

Urgent Perikomen Dam Water Source

Suburban Company Proposes Creation of 750-Acre Lake

Plans for a large dam in the Upper Perikomen 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 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 Main Line area.

The company proposal was submitted as a conservation measure and pointed out that the water storage facility, which would be released in even flow along the Perikomen Creek. The water would run down the Perikomen to a point near Oaks, Pa., where it would be pumped across country to the Pickering Run plant of the water company on the Schuylkill between Phoenixville and Valley Forge. From that point it would be distributed to consumers in the company's lines.

ROAD CHANGES NEEDED
The dam, which would create a lake some 16 miles in circumference, would cover wooded area and farmland and would necessitate the re-routing of some secondary roads in the area, the company said. It would extend at one point into the borough of Phoenixville.

The watershed created by the dam would extend into Upper Milford township in Lehigh county and drainage would include parts of Washington and Hereford townships in Berks county, and Douglas, Upper Hanover and New Hanover townships in Montgomery county.

MADE 18-MONTH SURVEY

Streams feeding the Perikomen north of Green Lane would fill the lake, particularly during the rainy and flood water seasons. The company said the survey 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 Paul C. Hill said he represents the constituents in the Pennsylvania State House who have formed an opinion on the proposed dam as yet. We want to know more about it before passing our judgment.

INVOLVES KNIGHT FARM
Judge Harold C. Knight, president judge of the Montgomery County, who lives on a 200-acre farm in the Pennsylvania State House, said the proposed dam would inundate 150 acres of land as well as his home.

"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 would not join in any protest," Judge Knight said.

Philadelphia Water Department Historical Collection
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Break Main Break Ties up Boulevard

Halts Traffic In Northeast

Inquirer Staff Writer
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Hurling tons of debris into the air, a 48-inch high-speed water main burst in Devereaux st. Just west of the Roosevelt Blvd. at 4:30 A.M. yesterday, spilling hundreds of thousands of gallons of water over a wide area.

WATER BLOCKS BOULEVARD
Roosevelt Blvd., main traffic artery between this city and New York, was blocked as two main breaks cascaded down the Devereaux st. grade, carrying tons of rock and debris to the foot of the hill. The water reached a four-foot depth on the boulevard for two squares in both north and south directions. Only a single traffic lane at the extreme eastern side of the boulevard was open to traffic.

NONK WORTH WATER
No properties were left without water, according to Rene A. Leaf, district superintendent for the Bureau of Water. The supply to the reservoir was maintained through a 30-inch main which also runs under Devereaux st. about 20 feet south of the 48-inch line.

The pressure ruptured a cavity 15 feet long, six feet wide and about 20 feet deep.

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Water Company Seeks to Dam in the Perikomen

Plan Would Create 750-Acre Lake in Montgomery County

The Philadelphia Suburban Water Co. today asked state approval of a plan to build a big dam in the Upper Perikomen 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 Perikomen Creek, would run down the valley to a point near Oaks, From there it would be pumped across country to the company's Pickering Creek plant on the Schuylkill River, between Phoenixville and Valley Forge, and then distributed to consumers throughout the Main Line.

The proposed lake would cover agricultural and wooded areas. A farmhand and local spokesman said the company owns a large section of the land and some farmers would be forced to evacuate their properties.

Some secondary roads also would be rerouted, the company said.

To the north, the watershed would extend into Upper Milford Township in Lehigh County. In addition, the drainage area would include parts of Washington and Hereford Townships in Berks county, and Douglas, New Hanover and Upper Hanover townships in Montgomery County.

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

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

"sharp popping" sound, then he heard a torrent of water. He thought it was a cloudburst, looking out the window and saw water seeping from the highway terrace in front of his home of Louis Smith, at 1946 Devereaux st.

PHONES ELECTRICAL BUREAU
Gerofsky telephoned the Electrical Bureau. Within a few minutes at least 30 more calls came into City Hall.

Red car patrolmen Frederick Arnett and Daniel Abt, of the Rising Sun ave. and Benner st. station, first policemen on the scene, said the water was lowering 12 feet into the air from a five-foot hole in the terrace when they arrived.

The water in Devereaux st. was then five feet deep, cascading toward Roosevelt Blvd., swirling at a terrific pace. A sedan parked in front of the home of Richard J. McCarthy, at 1894 Devereaux st., was carried along the flood until it rammed into another car.

TRAFFIC DETOURED
The flood boiled over the southern pavement onto the lawns of block 62 at the eastern end of the block. The cars were flooded at the Straits and Gerofsky homes as well as those of Mrs. Pauline Guernere, at 1576; Arthur Block, at 1574, and Michael Polchuck, at 1572.

As the boulevard became impassable, Park Guards, under the command of Sgt. Edward Paul, shunted traffic around the area. In the south, the flood covered the boulevard from Lardner st. on the south, to McKinley st. on the north. Some of the stalled cars were at the scene until 7:30 A.M. Among them was a touring truck that was hauling sedan that had figured in a collision.

HOUSEHOLDERS WARNED
At the outset of the flood, Leaf's men and police officers went through the block warning householders to check their heating plants, some of which burn kerosene. Leaf said in the day emergency crews of the Philadelphia Gas Works Co. checked

Authority Asked To Handle Water For Three States

Incotel Seeks Power Pending Legislation

Creation of a Delaware River Water Commission, as the first step in a long-range plan to solve the water problems of metropolitan Philadelphia, today was asked of the governors of three states.

Under the plan, it was said, the metropolitan centers could be supplied with 1,500,000,000 gallons of water daily, sufficient to meet foreseeable needs for the next 50 to 100 years.

The initial phase of the project, to serve New York and northern New Jersey, would cost an estimated \$500,000,000 to \$600,000,000. The Philadelphia end of the project would cost \$100,000,000. No cost estimate for that area, which is to be announced.

The recommendation was submitted to Governors Dewey of New York, Driscoll of New Jersey and Duff of Pennsylvania by the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin, whose office is here. Incotel has advisory powers only, but the new commission would have power to plan, construct and operate an integrated water project.

Wants Temporary Authority
It was proposed that pending creation of the new authority by law, Incotel be "empowered to act as a temporary authority in the Commission" so that plans for construction and financing can be

The "rub of the long range program is construction of a series of reservoirs that would maintain an even flow in the Delaware, even during a drought. This the Incotel report said, would have marked advantages for Philadelphia, even though the city does not immediately draw benefits supplies from the Delaware.

"Special benefits from the project will accrue to the heavily industrialized sections of Pennsylvania and New Jersey between Philadelphia and Wilmington," the Incotel report said.

This area is particularly vulnerable to the devastating effects of the encroachment of brackish water from the oceans in seasons of deficient rainfall. The proposed program would go a long way in eliminating the current damage. These are estimated to cost as much as \$1,000,000 a year on the average.

Northern Needs
New York and northern New Jersey, the report said, will need new water resources to supply about 600,000,000 gallons a day within the next 50 years.

"There is immediate need for increasing the dry weather flow (of the Delaware) at Trenton (in the Delaware) at Trenton. It was recommended that a dam be built on the river that is 4,000 cubic feet a second, or enough to supply about 500,000,000 gallons daily."

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7 feet deep in a grass terrace that divides Devereaux boulevard and the flood lanes. The water, geysering 12 feet into the air at the outset, ran for two hours and 10 minutes before two emergency crews supervised by Leaf cut the pressure by closing a series of valves on each side of the break.

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Ladner Assails Incotel Plan To Supply Water For New York

Inquirer Staff Writer
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Judge Grover C. Ladner, of Orphan's Court, is today definitely opposed to a project to divert 400,000,000 gallons of water a day from the Delaware River to help solve New York City's water shortage.

The \$540,000,000 plan is part of a program of reservoir and aqueduct construction recommended by the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin. It is designed to solve water problems of both New York City and the Philadelphia metropolitan area.

Addressing a dinner meeting of the Water Resources and Pollution Committee of the Greater Philadelphia-South Jersey Council at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel last night, Judge Ladner said he could see no reason why Philadelphia should surrender their rights to the waters of the Delaware River.

Urges Huber Project
The New York City should undertake a stream clearance program on the Hudson similar to the one Philadelphia is now conducting on the Schuylkill," the judge declared. "This would provide an adequate answer to New York City's water shortage problem."

Ladner interpreted the 1931 decision as giving the Supreme Court power to increase or decrease allotments of water to New York in accordance with conditions under which New York City could divert 440,000,000 gallons per day from the upper Delaware tributaries.

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"Under a compact," he continued, "New York could be over optimistic in estimating her needs and New Jersey had given her the power in an original compact to make her own estimates," Ladner declared.

Ladner replied that no compact exists as yet, and that a full appraisal of the problem is impossible until the results of a study of the compact plan are made public in August.

"The most serious problem in the world today is the destruction of the basis of all good conservation is water," said Dr. Graham. "Wilderness areas must be preserved as much anything on earth."

Concluded Tomorrow

Guard Our Water Supply

Worth heeding is Judge Grover C. Ladner's warning that Philadelphia should be wary of New York's plan to 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 conducted by Philadelphia in the lower Delaware and the Schuylkill, to ease its water difficulties.

A tri-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 Jersey.

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