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environmental practice news (epn)

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EDITORIAL

As EPN moves into its second year of publication, certain of its goals need to be restated. We are interested in providing a useful source of information for the practicing lawyer in a field which, at least at the present time, is dominated by large agencies, both State and Federal, and in which the private practitioner usually finds himself engaged in the role of devil's advocate. Thus, we are put in the position of lending aid, but hopefully not comfort, to those who may generally oppose our point of view. This problem cannot be avoided, however, without also preventing those who are sympathetic to environmental concerns from having access to our modest publication. But we do harbor the hope that by improving the distribution of legally relevant environmental news, the enlightened interests of all may be upheld. A truer, more Jeffersonian ethic is not to be found.

Apart from the general information function of the EPN, the issues of environmental concern are emphatically not value free. We try to uphold the right choice of policies, whenever such a choice confronts us, based on the value of a healthy and useful environment. The scientist can tell us what facts should go into the equation, but no special expertise is needed in order to decide what priorities certain apparently conflicting values should be assigned. The fact that no man, or group, or nation can always make the right choice does not free us from the obligation to attempt to make the right choices. Thus, two values are implicit in this publication: first, that individuals must think through environmental problems and thereby reach the right conclusions; and second, that the right conclusions will, so far as possible, be supported in its pages.

We do encourage the free exchange of ideas, and hope that we might by this publication not only provide useful information to the general practitioner, but stimulate our readers to reach their own opinions. We urge our readers to send us their thoughts and opinions.

Contributions to insure the viability of the EPN will be gratefully accepted.