

Herbicide contaminates water reservoir

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources Wednesday announced laboratory tests revealed a herbicide, metals and a petroleum product were present in

water samples taken from the Duncannon Borough Reservoir. The herbicide was identified as 2,4-Dichlorophenoxy Butoxyethyl Ester, one of many 2,4-D products. It is used as a brush killer and to

control dandelions and other weeds.

DER laboratory tests showed the "gray powder" which caused borough officials to ban use of the water on Tuesday, July 7, contained lead, zinc and a sulfide.

The water samples also showed traces of a petroleum product, such as those used as a carrier for herbicides.

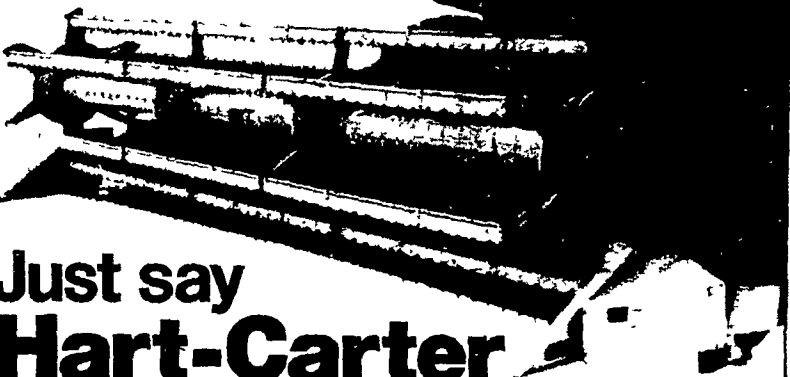
Reservoir water contained .92 part per million of the herbicide. The federal government has set .1 ppm as the safe level for drinking water. Samples taken from the water supply system after initial flushing dropped from .035 ppm Tuesday morning to .005 ppm Tuesday night, DER tests showed.

The reservoir was flushed Tuesday, July 7, and a second flushing was planned for today, but DER said the water-use ban would remain until laboratory tests could be completed to show the system to be free of the other substances.

Federal drinking water limits for lead, a toxic substance, is .05 ppm and for zinc, considered non-toxic, is 5 ppm. The amounts of these substances found in the reservoir and in the Pipeline were pending laboratory results.

At the same time, DER granted the borough permission to drain the half-million gallons of polluted water from its reservoir into Sherman's Creek, a tributary to the Susquehanna River. DER stipulated that the Reservoir discharge was to spread over 24 hours.

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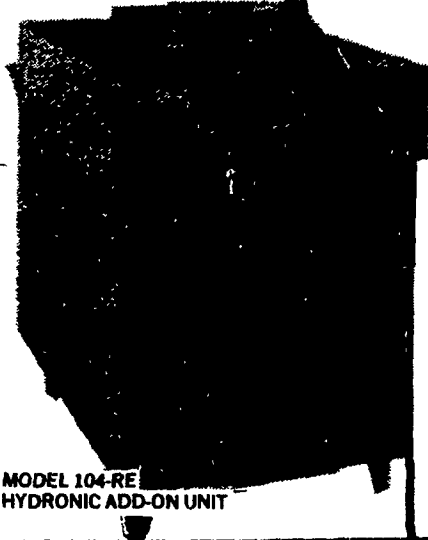
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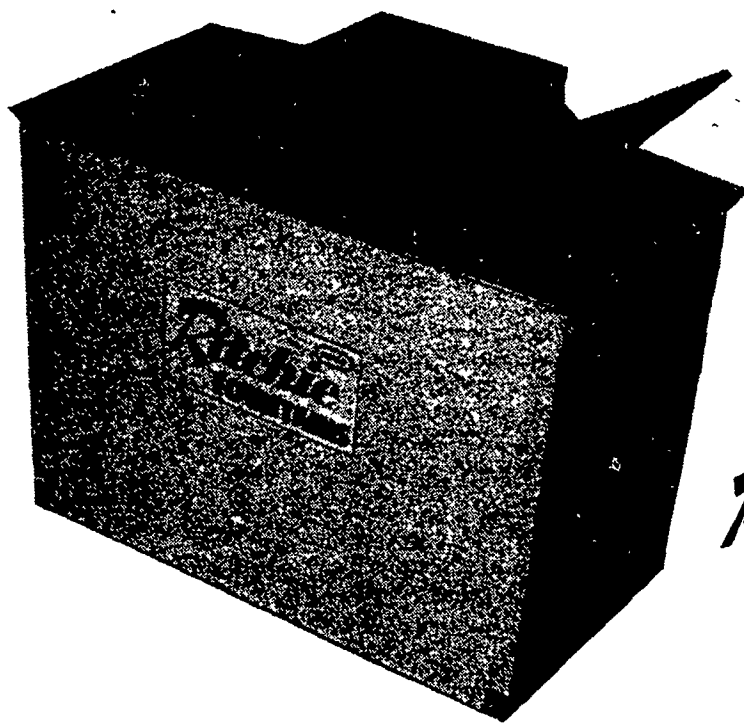
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