



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Minnesota State Archives

LEGISLATURE
Science & Technology Research Office
An Inventory of Its Records

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Agency:** Minnesota. Legislature. Science & Technology Research Office.
- Series Title:** Records,
- Dates:** 1976-1982.
- Abstract:** Records documenting the office's work in providing legislators with information and analyses on scientific and technical matters, particularly regarding environmental, pollution, and energy matters.
- Quantity:** 7.75 cu. ft. (8 boxes).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF THE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH OFFICE

The Science & Technology Research Office was established on an experimental basis in 1976 with funds provided by the legislature and by a grant from the National Science Foundation. Its objectives were to provide legislators and committees with information and analysis on scientific and technical matters and to promote communication between legislators and scholars in the science and technology community.

The office was staffed (beginning in January, 1977) by two professional scientists and an administrative assistant and provided information in the form of inquiry responses (brief answers to specific questions), in-depth research reports on broader topics, workshops and seminars, standing committee testimony, field trips, committee briefings, and newsletters.

The office operated under the jurisdiction of the Legislative Coordinating Commission, and its activities were overseen by the commission's Joint Legislative Committee on Science and Technology. A Science and Technology Resource Council, composed of fifteen professional scientists and engineers served as an advisory body both to the Joint Committee on Science and Technology and the Science & Technology Research Office. The office was abolished effective March 1, 1982, as part of legislative budget-cutting in January, 1982 (see Third Ex. Sess. Laws 1981 c2 art1 s2 subd1a).

Sources: Science & Technology Research Office records and Minnesota State Laws.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE RECORDS

Quite complete documentation of the office's activities including complete sets of inquiry responses, research reports, and newsletters; working papers for some of the research reports and many of the inquiry responses; records relating to the distribution and evaluation of inquiry responses and research reports; correspondence with legislators and others; minutes and related materials of the Science and Technology Subcommittee, the Joint Legislative Committee on Science and Technology, and research office staff meetings; seminar and workshop materials; office files regarding budgets, salaries, and operations; and proposals and reports relating to the National Science Foundation grant.

Topics for which the office did extensive work included waste disposal (hazardous and other), road salt, air pollution, groundwater resources, acid rain, energy (particularly solar and bioconversion), and weather modification.

INDEX TERMS

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Topics:

Technology and state--Minnesota.
Science and state--Minnesota.
Government services.
Science and state--Minnesota.
Technology and state--Minnesota.
Waste disposal--Minnesota--Research.
Air--Pollution--Research--Minnesota.
Ground water management--Minnesota.
Acid rain--Minnesota--Research.
Weather control--Minnesota--Research.
Solar energy--Research--Minnesota.
Roads--Minnesota--Snow and ice control--Research.
Analyzing.
Researching.

Organizations:

Science and Technology Resource Council.
National Science Foundation (U.S.).
Minnesota. Legislature. Legislative Coordinating Commission.
Minnesota. Legislature. Joint Legislative Committee on Science and Technology.
Minnesota. Legislature. Legislative Coordinating Commission. Subcommittee on Science and Technology.
Minnesota. Legislature. Joint Legislative Committee on Science and Technology.
National Science Foundation (U.S.).

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation:

[Indicate the cited volume and page or item and folder title here]. Minnesota. Legislature. Science and Technology Research Office Records. Minnesota Historical Society. State Archives.

See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

Location	Box	
127.K.6.9B	1	Science and Technology Subcommittee minutes and other materials, 1977-1978. 3 folders. Joint Legislative Committee on Science and Technology minutes and other materials, 1979-1982. 3 folders. Discussion summaries (minutes), 1978-1979. 1 folder. Of the Science and Technology Resource Council, which had oversight responsibilities for the committee/subcommittee. Staff meetings and memos, 1978-1981. Requests filled, 1977-1981. 2 folders. Log, 1977-1982. Newsletters, 1977-1982. Budget, 1977-1981.

Location	Box	
127.K.6.9B	1	<p>Research reports (some including working papers):</p> <p><i>Weather modification information for the Minnesota Legislature</i>, September 1977. Technical, legal, critique of assumptions in the degree of success actually achieved.</p> <p><i>A status report on Dutch elm and oak wilt disposal and utilization in Minnesota</i>, November 1977.</p> <p><i>Parameters for legislative consideration of bio-conversion technologies</i>, February 1978. Parameters for ethanol development, siting, resources, technology.</p> <p><i>The use of deicing salt in Minnesota: A review of snow and ice removal management practices, salt use effects and alternatives</i>, April 1978. Response to House Advisory No. 4.</p> <p><i>Solar equipment for residential heating and cooling</i>, August 1978. Quality, payback, magnitude in Minnesota.</p> <p><i>Sludge disposal and utilization in Minnesota: A review of sludge disposal practices, effects, and alternatives</i>, November 1978.</p> <p><i>A methodology for solid waste-resource recovery decision making in Minnesota: With review of three communities</i> (unpublished).</p> <p><i>Statistical design for the evaluation of cloud seeding in Minnesota</i>, December 1978. Response to legislation requiring random selection and desire to measure degree of success over the long term.</p> <p><i>Effects of toxic compounds on human cells and tissues</i>, January 1979. Attempt to identify classification schemes.</p> <p><i>Regulating electrical utilities in Minnesota: The reform of legal institutions</i>, April 1980, unpublished. A review of Minnesota regulations, including recommendations for public participation, siting, and eminent domain.</p> <p><i>A uniform approach to regulating toxic substances</i>, July 1980, unpublished. [missing?]</p> <p><i>Alternative space-heating technologies in Minnesota: Cost and feasibility in 1980</i>, November 1980, revised December 1981. Description of technology, cost, and feasibility of alternative sources of energy for residential space-heating in Minnesota.</p>

Location	Box	
127.K.6.10F	2	<i>Energy and environmental implications of controlling the use of non-refillable plastic soft drink and milk bottles in Minnesota</i> , April 1981. <i>Minnesota peatlands: Status of development and policy considerations</i> , November 1981. <i>Energy glossary</i> , 1977, revised 1981. Contains more than 200 general energy terms and 100 terms relating to nuclear energy. Research report summaries. Inquiry responses (some with working papers): Numbers 1-84.
Location	Box	
127.K.6.11B	3	Numbers 85-131.
Location	Box	
127.K.6.12F	4	Numbers 132-150. Low level radioactive waste questionnaire working papers, 1981-1982. Correspondence with legislators: A – K. 60 folders.
Location	Box	
127.K.6.13B	5	L – Z. 80 folders. Correspondence with others, A – Z. 5 folders.
Location	Box	
127.K.6.14F	6	Information booklets. Information highlights. Meeting, conference, and seminar summaries. 8 folders. Technical briefs. Testimony. Central Research Labs/NSP company tour, June 18, 1981. 1 looseleaf volume. Tours. 1 folder. Seminar materials: Air pollution, June 6, 1979. 1 folder. Hazardous waste, October 17, 1979. 1 folder. Minnesota groundwater resources, May 14, 1980. 1 looseleaf volume. Acid precipitation, February 16, 1981. 1 looseleaf volume. Low-level radioactive waste, October 12, 1981. 1 looseleaf volume. Hazardous waste management options in Minnesota, February 8, 1982. 1 looseleaf volume.

Location	Box	
127.K.7.1B	7	Workshop materials: Groundwater, heat pumps, acid precipitation. Waste disposal. Road salt. Energy. 2 folders. Bills (legislative) relating to Science and Technology Research Office. “Kudos” (letters of appreciation). Office files: Confidentiality guidelines, inventory, information requests completed, miscellany. Salary material. Budget and salary material, 1982-83 biennium. Commission director meetings. Itasca retreat, 1978. Surveys of legislators, 1977-1981. Job descriptions. National Science Foundation. CHAIRS (Clearinghouse and Information Retrieval System).

Location	Box	
127.K.7.2F	8	Questionnaires (CHAIRS). MSUS (Minnesota State University System) questionnaires. MSUS science and technology grant proposal. National Science Foundation proposal (CHAIRS). Proposals (NSF). 2 folders. One month reports, December 1976 – October 1978. Six month reports, January 1977 – June 1980. Site visit, September 6, 1979. Final technical report, October 1980. SSET (State Science, Engineering, and Technology Program) final report – Paul Stolen version. SSET final report – Kerry Cork version. SSET survey results. Penn State University study, 1981. Tape recordings (7 inch reels) of meetings of the Joint Legislative Committee on Science and Technology, June 18 and December 9, 1981. Tape recording of meeting of the Science & Technology Resource Council, June 26, 1980.