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DEP To Use Wells To Probe Pollution From Dump

By CLAUDE CAZZULINO

WHARTON — Monitoring wells will be used in an effort to pin down the extent of ground water pollution on and around L. E. Carpenter property, a state Department of Environmental Protection official said yesterday.

George Klepp, a geologist with the DEP's Division Of Water Resources, confirmed previous reports that open pits filled with discolored liquids are present near a chemical dump on the Carpenter property. He said there is also evidence of pollution on banks of the Rockaway River that border the Carpenter property.

However, Klepp said he did not observe any leaks in L. E. Carpenter's waste disposal system, a collection of holding tanks which were installed in 1976. Previous reports had quoted borough health officials as saying they had observed liquid wastes from the tanks leaking onto the ground.

The monitoring wells will be installed at the expense of L. E. Carpenter.

The wells can determine the depth and the concentration of the pollution, Klepp said. This will enable the DEP to determine the amount of chemicals which have seeped into the soil and how much would have to be drained away before the ground could be considered cleansed, he said.

The wells will also determine if chemical wastes have contaminated the aquifer lying below and downstream of the dump, Klepp said. Carpenter officials have maintained the dump is stable and that no contamination of ground water supplies have taken place off their property.

How the chemicals mix with water will also determine the nature of the ground water pollution, Klepp said. Some chemicals dissolve in water while others do not and this would affect how far the chemicals spread.

Klepp said Carpenter, a vinyl manufacturer, had cooperated with the DEP by furnishing a list of all the chemicals it uses in its factory.

Klepp said once the state determined the extent of the pollution of ground water on the property, it would formulate plans for cleaning up the chemical dump. He said he had assurances from Carpenter officials the company will cooperate in any cleanup efforts.

The DEP will also try to determine if chemical wastes have polluted the Rockaway River and infiltrated the water table downstream of the dump.

Klepp and Robert Plum, who is also with the Division of Water Resources, inspected the area around the dump Monday. They took three water samples, two on L.E. Carpenter property and a third from Well No. 3 of the borough water system. The well is located about three quarters of a mile downstream of the dump.

The results of the state lab tests on the water samples are not complete. Klepp would not speculate on the contents of the discolored liquids in the several open pits and in one large retention basin on the site.

The liquid in several of the open pits were colored various shades of orange whiles others were apparently covered with an oily sheen, he said. Klepp said he observed a similar oil slick along the banks of the river.

Test borings 12 feet deep have already been made about 120 feet from the dump. The borings, requested by the Rockaway Valley Regional Sewer Authority, showed contamination of ground water by high levels of chemical toxins, including the vinyl solvent Xylene, a suspected carcinogen.

The RVRSA requested the borings as part of a right-of-way study being made for a new sewer line that will pass through Carpenter property.

Klepp said he observed buried and broken drums on the property as well as a sludge dump. There was also a large collection of free-standing drums which, contrary to previous reports, showed no signs of leaking, he said.

A Carpenter spokesman has said the firm had tried to ship the drums to a state-approved dump but the DEP has been unable to direct them to one. Haulers are also hesitant to cart the chemical wastes away, the spokesman said.

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County Workers Feel Fuel Pinch

By ENDA SLACK

Morris County government is beginning to feel the fuel pinch.

A 10 percent slash in the allocation of gas for the county's fleet of passenger cars and trucks will force a 15 percent reduction in travel by employees, County Administrator Fred Rossi announced yesterday.

"Our usage is increasing, but the cutback is based on the June 1977-June 1978 allocation," Rossi said.

"We are now using 25,000 gallons a month, but our supplier notified us we will be cut back to 19,000 gallons. So we will have to cut employee driving by 15 percent to make up," he said.