



Gov. George Nigh



David L. Walters



Senator Henry Bellmon



Dr. Francis Tuttle

OK

Water

NEWS

*Questions about water development? The environment?  
Water quality? Economic issues facing Oklahoma?*

## Candidates, Congressmen, Feds Address Water and the Economy at October 28 Water Conference

Water development and its impact on economic development will be the center of attraction at the Seventh Annual Governor's Water Conference on October 28 in Oklahoma City. Consistent with the conference theme, "Water: the Lifeblood of Economic Development," a battery of experts will discuss the economic implications of water supplies and water quality.

Also scheduled to appear on the program are Oklahoma gubernatorial candidates Henry Bellmon and David Walters as well as members of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

The day-long conference will take place at the Lincoln Plaza Conference Center at 4445 North Lincoln Blvd.

After a welcome by Gerald E. Borelli, Chairman of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Robert K. Dawson, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, will kick off the conference with a discussion of federal water policy and its effect on the Oklahoma economy. Dawson supervises numerous civil works activities for the Corps of Engineers both nationally and overseas. In addition, he is a policy-maker in Corps water resource projects.

Following Dawson, Commissioner C. Dale Duvall of the Bureau of

Reclamation will give first-hand insight into the future direction of the Bureau. Duvall's background, which includes a four-year term as vice-president and treasurer of Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), gives him a unique view of water projects from both the private and public sectors. A CPA, Duvall directed all domestic and foreign financial activities for OPIC, a government-owned corporation which promotes private sector development in Third World countries.

Remarks by members of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation will occupy the next hour of the Conference. Scheduled to share the Washington, D.C. perspective are Senator Don Nickles and Congressmen Jim Jones and Mike Synar.

An Oklahoman with an historic career in education follows with a look at a weakening infrastructure. Dr. Francis Tuttle served as Director of the Oklahoma State Department of Vocational and Technical Education for 18 years, after which Governor Nigh appointed him to Director of the Department of Economic Development (now the Department of Commerce). Under Tuttle's leadership, Oklahoma built a system of area vocational-

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Joseph Haas



John M. Campbell



Joseph Farrell

*Conference, continued from page 1*

technical schools which now totals 24 districts on 41 campuses. He also helped create vocational programs in many state high schools. Tuttle has served as a consultant for industrial and economic development to the U.S. Department of Commerce and numerous states.

A perspective from the Environmental Protection Agency will be shared by John M. (Jack) Campbell, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Policy, Planning and Evaluation. His presentation, which closes out the morning program, will focus on a political see-saw: water quality versus economic development. Campbell's current position as well as his former post in the office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Budget and Administration, allows him to look at both sides of that controversial issue.

The Conference luncheon program will feature the presentation of a special award to Governor Nigh recognizing his support of Oklahoma water programs—especially State Question 581 which provided funding for local water and wastewater projects. The award, which will be presented by Water Board member Robert S. Kerr, Jr., will also demonstrate gratitude for the Governor's founding and support of the Conference since 1980.

As was the case at last year's Conference, Oklahoma Water Pioneer Awards will be presented by the Governor to recognize luminous careers in

state water resources. The 11 receiving awards at this year's Conference bring the total number of Water Pioneers to 34. The new nominees are Marvin Edmison, George Reid, Clarence Base, Jim Irwin, Spencer Bernard, Col. Francis W. "Babe" Wilson, James "Buster" Hight, Early R. Cass, Orville Saunders, A. A. Sewell and W. R. Holway.

Another feature of the luncheon program will be addresses by Oklahoma gubernatorial candidates Henry Bellmon and David Walters as they look at "Water and a Firmer Financial Future."

A performance by the Edmond High School Show Choir at 2:30 will set the stage for a discussion of federal water policy under the Reagan administration by Joseph Haas, Associate Chief of the USDA Soil Conservation Service. An agricultural engineer with 30 years experience, Haas brings to the Conference a distinguished background in conservation and management of soil and water resources. Before his appointment earlier this year as associate chief, Haas held numerous positions with SCS including deputy chief of technology, deputy chief of programs, deputy chief for natural resource projects and assistant administrator for water resources.

Joseph Farrell, President of the American Waterways Operators, Inc., will bring the Seventh Governor's Water Conference to an end with a discussion of cost-sharing, user fees and taxes imposed on the barge and towing industry. Farrell's credentials include 12 years in the U.S. Navy, Peace Corps Director in Honduras and, later, Director of Volunteer Selection. More recently, he served as senior vice-president of Pullman Power Products of Pennsylvania where he was responsible for international business and strategic planning.

The night preceding the meeting, a reception will welcome Conference speakers and guests. Advance registration will cost \$20 and includes the Early Bird Reception. Conference day registration will cost \$25.

For further information on the Seventh Annual Governor's Water Conference, contact Mary Whitlow or Brian Vance, OWRB conference coordinators, at (405) 271-2523.



**ADVANCE REGISTRATION**

Please clip and mail with \$20 check, money order or purchase order made payable to:

Governor's Water Conference  
Oklahoma Water Resources Board, P.O. Box 53585  
Oklahoma City, Okla. 73152

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend Monday's Early Bird Reception 6:30-7:30 p.m.

## October 27 Ceremony Marks Success of Tar Creek Project

Seven years ago, the Picher Mining area of northeastern Oklahoma became aware of a problem which could be best characterized as an ominous black cloud looming over the heads of its citizens. The acid mine water which spilled onto the surface at Tar Creek in 1979 posed a serious potential health threat—both to surface and underground water supplies—in that formerly productive mining region. But as work on the Tar Creek site concludes in late October, a ceremony held there will praise the remedial work done on the Superfund project as one of Oklahoma's great success stories.

On October 27, approximately 100 national and state officials, community leaders, Tar Creek Task Force members and construction workers will officially dedicate the project designed to put an end to deadly flows of acidic mine water.

OWRB Water Quality Chief Ron Jarman, who has supervised much of the effort as co-chairman of the Tar Creek Task Force, said that payment on the final construction phase has brought the total federal funding for the Tar Creek project to almost \$5 million.

"Due to the magnitude of the problem and the enormity of the project, Governor Nigh felt that it was very appropriate to organize a ceremony at the Tar Creek site which recognizes

the accomplishments made there," he said. "Also, the project serves as testimony to how federal and state governments and local organizations can cooperate to remedy a very serious problem."

Monies from EPA's Superfund teamed with efforts of both Oklahoma and Kansas to seal billions of gallons of acidic water in the mines—preventing it from contaminating surface water and the underlying Roubidoux Aquifer. The Roubidoux formation is an important source of drinking water for much of northeastern Oklahoma.

"In all, 83 wells were pinpointed as potential sources of contamination. But clearing and plugging these wells was an extremely difficult task because we had no previous experience to guide us. In fact, it was the first time something exactly like this has ever been attempted anywhere," Jarman pointed out.

A companion strategy was the construction of dams and dikes to channel surface storm flows away from points allowing access to the vast mine workings.

According to Jarman, the Tar Creek dedication ceremony will be attended by numerous luminaries including Gov. Nigh and Gov. John Carlin of Kansas. Among the many other state and federal officials planning to participate are Congressman Mike Synar,

OWRB Executive Director James Barnett, and Sen. William M. Schuelein, who first brought attention to the serious pollution problem at Tar Creek.

The final meeting of the seven-year-old Tar Creek Task Force will be held that morning in nearby Picher, Oklahoma.



### Permits Up for Review

In an ongoing effort to insure proper allocation of stream water in Oklahoma, the OWRB's Stream Water Division is preparing to mail out voluntary compliance requests to many state permit holders.

According to J. A. Wood, Stream Water Division chief, each permit is reviewed each year.

"Any portion of water which the permit holder does not use in accordance with permit specifications or laws regarding stream water use is released for appropriation to other applicants," he said.

Wood pointed out that on October 1 requests for voluntary compliance regarding non-use were mailed to water right holders in Stream Systems 2-6-1, 2-6-2 and 2-6-3. These sections represent the Canadian River from the mouth to the Texas state line, from east to west.

In late October and November wa-

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This circa 1935 photograph shows workers preparing ore for transport to the surface. Each such bucket had a capacity of one-half ton. Three hundred million tons of lead and zinc ore were mined from the Picher-Baxter Springs district between 1905 and 1970 when the Central Mill closed.



The Big John mineshaft with plug and seal in place. Old mineshafts and abandoned water wells were plugged with concrete and sealed to contain the acid water in the mine workings. Originally, experts proposed pumping the mine water to the surface, treating it, then discharging it into area streams. Further study proved that plan too costly as well as unnecessary.



*Mainstream, continued from page 3*

ter right holders in the following stream systems will be mailed compliance requests: 2-7, Deep Fork River; 2-8, Little River; 2-9-1, 2-9-2, 2-9-3 and 2-9-4, Cimarron River from mouth to the New Mexico state line;

2-10, Salt Fork of the Arkansas River; and 2-11, Chikaskia River.

Stream systems next up for review in early 1987 are 2-12, 2-13, 2-14, 2-15-1, 2-15-2 and 2-17, bringing the total number of permits due for review to 447.

"I would also like to remind permit holders with recent changes of address to notify the OWRB Stream Water Division by early November," he added. "This is to insure that annual water use cards for 1986 are mailed to the proper addresses and are received on time."

**ACTIVE CONSERVATION STORAGE IN SELECTED OKLAHOMA LAKES AND RESERVOIRS  
AS OF OCTOBER 6, 1986**

PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (AF)	PERCENT OF CAPACITY	PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (AF)	PERCENT OF CAPACITY
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>			<b>NORTHEAST</b>		
Atoka	102,840	82.8	Eucha	63,750	80.0
Broken Bow	863,387	94.0	Grand	1,491,800	100.0
Pine Creek	77,700	100.0	Oologah	544,240	100.0
Hugo	150,602	96.0	Hulah	30,594	100.0
<b>CENTRAL</b>			Fort Gibson	365,200	100.0
Thunderbird	105,925	100.0	Heyburn	6,600	100.0
Hefner	75,355	100.0	Birch	19,200	100.0
Overholser	15,935	100.0	Hudson	200,300	100.0
Draper	81,505	81.5	Spavinaw	30,000	100.0
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>			Copan	43,400	100.0
Arbuckle	61,713	98.0	Skiatook	—	— <sup>1</sup>
Texoma	2,637,700	100.0	<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>		
Waurika	203,100	100.0	Kaw	428,600	100.0
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>			Keystone	616,000	100.0
Altus	87,555	61.4	<b>NORTHWEST</b>		
Fort Cobb	78,423	100.0	Canton	67,526	69.3
Foss	145,752	60.0 <sup>2</sup>	Optima	3,000	— <sup>1</sup>
Tom Steed	88,971	100.0	Fort Supply	13,900	100.0
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>			Great Salt Plains	31,400	100.0
Eufaula	2,329,700	100.0	<b>STATE TOTALS</b>		
Tenkiller	627,500	100.0		<b>11,940,480</b>	<b>95.1<sup>3</sup></b>
Wister	23,460	87.0			
Sardis	292,560	97.0			

1. In initial filling stage
2. Temporarily lowered for maintenance
3. Conservation storage for Lake Optima not included in state total

Data courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Oklahoma City Water Resources Department, and City of Tulsa Water Superintendent's Office.

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