

Fulton Grange Hosts Public Meeting on Atomic Installation

Approximately 75 people attended an informative public meeting held at Fulton Grange Hall, Oakryn, Monday night to have questions answered and to discuss the possible location of an atomic plant in a section of Fulton and Drumore Townships.

Attending the meeting were T. B. Seese, Coatesville, division manager and C. L. Gattey, Philadelphia, assistant manager, public and customer relations of the Philadelphia Electric Company who attempted to answer numerous questions from local residents.

Charles McSparran, chairman of the Grange committee which called the meeting, acted as master of ceremonies. William Arrowsmith also served on the

committee and entered into the discussion.

The Rev. Roy W. Townsend, pastor of the Little Britain Presbyterian Church gave the invocation.

Seese said there had been no definite decision at this time to locate an atomic plant in this area but borings have been made and a geological study is being made. Two other possible sites are in Cecil County, Maryland and along the Delaware River in Bucks County. Seese further stated that if this location is favorable and an application is made to the Public Utility Commission 558 acres of land is needed but this might spill over to 1000 acres due to land owners not being willing to sell part of their

properties. The Atomic Energy Commission's required exclusionary is one-half mile beyond the radius of the plant. Gattey pointed out that land not needed for the plant but which they had to purchase could be used for farming, industry or recreation.

Seese stated that it would be an atomic plant. It would probably be a gas-cooled reactor similar to Peach Bottom I. Cooling towers would be used. There would be a series of cooling ponds and cooling towers about 75 feet high.

When asked what effect this plant would have on fish below the Conowingo Dam he said "We know there will be no problems from water we put back in the river."

Wesley Myers, Quarryville, spoke of "losing all our beauty here in the lower end to a hub of transmission lines and towers." When he questioned the Philadelphia Electric representatives "Why must so many of these plants be placed in our community?" Gattey replied "Unfortunately, water is one of the major necessities and you have the water." Myers then asked "Why can't they use underground cable instead of towers?" The answer was "There is no cable available for 500,000 volt underground cable."

The electric company representatives painted no bright picture for the future, saying "Eventually there will be a plant there. It's on the river and transmission lines are there."

Charles Reed asked "Will utilities continue to try to meet demand of current or will usage be curtailed?" Reply—"Public Utilities Commission regulates

this." They stressed the fact that in order to supply current for new homes and industry they must try to meet the demand.

Citizens expressed concern over radiation, asking "What impact would radiation have on infant mortality?" Answer "Pennsylvania Department of Health and Illinois Department of Health refuted Dr. Sternglass' report." Dr. Ernest J. Sternglass is professor of radiation physics at the University of Pittsburgh and is a leading authority on the subject.

Another concern "Would cooling towers change our weather pattern?" Seese replied "We have two or three consultants. They say it won't happen. Vapor will go up several thousand feet."

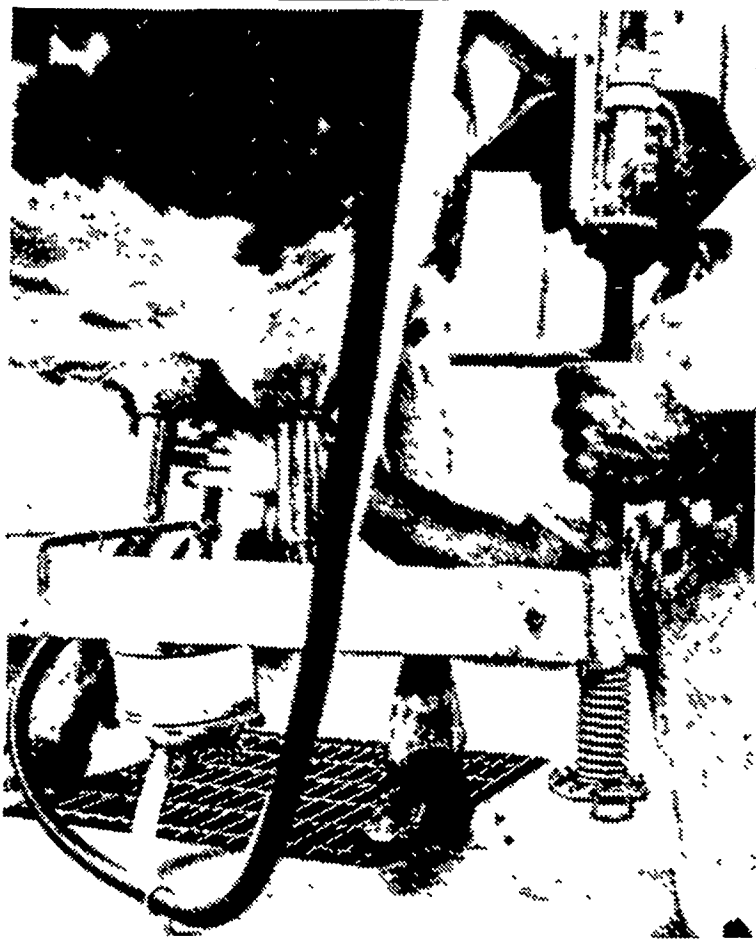
Mrs. Anna Armstrong asked "Why does Philadelphia Electric Company charge for use of their park and pavilion at Muddy Run and Pennsylvania Power and

Light Company doesn't at their local parks?" McSparran pointed out that this should be changed to benefit our local residents.

In response to a question concerning access roads to the project Seese said "It's up to our consultant to make a recommendation. The electric company asked that it be a road that would make the least impact, least harm to the least number of people." Wilmer Bolton said he was sure their consultant's report will be favorable to people of this community.

Charles McSparran read a tax and revenue loss computation prepared by Harold Wiggins, business manager for the Solanco School District, based on 1,000 acres of taxable land removed from tax rolls. It showed \$10,683 annual loss on school, county and township tax. Using 150 additional students probability from an influx of project

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