Action due on water plan

Thur. Feb 25, 1982

BY BEN J. PLASTINO
Post-Register political editor

BOISE — State Rep. J. Vard Chatburn, R-Albion, chairman of the House Resource and Conservation Committee, said the committee is scheduled to act Friday on changes for implementing the Idaho Water Plan.

Chatburn, dean of the Legislasture with 26 years of service, said the committee the past two weeks has amended proposed policies that favor industrial development over the protection of fish.

Chatburn said the committee has drafted a concurrent resolution for action by first the committee and then the House and Senate.

Deleted outright by the committee were Policy 40 for preserving the white sturgeon in a free-flowing condition along the Snake and Kootenai rivers; and Policy 42 dealing with hydroelectric siting.

Chatburn said the committee refused his recommendations to provide for hydroelectric siting along the Snake of up to 15 megawatts.

"I think it is the responsibility of the state to do this," said Chatburn.

Chatburn added the minimum streamflow was retained, providing at 3,300 second feet at Milner, 5,000 second feet at Weiser and 4,000 second feet at Guffy Dam.

Chatburn said the committee also will act on the Idaho Energy Plan later but there is no great hurry for this.

Rep. Vard Chatburn

He noted nuclear energy development was given an equal priority with other means, rather than placed at a low priority as first proposed by the Office of Energy.

"Conservation has the top priority while nuclear, coal and other forms of energy are then listed," said Chatburn.

The Energy Resource Policy Board presented 22 policy statements in the hearing before the committee earlier this month.

Chatburn noted the plan is to assess Idaho's energy position and resources. It is intended to evaluate the potential demand versus supply capability and to set forth policies which can encourage development of adequate supply considering technical, social and economic factors.