

This Week

- County officials testify on local energy conservation measures, see page 3.
- A look at the impact of science and technology on counties, see page 4.

Vol. 11, No. 50

COUNTY NEWS

"The Wisdom to Know and the Courage to Defend the Public Interest"

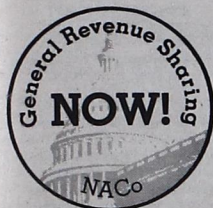
December 31, 1979

NA Co

Washington, D.C.

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Revenue Sharing Rally Set



See back page for
Legislative Conference
housing and
registration infor-
mation.

Energy Measures Still Await Action

Despite enormous pressure from the Administration and congressional leaders, three major pieces of the President's energy package remained locked in conference committees as Congress adjourned for the holiday recess. To be finally resolved when Congress returns in January are: the windfall profits tax, the synthetic fuels bill, and the Energy Mobilization Board.

WINDFALL PROFITS TAX

When President Carter decontrolled the price of domestic crude oil, authority he had under the 1975 Energy Policy and Conservation Act, he also announced a proposal to recapture 50 percent of the revenues producers would get because of increasing world oil prices. The House acted quickly and in June

approved a windfall profits tax which was essentially what the President wanted. The House-passed tax would have raised \$277 billion over the next 10 years with the money set aside in an Energy Trust Fund. Expenditures from the fund would be determined by Congress at a future date.

The Senate acted more slowly than the House and only passed its proposal in the final days before the holiday recess. After weeks of debate and a filibuster, the Senate finally approved a tax which would raise \$178 billion and give significant breaks to small independent producers. The Senate also approved a series of business and residential tax credits for conservation and renewable resource use as well as

See ENERGY, page 2

currently disburses nearly \$6.85 billion to state and local governments. The Carter administration has announced that it will propose renewal of the program which expires Sept. 30. However, it is still unclear as to the changes, if any, the Administration will make to the revenue sharing formula or to the disbursement of funds.

Congressional leaders will brief all delegates on the status of revenue

sharing legislation during the opening general session, Monday, March 3, from 9-11 a.m. In addition, other key speakers from Congress and the Administration have been invited to address delegates on issues dealing with energy, the budget and efforts to hold down spending.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

An overview of the conference agenda has Sunday, March 2 devoted

to meetings of NACo affiliates, task forces and steering committees. A GRS briefing for the NACo board and state association executives is scheduled for 3-4 p.m., while the Committee on Committees meets at 4 p.m. Special receptions are scheduled from 5-8 p.m.

Following the opening general session on GRS renewal Monday, March 3, county officials will attend workshops on other legislation and programs affecting counties and visit their congressional delegations on the Hill. Lunch with an invited speaker runs from 12:30 to 2 p.m. A delegate reception planned from 6-7 p.m. caps an afternoon of program sessions.

More workshops and Hill visits are scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, with luncheon with an invited speaker from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. Caucus time during the morning will be made available for those NACo board members coordinating their state roll call vote report. The roll call will take place at the board meeting beginning at 2 p.m. A reception lasts from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday morning, March 5, is left open for caucus and affiliate meetings.

NACo urges county officials to take an active role in this year's legislative conference and join forces in supporting GRS renewal. Please direct questions about the conference to Jon Weintraub or Ron Gibbs at NACo, 202/785-9577.

Countercyclical Delayed

After voting 184-153 to delete \$100 million from the program, the House decided Dec. 14 to postpone further consideration of countercyclical fiscal assistance legislation until January.

The move to delete the \$100 million from the targeted assistance portion of the bill, H.R. 5980, was supported by the bill's Democratic sponsors, Reps. Jack Brooks of Texas and L. H. Fountain of North Carolina. In contrast, the Administration had been pushing for the \$250 million figure contained in the bill reported out of the Government Operations Committee.

The antirecession or "countercyclical" part of the bill would give as much as \$1 billion to state and local governments hurt by a recession. It is unlikely that the entire amount would be spent, however, since the second congressional budget resolution sets a ceiling of \$525 million for both parts of the program.

It is still hoped that the legislation will pass the House and go to conference with the Senate-passed version prior to the Jan. 22 budget message from the President.

ROLE OF ELECTED OFFICIALS UNCLEAR

National Rural Policy Announced

The Administration recently unveiled a national policy on small communities and rural development which has been two years in the making.

While a spokesman described the policy as building on a number of rural initiatives announced within the past year, what it will mean for rural counties in terms of new programs and specific amounts of money remains unclear. Many details have yet to be announced, pending the announcement of the 1981 budget, and the President's staff has emphasized that some portions of the policy have yet to be ironed out.

Missing from the policy, in NACo's view, is a specific role for elected rural leaders. While recognizing the fact that rural elected leaders do not have the tools necessary for solving their problems as a result of federal inaction, the policy nevertheless does not set forth a role for local elected officials in drawing up rural development needs or helping to arrive at solutions.

The policy does recognize the involvement of community-based organization and development corporations established by the private

sector in solving rural problems.

The new policy outlines a number of proposed structural changes to the executive policy process designed to provide more accessibility for rural leaders to the federal process and to sensitize all federal agencies to the unique problems of rural areas. The policy also spells out policy goals, which the Administration terms an "action agenda," aimed at meeting such diverse needs as transportation, health, housing, and energy, among others.

The structural changes implement recommendations made by NACo for the past several years and include the strengthening of the Under Secretaries Working Group created by the 1972 Rural Development Act. The working group, composed of the major federal agencies, was established by Congress to foster understanding of rural problems so that federal resources could be better coordinated and more comprehensive in meeting rural needs.

The policy would put greater emphasis on the working group now to be co-chaired by Jack Watson, the President's special assistant for intergovernmental affairs and secretary to the Cabinet. Watson's in-

volvement is designed to provide a direct link for the working group to the White House. An increase in the White House staff for rural problems has been promised, but the number of staff additions could not be announced.

In addition, the White House proposes a new under secretary for small communities and rural development in the Department of Agriculture which would require congressional approval. The under secretary would be responsible for coordinating federal resources for rural areas. The President also proposes to establish an advisory body to the Secretary of Agriculture for rural development composed of rural leaders.

Finally, the President has asked that each federal agency assign a senior official to be responsible for ensuring that full implementation of the action agenda takes place, and who would be required to review agency programs and procedures to determine what steps can be taken to encourage greater rural participation, such as streamlining applications and reporting.

For more information, contact Linda Church Ciocci at NACo.



CONFEREES MEET— Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) right, confers with Rep. Chalmers P. Wylie (R-Ohio) during conference on current energy legislation.

Energy Decisions Await Return of Conferees

Continued from page 1

special tax credits for gasoline and synthetic fuels.

On Dec. 20 the House and Senate conferees met for the first time and rapidly reached tentative agreement on what the level of tax should be. The conferees tentatively agreed to "split the difference" and settle on a tax which will raise \$227 billion over the next decade. They will have to address when they return how the burden will be shared between the big oil companies and independent producers. The conferees will also have to decide when, if ever, the tax will terminate.

Despite the remaining differences, it is expected that final action will come very early next session.

SYNTHETIC FUELS

While a part of the President's energy package, the major efforts to develop a synthetic fuels industry originated on Capitol Hill. The number of synthetic fuels proposals introduced was equaled only by the number introduced on alcohol fuels.

The House started action on synthetic fuels by passing a \$3 billion amendment to the Defense Production Act. The President was authorized to make purchase commitments which would achieve the goal of 500,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day by 1985 and 2 million barrels per day by 1990. The President also has the discretion, under the House proposal, to provide loan guarantees of up to \$38 million per project and loans of up to \$98 million per project as additional incentive. The President would also have the authority, subject to a one House veto, to establish a corporation to produce synthetic fuels.

The Senate took a very different approach to synthetic fuels by creating a Synthetic Fuels Corporation responsible for accelerating synthetic fuels production with a goal of 1.5 million barrels of oil equivalent by 1995. The Senate also divided its proposal into two phases. Under the

first phase the corporation can use purchase commitments, loans and loan guarantees. If no private developers are interested, and only as a last resort, the corporation can build and operate up to three plants in phase one. Under phase one the \$20 billion authorized would go toward demonstrating a diversity of technologies.

Phase two would begin only after both Houses of Congress have approved a strategy and an authorization level which could be as high as \$68 billion. No government-owned plants would be allowed under phase two.

The House-Senate conferees have reached a tentative agreement on a number of points. First, they will use the House structure under the Defense Production Act until the corporation created by the Senate is ready to take over. The conferees also agreed to an authorization of \$20 billion and to a time period of four years for the corporation to submit its strategy for phase two to Congress for approval. However, despite these agreements much still remains to be resolved. While final agreement is certain to come early next session, this proposal may be the last of the major pieces reported.

ENERGY MOBILIZATION BOARD

The Energy Mobilization Board proposal, which would speed up priority energy projects, was the first of the three issues to clear both Houses of Congress. Conference action was delayed while conferees were appointed from the two committees of interest in the House. After the late start, the conferees met in a series of intense negotiating sessions. While no final agreement was reached, they appear to be moving toward a compromise.

The two sessions have different procedures for enforcing deadlines, for new requirements and for judicial review. The focus of controversy so far, however, has been on the ques-

tion of the waiver of laws and requirements at all levels of government.

As the conferees adjourned, they were considering a proposal which would accept the Senate provision which does not allow for the waiver of existing laws and an expanded version of the House "grandfather"

provision which allows for the waiver of new requirements. Under the House-proposed compromise, a requirement or law enacted after passage of the Energy Mobilization Board statute could be waived. A waiver could not occur unless the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Interior find

that it will not endanger public health or safety.

While the above compromise may not be what is finally approved, it is clear that final action on this issue can be expected shortly after the Congress returns.

—Mark Croke

Let It Out of the Bag ...

Your County Achievements Count!

1980 County Achievement Award Program

PURPOSE

To give national recognition to progressive county developments that demonstrate an improvement in the county's structure, management and/or services.

NACo SEEKS

1) To recognize the county government rather than individuals; 2) to solicit programs representing counties with various populations, administrative structures, population mixtures, economic structure, geographic distributions, and various historic and cultural traditions; 3) to elicit a wide range of case studies including an assortment of particular interest to the NACo functional affiliates; 4) to select achievement award recipients on the basis of general recognition of the progressive development in their county rather than on the basis of a national contest.

CASE STUDY

1) Case studies must be accompanied by completed entry form which has been signed by the county elected executive, board chairman, or president of board; 2) case studies should be no longer than 10 double-spaced, 8 1/2" x 11" pages and must include all information requested on the following outline. When including supportive data, please place it in a 9 1/2" x 12" manila folder to ensure it does not become separated from the case study.

Case studies should follow this outline:

I. Summary of Program/Project

Accomplishments:

Briefly summarize the purpose of the program, the problem or issue involved, and the method of solution.

II. Background of the Program/Project:

In describing the program, use exact dates, clearly show the county's decisive role in developing and implementing the program, and present evidence of the program's accomplishments over a significant time period. Use the following format for the program description:

- A. Role of county
- B. Means of financing
- C. Role of other government, civic or business

groups and media (if applicable)
D. Legal requirements
III. Summary of Future Prospects for Program/Project

IV. Other Supportive Data

Briefly describe the future of the program. The case study may also include how the ideas or techniques used in this program could be adapted to other areas of the county's structure, management and/or services.

Whenever possible, include photographs—black and white glossy only—charts and other supportive data. Please include a list of any consulting firms, equipment companies or other private firms used.

Please note: Programs which received a NACo Achievement Award in prior years are not eligible for another award. Multiple entries are welcomed; however, programs addressing similar problems or issues will be combined into one entry. All entries become the property of the National Association of Counties. NACo reserves the right to edit all entries for the most effective means of presentation.

Recognition: 1) Recognition for award recipients will be made at NACo's annual conference; 2) selected case histories will be made available through NACo's New County Living Library; 3) additional plaques may be purchased from NACo.

Deadline for Entries:
February 15

NEW COUNTY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD ENTRY FORM

County _____ State _____

Mailing address and name of Board Chairman/President/Elected County Executive:

Signature _____

Title of Case Study/Program to be considered for NACo County Achievement Award:

Case Study prepared by: Name _____

Department _____

Title _____

Address _____

Date submitted _____ Phone Number _____

Please return to: New County, U.S.A. Center, National Association of Counties, 1735 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. For more information contact Lynn Lambert at NACo, 202/785-9577.

Please Note: All materials sent with Achievement Award entry become property of NACo.

Deadline for all entries to be received by New County, U.S.A. Center is February 15, 1980.

New Population Data Base May Affect County Funds

Counties across the United States may find themselves adversely affected by new standardized base projections of population proposed by the Department of Commerce and the regulations developed to implement them by the Office of Management and Budget.

The proposed regulations encourage states to use areawide agencies as the subunit of state government to prepare substate population projections, leaving individual local governments with little input into the process. Since population projections are used in the allocation of certain federal grants, this may affect the amount counties receive for trans-

portation systems, waste systems, sewer treatment plants and any number of other capital facilities.

Funding from the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Commerce, Agriculture, Health, Education and Welfare and the Environmental Protection Agency is most likely to be affected.

The Federal Register of Dec. 5 contained "Population Projections for Use in Federal Fund Allocations" (Department of Commerce) and "Intention to Develop a Circular Setting Forth Procedures for Coordination between State and Substate Units of Government in Preparation of Population Projections on Substate Basis" (OMB). Written comments may be made until March 4.

According to the federal agencies, standardized projections are being suggested because past projections have often been overly optimistic. In addition, different federal agencies have used different projections to make their allocations.

For further information contact Jeanne E. Griffith, Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230, 202/673-7953, or Walter S. Groszyk Jr., Intergovernmental Affairs Division, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503, 202/395-3157.

Please send copies of your comments to Joan Paschal, Grants and Regulations Coordinator, NACo.

COUNTY NEWS
(USPS 704-620)

EDITOR: Bernard Hillenbrand
MANAGING EDITOR: Christine Grecock
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Michael Breeding
GRAPHICS: Karen Eldridge, Deborah Salzer
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Joan Amico
WRITER/PHOTOGRAPHER: Paul Serber
CIRCULATION COORDINATOR: G. Marie Reid
Published weekly except during Christmas week and the week following the annual conference by:

National Association of Counties
1735 New York Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
202/785-9577

Entered as second class mailing at Washington, D.C. and additional offices. Mail subscription is \$35 per year for nonmembers, \$30 for nonmembers purchasing 10 or more subscriptions. Member county surplus subscriptions are \$20, member counties purchasing 10 or more surplus subscriptions \$15. Send payment with order to above address. While utmost care is used, County News cannot be responsible for unsolicited manuscripts.

Hazardous Waste Menace Receives Attention

Television commercials are constantly reminding us that life would be impossible without chemicals. That message is not restricted to advertisements paid for by the chemical companies. It's there whether you're being sold an automobile, a food product or a television set.

Most of us take the products' chemical ingredients for granted. Few people, from industrial engineers to consumers, give much thought to the residues, the wastes, that are produced in making the chemicals or the final products. Waste disposal too often has meant contracting with fly-by-night haulers who deposit the barrels in county or city landfills, in the woods, down a well or in a stream.

CLEAR WATER

Since passage of water pollution control legislation in 1972, industrial wastes have found their resting place on the land. Wastes mixed with water are extracted at treatment plants, transformed into a semi-solid sludge. These sludges, along with barrels of industrial by-products and residues, when dumped or buried can contaminate soil and groundwater with toxins.

In 1976 Congress passed the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) to protect the land and groundwater from pollution. The act is also supposed to regulate disposal of garbage and hazardous wastes. In the last few months the Environmental Protection Agency finally published regulations to ban garbage dumps and require sanitary landfills under state enforcement programs. Hazardous waste regulations, promised by the end of 1979, now are scheduled for publication in the spring of 1980. They will establish a "cradle-to-grave" permit

process to insure hazardous wastes go to a permitted disposal site.

LOVE CANAL

Congress is now in the midst of re-authorizing RCRA and is anxious to have the hazardous regulations in effect. A recent subcommittee report has called current disposal practices "an imminent hazard to man and the environment." Citing numerous examples, including the infamous Love Canal dumpsite in Niagara County, N.Y., where health data show higher miscarriage and birth defect rates than normal, the subcommittee concluded that old dumps posed immediate and long-term safety and health threats.

In Union County, N.J., thousands of barrels of highly toxic, explosive and flammable materials are being "stored" near huge natural gas and propane tanks. In Nassau and Suffolk counties, N.Y. and Hardeman County, Tenn., groundwater supplies are seriously contaminated. State officials from New Jersey testified that during their inventory of drinking water supplies "the more we look, the more (contamination) we find." Many of the newly discovered contaminants are so-called "exotic" chemicals that are expensive to detect and which are said to cause cancer and birth defects.

RCRA AMENDMENTS

The 1976 act did not address the improperly designed disposal sites of the past, the abandoned dumps, or the county or city landfills that unwittingly accepted these noxious wastes. Several bills are now under consideration in Congress to establish a fund (ominously called the "superfund") to pay for the containment of these wastes.

EPA now has authority under

Feds Sue for Chemical Cleanup Costs

The Department of Justice, on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency, has filed four suits against Hooker Chemical Corp. and its parent firm, Occidental Petroleum Corp., for \$124 million to clean up four inactive chemical dump sites in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Seven million dollars would repay the federal government for costs it incurred in recent cleanup efforts and \$17 million would be paid into trust accounts by Hooker to clean up and contain the chemicals in the ground with special walls and water and air monitoring systems.

The suits also ask that Hooker pay for a program to monitor the health

of past and present residents and their children for the rest of their lives.

EPA scientists found 82 toxic chemicals—a dozen of which are cancer causing—in air, water and soil samples taken near the dumps. The agency fears the chemicals have entered ground and surface waters and could contaminate the city's drinking water supply. An alarming discovery was the detection of high concentrations of dioxin, a deadly chemical, in a creek flowing from one of the sites.

In addition to the suits, the Justice Department is seeking fines for

pollution dating back to the early 1950s which could amount to \$100 million. The authority for the suits and fines comes from the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Refuse Act, and the common law of nuisance.

In announcing the suit EPA's deputy administrator Barbara Blum said, "The relief being requested by the government from these chemical companies represents one of the most significant and costly environmental remedies ever sought in a judicial action. It is well warranted in our estimation."

RCRA to stop disposal that presents "an imminent and substantial danger to health or the environment"—to clean up a site and sue to recover the money spent by the government. The Justice Department is now preparing such a suit against the Hooker Chemical Company in the case of Love Canal.

Pending legislation would establish a fund of between \$1 and \$2 billion to take care of the polluting sites where legal liability cannot be established or the liable company or local government is incapable of financing remedial measures.

A multitude of bills are under consideration. The main differences are whether the money comes totally from industry fees or partially from public revenues, how much the states would have to pay, if the fund would cover oil spills, and if it would pay personal injury compensation.

Complete clean-up of the polluting sites appears beyond the short-term financial capability of the country. EPA estimates a total cleanup cost of between \$13.1 and \$22.1 billion. Emergency measures at the Love Canal site have already cost \$27 million. And this expenditure has only paid for containment of the wastes by impermeable clay. In contrast, it is estimated that it would have cost the original owner, Hooker Chemical Company, only \$4 million (in 1979 dollars) to properly secure its disposal site in 1952 when it closed operations.

SITING

Even if the goal of the legislation being considered was complete clean-up of the polluting dumpsites, the lack of allowable new sites to accept the old barrels would thwart success.

Because of local opposition to new sites, many states are considering legislation to empower the state to override local land use authority to approve a new hazardous waste landfill. Michigan's Public Act 64, supported by the Michigan Association of Counties, establishes a site approval committee comprised of five governor-appointed members and four positions filled by county and municipal representatives from the identified jurisdiction. A contrary example is in North Carolina where the Association of County Commissioners recently approved a resolution opposing state preemption of local land use laws to locate a hazardous waste facility.

Chris Beck, newly appointed EPA official in charge of water and waste programs, recently stated, "The public must realize that the products they consume produce the wastes they deplore. They must realize that regulated disposal facilities are the only alternative to unregulated Love Canals."

NACo ACTION

At the NACo annual conference in July, the membership approved policy calling for an inventory of hazardous waste dumps, an abandoned site response and liability fund, a national trust fund to provide long-term care for new disposal sites, and research and development of technologies to neutralize, destroy or repress the wastes to reduce the need for disposal sites.

In the next few months NACo will convene a task force to study the county role in hazardous waste management. The product of the meeting will be a handbook for distribution to county officials.

—Alan Magan

NACo Testifies on Local Conservation

Two Senate committees this month considered proposals which would greatly expand the role of local governments in achieving energy conservation.

Appearing for NACo before the Senate Energy subcommittee on conservation and supply was Edwin G. Richards, administrator from Caroline County, Md.

Under discussion was a bill introduced by Sen. Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.), known as the Community Energy Efficiency Act, S. 1829. The bill provides for grants totaling \$5 billion over the next five years to

counties and cities for planning and capital investments directed at energy conservation and renewable resource development.

Funds received under the first part of the bill—community energy action grants—are to be used to develop a work plan which must include activities such as community out-reach and information dissemination, and assistance to low-income persons. Once substantial progress is made on these items, the recipient can then apply for advance planning grants.

The work plan under this section must include the following: an energy emergency contingency plan, a capital budget for energy projects and plans for adopting ordinances which facilitate the use of renewable energy systems.

THE SECOND part of the program would be a community energy efficiency investment grant program. Under this section, counties could apply for capital funds to invest in conservation and renewable technologies such as solar, low-head hydro, cogeneration and weatherization.

In addition, the proposal would also establish a local energy reference center to serve as a data bank and clearinghouse for information on locally based energy conservation and renewable resource development. The proposal would also provide grants to local governments for preparing and distributing information on measures they have undertaken to conserve energy or promote renewable resource use.

In the statement delivered by Richards, NACo expressed strong support for the concept of the proposal, specifically commending that aspect which preserved the ability of local governments to determine how best to use available resources to meet national conservation goals.

A similar point was made the following day by former NACo associate director Robert C. Weaver during his appearance before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs. This committee is considering a proposal which seeks to accomplish essentially the same

purpose as the Energy subcommittee proposal but through a slightly different approach. Under the proposal, introduced by Sen. Harrison Williams (D-N.J.), the local energy conservation program would operate as an amendment to the community development block grant program.

During the congressional recess, staff of both committees, with input from NACo and other local government public interest groups, will be developing a combined proposal which will be scheduled for hearings early in the next session.

—Mark Croke

Preservation Funds

The Secretary of Interior has announced the availability of \$2 million in discretionary funds for historic preservation.

Local governments must apply for these funds through their state historic preservation officer, and states must co-sponsor the projects. According to a Department of Interior official, projects do not need to have been included on a state's annual work program.

Applications must be received by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service by Feb. 15.

The funds will be awarded on a 50 percent matching basis to exemplary historic preservation projects evaluated on the basis of the following priorities:

• Category 1 includes projects to preserve historic districts associated

with the nation's minorities, native Americans, ethnic populations, and distinct social groups that have maintained historically a clearly identifiable cultural heritage;

• Category 2 includes projects to preserve urban and/or community life through developing and/or implementing energy producing systems in historic buildings or districts.

Grants are available for surveying, planning, acquisition and development. Grants for acquisition and development must involve properties or districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The time period for grant applications is extremely short. If your county is interested in competing for these funds, contact your state historic preservation officer today.



ENERGY CONSERVATION—NACo representatives, Edwin G. Richards, left, of Caroline County, Md. and Robert C. Weaver, testified before Senate panels on the way counties could work with the federal government to conserve energy.

Summit's Elderly Population to Shift

SUMMIT COUNTY, Ohio—In the next 10 years over 75 percent of the growth in the county's elderly population will probably be outside the city of Akron, where most services are now concentrated.

This is a major finding of a comprehensive needs assessment that was recently completed by the Summit County Planning Department and researchers in NACo's Aging Project (NACoR).

The needs assessment included 10 year projections of the elderly population broken down by census tracts and municipalities. Methodology for the subcounty projections has been developed by NACoR staff to allow counties to obtain a rough estimate of where in a county the elderly will probably be located in the next 10 or 20 years.

Another major facet of the analysis is an assessment of major needs in the community based on interviews with key planners and service providers and review of existing plans.

Ten areas are investigated: health, income and employment, housing, transportation, nutrition, crime and safety, protective and legal services, social services, activities (cultural and leisure) and "access" services.

Access services include information and referral systems, case management systems, etc.

COOPERATION PRAISED

"All of the commissioners are extremely pleased and proud of the cooperation displayed by all the agencies that were contacted for this needs assessment," says Mark T. Ravenscraft, president of the Summit County Board of Commissioners.

Ravenscraft has played a pivotal role not only in encouraging long-range planning but in seeking to develop a "campus for the elderly" where housing, health facilities, day care, and many other services would be located.

Ravenscraft describes the campus as a visible "anchor" and "access point" for an entire continuum of services of the elderly.

To help develop this continuum Ravenscraft actively pursued funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The county is one of 12

finalists that may receive a grant.

Commissioners John R. Morgan and Ted E. Cole have lent their support to Ravenscraft's efforts.

"There's a lot happening for the elderly in Summit County which people have failed to see because there's been no bricks and mortar yet," Morgan observed to a number of county, city, and private sector officials who met to discuss the findings of the needs analysis.

CHARTER WILL HELP

Potentially one of the most significant developments is the November passage of a county charter, the first to be approved in Ohio. The charter could allow the county more flexibility and strength to meet the needs of the future elderly population, which will be dispersed throughout the county much more than at present.

Although projection of income levels were not undertaken, 1970 census data indicates that Akron has about 58 percent of the county's poor elderly. Yet financial assistance to the elderly poor is four times higher in Akron than in the rest of the county. Home health services serve almost exclusively Akron elderly.

The county commissioners have helped establish the Summit Seniors Team (SST) which will continue to develop needs analyses and plans for the elderly. The SST includes representatives of Akron University, private service agencies, county departments and is coordinated by Tom Maze, a county employee.

In the months ahead, the SST will work to develop long-range priorities as it also works to develop a campus and perhaps begin those services envisioned in the proposal to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Summit is one of five counties participating in a NACoR long-range planning for the elderly project. The others are: Contra Costa County, Calif.; Lee County, Miss.; Plymouth County, Iowa; and Rensselaer County, N.Y. The project is being funded by the federal Administration on Aging.

For more information, contact the Aging Program at NACo.

—Phil Jones, NACoR

Comments Asked on Regs for Older Indians Program

The Administration on Aging has published proposed regulations for a new program of services for older Indians, authorized by Title VI of the Older Americans Act. The notice appeared in the Dec. 5 *Federal Register*.

Title VI, which covers grants to Indian tribal organizations for social and nutrition needs, was added to the Older Americans Act when the law was amended in 1978. Its addition is described in the preamble to the regulations as being "in large part, the result of congressional response to initiatives by several national Indian organizations who were spurred by the inequities older Indians were experiencing in the lack of services being received under the OAA."

Title VI, as implemented through the proposed regulations, will provide grants to tribal organizations to respond to the unique needs of the older Indians they serve, without the many restraints that are part of the state and community service pro-

gram for the non-Indian older population.

Counties with significant Indian populations may be especially interested in responding to the regulations. Deadline for comment is Feb. 4.

There will also be a series of regional hearings to solicit comments on the proposed rules. They will take place between mid-January and Feb. 4. Regions, locations and contact persons are: I, Buffalo, N.Y., Eleanor Morris, 212/264-4592; IV, Atlanta, Ga., Frank Nicholson, 404/221-5900; V, Minneapolis, Minn., Marian Miller, 312/353-3141; VI, Oklahoma City, Okla., Harold Gelson, 214/767-2971; VIII, Billings, Mont., Clint Hess, 303/837-2951; IX, Phoenix, Ariz., and San Francisco, Calif., Jack McCarthy, 415/556-6003; and X, Seattle, Wash. and Anchorage, Alaska, Chisato Kawabori, 206/442-5341.

County officials who testify or submit written comments are urged to send copies of their responses to NACo's Aging Program.

Science Policies: V

While phrases like science and technology and research and development are creeping more frequently into our vernacular, many people would be hard pressed to explain exactly what they mean. County officials still might well ask: "What does science and technology have to do with local government?"

The fact is, the federal government spends more than \$30 billion a year on research and development, or R&D. Most of this goes either for defense purposes or for private sector activities, the assumption being that we need to maintain our competitive edge worldwide—both militarily and economically.

Surprisingly, however, little of this goes for public sector R&D, and even less is specifically set aside for local government. Furthermore, some local government R&D programs at the federal level are currently undergoing budget cuts at a time when few local governments can afford to maintain their own R&D programs.

This article attempts to outline the trends and recent developments in intergovernmental science programs and to explain the issues involved in making research results and new technologies available to and useful for local governments.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ADVISORS

One of the reasons the funding support for locally oriented research and development is not overwhelming is because the federal govern-

ment does not sufficiently understand local problems and does not see its primary role as one of helping to solve local problems. Congress perceived this mood in 1976, anyway, when it passed Science Policy Act creating an advisory group of state and local officials in the Executive Office of the President to review federal R&D activities and their application to state and local problems.

The group, called the Intergovernmental Science, Engineering and Technology Advisory Panel (ISETAP), boasts such members as NACo President Frank Francois, councilman, Prince George's County, Md.; San Diego County (Calif.) Administrator Cliff Graves; and Dade County (Fla.) Commissioner Harvey Ruvin.

ISETAP members have devoted much time and effort to studying local problems and assessing the potential of R&D for producing better solutions to those problems. It is anticipated that ISETAP's efforts will begin to pay off in the 1981 budget figures for research.

According to Francois, "The results of R&D or science and technology can have a much more beneficial effect on local governments than we have seen thus far. R&D can produce new and useful technologies for more effective fire fighting equipment, for example, and more efficient management tools."

"It is important to make sure the federal government understands the priority problems which



Scott County (Minn.) Commissioner Bill Koniarski, left, chairman of NACo's Science and Technology Task Force, discusses the problems confronting county government with Paul Brockman, manager of intergovernmental affairs at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The NACo task force has just released its report on county problems so that federal research activities can focus on the most pressing ones.

Network Funds Cut Despite Su

In spite of increased attention to intergovernmental science activities and programs, the National Science Foundation's local government program underwent a budget cut this year.

NACo President Frank Francois expressed regret about the cutback at a recent meeting of members of the President's science advisory group, the Intergovernmental Science, Engineering and Technology Advisory Panel (ISETAP).

"NSF's local government program has produced significant results for participating counties and cities in the past few years. It is a shame that the program is being jeopardized," he said, "at the very time when tighter budgets are requiring improved and more efficient local government."

NSF's program has established a series of statewide, regional and national networks of local governments around the country, called innovation groups, to develop, adapt or locate new knowledge and technologies for participating local governments. Francois' jurisdiction, Prince George's County, Md., has been actively involved with one of those networks.

RECORD OF SUCCESSES

Examples of improved techniques made available through the networks are refuse collection route models, techniques for reducing vandalism, advanced financial management procedures, master fire prevention planning, street maintenance,

and revenue and expenditure forecasting tools.

In Alabama, for instance, a local government network introduced methods allowing better collection of tax data and more accurate reporting which enabled 85 percent of Alabama's counties to receive a more equitable allocation of revenue sharing dollars.

Through a network in the Pacific Northwest, it was discovered that the cost of operating and maintaining fleet vehicles for police, parks, public works, and motor pools could be reduced when a newly developed piece of equipment was attached to each vehicle's transmission. Cowlitz County, Wash. now expects to save \$5,800 annually from reduced fuel through the use of this equipment. Cottage Grove, Ore. reports that their police vehicles have increased their gas mileage by 12 percent.

"The National Science Foundation has done as much as any other federal agency to help coordinate federal R&D activities for local governments," says NACo Executive Director Bernie Hillenbrand. "It's networks are available in almost every federal region to help disseminate and adapt research results of the federal agencies to local governments. And it's supported the efforts of federally funded laboratories which are attempting to make their technologies accessible to local governments."

A special ISETAP task force passed a reso-

need to be addressed by local governments in order to maximize the benefits received from federal research.

Francois and County members of a special ISETAP task force are now examining the entire science system to see what it can do better.

The task force will look at programs affecting local government by federal departments and the ways research results can be used by local communities. The Department of Urban Development is conducting research in areas ranging from community development to economic development.

Many agencies and organizations provide technical assistance arms of research, but also serve as a bridge between the federal systems are the National Science Foundation (NSF) innovation groups, the culture's extension service program, the Department of the Interior's project, the Office of Management and the Economic Development Administration.

"Intergovernmental science programs have become better integrated into the federal government's science system. He notes, for instance, that groups are evolving into a more coordinated effort, assembling the 10 federal agencies."

ISETAP has been working to bring R&D priorities into the local government to better coordinate the activities and programs.

ISETAP influence has been growing, also. The Administration is active in the middle of the response to problems that limited resources and highest priority areas. Aging also used ISETAP research agenda.

PRESIDENT ISETAP has been President Carter, who has and has professed a

passed a resolution noting with concern that made in NSF's local government program.

According to the investments have been made in networks. They are jeopardized at a critical by a reduction in the government program be expanding and even improve technology continued.

The convening group recommended that its local government year's program. The allocating funds were NSF program areas executive director, recently being an budget ever, it may for reallocating funds several officials. The recommended that its local government.

"We need to ensure institutional mechanisms assisting local government about more efficient of doing things."

He added that help jurisdictions improve service productivity.

What They Mean for Counties

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE

County Problems Eyed

Early in 1978, NACo established a Science and Technology Task Force consisting of county policymakers and administrators. Chaired by Commissioner Bill Koniarski of Scott County, Minn., this group has been providing guidance for NACo's effort to identify the problems of counties that could be addressed by re-directing federal attention and R&D activities toward them. For instance, one area of high priority to the task force is communications—specifically, county government communication with the public, and intergovernmental communication.

A complete analysis of the most significant problems confronting county governments can be found in the report "Priority Problem Areas and R&D Needs of County Government,"

which is the culmination of a year-long study by NACo's County Research and Innovation Sharing Project. Following review by members of NACo's Science and Technology Task Force, the report will be submitted to federal policymakers and funding sources, such as ISETAP and those agencies supporting R&D activities. For copies, contact the NACo County Research and Innovation Sharing Project.

Other activities of the County Research and Innovation Sharing Project help counties link up with institutions such as universities and laboratories conducting federally funded research aimed at local governments, and other mechanisms for providing counties with new and effective solutions resulting from R&D.

agencies funding the labs are free to cut the budgets of labs whose work with local governments is perceived as unrelated to agency missions and objectives.

Rep. Brown also co-chaired hearings with Rep. Allen Ertel (D-Pa.) in Harrisburg, Pa. in September which reinforced the need for stronger coordination between science and technology at the federal and local levels.

LEGISLATIVE PROSPECTS

As a result of all these hearings, legislation has been introduced to help boost the capacity of local governments to apply research results and to adapt new technologies to their needs.

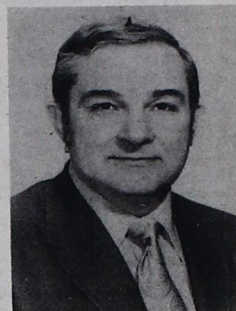
Brown has introduced, for example, the National Science and Technology Innovation Act, H.R. 4672, which would establish an organization in the Department of Commerce for funding applied research, and would include the science and technology programs for state and local governments currently housed at the National Science Foundation (NSF). The bill also directs NSF to modify its heretofore largely basic research orientation and further to foster the application of science and technology to the national economy and welfare.

It is expected that members of the science, research and technology subcommittee will be introducing more legislation in this session of Congress. One bill in the works, for example, would help ensure that tax dollars being put into warfare and defense technologies come up with "second-level" uses by local governments, among other things. The proposed Domestic Technology Transfer Act of 1980 would have each federally funded laboratory in this country (above a certain minimum level of funding) commit a part of its resources toward transferring technologies to state and local governments. It would also set up a resource center for the labs to serve as a centralized source of technical assistance for outside users such as cities, counties, and state governments.

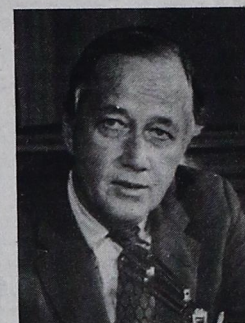
Sen. Charles Mathias (R-Md.) has announced his plans to hold hearings on those issues covered by the House hearings which should culminate in Senate legislation similar to that proposed in the House.

Mathias is also sponsoring a Technology Exposition to promote the use by local governments of innovative techniques produced through federal R&D. The exposition, which will be held in Baltimore, Md., is being planned for March.

A Senate version of the House bill on science and technology innovation has been introduced by Sen. Adlai Stevenson (D-Ill.). The bill, S. 1250, is more industry-oriented than the House version and does not focus as much attention on state and local governments. That bill is the result of three days of hearings last year by the Senate subcommittee on science and technology.



Brown



Mathias

in R&D-related matters. He proposed the largest R&D budget to date for fiscal '80.

In a science message sent to Congress earlier this year, Carter said that he expected the needs of state and local governments to be addressed through the budget he had proposed for R&D, noting that few state and local governments alone can support the R&D needed to mount a broad-scale effort at problem-solving.

Also in that message—the first presidential science message to Congress since Nixon, and the first unsolicited science message ever—Carter said that he was directing ISETAP to increase its efforts in planning technical assistance and R&D for problem-solving.

Francois says he is "hopeful" that funds for intergovernmental science will increase this fiscal year. Although the congressional appropriations process for 1980 is over, it is hard to tell how R&D has fared, overall, not to mention intergovernmental R&D programs, since no one committee has jurisdiction over them. The figures are hidden in the appropriations for a number of agencies which are overseen by many different committees and subcommittees.

Francois anticipates that as the views and needs of local government officials get relayed to their congressmen and show what the federal research effort can do to improve state and local governments, congressional support for local government R&D-related funds will expand.

CONGRESSIONAL CONCERNS

In addition to the annual appropriations process, Congress has been devoting more attention to improving the intergovernmental science system as evidenced by activities in certain committees.

The House subcommittee on science, research and technology, chaired by Rep. George Brown Jr. (D-Calif.), has held a number of hearings in the past year on the role of federal R&D in assisting local governments.

In August, the subcommittee released a special oversight report based on a series of hearings held during the last session of Congress, one of which was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The hearings, which featured testimony from local officials, federal officials, and the research community, noted that "he who pay the piper calls the tune," meaning that local governments often end up with research results reflecting only federal perceptions of research priorities.

It was also pointed out at the hearings that local officials, aware of their communities' particular needs, would like to have solutions custom-engineered to fit conditions in their jurisdictions. Federal officials, on the other hand, tend to think of research agendas as fitting "average" counties and cities. This problem could be

overcome, it was noted in the recommendations in the report *The Role of Federally Funded R&D in Assisting Local Government*, through the activities of local "networks." Such networks are designed to adapt research and technology to the problems of the local governments they work with. They also monitor research in progress to help identify potential solutions to local problems.

HEARINGS

Since the most recent Congress has been in session, three different sets of hearings have been held on the transfer of useful techniques and technologies from federal programs to the local level.

Last March, a field hearing in Connecticut, co-chaired by Reps. Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) and Brown, centered around technical assistance programs of a number of federal agencies. The event, held in conjunction with a regional conference, attracted over 250 state and local officials. Although it was widely recognized at the hearings that science and technology have much to offer local governments, it was discovered that a number of obstacles serve to discourage an effective intergovernmental science system. At the hearings, Dodd quoted from a letter from a constituent which sums up the problem:

"We are spending between \$20 and \$30 billion a year for R&D programs. It seems to me that this research and those programs that could be beneficial should reach back to the local governments to help them provide services at a lower, or at least a stabilized, cost. Technology transfer provides a vehicle to do this if we can tap it more successfully. We need a 'window on technology' where we could start to route people in the proper direction to find what they need."

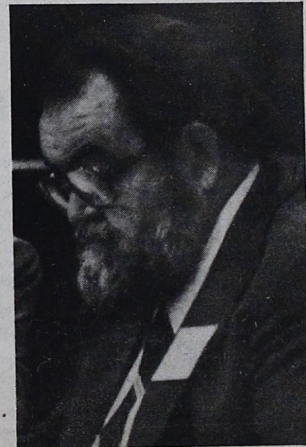
The term "technology transfer" was used in the hearings to refer to the transfer of federal R&D results to the local level.

In June, hearings co-chaired by Reps. Wes Watkins (D-Okla.) and Brown focused specifically on R&D activities being conducted in laboratories operated around the country by the various federal agencies and departments. About 20 percent of all federal labs are part of the Federal Laboratory Consortium, which makes its personnel, information, equipment, facilities and technologies available to help local governments.

While testimony praised the laboratory consortium's work, it also brought out the fact that there are problems which limit assistance to local governments. Officials pointed out that a congressional mandate or presidential directive directed at labs could strengthen ties with local governments. Currently, the federal



NACo President Frank Francoi, councilman, Prince George's County, Md. at right, and Cliff Graves, San Diego, Calif. above, pass a resolution condemning the National Science Foundation's local government program budget cut at a recent meeting of a special task force of the President's intergovernmental science advisory group.



This special report was prepared by Sally Rood.

Minnesota Youth Plant Trees, Save Resources

Unemployed youths from seven counties in Minnesota are gaining valuable experience through conservation and environmental projects funded under the federal Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC).

Forestry in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area is the responsibility of the Hennepin County Department of CETA Services. During the past 15 months, YACC workers have been involved in constructing two greenhouses, planting trees in low-income housing projects, and thinning timber stands.

A major project was the planting of some 550 trees in six low-income housing projects. YACC participants also planted 330 trees and more than 500 yards of shrub hedges at three water-treatment plants and six lift stations. At a nursery on government land, they maintained 10,000 trees and built two greenhouses and a solar collector for the heating of the greenhouses.

The Twin Cities Tree Trust, a non-profit organization which operates the YACC project for Hennepin County, was awarded a grant from the Minnesota Energy Agency to construct a solar-heated greenhouse for growing trees to plant in the metro area. Program officials said YACC participation put these youths in the forefront of energy consciousness, and, no doubt, the skills they learn in this solar-heating project will give them many options in finding jobs with a future.

PROGRAM MECHANICS

The mechanics of YACC funding are intricate. Federal money granted to each state is indexed according to the number of unemployed persons in each state compared with all states. Once Minnesota's share was determined, the money was made available to the governor. Hennepin

County submitted a proposal for a nonresidential, urban reforestation program.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources contracted with Hennepin County for one-third of the state allocation. Hennepin County then subcontracted with its major youth employment-services vendor, the Twin Cities Tree Trust, to

provide supervision and training for corps members.

From July 1978 to July 1979, the grant for 50 enrollees was \$300,000: \$235,000 in wages, \$20,000 in support costs, and \$45,000 for supervision, tools, materials, vehicles and other administrative costs.

The YACC urban-forest training program consists of 200 hours on

topics ranging from tree physiology, soils and tree pathology to first-aid, fire-fighting and chainsaw safety and maintenance. Seventy percent of the enrollees passed the state certification as tree inspectors.

Besides learning opportunities, the program prepares YACC workers for future employment in urban reforestation. Because trees in the Twin Cities are suffering from Dutch elm disease and oak wilt, the replanting of the metro area's urban forest is of great importance and new employment opportunities have opened up.

AGENCY COOPERATION

Another instance of interagency coordination and corps resourcefulness was the construction of a floating wildlife-observation boardwalk in the city of St. Louis Park which contains one of the few wildlife habitats in the first-ring suburbs of Minneapolis. St. Louis Park provided the materials for the boardwalk and YACC employees constructed and installed it. The observation decks allow city dwellers and suburbanites to view wildlife in its natural environment without having to travel long distances.

In addition, last summer, corps

members assisted in the supervision of young people during the 10-week Hennepin County Summer Youth Employment Program. The program employed 760 youngsters who worked in 13 Hennepin County suburbs. YACC employees supervised bridge and trail building, erosion-control projects, tree nursery maintenance work, playground equipment construction and other projects. The program gave employees the opportunity to supervise groups of 10 to 30 young people, experience that will help them when they look for employment in the private sector.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

After consultation with state and local officials, YACC grants may be awarded to any unit of general local government, any public agency or organization, or any private non-profit agency or organization in existence for at least two years. Interested parties should contact the nearest Job Service/Employment Service Office, their governor's office or the Office of Job Corps/YACC, Office of Youth Programs, Employment and Training Administration, 601 D Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20213.



YACC participants employed by the Twin Cities Tree Trust in the Hennepin County program participate in an ice harvesting operation. The ice is used in bare root tree storage. The Twin Cities Tree Trust operates reforestation programs in the Hennepin County (Minn.) area.

Chautauqua Use of CETA Reduces Assistance Rolls

In the face of rising welfare costs, tighter budgets and growing unemployment, Chautauqua County, N.Y., has come up with an innovative program that has reduced its welfare caseloads by 15 percent, provided jobs and saved the taxpayer money.

According to County Executive Joseph Gerace, the "Chautauqua Plan" combines the efforts of the county's CETA and welfare departments and offers welfare recipients the training needed to land a job.

In its early stages the plan ran into several obstacles. Because of privacy laws, the county's Office of Employment and Training was prevented from examining the welfare rolls to find people they could help. Only those who voluntarily came looking for job assistance could take advantage of CETA services.

Determined to find a solution, county officials weeded through rules and regulations and stumbled on a little-known provision in the welfare law, requiring work-eligible clients to use manpower services when available. In a matter of days, the Social Service Office under the direction of Commissioner Charles Fiorella, sent letters to those eligible asking them to report to a

CETA office or face possible changes in their current welfare benefits.

A welfare employment program staff was built with counselors and directors from both departments working under a coordinator. Also involved in the program were Andrew Tangalos, CETA director, and Bonnie Star, CETA administrator.

Welfare clients who appeared were considered for the full range of CETA services, including public service employment. For those not ready to work in the private sector, classroom training to improve skills and on-the-job training for those with strong educational and work backgrounds were provided.

"In many cases the experience of going to work regularly and earning a paycheck was new and satisfying," said Gerace.

In other cases, adjustment to the world of work came more slowly. Since April 1978, more than 200 clients have had their cases closed for failure to accept CETA services, have quit CETA jobs or have been fired. Less than 10 percent of these have reapplied for welfare benefits, said Gerace.

It would be impossible to guess how many persons have not applied for welfare because of the "Chautauqua Plan," but it's probably a substantial number, noted the county executive. Moreover, the majority of welfare clients enrolled in CETA have been moving ahead toward financial independence and in a number of cases have left subsidized housing to become homeowners in the community.

"We've spent a total of \$4.5 million for Aid to Families with Dependent Children and home relief through August 1979. For the same period 1978 we spent \$4.8 million, a savings of some \$323,000 for eight months. If these figures hold for the rest of the year, we anticipate a gross savings of \$650,000," said Gerace.

For more information on the program, contact Joseph Gerace, County Executive, County Office Building, Mayville, N.Y. 14757.

COMMENTS DUE JAN. 11

LEAA Grant Guidelines Issued

Draft guidelines for the national priority and discretionary grant programs for fiscal '80 were published by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration in the Dec. 12 *Federal Register*. The period for commenting on the guidelines lasts only 30 days, ending Jan. 11.

Fifteen programs are listed under the new national priority grant program, some of which do not have funding available in fiscal '80. The significance of these programs reaches beyond their potential for direct financial assistance, however. In fiscal '81 a 50-50 match will be required. To be able to use LEAA formula grant funds for the state or local share, the programs must be in areas designated as priorities in the fiscal '81 application.

The major criteria for designating national priority programs were that they have been evaluated and found to be effective, have broad impact and are of high priority.

The programs are: career criminal prosecution, anti-fencing (Sting), Free Venture Prison Industries, treatment alternatives to street crime (TASC), treatment and rehabilitation for addicted prisoners (TRAP), correctional standards and accreditation, court delay reduction, fundamental court improvement, juror utilization and management, integrated criminal apprehension program (ICAP), managing criminal investigations, family violence, prosecutor's management information system (PROMIS), comprehensive data systems (CDS), and serious juvenile offenders.

The discretionary grant program is

similar to the one LEAA has been running for many years. There are 35 programs, some of which duplicate the national priority programs and others for which there are no new fiscal '80 funds.

Programs for which funding or other forms of assistance are available are: white collar and organized crime, corrections standards implementation, community service restitution, jail overcrowding and pretrial detainee, fundamental court improvement, courts training and technical assistance, police management training, hazardous devices training, evaluation technical assistance, integrated police and prosecution witness assistance, national victim/witness

planning and coordination, community anti-crime, financial and grants management training, state level information systems, civil rights, law enforcement information and communications systems, state and local crime reporting systems, computer/white collar crime, privacy and security, alternative education for juveniles, rural separation of youths from adult jails, capacity building, juvenile delinquency prevention, and juvenile delinquency prevention research and development.

For further information or a copy of the guidelines, please contact Jan Frohman, NACo Criminal Justice Team, 202/785-9577.

HUD Environmental Regs Under Review

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is seeking comments on an interim rule to consolidate all present HUD-wide environmental review requirements into a single document, convert these requirements into *Federal Register* format and provide for implementation of departmental procedures required under the "National Environmental Policy Act Regulations."

Comments are specifically solicited on the need for applying flexible threshold principles to the "early start" procedures.

The proposed rule, in allowing for an "early start" on the first segment

of a housing project requiring an environmental impact statement (EIS), limits the size of the segment to 200 units in all cases. The thresholds for EISs vary with the density and population of project areas.

HUD wants to know whether the "early start" provisions should also follow a sliding scale or be limited to 200 units.

The interim rule, Procedures for Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality; Department wide Environmental Procedures, appeared in the Nov. 27 *Federal Register* pp. 67906-67924, and became effective Dec. 27. The comment period ends Jan. 25.

Send comments, with a copy to Joan Paschal at NACo, to Rules Docket Clerk, Office of General Counsel, Room 5218, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20410. Include your name and address, refer to docket number (R-79-744) and give reasons for recommendations.

For further information contact Richard H. Brown, Office of Environmental Quality, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20410, 202/755-6300.

Matter and Measure



DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

During January the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will conduct two Region 15 demonstration projects. Demonstration Project No. 38, Air Quality Model Calibration will be held Jan. 9 and 10 at the State of Alabama Highway Department in Montgomery and Jan. 21 and 22 at the Tennessee Department of Transportation in Nashville. For more information on the State of Alabama Highway Department's demonstration project, contact Lela Williams at 205/832-5250. For more information on the Tennessee DOT demonstration project, contact Ben Smith at 615/741-3653.

CONSUMER PROGRAM COMMENTS

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is soliciting comment on a draft consumer program. The program was published in the Dec. 10 *Federal Register*, with a request for public comment. For a copy, contact Chuck Hubbard at NACo.

The proposed consumer program stems from an executive order requiring federal agencies to review and revise their operating procedures to ensure that consumer needs and interests are adequately addressed. The executive order specifically requires each agency program to include provisions for oversight, a consumer perspective within the agency, consumer participation, development of informational materials for consumer education and training for agency staff, and systematic procedures for complaint handling.

Comments must be received by March 10. Address comments to Division of Consumer Affairs, I-39, 400 Seventh St. S.W., Room 9402, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590.

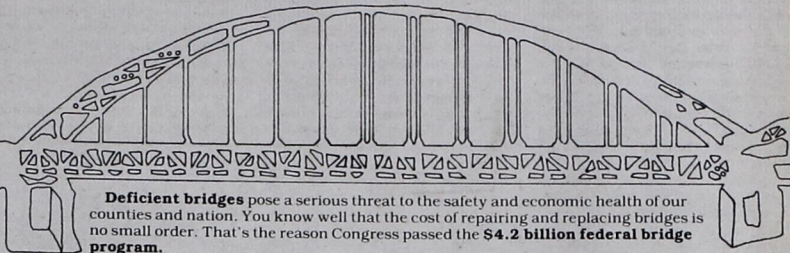
WORKSHOPS ON ASPHALT EMULSIONS

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Asphalt Institute are sponsoring a series of training workshops on the use of asphalt emulsions in highway construction and maintenance. Workshops will cover successful methods of using emulsified asphalts and are directed toward federal, state and local government personnel. The following is a schedule for January and February workshops and a contact for information. Schedules of future workshops will appear in this column.

Asphalt Emulsion Workshops

Place	Date	Person to Contact
Dover, Del.	Jan. 7-9	Leo Eckmann 201/676-3838
Greenbelt, Md.	Jan. 8-9	Junie Tinder 804/353-3825
Boise, Idaho	Jan. 15-17	Bob Campbell 406/442-9100
Nashville, Tenn.	Jan. 15-17	A. B. Webb 205/264-3588 J. B. Wile 615/741-4751
Colorado Springs, Colo.	Jan. 22-24	Bud Brakey 303/238-3411 Ray Overfield 303/757-9622
Harrisburg, Pa.	Jan. 29-31	Carl Loubold 717/545-4713 Jim Molthrop 717/787-4720
Jackson, Miss.	Jan. 29-31	Duane Edge 601/981-3417 Ben Morgan 601/354-6594
Montgomery, Ala.	Jan. 29-31	A. B. Webb 205/264-3588 Lela Williams 205/832-5250
Salt Lake City, Utah	Feb. 5-7	Bud Brakey 303/238-3411
Los Angeles area	Feb. 26-27	Bob Sandwick 213/427-7985
Salem, Ore.	Feb. 26-28	Gus Beuker 503/292-8421

Help for Your Bridges Is on the Way



Deficient bridges pose a serious threat to the safety and economic health of our counties and nation. You know well that the cost of repairing and replacing bridges is no small order. That's the reason Congress passed the \$4.2 billion federal bridge program.

To make sure that counties get their fair share of these funds, NACo, through its research arm, NACoR, and the National Association of County Engineers, are sponsoring a series of regional meetings to bring you up-to-date on provisions of the program. We will address such topics as:

- Funds available for county projects
- Inventory and inspection procedures
- Bridge ratings
- Project selection
- Regulations on design standards and consultant agreements
- Historic preservation

The meetings are based on Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regions. You must attend the meeting in the FHWA region that includes your state since the meeting will be designed for that region.

MEETING TIMES

Meetings begin the first day at 1:30 p.m., following a get-acquainted buffet luncheon beginning at 11:30 a.m., and run from 8:30 to noon the second day.

REGISTRATION

Your pre-registration fee of \$25 covers buffet luncheon, costs involved in a cash-bar reception, coffee and soda breaks, and a packet containing the latest information on the bridge program and technical resources. If you do not pre-register, an on-site fee of \$30 will be charged. To pre-register, complete the form below and return to Marlene Glassman at NACoR.

HOUSING

To secure hotel accommodations, make your own reservations directly with the hotel. Be sure to indicate you will attend the NACoR bridge meeting to take advantage of special room rates for NACoR's block of rooms.

FHWA Region 8

(Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming)

Denver, Colorado
Jan. 10-11

The Plaza Cosmopolitan
1780 Broadway
Denver, Colo. 80202
303/861-9000

FHWA Region 4

(Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee)

Atlanta, Ga.
Jan. 31-Feb. 1

Ladha Continental
100 Tent Street N.W.
Atlanta, Ga. 30309
800/241-5513 (toll free)
404/892-6800 (Georgia residents)
Housing room block deadline: Jan. 24

FHWA Region 9

(Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada)

Burlingame (San Francisco), Calif.
Jan. 24-25

Hyatt-Burlingame Hotel
1333 Old Bay Shore Highway
Burlingame, Calif. 94010
415/342-7741
Housing room block deadline: Jan. 10

FHWA Region 6

(Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas)

Dallas, Texas
Feb. 14-15

Hyatt Regency at Reunion
300 Reunion Blvd.
Dallas, Texas 75207
214/651-1234
Housing room block deadline: Jan. 24

MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Return this form to NACoR no later than ten days prior to your region's meeting.

Pre-registration: \$25

On-site registration: \$30

Name	(Last)	(First)
Title	County	
Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone ()		

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$25 made payable to NACoR
I will attend the following regional meeting:

- ☐ FHWA Region 8
☐ FHWA Region 9
☐ FHWA Region 4
☐ FHWA Region 6

For office use only:

Check No.
Date Received

RETURN THIS FORM TO: Marlene Glassman
NACoR
1735 New York Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

For more information, contact Marlene at NACoR: 202/785-9577

List Provides Easy Access to Proposed Regs

As part of the Administration's efforts to improve the regulatory process and strengthen public participation in rulemaking, the U.S. Regulatory Council has published its second "Calendar of Federal Regulations." The calendar contains 129 major regulations under development in 25 federal agencies.

Organized in six areas, the calendar contains 44 regulations in the en-

ergy, environment and natural resources area; 4 in finance and banking, 36 in the health and safety area; 9 in human resources; 13 in trade and commerce and 23 in transportation and communication.

While not all-inclusive, the calendar should prove an easy-to-read locator for major regulations being considered, the alternative considerations and when they will take effect.

The calendar also provides a contact person within the agency, initial estimates of the possible cost impacts of the alternatives, and a list of those sectors affected by the rules, i.e., state and local governments, businesses or private citizens.

The information on alternatives under discussion can be useful to local policy makers and should be care-

fully reviewed to ensure that federal agency staff has carefully weighted all possible approaches. The section which deals with affected sectors can be helpful, but more importantly can point out agency misunderstanding of the full scope of local and state government activities. For example, many regulations which affect county governments are not listed as such in the calendar.

In addition to information on proposed rules, the calendar lists a number of important regulations which the agencies have determined are in need of review. This review process is required by President Carter's Executive Order 12044, directing that federal agencies develop a schedule to review regulations to the clarity, effectiveness and paperwork burden to the public. The calendar is an outgrowth of this order to bring more common sense to rulemaking.

In related action, the President has sent a bill to Congress to make further reforms in the regulatory process. That bill, S. 755, has undergone hearings, but no action has been taken. NACo anticipates that the second session of the 96th Congress will focus on the many concerns of regulatory reform, including the much publicized legislative veto approach which would empower Congress to approve government regulations on an up or down vote.

Rally for Revenue Sharing!

March 2-5

Washington
Hilton Hotel

NACo's Legislative Conference

The highlight of NACo's Legislative Conference this year will be a Rally for General Revenue Sharing Renewal. You can't afford to miss this important conference where your voice for Revenue Sharing will be heard.

Counties stand behind the General Revenue Sharing program. This will be visibly and vocally demonstrated to both Congress and the Administration. Your attendance at the NACo Legislative Conference is vital to passage of revenue sharing legislation this year.

The Legislative Conference will also feature:

- Key congressional and Administration speakers who will assess the impact of inflation and bills to limit federal spending on many programs important to counties.
- Workshops on upcoming legislation.
- Meetings of all steering committees and many affiliates. Steering committees will meet Sunday, March 2 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; affiliates will meet mornings, Sunday, March 2 and Wednesday, March 5.

Productivity Seminar Set

Taxpayers are demanding the government at all levels do a better job. Consequently, counties have been eyeing ways to boost productivity. How can your county establish a productivity program? Learn from fellow officials in Dade County, Fla. who are seeing the results of the program.

The Exchange program at NACo will sponsor a productivity improvement seminar in Miami, Fla., Jan. 28. Funded by a grant from the General Office of Personnel Management and hosted by Dade County, the seminar will acquaint county officials with the innovative productivity improvement program that has been established in Dade County Office of Management and Budget.

The Productivity Improvement Peer Seminar (PIPS) will commence the evening of Jan. 27, with an informal reception for seminar participants, Dade County officials, speakers, and NACo staff.

On Monday, Jan. 28, Irving Shapiro, grants specialist from the Office of Personnel Management, will brief participants on ways OPM can assist county governments in improving productivity. Participants will then meet with representatives of Price Waterhouse and Co., a firm which assisted Dade County in designing its productivity improvement program. The Price Waterhouse representatives will describe the mechanics of the program and will provide more general guidelines for establishing a productivity improvement program within county government.

After lunch, the seminar participants will meet with Merrett Steinhilber, county manager, Richard Slocum, director of the productivity improvement program, and county financial officers to discuss the program more fully, with emphasis on the problems that were encountered during implementation. The seminar will end around 4 p.m.

NACo encourages county officials to attend the seminar. Registration will be limited to 50 participants on a "first come-first served" basis. A nominal registration fee of \$15 will be charged to cover the costs of seminar materials and lunch. Participants will be housed at the Hyatt Intercontinental and will be responsible for their air fare, hotel and any other expenses.

If you wish to attend the seminar, please contact Martharose F. Ladd at NACo, 202/785-9577.

General Information

Delegates to NACo's 1980 Legislative Conference can both preregister for the conference and reserve hotel space by completing the forms at right and returning them to NACo, 1735 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Conference

Conference registration fees must accompany this form before hotel reservations will be processed. Enclose check, official county purchase order or equivalent. No conference registration will be made by phone. Refunds of the registration fee will be made if cancellation is necessary provided that written notice is postmarked no later than Feb. 15.

Housing

Special conference rates at the Washington Hilton Hotel will be guaranteed to all delegates whose reservations are postmarked by Jan. 31. After that date, available housing will be assigned on a first come basis.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Conference registration fees:

\$125 member, \$145 county official from non-member county, \$175 others, \$60 spouse
(Make payable to NACo)

Please print:

Name _____

County _____

Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Telephone (area code) _____

Name of Registered Spouse _____

For Office Use Only _____

Check Number _____

Check Amount _____

Date Received _____ Date Postmarked _____

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Indicate preference by circling the type of room (lowest rate possible will be reserved unless otherwise requested):

☐ SINGLE

\$46 52 58 64 70

☐ DOUBLE

\$62 68 74 80 86

Note: Suite information from Conference Registration Center 703/471-6180

Name of Individual _____

Co-occupant if Double _____

*Arrival Date/Time _____

Departure Date/Time _____

Special Hotel Requests _____

Credit Card Name _____

Credit Card Number _____

Signature _____

☐ Check here if you have a housing-related disability.

*Rooms must be guaranteed by credit card or by sending one night's deposit to the address below:

NACo, 1735 New York Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.