have actual results of knowing that it is. Cancer doesn't appear immediately. When I was exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam, I didn't immediately get cancer. I have had cancer since, now 30-some years later. I don't know what MTBE may do to the people who are currently drinking it out of their drinking water wells. I don't know that but it's currently being examined to make those determinations. We have had some information that has been done and some preliminary testing to show that it has been a problem. It's something that wasn't even on my radar screen at the beginning of this year, but it has been something that, since I saw it on a 20/20 news segment and have had our DEQ provide some additional information, that I have become concerned with. MTBE is a fuel additive that's an octane-enhancing replacement for lead. Since the mid-eighties, it has been widely used throughout the country for this purpose, except for in some states including Nebraska. It's also used as a fuel oxygenate at higher concentrations as part of the EPA's program to reduce ozone and carbon monoxide levels in the most polluted areas of the country. The...our Department of Environmental Quality provided a sheet with some information and it describes the oxygenated fuel, or oxyfuel and reformulated gasoline programs as being initiated by the EPA in 1992 and in 1995 respectively, to meet requirements of the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments. The oxyfuel program required a certain amount of oxygen in gasoline during fall and winter months to reduce carbon monoxide emissions. Such compounds as ethanol and MTBE have been used to provide that oxygen. In the RFG program, MTBE is added to gasoline in some large metropolitan areas, to reduce ozone and smog. Nebraska is not required to participate in either the oxyfuel program or the reformulated gasoline program. According to petroleum industry sources, the use of MTBE in Nebraska has been very limited. People have raised concerns about the potential for acute effects from inhaling MTBE at service stations, and longer term effects from drinking water contaminated with MTBE. It is also considered a potential human carcinogen. When MTBE escapes into the environment through gasoline releases, there are unique considerations. MTBE is capable of traveling through soil rapidly, is much more soluble in water than most other petroleum constituents, and is more resistant to biodegradation. As a result, it may travel farther than other gasoline constituents, making it more likely to reach a drinking water well. For these reasons, petroleum releases