

## DER holds local public hearing

### Hazardous waste proposal gets favorable response

By ALEXANDER SOAST  
Collegian Science Writer

A draft of the Pennsylvania hazardous waste facilities plan was met with favorable public reaction, said the state Department of Environmental Resources manager of hazardous waste planning.

"We've had a really good reaction (to the plan)," Bridget Hofman said at a formal public hearing held yesterday by the Environmental Resources manager of hazardous waste planning.

"I think overall everyone supports the plan as — if as nothing else — a first effort to scope out the problem and define some options (for handling the waste)," she said.

Hazardous waste is anything classified as flammable, overly ignitable, reactive, corrosive or toxic such as sludges and acidic and toxic wastes, Hofman said.

Radioactive material does not fall under the definition of hazardous waste, she said.

Daniel Spadoni, community relations coordinator for the DER, said the draft states the need for waste disposal facilities and suggests methods of disposal.

After getting public reaction, the EQB must decide whether to approve the plan, Spadoni said.

Hofman said the draft also assessed the amount and types of waste in the state.

Pennsylvania generates 5 million metric tons of hazardous waste, the fourth highest amount in the nation, she said.

One common public concern was to "do more, follow up with more stringent regulations," Hofman said.

David Hess, deputy director secretary of the Office of Policy for the Department of Environmental Resources, said that another common concern was updating the plan, making information more current when necessary.

Paula Ford, chairman of the conservation committee of the Juniata Valley Audubon Society, submitted testimony at the hearing saying she had reservations about the plan.

"We're glad the state is planning to do something about hazardous waste," she said later in an interview, but added the planning is only short-term.

The report does not recommend doing research because it would be a long-term investment and not worth the money, Ford said. The state should accept long-term research as a reality.

The technical assistance program (TAP) outlined in the draft is good but vague, she said. Technical assistants are not obligated to report any noncompliance by a waste generator.

The role of the DER as regulator and TAP as assistance should be clearly defined. The assistants are

not out to get the generators, she added.

The state should also promote more on-site handling of the wastes by those who generate it. Those with a record of good handling of waste should be encouraged to accept outside waste for a fee, she said.

"I think overall everyone supports the plan as — if as nothing else — a first effort."

— Bridget Hofman, DER manager of hazardous waste planning

The final plan should also devote more time to agricultural and household wastes in addition to industrial wastes, Ford said.

Following the hearing, Judith Johnson, the director of the Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power, said she is concerned that no incentives exist to cut the amount of hazardous waste generated.

Another worry is that the DER's field staff is federally funded and could be adversely affected by any cuts because of the Gramm-Rudman budget balancing law.

—K.J. Mapes

## Hafer drops out of Lt. gov. race, backs Scranton

An Allegheny County commissioner announced her withdrawal from the lieutenant governor's race Wednesday morning at a press conference, her administrative assistant said yesterday.

Following the conference, Irene McCabe said Commissioner Barbara Hafer said after a week of talking with state Republican Party leaders, she would withdraw from the race to help promote party unity.

Lt. Gov. William Scranton, unopposed for the Republican gubernatorial nomination, last week selected state Sen. D. Michael Fisher, R-Upper St. Clair, as his running mate.

"Many of the top Republican leaders in Pennsylvania have advised that it was a race well run, but now it is in the best interest of the Republican Party to withdraw and focus my energies on the gubernatorial election and the re-election campaign of U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter," Hafer said at the press conference.

Hafer has withdrawn to show her support for Specter and the Scranton ticket," McCabe said.

"It was a very good candidacy ... but the time had come to unify the party," McCabe said.

Although Hafer's administrative assistant could not say what the commissioner plans for the future, McCabe was certain Hafer would run for another term as commissioner.

"I have a strong political base in Pennsylvania and I am sure the future will bring another statewide race," Hafer said.

—K.J. Mapes

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**Clinger defends Social Security**

By M. JEFFREY COCO  
Collegian Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. William F. Clinger introduced legislation last week prohibiting the federal government from borrowing Social Security funds in order to meet its own financial obligations.

"We should not be trying to balance the budget on the backs of the elderly, and my bill would see to it that that never happens," Clinger, R-Pa., said.

Clinger said the government last year drained money from the Social Security trust fund to sustain operations while Congress debated on raising the debt ceiling.

"The funds were used to provide the federal government with needed operational capital as Congress decided what increase in the national debt would be required in order to complete its obligations for the fiscal year."

The bill establishes the Social Security fund as a private trust that would be headed by a trustee appointed by the president, said Ellen Slageman, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Treasury Department.

Responsibility for the fund is currently held by the Secretary of the Treasury, Slageman said, adding that the trustee would have the authority to invest Social Security funds in private bonds as a way of creating additional revenues.

"Our senior citizens deserve nothing less than the assurance they will always be able to cash their benefit checks," Clinger said.

The congressman said his bill would ensure that money is always available to pay Social Security benefits, adding that "the nation's debts were not caused by Social Security, and I can see no reason why Social Security should be used to bail the government out of its fiscal mess."

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**Retirement village passes first review**

By LISA NUNBERGER  
Collegian Staff Writer

Preliminary plans to build a \$1.9 million retirement village in College Township were passed by a committee of the Pennsylvania Health Systems Agency. The village is designed to accommodate the increasing senior citizen population in Centre County.

The board of directors of the Health Systems Agency in Lewisburg will vote next month on the proposal before passing it on to the state Department of Health.

Calvin Zimmerman, a member of the Clover Highland Association, the organization sponsoring the retirement village, said the village will take five years to complete and open the spring of 1988 if plans are finalized.

Paul Schroeder, an administrator at the United Methodist Home, a nonprofit organization which will be managing the village, said that by 1990 the population of senior citizens in the Centre County region is expected to grow from 8,542 to 10,877 — a 27.3 percent increase.

In 1980, 7.6 percent of the population of Centre County was over 65. But it is projected that by 1990, 8.8 percent of Centre County's total population will be senior citizens, he said.

"This increase can be partially attributed to University faculty members who came into the county during the 1960's and are now ready to retire," Schroeder said. Many of these faculty members have parents in their 80s who wish to retire where their children are.

"This is a double-whammy," he said.

Zimmerman said according to the Rand McNally study done last year, State College is ranked as the 12th most desirable place to retire in the country.

"There are three types of senior citizens," Schroeder said. "the go-go, the slow-go, and the no-go."

The go-gos are those who are about age 65 to 75 and are relatively socially and physically active. At the other end of the spectrum are the no-gos who are for the most part bed-ridden. The slow-go are those in between.

The apartment complex in the retirement village will basically house the go-go and the slow-go, he said.

Transportation to town, the malls, and to doctors will be provided by a bus service, Zimmerman said.

"This retirement village is not a place you come to die," said Schroeder. "It's a place you come to life."

He said many activities will be provided for the senior citizens, such as musical programs and political discussions. Because retired University faculty members will probably comprise a large portion of the residents, there should be a variety of interest groups started, Schroeder said.

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