

Correspondence: Heiselberg, Edward,
1972 August-September

September 12, 1972

Edward Heiselberg, Director of Planning
Luzerne County Planning Commission
Luzerne County Court House
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18702

Dear Ed:

I have your letter of August 28th concerning the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority. The matter has been referred to our Planning and Development Committee headed by Tom Kiley. It is receiving their careful and serious consideration. They will undoubtedly be in touch with you and with the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority.

I thank you for writing to me and for your continued interest in the activities of the Flood Recovery Task Force.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

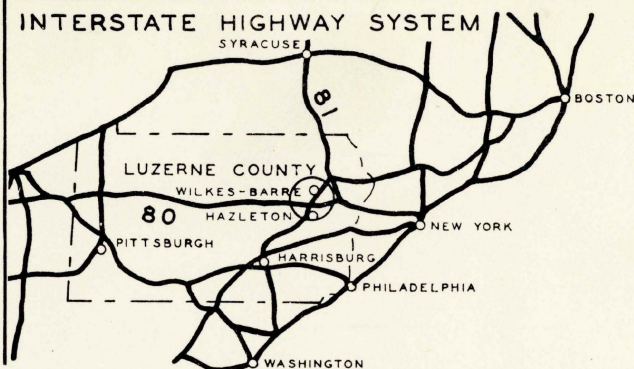
MR:cjr

cc: Thomas Kiley
Andrew Shaw

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JUDGE

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August 28, 1972

Judge Max Rosenn
197 S. Main St.
Wilkes-Barre, Penna.

Dear Max:

A serious problem exists in connection with the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority.

Prior to the flood, the Pa. Dept. of Environmental Resources had ordered the Authority to have an engineering study made for converting from primary to secondary treatment. The Authority considered several engineers and employed Middle Atlantic Engineering Company which few people heard of before. This was brought to Court as to whether the engineering study should proceed, and it was learned that the President of the Company did not graduate from an engineering school as he had claimed, and was not qualified. The contract with this engineering firm was voided, and the Authority decided not to take any action for a six month period, which must be up by now.

Then came the flood, and the sewage was dumped into the Susquehanna River without treatment. According to Bob Shepherd of EDCNEP, Mr. Henry Levi, the Director, says it will take about a year to get the plant back

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in operation. However, the Corps of Engineers have brought the plant to within 95% of operation already. Bob Bielo, Director, Susquehanna River Basin Commission called me August 24, to indicate that this was the only major Sewage Plant in the Susquehanna River, which is not operative, and he offered whatever help he could.

Several of the communities in the Wyoming Valley Area have HUD commitments for building sewage collection systems. Others have applied for EDA grants for sewage systems. The three chambers of commerce are applying for EDA grants to construct industrial parks. I know that HUD is holding up grants on Jenkins and Pittston townships on sewage collection systems until the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority proceeds with plans to convert to secondary treatment. Plains Township and Swoyersville Borough sewage collection systems are being revised, and will also probably be held up until secondary treatment is available because the Environmental Protection Agency has not given a certificate of adequacy. Bob Shepherd says that EDA seems to be backing away from grants to industrial parks, because the sewage would go to the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority without secondary treatment. However, for Hanover Industrial Park, the Environmental Protection Association will grant a conditional waiver, on the basis that when the project is complete if secondary treatment is not available, Hanover Industrial Park will be required to put in its own treatment plant.

It will probably take a year to design the secondary treatment plant.

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If the Authority wants to appoint its own engineer, this could probably
be funded by EDA, or EDA could use its own engineer, as Michael Baker.

I hope that the County Recovery Task Force can help with this problem.

Yours truly,

Ed Heiselberg
Edward Heiselberg, Director of Planning
Luzerne County Planning Commission

EH/adeq

cc: Ed Schechter, Howard Grossman, John Hourigan, Bob Shepherd, Robert Bielo

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