

Ag Protests Fee Impositions

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would be used to cover the costs of monitoring and administration.

The application fees apply on a sliding scale, depending on the amount of water involved.

Under the proposal, there are a wide range of cases of water use projects which may require application to the SRBC and monitoring. In fact, under proposed Section 803.21, there is wording that provides that anyone uncertain as to whether or not they need to apply for water withdrawal may ask for a "preliminary consultation" to find out if they will have to apply and monitor the use.

Of immediate concern in the application process to agriculture are those projects of consumptive use of 20,000 gallons per day or more; and those withdrawing, but not necessarily consuming more than 100,000 gpd on a 30-day average.

There are also spelled out some special cases, such as is involved in a water project involving crossing state borders.

The one-time proposed fee for application of a project to consume 20,000 to 100,000 gallons of water per day would be \$750. The application fee for those seeking consumption of 100,001 gpd to 500,000 gpd would be \$3,000. Projects using 500,001 to 1 million gpd would be assessed a \$6,000 fee.

Those seeking to use more than 1 million gpd would have to pay \$12,000 as a one-time application fee.

The annual monitoring fees would be \$100 for uses of 20,000 to 100,000 gpd; \$500 for uses of 100,000 to 1 million gpd; and \$1,500 for uses exceeding 1 million gpd.

Public Water

The proposal would also affect public water suppliers. Previously,

community water users were exempt.

However, the SRBC has changed its position to view the system as a single consumptive entity, using averages of individual water uses to calculate percent of consumption.

Many water companies would be forced to pay a fee.

David Modcer, vice president of the Pennsylvania-American Water Company, and representing the American Waterworks Association, testified that the proposed rules are unnecessary and that the projections of community consumptive uses are greatly overstated.

He also said that the people he represents want to continue the exemption they currently enjoy; that public water systems are not consumptive users because all they do is provide a system of getting water to the consuming person at the end of the faucet; that the companies can not raise water rates to reflect the increased costs without government approval; that an effective date is not spelled out; that the proposal is counter to the push by DER for water companies to regionalize; that transfers of registered water consumption should be allowed for the water companies desiring to regionalize.

Still Time

There is still time to provide comment on the proposal. Copies of the proposal are available through the SRBC, and it was published in the June 8 Federal Register, Volume 59, No. 109., starting at page 29563.

Otherwise, comments should be submitted not later than August 1, to: Richard A. Cairo, General Counsel/Secretary, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, 1721 N. Front St., Harrisburg, Pa., 17102-2391.

Pa. Holstein, PSU Dairy Science Club Join Efforts

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Penn State Dairy Science Club and the Pa. Holstein Association have announced that they intend to jointly sponsor the 11th Nittany Lion Fall Classic Holstein consignment sale, set for Nov. 5, 1994.

After last year's sale averaged \$1,963 on 70 Holsteins, this year's sale committee is looking forward to selecting cattle and managing the 1994 Fall Classic sale. The sale managers and selection committee are to visit Holstein breeders in the next few months to select cattle.

For the 1994 Nittany Lion Fall Classic sale, Jen Trout, of Forest Hill, Md., is overall chairman, and Cathy Pavelski, of Susquehanna, is assistant.

Chairing the selections committee are Andy Foster, of Petersburg; Thad Sturgeon, of Fombell; and Sue Cadwallader, of Salem, N.J.

Other committee chairs include Jen Hummel, of Duncannon, advertising; Peter Mozes, Greenville, publicity; Terry Martin,

Chambersburg, finance; Amy Marshall, Elwood City, reception; Rodger Keith, Martinsburg, arena preparation; Adam Tanis, Centre Hall, barn manager; and Owen Bewley, West Chester, animal preparation.

Dairy Science Club members use the Fall Classic as an educational experience. The sale provides first hand experience in selecting, financing, merchandising, preparing, evaluating, and managing dairy cattle. Last year, more than 50 students were involved in the sale.

The goal for this year's sale is to select approximately 75 top quality springing heifers and young cows. In addition, a select group of pedigreed calves will be sold.

Those interested in consigning animals should call Ken Raney at the PHA office, (814) 234-0364; Jen Trout at (410) 692-6028; or the Penn State Dairy and Animal Science Department and ask for Larry Muller (814) 863-4205, or Dale Olver at (814) 863-3914.

What They Said

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Testimony provided by representatives of the state's two largest agricultural organizations, and the state Department of Agriculture, support the efforts of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission in attempting to deal with a difficult problem, but seek to eliminate production agriculture from being included as a major cause of water flow problems.

During testimony presented at a SRBC public hearing on Tuesday, on behalf of the state Department of Agriculture, David Bingaman said that the SRBC should not impose fees on agriculture.

"The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's review of the proposed ... regulations indicates that many farmers within the basin will be unaffected by the regulation.

"Nevertheless, the impact for those operations affected by the regulation would require significant payment or the provision of makeup water by the operation.

"In light of the significant impact on the operations affected by this regulation and the seasonal nature of agriculture, we fell an expanded comment period would enhance the ability of the agricultural community to provide meaningful comments to SRBC.

"During this period, SRBC should provide outreach and information to the regulated community through the Cooperative Extension Service, agricultural publications and public meetings."

Bingaman went on to explain how the PDA appreciates the concessions to agriculture already included in the proposal.

However, he said that conservation practices by farmers, and the fact that farmland contributes greatly to the stability of basin flows by keeping large areas of land available for rainfall to recharge the groundwater

should be taken into account by the SRBC.

"The gradual release of stormwater from agricultural lands is preferable to the end-of-pipe stormwater discharges from urban or suburban systems.

"A regulation that further constrains production agriculture in this basin may in fact not be in the best interests of water quality or quantity."

William Adams, director of natural resources for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, has served on the SRBC Agricultural Advisory Committee for two years.

In Adams' testimony, he said the PFB opposes the proposed fees to agriculture, that agriculture should be exempt from consumptive use regulation, and that the comment period should be expanded.

"PFB supports the water registration requirement contained in the proposed regulations. PFB also supports the regulations that allows for the transfer of a certificate of pre-compact use to a subsequent agricultural owner. Unfortunately, these areas of agreement are overshadowed by the fee issues."

On behalf of the Pennsylvania State Grange, Brenda Shambaugh, legislative director, reiterated the Grange's policy on water allocations and agriculture.

She said that the Grange "... recommends that any legislation passed make clear agriculture's rights to water ... that any farm be allotted a full allocation of water for the purposes of food production."

Shambaugh also said that the SRBC keep in mind the benefits of agriculture to the basin in conserving water and providing for recharge; that fees are detrimental, and that a 50-percent credit toward the amount of compensation is appreciated, but insufficient.

"In conclusion, the Grange agrees that the SRBC should monitor water use in its jurisdiction. We suggest to you, however, that exorbitant fees are not the answer."

USDA Study: BVD2 Of Concern To U.S. Cattle

HYATTSVILLE, Md. — A U.S. Department of Agriculture study of a severe type of bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) suggests that the emergence of this potentially fatal disease in the United States could present a serious health threat to the cattle industry.

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service study was initiated following confirmation of this disease this spring in cattle herds in northwestern Pennsylvania.

Veterinarians investigating the Pennsylvania cases have confirmed that the disease was caused by BVD-Type 2 Virus. USDA researchers have identified BVD-Type 2 virus as having significant genetic differences from the milder form of BVD more commonly found in cattle across the country.

The Type 2 BVD virus has been found intermittently in the United States since the 1970s but had not been linked to outbreaks of severe disease.

The study, conducted by APHIS Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH), found that there is an epidemiological basis for severe BVD to become a disease of concern for U.S. cattle producers.

The potential for a disease problem exists because of the following factors: clinical cases of severe BVD have been documented in certain regions of the United States; many cattle are not vaccinated for BVD; the introduction of infected cattle into herds appears to be a risk factor; and the impact upon affected producers can be severe.

An estimated 42 percent of dairy producers do not vaccinate at all for BVD. Only 33 percent of all beef calves are vaccinated be-

fore weaning, and only 13 percent of cow/calf operations vaccinate cows.

BVD virus usually spreads into a susceptible herd through the introduction of infected cattle. High levels of cattle movement between U.S. herds increase the risk of BVD outbreaks. Once an unvaccinated herd is infected with severe BVD, the mortality rate can be high.

Severe BVD infection may cause cattle to have a high fever, anorexia, decreased milk production, occasional diarrhea and respiratory problems. This disease is transmitted to susceptible cattle through inhalation or ingestion of respiratory aerosols, saliva, nasal discharge, urine or feces from infected cattle. BVD is not communicable to humans and does not present a threat to other animal species.

To determine the distribution of BVD-Type 2, CEAH requested input about severe BVD from 29 state veterinary diagnostic laboratories located across the country.

Seven laboratories reported that cases of severe BVD had been confirmed over the last year in their states. Two of these states, New York and Pennsylvania, indicated that the number of severe BVD cases was increasing. Laboratories in Colorado and Washington reported suspected cases that were not confirmed.

Last year an outbreak caused by a similar Type 2 BVD virus occurred in Ontario and Quebec, Canada. Animal health officials in Canada reported that hundreds of herds have been affected with severe BVD and attribute a higher death rate in young and adult cattle to this disease.

Canadian information about BVD outbreaks in Ontario indicates that herds that were not vaccinated or were inadequately vaccinated became affected by the disease. Vaccinated cattle in Canada may have shown some of the clinical signs of BVD, but those herds did not experience high mortality.

Precautionary measures that producers can use to prevent a BVD outbreak from occurring in their herd include the following:

—Vaccinate the entire herd for BVD. Revaccinate according to the instructions on the vaccine manufacturer's label.

—Maintain a closed herd as much as possible by limiting the movement of cattle on and off the farm.

—Isolate newly purchased and sick cattle from the rest of the herd.

—Avoid overcrowding cattle and minimize any stress they may experience.

—Identify cattle that may be a persistent source of BVD infection and remove them from the herd.

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