

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE

February 24, 1993 Hearing Room D 1:30 p.m. Tapes 30 - 31

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Bob Repine, Chair Rep. Marilyn Dell Rep. Sam Dominy Rep. Bill Fisher Rep. Carl Hosticka Rep. Dennis Luke Rep. Bill Markham Rep. Nancy Peterson Rep. Ray Baum

STAFF PRESENT: Kathryn Van Natta, Committee Administrator Karen McCormac, Committee Clerk

MEASURES CONSIDERED: Informational Meeting - Wood Stove Air Quality Issues

WITNESSES: MERLYN HOUGH, DEQ THOMAS SPENCER, Klamath County Health Services

Administrator ALLEN WILLIS, Boise Cascade Corporation TIM NISSEN, Oregon Hearth Products Association BRUCE ANDERSON, Oregon Hearth Products Association

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These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes. [--- Unable To Translate Graphic ---]

TAPE 30, SIDE A

005 CHAIR REPINE: Calls meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

019 MERLYN HOUGH, DEQ: Presents written testimony (EXHIBIT A) and slide show regarding wood stoves and PM10. Introduces Thomas Spencer, Health

Services Administrator for Klamath County. Klamath County has worked with DEQ to resolve PM10 air quality problems.

036 CHAIR REPINE: Requests definition of PM10.

038 HOUGH: PM10 is particulate matter which is ten microns or smaller in size. These smaller particles pose a greater health concern because

they can go deeper into the recesses of the lungs. Resumes testimony.

143 REP. BAUM: Are state health standards dictated by federal laws

and regulations?

148 HOUGH: Our health standards regarding PM10 are identical to federal standards. State standards must be at least as stringent as federal

standards.

161 REP. BAUM: Will federal agencies mandate stricter standards as current standards are attained?

165 HOUGH: The PM10 standard has not been targeted for further tightening. The most controversial standard nationwide is ozone. Continues testimony.

209 REP. PETERSON: Requests definition of "decline in lung function."

213 THOMAS SPENCER, Health Services Administrator, Klamath County: It is a measurement of the quantity of air which can be held in and expelled out of the lungs.

225 REP. DOMINY: How does this test differentiate between PM10 and the effects of auto emissions?

232 HOUGH: There are methods of chemical fingerprinting to identify the source. For instance, dust is mostly silica, aluminum and iron, whereas woodsmoke is very high in organic carbon.

277 REP. LUKE: With better home insulation and better built wood stoves, how can PM10 get into homes?

280 HOUGH: Indoor air quality remains a concern. A certain amount of smoke still enters homes during stove reloading.

313 SPENCER: We studied children through the woodburning season, and tested the overall effects of all the air they were exposed to. We did not

have the funds to conduct follow-up studies to determine long-term effects.

343 REP. FISHER: Are these the same particulates as those found in campfires? Were our forefathers also exposed to these dangers?

345 HOUGH: Yes, but the sheer increase in the population increases health problems due to woodsmoke. And the newer airtight wood stoves produce

heavier carbon emissions.

390 REP. BAUM: Is there digression within EPA law regarding usage of wood stoves as an alternative source of heat if the primary source is

disrupted?

395 HOUGH: A few winters ago, Medford had a problem with natural gas availability, and the Jackson County Health Department suspended

the

curtailment program.

405 SPENCER: In Klamath County, our ordinance includes exemptions for citizens for whom woodheating is their sole source of heat or for whom

an alternative source of heat would produce a financial hardship.

TAPE 31, SIDE A

007 HOUGH: Resumes testimony.

084 CHAIR REPINE: Are the oil overcharge settlement funds still being collected, and is all of it being used in the wood stove replacement

program?

088 HOUGH: We are expecting additional money from the settlement. This money is only a percentage from that source.

094 SPENCER: Klamath Falls received \$400,000.

098 HOUGH: The Department of Justice determines which uses are eligible under the court settlement, and the Department of Energy is involved

with coordinating the various requests and priorities.

104 REP. LUKE: Requests explanation of wood stove replacement program.

107 HOUGH: This program is targeted at low-income households in which the sole source of heat is woodstoves. The program pays almost all costs to replace an existing wood stove with a different heat source and

weatherization.

121 SPENCER: Explains procedures in Klamath County.

130 HOUGH: Continues testimony.

198 REP. FISHER: How long has Oregon been testing air pollution?

199 HOUGH: We have measured particulate levels since the late 1960s. PM10 has been measured since the mid-1980s.

270 REP. BAUM: Requests explanation of compliance with EPA standards.

277 HOUGH: To attain compliance, we need three years of data showing compliance, and a maintenance plan showing intent to stay within the

standard over the next ten years. The three year average helps determine whether the weather affects the results. We are encouraged

that we will meet the Clean Air Act deadlines by the end of 1994. It will be more difficult to ensure that we stay within the standards for the ten year period.

305 REP. MARKHAM: Asks whether weather directly affects pollution.

306 HOUGH: Yes. It is most difficult to maintain compliance during a stagnant winter.

329 SPENCER: An integral part of our curtailment and control program is the weather. Every day we make two forecasts based on several parameters,

and every day we determine whether citizens can burn.

342 REP. HOSTICKA: Is it true that during cloudy days, there is less pollution?

349 HOUGH: That is generally correct. Extended dry periods can contribute to air stagnation buildup.

367 CHAIR REPINE: Requests definition of "alert days."

371 HOUGH: We still have provisions for the alerts, which signal an immediate harm to the population. "Yellow" and "red" days help to

prevent a violation of health standards. If we violate standards, an alert may be triggered. We have not had an alert in Medford since December 1985.

402 REP. FISHER: At what levels is the air measured? How many monitors are there per square mile?

403 HOUGH: We generally monitor air at approximately ten feet above the ground. In the Medford area, we have about half a dozen monitors. In

Klamath Falls, there is a particulate monitoring site and a carbon monoxide monitoring site.

TAPE 30, SIDE B

040 SPENCER: One of the anomalies associated with PM10 is that it seeks the lowest geographic elevation.

048 REP. FISHER: If one or two areas exceed the standards, is the entire region branded?

050 HOUGH: We do look for the peak sites. The philosophy of air monitoring is to be able to measure the maximum concentrations of pollution. For

carbon monoxide, it's an eight-hour standard, for particulates, a

twenty-four hour standard.

065 SPENCER: One of the difficulties in measuring air pollution is that it is ambient.

071 REP. DELL: I understand that we have three times the amount of emissions from motor vehicles as we do from wood stoves. Is the wood

stove replacement program limited only to areas in which there are pollution problems?

079 HOUGH: There are more harmful emissions from motor vehicles and slash-burning than wood stoves. Due to limited funds, the Wood Stove

Assistance Program is only in targeted areas. During this session, there are bills which would make a statewide program available.

105 REP. DELL: Do any programs try to tie real estate transactions into incentives to replace older wood stoves?

116 HOUGH: Those programs are only for low-income sole source wood stove users. However, there are local and statewide requirements banning the

installation of used wood stoves. Also, if we fail to meet deadlines by the end of 1994, existing uncertified wood stoves must be destroyed as a condition of a home sale. Resumes testimony.

150 CHAIR REPINE: Over the last twenty years, more homes are constructed without a fireplace. Because of this, will the wood stove problem

eventually be eliminated?

170 HOUGH: My perception is that wood stove alcoves and gas-powered wood stoves are replacing traditional fireplaces. In the Medford area, there has been a gradual decrease in both wood stoves and fireplaces.

195 REP. HOSTICKA: You've discussed the high availability of firewood in eastern Oregon. What about western Oregon?

197 HOUGH: They are expecting a decline in western Oregon for a number of reasons.

200 REP. HOSTICKA: Has there been public education regarding firewood usage, such as seasoned wood, etc.?

205 SPENCER: As part of our local ordinance, we hold the seller responsible for selling wood which meets a certain standard.

231 REP. LUKE: Do pellet stoves produce the same particulates as wood stoves?

233 HOUGH: Pellet stoves are generally ninety percent cleaner than uncertified wood stoves. They are exempt from curtailment.

262 REP. PETERSON: You mentioned that the wood stove replacement rate is only about two percent rather than the anticipated five percent. In the Medford area, has public education about wood stoves decreased usage?

267 HOUGH: The two percent is a statewide figure. I believe it is higher than two percent in the Medford area due to those other efforts.

278 SPENCER: In our community, during the heavy burning season we receive between 30,000 to 40,000 calls each month from citizens inquiring about the type of day. These callers want to comply with the program.

310 CHAIR REPINE: Is air quality measured daily in the Medford area?

311 HOUGH: Daily samples are collected during October through March, which is when the higher concentrations occur. During the rest of the year,

samples are taken every sixth day. Our monitoring is consistent with federal monitoring procedures.

Concludes testimony. 373 ALLEN WILLIS, Boise Cascade Corporation: Supports the continuation of wood stove replacement program.

TAPE 31, SIDE B

047 TIM NISSEN, Oregon Hearth Products Association: Presents written testimony (EXHIBIT B) in support of wood stove usage.

123 BRUCE ANDERSON, Oregon Hearth Products Association: It would be helpful to see the impact which new legislation has had on the PM10 problem to

lend a more accurate perspective. It would also be interesting to see how many wood stoves were replaced under the rebate system, instead of just the loan program.

148 CHAIR REPINE: Requests DEQ representatives to provide the committee with information requested by witness.

162 REP. LUKE: Are there bills coming before the committee on this subject?

166 KATHRYN VAN NATTA, Committee Administrator: There is one committee bill which was introduced on February 15th. When the bill is printed, the

bill number will be HB 3513. The LC draft number is 3214. Announces agenda for Full Committee meeting on February 25.

202 CHAIR REPINE: Adjourns meeting at 3:07 p.m.

Submitted by:

Reviewed by:

Karen McCormac  
Administrator

Kathryn Van Natta Assistant

EXHIBIT LOG:

A - Wood Stove Air Quality Issues Testimony - Merlyn Hough - 22  
pages A-1 - Informational Material - 12 pages B - Wood Stove Air  
Quality Issues Testimony - Tim Nissen - 7 pages B-1 - Informational  
Material - 64 pages