



**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.

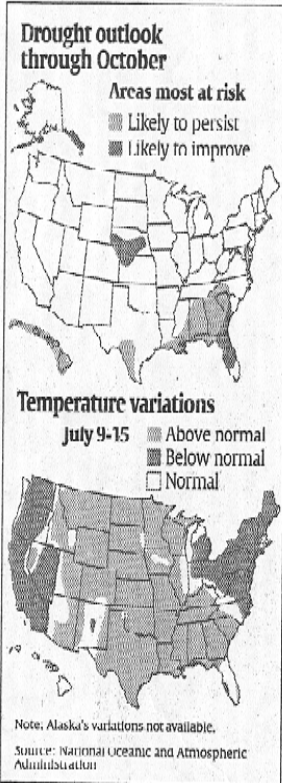
"It's dangerous," National Weather Service meteorologist Rick Smith says. "Heat is the No. 1 weather killer in the United States."

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



By Qin Tian, USA TODAY



By Seth Periman, AP

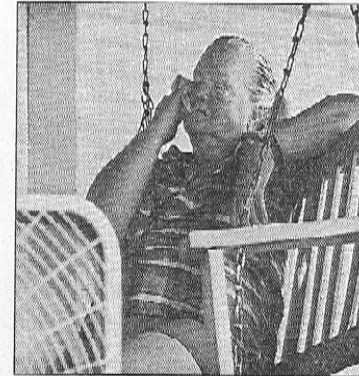
**Some prosper ...** Illinois farmer Kenneth Baker is dwarfed by stalks of corn. Above-normal rainfall is good news for some farmers.

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

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 had, perhaps not surprisingly, over-

cially after sundown. "Everybody's gettin' a little edgy, a little irritable," says Way, a manager at a park. "You don't see as many smiles. I think everyone's tired of this summer already."

While the South has received more rain and cooler temperatures than other weather officials s-

It was 31 degrees in batavia, Minn., on Wednesday. In parts of New Vermont, Connecticut

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

"The stage is set for a good crop," says Paul Craig, a county agent at the Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension.

"But rain hurts some farmers. It's kind of messed up the dates," says Dennis Alt, a vegetable farmer in Harvar near the Wisconsin border.

Heavy rains that have accumulated on fields have stunted growth of crops, resulting in fewer yields. The rain also has hampered harvest in some areas.



# 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