marketing infrastructures analogous to farm credit systems and coops...

--Soft-path lending by national energy development banks oriented toward farming, small business, and household needs, complementing finance (mainly in industry, and ensuring that fledgling industries buy the most energy-efficient technologies) by utilities, national fuel companies, and existing public and private banks."



Anthony Parisi, writing in the June 22 NEW YORK TIMES, says, "Although he (Lovins) is still considered a dreamer by many in the energy industries, most specialists concede that his view of the future has been more right than wrong so far. The growth in energy consumption has plunged even more than he suggested was possible, coal has steadily increased its share of the energy market and the nuclear reactor business has fizzled--starting long before the Three Mile Island accident last year. So the reaction to Mr. Lovins' second strike (latest book) has been cautious."

COLORADO-UTE MAKES PLANS FOR DELTA PUBLIC

If Colorado-Ute's plans to build a dam near Austin go through, about 1200 A. of land including three sets of houses, Indian petroglyphs, and 270 A. of agricultural land (some of which is orchard land with unique growing seasons) will be inundated. Larry Ashland of Ute said in a recent phone interview that "in reality we have purchased or have options on more land than is actually needed for the (Tri-County) reservoir." Ashland said Ute plans to use the surplus land, which is "generally in the same area" for trades with landowners who would be displaced by the project. Not so, says one landowner approached by Ute about a month ago. "They offered me a trade for land in the dobles between Delta and Montrose," he said and repeated that he was not interested in such a trade. He also said that Ute has not been in contact with him again, although they had said they would be back to discuss it in two weeks.

Ute has definite plans to build a coal-fired power plant near Delta, probably by 1988, and possibly will build at the Loma site, too. Apparently, Ute feels that surrounding air quality standards could be met, despite the temperature inversion in the area. Ute's plans, however, are causing concern to neighbors east of the North Fork Valley. High amounts of acidity are being recorded by scientists at the Rocky Mountain Biological Lab near Crested Butte. According to the GUNNISON COUNTRY TIMES, the researchers say that "lakes above timberline may have from two to five years of life left if acid rains continue at the present level. But with the President's push towards using more coal to supply the country's energy needs, acid rains are likely to increase..." (For more information on the RMBL research, contact the WSERC office.)

Delta County officials may have surprised Ute when they decided to use the H.B. 1041 regs which give local communities more of a say in the development that takes place in their area. A public hearing is planned for Sept. 23, 7:30 pm at the Delta Courthouse Annex to discuss the regulation of locating power facilities. County Development Director George Gault and County Attorney Tim Jones are currently working on the 1041 regs for public utilities and will have them completed and available before the hearing. Gault said the County plans on working on baseline studies for air quality. He added that he is interested in adopting the model used by Amax and Gunnison County, whereby the developer funds the studies and the County administers them.

POWERLINE EA READY--COMMENTS DUE--

Ute's Environmental Analysis for the Rifle-San Juan 345 kV transmission line was released July 28. This EA is the frontrunner of the Environmental Impact Statement which will be prepared by REA, the lead agency which Ute has applied to for loans for the powerline.



The EA lists "adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided"--noise and dust, effect on vegetation and soils, effect on agricultural activities, effect on aesthetic values, and electrical effects during operation of the line. The favorable environmental effects" listed are--improvement in the Standard of Living and Economic Benefits.

The proposed line route will cause problems especially in the Orchard City area where it crosses much private residential land. Although studies are ongoing as to the possible biological effects of 345 kV lines (i.e. University of Mo. at Rolla study), the EA states that "no adverse biological effects are expected..." from either the electrostatic or magnetic fields."

Pitkin County recently denied Ute permission to put a 345 kV line through that county on several counts--that the line would result in significant visual deterioration of the Frying Pan Valley, that its necessity has not been proven, that the Frying Pan Valley would then be established as a major power corridor, that conservation has not been sufficiently addressed by Ute, and that Ute has not sufficiently considered alternatives to the proposed line.

The EA for the Rifle-San Juan line states that "conservation measures alone will not eliminate the need for the line. It also states that "although prime farmland is found in the preferred corridor at the point where it traverses the North Fork Valley, areas so designated will be avoided to the extent possible." According to Larry Ashland, Ute has obtained an option on a 60 A. substation site about six mil. SW of Paonia. According to the EA, this site is not on "prime" farmland.

If you are interested in looking at the Rifle-San Juan EA, copies are available for review at the Research Center office in Hotchkiss Memorial Hall and at George Gault's office in the Delta Courthouse Annex. Comments are due to REA by Aug. 25, although this deadline may be extended.

#### NORTH FORK COAL NEWS

Western Slope Carbon has filed an application for a Mining and Reclamation Permit with the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board. The proposed "long wall" addition to Hawk's Nest mine is located about three miles east of Somerset. It would increase production by one million TPY and could mean more than 180 new employees; increased highway and rail traffic; and more demands on Delta County and local services.

WSC hopes to start mining in March, 1981, and says the coal from that area would be gone in ten years. Comments on the M&R plan must be sent to MLRB by Sept. 22. (For more info you can contact the WSERC office.)

A preliminary meeting is set for Aug. 15 with Delta and Gunnison County officials and reps from WSC. WSC will present its "presketch" land use change application to Gunnison County at that time.

Like ARCO's proposed Mt. Gunnison #1 Mine, the WSC operation is located in Gunnison County but directly impacting Delta County--thus the bi-county review of plans.

ARCO is working on the requirements set by Gunnison County on ARCO's sketch plan. Reps from ARCO will be meeting with Delta Co. Aug. 12 to work on revisions of the socio-economic study ARCO released several months ago.

#### "NO POWER IN THE PARK"

Amax's intent to build an electrical transmission line from Paonia over Kebler Pass and through Horse Ranch Park will be protested on Aug. 31 at a gathering sponsored by the High Country Citizens Alliance. The rally will be held at the Forest Service Horse Ranch Park near Crested



Butte, the same site of a rally held several years ago to protest Amax's plans to use that area as a tailings disposal site.

Gunnison County concerns were reported in an article from the June 27 CRESTED BUTTE PILOT entitled "Amax Can't Keep Hands Off Horse Ranch." "Questions from those in attendance (at a June 12 meeting) focused on the undesirability of running line through the Kebler-Horse Ranch area, and on the unproven need to have a looped power supply." Amax has proposed the loop which would feed off two separate generating sources, one being Colo.-Ute's northwest generating stations near Craig brought to the North Fork via the Rifle-San Juan Line, and then transmitted to Mt. Emmons via Amax's Kebler Pass-Horse Ranch Park route. Amax says it will soon release information to prove their need for the power loop.

For more information on the Aug. 31 gathering, you can contact the High Country Citizens Alliance, Box 1066, Crested Butte 81224.

#### DMEA--PUC HEARINGS SET FOR AUG. 20

Part Two of the Public Utilities Commission hearings on Delta-Montrose Electric Assn's. proposed rate increase will be held Aug. 20 (and possibly 21 and 22) at the Montrose County Fairgrounds. At the first hearing in June, DMEA's need for more revenue was discussed, and interim rate relief was subsequently granted to the company so that they could increase the revenue while studies on rate structure were conducted.

The Aug. 20 hearing will deal with the rate structure which has been criticized as being unfair to the small energy consumer and unsupportive of conservation.

SECA (Small Electrical Consumers Assn.) plans to propose an alternative rate structure which would give a lower rate to low-usage customers. The proposal will be presented for SECA by Dan Neidlinger, an expert on utility rate design from Phoenix, Ariz. Neidlinger is an electrical engineer who has been consultant to both utility companies and consumer groups. In the DMEA case, Neidlinger did a comparison of what three different proposals would do to people's utility bills. The proposal he plans to make to the PUC, would, basically, give a special discount to very low electrical consumers. To qualify, a customer would need to use less than a set amount of electricity (about 200 kw hrs./mo.) for at least 12 months previous.

According to Judy Robinson of SECA, Neidlinger's proposal would allow low use discount customers to pay about 17% less than DMEA's proposed rates; customers in the middle would have about an 8% savings; and higher users would end up paying about 3% more than what the proposed DMEA rates call for.

The hearing is open to the public and anyone may ask to speak. However, Ms. Robinson says the commissioners are not interested in hearing "a lot of repetitive comments." She adds that there is interest in hearing from small commercial customers about any problems they may have with their electrical rates.

IN RELATED NEWS, DMEA will be meeting with the Delta County Commissioners on Aug. 25 at 3:45 at the Courthouse to discuss DMEA's plans. The public may attend the meeting.

#### COLORADO PLATEAU RENDEVOUS

The Annual Colorado Plateau Rendevous will be held Sept. 20 and 21. This year is being sponsored by the newly-formed Western Slope Public Interest Congress and will discuss environmental concerns of Western Slope residents. Location has not been finalized, although the Lost Lake Lodge near Crested Butte is the most likely place at this time. Watch for more information on this event.



A MESSAGE FROM DICK BUSSING--DMEA CONSERVATION SPECIALIST

"During the post-war years America never had it so good. America had just come through the great depression and then World War II. People did not have very much and now affluence hit every area of the nation. The average man on the street could now have cars, TV's, radios, clothes, recreational equipment, and all the goods and services that were either not available or only available to the super rich. The attitude became one that our children should not have to be deprived as we once were. To accumulate, to have, to make life easier, to ease pain and suffering became the American way of life.

Technology and Science became the gods of this modern day society. If we had a problem which plagued us such as diseases like polio, or measles, or problems of storing, sorting and gathering information; we simply spent dollars and a vaccine or computer was developed to solve our problem. Man has come to believe that given enough time and money all our problems could be solved.

Energy availability and low cost became the essential nutrient which allowed all of this to take place and there was competition between the suppliers of energy. Energy resource seemed like everything else to be inexhaustible. Technological and Scientific advancement had offset problems and increased efficiency to the point that the majority of people never felt it would end. For this reason, all electric homes were promoted and the gas-electric appliance debate was promoted to achieve a greater usage.

In recent years we have experienced what is often called an "energy crisis." A crisis is a turning point in the course of history, and recent events clearly fit this definition. Since it is a basic economic commodity, energy is available to users to the extent that they are willing to pay the price that is asked by the seller. The relevant questions are how much customers will demand at a given price at a given time and how much business can afford to spend to supply the energy. At some point the answers to these questions match, and the market of supply-demand meet. This theoretical economic action is altered by regulatory and other government controls. During the past few years we have experienced a period of rising prices, shifting relationships among energy suppliers, uncertain supply, and political influences on fuel supply. Each of these factors constitutes an important element of change.

In addition, there is the problem of overcoming the threat of excessive damage to the environment due to extensive use of fossil fuels in transportation and industry. The process of compensating for these environmental effects will consume more energy and will require new approaches. Recycling of materials, rapid transit, sewage treatment, and air-pollution control equipment often consume additional energy and thus increase our total use of energy.

Now people are realizing that maybe technology and science can't answer all of our problems. Now America is waking up to something that we merely had forgotten about for a few years--resources are exhaustible and conservation is the best way to go."

--Richard W. Bussing  
DMEA Conservation Specialist

(Note: if you would like to comment on Dick's letter, you can write WSERC, Box 746, Hotchkiss, Colo. 81419, or call him in Montrose at 249-4572.)



1980---THE YEAR OF THE CENSUS

Western Sun has contracted The Colorado Solar Energy Association (CSEA) who subcontracted WSERC to count and catalogue solar homes in this area. The implications of this census are as varied as the people census held last spring. The government has a goal of 20% Solar by the year 2000 and is interested in how the movement is going. It's not necessary to know who, but what. The forms are easy to fill out, with only 20 questions to answer. If you own or know of a solar home or wind system, please give me a call at 872-3462 or call the WSERC office at 872-3902. Thanks--

Dave Carpenter

(Note: Dave will be covering Delta, Gunnison, Montrose, and Ouray Counties. The census is designed to determine the number of solar domestic hot water systems, active and passive space heating and cooling systems, green-houses, and wind systems. The deadline is Oct. 15.)

NEWS BRIEFS

-----Colorado-Ute Electric Assn. recently received a \$471 million loan guaranty from REA for the Craig III coal-fired power generating plant.

-----The problem of hazardous wastes will be addressed at a citizens conference in Denver Aug. 14-16. This conference is one of several being held around the country and is sponsored by the American Public Health Assn., Izaak Walton League, National Wildlife Federation, Environmental Action Foundation, Technical Information Project, and League of Women Voters Education Fund.

-----Bio-Gas of Colorado, Inc., the nation's leading designer/producer of systems to produce methane gas from biomass through anaerobic digestion, announced recently that it has acquired CF&R Steel in Arvada. This acquisition will allow Bio-Gas to significantly increase its manufacturing capabilities of methane digestion units and related energy systems. The company is also involved in the design/production of integrated methane/alcohol systems for the gasohol industry and on-farm energy complexes.

-----"Businesses are gearing up to supply approximately 110 million tons of coal to be exported to Japan in the next 10-15 years and about 150 million tons to Europe in that same time period." WALL STREET JOURNAL

-----Legislation which would grant a performance-based builders tax credit for passive solar energy systems was introduced recently in the Senate by Gary Hart. The Hart bill provides a credit of \$60 per million Btu's of energy saved up to a maximum of \$2,000. Similar legislation is expected to be introduced soon in the House of Representatives.

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As you can see, there's a lot to do in order to keep up with energy development in our area. Can you help? Please send contributions to WSERC, Box 746, Hotchkiss, Colo. 81419. (They're tax-deductible.)

Thanks to everyone for the help that's been coming in.

--Carolyn Landes  
WSERC Community Coordinator



MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

to the Board of Directors of the Western Slope Energy Research Center, Inc. (WSERC) regarding the proposed acquisition of the assets of the Colorado Energy Research Center, Inc. (CERC).

The Board of Directors of WSERC is hereby advised that the proposed acquisition of the assets of CERC is being considered by the Board of Directors of WSERC.

The Board of Directors of WSERC is hereby advised that the proposed acquisition of the assets of CERC is being considered by the Board of Directors of WSERC.

**WESTERN SLOPE ENERGY  
RESEARCH CENTER, INC.**  
BOX 746  
HOTCHKISS, COLORADO 81419

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
PERMIT NO. 7  
Hotchkiss, Co. 81419

The Board of Directors of WSERC is hereby advised that the proposed acquisition of the assets of CERC is being considered by the Board of Directors of WSERC.

Ralph E. Clark  
519 E. Georgia Ave.  
Gunnison, Co. 81230

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BOX 744  
HOTCHKISS, CO  
81419  
303-872-3902

# Newsletter

November 18, 1980

Number 13

## NOVEMBER IS ENERGY CONSERVATION MONTH

A campaign to raise consumer awareness of the benefits of energy conservation was kicked off recently by Gov. Lamm, Lt. Gov. Dick, and the State Office of Energy Conservation.

The programs stress low cost/no cost methods which can reduce a household's energy consumption by 25%. Tips include insulating hot water tanks, turning your furnace, insulating heating ducts and electrical outlets, installing plastic flow controllers in showerheads (which cuts water consumption in half while maintaining the same water pressure), and installing a small red plastic device in the hot water line to help cut water heating bills.

Locally, WSERC's Energy & Ethics Forum sponsored a program November 17 featuring Delta-Montrose Electric Assn. Conservationist Dick Bussing. Historical conditioning, Bussing said, has been to produce more and more rather than conserve. Conservation has not caught on yet because it is "too simple...it's not glamorous enough" and many Americans are waiting for a "technical fix."

But with utility bills rising (up to \$600/month by 1990) more people are turning to simple low cost/no cost conservation measures such as Bussing described. A flow restrictor on your water tap, for example, costs only about 25¢, is available in hardware stores, and can save a typical family of four more than 8,000 gallons of hot water a year.

The caulk gun, described by Bussing as "the original kilowatt gun," can reduce the largest area of residential heat loss--infiltration. Air infiltration in walls has been measured at 10 MPH. A 10¢ rubber gasket, also available at hardware stores, can reduce infiltration through wall outlets.

Bussing stressed that you need to take all these conservation measures; that insulation alone is not enough because beyond a certain point it will not be effective.

Bussing offers free home energy audits to DMEA customers. He will also train anyone interested to do neighborhood energy audits and weatherization. He pointed out that a Massachusetts town undertook a weatherization program and cut heating costs 16% in one season. "If a group wants to get together and weatherize the town of Hotchkiss for example," Bussing said, "I will help."

To make an appointment for a home energy audit, or for more specific conservation information, you can call Bussing at 249-4572 in Montrose.

## GREENHOUSE SEMINAR DRAWS A CROWD

About 85 people attended WSERC's Solar Greenhouse Seminar during Solar Action Week in October. Bill Yanda's Solar Greenhouse slides, and slides of the Community Greenhouse in Paonia and others around the country were shown. Tax credits for solar and conservation projects were explained by Steve Foss from the Grand Junction Energy Extension Office. Dave Carpenter, Linda Lindsey, and Steve Wolcott helped with the program. For more information on COLORADO TAX INCENTIVES: THE BEST IN THE NATION, contact the WSERC office.



### SOLAR SURVEY NEARS COMPLETION

Since September we have been conducting a survey of solar and wind installations. This survey is administered by the Department of Energy and we are handling Gunnison, Ouray, Montrose, and Delta Counties. As we go from home to home we are also taking pictures so that a slide presentation can be expected sometime around the first of the year. We have already completed Ouray and Gunnison counties and have some interesting results. Out of 66 homes visited thus far we have found 7 active systems, 9 envelope homes, 19 direct-gain passive homes, 24 attached greenhouses and 7 misc. applications including water heaters and hot tub rooms. In Ouray County we found that 1.6% of all homes have turned to the sun and 5 of the homes were renovation/additions. In Gunnison county the best we can estimate is less than 1% of the homes are solar, about 4% new housing is turning solar, and we only found 4 addition/renovations. If it wasn't for the new all electric condo construction happening around Mt. Crested Butte, Gunnison would show much higher percentages of solar.

The biggest problems some solar homeowners have expressed is insufficient thermal mass for their heat storage and problems with nighttime dampers for active air systems.

-----Dave Carpenter & Joan Riback

(Note: Dave and Joan received the "First Prize for Creativity in Surveying" from Colorado Solar Energy Assn. Prez Rachel Snyder for their aerial survey of Delta County conducted with the help of volunteer pilot, Craig Sabatke, last Saturday.)

### COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE CLOSED IN

The Colorado Creative Education Community Greenhouse at Lamborn Valley School in Paonia is now closed in and working thanks to efforts of at least 15 volunteers at a Saturday workday November 1. The temperature has averaged about 115° on these cold days and thermal shutters help retain heat night and on cloudy days. The glazing is two layer polyethelene with a small fan that inflates the layers and insulates and keeps them taut. (The fan uses about half a lightbulb's worth of electricity.) Fifty-five gallon drums have been added for heat storage.

The greenhouse provides heat for the school and growing space for anyone in the community who is interested, particularly low-income folks. If you want to participate, call Michelle at 527-3165.

The organic growers fruit drying operation at the school may be on line by December 1.

### CONFERENCE REPORTS

Dave Carpenter, Joan Riback, and I attended the Colorado Solar Action Workshop near Lyons Nov. 1 & 2. During the weekend we were given tips on how to reach out to consumers, community leaders, builders, government, realtors, and solar industry on the advantages of developing solar. We also attended skills workshops on the media, organizing local energy groups and solar workshops, fundraising, and community energy plans. The workshop was sponsored by the Energy Extension Service of Northeastern Colorado and helped us proceed with plans to expand the public information energy function of WSERC.

Because of my fired-up interest in energy efficient community planning, I made the trip over the mountains again for the Community Energy Planning Conference in Boulder the next weekend sponsored by the Boulder Energy Extension Center. The main speaker was Jim Benson from the Institute for Ecological Policies in Virginia. Benson is co-author of THE COUNTY ENERGY



PLAN GUIDEBOOK, the foundation for creating a comprehensive, national energy data base and national constituency advocating energy conservation and renewable energy use. (The Franklin County study was based on this.) Benson formerly worked for ERDA (before it was DOE) and the Council on Ecological Policy. He has been involved in numerous studies on the benefits of conservation and renewables and says "Conservation should be the absolute highest priority in this country." But at present, 48% of the \$12 million energy budget is going to defense (mainly nuclear programs); 7% to conservation, and 7% to renewables; with 68% of the entire DOE budget going to only 20 corporations.

Benson, along with Amory Lovins and Denis Hayes (now SERI director) helped write President Carter's energy policy which was torn apart in Congress. Benson believes that to create a solar and renewable constituency you need an educated-active public who are involved in the political process. He's working full-time on helping that become a reality.

Another speaker at the conference was Akira Kawanabe, an architect from Alamosa. He showed slides of the solar activities in the San Luis Valley where 6% of the homes have greenhouses which were built with very little money and outside help.

-----Carolyn Landes

(Note: WSERC member Susan Brater from Paonia attended a seminar on Citizen Group Participation in Land Use Planning in Aspen last September. About 25 people from all over Colorado were there. Sue said the reason the seminar was organized was that planners and attorneys realize that in order to get some positive things accomplished, they need the support of citizen groups. The following is Sue's report on the seminar.)

Is it best to have a large group of people in an organization or a small one? Is fundraising easier if one tries to get \$1 from many or more money from a few?

The attorneys and planners who ran the Citizen Group Participation Seminar gave surprising answers to those and other questions. Nicholas McGrath, an attorney from a private firm in Aspen; Peter Buck, an attorney from Seattle, WA; and Frank Gray, County Planner for Boulder, put on the seminar in order to help citizen groups become more effective.

In terms of group organization it was suggested that the group not be too small or large with the emphasis on those being able to establish common goals. Organizers should keep the members informed about even the smallest victories and educate them about the available alternatives. Yet in order to keep the groups' enthusiasm going, the group needs to develop a strategy which will pinpoint the weakest points of the "opposition's" arguments and not waste the groups' energy at the wrong places. In addition, the group should assert a principled reason for its position and stress that its members are property owners.

There are many things that members can and should do in support of a position. Letters, written presentations to agencies and local governments, monitoring of county planning commission progress, meetings with proponents, and research of various records all need to be done.

Hearing attendance needs to be coordinated. At least 15 people need to show support by attending every hearing yet just one or two people should speak for the group. McGrath, Buck, and Gray all agreed that booing and other verbal shows of protest which are in "bad taste" do not help a group's case.

Buck said that groups have the best chance of achieving their goals by taking part in every aspect of the local planning process. The least effective place for the group's energy is in the courts. Yet, Buck emphasized that a group can use the legal process as a last resort.

-----Susan Brater



## ALCOHOL FUEL CO-OPS CATCHING ON

Seeds were planted for a possible alcohol fuel co-op in Delta County at a November 13 Farmers Union meeting in Hotchkiss. About 30 farmers heard presentations from Rocky Mountain Farmers Union President John Stencel and National FU Field Representative Victor Ray.

Steve Wolcott of Stucker Mesa organized the program to present information on alcohol fuel co-ops around the country. Wolcott is the newly-elected president of the Delta County FU.

Stencel said the FU believes farmers can become energy independent through use of alcohol fuels, methane, wind, and solar. He added that these can also become marketable commodities.

Ray showed slides of fuel alcohol co-ops from all over the country, including the Jamie Jacobsen/Steve Wolcott plant on Lamborn Mesa which makes fuel from apple juice, with coal as the heating source. The plant cost \$350 to build and can produce  $2\frac{1}{2}$  gal/hr. of fuel.

Fuel-alcohol production is now mainly controlled by big business but competition is gearing up to see who will control it in the future--big oil, big grain companies, or farmers themselves. The FU is encouraging farmers to "get a piece of the action." "We think more farmers are going to get involved in alcohol production and marketing through co-ops than any other way," Ray said.

Forming a co-op, however, is not an easy or fast process. "There is a lot involved...it doesn't happen overnight...you need to be patient..." Stencel cautioned. For example, a group of 22 Weld County farmers are just about to get their co-op off the ground after working more than a year. The FU is assisting the Weld County group and five others in Colorado. They are in Sedgewick, Dolores, Kiowa, Crowley, and Delta Counties. The six Kiowa farmers are planning a corporation rather than a co-op and the group in Crowley hopes to use watermelon as their feedstock.

Since the FU has helped start over half the co-ops in this country, they offer assistance to any group of farmers hoping to break into alcohol fuel production by pooling time and resources. Farmers Union can also help with technical expertise and cutting through the red tape of the regulatory process.

Necessary ingredients in an alcohol fuel operation are: feedstock, water, heat, and enzymes. Most of the knowledge to date, is for converting grains (mainly corn) to fuel. Methods of re-using the water and the most cost-effective means of producing heat need to be considered. Wheat straw, corn stocks, wood, and coal were some of the cooking methods mentioned at the meeting. Stencel said a Nebraska company is now selling a straw burner.

Wolcott said that fruit is an easy feedstock to use since it bypasses several processes. He reported on a plant he and Jacobsen saw recently at the Denver Energy Expo which used a process of extruding the grain, creating pressure and heat and saving cooking time and money. "This might also work with fruit," Wolcott said.

There are many alcohol fuel plants on the market today--some good and some not so good. Ray encouraged farmers to see a plant in operation before deciding on its value.

The FU drive to develop fuel alcohol co-ops can have more far reaching effects than energy-independence. For example, the FU and the Dept. of Labor have worked together on Greenthum, Inc., a project which hires senior citizens to work in alcohol fuel co-ops. Also, byproducts from a fuel alcohol plant can be an excellent animal feed to use or sell. Archer-Daniels-Midland Corp., the largest alcohol producer in the country, is experimenting with another by-product, carbon dioxide, for use in greenhouses.

According to Ray, the FU is aiming at production costs of around 50¢ per annual gallon of alcohol fuel. He said the FU thinks a \$400,000 plant contracted for the DOE is "too high."



Wolcott plans to send questionnaires to farmers in Delta County to get their input on forming a co-op for alcohol fuel production. If you are interested or know anyone who may be, please contact him at 527-4586.

#### INDIGENOUS PEOPLES & THIRD WORLD ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Antonio Lema, an Ecuadorian Otavalo Indian, will be the next speaker at WSERC's Energy & Ethics Forum December 10 in Hotchkiss Memorial Hall.

Lema, an educator, is presently teaching Zuichua (the main Indian language of Ecuador) for the Peace Corps. He is Secretary of ECUARUNARI, an Indian organization, and past president of MODELINDE, the Movement for the Liberation and Integration of the Ecuadorian Indians.

According to Linda Lindsey, a long-time friend of Lema, the area where the Otavalo live is very similar ecologically to the North Fork area--a valley in the middle of the Andes surrounded by 20,000 ft. peaks. Ecuador was the most over-populated and least developed country (per capita income) in South America until 1970 when oil was discovered. It is now booming, says Linda who visited Lema there in 1973. She added that when she first heard Lema speak in 1969 she was very "impressed by his frankness on the oppression of the Ecuadorian Indians."

Lema is now owner of ARTESIANIAS INDIGENAS del ECUADOR, an export business designed to improve the economic status of the Indians and to develop hand craft goods, establish co-ops, and organized local work groups. A display of goods from ARTESIANIAS INDIGENAS will be shown at the Sage Dome Gallery Dec. 8-14.

#### HOMESTAKE HEARING DECEMBER 10-12

A hearing on Homestake Mining Company's application for a uranium mill and tailing disposal site 36 miles southeast of Gunnison will take place Dec. 10-12 at the Gunnison County Building.

The mill is for processing uranium from the Pitch Project, a large open pit mine on Marshall Pass. The proposed project lies in the Tomichi Creek Drainage within the larger Gunnison River Basin. Many requests have come into the WSERC office from the Gunnison area for people to testify at the hearing. If you are interested, please call 872-3902.

#### OIL SHALE WORKSHOP PLANNED

A workshop to explore the current oil shale situation and develop measures to mitigate the negative impacts will be held January 17-18 in Grand Junction. If you are interested in helping plan this program, contact Brad Klafehn at 527-3163.

#### STATE PROGRAM APPROVED

The Mined Land Reclamation Division has announced that the Office of Surface Mining is approving Colorado's State Program for the regulation of coal mining "with certain minor conditions".

#### VALLEY MINES APPLY FOR EMISSION PERMITS

ARCo and Western Slope Carbon have applied to the state Health Department for particulate emission permits for the Mt. Gunnison #1 Mine and the Hawk's Nest expansion. The deadline for public comment on the ARCo permit was Nov. 8, but if you are concerned about the total pollutant burden for this confined valley you can address that in letters on the WSC application until November 29. Comments should be sent to: Scott Miller

Colorado Department of Health  
125 North 8th  
Grand Junction, CO 81501



### SECA STATING DUST

The Small Electric Consumers Assn. (SECA) is currently filing a Petition for Reconsideration in the Delta-Montrose Electric Assn. rate case. We hope to be able to convince the PUC (among other things): that the decision made was not based on evidence presented at the hearing and that the decision should be overruled.

SECA is already a party to the Colorado-Ute "Conservation Rate" hearing set for December 17 in Denver.

We are also planning to intervene and become a part of the C-Ute "20% Rate Increase" hearing set for December 29 in Denver.

SECA will hold a General Meeting on Monday, Nov. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Valley Federal Friendship Room in Paonia. Everyone is welcome. We will discuss our current plans and ways to implement them. We need more support and urge everyone to attend.

-----Thomas Lawley, SECA President

### Some Background

In August 1980 SECA intervened in the DMEA rate hearing held by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). SECA, as well as a number of private citizens argued for a flat rate structure instead of DMEA's proposed declining block structure, and lower rates for small users. SECA's arguments were that lower rates for small users would promote conservation and put the expensive burden of new plant construction (the main reason for recent dramatic rate increases) where it belonged--on the large users.

PUC hearing examiner John Steltnagel recently handed down a decision that was even harder on small users than the DMEA proposal. He decided on a flat rate but with a high front end or access charge. This type rate structure has been referred to by some as a "phony flat rate" which gives the appearance of a flat rate but the effect of a very steep declining block structure. For example, a residential small user with only electric lighting and a non-frost-free refrigerator might have a monthly usage of 200 Kwh. He would be charged \$16.53 under DMEA's proposed rates and \$17.71 under the PUC rates. Whereas for a residential large user with a monthly usage of 2000 Kwh, the DMEA rate would be \$97.46 and the PUC rate would be \$87.12. The PUC decision was hardly in the direction of promoting conservation.

Small commercial users were treated even more harshly by the PUC. For commercial users the PUC dropped DMEA's demand charge and added a high front end charge. According to the NORTH FORK TIMES, a store using 300 Kwh per month would pay about \$25 with DMEA rates and \$42 with the new PUC rates. The PUC rate for commercial tends to average large and small users which is definitely not the way to promote conservation.

SECA is planning to appeal the decision to high levels of the PUC.

-----Ron Dessain

### Utility Booklet Available

"Rising Utility Rates: Are They Justified?", a pamphlet explaining (in simple language) the issues behind electric utility expansion, is available from COPIRG (The Colorado Public Interest Research Group) in Boulder. It explains traditional and alternative rate structures and their effects. It shows how the small user is forced to subsidize industrial growth. The effectiveness of conservation is discussed briefly but clearly. The pamphlet concludes with suggested citizen steps for reform. Copies will be available soon.

-----Judy Robinson



COLORADO-UTE APPLIES FOR POWERLINE PERMIT

On October 10 the Colorado-Ute Electric Assn. applied for a permit for its proposed Rifle-San Juan 345kV transmission line. The permit, called a Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity (CPCN), must be approved by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

The CPCN proceedings are not expected to consider siting or environmental issues but will investigate the need for the line. According to PUC staff, issues would include why the line is needed, cost-benefit analysis, what other alternatives were studied, and why this alternative was chosen.

The PUC has sent notices to county governments, landowners, and other interested parties along the proposed route requesting comments on the CPCN application. If the PUC receives protests it must hold hearings on the application.

At this point formal CPCN proceedings are assured but letters are  
\*\*\* needed requesting public hearings along the powerline route. \*\*\*  
The deadline for filing protests and requesting public hearings is November 21. The deadline to intervene and become a party in the formal CPCN process is November 29. You can write the PUC, 5th Floor, 1525 Sherman St., Denver, CO 80203 RE: application # 33226 .

C-Ute's application for and approval of the CPCN permit is necessary under state law. The application ended conjecture that C-Ute would have to be forced through complaint to the PUC to comply with state law. Several affected North Fork landowners had been pursuing this legal remedy when C-Ute finally applied.

The proposed route of the 288 mile high voltage powerline is from Rifle through the North Fork Valley to Delta and Montrose, then to Norwood, Nucla, Cajone, Durango, and terminating in San Juan, N.M. Substations associated with the line are proposed for Hotchkiss, Cajone, and Herperus.

----Lynn Burns

ON THE BACK BURNER??

A spokesman for C-Ute has told WSERC that the Rifle-San Juan line is "on the back burner" until Delta County adopts its regulations for major power facility siting. Unofficial reports indicate that C-Ute is considering changing the preferred corridor through the North Fork--away from Paonia area landowners and closer to Hotchkiss.

A date for the hearing on the revised Delta County 1041 regs will be probably be set by November 26.

GRAND JUNCTION GROUP ASKS C-UTE ABOUT MACK SITE

The Two Rivers Citizens Assn. in Grand Junction organized a public meeting November 18 to ask C-Ute officials about their plans for a 1600 MW coal-fired power plant near Mack. Delta is the other site being considered by C-Ute for the powerplant.

\*\*\*\*\*

"The average cost of building a coal-fired plant has risen from \$144/KW in 1970 to over \$1,000/KW for a plant beginning construction in 1980." ----COPIRG pamphlet

----According to a Franklin Institute study, by 1990 utility bills will be about \$600/month and wage increases will not have risen enough to keep up.

\*\*\*\*\*X-COUNTRY & TOWNHILL SKI SWAP, NOV. 22, 9-3, Centennial JHS, Montrose, \$1 admission, Sponsored by Western Colorado Congress\*\*\*\*\*



### ALLEN-WARNER PROJECT DRAWS ATTENTION AS PRECEDENT SETTER

In a precedent-setting action several months ago, the BLM issued a draft environmental impact statement on the Utah-Nevada Allen-Warner Valley Energy System which said that alternative sources of energy (such as solar, wind, and geothermal) could offset the need for the system as planned. Also, the BLM, in its own study of energy demand for the project, found that the utility forecasts for electrical demand were too high by a significant margin. (See high country news, 9/16/80.)

The proposed system was designated top priority on President Carter's "critical energy facilities" list. It is located in southwestern Utah and southern Nevada and would include coal strip mining near Bryce Canyon, a coal slurry pipeline, a 500MW power plant 22 miles upwind from Zion National Park, and a 2500MW power plant near Las Vegas, Nev. California is slated to be the main recipient of the power from this system.

Since the completion of the draft EIS, however, Region VIII of the EPA said it would deny Nevada Power Company's application for a Prevention of Significant Deterioration permit for the proposed Warner Valley power plant and the staff of the California Public Service Commission made its official recommendation that the California utility companies participate in the Allen power plant only and that the coal be brought in from existing mining areas over existing rail lines rather than new strip mines and the slurry. Utah officials are contesting these developments.

According to the Sierra Club in Utah, Interior Secretary Andrus will make a decision on the strip mining soon and on the entire project by January 15, 1981. If you would like to comment, or would like more information you can contact the WSERC office.

### SHORTS

According to an article in the October 10 WALL STREET JOURNAL, Public Service Co. of New Mexico is catching flack from consumer over plans to build additional power plants "solely to export electricity to Arizona, Colorado, California, and other power-hungry states." Consumers fear that rates (already among the top 10% in the nation) would double again by 1985 if new plants are built to export power.

A September NEW YORK TIMES article talks about how energy firms have reason to thank their traditional foes (environmentalists) for often showing them the way out of "financial disaster...by preventing expansion that, in retrospect, would have been costly and unnecessary..."

"Many Electric Utilities Suffer as Conservation Holds Down Demand" reads the headline in an October 10 WALL STREET JOURNAL article on how Northeast Utilities overprojected the demand for electrical growth in that area and are now suffering from too much power and lack of capital.

\*\*\*\*\*  
THANKS TO A DONATION FROM MYRTLE ROSS OF CEDARIDGE, the WSERC library has several new books. Among them--POWER OVER PEOPLE, ENERGY EFFICIENT COMMUNITY PLANNING, SOFT ENERGY PATHS, THE ENERGY CONTROVERSY, THE COUNTY ENERGY PLAN GUIDEBOOK, ENERGY AND POWER IN YOUR COMMUNITY, SHINING EXAMPLES, A GOLDEN THREAD. Plus new subscriptions to THE HIGH COUNTRY NEWS and SOFT ENERGY NOTES. Come in and check them out!

WSERC needs file cabinets, a new mimeograph machine, and money for general operating expenses. Your contribution/membership is tax-deductible.

Many thanks to all the people who contributed to this issue of the Newsletter. If you have articles or comments, please send them to us.









BOX 746  
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# NewsLetter

December 19, 1980

Number 14

## ANNUAL MEETING COMING UP -- BYLAW CHANGES PROPOSED

MONDAY JANUARY 19, 1981-- Mark that date on your calendar so you won't forget the WSERC annual meeting. It will be held at 7 p.m. in the Hotchkiss Elementary School bandroom. At that time dues will be collected, board elections will be held, and members will discuss and vote on the proposed changes to the WSERC bylaws. David Johnston, Sue Brater, and Claire Moore were members of the committee which worked out the proposals. They read as follows:

### Article I - Section 2

Purpose. The purpose of this Center shall be to gather, disseminate, and evaluate information related to energy and energy development.  
ADD "and to encourage responsible use of the energy resources of Western Colorado."

### Article II - No. 2

Basic Policies. The basic purpose shall be carried out so as to provide well-documented factual information from as many sources as possible on energy and related topics selected by the Board of Directors and approved by a majority vote of the members. This information shall be presented to the public by multi-media, non-partisan approaches so that all citizens may broaden their awareness of energy-related issues involving the quality of their everyday lives.

DELETE "and approved by a majority vote of the members."

DELETE "non-partisan"

### Article II - No. 3

Basic Policies. The name of the Center or the names of any members in their official capacities shall not be used in any connection with any partisan interest or for any purpose not appropriately related to promotion of the purpose of the Center.

DELETE "in any connection with any partisan interest or"

### Article V - Section 1

Catagories. AMEND TO READ "Section 1. Catagories. Each member of the Center shall pay annual dues in one of the following categories:

Active Membership	\$ 10.00
Student or Senior Citizen	5.00
Contributing	25.00
Sustaining	50.00
Sponsor	100.00 and up



Article VI - Section 1

At the meeting held following the adoption of these bylaws, there shall be an election of nine directors of the Center, three of whom shall be selected for a term of one year, three for two years, and three for three years. At each annual meeting thereafter a number of directors equal to that of those whose terms have expired shall be elected for the term of three years. At the expiration of any term of three years, any director may be re-elected, but no director shall serve more than six (6) consecutive years. If at any time no director shall serve more than six (6) consecutive years.

Article VI - Section 2

There shall be established research workshops and/or other staff committees with approval of a majority of the Board of Directors and members.

Article VI - Section 3

For approval by a majority vote the contents of all official publications shall be submitted to the Board of Directors.

Article VIII - Section 1

The workshops will be the areas in which the Center will undertake thorough research. Workshops may be added or deleted from the work of the Center with the recommendation of a majority of the Board of Directors and majority approval of the membership.

Article VIII - Section 2

There shall be the following standing staff committees: "Committee on Research" There shall be established such committees as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors has not taken any action on the proposed changes. The Board will be held by a vote of the membership at the annual meeting on January 15, 1971, 9 p.m., at the University of Colorado. If you would like more information on the bylaws, please call the Board office after January 2.

EXHIBIT WITH A CENTRAL EXHIBIT NEXT IN FORM SERIES

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS ALSO ADOPTED THE ALBERT EINSTEIN CENTENNIAL EXHIBIT AND THE "ALBERT EINSTEIN: EDUCATION OF A GENIUS" This program is one of a ten-part series sponsored this past year by the Board of Directors from the Colorado Humanities Program. The Centennial Exhibit is a portrait of Albert Einstein's character, his work and contributions. Quotations, factual reports, family photographs, diagrams and interpretive texts combine to tell the story of his mental development, says the program guidebook. The film "The Einstein Exhibit" was developed in 1979 as part of the Einstein Centennial Celebration by the Institute for Advanced Study and the National Museum for the Humanities. The exhibit and film will be available to local schools and interested groups January 22, 1981. Contact: 262-3000 or 262-3001 for more information.



PITCH HEARINGS DRAW PUBLIC PROTEST

ON DECEMBER 10, 11, & 12 I attended public hearings in Gunnison on Homestake Mining Company's proposed uranium mill and tailings disposal facility. A 600 ton per day mill would process ore at the site of Homestake's Pitch mine, near Marshall Pass in Gunnison National Forest. The mine has been in operation about a year with high grade ore presently being trucked to the Homestake-United Nuclear mill in New Mexico.

This hearing combined the separate procedures of three agencies who will make decisions on the various permits--the Hazardous Waste Division and the Water Quality Control Commission of the Colorado Department of Health, and the Saguache County Commissioners. Although Homestake's testimony referred to the tailings pond as a "failsafe incapsulated vehicle", questions from opponents indicated many weaknesses in the proposal.

The dam design does not adequately address the problems of long term erosion; there are inadequate plans for quality control during construction; and state agencies are deficient in their oversight functions.

Discussion of reclamation and/or revegetation plans were specifically excluded by the chairperson on procedural grounds, nor would she permit opponents to question the "public need" for such a facility, or outline the extent to which the entire nuclear industry is subsidized by the taxpayers.

Testimony demonstrated that there has been virtually no consideration of the long term effects of this proposal. Homestake's experts would not give assurances that the structure, containing radioactive wastes with a life span of hundreds of thousands of years, would remain stable for more than 200-300 years.

The proposal calls for a 25 year period of operation, after which the mill will be disassembled and the tailings pond covered and turned over to state or federal agencies for safeguarding. A rather nice deal for Homestake.

Several witnesses also reminded the hearing that Homestake has the worst record in the industry for tailings disposal.

Testimony from two previous employees also pointed to poor performance at the present mine site. Homestake is not properly controlling or treating runoff from the mine.

These witnesses also testified to several apparent violations of state and federal regulations, haphazard handling of radioactive materials and inadequate employee training.

Many citizens who participated were quite upset with the "mentally and legally intimidating atmosphere" of the hearing. It was also an eyeopener for many in terms of how poorly the public interest is represented and/or addressed in these procedures. Several complaints have been lodged with the Colorado Consumer Advocacy Office as of this writing and more are expected.

A decision on the Mill and Tailings Disposal permits is expected possibly as soon as late January. Citizens wishing to submit written statements must do so by December 27, 1980. Statements should be sent to: Albert J. Hazle, Director

Radiation & Hazardous Wastes Control Division  
Colorado Department of Health  
4210 E. 11th Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

----A. Paul Douglas



NEWS BRIEFS

NEW MEXICO BLM has officially designated the first two "areas of critical environmental concern" (ACEC's) in the nation. The areas, Simon Canyon and a portion of the Central Peloncillo Mountains, will be protected against disruptive use, encroachment, and development. The two ACEC's are the first tangible results of a Congressional mandate in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).

----PUBLIC LANDS INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER  
Dec. 1980

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON chairman William Gould announced in October 1980 "a major change in the way we do business." Gould wrote, "It is the policy of Edison to devote our corporate resources to the accelerated development of a wide variety of future electrical power sources which are renewable rather than finite."

----NOT MAK APART, Dec. 1980

ALTHOUGH THEY ARE STILL PROTESTING, 6200 Navajos and 50 Hopis living in a Navajo-Hopi Joint Use Area in northeastern Arizona may be forced to relocate by the United States government. Herb Blatchford, of the American Indian Environmental Council, believes the real reason for the recent pressures to speed up relocation are simply aimed at displacing the indigenous people on that land so the large amounts of coal underneath will be more available for leasing. Peabody Coal Company has been stripmining the Black Mesa Coal Field on the Hopi reservation for nearly ten years. Their current lease is for only ten percent of the 20 billion tons underlying the Joint Use Area.

----HIGH COUNTRY NEWS, Dec. 12, 1980

THE WESTERN COLORADO CONGRESS (formerly the Western Slope Public Interest Congress) will SOON HAVE A FULL-TIME STAFF PERSON. Other goals for the group, which was formed recently in answer to the need for alternatives to CLOS 20, include having a functioning office, a one year operating plan, and a one year budget planned and funded within the next few months.

"Delta County consumers will soon be carrying yet another financial burden, thanks to Colorado-Ute," says an editorial in the December 18 NORTH FORK TIMES. "The new burden will be a fourth public relations person whom the utility is in the process of hiring at about \$18,000 per year. We assume this new PR person will serve the same function as the present three PR people: to keep secret any information Colorado-Ute doesn't want the public to have."

Although the CMI Orchard Valley Mine may have a good safety record, the Westmoreland Coal Company as a whole does not. According to a recent article in LABOR NOTES, "Among the 20 largest coal companies, Westmoreland has the worst safety record. Its non-fatal injury rate is seven times higher than in U.S. Steel's mines." The article also stated that the company and one of its management officials have recently pled guilty to falsifying dust records, submitted to the government to show compliance with maximum dust levels set by law. "Keeping down coal dust is important ... because it causes black lung disease (and) also because the dust can be very explosive."



### UPCOMING EVENTS

OIL SHALE '81--A Citizens' Working Conference  
January 17, 18, 1981 (optional site tour January 16)  
Mesa College, Grand Junction  
\$10 registration

sponsored by the Western Colorado Congress, Two Rivers Citizens Assn., Friends of the Earth, Colorado Open Space Council, and the Mesa College Biology Club.

"The federal government has targeted western Colorado and eastern Utah for oil shale development that will produce 400,00 barrels of shale oil a day by 1900. Currently four oil shale operations are under construction. Some industry advocates and research groups propose multi-million-barrel per day production.

What will the effect of this new industry be upon our people, our economy, and our land?"

Oil Shale '81 has been designed around the twin emphases of education and action. There will be a tour, lectures, panel discussions, and slide shows. Of particular interest to people in the Delta County area may be the Sunday Strategy Session on "Utilities and State Energy Planning."

If you have not already received a registration brochure for Oil Shale '81, please write P.O. Box 2932, Grand Junction, CO 81502, or call the WSERC office after the Holidays.

CITIZENS HEARINGS ON "THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS IN COLORADO"  
January 31, 1981

Montrose

sponsored by the Statewide Health Coordinating Council with support from local groups.

These hearings are a continuation of the National Citizens' Hearings held last April in Washington, D.C. Workers' health, off-site contamination and compensation will be among the issues addressed. Comments will be actively solicited from workers and citizens living near nuclear sites.

The hearings will be used as guidelines for the council and panel involved to make recommendations on concerns from a state or federal "regulatory" perspective, and on the most immediately-affected people.

In addition to the January 31 Montrose hearing, others will be held January 30 in Canon City and February 6-7 in Denver. If you would like to testify, or know someone who might, please contact Judy Danielson at 1660 Lafayette St., Denver, 80218, or contact the WSERC office for more information.

DATES TO WATCH FOR--PUC hearings on the Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity for the double 345 kV Rifle-San Juan Powerline.

--Delta County Commissioners hearings on proposed regulations on siting major utility facilities.

--Public hearings on the application for a limited amendment to the current BLM Management Framework Plan to expand coal development in the Delta County area. These hearings are expected to take place in February.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS and the Best for 1981 to you all from the WSERC Board & Staff.

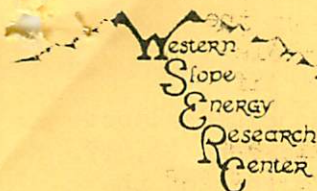


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# Newsletter

February 13, 1981

Number 15

## BYLAWS AMENDED AT ANNUAL MEETING

All the proposed changes to the WSERC bylaws (see last newsletter, Dec. 19, no. 15) were adopted at the annual meeting held Jan. 19 in Hotchkiss.

The changes range from increasing yearly membership dues to adding the phrase "and to encourage responsible use of the energy resources of Western Colorado" to the purpose of WSERC. Other amendments made it possible for WSERC, as a group, to take positions on issues. Decisions on positions, workshops, staff activities, etc., will be made by the board. The current WSERC board, following elections held at the annual meeting, consists of:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>phone</u>	<u>term expires</u>
Chuck Worley, co-chairperson	856-3486	1984
David Johnston, co-chairperson	527-4613	1983
Tim Brater, secretary	527-4683	1984
Paul Douglas, treasurer	527-3863	1982
Bill Palmer	856-3258	1982
Doris Ellis	872-3551	1982
Ron D. Bain	527-4792	1983
Tige Herndon	527-3074	1983
Chuck Catlin	856-6234	1984

These board members are your representatives. If you have questions, ideas for projects, or any other input, please contact your board members or call the office at 872-3902.

In other business at the annual meeting, members voted in favor of WSERC joining the Western Colorado Congress. WCC has a Spring gathering coming up. More on this later.

If you did not attend the annual meeting or have not sent in your dues, please mail them in as soon as possible. You can use the form on the last page of the Annual Report included in this newsletter.

## "THE EARTH IS ALIVE"-- FEBRUARY 23

Joan Price, director of the Colorado Plateau Project (CPP), will be the final speaker in the WSERC "Energy & Ethics Forum" Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. in the Hotchkiss Elementary bandroom.

The program, "The Earth is Alive: Physics and Mysticism" features a slideshow/sound track and lecture drawing from cloud microphysics, geology and meteorology of the Colorado Plateau and Native American statements about spirit and cloud formation.

CPP is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to bringing about public awareness of natural forces of the Colorado Plateau and similar lands. According to Price, the hope of CPP is "to promote an active respect for the Earth's sacred lands by presenting scientific evidence supportive of traditional Native American beliefs. Price will expand on the Hopi prophecy (which was discussed by Thomas Banyanca at WSERC's "Energy & Ethics Forum" last May.) She lived for several years in the Four Corners region with the traditional Hopi who have the longest continuous spiritual tradition in the Americas.

Price has spoken to Congresspeople and presented her program to audiences in several states.



## OIL SHALE '81 REPORT

A dozen citizens from the North Fork, Delta, and Cedaredge areas joined almost 400 people attending Oil Shale '81--A Citizens Working Conference, held Jan. 16, 17, & 18 in Grand Junction. The purpose of the conference was to inform citizens on the many issues surrounding oil shale development and to help them develop the tools to participate in the decisions that will affect their lives and the quality of life on the Western Slope.

The participants included farmers, ranchers, environmentalists, industry and business, senior citizens, women and other minorities. Several county commissioners and Colorado legislators were also in attendance.

Friday offered a tour of several oil shale facilities in the Piceance Basin.

Saturday the conference opened with a keynote speech by newly elected state representative Kathleen Sullivan, who stressed the need for citizens to become more knowledgeable and involved in making the decisions that affect our future. Kevin Markey of FOE followed with an overview of oil shale history and present development. Then participants dispersed to attend three seminars which they selected from an offering of eight subjects including socio-economic impacts, air quality, water, utilities, oil shale technologies, taxation and financing, and land reclamation.

Late Saturday afternoon we regathered to view the Western Governors Policy Office presentation, Energy and the West, an overview of energy and minerals development proposals. This WESTPO slide show graphically illustrates the magnitude of potential development, outlining as well, some of the conflicts and decisions that will face both Colorado and the nation.

Sunday began with presentations from three very knowledgeable experts who clearly documented the cost effectiveness and benefits of various alternative solutions to our liquid fuels problems. They pointed out that oil shale is not going to give this nation energy independence and will, in fact, increase national problems of industrial productivity, inflation, and unemployment. Almost any other energy option can answer our needs, producing more fuel sooner for considerable less cost, both economically and environmentally, and create more jobs in the process. The speakers were Tom Reed of SERI, John Stencel of the Rocky Mtn. Farmers Union, and Roger Kahn of the Colorado Coalition for Full Employment.

The remainder of the morning and the afternoon offered workshops where participants discussed common goals and initiated plans to achieve them. Somewhat of a consensus appeared to emerge from the workshops, that being the immediate need to inform and educate the nations' citizens and their elected and appointed officials about energy issues. There was also much discussion concerning the need to gain an equal ear in Washington to offset the persuasions of the large corporations which stand to profit from oil shale and other capital intensive and high tech proposals for energy development.

Sometimes this observer feels that Washington is the problem. I wonder how much longer our leaders will continue to ignore the proven promise of conservation, solar, and other renewable alternatives. I think we have a right to expect that some common sense be applied to these energy issues.

Clearly, most participants left the conference with a much better understanding of the issues involved. We were all exposed to an amazing amount of information. And as several spokespersons indicated, as the available information expands, it is becoming increasingly apparent that oil shale development is a mistake. Not simply because it will drastically alter the quality of life on the Western Slope, but more importantly, because it is not in the best interests of the citizens of this nation.

-----Paul Douglas

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Congressional hearings on the Clean Air Act started in February. The Flattops Wilderness is in danger of being downgraded from Class I so that oil shale development would not be restricted by its proximity to a Class I area. If you are concerned, please write your representatives in Congress. More information on the Clean Air Act is available in the WSERC office.



### PASSIVE SOLAR POTENTIAL

"The day when passive solar architecture was mainly the domain of well-to-do owners of custom-designed homes is now ending. As solar builders adopt mass-production and prefabrication techniques, they are experiencing dramatic cost reductions.

According to a new Worldwatch Paper, "Energy and Architecture," by Christopher Flavin, builders are beginning to realize that these reductions, along with lower long-term energy and fuel costs, have in recent years ensured a market for energy-efficient-homes--even while much of the construction industry is still out of work.

If this trend continues, the energy needs for buildings in industrialized countries will not increase--as most energy experts predicted a decade ago--but will decrease by one half. Such energy savings would equal more than the entire US synfuels program would provide." -----taken from SUNSPOT, February 1981 NOT MAN APART. The complete article also contains information on how conventional housing designs eat energy, how simple changes can reduce costs, obstacles to passive solar design, and tax credits.)

### \$\$ SAVING TIPS ON APPLIANCES

Most of us think only of the numbers on the price tag when we buy a new refrigerator, dishwasher, or other home appliance. But in these days of sharply rising energy costs, that's a mistake. A better way is to think in terms of life-cycle cost--the total amount an appliance will cost over its lifetime, including original purchase price, maintenance, and the cost of energy it will use over 10 to 15 years.

As of May, 1980 the Federal Government has required ENERGY LABELING on the following: refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, room air conditioners, furnaces, central air conditioning (soon to be added to list).

These appliances included in the labeling program account for 78% of all the energy consumed in American homes, or the equivalent of 2.3 billion barrels of oil each year according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

While more efficient appliances may have a higher initial purchase price, their annual energy costs would be lower and would usually pay back that cost within 2 to 3 years. Some appliances offer far better energy-saving potential than others. Refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioning, for example, run almost constantly when in use so savings really mount up.

In addition to checking the Energy Guide label when shopping for a new appliance, you should also ask the salesperson for the estimated monthly kilowatt hours usage of a given appliance. For example, a typical non-energy efficient refrigerator may run 150KWH/month while the newer efficiency models only run 85KWH/month.

-----Dick Bussing, DMEA Conservation Dept.

### SOLAR BANK IN JEOPARDY

Developments in the last month indicate that the Solar Energy and Energy Conservation Bank may not go into operation this spring, and perhaps not at all if the Reagan Administration has its way. Although the Bank was authorized by the 1980 Energy Security Act and signed into law by President Carter last June, branches of the new administration (HUD and Office of Management and Budget) have failed to take steps necessary for the Bank's existence. According to the SOLAR LOBBY Legislative Update, Feb. 6, 1981, "Our only chance to save this vital program that provides funds to subsidize loans for solar energy and conservation implementation is to have a massive outpouring of support through Congress. Without the Bank, low and moderate income people will not have access to needed capital to invest in conservation and renewable energy. Passive solar systems, which generally do not benefit from the federal tax credit, will be particularly hard-hit. The Bank will repay its investment many times over in oil savings and enhanced national security."

In addition to writing the Colorado Congresspeople, you can contact two key Republicans in Congress--Rep. James Stanton of Ohio, ranking minority member of the House Banking Committee, and Sen. Jake Garn of Utah, chair of the Senate Banking Committee.



## SAGEBRUSH REBELLION MOVING THRU STATE SENATE

Sagebrush Rebellion legislation in Colorado is now reported out of committee and going before the full Senate.

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS LEGISLATION, IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO WRITE OR CALL YOUR STATE CONGRESSPEOPLE IMMEDIATELY.

Issues to address include: costs to the state (taxpayers) to administer public lands, past record of state land administration does not insure protection of natural, agricultural, or recreational lands, possibility of state selling large parcels of land to private companies (i.e. energy companies and land developers), and is this the best way to assume local control.

Contact Sen. Tilman Bishop, Colorado State House, Denver, CO 80203, as soon as possible.

To comment on Sagebrush legislation in the Colorado House (H.B. 1025), contact Rep. Jim Robb.

(Note: Ed Marsten attended a recent meeting in Salt Lake on the Sagebrush Rebellion. Following are some of his comments.)

The Sagebrush Rebellion has the potential to be the most interesting western political movement in decades. That movement, paradoxically, may be short-circuited by the election of Ronald Reagan and the appointment of James Watt. With those two men in place, the Rebels may see no need to put the present federal lands under state control. Watt, for example, has downplayed the need for a Rebellion.

At the same time, the Rebels may see this as the ideal time to get control of the land, anticipating a swing later this decade to a different political environment.

Until now the environmental movement has not taken the Rebellion seriously. But in early January representatives of environmental groups from the Sagebrush states met in Salt Lake City to try to develop a strategy to counter the Rebellion. The meeting, organized by the Public Lands Institute out of Denver, attracted about 100 persons, many from the old-line environmental groups such as the Audubon Society and the National Wildlife Fund.

The consensus was that anti-Rebellion forces are on the defensive, with most of the states in the region already having passed bills calling for annexation of the federal lands or, like Colorado, possibly passing such legislation this year.

While this view was grim, it was also felt that there was a large potential to change the political tide. Representatives from Idaho said that there was a huge reservoir of people ready to be organized against the Rebellion. The potential opponents are people who use the public lands for fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, skiing, Sunday driving, wood gathering, and the like. What is lacking, the group said, is an organization to mobilize those people--to tell them that the Sagebrush Rebellion is a movement intended to hand the now open public lands over exclusively to loggers, miners, grazers, and other special interest users of the public lands. Where such campaigns have been launched, it was said, they succeeded and put the Rebels on the defensive. -----Ed Marsten

### PUBLIC LANDS by Paul Douglas

The question of how to best manage the public lands has been a perennial topic of political debate since 1799. The struggle to define the choices which best serve the "national interest" has always been heavily influenced by special economic interests. Railroads, mining, timber, stockmen, and energy interests have repeatedly engaged in attempts to change federal ownership and/or management policies for personal and corporate gain. Nor, has the federal government always acted in the best interests of the citizens for whom it holds the lands in trust.

In the present round, the "Sagebrush Rebellion", we see a loose coalition of the same folks "masquerading their movement as an insurrection of a repressed, persecuted, and fast disappearing way of life in rural America."



A reduced federal role in public lands management will likely result in more intense competition than now exists, and it is very doubtful that agricultural needs will be respected by energy and mining proponents. These corporations are presently encouraging farmers and ranchers to activity in this arena because the cause of agriculture is so close to the hearts of a majority of Western legislator.

None of the Western states have the finances, personnel, or expertise necessary to manage vast tracts of public land. The federal government spends billions of dollars to manage public lands in the West. These expenditures amount to an enormous addition to the economies of the Western states. Loss of this income would create a considerable burden on state taxpayers and lead to increased pressure on legislatures to dispose of the lands to private ownership. Many Western states, including Colorado, are presently unable to properly manage the lands they now control, primarily because of low budgets.

Present federal land management practices leave much to be desired. Overgrazing has been a recurring problem. The boom economies of timber and mining have left many scars on the West and its people. Energy development is presently demonstrating the same patterns.

Multiple-use values and responsible long-term management coupled with private, state and federal cooperation can continue to provide the most reasonable mix of benefits and products for both present and future generations. Anything less will not be in the best interests of our economy, the environment, or the people.

We must not allow special interests, concerned primarily with their own profits, to abuse and exploit public resources and values. Those of us who were hoping that the Sagebrush Rebellion would quietly go away must now undertake to stop the present legislation in Colorado. Letters and phone calls are in order--immediately.

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#### COMMISSIONERS STAND BY H.B. 1041

At a work session held Feb. 10 between the Delta County Commissioners and several utility companies (Colorado-Ute, DMEA, natural gas and telephone companies) the Commissioners expressed their intention to continue using H.B. 1041 as a basis for establishing Siting regulations for facilities of major utilities in the county.

Although a lawyer for Colorado-Ute has been urging the county to use H.B. 1034 (a less effective measure) and DMEA has maintained that regulations are not necessary for them, comments from a State Land Use Commission representative and a large amount of public input favoring the proposed regs seem to have helped the county remain on the 1041 path.

The Commissioners did agree, however, to meet privately with each utility company. Following any revisions that may come out of those meetings, a final public hearing will be held.

The proposed regs (which were revised after the first public hearing last fall and then considered at a poorly balanced Jan. 15 hearing) are still very strict. They require the utility to do, basically, an environmental impact statement. Then, based on that information, the Commissioners could deny any project that does not meet all the criteria spelled out in the regs having to do with protecting the health and well-being of the citizens of Delta County.

The Commissioners have been receiving a surprising amount of input favoring strong regs, much of it from people who are not usually in favor of regulations. In addition, the Democratic Party Central Committee, the Delta County Farmers Union, and the WSERC board have all taken formal positions supporting strong regs. (This was WSERC's first official position taken since the bylaws were amended in January.)

It is very important that citizens continue to let the Commissioners know their feelings about the proposed regulations. While no one favors unnecessary red tape, it is important that any revisions don't, in effect, pull the teeth out of the regulations. Anyone (especially affected landowners) who has not already contacted the Commissioners in support of strong utility siting regulations, should do so. The proposed regs and maps of pending utility development can be viewed at the Courthouse Annex or the WSERC office. The regs can also be seen at local libraries.



### PUC HEARING ON 345KV LINE COMING UP

On March 18 the Public Utilities Commission will be holding a hearing in Montrose to determine the need for Colorado-Ute's 345KV line from Rifle to San Juan. If they decide the line is needed they will issue a Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity (CPCN). A coalition of groups on the Western Slope is working together on a legal case against the need for the line. WSERC has been researching the question of need for the line. A group from Horwood, the Wright's Mesa Electrical Consumers Assn., is intervening in the hearing as is Empire Electric Assn. and Ron Dessain. Wright Mesa has requested a postponement of the hearing, but the PUC has not yet acted on their request. Anyone interested in working on researching the need for the powerline can call me at the WSERC office. -----Judy Robinson

### WSERC ATTENDS ENERGY FAIR

WSERC's Conservation & Renewable Energy Office participated in the Energy Fair held as part of the Lincoln School Open House Festivities in Delta February 10.

Many groups, including the DMEA conservation dept., Solar West, RSVP, and Colorado Westmoreland had booths at the fair.

The WSERC booth featured information on and samples of alcohol fuels, slides of solar homes in the region, and the Yanda Greenhouse slide series. About 100 people stopped by and picked up many of the handouts on solar and other renewable energies WSERC has available from the Grand Junction Energy Extension Office.

According to David Carpenter and Carolyn Landes, who attended for WSERC, Lincoln School students and faculty have a strong interest in renewable energy. The WSERC office will be doing follow-up on requests for conservation and renewable resource curriculums, books, films and other activities for elementary ages at Lincoln.

### NEWS BRIEFS

.....THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY cautioned recently that the possible buildup of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere from the large-scale burning of fossil fuels could lead to "widespread and pervasive changes in global climatic, economic, social and agricultural patterns". (Full report available at WSERC)

.....Public meeting on proposed revisions to the current Management Framework Plan for coal leasing will be held the week of March 25 in Paonia and Cedaredge. Watch for more on this.

.....Despite a letter from the Mined Land Reclamation Board citing whopping deficiencies in the Mining Plan for the Mt. Gunnison project, plus concerns from the state water engineer and local ditch companies about the long term effects of subsidence on agricultural water, ARCO still hopes to start mining at Mt. Gunnison mine within the next year

.....Colorado-Ute has begun a year-long air and meteorological study of the Black and Delta sites, proposed for 1600MW of coal-fired generation.

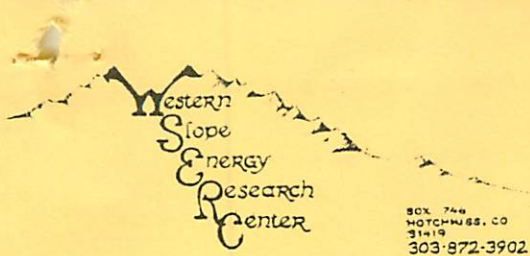
.....The next issue of SOLAR FLASHES, available at the WSERC office or local bookstores, will contain articles about photovoltaics, suntowers, easy to build cold frames and much more.

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If you have comments or articles for the newsletter, please contact the WSERC office. Contributors this issue were Paul Douglas, Ed Marsten, Carolyn Landes, Judy Robinson, and Dick Bussing. The WSERC office is looking for filing cabinets and rugs. Also, we have several Amory Lovins books for sale.

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES--USE THE FORM ON THE ENCLOSED ANNUAL REPORT--THANKS





# NewsLetter

March 31, 1981

Number 16

## A TIME TO SPEAK OUT

The Reagan Administration budget proposal was unveiled on Feb. 11 and is now before the Congress. It radically changes the approach to energy development in this country. If we do not take this opportunity to make ourselves heard on energy issues, we will have no one to blame for the result but ourselves.

Basically the Reagan proposal cuts all forms of aid to people--community development, neighborhood self help, low income energy assistance -- and increases subsidies to the giant energy corporations involved in nuclear, oil and gas and coal. Ignoring the report of the Harvard Business School, "Energy Futures" the administration is pursuing a hard energy path that discounts conservation and subsidizes inefficient processes with questionable public health effects. Some of the cuts are particularly injurious to Colorado and a bevy of letters and telegrams is needed to protect this state from becoming a national sacrifice area.

Timing is very important. Telegraph or write your legislators by April 6 at the latest. The FY 1981 and 1982 budget resolutions will be debated in the both houses. Get your views in before a vote is taken. You will be part of a nationwide grassroots lobbying effort to build a "leaner but stronger" and more effective federal effort for approaching the energy crisis.

Specific proposed cuts have been proposed in the following areas:

DOE ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS providing weatherization assistance for low-income persons, esp. elderly & handicapped.

SOLAR ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION BANK, to provide funds to local financial institutions to make loans for solar and conservations projects would be eliminated entirely, rescinding the 1981 appropriation of \$121 million.

LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM helping pay energy bills, would be folded into one or more block grants to states, reducing overall level by 25%

COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION which funds National Center for Appropriate Technology, one of major sources of funds for local projects, would be folded into block grants to states and reduced by 25% for 1981. Likewise, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS would be combined into a single block grant program with less funding.

FEDERAL SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES would be reduced by over 15% in 1981 and over 60% in 1982. Only long-range R & D programs would be supported, not smaller short-term development, demonstration and commercialization.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION helping electric coops with low-interest loans would have interest rates increased. REA's would be forced to go to the private market for financing; direct REA loans would be cut by \$187 million in 1981 and \$350 million in 1982. This would result in higher rates of 8% to 12%, which would be passed on to consumers.



NEIGHBORHOOD SELF-HELP DEVELOPMENT would be terminated, rescinding \$15 in 1981 funding.

NATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATIVE BANK lending money to revitalization and development projects would be terminated, forcing nonprofit coops to rely on private sources of credit.

In general, the Reagan budget would reduce outlays for solar by 64% by 1982, reduce conservation funding by 79% in 1982, increase nuclear fission funding by 40%. The fate of Colorado's Solar Energy Research Institute is unclear.

Of special interest to farmers in our area is the proposed plan to RESCIND some \$550 million in funding authorized by Congress in 1980 for ALCOHOL FUEL DEVELOPMENT WORK.

YOUR COMMENTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO: Rep. Tim Worth, member of the House Budget Committee, Senator Bill Armstrong and Senator Gary Hart, members of the Senate Budget Committee. Emphasis should be placed on the importance of the solar industry in Colorado and on the harmful economic impacts of reducing SERI, etc.

#### ?WHAT ABOUT THE MX MISSILE?

Comments on the Environmental Impact Statement on the MX missile deployment scheme are due by May 1. It is important that thousands of people send in their views to counter industry and pentagon support for this disastrous program.

Dubbed "man's largest project" by an Air Force General, the MX missile system would cost \$108 billion dollars, making it the most costly public works program ever conceived. It would install a mobile missile system in the deserts of the southwest, ostensibly for the purpose of preventing a first-strike by the Russians against the Minutemen ICBM system.

The EIS has already been criticised strongly by the Department of the Interior, which pointed out that, for example, the aggregate effect of all the water requirements of the project, including construction, operation and domestic use, are not presented, nor is the cumulative effect of energy projects in the region. According to the DOI, impacts to livestock grazing are inadequately treated, as well as the effect on cultural resources. In general baseline data is said to be inadequate and estimates unfounded, leading to incorrect assumptions and inaccurate conclusions. (NOT MAN APART, February, 1981). The EIS minimizes the impact on the two study areas, the Great Basin of Nevada and Utah and a region of western Texas and eastern New Mexico. The system would destroy vast amounts of wilderness land and harm wildlife, deplete water resources, cause boom town situations that would irretrievably alter local lifestyles and disrupt the economic system of the states involved. Yet the impacts are said to be acceptable. It is assumed that there is no significant Western regional impact and no national level impact.

In his campaign statements President Reagan himself opposed the current deployment system. In January 1980 his campaign team released a policy statement calling the basing plan "enormously expensive and complicated," and concluding that "The proposed mode of deploying the MX should be scrapped because it is unworkable" (Ibid.). An alternative is putting the MX missile in submarines, thus protecting the U.S. heartland from attack. ADDRESS COMMENTS TO: Ballistic Missile Office, Attn. AFCE-MX/DEV, Box EIS, Norton AFB CA 92409. Do it today!



WSERC JOINS COALITION TO PREVENT COLORADO UTE POWERLINE

The high voltage steel-towered power line proposed by Colorado-Ute simply is not needed at this time to serve Western Colorado. This conclusion, based on two months research by WSERC staff, has led WSERC to join other Western Slope organizations in opposition to the proposal.

Some of the reasons for that conclusion:

- \* Colorado-Ute loads are dropping, not increasing
- \* The line will carry 1000 MW's of power, which vastly exceeds local loads. For example, the North Fork load is currently 10-12 MW. New mining loads could add 2-6 MW. DMEA peaked at 57 MW two years ago and has not reached that since. The other definitely-planned substation, near Cortez, currently uses 20-22 MW.
- \* Industrial loads, near each of the substations, AMAX, and Shell's CO<sub>2</sub> pumping project would add another 100-200 MW, but they are by no means certain loads. It is poor practice for a utility to spend over \$100 million on facilities with no assurances that they will be needed. Even if the projects do happen, the use does not begin to fully utilize the line.
- \* The line will not be fully powered until the Delta or Mack powerplants are built. Thus Colorado-Ute's investing in the line first will make it difficult for anyone to oppose the powerplant later since the line will already be in place.
- \* For the same reason, building the line now will shut off later opposition to the Tri-County Reservoir near Austin which is to provide cooling water for the power plants.
- \* Colorado-Ute has no significant conservation effort to encourage home weatherization and solar utilization.
- \* Colorado-Ute's study of their future power needs is extremely poor. They predict "exponential" growth (a doubling approximately every 10 years). Experts consulted on their methods have called them "primitive," and "obsolete", and of a type "no respectable utility does anymore." Colorado-Ute seems to think the recent drop in demand is just a temporary aberration.
- \* Colorado-Ute's out-of-state sales went up 20 fold from 1979 to 1980. We are being asked to pay financially and environmentally for Colorado-Ute to invest in massive facilities locally to supply out-of-state as well as Denver.

The powerline, the reservoir, and the power plants are all aspects of the same issue. NOW is the time to ACT on the first phase, the powerline.

A hearing on the need for the line will be held on May 18, 19, and 20 in Montrose. All concerned residents should be there. A major expression of citizen sentiment is essential. Please plan to attend, at least for a while. In addition, WSERC is working with the Gunnison River Coalition, the Uncompaghere Resource Council in Montrose, SECA, and groups in Norwood, Crested Butte, and possibly more. We are "intervening" formally and need the help of lawyers and expert witnesses. The River Coalition has already raised \$1,000 but much more is needed. Our goal is \$10,000. WSERC has established a Utility Education Fund through which WSERC members can help financially. Please contribute--whether \$5 or \$500, every contribution will help keep Delta County a good place to live. Please make checks available to WSERC Utilities Education Fund. Please volunteer your time for fund-raising events. (Call the office-872-3902- if you can help.) And please come to the May 18, 19, & 20 PUC hearing in Montrose.

----Judy Robinson



HEARING ON COUNTY SITING REGS TO BE HELD APRIL 7TH IN DELTA

A hearing will be held next Tuesday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the Delta Court House Annex on the proposed Delta Co. Utility Facility Siting Regulations. If passed, the utilities must demonstrate to the commissioners' satisfaction that any major new power plants, lines, reservoirs, pipelines, etc., must be in the best interests of county residents. The regs will be authorized under HB 1041, despite intense pressure from Colorado Ute and DMEA to position them under HB 1034, a much weaker law. WSERC has been encouraging the commissioners to produce strong regs and it look at this writing as if they have done so. A large turn-out to support strong regs cited under 1041 will help to ensure their final passage. Call the office at 872-3902 if you need a ride to the meeting.

WSERC ALTERNATIVE ENERGY COMMITTEE

The WSERC AEC will meet Monday April 6 at 7:30 at the office to discuss organization and projects (solar home tour, hands-on workshops, educational projects, solar home audits, etc.) Anyone is welcome to come--we need input and working members.

WSERC BOARD MEETS TOO

The next WSERC board meeting will be held Monday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the office in the basement of Memorial Hall. Meetings are always open to any interested WSERC members.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS PROPOSE BUDGET CUTS

Rafe Pomerance, President of Friends of the Earth and other environmental leaders have sent the President a 20 page blueprint for fiscal year 1982 budget cuts that would improve environmental quality:

- Cut \$848 million in Army Corps of Engineers water projects;
- Cut \$802 million in DOE synthetic fuel commercial development;
- Cut \$568 million in DOE uranium enrichment subsidies;
- Cut \$2.3 billion in Dept. of Transportation highway costs.

This is not to mention possible cuts in the military budget and the MX Missile System in particular.

STATE ATTEMPT TO DEREGULATE REA'S

Colorado Senate Bill 8, which would deregulate local REA's has already passed the Senate and the legislation is pending before the House. If passed members of local rural electric coops would lose important rights they now have as customers of a monopoly. The PUC would no longer provide protection against unfair rates and rate structures. Let Rep. Jim Robb, House of Representatives, Denver, know your feelings on this issue.

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Here is my donation in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ to the WSERC Utility Education Fund.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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12. Ralph E. Clark  
519 E. Georgia Ave.  
Gunnison, CO 81230

#### WERC ALTERNATIVE ENERGY COMMITTEE

The WERC AGC will meet Monday April 6 at 7:30 at the office to discuss organization and projects (solar home tank, hands-on workshops, solar projects, solar home audits, etc.). Anyone is welcome to come - we need input and working members.

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The next WERC board meeting will be held Monday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the office in the basement of Memorial Hall. Meetings are always open to any interested WERC members.

#### ENVIRONMENTALISTS PROPOSE BUDGET CUTS

Half a horsepower, President of Friends of the Earth and other environmentalists have sent the President a 50 page blueprint for fiscal year 1982 budget cuts that would improve environmental quality:  
Cut \$248 million in Army Corps of Engineers water projects;  
Cut \$802 million in DOE synthetic fuel commercial development;  
Cut \$258 million in DOE uranium enrichment subsidies;  
Cut \$2.3 billion in Dept. of Transportation highway costs.  
This is not to mention possible cuts in the military budget and the MX missile system in particular.

#### STATE ATTEMPT TO DEREGULATE RRA'S

Colorado Senate Bill 8, which would deregulate local RRA's has already passed the Senate and the legislation is pending before the House. It passed members of local rural electric boards would lose important rights they now have as customers of a monopoly. The RUC would no longer provide protection against unfair rates and rate structures. Let Rep. Jim Robb, House of Representatives, Denver, know your feelings on this issue.

Here is my donation in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ to the WERC Utility Abuse-  
tion Fund.  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_





BOX 740  
HOTCHKISS, CO  
81424  
303-872-3902

# NewsLetter

April 28, 1981

Number 17

## WSERC SUPPORTS STRONG LOCAL SITING REGS

In their first official position on an issue following the January by-law change permitting such action, the WSERC board of directors voted to support "strong utility siting regulations" in Delta County. Consequently, David Johnston represented WSERC at the April 2nd hearing in Delta and spoke in favor of the final proposal, but with a few small modifications which would strengthen it. The following Monday, April 6th, the County Commissioners adopted the regulations, including some of the modifications WSERC had recommended. The Commissioners are to be commended for adopting these regulations in the public interest, despite intense pressure against them from segments of the Delta business community. The regulations, authorized under HB 1041 will give the people of Delta County, through the County Commissioners, a voice in the location of power plants, power lines, reservoirs, and pipe lines in our area.

## THE POWER LINE STORY

### Information meeting May 7th

WSERC will sponsor an information meeting on the 345 KV Rifle-San Juan power line on May 7th at 7:30 at the Hotchkiss school band room. Our study of the proposal has led us to the conclusion that there are alternatives to the line which would better serve the public's and Colorado-Ute's best interest. Since Colorado-Ute management has already presented on many occasions their reasons for wishing to build the line, we feel it would now be in the public interest to present the facts behind an alternative viewpoint. WSERC members and friends and anybody who's just curious are urged to attend and become informed about a side to this issue which has had little public exposure.

### Hearing May 18--20 in Montrose

Background. As reported last month, the board has decided for WSERC to participate with other Western Slope groups in questioning the need for the 345 KV power line at the May 18-20th hearing in Montrose before the Public Utilities Commission. The hearing will determine whether Colorado-Ute will get the needed "Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity" (CPCN) for the line. Only two questions may be considered: a. Is the line needed? b. Can Colorado-Ute afford to pay for it? (Basically, questions of route will not be permitted.)

Members of the public have the choice of two ways to participate. The simplest way is to just go and speak briefly. Time will be set aside for members of the public to speak. People who can not appear in person may address their comments to Mr. Harry A. Galligan, Jr.; Executive Secretary; Public Utilities Commission; 1525 Sherman Street.; Denver, CO. 80203. Letter writers should request that their letters be placed in the record of Application No. 33226.

While comments and letters from the public do have an impact, especially if a large number are received, a more intense level of participation is also available, called Intervention. Intervenors may require the utility, before the



hearing, to produce documents and answer questions pertaining to the case. They have more time at the hearing to present evidence and may bring expert witnesses to testify on their side. If they have a lawyer he or she can cross examine other witnesses. Intervening against the line are: Gunnison River Coalition, Ron Dessain, High Country Citizens' Alliance (Crested Butte) and Wright's Mesa Electric Consumers Association (Norwood). WSERC has been doing a great deal of research on the need for the line which has been made available to these Intervenor. (Incidentally we reported last month a great increase last year in Colorado-Ute out of state electricity sales. We now know that it all went to Southern California Edison.

Progress Report. WSERC<sup>is</sup> helping raise funds to allow the Gunnison River Coalition to hire an excellent lawyer, Mr. Jeff Pearson, and expert witnesses of his choice. Mr. Pearson represented the Small Electrical Consumers Association last summer in their successful work for DMEA rate reform. Initially, Jeff was very pessimistic about the chances of winning, but the more he has researched the issue, the brighter the <sup>outlook</sup> has become. There really is a strong case that the Rifle San Juan line is not needed or affordable.

Our early suspicion that the line would be an opening wedge for Delta power plant permits are now well documented. As the connection between line, power plant, and Tri-County dam has become clearer, public concern has grown. The power line would be a virtually useless 170 million dollar investment if permits for a Delta power plant are later denied for any reason.

Support is now flowing in from many sources. More and more local people are giving money and/or time. In addition, the National Wildlife Federation is donating back-up legal help. The Idaho Public Utilities Commission (which is very progressive) is sending a staff economist at no charge. Someone from the Island Foundation is bringing him here for us. The Public Interest Economics Foundation is also contributing money and help. Faculty members at the University of Montana have also given us some very valuable free help. The goal is \$13,000 and strong community support. We are well on our way. Anyone wishing to participate may refer to the enclosed fact sheet and attend the information meeting mentioned above.

#### SOLAR FOR THE DO-IT-YOURSELFER

"Solar/Renewable Energy Development in the San Luis Valley - An Overview" will be the title of an upcoming presentation by Bob Dunsmore, Community Education Representative of the Colorado San Luis Valley Solar Energy Association. The program, which will take place on May 20th, from 7:30 to 9:30 at the new Lincoln Elementary School, 1050 Hastings St., Delta, will include a slide presentation overview on renewable energy. Examples of wind generators, solar greenhouses, water heaters and collectors, hydroelectric generators, solar ovens and solar food drying will be discussed.

The San Luis Valley, with the highest per capita concentration of solar in the country, has received national recognition for its development of low-cost, do-it-yourself solar. There are an estimated 800 systems in operation in the valley, saving an estimated \$660 per year for each solar household.

Dunsmore, a former solar contractor, has spoken across the United States and abroad on the self-built approach to alternative energy utilization. His presentation has gotten rave reviews from people who have seen it in Montrose and Telluride.

#### WSERC BOOTH AT MAY FAIRE

Watch for a WSERC booth at Lamborn Valley School's annual May Faire at the



Paonia Park on Saturday, May 16th. The booth will feature information on WSERC's activities, as well as demonstration models of various solar/renewable energy technologies. Volunteers to help at the booth are cordially accepted. Call Judy at the office (872-3902) if you could help for a couple of hours.

### "SURVIVING A NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST"

The above title will be the topic of a public program planned for Friday, May 8th at 7:30 PM at Memorial Hall in Hotchkiss. The film entitled "Who's in Charge Here?" will be shown, which explores the question of who is controlling our destiny. A panel discussion will be held following the film, moderated by Linda Lindsay. Panellists will include Dorothyann Lindes, MD; Liz Hamer, and Fred Smith. The public is invited.

### WSERC SOLAR AND ALTERNATIVE TECH COMMITTEE

Some members may recall that several years ago WSERC had a solar workshop which became inactive. That group has had a rebirth, but with a broadened outlook. Anyone with special interest in the fields of solar energy or alternative technology is very much invited to participate in the activities of the newly reorganized committee. The group has recently submitted a grant proposal to NCAT, (the National Center for Appropriate Technology). Other pending projects include a solar tour of Delta County and a variety of educational programs. Please call Paul Douglas for more information at 527-3863.

Anyone who is not now a member of WSERC who would like to be a member and continue receiving the newsletter is urged to fill out and send in the form below, along with appropriate dues. Send to WSERC, Box 746, Hotchkiss, CO.. 81419.

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____	ACTIVE ..... \$ 10.00
ADDRESS _____	STUDENT OR SR, CIT. 5.00
PHONE _____ DATE PAID _____	CONTRIBUTING.....25.00
AMOUNT PAID. _____	SUSTAINING..... 50.00
	SPONSOR.....100.00

#### Main interests/priorities:

_____ Solar/renewable energy technology	_____ Mining Issues
_____ Environmental Quality	_____ Utility Issues
	_____ Community Planning

Other \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Memberships/contributions are tax-deductible



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519 E. Georgia Ave.  
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# Newsletter

August 25, 1981

Number 18

## LOVINS'S HOLD ALL DAY WORKSHOP

An interesting group of people, from solar architects to environmental activists gathered last Saturday, August 22nd, for a day-long workshop with Amory and Hunter Lovins. Appropriately, the meeting was held in the solar retrofitted conference building at Windstar, near Aspen. Topics covered included soft technologies-an update; economics of the "soft path"; role of utilities' implementation of 'soft path' approaches; problems of land, food, and water.

It would be impossible to report on the entire day, so here are a few "nuggets" and highlights.

Improvements in energy efficiency are of utmost importance. No kind of energy source makes sense without improvement of energy productivity. A well insulated, tight house can be 100% solar heated at one fifth to one tenth the cost of an active solar system only partially heating a typical energy "sieve".

Tight houses need air-to-air heat exchangers to heat incoming ventilation air with outgoing exhaust air. Air-tight houses will suffer from "indoor pollution" without them. They can be home built for less than 100 dollars. (Call WSERC for address for plans) or purchased for about 200 dollars from Mitsubishi. American models cost much more.

He told us that economics for conservation retrofit are positive, with good weatherization and heavy insulation cutting heating loads up to 80-90%!

Locating a solar water heater inside a solar greenhouse, up under a light emitting portion of the roof, makes freeze-proofing it unnecessary.

He said that window quilts are less expensive and more effective than storm windows.

Refrigerators are big home energy hogs, (third after heat and water heating), but the Japanese are producing a very energy efficient one, and will soon sell it here.

New "selective surfaces", which take in heat, but <sup>don't</sup> readily let it out, can greatly boost the effectiveness of collectors and Trombe walls. Some, used in laminated window glass, appear clear, yet give R factors for windows up to 4, or even 11!

Heat engines, running off the differential in heat between a solar pond and an ice pond can produce electricity at a very respectable cost.

Automobiles exist today with gas mileage of 60 mpg or more; with turbochargers, mileage approaches 100-150 mpg. 200 mpg is quite possible with prototypes currently tested by VW, including a hybrid liquid fuel-self charging electric vehicle. Just an improvement from today's U.S. average of 15 mpg to 50 mpg would cut U.S. transportation energy use from 20 quads to 6 quads. Then ethanol or methanol from farm and forest wastes (no corn!) could readily meet the need with out damage to fragile American cropland. (Distillation is probably the least efficient conversion method.) Cattails, converted, could



alone, produce 2.8 quads per year!

The Los Angeles area is investing heavily in garbage-fired electrical generation.

A new generation of wind machines are being developed which are small and simple enough to be put up in a day and run, maintenance free for 30 years!

Solar voltaic cells will be cost effective by 1986 without any major breakthroughs. There is a good chance that by 1986 they could be producing at less than half the cost of utility power. Again, the Japanese are leading the way.

The U.S. is more energy wasteful than any other industrial nation on earth.

Any utility company which continues to build big power plants will go broke. Over 100 companies, both investor owned and co-op, representing over 40% of U.S. electrical capacity, now recognize this and are offering consumer conservation loans. Several states now have laws requiring an investment balancing test. Utilities wanting to build new power plants must show their state PUC that the plant is the least cost option. Colorado needs such a law.

Oil shale oil may prove to be carcinogenic, as are some coal based syn-fuels.

The soft energy path is now coming on so fast that the Lovins's are now taking on bigger challenges: shortages of land, food, and water soon to be highly evident. As just one example, 40% of U.S. feedlot cattle are fed with corn which was watered with Ogallala aquifer water, which is now half gone. To grow enough corn with such water to add enough weight on a feedlot steer to put an extra ONE POUND of meat on your table consumes about 100 pounds of lost, eroded topsoil and over 1000 gallons of mined, uncharged ground water.

#### ALTERNATIVE ENERGY THE IVILIG IN DELTA COUNTY

A brief, unscientific survey of alternative energy and conservation businesses in our area would indicate that public interest is finally here and several businesses are now working hard to serve the new demand. We will spotlight five businesses this month, with more to follow next time.

ISERC members Peter and Peggy Robinson have founded an interesting "solar store". Called "Sunrise Energy", they sell everything from factory-built solar hot water systems to the latest developments in supplies for the do-it-yourselfer. Peter, with ten years experience as a Delta County builder, is determined to sell nothing that he hasn't checked out very thoroughly for quality and reliability. They offer two brands of solar hot water systems, Iovan and Suntime. They have installed one on their own house, and, for testing purposes, have shut off their electric hot water heater entirely. After a month and a half of family use, they report that (in the summer at least) solar very adequately provides all their hot water needs. Used in the conventional way as a preheater, solar, they conservatively predict, would provide 75% of need year round. Installed cost for such a factory built system runs around \$3000, depending on size, but the 70% solar tax credits reduces the actual cost to around \$800 (for those who make enough income to pay taxes.) For more information call Peter at 527-4530.

Peter and Peggy also sell prefabricated solar sunroom or greenhouse kits, greenhouse glazing, window quilts, and many other intriguing new products. They are currently researching reliable products in the fields of low head hydro, solar voltaic, wind, and water conservation.

Peggy reports that local response to their new business has been very gratifying.

Another solar builder, John Hamer, has reported good recent customer response. He has just finished a custom built solar greenhouse and hot water system. He offers free energy audits, having taken an energy auditing course



from Public Service Co. John is especially experienced in conservation systems such as weatherization, hot water heater blankets, insulation, installing thermal windows, etc. He installs low cost solar water "batch heaters" and solar greenhouses. He can be reached at 835-3896.

Several Delta county residents are currently considering purchasing a wind generator, possibly from Larry Johnson, from Colona, near Morwood, who sells one made by Intertech. He will rent an anemometer to anyone wondering if there is enough wind nearby to harness. (also plans for a home built inexpensive anemometer are available in the new edition of Other Homes and Garbage.) Larry reports that his machine starts generating at about 11 mph, but needs speeds of 12-14 mph to really produce. His own wind generator is hooked into the grid so that he can sell back excess power to his local electric company. Locally, we are experiencing some problems with that. SERC is currently researching the buyback situation and will report more as we can.

Harold Frazier, of Cedaredge, a long time insulation contractor, has expanded and now offers a comprehensive conservation service. He has kept up with the state of the art in energy conservation for new structures and retrofits and points out that preventing air infiltration is just as important as insulation. In addition to installation service, he also sells supplies for the do-it-yourselfer, such as water heater insulation kits, foam wrapping for pipe, a warning whistle that reminds homeowners when their furnace filter is dirty, and much more. Harold is working with Ament Construction Co. of Cedaredge in installing insulation on their new homes. They are designing and building passive solar homes, with the help of an experienced solar engineering consultant. Harold can be reached at 856-6268.

David Carpenter, of Redlands Mesa, has started a company called "Earthbound Designs" and is doing solar consulting and design work, specializing in passive solar. In addition David has invented a low cost freeze protected solar collector for a hot water system. With the patent applied for, he hopes to begin production next month. David is also building fiberglass water tanks used for greenhouse storage. In addition, do-it-yourselfers can buy fiberglass greenhouse glazing and freeze proof polybutylene water pipe from him. David can be reached at 872-3462.

Federal and state solar tax credits can decrease the cost of most solar and wind installations up to 70%. Any of the people mentioned above can give more information on that, as can your friendly local CRA.

Next month we will spotlight several more solar or conservation businesses. Of course, SERC does not in any way endorse or guarantee the work of any particular business. We do want you to know they are here, and hopefully, contributing to a renewable energy future. We hope you will investigate further.

#### SOME RENEWABLE ENERGY TIDBITS

##### Recommended reading:

Photovoltaics: Sunlight to Electricity in One step, by P.D. Maycock and E.N. Stirewalt. Brick House Publishing, June, 1981.

A New Prosperity: Building a Sustainable Energy Future, also called the Sawhill Report, originally published by SERI but suppressed by the present administration. Now published by Brick House Press and available also from Documents Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, US house of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

Both the above books point to the very bright prospects for for a renewable energy future coupled with prosperity. A detailed summary of the SERI report is found in the latest issue of Soft Energy Notes available at the office.



NASA research, coupled with increased demand has spawned a new class of thermal fabrics, useful for window insulation. These relatively thin textiles are made of aluminum and bonded with polyester and can be used as drapery liners or reversible shades (reflective side faces out in summer, in during winter. Called "Astrolar" or "Astrolon", they cost \$ 4 to \$8 a yard are sold by Astro-Temp Co. of Lombard, Illinois

#### CLEAN AIR - COLORADO

On July 1st, a contingent of 4 "WSERCers", Bill Palmer, Paul Douglas, Chuck Worley, and Judy Robinson attended a clean air hearing in Glenwood Springs to express their concerns about clean air in our area and to give support to the state to develop its own visibility standards. They told the air quality control commissioners that we on the Western Slope are looking to them to protect our air quality, especially now that the Reagan Administration is demonstrating its lack of interest in clean air. (See related story). (Unfortunately, Colorado's SO<sub>2</sub> emission standard is less stringent than the present federal one, according to Jim King, of the state air quality staff.) During the hearing, WSERC was able to challenge Colorado-Ute's testimony that a new power plant was required here to serve local needs. We told of Southern Cal. Edison's expectation of "1000 Mw. of purchase opportunity" from the proposed plant. The commissioners asked us for documentation, which we have sent them. A Colorado visibility standard would give the state the authority to keep air in places like ours clean, regardless of what the feds do. Also state designated Class I areas such as the Gunnison Gorge Recreation Area are supposed to be kept pristine, but the feds do not enforce visibility standards for state-designated areas, and Colorado currently lacks the authority to. If they had that authority, Colorado-Ute would be required to run an ultra clean plant at Delta. If you support state visibility standards you can tell the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission, Dept. of Health, 4210 E. 11th Ave., Denver, Colorado 80220.

#### NATIONAL CLEAN AIR ACT UNDER ATTACK

The National Clean Air Act, up for reauthorization this fall, may become the victim of its own success. Industry, with Reagan Administration support, has mounted an intense campaign to gut major provisions of the act, stating that our air is now so clean we no longer need a strong act. They claim it is hampering our economy. Already a bill, the Broyhill Bill, has been introduced in the House which greatly weakens most important features of the present act. According to the Sierra Club, health standards would be lowered allowing air so dirty only the young and vigorous could readily withstand it. The program for the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) would be weakened to allow the relatively clean air in non-urban areas to be substantially polluted. Other provisions in this industry-written bill would basically eliminate present enforcement provisions.

Meanwhile, a Reagan backed EPA draft of similar changes to the Clean Air Act have been leaked to the press. According to Robert Yuhnke, of the Environmental Defense Fund, the changes would be equally disastrous. They would "legalize air pollution rather than control it. They would allow the pristine air on the Western Slope to become polluted to the point where risks to human health begin". According to a recent Harris survey, 86% of the American people want the Clean Air Act kept as strong as it is, or made stronger. Of particular interest to our area are features which would allow coal fired power plants to be built without scrubber to remove SO<sub>2</sub>. Colorado-Ute's 2 unit plant would emit 4 tons a day of SO<sub>2</sub> with the very best of scrubbers. We could expect up to 80 tons a day without them, even with so called "low sulphur coal".



Active citizens, environmentalists, and labor have formed the National Clean Air Coalition to fight for clean air. WSERC is a member of the Colorado branch, which has been endorsed by Gov. Lamm.

What You Can Do:

- Write Senators Hart and Armstrong and express your support for legislation that reauthorizes and strengthens the existing Clean Air Act. (Address U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510)
- Write Sen. Stafford, R., Vermont, who is chairman of the Senate committee responsible for the Clean Air Act Reauthorization bill. A supporter of Clean Air, he needs strong positive public support to help him stand firm.
- Write Rep. Kogovsek, urging him to reject the Broyhill Bill and support a strong Clean Air Act. (Address: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.)
- Send WSERC copies of replies you receive.
- Stay informed as new details of the Reagan "Perpetual Pollution Program" become available.
- Within WSERC, Holly Ohlheiser has volunteered to work on a Clean Air Committee. Anyone else willing to help? Please call the office (\*822-1111)@

POWER LINE HEARING BEFORE PUC CONCLUDED

WSERC continues to work with the Gunnison River Coalition, Wright's Mesa (Norwood), and Western Colorado Congress in our opposition to Colorado-Ute's proposed power line. The hearing before the PUC regarding a "certificate of public convenience and necessity" reconvened July 14th and lasted four days. Our attorney, Jeff Pearson, mounted a spirited and brilliant challenge to the proposed line. He was helped by Don Reading, PhD economist from the Idaho PUC staff, who came here and testified for us, at no expense to us, thanks to the Idaho PUC's commitment to energy conservation in the west. Dr. Reading pointed out the hopeless inadequacies of Colorado-Ute's Power Requirements Study, upon which the company based its incredible claim of a future 10-12% growth rate. (National electrical growth rate is about 2%). Dr. Reading described Colorado-Ute's forecasting methods as the "rubber ruler" approach, whereby past trends are drawn on a graph, then extended into the future with some guesswork-based bends in the ruler here and there. He also described the exciting conservation work now carried out in Idaho, in which the companies participate financially.

Dr. Kamu Shah, a nationally renowned electrical engineer and transmission system expert was retained to testify on our behalf. He did his own power requirements forecast, which was much lower than Ute's because he assumed that both home and industry would increasingly conserve because of skyrocketing electricity prices and also because of new improvements of efficiency of electrical appliances and motors, better insulation, etc. Dr. Shah recommended that the WAPA line be upgraded, which WAPA plans to do anyway, and that later, several smaller 115kv loops could be added. He also showed that the proposed power plant was not needed.

A 40 page summary of our position has recently been released by Mr. Pearson and over 30 copies distributed to the press, governmental agencies (including the governor's office) and environmental groups, both in and out of state. A copy is available at the office if anyone would like to read it. Basically, it describes the line as Colorado-Ute's first step in its ambition to become the "power broker of the west".

The Gunnison River Coalition still needs help raising money to pay the experts. Tax deductible donations made out to WSERC-Utility Fund will be used for that purpose. Our address is Box 745, Hotchkiss 81419.



POWERLINE IMPACT STATEMENT CALLED SHABBY

On July 12th, the Rural Electrification Administration released its draft Environmental Impact Statement on Colorado-Ute's proposed power line. A mere 99 pages, it appeared to be a summary of the Environmental Assessment prepared by Ute, which, of course, was strongly supportive of the project.

A hearing was held in Montrose last Thursday to allow the REA to hear citizen comment. The Western Colorado Congress (WCC) Utility Committee was able to co-ordinate a strong citizen showing at that meeting. Approximately 23 speakers asked the REA to rewrite the draft, and to objectively and independently evaluate the need and cost of and alternatives to the line, as well as address various other deficiencies in the draft EIS, including understatement of environmental effects and vagueness of mitigation measures. Only one speaker supported the line. In addition, we have the help and support of the National and State Wildlife Federation. A legal intern from the Federation's Legal Clinic at C.U. appeared and expressed their concerns. If the REA does not produce a new, objective EIS, the Wildlife Federation is considering taking them to court.

POWER PLANT REPORT

The REA held a 'scoping' meeting on Colorado-Ute's proposed power plant last May. At that time, the project, known as the Southwest Project, was introduced to the public. The first two units, to be built at either Delta or Mack beginning in 1982, would be 400MW each, for a total of 800MW, and a cost of \$ 1 billion (1980 dollars). Colorado-Ute readily admits that two more units will immediately follow, for a total of four. (Actually, WSERC has documentation that Ute plans a total of 8 units, 4 at each site, for a total of 3,200MW.) Current peak demand is around 400 MW.

At the meeting, Ute claimed a future growth rate of 12%, even more amazing than the 10% claimed for the power line hearings. Thanks to our ability to extract information from Ute during the power line case, we now know that Ute has 50% more capacity than they need and are currently building another plant (Craig) and are shipping significant amounts of power to Southern Cal. Edison at a very cheap rate, more this year than last.

(An editorial note: This project is so prepoterous, in the light of today's decline markets for electricity, that it is, I feel, eminently defeatable. There is, however, a great deal of work to do to reach that goal, and many hands are needed. If you are willing to help, call the office, please. JKR)

NEW COAL LEASING PLAN COULD THREATEN WATER SUPPLIES

The BLM is now in the process of amending their land use plan for this region to open up two new tracts for coal leasing. One, near Cedaredge, is in line with a compromise agreement reached with the Resource Council two years ago, and is non-controversial.

The second tract, near Westmo reland, however, is five times as big as the compromise agreement tract and encompasses the Roatcap Creek and Terror Creek drainages, thus setting up a potential resource conflict, between coal and agricultural water. A group of landowners on Garvin and Stucker Mesas have protested the BLM's procedures; WSERC is supporting their statement of protest.

The BLM was not able to discover any potential resource conflict during their planning stage, and could discover no areas unsuitable for mining within the tract. The landowners consider the possibility of subsidence and resultant loss of water to be a very real danger if mining occurs under a collection or transporting watershed. They feel the problem should be dealt with at the beginning of the planning process, before tracts are delineated.



Anyone concerned about the problem of loss of agricultural water could write the BLM, Montrose District Office, Box 1269, Montrose, CO. 81402.

### DELTA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ENDORSE POWER PLANT

In spite of the fact that the new siting regulations have not yet been applied, the Delta County Commissioners this week formally endorsed Colorado-Ute's proposed power plant for Delta County. Some WSERC members may wish to discuss this with their commissioners.

### ABOUT WSERC

WSERC will soon reach the grand old age of five. As such, it is the oldest conservation oriented citizen group in Western Colorado. We have provided information to the public and to activist individuals which is available readily nowhere else locally. Since January we have, upon a change in by-laws, taken a more activist role. The board of directors have formally endorsed strong utility siting regulations in Delta County, have voted to join other groups in opposition to Ute's power line, has joined the Clean Air Coalition, and most recently, has supported a statement of concern to the BLM regarding land use planning (see above story). WSERC could be even more effective with just a little bit more member involvement. Our solar/alternative energy information program could use a new infusion of energy. Active volunteer committees on clean air, ag water, utilities, and oil shale would help to make a big difference. The library/ office always needs helpers willing to help with newsclippings, filing, etc. Liz Hamer is currently helping out, but more help is welcome. Then, the treasury could certainly use a new infusion of paid up dues. If you haven't yet renewed your membership in 1981, please send \$10 (or \$25, or more, if you are willing and able) along with the form below. Delta County is under more environmental pressure than ever before. We can carry out our purpose of encouraging wise use of natural resources, even in today's political climate, but it will take everyone's help.

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____	ACTIVE _____ \$10.00
ADDRESS _____	STUDENT OR SR. CITIZEN _____ 5.00
PHONE _____ DATE PAID _____	CONTRIBUTING _____ 25.00
AMOUNT _____	SUSTAINING _____ 50.00
	SPONSOR _____ 100.00
	SUPERHERO _____ 200.00 and up.

Main interests/priorities:

\_\_\_\_\_ Solar/ renewables  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Environmental quality

Issues of concern:

\_\_\_\_\_ utilities  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ag land/water  
 \_\_\_\_\_ planning  
 \_\_\_\_\_ mining  
 \_\_\_\_\_ other

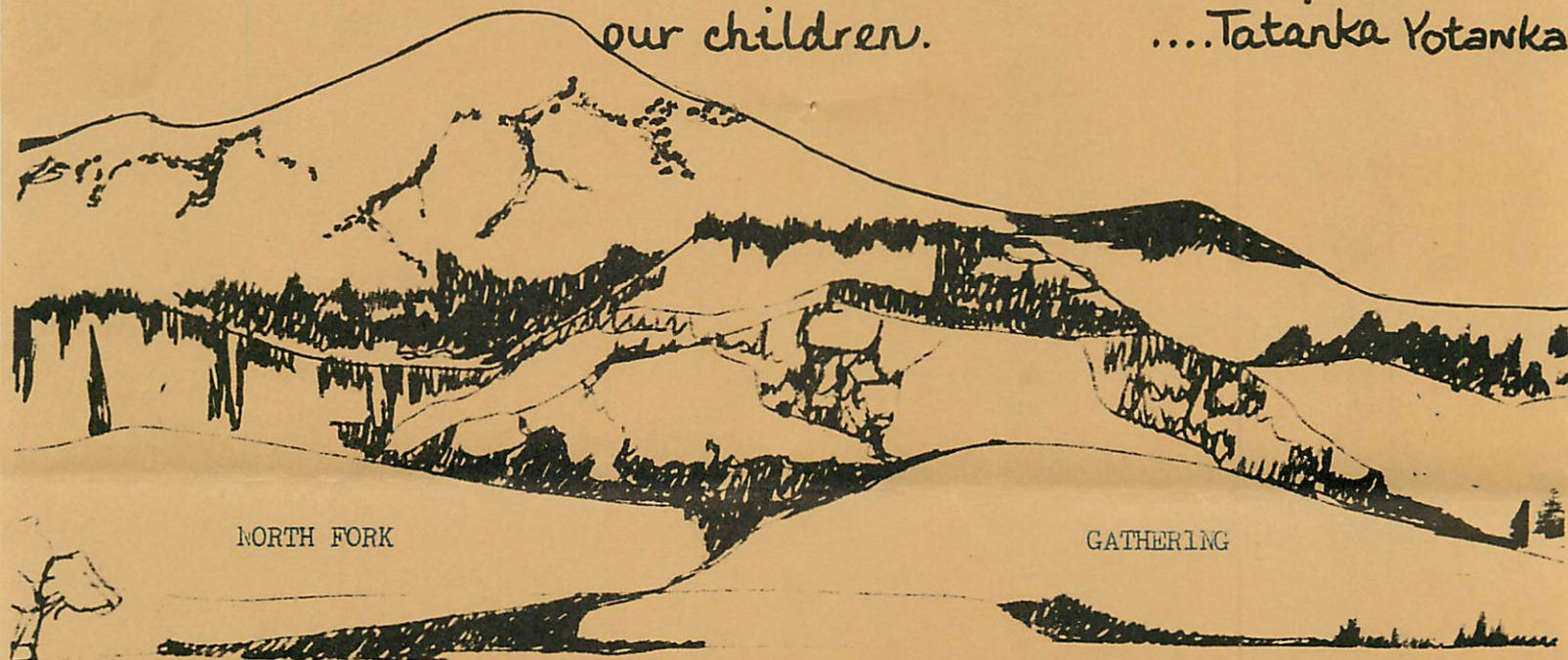
Comments \_\_\_\_\_

Note: memberships/contributions are tax deductible



"Let us put our minds together, and see  
what kind of life we will make for  
our children.

....Tatanka Yotanka



A Gathering in the North Fork of Native Americans and white peoples will take place August 29th to Sept. 7th on Redlands Meas, to commemorate the 100th year anniversary to the day, of the expulsion of the Utes from the Valley. The hope is that after a hundred years of separation, we can come together to acknowledge that we can all live in harmony with one another and with the land. This will be an opportunity to share, to learn that, as Chief Seattle said, over a century ago, "no one is exempt from the common destiny".

Preparations are now underway for the encampment on Redlands Meas on the Carpenter-Riback land. Directions will be posted, starting at the Rogers' Meas LeRoux Creek turn-off. Anyone who wishes is welcome to participate, by the day, or you may bring camping gear and stay over. Children are very welcome, but please, DO NOT bring any dogs, alcohol, or drugs.

Preparing and sharing meals together will be an important part of camp life. Please plan to contribute food and some energy to the meals. Food needed include: beans, rice, cornmeal, flour, oil, coffee, tea, potatoes, corn, fruit, vegetables, chilis, eggs, milk, cheese, butter, honey sugar. If you can't bring food, cash contributions would be fine.

Activities planned include sunrise ceremonies, sweats, afternoon workshops in traditional arts and crafts, and crafts, and activities for children and evening council fires. On Wednesday and Thursday, a trip to Dominguez Canyon is planned, weather permitting.

North Fork Rendezvous Committee  
P.O. Box 910 , Paonia, Colo. 81428  
303-527-4040



Other special activities planned, times to be announced, include a trade market, gathering medicinal plants, adobe oven building and peki bread baking, a children's dedication ceremony, singing, and dancing.

So come and we'll share together food and time and talents and heritage. Much thanks for organizing the Gathering goes to Ken and Maggie Dessain and for offering the use of their land and for helping, Joanie Riback and David Carpenter. They can answer questions at 872-3462.

Honored Native American guests will include "Grandfather David", traditional Hopi elder from Hotevilla, Arizona; Wallace Black Elk, Sioux spiritual leader from Thornton; Sonja Garcia, Sun Dancwoman; Janice Colorow, a Ute and director of Title 4 project in Tawaoc; Grizzly Bear Williams, young traditional leader from Ignacio; Leonard Black Bear Wood, a Pima artist and builder; and Cynthia Kent, a Native American and executive director of Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs; the Ute dancers, and several others.

Other special guests will include folk singer Lenny Anderson; dancer Jeri McAndrews; poet-photographer Nancy Wood, and lecturer Joan Price.

There will be no charge for attending the gathering. However, donations to help cover our special guests' travel expenses would be greatly appreciated.





# Newsletter

Jan. 2, 1992

No. 10

## ANNUAL MEETING PLANNED

WSERC's annual meeting, scheduled for Monday, January 11 at 7:30 PM in the Notchkiss Elementary School will feature a talk by Theo Colborn.

Theo, well-known to many WSERC members as one of WSERC's founding members, will share with us the results of some of her water research. She has recently earned her Masters' in biology at Western State and has been admitted as a doctoral candidate at the University of Wisconsin. Her area of concern is heavy metal contamination of water. She has developed a valuable new way of measuring the hitherto unmeasurable presence of certain highly toxic water pollutants by measuring their concentration in various aquatic insects which concentrate them in their bodies.

She is now exploring the effect acid rain has on high mountain waters where recent increases in the acidity of the rain seems to be causing increased release of toxic metals into the water systems. She has recently begun to investigate a possible correlation between toxic metal pollution of water and health problems in new-born babies.

Theo stresses that her recent work is at the investigation stage and that it is much too early to draw conclusions. Nevertheless, her research is exciting and we can expect her talk, accompanied by a slide presentation, to be most thought-provoking.

The public is invited, whether or not they are WSERC members. It is strongly hoped, however, that WSERC will gain many new members at that meeting.

Following Theo's talk, WSERC will conduct its annual meeting. There will be a report on what we've been doing this year, followed by the annual election. There are three openings on the board of directors. Nominations will be from the floor. Anyone seriously interested in WSERC's work is strongly urged to run.

In addition, WSERC is very much in need of folks interested in working on any of the following Issues Committees:

- |                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Agricultural Land & Water | 6. Clean Air        |
| 2. Utilities                 | 7. Hazardous Wastes |
| 3. Coal & Mining             | 8. Nuclear Issues   |
| 4. Wilderness                | 9. Recycling        |
| 5. Alternative Energy        | 10. Oil Shale       |

We also need helpers to keep the organization running smoothly. The following Functional Committees are looking for help:

1. Fund raising and membership
2. Volunteer recruitment and office staffing and upkeep
3. Public events and relations

## A Note from Judy

Dear WSERC Members and Friends,

Please volunteer. The pressures on Western Colorado are the strongest they have ever been. WSERC's voice for sanity is being heard but we can be the most effective if everyone participates. It isn't



necessary to speak in public if it's uncomfortable for you. Much of our effectiveness comes from our willingness to research, to deal in fact. There is more good solid information on energy matters available here in our office right now than any one person could ever hope to digest, much less disseminate. Just pick a committee, get informed, or help out in the office or with fund raising.

If WSEPC is going to meet the challenge we are now facing, indeed if Western Colorado is to survive the "energy boom" and Mr. Watt's policies, and come out of it with any drinkable water, breathable air, farmable land, fishable streams, liveable communities, or stable economies, everyone who cares is going to have to contribute time or money, or both. And if we don't care, who will?

Thanks. See you at the annual meeting.

#### Interior Announces New Coal Leasing Regs

James Watt has announced a proposed new set of federal coal leasing regulations designed to speed up leasing and reduce environmental constraints. Based on a poll of industry, it is designed to eliminate problems industry has encountered in the past leasing program. The major concern seems to be the desires of industry rather than treating the coal like the publicly-owned natural resource that it is.

The new regs are being questioned by environmentalists as exceeding the authority of the executive branch as they are frequently not in accord with the laws of which they supposedly are an elaboration. Three public information meetings are scheduled, none in Colorado.

Local impacts we can expect if these rules are adopted would include: a probable large increase in coal leasing in Delta County. We could expect reduced opportunity for citizen involvement; reduced opportunity to have any land declared unsuitable for mining; reduced protection of other values such as agricultural water, erosion prevention, wildlife protection, watershed protection, etc.

#### Power Line Update

The Gunnison River Coalition has appealed the preliminary hearing examiner recommendations on the proposed Rifle-San Juan power line. The Western Colorado Congress, of which WSEPC is a member, has assumed the approximately \$2,000 financial obligation for the appeal.

In November, the hearing examiner issued his recommendations, which would grant Colorado-Ute the permit. He completely overlooked the question of meeting Western Colorado power needs with a less costly solution, consequently attorney Jeff Pearson has filed a 45-page Exception to the recommendations. The matter is now before the actual Commissioners.

Letters to the commissioners, supporting our position would be very helpful at this point. They should be directed to Commissioner Flyth Miller, Chairwoman, Public Utilities Commission, 1525 Sherman St., Denver, Co. 80203. Please send WSEPC office a copy of your letter. (Box 746, Hotchkiss.) For more information, call Judy Robinson at the office, 372-3302 or home, 527-4720.

#### WSEPC Supports Ag-Water Protection

Landowners on Garvin & Stucker Mesas have filed a protest to the BLM because of its failure to protect their water rights in the planning process leading to a large coal lease above the mesas. WSEPC considers protection of agricultural water to be in the public interest & has thus joined the protest. Negotiations between the BLM and landowners are now underway.



USERC  
Box 746  
Hotchkiss, Co. 81410

Dear Friend:

Almost every day, it seems, Betsy and I get one or more letters asking for money and most of them come from what we consider to be worthy causes. It makes one wonder how justifiable it is to ask for financial help for our own local problems since by comparison to many other situations, we are so fortunate.

And yet I really believe that all these problems are related; that they arise chiefly out of human greed, selfishness, and pride; and whatever one can do in one area helps in another.

We in Western Colorado didn't exactly ask for it but the problem fate has dropped in our laps is the environmental problem. It just happens that we are sitting on lots of resources that others think they need -- coal, gas, oilshale, timber, wilderness, scenery, even a little dwindling water. How these resources are used will do much to affect the well-being not only of us who live here, but the nation as a whole.

The Western Slope Energy Research Center (USERC) was organized five years ago to work at this problem. Frankly (and not to be overly modest about it), I think we have done an outstanding job. We have worked on the problems of wilderness, clean air and water, and conservation and solar energy. But the greatest part of our work during the past year has been trying to protect agricultural water from being lost by the coal companies, and trying to prevent unwise and unnecessary electric utility expansion. If you have lived here over five years, you probably realize that there has been a considerable increase in public awareness and concern about these problems. I think we can honestly say that USERC has been a major force in Delta County in bringing this about.

Now to get back to the problem we started with -- finances. As you can imagine, it's not easy to keep an organization going that gives away its product and depends on others' generosity for survival. In September, our CETA grant expired and our efforts to get a private grant have been unsuccessful thus far. To keep going, we were forced to cut Judy's time back to ten hours a week and ask volunteers to help keep the office open. We greatly appreciate the work of our volunteers. Without them, we couldn't provide much of a program. But to really be effective, we need a full-time staff person.

Our budget for 1982 is \$10,560, which breaks down as follows: Wages, \$6320; Telephone, \$720; Rent, \$600; Postage, \$600; Misc., \$320.

We have over 100 members and if each of them could give one hundred dollars our problem would be solved. Unfortunately, many of them can't afford to do that. We intend to keep pursuing grant funding, but this doesn't seem to be something we can count on. To try to provide the consistent source of income that we need to stay in business, we are setting up what we call our Century Club -- one hundred people who will give us one hundred dollars each. You are herewith invited to join. If you are able and wish to give more, don't feel inhibited. By my arithmetic, one hundred hundreds is only \$10,000.



(Letter, page 2)

Please send your tax-deductible contribution to WSERC, Box 746, Hotchkiss, Co. 81419, or bring it to the annual meeting.

Cordially,

Chuck Worley,  
Co-chairman, WSERC

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am willing to volunteer the following services: Typing \_\_\_\_\_  
Phoning \_\_\_\_\_  
Speaking \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing \_\_\_\_\_  
Research \_\_\_\_\_  
I would be interested in serving on one of  
the following committees: Utilities \_\_\_\_\_  
Mining \_\_\_\_\_, Conservation and solar \_\_\_\_\_  
Wilderness \_\_\_\_\_, Water \_\_\_\_\_, Air \_\_\_\_\_  
Hazardous waste \_\_\_\_\_

The best evening of the week for me to attend meetings is \_\_\_\_\_.

I don't want to be actively involved, but here's my money \_\_\_\_\_.

I don't want anyone to know I'm a member but here's my money \_\_\_\_\_.

I would be most interested in the following kind of programs:

WESTERN SLOPE ENERGY  
RESEARCH CENTER, INC.  
BOX 746  
HOTCHKISS, COLORADO 81419

Non Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
Permit No. 7  
Hotchkiss, CO 81419  
HOTCHKISS, CO 81419  
HOTCHKISS, CO 81419

Ralph E. Clark  
519 E. Georgia Ave.  
Gunnison, CO 81230





# Newsletter

April 13, 1982

No. 20

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

In its January annual meeting, WSERC elected four new board members. Bringing fresh energy and new ideas are: Brad Klafehn, Liz Hamer, Molly Ohlheiser, and Dick Ohlheiser. They join "old hands" Chuck Worley, David Johnston, Ron Dessain, and Chuck Catlin, and Tige Herndon.

Board meetings are open to all members, and are usually scheduled for the second Sunday evening of each month at 7:30. Call any board member for exact time and place.

## MICRO-HYDRO INFO AVAILABLE

Do you live in the country? Do you have a stream or irrigation ditch flowing through your place? If so, you might be able to produce your own electricity at reasonable expense.

The latest issue of SOLAR FLASHES is full of information on micro-hydro. The WSERC office has copies for sale for \$2. Call 872-3902 for hours we'll be open.

## CRAIG SABATKE

Craig Sabatke was not a member of WSERC when he died. But he was one of us, just the same.

He used to be the president of the Western Colorado Resource Council. He worked closely with Mark Welsh to monitor federal coal leasing in Delta County and to keep the rate of new coal development to a level the county could absorb.

Craig recognized the wisdom of working with, rather than against, the existing coal companies. Thus he and Mark spent many months negotiating with Westmoreland and the BLM to allow Westmoreland to get the additional coal reserves they needed without throwing the whole valley open to new leases.

This spirit of compromise and cooperation worked. It has set the stage for the cooperative spirit in which agricultural water users and Westmoreland are now attempting to work out the problems of protecting water resources while obtaining coal reserves.

When Craig was appointed Executive Director of Forward Delta County, he severed his ties with environmental

groups. He would be working with all segments of the business community and it would be unwise to offend some of them.

Yet here again Craig was bridging a gap. Forward Delta County, by helping local business, was fostering economic growth. Most important to us, though, he was fostering exactly the kind of growth we believe in: small community-based, locally owned.

So Craig was not a member. But he shared our ideals, and he worked hard to make them a reality, using his particular knowledge, training and skill in the most productive way.

His untimely death is tragic, not only for his family and close friends, but for the whole community. The fabric of our community has a gaping hole in it now. We've lost a good man, and a friend, and it hurts. All we can do to heal ourselves is to be reminded that the real glue of a community is love, and remember to treasure one another.

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## THE ULTIMATE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE

"If we don't solve the problem of nuclear war, there won't be any need to solve any other environmental problem. We, and the environment as we know it will be gone," said Liz Hamer, Delta Co. Peace Coalition Chairperson. "The Reagan Administration is trying to make people think a nuclear war is survivable, but that's not really true. Ground Zero Week will help to get people thinking about the reality of nuclear war."

Ground Zero Week, a nation-wide non-partisan nuclear war educational effort, scheduled for April 18-25 is one of the projects of the Delta County Peace Coalition, which recently has quadrupled its membership. They have joined with similar groups in Montrose and Grand Junction and formed the tri-County Peace Coalition. The tri-County group meets monthly at the United Methodist Church, 5th and Meeker, in Delta. They are currently planning local activities for Ground Zero Week. Interested citizens are invited to help with the planning.

A long range project of the group is the Nuclear Freeze campaign. The freeze proposes a bilateral (the U.S. and Russia) moratorium on testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons. Senators Ted Kennedy and Mark Hatfield are co-sponsoring the proposal in Congress. The Peace Coalition hopes to have the Freeze resolution on the ballot in the November local elections. The Freeze resolution has already been passed in many U.S. towns and cities. It is a broad-based grass roots campaign to "let the people decide" about the issue of nuclear war. If you'd like to help, call Liz Hamer at 872-2471 or Tony Ashworth, 874-9501.

Liz Hamer

SOLAR, RENEWABLES LIBRARY  
ALIVE AND WELL IN MEMORIAL HALL  
BASEMENT

Call the WSERC office for the hours we're open. We have books, magazines, pamphlets on solar, wind, microhydro, etc.

## A CHANCE TO ACT

Most of the news in this newsletter is just plain awful. Recognizing this, WSERC's board is gearing up for ACTION.

All members and prospective members are invited to a WSERC planning for action meeting on Monday, April 26th, at the Hotchkiss Elementary School, at 7:30 p.m.

Two of the most pressing concerns are clean air and our increased participation in the political process.

We will have a slide show on the Clean Air Act, courtesy of the Colorado Clean Air Coalition.

Also, Dee Jacobson will give a short talk on how to effectively participate in the political party of your choice to have your viewpoint represented.

You will be asked whether WSERC should take on several new issues, such as DMEA elections, coal trucks, RR crossing signals and others.

Member participation is essential. So pay your dues, come to the meeting, get involved. It should even be fun, and refreshments will be served, besides.

STUDY SAYS PHOTOVOLTAICS THROTTLED  
BY BIG OIL

A recent study produced by the Center for Renewable Resources concluded that the early U.S. promise in photovoltaics is dimming as the big energy companies gain monopolistic control of the photovoltaic field.

Control of the photoelectric market is currently held by four companies, three of which are or are controlled by Big Oil. Since photovoltaics would compete directly with oil, coal, gas, and nuclear power, all of which are major investments of the companies, a serious conflict of interest exists.

(continued on page 3)



New entrants to the field are discouraged or driven out by "predatory pricing" in which a company sells its product below production costs.

France and Japan continue to progress, however, and the U.S. lead is disappearing. Will we be importing yet another intelligently made Japanese product while Americans sit idle?

#### WSERC TURNS OUT FOR WILDERNESS HEARING

WSERC members recently demonstrated their concern about oil and gas leasing in Wilderness areas. On March 6th Reps. Kogovsek, Brown, and Williams (D, Montana) held an official hearing of the House Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks.

WSERC was well represented, thanks to the organizing work of our Wilderness Committee chairman, David Johnston. WSERC members Chuck Worley, Wayne Talmadge, David Johnston, Dee Jacobson, Judy Robinson, Jen Bruner, Robin Nicholoff, Carolyn Landes, Paul Murrill, Rita Murphy and Pat Paiz all testified in support of maintaining the integrity of Wilderness.

The issues are now before Congress. If you would like to support Wilderness, let Congress know you support the Burton Bill, HR 5282, which would permanently prohibit oil and gas leasing in Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas. Also express your opposition to the deceptive Watt-Lujan Bill which would, in effect, gut the Wilderness System. For more information, call David Johnston.

"I'd call James Watt a wolf in wolf's clothing, except that it's not fair to wolves."

--citizen testifying at Wilderness  
Hearing.

#### DINGELL BILL WOULD GUT CLEAN AIR ACT

Rep. John Dingell, (D, Mich.) is sponsoring a "Dirty Air" Bill, HR 5252 which would severely weaken air pollution control standards. Since he is chairman of the House Commerce Committee where the bill originated, it is expected to pass the committee readily. A strong floor fight is planned by environmentalists, however.

How would the Dingell Bill affect Western Colorado? Among other things, it would:

- \*double the allowable emissions from new cars.

- \*allow acid rain to increase because pollution limits on cars, power plants, etc would be weakened.

- \*weaken Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) requirements, which now protect air in clean areas like Delta County.

- \*weaken EPA enforcement power.

What you can do:

1. Come to WSERC meeting on April 26th, see the slide show, and get more informed.

2. Write or call your representative (especially Kogovsek) and ask him to strongly oppose HR 5252.

3. Write letters to your local newspaper and voice your opposition to HR 5252 and support of the W man Bill which protects clean air. ax

4. Send copies of your letters to the WSERC office.

For more information, call Molly Ohlheiser, clean air committee person, 872-2237.

#### DUES ARE DUE

If you haven't yet paid your 1982 dues, they're due. Please send \$10 or more, to: WSERC, Box 746, Hotchkiss, 81419.



NEW COAL LEASING REGS  
COULD OPEN NORTH FORK

page 4

For the last decade or so, North Fork citizens have been working to make the BLM's coal leasing system responsive to social and environmental constraints. We've been fairly successful, although we -- and the Bureau -- still have a long way to go.

But now the Reagan Administration is proposing changes to the leasing system which would nullify all the protections which we've managed to achieve for the valley. In effect, the government hopes to have in place by mid-April a leasing program which would transfer to industry all the decisions traditionally made by Interior -- where, when, and how much coal to lease. The proposed regulations would let Industry lease as much land as they want. The government's main role will be to get out of their way and to let "the market" operate.

The cornerstone of this new program is called "leasing on demand for reserves." Under it, Interior will lease coal lands identified as desirable by industry with little thought given as to whether those leases will actually ever produce coal. If industry, for whatever reason, wants leases, they will be able to get them. Only when the coal industry's "demand for reserves" is sated will the leasing stop.

The coal is, in effect, to be treated as if it belongs to the industry, rather than to the people of the United States.

In addition to unrestrained leasing, the new program:

- \* specifically deletes "protection off the environment" as one of its objectives;

- \* eliminates from the regs the concept of thresholds, or impact limitations, which would require phased development;

- \* will not require BLM to take multiple-use considerations into account when deciding which coal lands to lease;

- \* provides that in deciding how much land to lease, the department may ignore social and environmental considerations, the national need for coal; and the amount of coal already leased;

- \* eases requirements which now force operators to either develop leases within ten years or forfeit them.

It is easy to see that this proposal is a disaster in the making. National environmental groups such as the Natural Resource Defense Council may possibly challenge this program when it is finalized. There would be numerous grounds for doing this -- Interior has refused to do an EIS on these drastic changes or to hold any public hearings on them, and the revisions appear to run contrary to some fundamental laws regulating public lands, among them the BLM Organic Act and the 1975 Coal Leasing Amendments Act. WSERC has submitted 27 pages of detailed comments on the regulations.

If the program is not stopped quickly, however, BLM will be free to use it in the sale scheduled next year for the North Fork. No one is sure what will happen, but it is possible under the new regs that the entire valley could be opened up for leasing next year. Or if not, then in 1985. In any case, it seems that all of our successes over the last few years will be wiped out if these regulations are put into effect.

Brad Klafehn

(WSERC can thank Brad for writing our detailed comments.)



The Watt-Lujan Wilderness Bill is only a small part of current administration attempts to destroy the past 15 years bipartisan work to protect the environment. Current disastrous proposals before Congress include:

- \* H.R. 5252, the Dingell Bill, which would relax current Clean Air Standards. (See story, page 3).

- \* Senate Bill 1080 and House Bill 746, the so-called "regulatory reform" measures which would severely jeopardize environmental laws by changing government as we know it to government by the Office of Management and Budget.

Regulatory Changes done or pending in the executive branch include:

- \* changes in the coal leasing and land use policies which would turn public leasing and land use decisions over to corporate board rooms. (See story by Brad Klafehn).

(Note: our own Reps. Kogovsek and Brown have introduced legislation supporting part of the Watt-Reagan giveaway policy. Their bill would eliminate requirements of "due diligence" for mining of federal coal leases and would encourage speculation.)

- \* an EPA proposal to permit ocean dumping of radioactive wastes;

- \* endangering the Grand Canyon by "uprating" the turbines at Glen Canyon;

- \* acceptance of new relaxed nuclear safety standards by the NRC which would, in effect, consider 13,000 deaths from nuclear reactors as an "acceptable" number;

- \* "eliminate the problem" of dangerously high levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide from fossil fuel burning. How? By drastically reducing funding for research on it;

- \* increase timber cutting in national forests by changing regulations away from sustained yield rules.

- \* stop additions to the Endangered Species list;

- \* Massive increases in oil and gas drilling on public lands and offshore;

- \* Responding to the Report to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) entitled, "The Global 2000 Report," which

lists the dangers awaiting humanity by 2000 AD--if governments do not face some facts -- loss of forests, expanding deserts, water shortages, deterioration of soil, depletion of fuels and minerals, increased CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, increased radioactivity, loss of animal habitat. The report asked for urgent conservation efforts and emphasis on renewable resources. The response? The President fired the staff which wrote the report and cut the CEQ budget by 64%

- \* crippling the EPA. The proposed budget reduction for next year is 50-60%. Meanwhile, toxic waste enforcement is down 48% Air pollution enforcement is down by 55% The office of Enforcement itself has been dismantled. Research into toxic substances has been reduced by 30%. Research into the health effects of asbestos, synfuels, (many of which are known carcinogens) and diesel fuels are eliminated completely.

- \* Occupational health and safety regulations have been relaxed or eliminated;

- \* Office of Surface Mining has been "reoriented" to support industry;

- \* increased government subsidies for nuclear power.

Meanwhile, the Reagan administration is spending more on weapons than ever before -- \$2 trillion over the next five years. A new trident sub each year, at \$2 billion apiece, is equal to the combined budgets of EPA, the national parks, and the solar energy program. And Mr. Reagan speaks casually of "limited nuclear war."

If you voted for Mr. Reagan last year, was this what you had in mind? If it isn't, please write him and tell him so.

We, as citizens, have two choices. We can apathetically accept this takeover of our government by the big corporations, or we can become politically active and insist on government of, for, and by the people.



THE GOOD NEWS DEPARTMENT

Yes, there is some, so we'll end  
on a happy note.

## FLASH!

PUC REJECTS UTE'S REQUEST FOR  
RECONSIDERATION

In a voice vote Tuesday, April 6th, the three PUC Commissioners voted to stand firm in their decision to deny Colorado-Ute permission to build the Rifle-San Juan power line. A great victory for the people of Western Colorado has now been clinched.

If Ute wants to fight this in court, they'll have to take on the PUC, not us.

## UTE TO LOSE SUBSIDY

The REA (Rural Electrification Administration) seems to be moving away from its previous policy of unlimited government subsidies for rural electrical coop's power plants, no matter how ill-conceived and unneeded.

In two recent announcements, REA announced, first a new policy of guaranteed loans only for "small distribution" lines, not for power plants and major transmission lines.

Second, their guidelines for procedures coops must follow in predicting future needs are to be changed. They recognize that past methods have resulted in gross over-predicting and they are concerned about unneeded plants being built in the future, which consumers would, of course, be stuck paying for.

## NO MORE NUKES?

The combination of escalating costs and declining demands has left the nuclear power industry almost dead. In the past three years, 30 reactors have been cancelled or delayed, including seven this year. No applications for new plants have been received by the NRC in the past five years.

NEW POWER PLANT  
TECHNOLOGY TESTED

"This is something maybe Colorado-Ute should be looking at," said Chuck Catlin, WSERC board member.

Science magazine, in a recent issue, described a new process by which coal could be converted to gas and electricity produced at the same time. This process, said to be energy efficient and non-polluting, is being tested in a demonstration plant in Southern California. It will easily meet all of California's stringent pollution control laws. Southern California Edison (one of Colorado Ute's favorite customers) is a co-sponsor.

If successful, this could render the present power plant technology obsolete. One hoped for advantage is that it would be cost effective on the smaller scale of 100-300 megawatts and readily built quickly. This would give the utility companies much more flexibility in matching capacity to unpredictable demand.

If successful, it could also reduce Colorado-Ute's expected export markets.

## DAMS DELAYED INDEFINITELY

Three major water projects for Western Colorado have all been indefinitely postponed. Colorado-Ute has announced it is pulling out of the Tri-County Reservoir project near Austin, as well as the Juniper Cross Mountain project, near Craig. The federal Dominguez Project is also on the back burner. The reasons are economic. Costs of water from these projects are much higher than costs of purchased water available from existing reservoirs. And the demand for electrical power they would produce is also down.



## MEMBERSHIP POLL

To be answered by members in good standing only. What would you like for WSERC to be doing in 1982? What would you help work on?

( x means I favor )  
( xx means I'd help work on it.)

## I. Solar and Renewables Services

- \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor lectures and workshops on solar heaters, greenhouses, wind power, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor solar tours
- \_\_\_\_\_ Compile a list of owners of successful solar or renewable energy projects who would share their knowledge and experience with others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Participate in a statewide energy conservation co-op to enable WSERC members to buy conservation items cheaply.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Invest in more books and magazines for our solar and renewables library.

## II. Participate in Environmental and Conservation Issues

## A. Utility Issues

- \_\_\_\_\_ Continue to oppose Colorado-Ute's development of facilities which are primarily for the purpose of exporting power out of state at the expense of local consumers and local environment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Push for DMEA to participate in the federal low-interest conservation loan program which would provide 5% loans to qualified customers for investments in energy conservation investments, thereby reducing all consumer costs by reducing the need for expensive system expansion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Push for utility rates which encourage conservation and are fair to small and moderate users, including both residential and small commercial.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work to revitalize the democratic process within DMEA.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Research natural gas rates.

## B. Water Issues

- \_\_\_\_\_ Continue to support local agricultural water users in the fight to protect their water sources from possible loss due to subsidence resulting from coal mining under their water supply.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Continue to oppose Tri County and Dominguez dams should they be revived.

## C. Coal Development Issues

- \_\_\_\_\_ Continue to oppose Reagan administration attempt to turn public coal leasing decisions over to private corporations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Continue to oppose Administration attempt to turn public land use decisions over to private interests.

## D. Clean Air Issues

- \_\_\_\_\_ Continue to work with the National Clean Air Coalition to keep or strengthen existing clean air laws.

## E. Local Transportation Issues

- \_\_\_\_\_ Research and work on problems of increased train traffic and deteriorating highways resulting from increased truck and train traffic.

## F. Local property tax fair assessment issues

- \_\_\_\_\_ Research question of whether large energy companies doing business in Delta County are properly assessed and paying their proper share of local taxes.



## Membership Poll continued

G. Nuclear war -- the ultimate environmental issue.

\_\_\_\_\_ Work with local and/or national anti-nuclear war groups.

H. Hazardous Waste Issues

\_\_\_\_\_ Research and support strong regulations for any proposed hazardous (nuclear or chemical) waste dump in Western Colorado.

\_\_\_\_\_ Oppose hazardous waste dumping in Western Colorado altogether.

I. Oil Shale Issues

\_\_\_\_\_ Support work of citizen groups in Northwest Colorado to lessen oil shale impacts.

J. Political Involvement (Note: As a non-profit, tax-exempt organization WSERC may not as a group, endorse any candidates or participate in partisan politics. We may, however, encourage our members to do so as individuals.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Encourage our members to participate in the party of their choice and as individuals to work for the nomination and election of candidates who are, in the members' individual judgement, pro-environment and conservation. Offer members political participation education.

\_\_\_\_\_ Form our own Political Action Committee (PAC), separately funded, which could endorse and work for environmentally favorable candidates.

K. Other Issues WSERC should be working on and furthermore I'd help.

WSERC belongs to its members. It will be as active and effective as its members are willing to make it. The board offers leadership, but nine volunteers, plus a part time staff person can't carry the work alone. The poll above mentions a whole raft of issues. They will be prioritized, not only according to their importance, but also the availability of person power to work on them. We know from extensive experience that two or three people can have a big impact just by compiling information already available, or providing a little leadership. It isn't difficult.

Our solar and renewables program is especially in need of one or two people willing to take the initiative to revitalize it.

So consider how many hours a month you would be willing to give to working on the kind of public issues WSERC is involved in, then please come to the meeting April 26th prepared to volunteer.

"If not you, then who; if not now, then when?" -- source unknown.

Please return to WSERC, Box 746, Hotchkiss, Co. 81419, before May 1st.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



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1. The first of these is the fact that the  
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normal development of the child's mind and body. The child should be able to walk, talk, and play with other children. The child should be able to learn and follow instructions. The child should be able to express his or her feelings and needs. The child should be able to form a close relationship with his or her parents. The child should be able to adapt to new situations. The child should be able to cope with stress and anxiety. The child should be able to learn from his or her mistakes. The child should be able to take responsibility for his or her actions. The child should be able to work with others. The child should be able to solve problems. The child should be able to make decisions. The child should be able to set goals. The child should be able to achieve his or her potential. The child should be able to live a happy and healthy life.

\_\_\_\_\_

1. Total number of life insurance policies in force as of 12/31/54: 1,000,000



## Membership Poll continued

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