

# Water Resources

## Susquehanna River To Supply 90% Of County's Water Needs By 2010

### Part IV . . .

by Don Timmons

**SUMMARY** — The Water Resources study made by E. H. Bourquard & Associates of Harrisburg for the Lancaster County Planning Commission completely assessed present sources of water in the county — ground water and streams; and it examined the capabilities of the 30 water supply agencies in the county. The study set two time levels when changes would be required to accommodate the increasing water needs of the county's population — 1985 and 2010.

Briefly, the survey showed that the county's streams were inadequate as reliable future water sources. It encouraged further development of ground water supplies, and felt these

would be adequate for the next 20 years. Beyond 1985, however, it recommended some sweeping changes in the water supply system of the entire northern section of the county — principally, developing the Susquehanna River as the county's main water source by the year 2010.

#### SUPER WATER AUTHORITY

By 1985, the report recommends a merger of 23 of the county's present 30 water supply agencies into a super water authority. This cooperative effort is termed the "Upper Susquehanna River Water Supply Project". It would utilize water from the Susquehanna River, and would serve more than 90 percent of the combined 2010 water demands of all county water supply agencies.

These supply agencies would stretch in a continuous band across the northern part of the county from Elizabethtown and Columbia on the west to Adamstown and Terre Hill on the east. The population served by this supply belt is expected to have a combined daily water demand of 75 million gallons per day (M.G.D.) by the year 2010.

#### ONE SOURCE

The study points out that the case for serving the water needs of many communities from one central source is particularly attractive in this case because of the age and condition of present facilities. Existing water treatment facilities of all the major water agencies are 25 or more years old (with the exception of Lancaster's Susquehanna River plant). These will require major modifications or complete reconstruction by about 1985, the study contends.

Probably the most attractive features of the river proposal, the authors added, is the beneficial effect on future growth and well being of the area served, plus development of the remainder of the county and adjacent counties.

#### WATER COSTS

To service the proposed area, the project would provide facilities for securing Susquehanna water, treating it, and delivering potable water to all agencies in the system. The transmission main would run from a proposed 50 M.G.D. treatment plant near Marietta, generally across northern Lancaster County, to New Holland. It would supply water via booster pumping stations, and branch and service area lines, to the service agencies. Enlarging Lancaster's Susquehanna facilities would make up the balance needed.

The total cost of the project, which includes further additions to Lancaster's Susquehanna River facilities, is estimated at \$23 million. Those agencies not included in the project are expected to meet their increased 2010 demands by further development of ground water sources at an estimated cost of \$189,000.

Planning for the Upper Susquehanna River Water Supply Project should begin shortly after 1970, the report states, and it should be accomplished by a newly created county authority

ganized. Certain legal, technical, organizational, fiscal, and public relations aspects must precede implementation of the project.

To meet each of these potential stumbling blocks, the study urges more detailed studies, especially considering that it may be as long as twenty years before the need for creating such a super water authority will exist, and many facts and conditions could change by that time.

It is further recommended that associations representing irrigation, recreation, sportsmen's and other local interests be formed within stream basin limits. Some, such as irrigation districts or associations, may eventually evolve into authorities to construct, operate and maintain facilities within their area of interest, the report concludes.

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The authors of this extensive study see many problems before such a super water authority can be successfully or-

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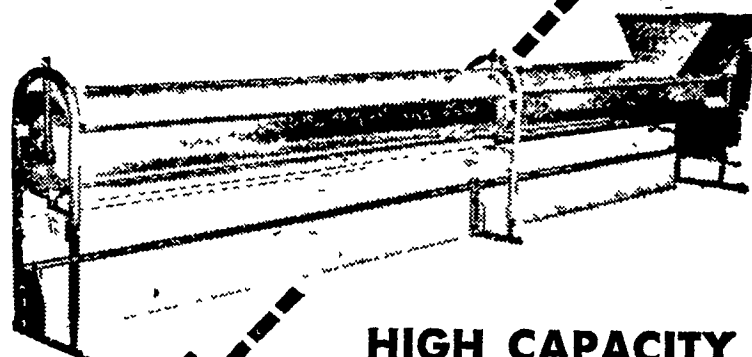
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