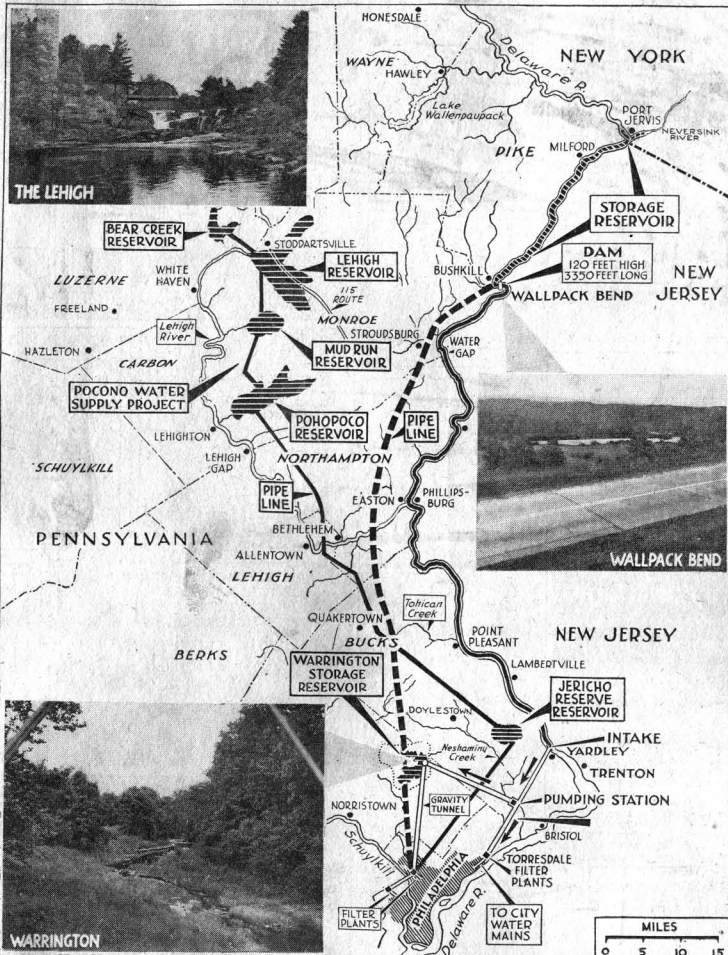


Many Proposals for Supply Submitted, But Officials Have No Agreed Program

Hearings hail To Arouse Consumers

First of a Series
By Richard J. O'Keefe



RIVAL PLANS FOR NEW UPLAND
The above chart presents the two major plans that have been advanced to provide Philadelphia with upland water. The inset pictures illustrate the terrain in the area of the Lehigh Reservoir (upper left), the Wallpack Bend Dam (right center) and the Warrington Reservoir (lower left). The plan using the waters of the Upper Delaware by creating a reservoir 30 miles between Wallpack Bend and Port Jervis, N. Y., is indorsed by engineers of the Philadelphia Water Com-

PHILADELPHIA WATER SUPPLY
mission. It offers two means of bringing the water to Warrington: by pressure tunnel (shown in the chart by the broken line) passing near Stroudsburg, and by use of the river to Yardley. The use of the Lehigh River is suggested by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, which proposes four reservoirs on the upper river and a gravity tunnel (shown by the unbroken line) passing near Bethlehem to the Jericho Reservoir east of Doylestown. Eight plans in all have been advanced.

Philadelphia water for many years has been a bitter subject of discussion by residents of the city and the butt of barbed jokes by visitors whose effluory and taste sensibilities have been subjected to rude shocks on introduction to a glass of it. The next two generations, Philadelphians have listened to proposals to provide them with purified and taminated mountain water from so-called "upland sources." These suggestions, however, have not yet resulted in a definite program.

COMMISSION NAMED
Currently, the subject is again a matter of study by city officials. Mayor Bernard Sarno last year appointed a Water Commission to crystallize all thought on a source of water for the city. The Commission appointed a Board of Consulting Engineers to study the various proposals and to make expert recommendations. Although the latter has favored a program looking to a supply from the upper Delaware River, no final report has been made by the Commission.

A number of proposals have been submitted. Several are variations of the program that has received the nod of the consulting engineers. A plan that discards the Delaware River suggestion of the Commission Engineers has been advanced by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, which advances the Upper Lehigh River as a water source.

PUBLIC CONFUSED
The variety of proposals submitted has resulted in confusion on the thought of many Philadelphians who, despite private public hearings, have only a hazy idea of what each plan entails.

The Inquirer, in an effort to present a clear picture of the discussions during the past year, has conducted an extended survey of the various proposals, which it will discuss in this series.

Members of City Council and of the Water Commission are convinced when they undertake the studies of the imperative demand of Philadelphia for an upland water supply, suffered a setback in their enthusiasm by the apparent lack of interest on the part of water users in the procedures.

FEW IN ATTENDANCE
At not one of the many public hearings was there more than sparse attendance of interested Philadelphia water users. It was unnecessary hanging out the "meeting room only" sign at the doors of chambers in which the hearings were conducted.

Attendance generally was limited to experts reporting on the various plans and the individuals whose properties would be adversely affected if certain specific proposals were accepted.

In instituting the studies, city officials contemplated placing before the voters this fall the question of a new "upland" source. In view of the large amounts of money that would have to be expended, the water matter should be determined by the voters.

NO CONCENTRATED EFFORT
Interpreting the apparent indifference of Philadelphia to the immediate solution of the problem as evidenced by the small policy attendance at meetings as an indication that new water source is not so poignant as they had first believed, no concerted effort was advanced to push the matter through to a vote this year.

The opposite and adamant positions taken by the Water Commission engineers and the experts of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company was another reason for more deliberate action on the part of city officials.

NOT ON BALLOT
As the matter stands, there will be no water vote in Philadelphia this year. If it is done in setting a policy before the Council will have a decision.

The officials on water responsibility for the more than two hundred years if a new "upland" source is to be used, are pre-occupied. It is probable that the program in view of the water users—their decision are too nebulous, translated into votes of they

Philadelphia Water Department
Historical Collection
2004.019.0018B

EIGHT PLANS ADVANCED

Although some eight plans for a new water supply have been advanced during the hearings, the leading rivals for acceptance are those advanced by the Water Commission engineers and of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company.

Also in the front ranks for recognition is the suggestion of the Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade, which opposes any "upland" source as too expensive. It proposes moving the Delaware River intake further upstream north of Trenton, to eliminate much of the pollution entering below that city.

(Continued Text)