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Annual Report Saskatchewan Environment 1980-81

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Waste management

Hazardous wastes

A federal-provincial task force represented by Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, North West Territories, Yukon and Environment Canada, participated in the contracting of a three-volume report on hazardous waste management. The report identifies serious deficiencies in the availability of proper hazardous waste facilities and in the regulatory control of waste disposal in western Canada. A regional system was recommended for hazardous waste management. The system includes a network of collection/transfer stations, a physical/chemical treatment plant in each of the four western provinces and a centrally located incinerator for western Canada.

Saskatchewan Environment is giving a high priority to correcting legislative and regulatory deficiencies. It is hoped that a facility proponent will be identified early so the public consultation and environmental assessment process can begin.

Chemical uses

During the fiscal year, the branch and Saskatchewan Agriculture co-sponsored an information seminar on alternatives to chemical use in the agriculture industry. Seventy-five people attended the seminar entitled "Alternatives to Drugs and Chemicals in Livestock Production" held at Echo Valley Centre, Fort Qu'Appelle.

Flood plain management program

In April, 1977, two flood damage reduction agreements were signed between Saskatchewan Environment and Environment Canada. A general agreement outlines the broad goal of the two governments, which is to reduce damage in flood hazard areas through better flood plain management. The second agreement is more specific and provides for the completion of studies, maps and the designation of flood hazard areas. This is a five-year, \$1.8 million cost-shared agreement known as the Canada-Saskatchewan Flood Damage Reduction Program (FDRP).

Committees were established under each agreement. The branch is represented on the steering and technical committees and acts as program coordinator of the mapping and studies

Northern forest clean-up

The branch contracted a litter clean-up team in northern Saskatchewan. The three-man team inspected and cleaned up 135 sites on Nemeiben Lake and six sites on the Besnard Lake and Stanley Mission Roads. Some litter was buried on-site; however, most was transported to community waste disposal sites.

Beverage containers

The soft drink and beer bottle return rates fell during the report year from 86 to 83 and 91 to 86 per cent respectively. The falling rates prompted an increase in the beer bottle refund from 5¢ to 10¢ per bottle effective February 23, 1981. Amendments to The Litter Control Regulations are being prepared for this although the industry is already paying the new rates. Regulated soft drink bottle refunds may change when talks are completed between bottlers and retailers about retailer bottle handling concerns.

Twenty-seven complaints of failure by vendors to comply with bottle refund regulations were handled.

agreement. The branch finances and administers mapping and studies, largely by contract, then cost-shares the expenses with Environment Canada.

The FDRP is into the fourth year of the current five-year agreement. It is proposed that the program be extended to accommodate detailed technical studies not yet completed. Additional flood prone communities are also being added. During the report year, various stages of work were completed or under way in 28 Saskatchewan communities. Table 9 shows program progress as of March 31, 1981.