

# Il scene for hazardous waste 'war'

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be responsible for actions taken before it purchased the Stabatrol operations.

OUCH has also filed for intervention status on the hearing between Sunny Farms and DER concerning the former's suspended state dumping permit.

In a letter recently received by OUCH, the group was notified that, while DER did not mind their seeking third-party intervention status, the bureaucracy feared that OUCH would, in reality, turn on them in testimony.

But OUCH holds hopes for their

"secret weapon" in this heated, dragged out confrontation.

That weapon is having the Green Valley area designated an "aquifer recharge zone."

An aquifer is a large underground water supply, determined by in-depth geological and hydrological studies. To date, no official aquifer has ever been established in Pennsylvania, so the group hopes to set a precedent. No hazardous waste dumping is allowed above a designated aquifer zone, thus having the area set aside by EPA would effectively

halt all dumping proposals.

EPA's Washington D.C. board has acknowledged that the site is a likely one, even suggesting that the area originally applied for as an aquifer be more than tripled, to include some 50 square miles.

Such proposals must be printed in the Federal Register, then given a six-month waiting period for comments. If the proposal is contested, public hearings must be held.

OUCH pins their hopes for the aquifer status on a hydrogeological study on the Liqwacon and Sunny

Farms site done by Professor Moid U. Ahmad, professor of hydrology at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.

Conclusions of that study, published in January, 1981 are:

—The hazardous waste site is located in the aquifer which is the sole drinking water source for the residents of North Codorus Township and the Borough of Seven Valleys.

—The hazardous waste site is located in an area which is faulted and fractured and the earthquake activity has also occurred in the past and future earthquakes are also expected and the earthquakes could fracture the waste cells.

—The waste site is located in an area where quarries exist. The

presence of these quarries and shafts could fracture the waste cells and produce extensive pollution.

—The soil is unsuitable to attenuate any contaminated water.

—The proposed site has already been polluted due to the abandoned Sunny Farm landfill site and this situation has serious consequences for North Codorus Township.

—The proposed method of containment of hazardous waste is not a sound technique because in the final analysis all clays or artificial barriers eventually leak. Moreover, given the weight of overburden above the containment barrier and the resulting pressure head, leakage would accelerate.



Farmers on these family operations that populate Green Valley feel that they're fighting to stop the burial of hazardous wastes, not mainly for their own lifetimes, but to protect the legacy to their children and grandchildren. Geologists studies say that a large aquifer, or underground water recharge system, lies beneath picturesque farmland.

## Berks ASC election

### to be held Nov. 23-Dec. 7

LEESPORT — A list of the names of all known eligible persons to receive ballots in the upcoming annual ASC committee election is available in the county ASCS office, reports Mark S. Balthaser, chairperson of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee.

ASCS, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is responsible for farm program administration. On the local level, ASCS operates under a farmer-elected committee system. This year's elections will be by mail ballot between November 23 and December.

Anyone who meets the following requirements is eligible to vote in these farmer committee elections; any individual of legal voting age with an interest in a farm as owner, tenant,

or sharecropper who is eligible to participate in any ASCS program.

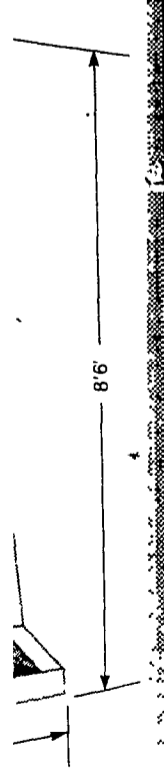
Several general provisions relate to ASC voter eligibility. A wife who operates a farm with her husband can vote if her name is on the deed of conveyance. Any person under 18 years of age can vote if he or she runs a farm, and a legal guardian who runs a farm for a child can vote for the child. No person can be denied the right to vote because of race, sex, color, religion, or national origin.

A person may cast a ballot in any county in which he or she is an eligible ASC voter, but her or sue cannot vote in more than one community in the county. If an eligible voter has separate farm interests in more than one community in the same county, special care will be taken to see that only one ballot is issued to that voter.

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