

MINUTES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF
AGENCY 1

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

January 28, 1977
8:00 A.M.
Room 225
State Capitol Bldg.

SOLID WASTE, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, FOOD CONSUMER AND SAFETY

Roll was taken: Present - Representative Bradley, Representative Marks, Senator Stephens, Senator Thomas and Senator Story.

Mr. Van Koten gave the executive budget yesterday for all of the departments, so he passed for today.

Curt Nichols, the LFA, gave his recommendations. Recommendation at current staff level that was authorized by the last legislature as well as inflation factors which applies to the cost experienced in FY76. The cost left out was contracted study for solid waste. An addition was made in the Food Consumer Safety Program for a consumer product safety person.

SOLID WASTE BUREAU

The cost of a car crusher was requested but left out. That is the major difference between the LFA recommendation and the Executive recommendation. That is a cost of \$300,000 per year. It has not been needed in the past so it is not recommended.

The function of the department is basically a landfill, hazardous wastes and vehicle grave yards. They have a proposal in at this time to get into a tire shredding program but this proposal has not come through the budget and I don't know where the money is.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH - The operations there are industrial hygiene relating primarily to air and water, noise control and radiology health. The department has proposed to assume the functions of nuclear regulatory commission in the area of radiological health. We have not recommended the increased funding. Noise control is a new area. Industrial hygiene is a continuation at current level but I feel it is a duplication in part, with the Workmans' Compensation Bureau.

FOOD AND SAFETY BUREAU - I did not allow the addition of 1 consulting sanitation.

Dr. Knight made a few remarks on these bureaus. He feels the Sub-Division Department is the most critical area and he hopes they will be able to keep the two people in question.

Vern Sloulin of the Food and Consumer Safety Bureau made a few statements. He said one function is providing consultation and training to local food and drink establishments, motels, hotels, as well as consultation in the field. This relates to all phases of sanitation. They also license these establishments. Most of the fees for licenses are sent back to the local departments for their use. All but 2 counties take part in the "share the license program".

He said they also had a special program on vector control of mosquito, insects, rodents, etc. and explained a few of the things they do, such as plant fish that eat mosquito eggs in lakes, spray and so on. They also study products for safety factors. They are also doing a study in hospitals in regard to home safety.

They have a program for inspection of institutions and jails, inspecting food, menus, and safety factors.

Dr. Knight talked about the Occupational Health Division and some of their functions, such as the effect of chemicals, radiation and so on.

Larry Lloyd talked about the Occupational Health Bureau and mentioned there are 2 major divisions - industrial hygiene and radiological health. On occupational health he said that across the state there are thousands of people subjected to unhealthy working conditions, such as mines, dry cleaning plants, etc.

He said they were unable to keep up with requests and complaints. They received 87 requests last year for aid. He said they had only 1 man to answer these problems. It takes between 2 and 3 weeks to complete a study. He also said if they ever get in the position they would like to do a plan evaluation.

On radiation control - control started in 1969. From 50 to 75% of the X-ray machines up to that time were unsafe, making radiation excessive. Most of the 1400 X-ray machines in Montana have been cleaned up and are considered safe now. He said 95% of radiation comes from medical and dental X-rays. This is where a lot of work needs to be done, but we do not have the man power to cover the state.

He said they take the lead role in responding to radiation emergencies in the state. We respond to an average of 2 to 4 a year.

He said they were not doing too much in environmental noise control. Counties developing noise control programs are having difficulty with writing ordinances or laws. They come to us for assistance.

In reference to uranium mines, he said we do not have any mines in Montana as yet, but lots of exploration going on and he thinks we will have in the future.

He also talked about radial activity in the water, especially around Alhambra, and the need for much more monitoring in this area.

He said the industrial hygiene bureau in the Health Department and Workmans' Compensation are not duplications. Workmans' Compensation works more with OSHA where they inspect premises for safety and health, they are more a police action, ours is more health oriented. They do nothing with radiation. We perform technical studies and release findings to both parties. We do not over-lap.

Terry Carmody told about the solid waste and junk car program. He said their major responsibility is in solid waste management such as solid waste disposal, seeing that landfills are properly located and operated. If not properly operated, such as compacting the waste, it uses the land fill up too fast and is very expensive.

In the junk car program each county received money back to run the program.

The resource recovery program asked for and got \$200,000 for a study 2 years ago. It was a good study. It showed how you can turn solid waste into an energy source.

He said Senate Bill 175 and 200 is not going to be an increase cost to the State, but they would just re-direct their efforts. We are involved in the hazard waste program, started in 1969. We have an excess of 200,000 lbs. of this waste up in bunkers in Glasgow. The federal law dictates the states will have a good solid waste management program. If not, the federal government will come in and do it. He talked about the new bill using solid waste as fuel. He went on to discuss Senate Bills 175 and 200, and the difference between them. SB 200 will allow us to get into the hazard waste end of this. If we don't then we will not get the federal funds.

Senator Thomas asked how this could be utilized. Mr. Carmody said used just like coal or wood chips.

Senator Story asked if, in the junk car program, are we not crushing parts for old cars that are still needed. Mr. Carmody said we have not allowed salvage at county grave yards because the cities would be in direct competition with private industry. He also mentioned there would be a fee reduction again, as in '75. He mentioned they would like to have the \$300,000, taken out by the LFA for crushing, left in in case it should be needed in the future.

Representative Marks asked about hazard waste.

Mr. Carmody said this is not radioactive waste. I don't see us getting into that area. A lot of the hazard waste is in the pesticide area. Others are arsenic, cyanide, etc. We are just trying to help people get rid of this type of thing without harm.

Rep. Marks asked Mr. Lloyd what they do when they find high radium in the water. Mr. Lloyd said they were strictly advisory on private water suppliers. We try to guide private owners. We are running experiments in the labs on water softeners, etc.

There was some discussion on the amount of radiation in mines, especially on older people who believe in the radiation inhalation. Mr. Lloyd was not too concerned because they did not spend that much time down in the mines. He did not feel it did them much good however.

Senator Stephens said he did not realize Montana was so dangerous. He wanted to know if there were any standards put out by the manufacturer on the X-ray machines. Mr. Lloyd said previously there was very little done until in 1973 the Food and Drug Administration enacted their federal X-ray Stamp Act. When being X-rayed you should not be completely exposed. The beams should be filtered; should use shields. There are now regulations.

Senator Stephens asked Mr. Lloyd about the qualifications of his staff. Mr. Lloyd said he makes most of the inspections. He said he has worked in the area for 14 years and is well qualified. He said he had only 1 other person and he has had 3 years of experience. He has taken specialized training courses. I have worked closely with him. We are strictly safety people.

Dr. Knight talked a little about excess radiation and cases he has seen in the past, talking about the tremendous improvement in safety standards over the years, but added there is still a lot of work to be done.

Representative Marks asked about defective consumer products and what is being done about that. He was told they find out who is the supplier, producer or who handles the product, and gets warnings out to the public when they have data to go on. There was a little more discussion on this subject.

With no more questions, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

Donathan Bradley
Representative Bradley, Chairman