Just as the Nation enters an era of multi-faceted crises -- in energy, in transportation, in food production, in employment and economic stability -- it also appears to be departing the era of sound, long-term planning and investment in programs to utilize this vast Nation's God-given natural resources to meet emerging new needs. (Harry N. Cook of Washington, D.C., executive vice president of the National Waterways, May 16)

NWRA PRESIDENT ADDRESSES NATIONAL WATER CONFERENCE

"IN DEVISING WATER RESOURCE programs and projects to support agricultural and other policies, we can anticipate conflicts -- both direct and indirect. Reconciling those conflicts is a key to adequate action for water resource development or management." So said J. R. Barkley, President of the National Water Resources Association, at the National Conference on Water, Washington, D.C., April 23rd.

Barkley, in support of a water development program for food and fiber production, recommended the following:

- Proceed with broad State water planning and with studies tied closely to the availability of land and water resources of the individual states.
- Recognize that planning is not an end in itself. Plans, if viable, should become the guides to needed developments and management programs.
- Encourage the Governors to determine the patterns they desire for their respective states in ways that are compatible with regional or basin-wide needs and in furtherance of national goals ... because of the lead-time required for water developments and the useful life of developed structures, our water policies must look forward to the needs of upcoming generations.
- Carefully examine which policy constraints are working against other national goals and, further, determine the seriousness of their cumulative effect.
"Comprehensive evaluation demands new guidelines for water and land planners. In preparing them, executive consultation with both the Congress and with the State Governments is absolutely essential," Barkley concluded. (emphasis supplied)

NWRA TAKES POSITION ON RETURN FLOWS

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the National Water Resources Association, meeting in Washington, D.C. on April 21, adopted the recommendations of a task force chaired by Henry Vancik, Washington State, on irrigation return flows under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (PL 92-500). The recommendations as adopted include the following:

- That NWRA formally request EPA to amend present regulations so that irrigation return flows are treated as agriculture runoff under PL 92-500 and not as point sources subject to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits.

- That NWRA formally advise EPA of the willingness of its membership to provide assistance in such amendatory process as may be established.

- That NWRA initiate such actions as may be necessary to facilitate Congressional hearings to obtain clarification or amendment of PL 92-500 so that irrigation return flows are treated as non-point sources.

ENERGY PRODUCTION MAY INCREASE COST OF WATER

WATER VALUE in the Upper Colorado River Basin, which is used mostly for agriculture, will be substantially increased with energy development and could push thousands of farm acres out of production, according to a report presented at a meeting of the Utah Section of the American Water Resources Association by John E. Keith, Jay C. Andersen and B. D. Gardner, all on the professor's staff at Utah State University.

The report estimated water requirements by 1985 between 700,000 and 2.3 million acre-feet per year for coal gasification and liquefaction,
coal-fired power plants, oil shale, coal-slurry lines, nuclear power and oil refining projects.

"Clearly, there will be an impetus to transfer water rights from irrigation to energy uses. It can easily be seen that a diminution of agricultural activity based on gravity flow irrigation is to be expected," the report said.

"A diversion of about 1.5 million acre-feet may be necessary for cooling purposes in energy production alone. If the use of water for energy production turns out to be consumptive use, at least 150,000 and possibly up to 400,000 acres are likely to go out of agricultural production."

But, the report stated, only about half of that acreage reduction might occur if energy return flows are reallocated. "In either case, agriculture can be expected to decline in regional economic importance as a result of energy development." (Rocky Mountain News, May 27)

RIGHTS FOR OIL SHALE WATER SOUGHT

GULF OIL CORPORATION AND STANDARD OIL of Indiana, partners in the oil shale production venture in the Piceance Basin in northwestern Colorado, have asked the Division 5 Water Court in Glenwood Springs for approval of changes in points of diversion of water which has been the subject of extensive litigation.

The companies have a contract with Rocky Mountain Power Company of Denver to purchase senior conditional water rights held on the headwaters of the South Fork of the White River. The water in question has been the subject of litigation between the Rocky Mountain Power Company and the Colorado River Water Conservation District.

Also at issue to date are questions whether the Meadows site on the upper waters of the South Fork, proposed for storage by the Rocky Mountain Power Company, or the White River Canyon site to be located downstream,
proposed by the Colorado River Water Conservation District, will or will not be included in the proposed Flat Tops Wilderness Area.

Gulf and Standard propose to store water under rights purchased from Rocky Mountain Power Company in the proposed Yellow Creek Reservoir for mining, industrial, oil processing, domestic and municipal, irrigation, power, fish and wildlife, and recreational uses. Rights involved in the application for changes in points of diversion include: Meadows Reservoir, 77,395 acre-feet; Meadows Reservoir, first enlargement, 21,391 acre-feet; Patterson Creek diversion pipeline, 160 second-feet; Wagon Wheel Creek diversion pipeline, 100 second-feet; Plateau Tunnel and enlargement, 260 second-feet from the South Fork of the White River; Buck Creek Reservoir, 1,293 acre-feet, and Buck Creek diversion canal, 50 second-feet.

The conditional decrees involved have a priority date of December 18, 1957, and an appropriation date of September 7, 1957 for power generation, domestic, irrigation, manufacturing, and other beneficial purposes.

WEATHER MODIFICATION A SUCCESS

WEATHER MODIFICATION has proved to be the most economical way to augment the flow of the Colorado River, according to Gilbert G. Stamm, commissioner of reclamation, at a press conference in Grand Junction on May 23.

Stamm said that water produced by weather modification costs approximately $2.50 an acre-foot, of which $1.00 is for environmental protection purposes. "However, we are finding no adverse environmental effects," Stamm said.

John Maletic, Bureau of Reclamation chief of the water quality control, who was present at the conference, commented "weather modification will have a positive effect on the Colorado River regardless of where they use it because the flow of the river and its salinity are highly correlated, as the higher the flow, the lower the salinity."
HIGH COURT DENIES HEARING ON WATER CASE

U. S. SUPREME COURT denied a petition for a hearing on a ruling of the Colorado Supreme Court which reversed an opinion of the Water Court in Greeley which ruled in the case of Kuiper, et al v. Lundvall that the Ground Water Management Act is unconstitutional. The Colorado Supreme Court ruled there was no unconstitutional delegation of judicial functions and that the powers granted to the State Engineer and the Colorado Ground Water Commission to grant or refuse well permits are not unconstitutional.

The lawsuit began when the State Engineer denied an application for a permit for an additional well on the Lundvall lands in the Central Yuma County Ground Water Management District.

United States Supreme Court in 74-1308 dismissed an appeal on the case for want of jurisdiction. "Treating the papers whereon the appeal was taken as a petition for a writ of certiorari, certiorari is denied," the court said.

The appeal for a hearing by the U.S. High Court was filed by Lundvall through his attorney David Miller of Greeley.

ITEMS IN BRIEF

Clarence Kuiper, state engineer, in an interview with the Colorado Water Congress, reported on these items relative to the activities of his office:

- A contract has been negotiated with the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) through the U.S. Soil Conservation Service for a snow cover study on the headwaters of the Rio Grande in southern Colorado. The purpose of the study is to develop a more accurate method of forecasting run-off in the basin, especially where curtailment of diversion may be required to comply with the Rio Grande Compact.
- The U.S. Geological Survey has approved a contract with the State Engineer's office for a study and evaluation of geothermal waters. The project will involve gathering background and logging pertinent data. $82,875 was granted to the State Engineer's office to complete the project.

- The State Engineer's office is conducting a study on flowing springs in the Piceance Drainage under a $66,000 grant by the U.S. Geological Survey. The project will include extensive geohydrological studies.

- Bruce De Brine has been promoted by the Office of the State Engineer to replace Harlan Erker, chief of Ground Water Management, who recently resigned to accept employment with the Zorich Engineering Company in Denver. De Brine holds a Ph.D. in ground water hydrology from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

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The Colorado Wildlife Commission has become one of the first such agencies in the country to endorse the Ecological Planning and Evaluation Procedures, a systematic method for evaluating water and land habitat on federally developed water resource projects.

Prepared by the Joint Federal-State-Private Conservation Organization Committee, the Procedures provide a base for planning for ecological resources and for evaluating the net effects of water development projects on those resources.

The procedures recognize two equal objectives in water resources. Planning-economic development or the need to increase goods and production of goods and service; and environmental quality or the enhancement and protection of the environment. Water resource projects will be evaluated in terms of those objectives.

* * * * *
The Colorado Wildlife Commission has unanimously approved the naming of that part of the Pueblo Reservoir managed for wildlife as the "Carl R. Welsh Wildlife Area" in honor of the late Carl Welsh, Division of Wildlife southeast regional manager who was killed in a helicopter crash in Colorado Springs May 14th.

Welsh served with the Division for 33 years. He was riding as an observer in a Colorado Springs police helicopter covering a disturbance at a school when the helicopter crashed killing both Welsh and the police pilot.

MORE ON GROUP TRAVEL TO NWRA CONVENTION

Approximately 50 responses were received to the inquiry in the April 1 Newsletter regarding group travel to the NWRA convention in Honolulu November 9-14. We are awaiting information from the travel agency with respect to any fare reduction applicable to that number. You will be notified via the next Newsletter.

Water Congress members, relatives and friends who may wish to see more of the State of Hawaii in conjunction with NWRA Convention attendance will be interested to know of an invitation to join an 11-day, four-island tour negotiated by the Utah Water Users Association. The price of $129 plus $15.26 tax per person includes air fare, hotels (twin bed occupancy), seven meals, hotel gratuities, and escort by a qualified tour director. The tour will leave Denver and Salt Lake City on Monday, November 3, via Western Airlines 707 jet and arrive back on Friday November 14. A few copies of a brochure on this expanded tour are available in the Water Congress office. For complete information contact:

Beehive Tours and Travel Agency
1325 South Main Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115
Telephone (801) 487-1731

Reservations should be made immediately and finalized by a deposit of $50.00 per person prior to September 1st.

VETERAN WATER ENGINEER DIES

Harry L. Potts, a 30-year veteran of the Denver Water Department, died on May 3 in Valley-Hi Nursing Home in Denver following a heart attack. He was 88 at the time of his death. Potts was recognized as an authority on the study of tree rings to determine high and low water run-off cycles, and
he developed charts on the South Platte basin dating back to 1346 A.D. He determined that ten-year drought cycles occur in the Upper South Platte area four times each century, with the next one due about 1976.

COMING EVENTS

Western States Water Council, Stapleton Plaza, Denver, July 24-25.

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