

## PUC lifts aerial spraying ban

HARRIBURG — The Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission has voted, in a two to one decision, to lift their ban off West Penn Power Company's aerial spraying of power line right of ways in southwestern Pennsylvania and to accept guidelines for future spraying agreed upon by the utility, State Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania Consumer Advocate and Pennsylvania State Grange.

The only dissenting vote came from Commissioner Michael Johnson, who said he felt the ban should be continued and additional hearings held. Johnson said he could not support the recommendations of the parties because of the "human risks involved in aerial spraying".

The agreement reached upon by

the parties and adopted by the PUC includes a requirement for advance notification to the public and to all affected property owners of the utility's intent to spray, and safety distances from sensitive areas, such as homes and lawns, bodies of water, pastureland and playgrounds. The agreement also includes a provision for affected landowners to reject aerial spraying and enter into a landowner maintenance agreement with the utility to clear their own land. The utility would reimburse the landowner at a rate equal to the utility's avoided cost of aerial spraying minus the utility's cost for advance notification. In turn, the landowner agrees to exempt the utility from all liability for said area.

The Pennsylvania State Grange

became involved in the negotiations as a rural farm organization representing many of the landowners affected by the aerial spraying in Fayette County. Landowners complained that spraying was being conducted despite their objections, and was, in some cases, performed carelessly in populated areas where young children were playing, and over ponds, wells and gardens. The Grange testified as a witness for the Pennsylvania Consumer Advocate in PUC hearings held in January, advocating the right of landowners to maintain their own right of ways.

At the direction of PUC Administrative Law Judge Joseph Matuschak, who presided over the hearings, the Grange, Consumer Advocate, West Penn Power, and

Department of Agriculture, met on several occasions to work out a settlement, resulting in the guidelines adopted by the PUC.

### Del. Holstein Show


NEWARK, DE — The 1983 Delaware Holstein Show is scheduled to take place Thursday, June 16, at the Delaware State Fairgrounds in Harrington. The show will begin promptly at 11

a.m. All cattle for the show should be on the grounds at 10 a.m. and be available for registration checks.

Lunch will be available on the grounds for exhibitors and spectators.

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