

for a minute and there is contamination of soil, but upon further investigation it is determined that the contamination came from Station B which is to the...a little bit further up the page to the left and as you can see on this little drawing, the direction of the ground water flow is to the bottom and to the right so the plume of contamination moves from Station B to the soil in Station A. After Station A has expended some money we find out Station B is liable so the authorities go back to Station B to complete the cleanup and incur the rest of the costs but under existing law Station A is just out the money they expended until it was determined that they weren't responsible. In some cases that can be a fairly significant amount of money. So what this bill really does, it says that if this is the situation, A, Station A can recover his money he expended from the fund and then part of the amendment to the committee amendments says that Station B is then liable to the fund. The fund can go back to Station B to recover what it paid Station A. Now that's a little bit of an oversimplification but really that is what we are talking about. That is the gist of the bill. Besides what Senator Beutler mentioned, extending the sunset clause on the use of this fund from what is now June 30, 1993 to December 31, 1998 and one of the main reasons for doing that is we had testimony in our committee on 237 from the insurance industry as to the availability of insurance coverage for this third party liability problem. The testimony basically was that even though at this time and after June 30 federal law will mandate a million dollars of third party liability coverage, the coverage is really not available in Nebraska and so we have a problem of having a regulation that requires coverage and the nonavailability of insurance to take care of the problem so this will carry us over to 1998 with this fund. The funds that are in this Remedial Action Fund are generated through gas tax. That's where the money comes from and so we propose to keep this fund alive and viable until December 31, 1998 at which time I know it is the intent of Senator Beutler and it is the intent of the committee at this time to say that at that time there will be no longer, this fund will no longer be available. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I don't want to make this any more complicated. I don't think it's complicated. If you do have any questions I'll be glad to try to answer them or perhaps I didn't explain Senator Bernard-Stevens' part of this as well as I should and I'd invite him to explain that as well. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Before I proceed to