

# Tainted water now safe DER says

By Jim Kushlan

In spite of the recent discovery of carcinogenic contaminants in the Capitol Campus water system, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources reports the water here is safe to drink.

Tests by DER on water samples taken from ten wells at Harrisburg International Airport (HIA) on March 2 showed the presence of two carcinogenic (cancer-producing) hydrocarbons, trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene, according to a statement from DER cited in a communication from the Public Information Office at University Park. One well showed a 93 parts per billion (ppb) level of TCE, and a 13 ppb level of tetrachloroethylene. This well has been voluntarily taken out of operation.

A March 2 DER sampling of Capitol Campus water, which is supplied by the HIA wells, showed a TCE level of 15 ppb and a 1.8 ppb level of tetrachloroethylene, according to an inter-office memo from Duane R. Smith, Associate Provost-Dean here.

On March 31, the memo said, DER took another sample at Capitol Campus, finding a TCE reading of zero ppb. The tetrachloroethylene level dropped from 1.8 to 1.4 ppb.

Elmer C. Knaub, DER Community Environmental Control's Supervising Sanitarian for this region, says the danger of cancer at the chlorinated hydrocarbon levels mentioned here is very small. "People take much

greater risks every day," he says.

Knaub said the DER doesn't even require the issue of a public notice to boil water until the contaminant reaches 200 ppb.

With a TCE level of 4.5 ppb, the DER would notify the water supplier and encourage him to monitor the TCE level. The risk at this level is such that people could drink two liters a day for seventy years with an expected risk of one cancer victim for every million people.

But TCE and tetrachloroethylene can be very dangerous in sufficient concentration, according to an article in the March 1981 issue of *Civil Engineering*. Chlorinated hydrocarbons like these not only are associated with cancer, but also with fatal depression of the central nervous system and kidney and liver problems.

The DER doesn't know how long the two hydrocarbons have been in the HIA water, and con-

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Election Results

Election '83


<p><b>President:</b> * Joe Odom 200 * Glen Buchteller 118 * Tom Dekle 132</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> * Mary Ford * Florence Chui</p> <p><b>Secretary:</b> * Sue Ruge * Mike Sipi</p> <p><b>U.B.C.:</b> * [unclear]</p>	
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Photo by Joe Hart

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## WNDR bids for former station's equipment



Author at WPSU Wilkes Barre Campus station.

Photo by Mark Clauser

By Mark W. Clauser

Capitol Campus' radio station, WNDR, is making a bid to upgrade its facilities, pending the actions of Penn State administration.

WNDR has learned of the opportunity to move to the FM band with a complete 10 watt facility soon resting idle at Penn State's Wilkes-Barre Campus. Wilkes-Barre will be abandoning the entire broadcasting program at the end of Spring Term 1983.

Dr. Brookholder, Wilkes-Barre's Assistant Director for Academic Affairs says: "We have plans to dismantle the station before next Fall because I know it's the director's plans to convert the whole radio area into faculty offices."

What are the chances of Capitol Campus getting the Wilkes-Barre equipment? Dr. Brookholder says the university has a system where decisions are very centralized, adding,

"With the way things work in the university — if University Park wants it then in almost all cases University Park gets it."

Dr. Marlowe Froke, General Manager of Learning and Telecommunications Services, Com-

**"I'm not in the business of listening to an 18-year-old kid come in and tell me how to run the third-ranked speech communications department in the United States."**

**Dr. Robert Brubaker  
U. Park Speech Com. Dept.  
Head**

monwealth Educational System says: "I do know that the University Faculty senate voted to dismantle the Associate Degree Program at Wilkes-

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