

A View From The Governor's Office

By Gov. Raymond P. Shafer

Pennsylvania - first in the nation to create a statewide computerized water pollution monitoring network, first in the nation to establish an automatic air monitoring network on a statewide basis, first in the nation in legislation for a comprehensive solid waste management system

As part of this Administration's 10-year "Project Environment," these trend-setting accomplishments have placed the Commonwealth in the forefront of states which acknowledge that protection of man's environment is an essential guardianship, more than a refereeing job

Deputy Secretary of Environmental Protection Wesley E. Gilbertson of the Department of Health puts the problem this way:

"Once we could run away from the problems that threatened life and the quality of living in places where people congregated. Now there is no place to hide. If we want our environment fit to live in, we must fight for it."

First in Computerized Water Control

A federal grant of more than a quarter of a million dollars was awarded to the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering in January to assist in developing a comprehensive water quality management information system for the more than 50,000 miles of Pennsylvania waterways

Designed to tighten enforcement of Pennsylvania's model Clean Streams Law, the statewide water pollution monitoring network began with a complete quality inventory of all of Pennsylvania's streams to pinpoint known sources of pollution and provide detailed information on existing and needed waste treatment facilities.

Hundreds of man-hours were involved in taking individual samples from waterways under varying conditions. This project has now progressed to the point where Pennsylvania has detailed information on water pollution never before available.

When fully operational within the next two or three years, a central computer bank will store this and related information and make it instantly available to locate sources of sudden slugs of pollution, to investigate known polluters and to record enforcement actions taken by the State Sanitary Water Board.

Automatic Air Monitoring
Major legislation designed to make Pennsylvania the leading State in the Union in controlling air pollution was passed in July, 1968.

This forward-looking legislation resulted in an award in late 1968 of \$699,222 in Federal funds to Pennsylvania to establish the first State-wide air pollution monitoring network in the Nation.

In addition, Pennsylvania is one of only three States whose present air control program has

been awarded Federal funds for continuation of its pioneering efforts.

Two experimental mobile field stations are already in operation, one near Norristown, Plymouth Township, Montgomery County; another near Chester, Delaware County. It is expected the automatic network will include at least 25 different sampling sites in the State.

Within the next few months, standards for the control of air pollution in the recently designated "Federal Metropolitan Interstate Air Quality Control Region" will be completed. This region includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania plus Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Mercer and Salem Counties in New Jersey and New Castle County in Delaware.

Last month Federal hearings were held on a plan to designate the Western Pennsylvania Counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, Washington and Westmoreland as a Federal air quality control region.

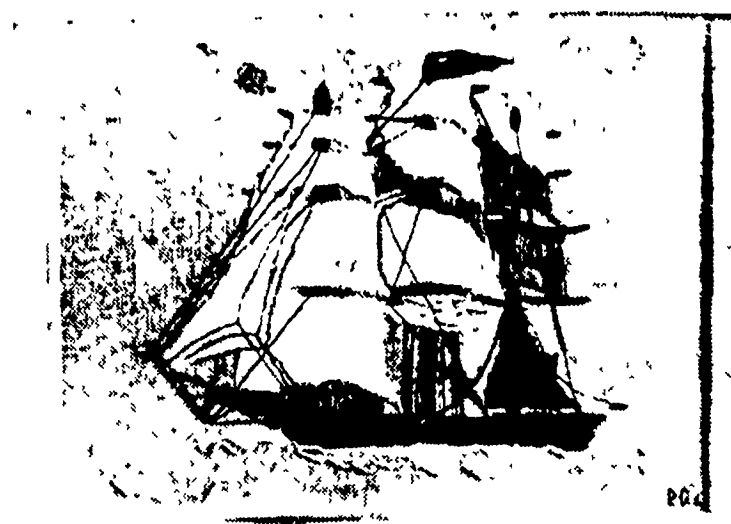
Since complete guidelines for developing implementation plans have not yet been issued by the Federal Government, Pennsylvania will continue enforcing its own State regulations until all Federal requirements are determined.

First in Solid Waste Management

On July 31, 1968, Governor Shafer signed into law Pennsylvania's pioneering Solid Waste Management Act.

Intent of the Act is to provide urbanized areas of the Commonwealth with protection from public health hazards emanating from improper handling of solid waste. This Act also makes Pennsylvania the first State to establish a cooperative effort with local governments to develop a comprehensive, State-wide solid waste management program.

Basically, it provides for the



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planning and regulation of all types of solid waste matter including domestic, agricultural and industrial wastes, their storage, collection, transportation processing and disposal.

Pennsylvania's program requires municipalities to submit to the Department of Health plans for solid waste management systems in their jurisdictions and authorizes grants to municipalities to help them prepare plans for submission by the end of 1970.

Effective January 1, 1970, permits will be required for the disposal of solid wastes. The Act prohibits the construction, alteration or operation of solid waste disposal or processing facilities without a permit from the Pennsylvania Department of Health. A 22-member Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee is already working on policy and formulating guidelines.

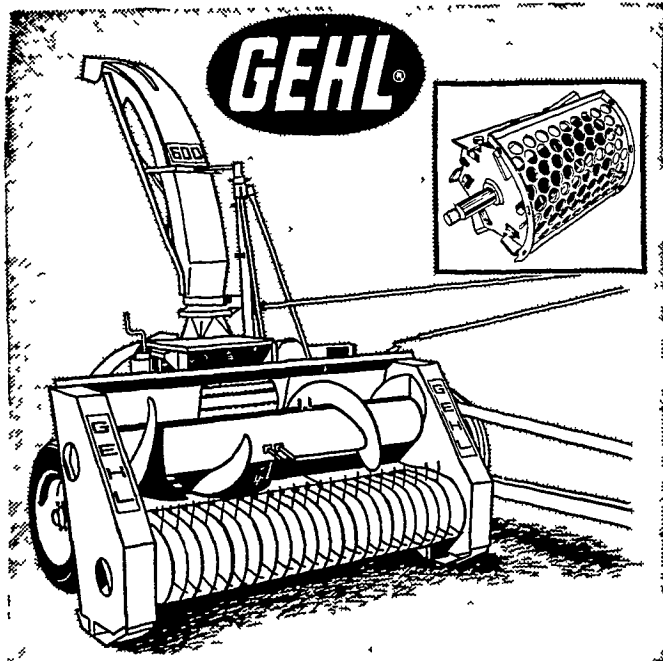
In 1966, Pennsylvania became one of the first states to apply for and receive a Federal grant

to conduct a three-year study on which to develop a State-wide solid waste management plan. The inventory of solid waste storage, collection and disposal practices of 2,559 municipalities (100 percent) has been completed, and an inventory of the practices of Pennsylvania's industrial and agricultural establishments is on its way to completion.

Pennsylvania was a member of the National Task Force Committee which developed data inventory forms from solid waste studies. It was one of five states which tested the forms and was the first State to adopt and use them. It was also the first State to use the U.S. Public Health Service's data processing facilities to compile information from these forms.

In all three areas, Pennsylvania has again shown its determination to move forward in environmental protection. With continued public support, I am certain that it will.

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