RIC 2001
Regulating for the Common Good
Session W12

Commissioner Nils J. Diaz
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

March 14, 2001

Officials warn states about 'No. 1 weather killer'

16 have died, and Southern residents are seeking relief from broiling heat

By Jessie Halladay
USA TODAY

At least 16 people have died in a heat wave that has pushed temperatures past 100 degrees in five Southern states and prompted five straight days of heat warnings.

"It's dangerous," National Weather Service meteorologist Rick Smith says. "Heat is the No. 1 weather killer in the United States."

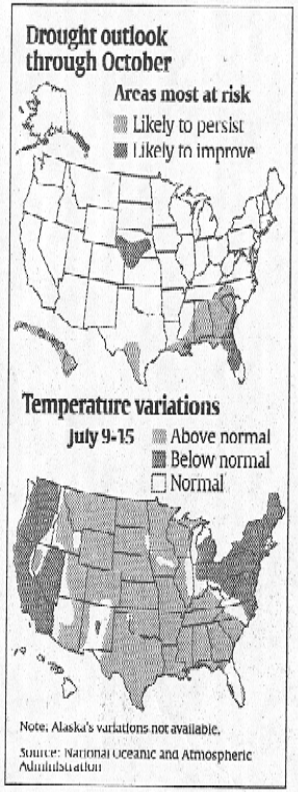
The weather service issued heat advisories Wednesday, the fifth straight day, warning people of the potential for health risks.

Though rain might fall later in the week and cool things off 10 degrees or more, Smith says little real relief is in sight for those baking in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi, New Mexico and Texas.

▶ In Central and East Texas, Wednesday was the eighth day in a row of temperatures above 100 degrees. Twelve deaths have been blamed on the heat. Seven of those who died were in Houston, and as many as 10 more deaths eventually might be attributed to the heat wave, the Harris County medical examiner said.

The most recent confirmed died from the heat, and four other elderly men also died in a Shreveport hotel for poor people. The hotel had fans but no air conditioning.

Trying to avoid the heat, people are holing up in air-conditioned buildings, flocking to water parks



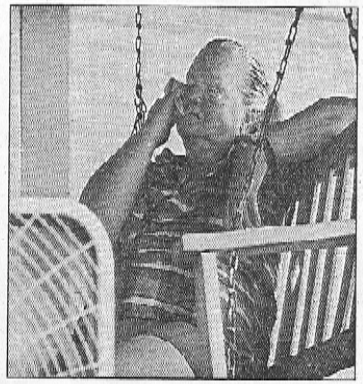
By Quin Tian, USA TODAY

By Seth Perlman, AP

Some prosper ... Illinois farmer Kenneth Baker is dwarfed by stalks of corn. Above-normal rainfall is good news for some farmers.

Drought Mitigation Center, Tuscaloosa, Ala., saw its 15th 100-degree-plus day.

"It's not the run-of-the-mill drought. It's the kind you'll see only once or twice in a hundred years."



By Barry Beard, *Hattiesburg American*

... others swelter. Stella Parmely of Hattiesburg, Miss., tries to keep cool.

ing and continued to fight wildfires. Since October, firefighters have battled 4,500 fires that have burned about 60,000 acres. That's above the yearly average of 4,000 fires, and there are three months to go in the fiscal year, says David Frederick, director of fire management. "It looks like we're in for a long-term siege," he says.

For some Alabama residents, such as Montgomery mechanic William Kilpatrick, the heat is nearly unbearable.

"You think it's hot here, wait till you get up under one of these engines that's been running three hours," says Kilpatrick, who was repairing a Chevrolet Cavalier that

cially after sundown.

"Everybody's get... little edgy, a little irr... says Way, a manager... park. "You don't see... as many smiles. I thi... eryone's tired of this... mer already."

While the South ... for rain and a break ... heat, states in the Mi... and Northeast hav... ceived more rain and... er temperatures tha... al, weather officials s...

It was 31 degrees ... barrass, Minn., on We... day. In parts of New... Vermont, Connectic...

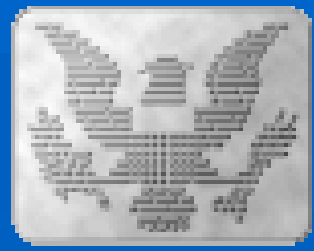
nois and Wisconsin, rainfall... June has been 150%-200% ... normal, says Ants Leetmaa, ... tor of the weather service's c... prediction center. The rain is ... news for farmers.

"The stage is set for a good ... says Paul Craig, a county age... the Pennsylvania State Univ... Cooperative Extension.

But rain hurts some farme...

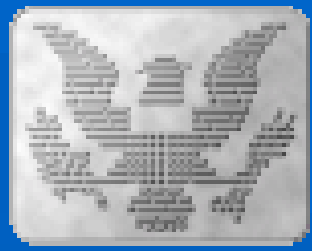
"It kind of messed up the ... ing dates," says Dennis Alt... vegetable farmer in Harvar... near the Wisconsin border.

Heavy rains that have acc... lated on fields have stunte... growth of crops, resulting in s... er yields. The rain also has ...

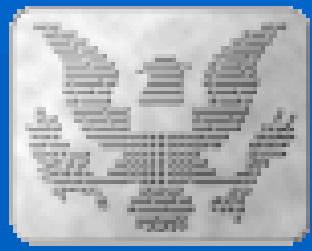


Democracy and the Free Marketplace

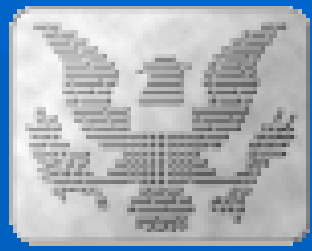
The combination of a democratic society and a free market provides the most powerful combination for achieving fairness, equity, and the protection of rights, property, health and safety.



The free flow of information is crucial in a democracy

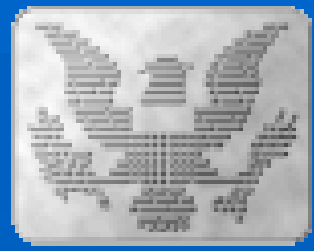


Information is a deterrent to wrong doing

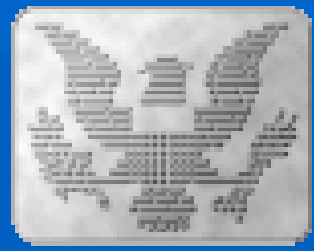


“Socialism in Central Europe failed because people received more information than was necessary.”

Fidel Castro



Regulating for the common good



Regulations:

Need to result in a benefit

or

They will result in a loss

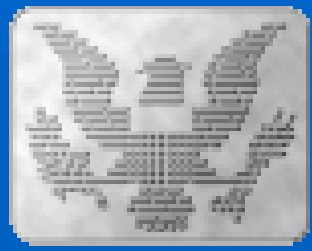
Study 1. Everyone that does not receive medical attention eventually dies.

Recommendation: Establish a plan to require that everyone receives mandatory health care at significantly increased frequency.

Study 2. Everyone that receives medical attention eventually dies.

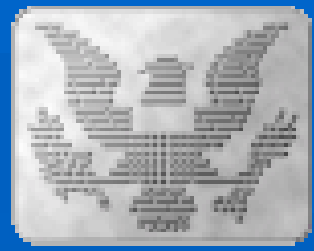
Recommendation: Establish a plan to require that all health care systems be eliminated

Recommendations:



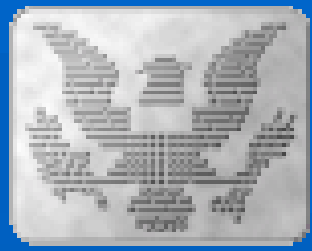
Forgot to address the minor issue of quality of life.

The substantial cost of the two plans were comparable:
Plan 1: more health care
Plan 2: more lawyers



“It is not possible, generically, to rule out the possibility of death.”

Regulation



- it does not put on airs,
- it is not snobbish,
- is never rude,
- it is not self-seeking,
- it is not prone to anger,
- neither does it brood over injuries,
- it does not rejoice in what is wrong,
  but rejoices with the truth.

REGULATING FOR THE COMMON GOOD