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JOINT NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE
ON THE
COMPREHENSIVE WATER STUDY

Report to Members of the
Second Session of the Sixty-seventh General Assembly

State of Iowa
1978

1977 REPORT

JOINT NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE COMPREHENSIVE WATER STUDY

The Subcommittee was authorized by the Legislative Council after a request by the standing Committees on Natural Resources of the House and Senate meeting jointly during the special session recommended a study of the progress of the state water plan and of water policies and problems in the state. The Subcommittee's membership includes:

Senator Berl Priebe,
Co-chairperson
Representative James Middleswart,
Co-chairperson
Senator Irwin Bergman
Senator Louis Culver
Senator Lowell Junkins
Senator Elizabeth Miller
Representative Ned Chiodo
Representative Roger Halvorson
Representative Carroll Perkins
Representative Andrew Varley

The Subcommittee held its first meeting on November 7, 1977 and received testimony from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Iowa Natural Resources Council (INRC). The testimony of and discussion with DEQ concerned its role in water planning and compliance with water quality standards. The testimony of and discussion with INRC reviewed the effect of the passage of House File 277 and its impact upon INRC's backlog of irrigation permits, the present capacity of INRC to process permits, the potential problems posed by the groundwater policies of adjoining states, and the prospects for persons who purchased irrigation permits in anticipation of receiving a permit.

At its second meeting with INRC, the Subcommittee continued its discussion of the backlog of irrigation permits and discussed changes desired by INRC in its flood plain regulatory authority. At that meeting the Subcommittee recommended the following:

1. The INRC should be appropriated funds sufficient to hire six additional hearing officers for a period of one year for the purpose of reducing INRC's backlog of permit applications.
2. Legislation should be drafted to authorize legislative studies of water policies and problems in conjunction with legislators of adjoining states.
3. The INRC should have the authority to abate structures erected on a flood plain without a permit. Such authority

would be limited to those structures which have been completed during the preceding year.

4. The penalty for withdrawing water without a required permit from INRC should be increased through the use of a civil penalty in addition to the criminal penalty.
5. The director of the INRC should have the authority to approve construction on a flood plain if the Council has an opportunity to review and call up the project for its decision and fails to do so.
These proposals have been submitted for drafting.

The Subcommittee intends to meet again at the call of the Co-chairpersons during the first week of the legislative session at which time it may consider the other legislative proposals of the INRC. Such proposals include establishing a charge for the consumptive use of water and eliminating some of the exemptions from registration. The subject of developing a priority of use for groundwater may also be considered.