



The faces of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Moyer mirror the concern they have about possibly having to move to another area. Their Schuylkill County dairy farm is in approximately the center of Deibert Valley, which might be flooded if a dam and

reservoir are built there. Possibilities of that happening are now being studied by an engineering firm, while residents in the area are banding together in opposition.

Seventeen

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formation from the DRBC. There's a reservoir site in Lehigh County, known as the Trexler reservoir, says the

DRBC, which has received approval of that governing body and is ready for construction. "All the preliminaries have been

taken care of," a spokesman for the agency said, adding that there is a "good chance of it going into construction imminently."

The DRBC spokesman said that the commission has initiated talks with the electric companies to try to

negotiate an agreement by which the utilities could have water from Trexler. It conceivably could provide cooling make-up water as well as local water supply needs, the DRBC spokesman explained.

Two things would have to

happen before the Trexler alternative could become effective: 1. Construction would actually have to begin (DRBC has approved plans and the environmental impact statement); and 2. the utility companies would have to be agreeable to buying water from the Trexler facility. DRBC is of the opinion that they might be since the utilities would then not have to be concerned with building their own reservoir.

Actual selection of the site will be made by the utilities group involved in the project. Studies are being conducted by a New York engineering firm. Approval of the final selection and a review of the environmental impact statement would have to come from the DRBC.

Among the farmers who would lose their lands is Lewis Noecker of Schuylkill Haven R1. The Noecker property has been in the family for six generations, and Noecker said he'd hate to have to lose it now. "We never expected something like this to come around here," the young farmer said, shaking his head.

Wilbert Moyer, also of Schuylkill Haven R1, has a dairy farm in Deibert Valley, which may be under water if and when the reservoir is constructed. His grandfather bought the 128-acre farm in 1913. Aside

from the home farm, he rents two others. Noting that he had over 100 bushels of corn per acre last Fall, he expressed satisfaction with the ground's fertility. Like Noecker, he hates to think of having to relocate because he has lived here all his life and he's used to the lay of the land and has tailored his farming techniques to these properties. He's also worried about not getting as good a farm elsewhere if he must relocate. "But it isn't just the money, it's the idea of relocation," he said. There are 17 or 18 farms involved in the site study, along with homes and trailers.

Moyer, who milks 37 Holsteins, told Lancaster Farming that not all farms in the valley are being farmed, but more have come into production in recent years than there were just a few years ago. Total acreage to be taken up by the considered reservoir would be 1160 acres.

The CORCD have gained momentum in their fight in that statements of support have come from both the Schuylkill and Carbon Counties Extension Services, the local school board, and other groups. The area's Agway unit has indicated it would side with the farmers.

The group's next meeting will be held on Feb. 28 at the Landingville Fire Hall at 7:30 p.m.

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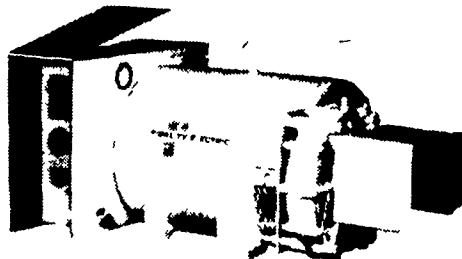
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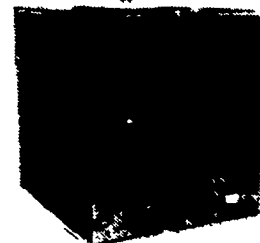
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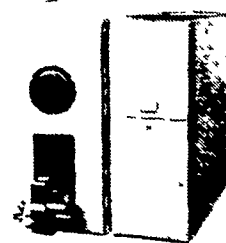
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635	3	4-10	305	15,688	4.0	624
653	3	4-11	305	18,110	3.7	665
Mc Ral Dairy Farm						
20	3	9	305	20,131	3.4	682
63	3	5	305	19,576	3.8	744
363	3	2-2	303	12,572	4.1	521
Galawn Farms						
Jenny	3	6-11	305	21,039	3.6	762
Goldie	3	6-4	305	19,952	3.8	763
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