

Those are my comments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I could address a couple of questions to Senator Schmit. As I have listened to this, I didn't think I had any problems with this amendment and then I thought, perhaps, it would be useful to clarify a couple of things.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Mr. President.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Just from...let me first ask you again, I may have missed, why is it necessary that we put this particular language in there, Senator Schmit? Do the local monitoring committees not now have access to that kind of information? Is there something this is going to give them that they do not now have access to?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Scofield, as so often happens in this state, we have, as you know, over the past many years created a number of entities, a number of subdivisions of government, and a number of agencies, and it is not infrequent, I must say with some regret, that we find overlapping responsibilities, and then more dangerously so, some tendency not to cooperate with each other. I am sure, and I think Senator Weihing has touched upon it, that the Conservation and Survey Division would be most anxious to assist and to help but I wanted to emphasize that perhaps the local monitoring committee might not be aware of this availability and might, therefore, go out and hire people who would then duplicate the work that has already been performed and has been documented. And there is no reason why we should duplicate data which has been on file for many years, and it is just simply to reenforce the availability of this division to the monitoring committee.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Senator Schmit. If I...I am quickly zipping through the rules and regs here, and as I recall, the language of that, reading this carefully, I think it says that DEC gets to review all of the expenditures of the local monitoring committee, and, in fact, can deny those expenditures when they think that is duplicatory, which I think you are saying, let's not encourage people to go out and spend