

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rogers, would you respond please?

SENATOR ROGERS: Part of the reason for this bill is that we will go out and develop a statewide plan, Senator. Naturally, there is some guidelines from the federal government but we don't even have a plan yet. This is what we will attempt to do over the next year, then we will come back to this body with it, what we call a groundwater management plan, Senator, but, naturally, there are guidelines to go by.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, that sounds good. I was just questioning whether they were coming from the Environmental Protection Agency, that is the agency in the federal government that is the moving force on this, or has jurisdiction?

SENATOR ROGERS: Yes, that is one of them, but there will also be other agencies in Nebraska involved in this plan. At least that is our desire, that's the committee's plan that there will be other like DEC and NRDs, the Health Department maybe will be involved in writing the plan that we will present, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, and the pesticides that are being controlled, the economic poisons, I assume are in large bulk applied for agricultural use, but I assume the bill also applies to the application of pesticides on my front yard in Lincoln, also, does it not?

SENATOR ROGERS: We would hope it would because we've heard some horror stories, and you can't prove some of these things, but you take a little lawn that is the size of a postage stamp, and it is probably very easy to overapply on that, eventually ends up in our groundwater, but I think part of this plan is also, Senator, is to educate the farmers and people that have little lawns like you do how and when to use these products so that we don't discharge this into our water supply.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. The question that is of concern to me is why we are locating this program in the Department of Agriculture. These directives are coming from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. It applies to agriculture predominantly, and I assume that that is probably the reason, but it also applies to the urban or city situations. It seems to me that our Department of Environmental Control already has a body of expertise. Is there a body of expertise on these matters under the Department of Agriculture here locally?