# Public Hearings To Begin

VERNON ACHENBACH

Lancaster Farming Staff HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The first two of eight public hearings to be held by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) to gather public comment on its proposed revision of rules and regulations concerning the drawing of basin water are to be held Thursday, June 23 at the Fred L. Waterman Conservation Education Center, in Apalachin, N.Y.

As reported in the May 21 issue of Lancaster Farming. the SRBC has proposed almost a complete revision of its regulations covering procedures for its review of projects.

However, two additional public hearings, to be held in Maryland, have been added to the six previously reported, and dates have changed slightly.

According to Richard Cairo, SRBC general counsel and secretary, the revision of rules was seen as necessary because existing regulations and rules had been created piecemeal.

The SRBC staff, working with an agricultural adivsory committee for about a year, has proposed bringing together several separately created regulations and addressing some other areas of concern that had not been previously addressed.

The proposed rules would condense and bring consisten-

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cy to the entire package, according to Cairo.

Among the areas not previously addressed in rules is a proposal of user "compensation" for those who would take significant amounts of water from the Susquehanna River Basin during drought in a "consuming" manner, .

To "consume" water is to use it in a manner which makes it no longer available to the flow of the basin. Three-Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant's evaporation tower is a well-known example of consuming water.

Using water in its liquid form and converting it to a gaseous form is a basic consumption of water.

Freezing water and selling it as ice outside of the basin, or hauling or pumping water out of the basin can also technically be considered to be consumptive uses because that water is no longer available to maintain basin flows.

Those who consume water, above a certain amount, would be required to make some form of water compensation. The compensation could be in a number of forms, but also could be in the form of money.

In lieu of adopting a practice or creating an alternative source of water (a pond, lake, etc.) to consume during drought, a water-consumer could pay a compensation rate of 14 cents per 1,000 gallons consumed on a year-round

The proposal was published

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in its entirety in the June 8 issue of the Federal Register, the federal government's notification publication.

Copies of the proposal can also be obtained upon request from the SRBC. Write to the SRBC at 1721 N. Front St., Harrisburg, Pa., 17102, or call (717) 238-0423.

For those who are unable to attend any of the eight hearings, written comments on the proposal will be accepted by the commission until August 1, 1994.

To present written comments, all the commission requests are legible, concise and constructive comments, along with the name, address and phone number, if applicable, of the person or group commenting.

Send comments to: Richard Cairo, General Counsel/ Secretary, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, 1721 N. Front St., Harrisburg, Pa. 17102-2391.

The scheduled hearings are: • June 23, 1:30 p.m., at the Fred L. Waterman Conservation Education Center, Hilton Road, Apalachin, N.Y.

• June 23, 7 p.m., same

• June 24, 1 p.m., at the Days Inn, along River Avenue, in Williamsport. It's located at the exit from Rt.

• June 28, 10 a.m., in the auditorium of the Pennsylvania Game Commission Headquarters Building, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. It

Big Foot 5'x7'6"

is located within several miles of the state Farm Show Complex, in Harrisburg.

• June 28, 7 p.m., at the SRBC Headquarters Building, 1721 N. Front St., Harrisburg.

• July 6, 1:30 p.m., at the Perryville High School Auditorium, located at 1696 Perryville Rd., Perryville, Md. • July 6, 7 p.m., same place.

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