

Work Pushed On Sewage, Water Jobs

City Plans Outlay Of \$1,09,576,000

Progress reports on two of the city's most ambitious projects—construction of sewage treatment plants and improvement of the water system—indicate that work is well under way and should be completed within the next four years.

Recommended by the City Planning Commission are sewage disposal projects costing \$1,297,000 and improvements to the water system estimated at \$1,979,000—a total of \$119,576,000.

SEWAGE POLLUTION CONTROL
The sewage program, when completed, will reduce pollution in the Schuylkill and Delaware, and with construction of new sewers as part of the program, will improve drainage and flood control.

In this connection, three huge projects are already under way. Construction of the Northeast Sewage Treatment Works at West Chester lane and Richmond st. is about 70 percent complete and should be finished by the spring of 1953.

TO HELP NORTHEAST
This plant will treat sewage from that part of the city lying northeast of Allegheny ave. It was started first in order to assist in the reduction of pollution of the Delaware River, from which the city draws half its water supply.

Work on the building of the South-west Sewage Treatment Works, at Swanson st. and Parker ave. in the Delaware, was started in November and is expected to be partially completed in 1953 and fully completed by 1955.

Preliminary work on the South-west Sewage Treatment Works on land owned by the city near the International Airport has begun, but actual construction will start in the spring. It is estimated that this plant will be partially completed in 1951 and ready for full operation in 1953.

INVOLVES SEWER-BUILDING
The sewage treatment project also entails the building of intercepting sewers to collect all of the city's sewage and convey it to the three plants for treatment before it is discharged into the rivers.

On the water improvement project, the City Planning Commission has reported that the studies made by the Department of Public Works toward the objective of a supply of water that is adequate, healthful and free from disagreeable tastes and odors.

PROJECTS OUTLINED
The water improvement work included:

Installation of an ozone plant at the Boyer Water Treatment Station at a cost of \$1,000,000. The plant is scheduled for early operation and will produce a more palatable supply for West Philadelphia and Overbrook. Also installation of new filter equipment, installation of temporary carbon feeding facilities at Torresdale Pumping Station to improve the water taste at a cost of \$400,000 and a new filter pumping station.

NEW FOX CHASE UNIT

A new filter-pumping station at Fox Chase. A new clubhouse at East Park Reservation. A new filter equipment for the Queen Lane station.

Other improvements include the construction of many new filter plants. Negotiations with the Public Works John H. Neeson are \$5,000,000 worth of contracts have been let in the last year.

4 PRIORITY OK'D TOO LATE TO HELP IN '42

Old System Nearing Peak of Capacity; Repairs Frequent.

By LEEDS MOBERLEY
Philadelphia's whole water production program is in danger because of the precarious condition of our run-down waterworks.

System Burdened.
The hundreds upon hundreds of millions of dollars in defense contracts placed in this key industrial center have imposed a burden which the system is in no condition to bear.

The city was required to curtail the original program because of the metal shortage. It has agreed to use concrete piping instead of iron and steel wherever possible.

The rating on priorities given to the city is A-4, which is the highest granted to municipalities.

"We have been trying for five months to obtain a rating so we might rehabilitate the water system," Neeson said. "I have been to Washington ten times to point out how critical our situation is."

"After two or three conferences, we agreed we would reduce our requirements to 500,000 gallons of iron and steel, sheet steel, reinforcing steel, copper, bronze, manganese and other metals from 40,000 to 3,000 tons, substituting concrete pipes for iron and steel pipes.

"The city officials realized our water system could not operate without rehabilitation, and they also agreed to substitute concrete for iron and steel wherever possible."

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CITY RUSHES START OF WATER WORK

Priorities Granted, Bids for Improved System to be Asked soon

Bids for \$7,000,000 worth of materials and equipment for the city's water system will be sought in the near future, Director of Public Works John H. Neeson said today.

Under priorities granted last night by the War Production Board, a start will be made on the \$15,000,000 improvement program, but the job cannot be done to the extent planned originally, Neeson said.

He added that work would be begun as soon as possible on filters, pliers for the filter pumping plant and electrical machinery for driving pumps at the Torresdale pumping station on a new filter, and on the chemical building at the Queen Lane station; on electrical installations at the Lardner's Point station, and on reconstruction of large mains elsewhere.

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WELLS WOULD PROVIDE 22,000,000 GALS. DAILY

Plans to Drill them here Disclosed by Owen

The city's water supply would be increased by about 22,000,000 gallons daily if plans to drill between 20 and 25 artesian wells in South Philadelphia go through.

That was estimated here by Director of Public Works John H. Neeson after the plans were disclosed in Washington at a meeting of a conference of mayors by Dr. Hubley R. Owen, chairman of the Philadelphia Council of Defense.

Neeson said the project, which would include a chlorination and filtering plant, would cost about \$1,750,000, and that it could be included in the \$15,000,000 water rehabilitation program.

If the project is approved, the wells would be drilled in the region west of Broad st. and south of Patuxent av. Neeson said that further north the mineral content of the water is too high.

Water from the wells would be used to reinforce the supply in the zone between the Schuylkill and Delaware rivers, south of Washington av., where are located the Navy Yard, the Quartermaster Depot and Government defense housing projects.

The grant of an A-4 priority last night for materials needed to put the long-delayed \$18,000,000 rehabilitation program into effect came too late to solve the problem this year.

Consumption increases.
The amount of water used in Philadelphia is increasing rapidly. In 1942, the city consumed 1,200,000,000 gallons of water daily. In 1943, the consumption is expected to reach 1,500,000,000 gallons.

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ALORINE SUPPLIES ASSURED FOR CITY

Use for Disinfecting of Water will not be Cut, U. S. Officials say

By RAYMOND C. BRECHT
(A Bulletin Staff Correspondent)
Washington, Jan. 28.—Although chlorine is one of the most widely used chemicals in war manufacture, enough of it will be available for the purification of Philadelphia's drinking water supply.

That was indicated here today in an announcement by the Chemicals and Allied Products Branch of the War Production Board.

Officials said that despite a chronic shortage, the use of chlorine for the disinfecting of water supplies will not be curtailed.

The importance of this chemical in water and sewage treatment, it was explained, is such that it is being accorded a high priority rating over other civilian needs and even over some war demands.

The announcement of the Chemicals and Allied Products Branch answers a question that has been of considerable concern among Philadelphia officials for some weeks.

Hubley R. Owen, Director of Philadelphia's Council of Public Defense, made inquiries about the situation when he was here two weeks ago to attend the U. S. Conference of Mayors in behalf of Acting Mayor Bernard Six.

At that time, Dr. Owen said he had heard Mayor LaGuardia, U. S. Civilian Defense Director, mention that chlorine would be subject to the priorities system. "I became interested," said Dr. Owen, "because we want to be sure we will have enough for our drinking water."

He also pointed out that chlorine is important in laundry and hospital use, which would affect many Philadelphia institutions.

Study plan to drill wells in South Philadelphia to create an auxiliary source of water for defense purposes and in case an air raid should damage the municipal water system.

Meantime, it was announced today that Philadelphia traffic policemen and auxiliary officers will have a chance to attend a War Traffic School for six days beginning February 1.

Experts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and outstanding traffic engineers will advise a course of instruction for the officers.

At the same time, Governor Duff said he is completing his opening message, to be delivered to a joint session of House and Senate at 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, after both houses complete their organization.

The message, expected to take only 20 minutes to deliver, will call primarily for an expansion of Pennsylvania's public health, welfare and conservation programs. It was described as a message that will propose in concise terms "the things the public is demanding of government."

There was no indication whether Duff would mention the swelling demand for reform in Philadelphia, but there was no doubt the legislators would find this one of the most interesting subjects on the agenda.

Assembly Set to Start of Project For Battles On Key Bills

Phila. Reform and Tax Fights Face Session Starting on Tuesday

By DUKE KAMINSKI
(The Bulletin Staff)
Harrisburg, Jan. 28.—A drive to improve Philadelphia's city government will share top billing with Governor Duff's \$80,000,000 welfare program and a slim-swing battle over taxes when the Legislature convenes this week.

The 128th session of the General Assembly will be called to order at noon Tuesday against a political background that may find the re-elected governor from Pittsburgh pitted against the more conservative forces in his own Republican Party.

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Whatever battles were in the offing, they would have to be fought out by a legislative lineup still Republican-dominated but showing substantial increases in Democratic strength. In the House, there will be 117 Republicans and 91 Democrats—with 105 votes a majority. The Senate will have 35 Republicans and 15 Democrats—with 26 a majority.

How these legislators will line up on proposals for consolidation of the Water Bureau is pointed out that the plant would be the largest of its kind in the United States. Other ozonation systems, he said, are treating less than 5,000,000 gallons daily.

Taylor yesterday attributed most of the delay to the vastness of the experiment. The bureau has encountered, he said, almost continuous engineering difficulties and shortages in material and skilled personnel.

Ozonation, its backers claim, will eliminate tastes and odors regardless of the source. The present Belmont system uses sand filters along with the standard chlorination method, and the ozone is to be used before the water goes through these processes.

Spark Sets Up Gas
Ozone is a gas, and it is to be manufactured at Belmont by passing cleaned and dried air across a powerful electric spark. It will then be bubbled up through the water in tanks, combining with impurities to make them easy to remove.

A great deal of the delay, Taylor said, "has been due to the necessity for making engineering changes."

"Among other things we have had to consider the expected life of the equipment and its performance under different circumstances, as well as the results of possible breakdowns. The system has not been used here before on this scale and we cannot afford a margin for error when we must supply the daily needs of hundreds of thousands of people."

The plant was originally expected to get through with 30,000 instead of 49,300 tons of metal, tests give not only to the difficulties of the Department of Public Works in designing the improvements, but also to a certain effectiveness in the priorities rating system.

Meanwhile, water consumption is rising rapidly and there is concern over a possible shortage in the summer. Council has never needed the advisory it has received so often to conserve water by metering the unmetered services and by a scientific schedule of charges.

Start of Project To Purify Water

Ozone Test Plant at Belmont to Take Another 3; Year More Will Be Needed To See If the Process Is Effective

By JOHN G. McCULLOUGH of The Bulletin Staff
A \$1,000,000 experiment to find out whether Philadelphia can get good water without spending half a billion dollars or so developing new sources is nine months behind schedule, and will be delayed at least another three, city officials acknowledged yesterday.

The experiment is the treatment of water through ozonation. The ozone equipment, which cost \$800,000, has been ready at the Belmont filter station in West Philadelphia for three months, but the City has not completed other work to get the plant into operation.

The ozone process was ordered in an effort to decide if the city can continue to use the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers here as its source of water. The alternative is to buy water from upstate, Ozonation, a departure from the filtration methods used in Philadelphia, was recommended by a special water commission appointed by the mayor in last year's budget.

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Heavy Doses of Alum Used at Filter Plant

Alum, lots of it, is being dumped into the water at the Torresdale filter station, but it has nothing to do with the "gassy, brassy, phenol" taste that has been bothering about half the city.

The alum, officials said, is being used in increased doses to combat turbidity caused by the recent rains. The alum causes impurities to settle to the bottom of the filter basins.

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ON PRIORITY FOR WATER SYSTEM

Director of Public Works John H. Neeson announced yesterday he had obtained the highest priority on priorities which will enable the city's \$18,000,000 water system rehabilitation program to go through.

Substitutions of materials will be necessary in some instances, work will be slow and some portions of the program may be held up "for the duration," he indicated.

ON IMPORTANT ITEMS
But priorities on the "more important things," he said, had been obtained in the latter of a series of visits he made to Washington, and from which he returned to his office yesterday.

Despite the substitutions, Neeson said he believed the rehabilitation of the physical plant of the water system would cost no more than the originally-estimated \$18,000,000, and would be just as durable and satisfactory.

TO USE LESS STEEL
Substitutions, he said, would include such things as the use of reinforced concrete in building houses instead of structural steel construction, and the use of concrete instead of steel tanks for storage.

the blaze

PRIORITIES EASED ON WATER PROJECT
A Government compromise on priorities has speeded the city's \$18,000,000 water program. Director of Public Works John H. Neeson announced yesterday.

The compromise, which follows a plan Neeson was in Washington Thursday, will release materials for pumps and other important items.

For other items, concrete and other substitutes will be used. Less important parts requiring metals will be held up for a time.

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