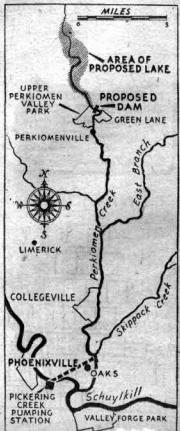


Huge Perkiomen Dam Urged as Water Source

INQUIRER 3/4/50

Suburban Company Proposes Creation of 750-Acre Lake



Proposed Perkiomen Creek water project. Dotted line indicates where water would be pumped from creek to pumping stations.

As for Philadelphia, the report said, the city now has ample water for its needs and of inferior quality. Philadelphia is now engaged in a water improvement program and consequently may not desire to participate at once in the new project, it was said.

However, the time will come when Philadelphia should be served by such a project, and the project then designed to meet this situation," said Mr. S. C. S. White, Philadelphia wants to join in the project, 500,000,000 gallons a day will be available for it, the report stated.

Long Tunnel Envisioned

The first stage of the project, to give New York and northern Jersey an extra 450,000,000 gallons a day and to maintain a 4,000 cubic feet a second, thus past Trenton, would be completed in 1952, and storage reservoirs at Cannonsville, Barryville, Goedreft and Summit, in New York, and the construction of a tunnel connecting this chain of reservoirs with the water mains of New York and New Jersey.

When Philadelphia wants more water from the Delaware, a 121,000,000-gallon storage reservoir would be built on the main channel of the Delaware at Wallpound Bend, about 15 miles upstream from this reservoir, water would come to Philadelphia either through a tunnel connecting with the Quequechan filter plant or through a tunnel to the Tercastle filter plant.

Judge Knight said that "sufficient data indicates that a substantial amount of hydro-electric power can be developed" from the Delaware. It is recommended that cost and marketing studies be made.

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Philadelphia Water Department Historical Collection
2004.019.0030A

Plans for a large dam in the Upper Perkiomen Valley, which would create a 750-acre lake, have been filed with the Water and Power Resources Board in Harrisburg by the Philadelphia Suburban Water Co., a spokesman for the company announced yesterday.

The dam, according to the plan, would store some 4,000,000,000 gallons of water and would give the company an additional 35 percent of water resources from which to draw for distribution for consumers throughout the Schuylkill Line area.

The company proposal was submitted as a conservation measure and pointed out that the dam would store flood waters which would never flow along the Perkiomen Creek.

The overflow would run down the Perkiomen to a point near Oaks, Pa., where it would be taken across the Pickering Run plant of the water company on the Schuylkill between Phoenixville and Valley Forge. At that point it would be distributed to consumers in the company's lines.

ROAD CHANGES NEEDED

The dam, which would create a lake some 15 miles in circumference, would cover wooded areas and farmland. In addition to the re-routing of some secondary roads in the area, the company said, it would expand at one point into the 48-inch line.

The project would create 15 feet long, six feet wide and about 20

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14, COLUMN 3

Water Company Seeks to Dam The Perkiomen BULLION 3/3/50

Plan Would Create 750-Acre Lake in Montgomery County

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The Philadelphia Suburban Water Co. today asked state approval of a plan to build a big dam in the Upper Perkiomen Valley.

The project, as outlined by the company to the Water and Power Resources Board in Harrisburg, would result in the creation of a lake covering 750 acres above Green Lane near Montgomery County Park.

The overflow from the dam, which would block up the Perkiomen Creek, would run down the valley to a point near Oaks. From there it would be pumped across the creek to the company's Pickering Creek plant on the Schuylkill River.

Foster C. Hilegas, who represents the constituents in the Pennsburg area, said he had formed an opinion on the proposed dam as yet.

We want to know more about it before passing our judgment."

INDUSTRIAL FARM

Judge Harold C. Knight, president of the Montgomery County Court, who lives on a 200 acre farm in the Pennsburg vicinity, said the proposed dam would inundate 150 acres of his land.

"While I would not take \$500,000 for my home, and it is not worth such a sum, I would not oppose any such public project and I will not join in any protest," Judge Knight said.

The lake would be filled by the water from many small streams which flow into the Perkiomen at points north of Green Lane.

The company's application comes after a survey of more than 18 months, the company said.

MADE 18-MONTH SURVEY

Streams feeding the Perkiomen north of Green Lane would fill the lake, particularly during the rainy and flood water seasons. The company's application was made after an 18-month survey.

The area covered by the lake would be above Green Lane near Montgomery County Park.

Montgomery County Commissioner Foster C. Hilegas, who represents the constituents in the Pennsburg area, said he had formed an opinion on the proposed dam as yet.

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ain Break Halts Traffic In Northeast

Illustrated on Page 12

Hundreds of tons of debris into the air, a 48-inch high-speed water main burst in Deveraux st. just west of the Roosevelt blvd. at 4:20 A. M. yesterday, spilling hundreds of thousands of gallons of water over a wide area.

The break was in a five-mile-long feeder line running from the Landers' Pumping Station, along the Delaware river in Tacony, to the Lake Reservoir at 5th and Chelten ave.

NONE WITHOUT WATER

No properties were left without water, according to Rene A. Leaf, district superintendent for the Bureau of Water. The supply to the area, which is served by a 30-inch main which also runs under Deveraux st. about 20 feet south of the 48-inch line.

The line had slipped a cavity 15 feet long, six feet wide and about 20

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14, COLUMN 3

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The water flooded the cellar of the home of the southern end of Deveraux st. and undermined 30 feet of concrete highway leading from the point of the break to Rosemont blvd. The water was high enough to stall their motors. Buses using the Boulevard were rerouted around the flood.

CELLARS FLOODED

The water flooded the cellars of the homes on the southern end of Deveraux st. and undermined 30 feet of concrete highway leading from the point of the break to Rosemont blvd. The water was high enough to stall their motors. Buses using the Boulevard were rerouted around the flood.

TRAFFIC DETOURED

The flood closed over the southern pavement onto the lawns of dwellings at the eastern end of the block. Cellars were flooded at the Smith and Gerofsky homes as well as those of Mrs. Pauline Guz here at 1576; Arthur Bloch, at 1574, and Michael Poltuchuk, at 1572.

As the flood became impassable, the Guardia under the command of Sgt. Edward Paul, shunted traffic around the area. At its worst, the flood covered the Boulevard from the intersection of Chelten and Ley st. on the north. Some of the stalled cars were at the scene until 7 A. M. Among them was a tow truck which was hauling a sedan that had figured in a collision.

HOUSEHOLDS WARNED

At the outset of the flood, Leaf's men and police officers went through the block warning householders to turn off their pumps and to supply

the underground water supply.

Other residents, however, were

evacuated by the police.

The Philadelphia Gas Works Co. checked

the gas lines for possible damage.

Other serious problems in the water and a conservation and the basic problem of all water is the waste," said Dr. O. G. Johnson. "With a good water supply you can have almost anything on earth."

Concluded Tomorrow

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Ladner Assails Incodel Plan To Supply Water For New York

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Judge Grover C. Ladner, of Orphans' Court, is today definitely opposed to a project to divert 400,000,000 gallons of water a day from the Delaware River to New York City to relieve a water shortage.

The \$40,000,000 plan is part of a program of reservoirs and aqueducts to supply New York City with water to meet its growing needs.

"Either Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey enter a co-operative arrangement or we will have to turn to the federal government for help," said Dr. O. G. Johnson, president of the Delaware River Basin Commission.

Ladner said that such a compact would be a "superstate" on the waters of the Delaware River Basin.

Cites 1931 Court Decision

"A tri-state compact," he said, "would repeal all the safeguards in 1931's New York compact, which specified the conditions under which New York City could divert 440,000,000 gallons per day from the upper Delaware up to the Schuylkill, to ease its water difficulties."

Ari-State water pact, allocating to New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey the amounts to which each is fairly entitled, is needed for the Delaware watershed. A preliminary report on this subject by the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin suggests a three-state compact for an integrated water project in the upper Delaware to supply the metropolitan areas of New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. It calls for reservoirs which, according to Judge Ladner, would be used initially to provide a billion gallons a day for New York.

A full report by the Commission is due in August. Before it is approved, and the go-ahead signal given for new large-scale dipping into the Delaware by New York, assurance must be given that the rights of the Philadelphia area in the distribution of Delaware water are fully protected for the future.

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Guard Our Water Supply

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Worth heeding is Judge Grover C. Ladner's warning that Philadelphia should be wary of New York's plans to help solve its water shortage problems by diverting more millions of gallons daily from the upper Delaware River and its tributaries.

The veteran water conservationist says that such a project would "rob the people of Pennsylvania and New Jersey of their rights to the water of their own watershed." It is his belief that New York should undertake a stream clearance program in the Hudson River similar to that now being conducted by Philadelphia in the lower Delaware and the Schuylkill, to ease its water difficulties.

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