

Hope for Better Water Lies in Ozone Process

By C. William Duncan

ZONE, used for half a century in Europe for water purification, is the hope of some local experts to rid Schuylkill and eventually Delaware River water of the obnoxious smell and taste so prevalent in Philadelphia at certain times of the year.

The water, because of its means the air or oxygen. The process is a "fairly big, gaseous form of water in minute amounts in the atmosphere." Later in the day, the ozone is used commercially for sterilizing water.

Research has been responsible for its present position of efficiency. The importance of research in the ozone process is being consumed by residents of large cities who brought home forcibly recently the acute shortage of in New York City.

Philadelphia has the world's largest generating plant for water purification at the Belmont filtration plant.

Philadelphia has long been faced with the problem of seeking other new sources of water in upstate Pennsylvania at extremely high cost or improving the water from the present sources. City officials decided on the latter step.

IN COOPERATION with the Welch Corp., Philadelphia's largest water purifier, the city contracted for a pilot plant which will produce water of a purity but not exceeding the taste and odor qualities of Philadelphia water.

When extensive two-year tests proved that the ozone process could be used effectively in producing good drinking water at a reasonable cost, the major contracts to construct the new ozone plant were awarded. The new ozone plant was awarded.

Hiring of 2d Shift Urged To Fix Water Meters

Noting that the backlog of unrepaired water meters had jumped to 46,000, City Controller Joseph S. Clark, Jr., yesterday proposed the employment of 16 additional mechanics to work a second shift at the city's meter repair shop.

The Clark report also recommended the issuance of receipts for meters removed from properties. Immediate inspection of premises should be required so that they can be charged on properties where the owners refused permission to remove inoperative meters.

Adoption of an ordinance authorizing the city to purchase and install new meters for properties where the owners refused to do so and where the meters were beyond repair.

The report also recommended drastic changes in the bureau's cost-accounting system and inventory valuation records. The latter, the report stated, is unreliable and inadequate.

"Our spot check of inventory," Clark said, "approximately 25,000 meters repaired per year and would clean up the backlog of unrepaired meters by the end of next year. The present minimum charge for meter repairs is \$7.50 and the average cost is \$100.00. The direct profit, from having 25,000 newly repaired meters is difficult to estimate, but is unquestionably substantial."

Protect Philadelphia's Water Rights

A coordinated, integrated program for the development of the Delaware River Basin and for the allocation of water from the river is unquestionably needed. The agreement "in principle" reached at the recent conference with representatives of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Delaware is welcome.

Under examination at the meeting, held in the office of Governor Alfred E. Driscoll of New Jersey and attended by Secretary of Forests and Waters Milo F. Draelms as spokesman for Governor John S. Fine, was the plan offered by the Interstate Commission on the Delaware River Basin. The Legislatures of the four States will pass on this plan, and its details will be brought out at public hearings. In brief, it would set up an interstate commission to handle the financing and operation of a project intended to meet the water needs of 20,000 persons.

A four-State agreement would forestall establishment of a Federal control agency in the Delaware basin. It would also put an end to differences caused by New York's current efforts to take more water from the Delaware. It is already tapping the stream for 44,000,000 gallons a day under a Supreme Court ruling and it is preparing to take 300,000,000 gallons additional. Allocation by interstate agreement would prevent unilateral diversion of Delaware water and would obviate costly and lengthy litigation. It is essential that the interests of Pennsylvania, and particularly Philadelphia, as the largest Pennsylvania city affected, shall be safeguarded.

Proponents of the Incoed plan say that it would be to this city's advantage as it calls for a water supply of 550,000,000 gallons a day to be piped from the upper Delaware. If the plan is approved, it should be made certain that Philadelphia obtains its rightful share of water and that its supply is not endangered at any future time by prior rights given to New York.

Philadelphia must not only be assured of

an adequate supply of drinking water but its flow of water for industrial purposes must be guaranteed. The new steel plants at Morrisville, Pa., and Paulsboro, N. J., must have an adequate and satisfactory supply of water all the year around. So must the many other plants that will undoubtedly be attracted to this vicinity by the steel plant developments.

We do not want to run the risk of having so much water drained off from the upper river and its tributaries that the flow at Philadelphia will be diminished and the flow of tidal water with undesirably high saline content will be increased.

The Port of Philadelphia must be protected in any plan for up-river diversion of Delaware water. We do not want a plan that will favor New York and northern New Jersey to the disadvantage of Philadelphia and other downstream communities. Although it is not in the Delaware watershed, New York City has already taken vast quantities of water from that river, and proposes to take much more. It has a river of its own, the Hudson, at its front door, but it refuses to use it as a supply source because of its "pollution." Philadelphia has had the problem of pollution in the Delaware for many years. It has met it by filtration and treatment works and by sewage disposal plants and plans for the future call for piping a supply from less contaminated sources further upstream. There seems to be no reason why New York City should not make use of Hudson water by going up-river to get it.

New York's persistent efforts to increase its supply from the Delaware make it necessary for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware to do something about it. They cannot afford to sit by while New York diverts all the water it can get away with.

A fair interstate distribution pact is the logical answer. The Incoed proposal may be the solution. But before any agreement is reached, Pennsylvania and Philadelphia should obtain expert analysis and opinion on the project, to make sure that our water needs—all of them—shall be amply and properly secured.

Fluorinated Water Opposed in Jersey

Report Doubts It Prevents Tooth Decay in Children

NEWARK, N. J., April 22 (AP)—The New Jersey State Department of Health was urged today to adopt a hands-off attitude on adding fluoride to water supplies to reduce dental decay in children.

The recommendation to the department was made in a report by the New Jersey section of the American Water Works Association. The report suggested that it might be better to add sodium fluoride to salt, bread and other foods or to take it in tablet form. "These possibilities should be investigated by the department but, in the meantime, it should neither promote nor discourage local authorities from artificial fluorination of water," the association said.

The report asserted fluorination might be harmful in some cases. An association spokesman said it could damage enamel in children's teeth and might interfere with normal bone development. It also said that industries producing pharmaceuticals and chemicals contend fluorination would deplete their stores of their processes.

mand from the citizens of the city of Springfield to fluorinate the water to reduce dental caries."

Appended to the contents of the letter was a copy of a letter "no comment" to make until he officially received the letter, but inquired three things: One, do the dentists expect this decision; two, that an educational campaign would have to be conducted in Springfield so that citizens could properly be informed on the value of fluorination; and three, that Aetna and Falmouth in this state have accepted fluorination of the water supply. "This letter said that fluorine 'has not been used in any municipality' in Massachusetts."

Water Commission Chairman Anthony P. McQuade and Commissioner Dudley B. Wallace were present at the meeting; the mayor, third member of the board, was not present. Mr. McQuade said the following letter was sent to Mr. Gold:

"The sole purpose of a public water supply system is to provide its users with a pure and adequate supply of water. This is made every effort to supply good water to its consumers and to comply with the demand for safe drinking water established by the United States Public Health Service. The amount of fluorine in public water supplies to reduce dental caries is being carried on an experimental basis in a number of cities and towns in this country. To date it has not been used in any municipality in Massachusetts.

"The board feels that until more conclusive information is available from the results of these experiments, it does not feel that it should adopt this type of treatment. The board will be glad to consider the matter when more evidence is available from the results of these experiments. It does not feel that it should adopt this type of treatment."

Decision Was Expected

Deegan Opposes Water Lease as Private 'Grab'

Bad Business for City And Warns of Haste

Councilman Cornelius S. Deegan, Jr., chairman of the Council's Committee on Public Works, came out today against lease of the water works to private management.

"A full study of any attempt by private capital to acquire the water works through the creation of an authority, or by lease to a water company, makes inescapable the conclusion that such a transfer would be unwise, contrary to any valid concept of the best interests of Philadelphia and a shameful abuse of our legislative responsibility," Deegan said. Deegan said the American Water Works Co., which has been putting out feelers leading to private lease to the company of the city works, had acted with "unusual, if not suspicious haste" in making a bid "to grab the Philadelphia water works" following the adoption of the new city charter.

"The arresting significance of this purpose should not escape the interest of our citizens, but should alert them to the latitude permitted by the charter" the Councilman said.

"Not in Public Interest"

He said he had approved the ordinance creating a water authority for the city and is convinced that such an authority would not be in the public interest. He said the same reasons apply with equal, if not greater weight, against the leasing of the water works to a private company.

"Government cannot divert itself of its inherent and primary responsibility to such an elementary service as the distribution of water to our citizens by transferring it to vicarious hands, where the motive is profit and the monetary returns attractive," he said.

"If we are to transfer the water works to private hands, we arrange public administration of services generally, and could, with as much justification, give to syndicates formed for the purpose the operation of a broad range of public trust."

Philadelphia Water Department Historical Collection 2004.019.0031A

"Therein lies a risk. By such devices could encourage a tendency to govern the entire realm of elected government, and, conceivably, damage that political and economic evenness so essential in our system of balanced government."

"Our situation has no parallel in Pennsylvania. The City and County of Philadelphia are co-extensive, unlike those counties of Pennsylvania that are made up of many small autonomous political subdivisions, each without the means individually for conveying vital services, but bound by necessity to combine with other communities in the adoption of such expedients as water companies and so forth, that are imperative to serve the people."

"Uncompromising need denies these communities any choice but to delegate their powers."

"Fortunate Situation Here"

"Here, fortunately, we are a geographical and social unit. We own the property and have a source of supply. The people of Philadelphia want and should have pure water, brought to them efficiently, at rates fixed by their directly elected representatives, who can be held to account for failure."

"I believe this property can be managed and public services dispensed competently and with profit, as was done in the year 1950, when the water works returned to the city treasury in excess of 800,000 over all costs."

"I am unable to see the good business in handing to any combine such a valuable plant with the resultant loss of control of the property for the long life of that authority or under the extended terms of a lease."

LEASE ON WATER WORKS SOUGHT BY PRIVATE FIRM

A proposal for leasing and operation of the city water system by private interests is being prepared for offer to the Mayor and City Council by a nationally known corporation, it was learned yesterday.

John H. Ware, Jr., president of the American Water Works Service Co., Inc., a subsidiary of the American Water Works Co., said he was certain that through modern and efficient operation his company could remove the stigma of "chlorine cocktail" from Philadelphia's water supply.

Details have not been completed but the plan embodies working features similar to the city's lease of the gas works, with rental profits to the city's bonded water debt. The proposal would have to be approved by City Council.

Declaring that he had no criticism of the present operation of the water works, Ware asserted, nevertheless, that through expert direction and close supervision of a political "hamstringing," the water can be improved.

Under the proposal, most of the city's 1000 Water Bureau employees, now under the Department of Public Works, could be retained and a direction of new, non-political ex-

BEHIND AGAINST FLUORINATION OF LOCAL WATER

Notifies Dr. Gold It Wants More Conclusive Information

Water commissioners last night turned thumbs down on fluorination of the city's water supply at this time.

A letter was dispatched to Dr. Arlo Gold, chairman of the city's water commission, by the Connecticut Valley Dental Association, saying that the board feels that more conclusive information is available as to the results of these fluorination experiments. It does not feel that it should adopt this type of treatment.

Decision Was Expected

The board will be glad to consider the matter when more evidence is available and there is an appreciable de-