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Press Release - Muskie Discusses Pollution Control for Potato Processing Plants

Edmund S. Muskie

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MUSKIE

Maine

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FOR RELEASE

ON RECEIPT:

MUSKIE DISCUSSES POLLUTION CONTROL FOR POTATO PROCESSING PLANTS

Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) has asked the Maine Environmental Improvement Commission to investigate the possibility of recommending that State plants use a new potato peeling process which would reduce pollution.

In a letter to Dr. Donaldson Koons, Commission Chairman, Senator Muskie discussed the new potato peeling process announced April 8 by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This dry caustic peeling process keeps virtually all potato peel waste out of the effluent from potato processing plants.

Senator Muskie added that the Agriculture Department stated that the potential of this method has been demonstrated with a pilot plant in Idaho and was used successfully for several weeks at a capacity of 5000 to 6000 pounds of potatoes per hour. Large scale demonstration testing will soon begin in North Dakota.

Some funds for the construction and operation of these demonstration programs have been furnished by the Federal Water Quality Administration, the Senator said.

"Since this relates to a serious pollution problem in the State of Maine," Mr. Muskie concluded, "I hope that the Environmental Improvement Commission will act quickly to investigate the possibilities of the use of this process in Maine plants."

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