

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 7, 1985

The meeting of the Natural Resources Subcommittee was called to order by Chairman Manuel on February 7, 1985 at 8:05 a.m. in Room 132 of the State Capitol building.

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Larry Fasbender (47:B:003), Director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), gave an overview of the DNRC. See Exhibit "ZZZ".

Mr. Fasbender said there was over \$700,000 taken out of the Department in Vacancy Savings in the last biennium.

Mr. Fasbender said they have a problem with the Water Development earmarked revenue, which was used to replace General Funds. Mr. Fasbender said this money was to be used for projects instead of for funding the Department.

Mr. Fasbender said they need \$79,000 for a loan and grant monitoring program.

Mr. Fasbender said they need a computer upgrade.

Mr. Fasbender said the expenses of the Board of Natural Resources need to be considered.

Mr. Fasbender said in the Range Land Loan Program they need an authorization to continue the program.

Mr. Fasbender said the \$2,018,000 in the Water Development Funding should be used for on the ground projects instead of funding the Department.

Mr. Fasbender said there has been some concern on whether to maintain a core staff in the Energy Division. These people would be funded from projects. These people handle the Facility Siting projects.

(Centralized Services)

Mr. Fasbender said one secretary has been eliminated from the Director's Office staff by the Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP). The LFA eliminated .50 FTE in FY '86.

Receptionist: They said they will need a receptionist when they get moved into their new building.

Bob Robinson, Deputy Director, DNRC, said they would like to have their current staff fully funded for the biennium and have a .50 FTE in FY '86 and 1 FTE in FY '87 to act as a receptionist.

Discussion was held.

(Personal Services)

Vacancy Savings: Mr. Fasbender (47:B:245) said the amount of Personal Services that has been reduced has been approximately \$45,000. Mr. Fasbender said they don't anticipate as much turnover this year as they had last year and they don't anticipate the Vacancy Savings to be as great as it was in the last biennium.

Insurance: Mr. Fasbender said there is a miscalculation in this and the LFA and the DNRC will have to reconcile this difference.

(Contracted Services)

Grant and Loan Monitoring System: Mr. Fasbender said the \$45,000 over the biennium was omitted from the budgets.

Board Legal Council: Mr. Fasbender said this request of \$20,000 per year was also omitted.

Specialized Consultants: Mr. Fasbender said it is difficult for the Board to know how many times they will need these consultants. They are requesting \$10,000 for this and if this money is not needed for these consultants it will be reverted.

Reprinting of the Natural Resource Series: Mr. Fasbender said in the last biennium a Natural Resource Series was printed and sent to the schools. This was helpful in their curriculum. The cost of \$13,400 in FY '86 and \$4,500 in FY '87 would be provided by the local School Districts.

Travel: Mr. Fasbender (47:B:311) said they feel they can justify \$24,000 a year for travel. Much of this will be for out of state travel concerning legal matters. Some of this would be for training in data processing.

Mr. Fasbender said in-state travel would be for audits of the Loan and Grant programs.

Rent: Mr. Fasbender said there will be an overlap on rent since they will not be moving into their new building until December. They will have to work out the rent with the Department of Administration. Discussion was held on this.

Computer Upgrade: Mr. Fasbender said the LFA didn't allow for any upgrade. Mr. Fasbender said they feel this is necessary to carry out all of the work that needs to be done.

Training: Mr. Fasbender said they need \$3,000 per year for this.

Equipment: Mr. Fasbender said the LFA took out about \$18,000 for the memory for the computer system, about \$19,300 in disc storage and about \$7,000 in parts.

Miscellaneous: Mr. Fasbender said they also need two new terminals each year and some typewriters.

Modified:

Lawyer: Mr. Fasbender said they are requesting \$40,000 per year for a lawyer to work on Water Adjudication.

Data Processing Program: Mr. Fasbender said they are requesting 1 FTE and \$27,000 per year for this due to the increased work loads.

Discussion was held on the Daly Ditch.

(Conservation Districts)

Senator Smith presented Exhibit "AAAA". Senator Smith said he would like to propose an amendment to the DNRC budget to recommend that \$75,000 be added to the Conservation Districts budget to be contracted out to the Triangle Conservation District Saline Seep Team to be used for saline seep abatement activities.

Herb Pasha, Triangle Conservation District, said they have had a lot of success in the past five and one half years they have been in the field. Mr. Pasha said they have done work on several thousand acres and they have had instances where they have reclaimed as much as 70% of the land.

Mr. Pasha (48:A:070) said one of the first things they set out to do is to reclaim the land. Mr. Pasha said after they got into this problem they found out they had another problem as big or greater. This would be the water contamination problem. Saline Seep has a high contamination of salt.

Representative Loren Jenkins, District #13, said we should look at the benefits of stopping saline seep.

Senator Smith said they were hoping to get some funding out of the Legacy Program.

Discussion was held.

(Conservation Districts Division)

Secretary: Mr. Fasbender (48:A:435) said there are 5 people in this division. The LFA dropped the .20 FTE that was to be used in conjunction with the Miles City Field Office. This FTE would be for a secretary.

Mr. Fasbender said he would rather reduce a program than take 2% out of each budget. Discussion was held.

Mr. Fasbender said the base year used for determining the Conservation District's budget only reflects 4 FTE's. They had not hired the person for Miles City at the time the budget was done and they used .50 FTE for state review of the forest service and wilderness plans. This reduced the operating expenses for the base year. They need \$6,500 more per year to cover costs.

Rangeland Loan Program: Mr. Fasbender said this requires an authorization by the budget to expend the Rangeland program funds as authorized by law. They would need an appropriation of \$176,800 in FY '86 and \$196,800 in FY '87. The repayment rate on these loans is at 7%. There is a 1% Administrative fee to pay expenses encountered.

Discussion was held.

There is presently \$700,000 in this program and they project there to be \$1,000,000 by 1989. This is a revolving account. The maximum loan they make is \$20,000.

Grass Conservation Funds: Mr. Fasbender (48:B:005) said the LFA proposes that \$12,000 per year of these funds would be expended in that area and there is only \$9,500 per year that can be used.

Modified:

Mr. Fasbender said the Corps of Engineers has placed two people in the Conservation Office and they will be providing them with the phone, paper copying, etc. The Corps will reimburse them in the amount of \$2,600 in FY '86 and \$2,700 in FY '87. This is to improve the coordination between the state and the Corps as far as stream permits are concerned.

(Oil and Gas Division)

Vacancy Savings: Mr. Fasbender (48:B:078) said this division is completely funded out of earmarked funds and any Vacancy Savings would not have an effect on the General Fund.

Legal Services: Mr. Fasbender said they need an additional \$8,000 per year over the OBPP budget in Contracted Services for this.

Mr. Fasbender said they are requesting \$100,000 per year for plugging problem wells. This has been reduced to \$10,000 per year in both the Governor's budget and the LFA's budget. There was a request in the Legacy program for this funding but they did not approve it because they did not have the funding.

Supplies: Mr. Fasbender said they need the Governor's budget level.

Communications: Mr. Fasbender said there is a request to fill the vacant positions in the Field Offices.

Office and Duplicating Equipment: Mr. Fasbender said the public uses and pays for the copiers, microfilm, readers and printers in the Field Office. They would add an additional \$7,300 in FY '86 and \$4,200 in FY '87.

Mr. Fasbender said they would need another vehicle if the additional inspector is hired.

Discussion was held.

(Energy Division)

Vacancy Savings: The LFA used twice the level the OBPP used. The LFA took all of the Vacancy Savings out of the General Fund and the OBPP took Vacancy Savings out of the General Fund and earmarked revenue.

The LFA recommended they reduce this division by 2 FTE's.

Mr. Fasbender (48:B:300) said they think it is necessary to keep a core staff on hand in order to maintain continuity between projects. Since they can't always determine when there are going to be projects coming in or the size of them it is difficult to determine what the size of the core staff should be.

Mr. Fasbender said if the work dropped off they would begin laying people off.

Mr. Fasbender said they have a need for monitoring in relation to Facility Siting. This requires General Fund money. Mr. Fasbender said they also need General Fund monies for some Federal projects they monitor.

They had to rewrite the Administrative rules for the Montana Facility Siting Act, which took a substantial amount of work which also required the use of General Funds in Facility Siting.

(Contracted Services)

Mr. Fasbender said the LFA cut \$21,000 from the rent requested in FY '86 and \$10,000 from FY '87. This is primarily computer related.

Mr. Fasbender (48:B:376) said the Lake Broadview Mitigation Fund needs to be authorized \$113,000. In the biennial appropriation there would have to be language worked out.

Modifieds:

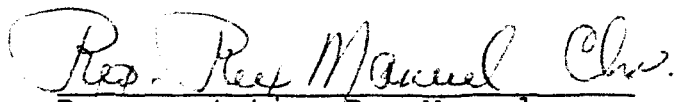
Residential Standards Development program: This is a BPA program to demonstrate and monitor the more efficient building construction. This is a request of \$30,700 in FY '86 only. This program was previously in excess of \$300,000 for the last two years. When this is completed in FY '86 it will be the end of the program.

Facility Siting Bureau: There is a request for 2 FTE's. This would cost \$56,500 per year and 50% of this would be General Fund.

Rock Creek Mitigation Fund: This request is for \$1,650,000. The mitigation is money from a lawsuit. They are asking for authorization to spend this money. They will set it up in an expendable or non-expendable trust depending on what the participants in that decide to do. This does not impact state monies in any way. This money would be used to purchase easements and anything that would mitigate the impact of activities on Rock Creek.

Discussion was held.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.


Representative Rex Manuel
Chairman

DAILY ROLL CALL

NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE

49th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1985

Date 2-7-85

[illegible]

THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

The purpose of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is to guide the wise management, development, conservation, and use of certain of Montana's natural resources in a manner consistent with environmental quality. It works to sustain and improve the benefits derived from our water, soil, and rangeland; to encourage the use of renewable energy sources; to reduce losses from flooding; and to minimize environmental impacts from the development of energy facilities and water projects.

The department has five divisions, shown in figure 1. The Energy Division, Oil and Gas Conservation Division, and Conservation Districts Division are located in the old St. John's Hospital building at 25 S. Ewing. The director's office, the Centralized Services Division, and part of the Water Resources Division (a portion of the Water Rights Bureau and all of the Water Management Bureau) are located at 32 S. Ewing. The Engineering Bureau of the Water Resources Division is across the court to the west, and the Water Development Bureau, along with the Helena Water Rights Field Office, are at 28 S. Rodney, to the east of the old hospital building.

About 250 people are employed throughout Montana to carry out the goals and projects of the department.

UNITS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

BOARDS, COUNCILS, AND COMMITTEES

Two citizen boards, appointed by the governor, assist the department by performing specific statutory functions. Their relationship to the department is illustrated in figure 1.

The seven-member Board of Natural Resources and Conservation adopts administrative rules, acts on proposed reservations of water, makes decisions under the Montana Major Facility Siting Act, adopts floodplain delineations, and oversees operation of state water projects. Meetings are held as needed, generally bimonthly and usually in Helena.

The five-member Board of Oil and Gas Conservation, like the Oil and Gas Conservation Division, is attached to the department for administrative purposes. The board is responsible for adopting rules and holding hearings required under Montana's oil and gas laws. Meetings are held eight or nine times a year, usually in Billings.

Table 1 shows the citizen groups that advise and assist the department.

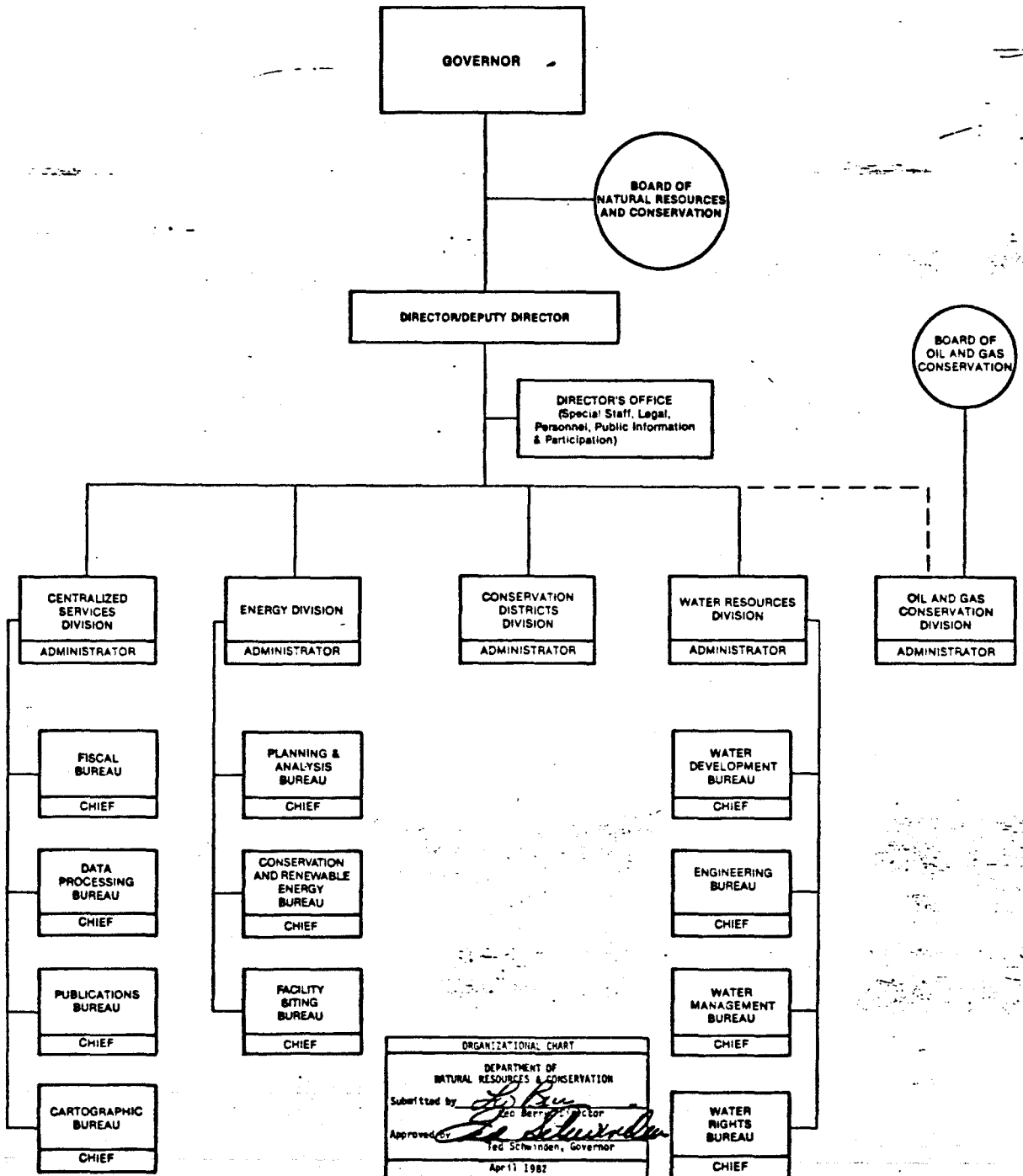


TABLE 1. ADVISORY GROUPS

NAME	NUMBER OF MEMBERS	METHOD OF SELECTION	TERM OF OFFICE	MEMBERS' QUALIFICATIONS	PURPOSE	DIVISION SERVED
Rangeland Resources Executive Committee	5	Appointed by Governor	Two years	Ranchers, farmers, and businessmen concerned with grazing	Advises DNRC on Rangeland Resources Program; reviews rangeland plans	CDD
Renewable Energy Advisory Council	5	Appointed by Governor	---	Geographical and occupational cross section	Reviews applications and takes recommendations on funding projects; and loan projects; facilitates public participation in program administration	Energy
Resource Conservation Advisory Council (RCAC)	7	Appointed by Governor	---	One representative each of conservation districts, grazing districts, the north-central, south-central, western, and eastern parts of the state, and the general public	Acts in advisory capacity to department on resource conservation and agricultural issues	CDD
Soil Survey Advisory Council		Appointed by DNRC director	---	Representatives of state and local government and private organizations with expertise in soils mapping	Gives expert advice on soil surveys	CDD
Water Development Advisory Council	9	Appointed by Governor	Disbands June 30, 1974	Knowledge of agriculture and water issues	Assists Water Development Bureau with review and funding recommendations	Water Resources

* RCAC members have been asked by the director to also serve as the Soil Survey Advisory Council.

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The director is appointed by the governor, and is responsible for the administration of the department. The deputy director works with the director and staff to accomplish department functions and objectives. The information officer, legal staff, and personnel officer are also part of the director's office.

The information officer writes news releases, prepares slide shows and tapes, produces video presentations, and represents the department in citizen participation matters.

The legal unit represents the department in legal proceedings and provides legal services to all divisions. The legal staff drafts legislative proposals, prepares documents needed in litigation, provides documents and representation in administrative matters, and writes contracts, agreements, and memoranda of understanding.

The personnel officer advises concerning recruitment, hiring, position classification, and the pay plan. The personnel officer also promotes EEO policy, develops and reviews affirmative action plans, assists in processing personnel actions, and represents the department in certain personnel matters.

CENTRALIZED SERVICES DIVISION

This division, which supports the rest of the department, has four bureaus: fiscal, data processing, publications, and cartography. Administrative functions (in addition to those handled by the bureaus) include inventory, purchasing, mail, janitorial and maintenance contracting, and maintenance of research and reference materials.

Fiscal Bureau

The Fiscal Bureau handles the department's financial operations. These include proper accounting of department expenditures in the Statewide Budgeting and Accounting System, payroll processing, payment of vendor claims, billing of grant and contract receivables, receiving and recording revenue, handling travel advances, preparing financial reports for federal grants and contracts, and auditing DNRC grants and contracts.

Data Processing Bureau

All data processing and word processing for the department are coordinated by this bureau. Services of the bureau include

program planning, operator training, system design, documentation and development, and data entry. Computer programs can be developed to serve any division.

Publications Bureau

All DNRC publications, including environmental impact statements, technical reports, booklets, and brochures, are prepared for production by this bureau. Bureau staff assists DNRC authors in scheduling, writing, and editing draft material, transmits final copy for typesetting, and proofreads galleys. The bureau also secures departmental approval for proposed documents, guides them through the appropriate content and policy review procedure, and handles their routine distribution.

Cartography Bureau

The Cartography Bureau does mapping, display lettering, layout, and graphics for the department's publications. It also arranges for typesetting and printing. All printing must be arranged through this bureau.

WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

The Water Resources Division administers Montana's water rights, prepares the state water plan, oversees all state-owned water projects, participates in floodplain management, carries out river basin studies, administers weather modification licensing and permitting, inspects dams for safety, provides technical assistance, and funds projects which develop water and other renewable resources. Four bureaus serve the division: water rights, engineering, water management, and water development.

Water Rights Bureau

The aims of the Montana Water Use Act and Article IV of the Montana Constitution are carried out by the Water Rights Bureau to ensure that the state's water is used for the benefit of the people of Montana.

The bureau maintains records of all water rights, administers a permit system for new appropriations of water, and assists water courts in confirming pre-1973 water rights by adjudication. (Water courts are divisions of the Montana District Court; there are four, each with its own judge. These courts have the power to make a final decree on any water right. DNRC is mandated by Senate Bill 76 to provide technical information and assistance in this process.)

The bureau has field offices in Billings, Bozeman, Glasgow, Havre, Helena, Kalispell, Lewistown, Miles City, and Missoula to assist the public in water rights matters.

Engineering Bureau

The 38 dams and irrigation projects owned by the state are managed by this bureau, which also investigates possible addition of generating capacity to some dams and makes safety inspections of nonfederal dams. Bureau personnel offer professional services to state water users associations and to other water-related programs.

The Engineering Bureau assists federal agencies in determining potential flood boundaries for all water courses and drainages. Local governments are assisted in regulating floodprone lands and waters to prevent or alleviate threats to life and property. The bureau also provides information to help those living in floodprone areas to select flood insurance.

Water Management Bureau

This bureau's four sections are responsible for (1) state and regional water planning, water reservations, and compacts, (2) giving technical and legal aid to the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission, (3) administering Montana's weather modification law and the permitting of related projects, and (4) providing technical assistance and information relating to subjects such as geology, hydrology, and soils to the Water Rights, Water Development, and Engineering bureaus.

The Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission is administered by, and receives technical and legal assistance from this department. The nine-member Compact Commission, which was established by the legislature in 1979, is an integral part of the statewide adjudication (Senate Bill 76). It is engaged in formal negotiations for the purpose of measuring and apportioning water supplies shared by the state and the Indian tribes and federal agencies that possess as yet unspecified amounts of reserved water in Montana.

Water Development Bureau

The Water Development Bureau has two sections. One administers a loan and grant program that funds water development projects and water-related, non-project activities. It also provides funding and technical assistance for such Renewable Resources Development Program activities as improvement of timber stands and agricultural lands.

The other section provides technical assistance and conducts feasibility and technical studies.

The bureau also assists 14 Yellowstone Basin conservation districts in developing their reserved water, and promotes the beneficial use of water and other renewable resources in Montana.

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS DIVISION

This division works closely with the state's farmers and ranchers through their local conservation districts and grazing districts, both of which deal with solving problems on farmlands, grasslands, and nonfederal forests. These problems range from soil erosion to control of noxious weeds and water pollution. The Conservation Districts Division administers the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act, the Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, the Rangeland Resources Program, and others. It arranges for pass-through of funds from several state and federal agencies to local conservation districts and offers technical assistance to conservation district supervisors and members.

OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION DIVISION

This division regulates oil and gas production in Montana to prevent waste and protect water supplies. Among its duties are classification of wells, well inspections, issuance of drilling permits, engineering studies, establishment of well spacing units and pooling orders, and maintenance of a core depository. It is attached to the department for administrative purposes, such as accounting, payroll, and purchasing. The division has offices in Billings and Shelby and additional field representatives in Glendive, Sidney, and Reserve.

ENERGY DIVISION

Three bureaus of the Energy Division administer Montana's energy programs: (1) conservation and renewable energy, (2) planning and analysis, and (3) major facility siting.

Conservation and Renewable Energy Bureau

Through a variety of state and federally funded programs, this bureau encourages energy conservation and development of renewable energy sources. Among the programs administered by the Conservation and Renewable Energy Bureau are the State Energy Conservation Program, Montana's Renewable Energy Conservation Program, the Technical Assistance Program (for local government and the residential, agricultural, and commercial sectors), and the Institutional Buildings Grant Program. In addition, the bureau offers limited technical engineering assistance and distributes energy-related curricula material and informational publications.

Planning and Analysis Bureau

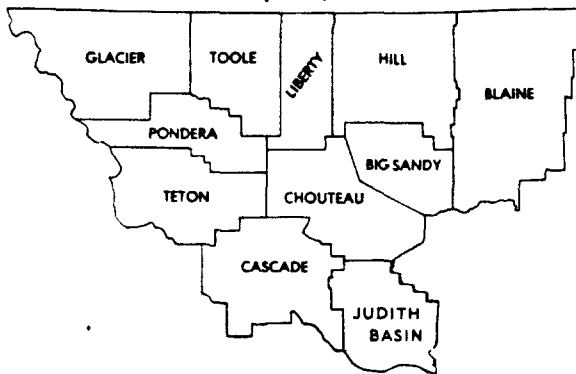
This bureau is responsible for (1) analyzing the need for and alternatives to proposed major energy facilities, (2) analyzing policy implications of pending state and federal actions, (3) collecting and analyzing data on the supply, distribution, and use of petroleum fuels in Montana, and (4) planning for response to energy shortages and designing and overseeing energy emergency planning procedures.

Facility Siting Bureau

The Montana Major Facility Siting Act (MFSA) is administered by this bureau to ensure minimal impacts from the location, construction, and operation of energy production, conversion, and transmission facilities in Montana. The bureau evaluates and analyzes data on proposed projects submitted by applicants and, with the Planning and Analysis Bureau, publishes a draft and a final environmental impact statement on each project recommending certificate approval, approval with conditions, or denial to the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation.

Another duty is conducting centerline analyses for approved transmission lines. Similar work is done for linear projects such as pipelines (which are not under the jurisdiction of the Siting Act, but are analyzed under the Montana Environmental Policy Act). The bureau also monitors the construction and impacts of all approved projects and advises the public and state and federal agencies on matters related to facility siting.

Saline Seep Project Area



TRIANGLE Conservation District

P.O. Box 1411

PHONE (406)278-3071

CONRAD, MT 59425

EXPANDED SALINITY PROGRAM
FACT SHEET

PROBLEM: Saline seeps are recently developed low-volume springs caused by a change in land-use, predominantly from native perennial vegetation to the alternate crop-fallow dryland cropping system. The saline seep or discharge area, is actually the symptom to the problem of inefficient use of annual precipitation in the up-slope or recharge area. Saline seeps, water quality degradation, erosion and soil organic matter decline, are only symptoms of the problem.

NEED AND URGENCY: Saline seep is among the top 4 resource problems in MT. with over 280,000 ac. of cropland estimated out of production, and the rate grows at 10% per year. Using an average of \$40/ac net return in a crop-fallow system, \$5,600,000.00 is lost in annual production. The taxes on the salinized land can be reassessed at a lower value (from a \$2.30/ac avg. for cropland to \$0.34/ac avg.) for a potential yearly loss in tax revenue of \$548,000.00. The degradation to surface and groundwater is not easily quantified but is perhaps the most severe consequence. Degraded water quality goes beyond the individual landowner to affect both the rural and urban population. Wells and reservoirs are abandoned and irrigation is reduced or eliminated. Numerous rural water lines have been needed because of poor water quality. It has cost the state over \$2.5 million in grants and loans to help finance these, not to mention the increased maintenance costs to the users. The water quality in most seeps exceeds the recommended limits for any domestic use and has been documented as high as 78,000 mg/l TDS or twice that of sea water. At present levels, saline seep is costing MT in excess of \$11,352,000.00 per year. If allowed to go unchecked, this figure could grow in the next 20 yrs. to \$76,370,000.00 for 1.8 million ac (assuming 10% growth rate). Therefore the prevention of saline seeps is just as important as reclamation to existing ones.

TECHNIQUE: The Triangle Conservation District technical field team has developed a proven technique to work on a farm-by-farm basis to achieve saline seep prevention and reclamation using the state-of-the-art of recharge area identification, intensive cropping, and reclamation techniques. In the 5 years the TCD has been working on the problem, 216 individual reclamation plans have been developed to work on 6,810 acres of seep. The implementation rate has been 84%, a very impressive rate considering the increased costs and management necessary for the cooperators.

RECOGNITION

NATIONAL: TCD has written and presented technical papers on vegetation management for the control of groundwater contamination and dryland salinity.

- International Symposium on State-of-the-Art Control of Salinity, July 1983, Salt Lake City, UT.
- 7th National Ground Water Quality Symposium, September 1984, Las Vegas, NV.
- Rocky Mountain Ground Water Conference, April 1984, Great Falls, MT.

INTER-

NATIONAL: A Memorandum of Understanding between MT and Alberta provides an avenue for technical exchange. Alberta's original approach to salinity was drainage, which was not acceptable economically or ecologically, nor was it effective. The Dryland Salinity Control Assoc. pays the expenses for the TCD team to travel yearly to Alberta to review and provide technical expertise on projects. After a similar trip to Saskatchewan in August 1984, TCD is also pursuing a memorandum with their farm organization, Wheatland Conservation Area Assoc. Both provinces are patterning their salinity control programs after the TCD; using their team approach and field technique.

Australia is suffering from a severe salinity problem also brought on by inefficient water-use by their current farming practices. The Australian government has invited and paid for MT researchers to come to their country to observe and provide assistance. Numerous Australians have visited MT and spent time with TCD to observe techniques that may be applicable to them.

RECOGNITION STATE: TCD is widely recognized for its work with cropping systems and the economics of implementing them. Since conservation practices must pay to be widely adopted, TCD recommends intensive cropping practices that maximize water-use efficiency as well as profits. TCD has developed Economic Yield Strategies to compare variable costs and yields, that are being used by the SCS and Extension Service. TCD staff has participated in numerous tillage and agriculture conferences across the state.

NEW STATE GROUPS: Northeast Montana Saline Seep Project (NMSSP) - The conservation districts from 7 NE counties Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, Roosevelt, McCone, Richland and Wibaux organized in 1982 to work on salinity control. Through a 223 grant from DNRC in 1983, the TCD technical team has worked on a pilot basis in the area. 17 reclamation plans have been prepared concerning 233 acres of saline seep. Merton "Pete" Purvis, Froid, MT. (Roosevelt) is the chairman of the board.

Southern Saline Seep District (SSSD) - 10 conservation districts are in the organizational process and will also have a cooperative working agreement with TCD for future projects. The main emphasis will remain with dryland saline seep but several districts are very concerned with their irrigated salinity problems. The board chairman is John Zinne, Rapelje, MT. (Stillwater).

LONG RANGE PLANS: There is currently no other agency in the state working on saline seep reclamation plans and implementation as extensively as the TCD program. The TCD is limited to the 10-county area by budget, staff, time and distance constraints. When surveyed, 23 other counties expressed a concern for their growing salinity problems or the potential for saline seeps based on the ongoing sod-busting of marginal land, and would like access to a technical field team. It is being proposed to increase the field teams from 1 to 3 to service the 33-county area or roughly the eastern 2/3's of MT. The placement of the 2 new teams will be associated with the new state organizations, NMSSP and SSSD. The proposed continuation and expansion of the present program will increase the technical assistance to the agricultural cropping community to more easily adopt an intensive cropping system for resource conservation.

CURRENT PROGRAM: Conservation districts from the 10-county Triangle Area sponsor the saline seep reclamation and prevention program. Each district is a legal entity of state gov't. and an elected supr. from each board is represented. The Board chairman is Herb Pasha, Highwood, MT (Chouteau). The technical field team consists of an agronomist, soil scientist, hydrogeologist and reclamation specialist.

The map displays the state of Montana with county boundaries and names. A thick black line outlines the Triangle Conservation District, which covers parts of Daniels, Phillips, Blaine, Hill, Toole, Lincoln, Glacier, Sanders, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Powell, Lemhi and Clark, Cascade, Benewah, Judith Basin, Wheatland, Musselshell, Golden Valley, Stillwater, Big Horn, Custer, Prairie, Richland, McCone, Roosevelt, Daniels, and Phillips. Other districts expressing interest are shown with different hatching patterns: Northeast Montana Saline Seep Project (diagonal lines), Southern Saline Seep District (horizontal lines), and Other Districts Expressing Interest (vertical lines). A legend in the bottom right corner explains these patterns. A scale bar in the bottom left corner indicates distances from 0 to 75 statute miles.

SCALE-STATUTE MILES
0 15 30 45 60 75

LEGEND:
 - TRIANGLE CONSERVATION DISTRICT (Thick black outline)
 - NORTHEAST MONTANA SALINE SEEP PROJECT (Diagonal hatching)
 - SOUTHERN SALINE SEEP DISTRICT (Horizontal hatching)
 - OTHER DISTRICTS EXPRESSING INTEREST (Vertical hatching)

COUNTY NAMES: LINCOLN, GLACIER, SANDERS, MINERAL, MISSOULA, RAVALLI, GRANITE, POWELL, LEMHI AND CLARK, CASCADE, BENEWAH, JUDITH BASIN, WHEATLAND, MUSSELHELL, GOLDEN VALLEY, STILLWATER, BIG HORN, CUSTER, PRAIRIE, RICHLAND, MCCONE, ROOSEVELT, DANIELS, PHILLIPS, BLAINE, HILL, TOOLE, PONDERA, SHELBY, FERGUSON, CUSTER, CARTER, POWDER RIVER, BEAVERHEAD, JEFFERSON, OFFUT, LODGE, SILVER, RENO, MADISON.

TRIANGLE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NORTHEAST MONTANA SALINE SEEP
SOUTHERN SALINE SEEP DISTRICT
OTHER DISTRICTS EXPRESSING INT

NATURAL RESOURCES SUB COMMITTEE

DATE February 7, 1985

[illegible]

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.