

# Water Shortage Feared Here; Leaky Mains

## PRIORITIES HALT REPAIR PROGRAM, NEESEON INSISTS

### Plan for Conservation Outlined at Meeting of Defense Officials.

Conserve water or face the threat of a shortage this summer, Philadelphia was warned yesterday.

Danger of a shortage was highlighted by disclosure that the city wastes 10,000,000 gallons daily through leaking mains.

The vital necessity of correcting this condition was pointed out by Ellwood J. Turner, who explained that during air raids, the city system might be called on to help the neighboring waterworks of four other counties.

### Conservation Program.

Turner, chairman of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, mapped a water conservation campaign at a luncheon meeting in the Bellevue-Stratford.

The Record revealed on March 26 that Philadelphia's corroded, run-down water supply system is running so close to capacity that any important breakdown would curtail the water production program.

This is because 75 percent of its supply now averaging 340,000,000 gallons a day—is dependent upon the obsolete steam pumps at the Lardners Point and Queen Lane stations.

### A-4 Rating Held Useless.

Director of Public Works John H. Neeseon, who also spoke at the luncheon, said only calling on priorities for rehabilitating the water system will correct the situation.

The A-4 rating obtained from the War Production Board March 19, more than two months ago, is "useless," Neeseon said, since it does not cover needed copper and brass.

Other words, this rating is blocking the \$18,000,000 program just as much as City Council blocked it long before priorities.

### Auxiliary for New Pumps.

The equipment necessary (brass and copper) will be a rating "A-1" up in the A-4 list, probably as high as A-1-C, Neeseon said.

Materials, he continued, simply cannot be obtained on the basis of the A-4 rating. He said:

"Brass manufacturers tell us we have to have an A-1-C," he said. "We received the same answer when we tried to buy pipe fittings and especially equipment containing copper."

"I am desperately anxious to get pumps for pumping stations," he said. "The first of the nine new modern pumps for Lardners Point will not be delivered until November, although ordered last June," Neeseon said. The outlook for the Forendale and Queen Lane stations is obscure.

# Waste 10,000,000 Gallons Daily

## City May Ration Water Unless Users Save 40,000,000 Gallons Daily

PHILADELPHIA RECORD, FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1943

### LEAKING MAINS CUT CITY WATER SUPPLY

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McLaughlin, chief of the Water Bureau, and civilian defense officials from the metropolitan area.

Turner emphasized that "there is no danger of water rationing at present."

### PRIORITY RATING 'USELESS'

In discussing the rehabilitation program, Neeseon explained that the A-4 priority rating which the city has is now "useless."

"We have applied for a rating in the upper A brackets," he said. "We can't do anything unless we get A-1-C."

Materials simply cannot be obtained on the basis of the A-4 rating.

### PUMPS ARE NEEDED

"Brass manufacturers tell us we have to have an A-1-C," he said. "We tried to buy pipelines, valves, and especially equipment containing copper."

"I am desperately anxious to get pumps for the pumping stations," he said.

The first of the nine new modern pumps for Lardners Point will not be delivered until November, although ordered last June, Neeseon said.

The outlook for the Forendale and Queen Lane stations is obscure.

### SUGGESTIONS MADE

Administration of a new sprinkling attention to leaky faucets, and turning off all spigots tightly are urged in the circular.

Presented at the opening meeting in the Mayor's office yesterday, in addition to Neeseon, were Martin J. McLaughlin, chief of the Water Bureau, and David W. Robinson, executive secretary of the Interstate Commission.

### LEAK SEARCH EXTENDED

As this campaign got underway, John Lynch, district WPA manager, announced that \$42,631 has been granted for extension of the project for locating leaks into South Philadelphia.

A similar project recently completed in West Philadelphia resulted in the repairing of leaks which resulted in a saving of 12,600,000 gallons of water daily.

### Wastage Cited.

A serious shortage might occur this summer, Neeseon said. The wastage of 10,000,000 gallons of water a day through defective main water is estimated by a city spokesman.

Neeseon said "the wastage was 10,000,000 gallons a day, which repairs were made as a result of the survey."

### Plenty of Water, But—

Turner said of plans for a conservation campaign:

"The trouble is not in the amount of water in the river—there's plenty there—but in the capacity of our various water plants."

Plants are now being called upon to supply an abnormal demand and unless we conserve our water there is a threat of a shortage.

"There's no thought or need of rationing water; but we don't want to have water running off spigots leaking."

Present at the writing conference were Neeseon, Turner, Bernard Samuel, Acting Mayor, and Dr. A. C. Marts, State director of civilian defense.

Martin J. McLaughlin, chief of the Water Bureau, Samuel S. Baxter, assistant director of Public Works, and defense officials of the four nearby counties.

## PRIORITY RATINGS ARE CONSIDERED FOR WAR PLANTS

### Situation 'More Critical Than Most Realize,' Neeson Warns.

By JOSEPH P. McLAUGHLIN  
The city may be forced to ration water this summer, Director of Public Works John H. Neeseon warned yesterday.

Only a voluntary curtailment of 40,000,000 gallons a day can avert it, he said.

"Asserting the situation is 'much more critical than most persons realize,' Neeseon called on every citizen to use water as sparingly as he would gasoline, as 'one of the most important contributions he can make to winning the war.'"

### Industry Load Rising.

Chiefly responsible for the threatened shortage, he explained, is the increasing demand of their production peak about July or August, just when the seasonal demand is greatest.

Maximum capacity of the city's filtration plant is 400,000,000 gallons daily. A rationing of at least 40,000,000 gallons a day is anticipated.

Requiring water would be difficult, Neeseon admitted. In the first place, it probably would require additional legislation.

In the second place, only 47 percent of the domestic consumers (householders) are on meters. While it would be possible to curtail their water use through assignment of meter quotas, there would be no way of limiting the amount of water consumed by the remaining 53 percent.

Neeseon said it might be necessary to give the city's industrial and commercial concerns priority ratings in the order of their importance to the war effort. No matter what happens, he declared, the city will see to it that war plants get water.

### Quotas Considered.

However, he said, nonessential commercial and industrial users could be, assigned quotas and required to stay within them.

Of the 119 billion gallons of water consumed annually in Philadelphia, domestic users account for 38 billion, commercial users 50 billion, and industrial concerns 11 billion.

## Don't Fill Bathtub With Water in Raid

"In an air-raid emergency, DO NOT fill your bathtub with water."

That was the three-repeated warning given last night by Dr. A. C. Marts, executive director of the State Council of Defense, in a radio address over Station KTW.

Reason? The distribution systems can't take it. "In the five-county Philadelphia metropolitan district, 67,000,000 gallons of water would be instantly demanded if all citizens filled their tubs."

The distribution systems would be unduly strained; pressures through water mains would be substantially reduced; fire protection in bombed areas would be seriously jeopardized.

cooking, for shaving, for every use; by prompt attention to leaking faucets, toilets and other plumbing fixtures (one faulty faucet allowed to run in a thin, steady stream wastes 360 gallons of water a day); by freezing garden and lawn hoses for the duration, unless drought makes their use absolutely necessary; by developing and exercising the habit of water-watching.

### Conference Held.

The water conservation program was launched at a conference in the office of Acting Mayor Samuel, attended by Neeseon, Chief of the Water Bureau Martin J. McLaughlin, David W. Robinson, executive secretary of the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, and news writers.

Orange: Daily 437,350, Sunday

## LEAKING MAINS COST 10 MILLION GALLONS A DAY

### Huge Water Waste Revealed by Neeseon; Priorities Block Rehabilitation Plan

The city of Philadelphia is wasting 10,000,000 gallons of water each day because of leaking underground mains.

This was disclosed yesterday by John H. Neeseon, Director of the Department of Public Works, at a meeting called to plan a water-saving program in order to ward off a critical shortage this summer.

### 10,000,000 GALLONS WASTED

Through a pilot survey project, sponsored by municipal engineers in a city-sponsored WPA project, Neeseon said, leaks which were wasting another 10,000,000 gallons a day were discovered and repaired.

But the survey, inaugurated in the spring of 1940, thus far has covered only about 45 percent of the city and Neeseon estimated that roughly 50 percent and all leaks impossible to detect except through a phonoscope have been found. 20,000,000 gallons of water which previously flowed into sewers or streams would be saved.

### DANGER OF SHORTAGE

His statement was given added significance by the fact that Ellwood J. Turner, chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission on the Delaware River Basin, had warned earlier that "there is a danger of a water shortage here this summer."

Adding more gloom to the general picture was Neeseon's disclosure that the start of the \$18,000,000 program for rehabilitation of the municipal water system has been delayed by lack of a sufficiently high priority for materials.

### USE 34 MILLION DAILY

At present, the daily consumption of water amounts to 340,000,000 gallons. When the summer peak is reached, the consumption will approximate 400,000,000 gallons.

The shortage can develop, Turner explained, if the defense industries reach the peak of their requirements this summer and waste by industries and householders continues.

### NO DANGER OF RATIONING

Present at the meeting, which Turner was chairman, were Mayor Samuel, Neeseon, Assistant Director of Public Works Samuel A. C. Marts, executive secretary of the State Defense Council.

## ALSO URGED TO CUT USE OF WATER TO AID WAR PLANTS

### 20-Gallon-a-Day Reduction Asked of Citizens of 5-County Area.

"Don't be a drip—save water." With that slogan, the Philadelphia area embarked yesterday on a campaign to cut domestic water consumption at least 60,000,000 gallons a day from now until October.

The 60,000,000 gallons, Director of Public Works John H. Neeseon pointed out, may prove the margin of victory for United Nations forces fighting on distant battlefields.

That represents 15 percent of present daily consumption in the Philadelphia metropolitan area, Neeseon said. Present consumption approximately 400,000,000 gallons daily. Neeseon warned that the district rapidly is approaching its maximum productive capacity.

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## 20-Gallon-a-Day Reduction Urged on Citizens of 5-County Area

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capacity of 460,000,000 gallons daily. It represents the difference between the capacities of water facilities in the five-county area—Philadelphia, Delaware, Montgomery, Chester and Bucks—and the anticipated peak demand this summer.

Unless the difference is made up through voluntary curtailment of water usage by domestic consumers, war plants will be forced to slow production of vital war materials.

### Urgo 40 Million Gallon Cut.

Philadelphia itself will be asked to save at least 40,000,000 gallons a day, approximately 20 gallons each for the 2,000,000-odd inhabitants. Average daily consumption per person last year—excluding commercial users—was 50 gallons.

The peak average daily capacity of Philadelphia's pumping stations is 400,000,000 gallons. Anticipated demand this summer, including that due to increased war production, is 440,000,000 gallons.

How citizens can help: "By turning off faucets fighting a single dripping faucet wastes 10 gallons of water a day; by using what water you need, no more, for drinking, for bathing, for

Philadelphia Water Department  
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