

Greenhouse to be heated by PP&L power plant

DANVILLE — A unique industrial park is being developed near Pennsylvania Power and Light Company's Montour Steam Electric Station in rural Montour County.

Since December 1980, Bryfogle's Inc. has been growing a variety of flowers in a three-acre greenhouse near the power plant.

Beginning this fall, Pepperidge Farm Inc. expects to raise

tomatoes in a one-acre greenhouse adjacent to Bryfogle's.

The greenhouse, which has 33,600 square feet of growing area, will be heated by discharge heat from PP&L's power plant.

The tomatoes will be grown in a soilless system that uses water containing all the nutrients needed by the plants. Because the vegetables are to be grown in this unique, controlled environment and will be unaffected by adverse weather conditions, they will be relatively uniform in shape and size and resistant to the cracking and discoloration typically associated with soil-grown tomatoes, according to Eric Dannemann, manager of the Pepperidge Farm greenhouse project.

Dannemann said that the variety to be raised in the greenhouse was selected only after extensive research, and is expected to produce a tomato that is superior in taste, color and texture. The first crop, scheduled for harvesting this fall, will be test marketed in the greater Philadelphia and New York City areas.

The market research will be done to demonstrate the practicality of developing a fresh produce business, Dannemann said. If it is determined that a competitive business could be developed, Pepperidge Farm would then build a production-

facility that would consist of between five and eight acres of growing area.

"Being able to use discharge heat from PP&L's power plant is very important to our plans," Dannemann said. "We hope to develop a competitive business and this heating source is certainly an essential part of these plans. It's a simple matter of economics."

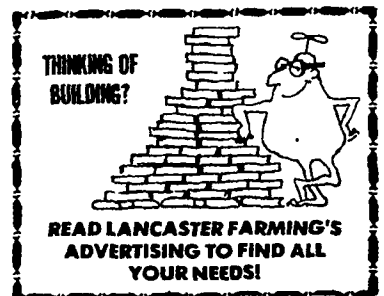
The Pepperidge Farm greenhouse is designed to be far more energy-efficient than traditional glass-paned greenhouses. Two layers of plastic sheeting, air-inflated under pressure, are used for the walls and roof of the structure. A type of "blanket" will be used beneath the roof to minimize heat losses at night during the winter.

The project is a cooperative effort between Pepperidge Farm and the Campbell Institute of Research and Technology, both subsidiaries of Campbell Soup Co.



A worker cuts plastic panels that will form the walls of the Pepperidge Farm greenhouse, which is now being built near Pennsylvania

Power & Light Co.'s Montour Steam Electric Station in Montour County.



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