

I talked about that earlier. The second important thing is giving the DWR, in certain instances, the power to do the same thing, and we'll talk later about those two tracks and who does what when. But the third part of the bill that's so important and that's never talked about is a very significant simplification and reorganization of the Ground Water Management Act. I wanted to kind of talk a little bit about how things come down historically in time. And if you could look at this little handout that says, "The Simplification of the Nebraska Management and Protection Act", that you have here. I was around when control areas came into effect and management areas and special protection areas, and what happened was we started out with management areas, historically, back in the late 1970's, I think. And people were very suspicious of the NRDs and didn't want to give them any powers whatsoever like this, and so they gave them a very limited number of tools, techniques to use, management tools to use and constructed all these elaborate procedures to protect people. And then when they saw that something more needed to be done a few years later, instead of working with these management areas that they created before, they did a whole new process called control areas. And then when it came time that we needed to protect the quality of ground water, a little later, historically, in the 1980's, then they created special protection areas, all kind of the same concept, set out a geographic area where you have a problem and develop a plan, but suddenly, over the space of 15 years, you had these different procedural rules applying to each one of these three areas. You had these different rules about which controls could be used, and it all became very complicated, it all became very complicated because we were trying to protect people and we didn't know how this would work and we were very suspicious. So now you haven't heard a thing about this, all this time we've been dealing with 108, but the generally accepted, uncriticized major part of 108 is the consolidation of those three types of districts into one, the consolidation of the procedures relating to those three types of districts, to a certain extent, the consolidation of the tools that can be used, making it logical and uniform. Now you will just have management areas. And those management areas then will include that one additional tool that we talked about before, the right to create them for the purpose of protecting surface water. So there's a very important reorganization aspect to 108 that I think almost everybody is agreed to, and that major reorganization aspect of 108 is another reason why the Brashear