Nixon Selects Environmental Administrator

WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS
... going after polluters

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon announced yesterday that he would nominate William D. Ruckelshaus, now assistant attorney general in charge of the civil division, to be administrator of the new Environmental Protection Agency.

The agency, which is charged with administering all the federal anti-pollution programs, will be primarily concerned with enforcing anti-pollution laws.

"We are going after all polluters," Ruckelshaus told newsmen at the White House after the nomination was announced.

The President flew to Key Biscayne, Fla., late yesterday for several days of rest and for work on the budget and next year's legislative program.

White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said that the President would rest this weekend and work next week with various staff aides on long-range planning.

Henry A. Kissinger, assistant for national security affairs, and John D. Ehrlichman, assistant for domestic affairs, accompanied the President.

Before leaving, the President presided over a meeting of the National Security Council. Ziegler declined to say what was on the agenda.

Submitted in July

The President submitted his reorganization plan to Congress in July to consolidate federal anti-pollution activities under one head.

Since Congress did not veto the plan, it became effective Oct. 2 with a provision that the agency become operative Dec. 2.

It will have about 5,700 employees and a budget of about $1.4 billion annually. It will absorb the Federal Water Quality Administration, now in the Interior Department; the National Air Pollution Control Administration and sections of the Environmental Control Administration in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare; the pesticides registration authority of the Agriculture Department, and smaller sections from other agencies.

Ruckelshaus, 38, is known as a tough-minded lawyer with a strong political orientation. He is regarded by his Justice Department colleagues as forceful and direct in attacking legal problems.

Two years ago, he was the Republican nominee for senator from Indiana and was defeated by Democratic Sen. Birch Bayh.

Experience in Indiana

A graduate of Princeton cum laude, Ruckelshaus earned his law degree at Harvard. He later was an assistant attorney general of Indiana assigned to the State Health Department. He said he prosecuted water polluters and other violators of state health and environmental laws in Indiana.

In 1963 he wrote the state's air pollution control law. From 1966 to 1969 he was majority leader in the Indiana legislature.

Russell E. Train, chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, hailed Ruckelshaus' appointment and said they would work closely together.

Train explained that the Environmental Protection Agency would be primarily responsible for the administration and enforcement of anti-pollution programs while the Council is primarily responsible for advising the President on the development of new policies.

By Agencies, Individuals

Ruckelshaus said he felt strongly that the attack on pollution must be carried out by federal, state and local governments and by individuals.

He said greater progress had been made in attacking the problem of water pollution than air pollution but that it does not have a higher priority.

"We also must do something about hazardous substances like mercury," he said. "This must be done very quickly."

Ruckelshaus said later he would be "filing some suits" because he was convinced voluntarism alone would not work.

Polluters have to be "nudged" to clean up their mess, he said.

"An industrialist who has his profits figured down to a science just isn't going to make a major anti-pollution expenditure without something more than just encouragement from the government," Ruckelshaus said.