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OREGON STATE SANITARY  
AUTHORITY MEETING  
MATERIALS



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

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MINUTES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> MEETING  
of the  
Oregon State Sanitary Authority  
June 1, 1967

The 116<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Oregon State Sanitary Authority was called to order by Governor Tom McCall at 2:30 p.m., June 1, 1967, in Room 6, State Capitol, Salem, Oregon. The members present were Governor Tom McCall, Chairman; Chris Wheeler, Dr. C. A. Jenike, B. A. McPhillips, Joseph Smith and Edward C. Harms, Jr., Members; Kenneth H. Spies, Secretary; John O. Denman, Legal Advisor; Dr. Warren C. Westgarth, Laboratory Director; Lloyd O. Cox, Assistant Sanitary Engineer; and Glen Carter, Aquatic Biologist. Mr. Herman Meierjurgan was unable to attend because of a prior appointment.

The Chairman stated that the purpose of this meeting was the final adoption of standards of quality for public waters of Oregon. He said that twelve hearings had been held by the Sanitary Authority on water quality throughout the State since October 1966. On May 23 the Board met for final adoption of these standards, but because of additional testimony which was introduced at that time, the decision to delay the adoption of the standards was made in order to consider the new testimony. The Secretary was then called upon to state what changes had been made.

The Secretary stated that in rule 11-908, Highest and Best Practicable Treatment and Control Required, this section originally required the best, highest and most practicable treatment where a higher standard can be achieved. The clause "where a higher standard can be achieved" has been eliminated and the words "highest or lowest desirable levels" have been changed to "highest or lowest possible levels."

The next change is in rule 11-015, Maintenance of Standards of Quality, subsection 2 which did read "At its discretion, the State Sanitary Authority may require chlorination or equally efficient disinfection of sewage and waste treatment plant effluents wherever and whenever the discharge of unchlorinated effluents shall or may affect the quality of water used for public or domestic water supplies, irrigation, shellfish growing areas, or swimming and recreational areas." This subsection has been changed to read "All sewage shall receive a minimum of secondary treatment or equivalent (equal to at least 85% removal of 5-day biochemical oxygen demand and suspended solids) and shall be effectively disinfected before being discharged into any public waters of the State." The Secretary said that this spells out clearly what the minimum degree of treatment shall be for domestic or municipal sewage.

On page 5, rule 11-016, General Water Quality Standards, subsection 1, previously read "No wastes shall be discharged and no activities shall be conducted which either alone or in combination with other wastes or activities will cause in any waters of the State: (1) The dissolved oxygen content of surface waters to be less than five (5) milligrams per liter unless specified otherwise by special standard." This has been changed to six (6) milligrams per liter.

On page 6, a new paragraph has been added at the request of the fisheries people which reads "Any measurable increase in temperature when the receiving water temperatures are 64° F. or above, or more than 2° F. increase when receiving water temperatures are 62° F. or less."

Mr. Wheeler asked what is meant by "measurable."

Mr. McPhillips said it was his impression this would mean taking the temperature of the stream at a reasonable distance above and below the outfall.

The Secretary referred the members to the wording on page 22 which reads "Any significant increase above natural background temperatures, or water temperatures to be altered to a degree which creates or can reasonably be expected to create an adverse effect on fish or other aquatic life." This is approaching it in a different manner, using words instead of specific values.

Mr. Denman asked if it couldn't be based on "unless otherwise approved by the Sanitary Authority" as is done in many cases.

Mr. Wheeler said that "measurable" means anything which can actually be measured with any temperature measuring device that is standard and in use.

Mr. Harms stated that a great deal of difficulty would be encountered going to court with a case in which the increase is insignificant; for example, one-tenth of a degree. He did not think that this poses a particular problem from a legal standpoint. It is his belief that the term "measurable" is satisfactory.

The Chairman said that if this is the common language that appears in such standards and is accepted by attorneys and people who are familiar with them, it is his belief the wording should stand as stated.

The Secretary then said the next change appears on page 8, rule 11-023 Special Water Quality Standards for Public Waters of the Main Stem Klamath River. At the suggestion of the State Game Commission, the station has been moved upstream approximately nine miles to Keno Regulating Dam.

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The next change reported by the Secretary is on page 21, rule 11-100, Water Quality Standards for the Marine and Estuarine Waters of Oregon. The dissolved oxygen standard for estuarine waters has been increased from five milligrams per liter to six milligrams per liter.

The final changes are on Table A, page 23, Salmonid Fish Rearing has been added as a beneficial use to the lower Willamette from the mouth to Willamette Falls, including Multnomah Channel. Navigation has been added as a beneficial use for the Columbia River, Willamette River three lower zones and for Marine and Estuarine Waters.

It was MOVED by Mr. Harms and seconded by Mr. McPhillips that the Standards of Quality for Public Waters of Oregon as set forth in the document handed to the Secretary marked Exhibit A, which is the same as those copies with the changes that have been presented to the Authority, be approved as Administrative Rules of the Authority and be filed with the Secretary of State.

The Chairman then said there would be discussion on the Standards, but that it would be limited to questions and answers between members of the Sanitary Authority and their staff.

Mr. Smith said that on page 8, paragraph 2, where the coliform standards go as high as 2400 per 100 ml, he was under the impression there had been some criticism about getting coliform bacteria standards as high as that, that he was somewhat familiar with the situation in the Klamath River and he questioned permitting a standard as high as 2400.

The Secretary stated that in the Klamath basin there is a terrific load of coliform bacteria from wildlife because there are thousands and thousands of birds in that basin. He said they can contribute more coliform bacteria than humans. He said there may also be a large contribution of coliform bacteria from return irrigation water which drains from the land. He said that Oregon has never had a specific standard for MPN but that the State Board of Health has used as a goal the figure of 240 for years. He further stated that the U. S. Public Health Service, although it has made studies for years regarding the significance of the coliform or MPN test, has never been able to get enough factual data together from its epidemiological studies to justify its recommending an MPN standard for recreational waters.

Mr. Smith said that he is concerned about the variances between one body of water and another. He asked what standards the Federal Government is suggesting for coliform count.

The Secretary said he had contacted the Federal people and they have no set standards.

Mr. McPhillips asked what the state of Washington is proposing for standards in the Columbia River.

The Secretary said the state of Washington has proposed the same standards as the state of Oregon, that the MPN be 240 down to the Interstate Bridge and 1000 from the Interstate Bridge to the mouth of the Columbia River.

The Secretary said there is one more point that should be brought out and that is the temperature requirement for the Columbia River. Oregon's proposal sets a standard of a maximum of 68° F. which would be 20° C. and the state of Washington is setting a maximum of 18½° C. Whether or not the Secretary of the Department of Interior will consider these compatible remains to be seen.

Mr. McPhillips asked if there were information available regarding the increase in the temperature caused by the Hanford plant.

Dr. Westgarth said this is something that has never really been proven.

The Chairman asked from the enforcement standpoint if the temperature gets above 68°, say 73°, what the penalty for exceeding this set standard would be.

The Secretary replied that the main significance of this set standard is when a proposal might be submitted for a nuclear power plant where there would be an extremely large heat load to be dissipated.

The Chairman then asked if there were any further comments, questions or clarification.

Mr. Harms said he would like to make one general comment and that is that these standards are based upon the best general scientific knowledge available at this time and that because of time limitations, budgetary limitations, and many other things, they are based upon general scientific knowledge, rather than specific application in every case. He said that these standards will undoubtedly require additional adjustments as time goes on, as knowledge, technology and our experience in applying them is enlarged and improved. Mr. Harms said that this is a starting point and in the future it is hoped that these standards may even be upgraded.

The motion made by Mr. Harms was then approved by the members.

It was MOVED by Mr. Harms, seconded by Mr. Wheeler, and carried that the Implementation and Enforcement Plan submitted by the staff as Exhibit B be adopted as a policy of the Sanitary Authority.



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Mr. Denman said that there is an emergency clause on Exhibit A stating that the standards go into effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

The Chairman then stated that several offers had been made from the Professional Engineers of Oregon to assist in enforcement problems. The Secretary was asked to make a note of this and to thank the Professional Engineers of Oregon for the offer of this assistance.

The next meeting date was set for July 10, 1967.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kenneth H. Spies*

Kenneth H. Spies, Secretary