

Wind erosion again damages Great Plains soils

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

We are pleased to read the article "Bradford group joins hands to dump the dump" in the March 22 issue.

Hopefully, Lancaster Farming will continue to report on DER's next proposed hazardous chemical waste dump site in Ridgebury Township, Bradford County, to be operated by Stabatrol Corporation.

We own a 140 acre farm less than three miles from this proposed site. We are also members of Pennsylvania Farmers' Association and concerned members of B.C.A.U.S.E. (Bradford Citizens Against Unsafe Environment).

As you know, the Bradford-Sullivan County Farmers' Association has publicly denounced this proposed site along with many other Bradford County organizations, state and county officials.

I realize, as well as many other people, that hazardous chemical wastes are by-products of our twentieth century society and that they have to be disposed of somewhere, but it appears to us that DER just indiscriminately chooses areas without investigating present and future consequences for that area. I also find it alarming that some of the former DER employees eventually become employees of hazardous waste corporations.

What has become of Pennsylvania's constitutional amendment, Article 1, Section 27? Haven't there been enough near catastrophic mishaps within Pennsylvania this past year with TMI, the Lyncott and Allenwood dumps, to name a few?

Must we add Ridgebury to this list?

Certainly there must be wastelands elsewhere in the state away from productive dairy and farm lands, water sources, game lands, and God-given natural scenic lands.

I feel a state-wide moratorium should be effected against additional proposed hazardous chemical waste permits issued by DER. This state is just too beautiful to destroy because of the whims of a few money-hungry people.

I would appreciate any help your editorial staff, or others, could give in our fight against this dump.

Mrs. Pam Salerno
R 2, Sayre

Dear Editor:

There is a simple solution to the TMI problem. What must be done is a make a mountain on the Island. This is a practical way to solve the problem. If enough dirt is hauled to cover over man's mistakes the TMI problem will be solved.

The sooner we give up the curiosity of nuclear power, the better off we all will be. It is unfair to expose all the good people of the TMI area to anymore dangers, just to satisfy the curiosity of a few greedy and egotistical people.

Cover it over and let it be a monument to man's im-

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Wind damaged almost three times as much land—more than 3.1 million acres—in the Great Plains during the months of November 1979 through February 1980 as it did during the same period a year earlier, Norman A. Berg, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service said Monday.

Berg said reports from the 10-state area indicate the wind damaged 3,123,710 acres, up from 1,170,849 for the same period a year earlier. He said the major factors contributing to wind erosion this season were low summer and fall precipitation and lack of snow cover. Of the total land reported

damaged, 96 percent (2,999,890 acres) was cropland; three percent (93,740 acres) was rangeland; and one percent (30,080 acres) was other land.

Hardest hit was Texas with 989,247 acres or 32 percent of the total. The southern plains states reported 57 percent of the land damaged (1,770,922 acres) and the northern plains 43 percent (1,352,788 acres). Wind also destroyed crops or cover on 400,569 acres of land not damaged. Of this total, 79 percent was in the southern Great Plains.

Soil Conservation Service compiles wind erosion reports covering seven mon-

ths, November through May each year, using data sup-

plied by almost 550 counties in the Great Plains.

perfections. The only answer to problems of the future is in theotechnology. Recently on "60 Minutes" it was made quite clear that there isn't such a thing as safe nuclear fission. The after effects will linger on for years.

Daniel M. Groff,
Lititz

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