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nt Corporation of tessee Valley Authne first demonstradge, Tennessee, on he AEC says the nt in information ogy, geology, and site. The AEC also on is needed about the breeder's impact on the aquatic environment and potential reactor accidents involving its radioactive core.

The Clinch River breeder reactor is a joint project of the federal government and several hundred private utilities, although the government will pay all but about \$250 million of the \$1.7 billion total cost for the plant.

Revolutionary engine tested

Two Vermont inventors say they have designs for a car that can increase fuel economy up to 80 percent, reduce air pollution, and re-employ thousands of auto workers idled by the deepening recession.

Officials of the Federal Energy Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency, while enthusiastic about the prospects of such a vehicle to alleviate problems for the economy, the environment, and the fuels shortage, will put a prototype through several tests before giving it their blessings.

Edward and Robert LaForce, who invented the car, gave a demonstration before the Senate Commerce Committee. They said their engine can produce more energy from a given quantity of fuel than the conventional engine, and that it can be easily mass-produced. The LaForce engine separates molecules in the gasoline which, the inventors say, provides higher efficiency.

The EPA is testing the engine in its laboratories in Ann Arbor, Mich., and will return to Congress with results – probably before the end of this year's session.

Pesticide ban proposed

The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed a ban on two widely used pesticides, chlordane and heptachlor, citing their cancer-causing properties and their persistence in the food chain ("Eco-notes," Nov. 23).

An actual ban on the pesticides could take until January of 1976, however, due to a lengthy hearing process during which up to 350 manufacturers have the option of protesting the cancellation.

The Environmental Defense Fund

expressed disappointment that the EPA had not ordered immediate suspension of the manufacture and sale of the pesticides, instead of allowing time for hearings. EDF added that tests being run at the National Cancer Institute may provide evidence shortly which will result in faster action taken against the two pesticides.

Heptachlor and chlordane residues have been detected in soil samples for as long as 10 years following application; they are mobile and tend to accumulate in fatty tissues of animals and humans, in plants, foods, and water supplies. Government surveys have shown heptachlor in 70 percent of meat, poultry, fish, and dairy products in the U.S. and heptachlor or its break-down products in 95 percent of samples of human fatty tissue in the nation.

Perhaps most disturbing are findings that people are exposed to the pesticides from time of conception: heptachlor residues have been found in stillborn infants, proving that the chemical is transferred from mother to child during pregnancy.

Protecting migrating birds

The impact of hunting regulations on migratory birds and the environment will be considered for the first time as part of a settlement reached between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and four private organizations. The groups brought suit against the government in an attempt to halt all hunting and killing of migratory birds.

The lawsuit charged the government with failing to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act when the wildlife agency issued hunting regulations. No impact statement has ever been filed in preparation of regulations governing the migratory bird hunting season.

The conservation organizations — the Fund for Animals, the New Jersey branch of the Humane Society of the U.S., Wildlife Preserves, and Deer Ecology, Environment and Resources — agreed to drop their lawsuit if the government would complete the environmental impact statement for next year's hunting season. A spokesperson for the organizations said they were confident that if the statement were properly completed, the government would have to take some action to protect many migratory species.

New hop

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