

Section 4. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Environmental Control shall be responsible for the development and implementation of any groundwater quality management plan relating to economic poisons and that any such plan shall be approved by the Legislature prior to the implementation. I think that is the main change in this amendment. And then it goes on to renumber the remaining sections. I would ask for the approval of this amendment, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: We're discussing the Rogers amendment to the committee amendments. Senator Schmit, did you wish to discuss that?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, I would, Mr. President. Mr. President and members, the Rogers amendment which we are discussing today does basically what, I believe, Senator Beutler was concerned about last week. That is it says the Department of Environmental Control shall be responsible for the development and implementation of any groundwater management...water quality management plan relating to economic poisons. Now that has to be read just as it says. In other words, DEC or DEQ, depending upon what the name of the organization will be, will be in charge of the development and implementation of any groundwater quality management plan. Now, Senator Rogers and anyone else can conduct hearings and you can get input and you can take advice from anyone who wants to give it to the Legislature, but in this amendment we are clearly giving to DEC the responsibility for the development and implementation. Now it says, we shall approve it. It doesn't say we develop it, it says we shall approve it. In other words, we shall rubber stamp what is brought to us by the Department of Environmental Control. I have told you before, I have confidence in the Department of Environmental Control. I really do. I'm sure that they will bring to us a plan which will protect the groundwater quality. Whether or not it does it in a manner that I think agricultural people might approve is totally up for speculation. I would suggest that we have in the past had a working groundwater management plan that has been under the authority of the Natural Resource Districts. We could just as well allow the Natural Resource Districts the authority to supervise a groundwater management plan relative to economic poisons, as well as fertilizers and other chemicals. There isn't any reason why we couldn't do that. The Natural Resource Districts are unique in that they are the only subdivision of