

Federal Controls Satirized

Tractor Drivers Told to 'Watch Where They're Going'

By Ferdie J. Deering

The Federal Register has just published 14 pages of regulations, including four pages of diagrams and nine employee operating instructions, issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). All this is just to advise that all agricultural tractors manufactured after Oct. 25, 1976, must be equipped with Roll-Over Protective Structures (ROPS) and seat belts.

The rules are enough to make any free American cry, not because roll-over bars and seat belts are not good safety devices, but because our country has degenerated to the point that Congress authorizes bureaucrats to direct us in such details.

It must be assumed that the directions are intended for tractor manufacturers, rather than for owners, although instructions require employees to "securely fasten your seat belt if the tractor has a ROPS".

Technical details are given in language not ordinarily used by farmers and ranchers, who might not comprehend "static test procedures" and "dynamic test performance

requirements" either.

Directions also advise tractor drivers to watch where they are going. That is appropriate, since excessive regulations of this type will drive us straight into socialism, or dictatorship, when the federal government starts sending out national policemen to enforce agency regulations and rules.

If this were the only such nonsense coming out of Washington, we might survive, but it is only a sample. Latest outrage is a drive launched by the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers to extend its jurisdiction to include every lake, stream, stock pond, irrigation ditch and marsh in the nation.

A satiric dissertation by Rep. Andrew J. Hinson, R-Calif., which appeared in the Congressional Record, describes how things might have worked out if the world had started out with bureaucrats. Slightly condensed, it goes like this:

In the beginning, God created heaven and earth. He was then faced with a class action lawsuit for failing to file an environmental impact statement



with HEPA (Heavenly Environmental Protection Agency), an angelically-staffed agency dedicated to keeping the Universe pollution-free.

Upon completion of His construction permit application and environmental impact statement, the HEPA Council asked God why He began these projects. He simply replied that He liked to be creative.

HEPA was unable to see any practical use for Earth since it was "void and empty and darkness was upon the face of the deep." Then God said: "Let there be light!"

One member of the

Council who was active in the Sierrangel Club immediately asked: "How was the light to be made? Would there be strip mining? What about thermal pollution? Air pollution?" God explained the light would come from a huge ball of fire.

Nobody in the Council really understood this, but it was provisionally accepted assuming (1) there would be no smog or smoke resulting from the ball of fire; (2) a separate burning permit would be required; and (3) since continuous light would be a waste of energy, it should be dark at least one-half of the time.

So God agreed to divide light and darkness, and He would call the light Day and the darkness Night.

When God said: "Let there be firmament made amidst the waters; and let it divide the waters from the waters", the HEPA tabled action to allow Him to file for a permit from the ABLM (Angelic Bureau of Land Management), and obtain water permits.

The Council agreed to let the Earth bring forth

green herb, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after its kind, as long as native seeds would be used.

It appeared that everything was going in order until God stated He wanted to complete the project in six days. He was advised this was completely out of the question. HEPA would require a minimum of 180 days to review the application and environmental impact statement. Then there would be public hearings.

It would take 10 to 12 months before a permit would be granted. God said: "To hell with it!"

Spacing Requests

Spacing applications on the conservation docket of the corporation commission included:

CD 41,058: Marlin Oil Corp. to establish 640-acre spacing for the Morrow and Upper Morrow and to designate the No. B-5 Kennebec as the unit well in 8-3n-24eCm, Beaver County; hearing May 13.

CD 41,123: Payne, Inc., to establish 60-acre spacing for the Boock, Hartshorne and Gloreas by amending an order to include 23 and to declare the well in NW NE 1/4 of 23, to be the well for the NE of 23-7n-9e, Hughes County; hearing May 13.

CD 41,187: Ketsa Oil Producing Co. to establish 160-acre spacing for the Peru, Oswego, Prue, Upper and Lower Skinner, Red Fork and Mississippi in NW of 26-19n-5e, Payne County; hearing May 20.

CD 41,188: Ketsa Oil Producing Co. to establish 40-acre spacing for the Cleveland, Prue, Upper and Lower Skinner, Mississippi and Red Fork in NW 1/4 of 29, and 30 NW 1/4 of 29, the NW of 32, the NW of 29, the 1/2 and SW E 30 and the NW of 31-19n-2e, Payne County; hearing May 20.