

Interim report issued on water management plan

LANCASTER — Love Canal, PCB's, contaminated wells, polluted streams and municipal sewer bans are all current issues facing water quality and public health.

These issues are addressed in a recently prepared water quality management plan which aims to clean up present

problems and prevent them from reoccurring in the future.

For the past five years, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, the engineering firm of Gannett, Fleming, Corddry & Carpenter, Inc., Capitol Region Planning and Development Agency and

hundreds of concerned citizens, industries, county and municipal officials, and environmental and agricultural groups have been developing a draft Comprehensive Water Quality Management Plan for the Lower Susquehanna River Basin.

This Study Area consists of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Perry and York Counties as well as portions of Franklin, Lebanon and Schuylkill Counties. The Lower Susquehanna River Basin is one of nine such Study Areas initiated by DER across the Commonwealth.

During these five years, considerable information has been compiled and alternative solutions have been proposed. At this point in the study, more public input is needed to help select the solutions that will form the basis of a recommended Comprehensive Water Quality Management Plan.

Upon adoption, this plan will have great impacts both locally and state-wide. These impacts will include the protection of high-quality

streams and agricultural land, the future needs for municipal and industrial waste treatment, the levels of governments to be responsible for managing water quality functions and the methods of paying for new or expanded municipal sewage treatment plants.

In order to obtain more information from local citizens and officials, an interim report has been prepared by Capitol Region Planning and Development Agency entitled "Plans and Choices."

This forty-page booklet presents, in understandable terms, the information that has been gathered and the alternatives available for consideration. It discusses existing problems and potential needs in water quality management along with the management, financial, institutional and physical system alternatives that can be applied to these problems.

Eight public workshops will be held throughout the Lower Susquehanna River Basin during January in an effort to stimulate and

receive more citizen input. These workshops will be co-sponsored by Lancaster County Planning Commission, Capitol Region Planning and Development Agency and the Department of Environmental Resources.

To receive a copy of PLANS & CHOICES or more

information about the upcoming workshops, contact Lancaster County Planning Commission, 50 North Duke Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17604, phone (717) 299-8333, or Capitol Region Planning and Development Agency, Suite 124, 4751 Lindle Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111, phone 939-7827.



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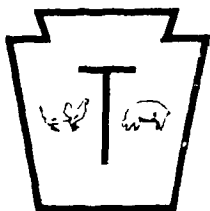
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