

Report from the Budget Subcommittee

12/1/04

The Committee met on October 29 and heard a presentation from DNR staff on their FY06 Work Plan and Budget request, and has had subsequent discussions.

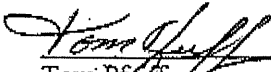
The most that the Committee will consider is a "status quo" figure, which would be equivalent to the FY05 funding level, with increases for COLA, within grade increases, and fringe benefits. However, there is still a question as to whether the Board can justify continued funding of inspections at the cost contained in the DNR's Work Plan. The AGO has affirmed that the Board has the authority to contract with private companies for inspections.

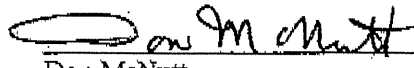
The Board has requested a report from the Department regarding its FY05 activities under the new agreement for inspections, and we understand that the Department, (Kathy Flippin, Hazardous Waste Program Enforcement Section Chief), is planning to present that report at the January 26 Board meeting.

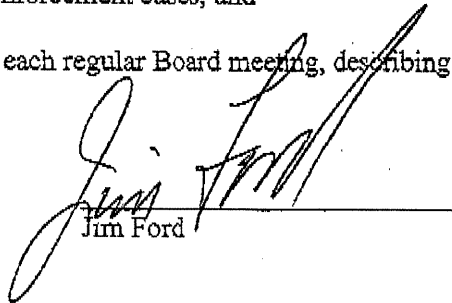
Therefore, the Committee recommends that the Board delay a final decision on FY06 funding until it has heard her report.

The Committee would like to notify the Department that it intends to recommend:

1. Inclusion of \$40,000 for oversight by the EER staff at PSTIF-insured tank sites, to be spent on an "as-needed" basis;
2. No cuts in "Oversight of Cleanups" without explicit approval of the Board;
3. A report be provided by the Department for each regular Board meeting, describing actions taken to settle or otherwise resolve enforcement cases; and
4. A report be provided by the Department for each regular Board meeting, describing actions taken on risk assessment reports.


Tom Pfeiffer


Don McNutt


Jim Ford