Georgetown
1-16-07

RECEIVED
JAN 18 2008
PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

Public Service Commission
Frankfort, Ky

Sirs and/or Dames,
Please find enclosed my commentary on water supply.
Single page is introduction to my comments on any septic disposal, remainder of which I will mail you tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Steve Price

Georgetown News-Graphic
6-13-07

Other options for finding water

To the Editor:

I see the proposed Scott County water reservoir as folly. As a horticulturist striving for a self-sufficient homestead, I rely as little as possible on cash flow and tax-based government services. Thus, I am more or less outside the consumerism that wants to buy everything, including water.

According to data from the Scott County PVA office, GMWSS and the National Weather Service, the roof of the av-erages home in Scott County sheds 70-90 percent of water volume consumed in the house below it. The local Toyota factory is capturing, storing, treating and consuming a large volume of water from its acres of roof surface. I have easily captured water for drinking and for all other household and horticultural uses for many years.

Why won't Judge-Executive George Lusby and his crowd admit that rain falling from rooves, if captured, would render the proposed reservoir largely redundant, and probably an unnecessary, but very expensive public project? Because they are habituated to managing public money and government services, rather than free-for-the-taking rainwater from rooftops of their too-humble abodes.

So, with public bludgeon of eminent domain, they have driven some two dozen farmers and homesteaders from their property to make a reservoir site.

On March 14, the Lexington Herald-Leader published a scientific report on the toxicity of plastic water vessels. Wouldn't the same toxicity pertain to PVC plastic water pipes that I have seen installed by plumbers and by GMWSS?

I'll gratefully get my water from the roof and carry it in buckets, preferably oaken. Will developers leave any oak tress for making buckets?

All those who fear water shortages and cry to governments and water merchants for assurance — pipelines, dams, reservoirs, etc. — would be relieved and pleasantly surprised by the abundance of water they can easily capture from their rooftops.

Roof water capture further avoids the nightmare of frozen and burst pipes in the winter and permits fuel-saving reduction of winter home heating, which often is largely done to prevent pipe freeze.

Home and community horticulture for all, including public officials, was Thomas Jefferson's vision for an agrarian U.S., and offers today simple, immediate means for improving our supply of staples, including water. Home, neighborhood and small-scale commercial horticulture, along with home water supply, offer hope that such grand public projects as the proposed reservoir would be inconceivable to a population of homesteaders and citizen horticulturists.

Steve Price,
Georgetown

167 Rucker Ave.
Georgetown, Ky.
40324
7-27-7

W.A. Broughman
3161 Custer Drive
Lexington, Ky. 40517

Mr. Broughman,

Enclosed is news item to which I referred while talking with you last evening after meeting of Fiscal Court. (Copy.)

Other enclosures indicate my ongoing effort to dissuade public and water officials from massive public impoundments of water, pipelines, treatment plants, etc. The sad fact is that all this commercial and government effort to distribute and sell water distracts and deludes citizens from the abundant water they could, and in my opinion should, be capturing from rooftops.

Home water supply, by requiring attention to one's homestead, facilitates home horticulture and home industry.

If I could find an agreeable lawyer, I would sue Kentucky American Water Co. and Kentucky River Authority, enjoining them from their dam and pipeline projects, on grounds that they distract public from home water supply, thus inducing huge water waste; and that, by imposing eminent domain, they disrupt and damage homelife, property values, and production and commerce in horticulture and agriculture. Eminent domain is, I think, just as destabilizing, economically, as war.

Maybe you could help me find such a lawyer, and would consider joining such a suit.

Sincerely,

Steve Price

P.s.--I have considered suing pro se, representing myself, but I'm busy with my crops.

159 Rucker Avenue
Georgetown, Kentucky
40324

1-12-05

Editor
Georgetown News-Graphic
Cherry Blossom Way
Georgetown, Kentucky 40324

Dear Editor,

Since News-Graphic reported some months ago that permitting of proposed water reservoir on Lytel's Fork is now in hands of Army Engineers and EPA, I have intended to write you. And in reply to letter from Nancy Phares in News-Graphic, 1-5-05, on same subject, I write.

According to roof dimensions and rainfall data I obtained from Scott County Property Value Assesor, and from National Weather Service, respectively, the average home roof in Scott County sheds some 40,000 gal. of water yearly. The average home consumes some 57,000 gal of water yearly, according to GWSS.

I am not ashamed to admit that I have drunk and cooked rainwater from rooftops, and bathed in it, since 1980. I seem to be healthy.

Some twenty-three rural properties were acquired by county--some by use of eminent domain law against proprietors--as site for proposed reservoir. Given the mostly ignored and wasted roofwater resource in our county--some 70% of home consumption--are proposed reservoir and consequent property siezure necessary or prudent?

When I recommended rainwater capture to one of the local officials Nancy defends in her letter, as alternative to proposed reservoir, he replied, "You can't have cisterns in New York." Said official, elected to manage public affairs in our community, apparently assumes that public policy here must be modeled on that of New York. If New York relies on water piped from the hills, then we must follow suit.

Public officials "in a New York state of mind", who march in urban lockstep with no mud on their shoes, would impose East Coast urban style and logistics on us, without even looking for better, local solutions.

There may well be cisterns in New York. One very large and famous cistern is under the Opera House of Paris, France. (Beehives are kept on its roof.)

Said official cited cholera as risk in areas without piped water. The safety and potability of raw rainwater from a relatively clean roof, stored above ground, may be greater than that of raw water from any other source.

In said issue of News-Graphic, an Eastern Elementary second-grader states that having recess outside in the rain wouldn't be a problem for her. "I like it," she said. "I don't mind when I get wet."

To Nancy Phares; to the city, county, and GWSS officials she defends; to combatants for ownership of Kentucky American Water Co., here and in Germany; to all desk-bound merchants and consumers of pipeline water, I say, as I said to Bluegrass Area

Water Consortium: Next time it rains, follow said second-grader's example. Take a bucket outside and put it under your gushing downspout. You may thus begin your liberation from the tyranny of piped water.

Plenty of public information on home water capture, treatment, and storage is available.

"Acquiring and protecting property..." is a right granted by Kentucky Bill of Rights to "all men" and to "freemen". "Absolute and arbitrary power over...property...exists nowhere in a republic...." (Ky. Bill of Rights, #2.) But Kentucky's eminent domain law, KRS 381.020, by allowing government siezure of private property, denies this right, this freedom.

We Scott Countians who value our rights and freedom, should advise Army Engineers, EPA, and our local city and county governments, that we don't want or need proposed reservoir. We should capture rainwater as a safe, inexpensive, and in this case, much more democratic and just alternative. And we should ask our legislators to address cited legal contradiction that allows property siezure.

Though advised of roofwater alternative, county's engineers didn't mention it in their permit application as an alternative water source they had considered. Said application was denied largely because no alternatives to reservoir were considered. What will it take for county to admit that roofwater exists? How about a loud outcry from constituents who value their property rights over eminent domain?

Address: Army Engineer District, P.O. Box 59, Louisville, Kentucky 40201 Attention: Mr. Greg McKay, phone 502-315-6685.

Address: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Water Mgmt. Division - Wetlands Regulatory Section, 6 Forsyth St. S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303. Phone 404-656-4713.

Many technicians, office workers, and laborers make their living by selling water and expanding pipeline water business. Home roofwater capture is unsettling to engineers contracted to design and install our county's water supply system, including proposed reservoir, because it challenges their design habits, and offers home water independence to current water buyers. They know about roofwater resource, but did not include it in a list of sixteen alternative water sources they recently drew up, as requested by permitting authorities for proposed reservoir, Army Engineers and EPA. I obtained said list from Judge Lusby's office on 1-13-05.

"Why isn't roofwater on the list?" I asked the judge.

"They did it," he replied, referring to county's engineers at GRW Company in Lexington. This long-time conractor to both our local governments, for various public projects, tells local government what's good for them, and local government apparently believes them.

"Who are we, laymen to the outdoors and to the mysteries of nature, to challenge big science?"

Judge Lusby once observed in this newspaper that, as a child, he "...drank water from the creek and...never got sick." Experience and understanding of nature, accessible to children and adults who play and work outdoors, is not a private realm of big science.

A gradual shift toward home water supply would offer current water merchants, pipefitters, laborers, and plumbers time to comfortably adapt. Many would be needed to man resulting boom in roof drainage and water storage services. And many could remain in charge of present commercial water facilities, which would continue to serve those who won't or can't collect water at home. I don't advocate dismantling present water facilities, needed for backup during drought, but rather a halt to expanding them

167 Rucker Avenue
Georgetown, Kentucky 40324
11-9-06

Mr. Stewart Hughes (Magistrate Elect)
2287 Long Lick Pike
Georgetown, Kentucky 40324

Mr. Charles Hoffman (State Representative Elect)
406 Bourbon Street
Georgetown, Kentucky 40324

Mssrs. Hughes and Hoffman,

I write in response to reading your acceptance statements in News-Graphic (11-8-06), following your election victories. Because you both work in the economic sector of food supply, and because you will both now have a hand in shaping public policy, for years to come, in Georgetown, and Scott County, I write you jointly concerning issues you both may influence.

Mr. Hughes, you are quoted in News-Graphic as saying you intend to "...contribute to the building of a reservoir in Scott County." Please see enclosures regarding proposed reservoir. I suspect that some politician making a similar statement about public water supply, sometime back in Georgetown's history, is responsible for distracting proprietors and tenants from capturing the abundant roofwater flowing freely from their houses and other buildings. Roofwater, at that time of wood-shingle and metal roofs, was arguably safer then than now, with asphalt roofing so common. But my reservations about drinking from asphalt roof were dispelled when I found, some months ago, a fist-sized wad of earthworms nesting in mud under an asphalt shingle that had blown off my house. If that asphalt shingle were toxic, those earthworms would have been sick or dead, but they appeared quite healthy and active when I lifted said sheltering shingle from them.

When 70-90% of water consumed currently by average home in Scott County falls off roof uncaptured, we don't need another politician advocating more pipeline water from a reservoir, built on land siezed under eminent domain law. With some effort to reduce and recycle water consumed, the average home could, in my opinion and experience, easily capture all the water needed.

How does water supply relate to food supply? People who stay home to capture rainwater, rather than ramble and commute for a paycheck to pay water bill, are more likely to sink a spade in their yard and thus begin careers in home food production through horticulture and canning.

Why should public policy encourage people to stay home and garden rather than drive motor vehicles on ever-expanding public roads? Crime and accident reduction are, no doubt, intention of Kentucky State Police when they advise in Kentucky Drivers' Manual to, "Drive less," and consider alternatives to motor transport. Enclosures further suggest reducing motor transport, increasing home horticulture. Public policy should promote both of these goals.

But you, Mr. Hoffman, in said News-Graphic, promise to "accelerate" northwest bypass and "...a lot of road construction." "I'll be back down at Frankfort in the morning," you are quoted as saying, thus indicating your reliance on motor transport and roads, and thus expressing the "accelerator mentality" which pervades our public policies.

I urge you both, Mssrs. Hughes and Hoffman, to raise a garden with hand tools and water from your housetops, so that you shape public policy with a "homesteader mentality" rather than an "accelerator mentality", and thus forow "...the truth that hurts no man or beast."

P.s. - over

Sincerely, Steve Price

Stephen D. Price

159 Rucker Avenue
Georgetown, Kentucky
40324
6 February, 2003

Editor
Lexington Herald-Leader
Main at Midland
Lexington, Kentucky 40508

Dear Editor,

I should have written this letter months ago, before Congressional approval of federal funding--my tax payment included, I assume--for reworking Kentucky River Dam No. 10 to increase its impoundment of water for Lexington and region. I hope that this letter, though late, will shed new light on the question of water capture and supply, and provoke reconsideration of "Kentucky River solution" to which you referred on page 1 of Herald-Leader, January 28, 2000.

Said "solution" was reported by you on said date to be choice of Urban County Council, NOPE, Kentucky River Authority, state legislators Barrows and Scorsone, and Bluegrass Area Development District.

Ironically on page B-1 of said Herald-Leader edition, you report Urban County Council's approval of $300,000 for design of prototype stormwater drainage system.

Tax money would be saved and both problems--water supply and stormwater drainage--would be relieved, maybe eliminated, by installation of rainbarrels and cisterns, and by simple use of buckets and kettles under the roof drains of our region, to capture roofwater otherwise lost and added to stormwater burden. In Scott County, estimated 13 billion gallons flows from rooftops in average year. Average home sheds some 40,000 gallons, estimated 70% of current home consumption. Untreated water suffices for most useage, and can be treated at consumption site. Untreated water is better for horticulture and other uses.

This plan shifts water supply task toward proprietors and should re both water bills and taxation for government's water activities. It could stimulate private enterprise in cistern work and roof drainage. Independent home water supply facilitates home horticulture and other home crafts and industries.

Urgency for organic home, community, and commercial horticulture is made clear by your 1-30-98 article on pesticides in commercial food.

Sincerely,
Steve Price
Georgetown
Phone 863-6570

Stephen D. Price

H-L, 2-22-03

Stay in control

My father, Lawrence A. Bradford, taught farm management at the University for 29 years to agricultural students from farms all over Kentucky. "Keep control of your water supply," he always advised them. "Everything else depends on it."

Let's heed his advice and keep control of our water here in Lexington by buying the water company, instead of allowing it to be owned by a foreign mega-conglomerate.

Sue Ann Bradford Cowgill
Lexington

"heed at home."

167 Rucker Ave.
Georgetown, Ky.
40324

Georgetown Water Board 1-31-07
Mr. Steve Reeder, Kentucky River Authority
Representative Damron
Water Commissioner Tom Calkins
Mayor Jim Newberry, Lexington
Linda Bridwell, Ky. Am. C.
Mr. Charles Martin, Water Commissioner
Mayor Karen Tingle-Sames, Georgetown
Georgetown City Council
Scott County Fiscal Court
Lexington-Fayette Co. Council

Sirs and Dames,

Please see enclosures regarding roof-water resource and dry septic waste disposal.

Fact that my typewriter is broken, and that I consequently, write you by hand does not diminish seriousness of this letter.

Unless you spend years as have I, experimenting with roof water and dry septic disposal, there is no

way you could be expected to agree with the practical advantages of roof water and dry septic disposal. And enclosed copy of results of test of my water well (No E. Coli found), some 80 feet from garden beds fertilized with septic waste, may not convince you of safety of my practice.

But I hope you will admit the efficiency of capturing water at site of home consumption, rather than piping water from afar, especially when water not so captured adds to urban and neighborhood stormwater burden, and its sometimes' disastrous impact.

If you do so agree, may I urge you to advise all your water customers that they could and should take a first step toward home water supply, by installing a rainbarrel.

As I told Mr. Reuler last week by phone, with such advice to

until supply increase from all available roofwater is captured, and proves insufficient.

For convenience, pumps and attic cisterns make roofwater adaptable to home pipeline systems. Personally, I dip from rainbarrel in kitchen, so I don't have to stand and wait for faucet delivery. Another advantage of roofwater to homeowners is that it can eliminate possibility of frozen pipes in winter.

Threat of eminent domain law to local farm, horticulture, and forest land discourages local production of essential commodities--food, fiber, and timber. As we try to expand our local agricultural economy, who wants or needs eminent domain law threatening land tenure? Incentive to improve soil, plant an orchard, or otherwise invest in production from land is less if the land is not one's own to keep, convey at will, or bequeath. Proposed reservoir will strengthen threat of eminent domain to local property, and is thus economically destabilizing. Why seize property without at least considering the roofwater alternative?

Eminent domain law is used not only to locate proposed reservoir, but also to acquire easements for pipelines. When sufficient water can be gotten from one's roof, who wants or needs a backhoe tearing up yard or street for a pipeline? And are polyvinylchloride pipes free of potation risk, and toxicity to flora and fauna near them. I have looked unsuccessfully for research data on these questions.

Current denial by Army Engineers of requested permit for reservoir, is not necessarily permanent. GRW is pressing on with its re-application and, according to judge's file, without slightest mention of roofwater. From one who attended, I understand that Mr. Riddle of GMWSS addressed Rotary Club last week about plans for completing reservoir project. Anyone who wants to live in a community governed by thrift and resourcefulness, and anyone who relies on the right and freedom to own property, should express his or her views on proposed reservoir and on eminent domain law, at addresses and phone numbers listed above and below:

GRW Engineers, 801 Corprate Drive, Lexington. Phone 223-3999.

Georgetown Municipal Water and Sewer Service, 863-7816.

Georgetown Water Board members: Jarvis, 863-0347, Snowalter 863-2082, Johnson 535-6871, Klocke 868-2599, Alsop 863-3671, Lankford 863-4567.

Judge Lusby, 863-7850.

County Magistrates: Hoffman 868-9719. Isaacs 857-2246, Perry 863-3592, Prather 863-4488, Rankin 863-3752, and Bruin 863-9855.

The idea that rainwater is dangerous unless "treated" by white-coated technicians, may have served public health of our community in its distant past. But to now so suggest to anyone with a roof over his or her head, is deceptive. And Herald-Leader, 6-18-97, in article on chlorination of drinking water, concludes that treatment byproduct poses minor health risk. The roofwater resource, long known to and exploited by horticulturists and farmers, and prior to "city water" the source of drinking and household water in Georgetown, offers safe, inexpensive, more just and democratic alternative to proposed reservoir.

Who would buy sand in a desert? Who would buy "coal" carried to Newcastle? Who would buy water in a rainstorm?

Sincerely,

Stephen Price
863-6570

(Letter to Mr. Frank Penn, Board of Trustees, Georgetown College)

2-15-07

Frank,

My whole concept of housing has changed since I discovered roofwater and ~~the septic~~ dry trench. These make it easier to stay home, raise crops.

Steve Price

P.S. — Further, they completely resolve question of water supply.

water customers, you might have a 55 gal. drum, or a whiskey barrel under every downspout in critical Kentucky before completion of Dam #9 naturally.

With rainbarrel each for mom and dad, and one for each of the children, you could, in my opinion, dismiss worry that Kentucky Lake pool #9 might drop below Kentucky American intake pipe. That is, if water-saving measures were taken at home.

Sincerely,

Steve Price

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

ERNIE FLETCHER
Governor

KENTUCKY RIVER AUTHORITY
70 WILKINSON BOULEVARD
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
OFFICE (502) 564-2866
FAX (502) 564-2681
KRA.ky.gov

STEPHEN REEDER
Executive Director

ROBERT W. WARE
Chairman

March 22, 2003

Mr. Steve Price
167 Rucker Avenue
Georgetown, Kentucky 40324

Dear Mr. Price:

Thank you for your letter concerning water usage and conservation. We believe that water conservation is a very large part of balancing water supply versus need, but we also feel that it is not a complete solution to our water supply needs. As part of the University of Kentucky River Basin Water Supply Assessment Study conducted for the Kentucky River Authority, an analysis of utilizing the Kentucky River pools at their existing heights along with water conservation measures that would keep withdrawals from the Kentucky River at their winter levels, would still result in over a billion gallon water supply shortfall for Pool 9 alone. While we fully support the idea of water conservation as an important piece to the water supply puzzle, we still believe that further measures are needed to secure an adequate water supply for the users of the Kentucky River. Again, thank you for your dedication and interest in this matter.

what conservation measures? Rainwater catchment? Dry septic disposal?

Sincerely,

Stephen Reeder
Executive Director

IMPACTS OF WATER PURCHASE AND OF TRANSPORT ON HORTICULTURE AND ON CONSUMER PRICES

A beginning gardener or farmer may dream of marketing his or her produce. But a grower must first build up production to have surplus crop for market. A wise grower will first harvest, consume, and preserve that crop-portion he or she, and his or her family need; remainder of crop goes to market.

Some growers may prefer marketing over self-sufficiency, and take their first-fruits to market. But such a grower will then have to buy food for his or her own table, which is inefficient.

In either case the time, effort, and money a grower invests in watering his or her crops, is production cost he or she must recover in price of all produce marketed, and consumer incurs this cost.

It is thus in consumer's interest for grower to have low production costs, including that of water. Horticulture can seldom rely solely on rainfall; from seeding- or planting-time to harvest, crops require occasional artificial watering. Since the grower's buildings and terrain drain rainwater anyway, of necessity, it is to be hoped, especially by the consumer, that grower will capture and use said rainwater on his crops. It would be foolish and needlessly expensive for a grower to buy water while neglecting to capture his on-site rainwater. The cost of any water he does buy will be incurred by consumer when he or she pays grower's market price.

Our nation has lost most of its horticulturist/farmers. Those few commercial mega-farmers who still produce probably rely on pesticides, chemical fertilizers, and petro-fueled machinery, and these petro-chemical inputs may run out due to international strife and environmental constraints. Those growers who rely on animal traction--horses, mules, or oxen--and manure for cropwork; on slaughter and dairy animals; or on poultry are subject to challenge from a growing animal rights movement, with proven capacity for boycott. It is in best interests--economic, nutritional, environmental, and ethical--of any modern American community, to revive public interest in practical, small-scale home and community horticulture, as means of:

1. Enabling population to supply itself with very best life-staples--food, fiber, and timber.
2. Supplying commerce with surplus produce of said horticulture.

One way to encourage popular horticulture, is to encourage population to capture water they will need for gardening, from their roofs. To induce them to do otherwise, by promoting purchase of piped-in water, is to induce foolish neglect of on-site rainwater. Since we want a community of wise gardeners, not foolish ones, populace should be encouraged to buy piped-in water only after exhausting all available on-site rainwater. Populace should be encouraged to install rainbarrels, cisterns, and ponds for capture of on-site rainwater.

To further encourage popular horticulture, commercial and municipal water companies should abolish sewer fees for water used on crops, which water never enters sewer. Public Service Commission and local ordinances can accomplish said abolition of sewer fees. However, wise horticulturists prefer rainwater to chlorinated water for cropwork, so treated water should serve only as back-up to on-site rainwater for crops.

Waterwells, dug or drilled, though subject to depletion due to decline of water-table during drought, offer similar advantages to horticulturists and proprietors. Well- and pond-water potential is also neglected due to purchase of water from off-site.

(CUCE)

On-site treatment of rainwater to make it potable is common practice in some regions. Methods other than chlorination exist, and may be preferable. Laboratory study has linked chlorine-treatment of drinking water to cancer in experimental rats. (Lexington Herald-Leader 6-18-97 Potability of on-site rainwater would be advantageous to both horticulturist and to consumers of his produce, because, freed from purchase of drinking water, he would have more time for production of crops and could price them lower.

In the effort to establish popular home and community horticulture, the need for transportation of input materials--leaves, grass, compost, etc.--and of harvested produce, like transmission of water, should be minimized. All time, effort, and money spent on transport by a grower are lost to actual crop production, and must be recovered as cost in grower's market price. It is thus in consumer's interest that all horticulture sites--gardens, orchards, grainfields--and processing sites be near market sites, in order to minimize transport.

Further regarding transportation, a common objection to rainwater use is that rainwater contains hydrocarbon pollution absorbed from atmosphere. Ironically, many of those who prefer piped-in water, probably degrade atmosphere by driving a motor vehicle to work every day, to pay for, among other things, their piped-in water. Home rainwater capture, by reducing water bills, reduces need for motor travel to job site, and thus improves atmospheric and rainwater quality.

An economic side-effect of popular on-site rainwater capture and storage would be the launching of small businesses to install and maintain roof-drainage systems, rainbarrels, cisterns, and ponds. Local manufacture of rainbarrels from local hardwood could stimulate local cooperage, timber, and forest industries.

Stephen D. Price
Georgetown, Kentucky
31 January, 2002

159 Rucker Avenue
Georgetown, Kentucky
40324

25 May, 2004

Patricia A. Richerson
CELRL-OP-PS
P.O. Box 59
Louisville, Kentucky 40201-0059

Pat Richerson,

You may recall our telephone conversation of some months ago, and that I forwarded to you a packet of information regarding reservoir proposed for Scott County. May I ask you to consult said information in review of my argument against said reservoir.

I do not like appearing to be a "Nay sayer" or a "wet blanket" trying to throw myself over the proposed reservoir to discourage it. So rather than say more against proposed reservoir, I will say "yes" again, as I did in my packet to you, to roofwater collection as a feasible, more "distributive" and thus more democratic alternative means of augmenting water supply in my home county, Scott.

As I wrote you, some seventy-five percent of water consumed by average home in Scott County (57,000 gal./year, according to GMWSS) is the quantity of water that falls on the roof of the average home here, in average rainyear. Most proprietors allow this water to escape, assuming it is inferior to pipeline water or not wanting to bother with collecting it. Promoting commercial, pipeline water sale, with public water projects such as proposed reservoir, distracts proprietors from water cascading from their rooftops, and thus encourages waste of this valuable home resource.

Where are proprietors when it rains? Conformity suggests that they be out earning a paycheek from which they can pay for pipeline water. They rarely even notice the rainwater cascading from their rooftops. Rather than homesteaders, they have become wage earners. Proposed reservoir would encourage this wasteful trend. Public policy that encourages home water supply, along with homesteading in general, would reverse it.

News-Graphic says you will consider requests from parties with a "specific interest that might be damaged" by proposed reservoir. Aside from my obligation as Scott County taxpayer, to support the mounting number of bureaucrats and technocrats who allied with local government, conspire to sell me water that I don't want or need, I have a larger interest threatened by proposed reservoir. Property I have bought and improved with years of comscientious care and labor, is threatened by eminent domain law. Seizure of private property for any public project, such as proposed reservoir, adds, by legal precedent, to threat against my property, and all private property.

I would like to spend my time raising my crops, processing them for storage, and maybe marketing them at local farmers' market or elsewhere. But yet again, I must give up my time in the garden, orchard, and grainplot to stand up and oppose the bureaucrats and technocrats who want to tax me and manipulate me, rather than pick up the grubbing hoe and wheelbarrow and produce something useful for themselves and for society. Consequently, I must, reluctantly and with regret, request "public hearing" you offer. Hopefully it will be short, and conducive to distributive water supply, and homesteading for all, including those who now make their living by manipulating others.

(over)

Sincerely, Steve Price

Stephen C. Price

News Graphic 11-5-09

FROM OUR PAST

Photo submitted

WADING: A group of ladies and one young man stand in Elkhorn Creek.

If recreation in Elkhorn Creek, in Georgetown, were encouraged rather than at distant drive-to sites (proposed reservoir, e.g.) increased pedestrian-ism and greater attention to Elkhorn water quality would result.

At Oser Park two floatation ropes some floating plank decks, and a lifeguard chair would make a swim area, including "lazy river".

159 Rucker Avenue
Georgetown, Kentucky
40324

10-20-05

Mr. Greg McKay
Army Engineer District
P.O. Box 59
Louisville, Kentucky 40201

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Water Mgmt. Div., Wetlands Reg. Sec.
6 Forsyth St. S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Sirs and Dames,

Please see enclosed copy of Georgetown Mayor Varney's comment on water supply, "There simply doesn't seem to be enough of it."

According to figures I obtained from Scott County Property Valuation Assessor, Mayor Varney lives in a house of about 1800 square feet. By multiplying that figure by average annual rainfall here (3.7 ft.) I calculate that 6660 cubic feet of rain falls on Mayor's house annually, or about 50,000 gal.

According to Georgetown Mun. Water and Sewer Service, average household consumption of water in Scott County, annually, is some 57,000 gal. According to Carryn Lee of Kentucky Rural Water Association, average annual household water consumption is some 54,000 gal.

So, about 91.6% of average household consumption of water, is falling every year on the Mayor's roof. Is he capturing it? I don't know. But, in my opinion, this is the question you should ask Mayor Varney, Judge Lusby, Mr. Bob Riddle of GWWSS, Mr. Ben Fister of GRW Engineering, and all Scott Fiscal Court members, all Georgetown City Council members, and all members of Georgetown Water Board when they apply to you for permit to build water reservoir in Scott County.

Please see also enclosed copy of announcement from Bluegrass Pride.

Sincerely,

Steve Price

159 Rucker Avenue
Georgetown, Kentucky
40324

10-6-05

Mr. David Davila
104 Josie Trail
Georgetown, Kentucky 40324

Mr. Davila,

Please find enclosed paperwork regarding proposed water reservoir, and regarding the public issue of communal water supply and its displacement of home water supply.

News-Graphic has refused to publish my letter to them in same regard. They apparently only want to publish comments favorable. They ask every week for letters to editor, and guest editorials, but they won't publish mine.

I have a little book of sayings from people of the southern Appalachiean mountains. One saying is, more or less, "Most politicians stand for something, , that everyone else will fall for." I imagine it took such a politician to bring "city water" to Georgetown in early twentieth century, and people have been falling for "city water" ever since paying for it with money they earn away from home, while most, if not all of the water they need falls from their roof uncaptured and adds to stormwater burden.

If you want a water supply you "...can call... your "...own," to quote your recent letter to News-Graphic, all you need is a rainbarrel or some kettles or buckets under your downspouts, and maybe later a cistern. I get along fine with two rainbarrels.

Sincerely,

Steve Price

159 Rucker Avenue
Georgetown, Kentucky
40324

2-30-05

Mayor Varney,
Georgetown City Council
City Hall
Court Street
Georgetown, Kentucky 40324

Mayor and Council,

Please find enclosed a slightly revised version of letter handed last week to mayor's office, addressed to News-Graphic, regarding alternatives to proposed water reservoir. Checkmarks on page 2 indicate revisions.

Enclosed pamphlet from Bluegrass Pride, on rain-barrels, published without my collaboration and without even my knowledge of the group's existence, suggests that other outdoors-oriented parties than myself are discovering the utility of roofwater.

Further consideration of our county's ignored and wasted water resources discloses that the roof surfaces of such industrial buildings as those at Toyota Mfg., which might be most easily measured in acres, shed huge quantities of rainwater, possibly as proportional to site consumption of water as those shed by home roofs. (About 70%, according to my calculation of figures I obtained from Scott PVA on roof dimensions, and from National Weather Service on rainfall amounts. I urge you to obtain said figures for yourself and to calculate them for yourself.)

Before building reservoir, why not at least calculate roofwater now available? Since proposed reservoir is conceived as necessary to industrial expansion in Scott County, then rainwater now escaping from industrial roofs in the county should be counted in currently available water supply. Rather than induce industrial expansion with expanded piped-water capacity, our local governments should study and adopt roofwater capture for all their buildings, and then suggest it to all proprietors in the county: industrial, residential, and commercial; current and prospective.

Another possible water source for Georgetown and Scott County is the system of rainwater retention basins recently adopted by our local governments. As I wrote Mayor Varney and City Council on 12-2-02, "Said ponds could possibly serve as small neighborhood reservoirs." As a horticulturist I have carried countless thousands of buckets of water to my crops, and I would be glad to have a retention pond near me, from which I could carry buckets of water for uses other than drinking.

Enclosed copies of news items from Herald-Leader indicate that while rainwater runoff continues unabated by rainbarrels and cisterns, a Kentucky River dam is being rebuilt, without locks, to increase water supply for Lexington. What a waste, not only of water but also of hard-earned money lost to taxes.

Finally, in regard to eminent domain laws invoked by local governments, [illegible] of said laws contradicts not only Kentucky Bill of Rights #2, but also U.S. Constitution Amendment IV, which states, "The right of the people to be secure in their ...houses...and effects, against...unreasonable...seizures, shall not be violated...." Though aimed at ruthless gathering of forensic evidence, this amendment could and should apply to property seizure under eminent domain laws, especially when as "unreasonable" as the case before us, wherein massive water storage is proposed at long distance from consumption sites, while abundant water at consumption sites is allowed to escape and become a nuisance, if not a hazard, to persons and property in our community.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Price

Steve Price

Georgetown, Ky.
1-30-07

Mrs. McKay,

Please find enclosed copy of News Graphic article you requested.

I further enclose copies of other documents I may not have mailed or faxed to you.

In a nutshell, the debate about proposed reservoir is a debate about whether we want a society of pedestrian / producer homesteaders or a society of motorist / consumer wage laborers.

I have worked long and hard for wages to buy land. The need, in my opinion, is public policy that promotes, along with wage earning, the goals of land ownership and production from the land.

Sincerely,

Steve Price

P.S. – For information about high-volume roof water capture and treatment at local Toyota plant, you may phone Mr. David Sel, at 868 2000. He says they are capturing water from 8,000,000 ft2 roof.

167 Rucker Avenue
Georgetown, Kentucky
40324

9-4-06

U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator McConnell,

From news story that recently appeared in Georgetown News-Graphic, I understand that you were recently visited by a delegation from Scott County, asking your support for proposed water reservoir here. Regarding said reservoir please see enclosures.

As horticulturist, I have relied on roofwater since 1980 for my garden plants, as well as for drinking, cooking, bathing, and every other home use. Said roofwater cleans itself in my rainbarrels by sedimentation, same process used by Georgetown Municipal Water Company and most other water vendors. Average house in Scott County sheds from its roof 70-90% of water it currently consumes, depending upon number of occupants. With modest water-saving measures, every homeowner can raise this figure well above 100%.

Given these facts, I can only recommend that public policy encourage rainbarrels and cisterns, rather than pipeline water and construction of proposed reservoir in Scott County, especially since said reservoir, like most massive public projects, requires displacement of proprietors with eminent domain litigation, or threat thereof.

Sincerely,

Steve Price

P.s.--Please see enclosure on home horticulture, which is better served by home water supply than by pipeline, and is soundest economic base.

Documentation of safety and efficiency of roofwater will follow by mail.

Copies: Sen. Bunning; Representatives Chandler, Rogers & Davis.

159 Rucker Avenue
Georgetown, Kentucky
40324
31 January, 2003

Mr. Ben Fister
GRW Engineering
801 Corporate Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40503

Mr. Fister,

Sorry I haven't gotten enclosed letter and other enclosures to you sooner.

As you may know, there was a meeting here in Georgetown on January 8, of so-called Bluegrass Water Supply Consortium. I say "so-called" because I am skeptical of concept of "consortium." Water supply, like all the other forces of nature, is something I have learned about through solitary observation, in my thirty-year struggle to become self-sufficient gardener. Solitary observation has served me well, and by observation I have learned to look up to the roof and down to the ground for water, rather than for a spigot to open and money to pay for pipeline water. Consortia, by burdening one's attention with state-of-the-art concepts, preclude solitary observation.

As a junior high-school student I attended an introductory science class taught by Mr. George Lusby, now Scott County Judge Executive. Mr. Lusby introduced the scientific method of inquiry by citing an example from medieval history: a group of monks were debating the number of teeth in a horse's head. Each monk recited what he had read in the works of some ancient classical writer on the subject. Each insisted on a different correct number of teeth, until, finally, one monk led the group out to the stable where they could see, count, and agree on the correct number. Mr. Lusby credited this monk with founding modern science.

What is my interest, you may ask, in writing you with my observations on water supply, and on related issues of public concern and public policy? My interest is in preserving my property and my property rights, along with those of my fellow Scott Countians, especially of farmers and other proprietors who have invested much time, labor, planning, hopes and dreams their whole lives in some cases--to improving their property. In many cases these improvements have been for purpose of better farm production.

What is the threat from which we must protect our property and property rights? We have two consortia here--Scott County Fiscal Court and Georgetown City Council--which have unwisely decided they must build a 285 acre water reservoir on some 1300 acres in northern Scott County. Ignoring water that cascades from their home rooftops, and from their public buildings every time it rains, they have seized twenty-two properties, mostly farms, some by forced eviction through eminent domain law, to locate said reservoir. I have advised both these consortia that, according to data I gathered from Scott County PVA office (average home roof dimensions) and Mr. Bob Riddle, manager of Georgetown Municiple Water and Sewer Service (average home water consumption), the 40,000 gallons of rainwater shed by average home in average year constitutes some seventy per-cent of average annual water consumption of average water customer of GMWSS.

Centralized authority invested in public consortia such as City Council, Fiscal Court, Georgetown Water Board (which instigated said reservoir project), Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, and countless other public institutions and agencies, can and does damage property and property rights regularly, usually in the name of the "common good". If our public officials would take pay cuts and time off to work toward material self-sufficiency through horticulture, farming, roofing, carpentry, and textile skills, they would soon become healthier, wiser leaders, with no time or need for grandiose public projects that tax proprietors and threaten them with eviction through eminent domain.

Let's encourage our government leaders to be craftsmen and craftswomen--planters, loggers, roofers, weavers--who by wisely crafting the forces and materials of nature, lead us all to do likewise; who requiring less tax revenue than time for garden, orchard, and woodlot, demand less money and more craftsmanship of us all.

You work with Scott County, Georgetown, and GMWSS officials on the task of water supply. Please consider foregoing, along with enclosures, as they may apply, in your view, to reservoir project.

Further regarding water supply, may I refer you to a book, Goodbye to the Flush Toilet, Carol Stoner ed. (Rodale Press: Emaus, Penn., 1977.); and to other books shown on p. 7 of enclosed catalogue from Chelsea Green Publishing Co.

As you may further know, Bluegrass Water Supply Consortium plans another meeting in Frankfort on Feb. 17 and 18. Details available from Bluegrass ADD. I hope to be there just long enough to read this letter.

Thanks again for offering to hear my views.

Sincerely,

Steven L Price

Steve Price
Horticulturist

P.s.--I would rather take a drought on the chin, endure it while learning to store water for futnne droughts, than block Kentucky River navigation with lockless dam and evict proprietors at reservoir site, in order to have more piped water. While I am grateful to GMWSS that I could buy and haul water from their pump station during droughts of '99 and '02, on-site capture and storage is more efficient water supply method, especially for horticulturists and other producers who don't want or need to buy water.

People will never learn to produce crops and goods at home, and to store water, so long as commercialism and public policy induce them to consume commercial crops and goods, and to buy water. Health and top-quality demand home production.

159 Rucker Avenue
Georgetown, Kentucky
40324
22 January, 2002

Scott County Fiscal Court
Court House
Main at Broadway
Georgetown, Kentucky 40324

Dear Fiscal Court,

As to quality and potability of captured rainwater, may I refer you to :

Farm and Ranch Service Supply Co.
P.O. Box 10165
San Antonio, Texas 78210
(800)292-0007

Water Filtration Company
108-B Industry Road
Marietta, Ohio 45750
(800) 733-6953

You may wish to consult publications:

"Captured Rainfall", Water Resources Center, Univ. of California, 475 Kerr Hall, Davis, California 95616

"Rainwater Cisterns Systems". Center for Water Resources Study, Technical Univ. of Nova Scotia, P.O. Box 1000, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J2X4 (Filtering with sand and activated charcoal, treatment with chlorine, hypochlorite, and ultra-violet light.)

"Rainwater Cisterns". Penn. State College of Agriculture, Circular #277.

As to impact of displacing proprietors:

"The decision to start an orchard involves a decision to stay put.... That's what makes home orchards so valuable; where they abound, they speak eloquently of a stable and responsible community, the first necessity of a healthy civilization and a happy culture. The decline in home orchards between 1930 and 1970 parallels almost exactly the increase in social mobility and the consequent deterioration of family life and local institutions...." (Logsden, Gene. Organic Orcharding. Rodale Press, 1981.)

"Apple trees may bear crops for 30 to 50 years." (Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening. Rodale Press, 1978.)

"Long life in a tree appeals to home gardeners....A pear's life on the average is about seventy-five years, and some veterans have lived to see four centuries...." (Fruits for the Home Garden, Ken and Pat Kraft. William Morrow and Company, 1968.

To plant apple and pear trees, a proprietor must be able to expect long land tenure, and/or to bequeath or convey his land.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Price

Steve Price

Please see over!

(With proposed reservoir via eminent domain litigation.)

152 Rucker Ave
Georgetown, Ky.
40324
6-11-05

Mayor Varney
City Hall
Court St.
Georgetown, Ky. 40324

Mayor Varney,

I said Mr. Troy Russell "probably had to sell his land when he moved." I shouldn't rely on probability of something I didn't witness.

The fact is, Mr. Russell didn't want to leave, nor sell. He was compensated by taxpayers, supposed bene-ficiaries of proposed reservoir. When 80-90% of home-consumed water escapes from roofs of said homes, one can question supposed benefits offered by proposed reservoir, especially

in light of doubts raised about chlorination (Please see Internet key words "chlorine water treatment," "disease"). As one web entry says, "consumption site treatment" by proprietors is probably a safer alternative to chlorine. (Home treatment usually means passage of water through filters of gravel, sand, charcoal & other materials.)

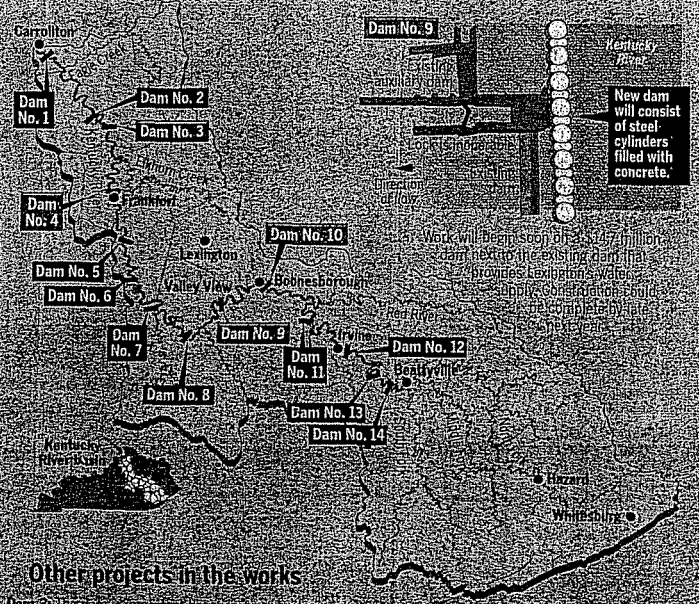
Please see enclosure about Pat Fitzgerald, who, in my opinion, should be everyone's economic role model. What would she think about losing her improved garden beds to eminent domain?

Sincerely,
Steve Price

HARNESSING KENTUCKY RIVER WATER

Work to begin soon on new Dam No. 9

Project will ensure more stable supply of water for Lexington area, mayor says



Work will begin soon on a $34.7 million dam next to the existing dam that provides Lexington's water supply. Construction could be completed by 2012.

Other projects in the works

Dam 3: The dam is short of the site of a new water treatment plant is planned nearby. A contract for engineering work on the dam could be awarded late this year or early next year. Unlike the replacements on Dams 9 and 10 at the new Dam 3 would have a functioning lock.

Dam 4: The lock at this dam is to be replaced, which means boats will be able to travel from Frankfort to the Ohio River and beyond.

Dam 10: Plans are to replace the dam at Fort Boonesborough State Park with a moveable crest dam that could rise 5 feet to hold more water. Seven years ago, the Army Corps of Engineers (now Gov. Ernie Fletcher) Congress authorized $24 million for the project, the total cost with the state making up the difference is expected to be $32 million. But construction will likely not begin until 2009 or later.

By Andy Mead
HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITER

The century-old Kentucky River dam that holds Lexington's water supply will be replaced, with some work beginning as early as next month, a state official said yesterday.

The new $34.7 million Dam No. 9 at Valley View should be in place by the end of next year, said Stephen Reeder, executive director of the Kentucky River Authority.

After decades of discussion about the river's aging navigation system and its importance to the region's water supply, this will be the first replacement of a dam. There is consensus, however, that more needs to be done.

"I think this is what we're in business to do," Reeder said. "This is a major corner to turn."

Lexington Mayor Jim Newberry said a new dam will make the city's water supply "much more stable."

"If there were to be some breach in that structure, our water supply becomes very, very fragile," he said.

Part of the existing dam, built early in the last century, is constructed of timbers covered with concrete. Engineers say the dam is not in imminent danger of collapse, but the timbers are deteriorating and the dam no longer meets current standards.

The new dam will be a row of steel cylinders each 52 feet in diameter and filled with concrete. As with the existing dam, water would almost always flow over the new dam. It will be the same height as the existing dam, but designed so gates could be added to the top later. The gates would be raised to hold more water in dry times.

The new dam will sit in front of the existing dam. It won't have a lock to allow boats to move from one pool to another. But Reeder said it is designed in such a way that one of the cylinders could be removed if the authority ever has enough money to rebuild the existing dam.

See DAM, A6

PHOTOS BY DAVID STEPHENSON | STAFF FILE PHOTOS

Above: Water will usually flow over the new dam as it does the old. Gates that rise and fall might be added later to the new dam. Left: The deteriorating dam needs replacing, engineers say.

LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER
WWW.KENTUCKY.COM

DAM | Water bills might have to go up

From Page A1

lock, which hasn't worked for years.

Paying for the new dam could raise water bills along the river's main stem by about 30 cents a month, Reeder said. But, if the legislature restores an appropriation that was vetoed by Gov. Ernie Fletcher last year, the money would come out of the state's general fund.

Other water supply projects being planned along the river could require an additional $1.45 a month, Reeder said.

While replacing No. 9 will secure the existing water supply, it won't help the region deal with growth and periodic droughts.

Another step toward that end could be taken late this year or early next year when the river authority expects to award a contract for preliminary work to replace Dam No. 3 near Monterey in Owen County, Reeder said.

Also on the drawing board: Replacing Dam No. 10 at Fort Boonesborough State Park with a higher structure that would hold more water.

Kentucky American Water, which pulls water from the pool behind No. 9, serves more than 300,000 people in Lexington and parts of Jessamine, Woodford, Scott, Harrison, Bourbon and Clark counties.

The company plans to build a new water treatment plant near No. 3 to augment the supply it gets from the pool behind No. 9.

That plant must be approved by the Kentucky Public Service Commission. Kentucky American plans to submit its plans to the PSC in March or April.

The PSC is expected to reach a decision in eight to 12 months. If it approves the new plant, construction could begin next year and be completed early in 2010.

Kentucky American can treat 70 million gallons of water a day at the plant that draws from the pool behind Dam 9 and a smaller plant near the company headquarters on Richmond Road.

The new plant would add 20 million gallons a day. It could be expanded to treat an additional 10 million gallons a day if municipal utilities in towns near Lexington buy into the plant.

Linda Bridwell, Kentucky American's manager of engineering, said she was excited to hear that the work on Dam 9 was going ahead because it will continue to play a major role in providing water.

"It's good news for our customers," she said.

Toyota Motor Manufacturing in Georgetown had lobbied for the Dam 9 replacement and other work on improving the water supply. Company spokesman Rick Hesterberg said yesterday that awarding the contract for Dam 9 "is obviously a good step and an important step in what are a lot of options out there."

The contract for the new No. 9 Dam was awarded to C.J. Mahan Construction Co. of Columbus, Ohio. The company was the prime contractor in the mid 1990s for the expansion of the Interstate 75 bridge over the Kentucky River at Clay's Ferry.

Reeder said a representative of the company called early yesterday, said the contract had been signed and asked whether work could begin Feb. 5.

It is not clear what kind of work will take place next month, Reeder said. It could involve planning and moving materials into place.

Most work will take place in late summer and early fall this year and next, because the river usually is lower during that time of year.

Reach Andy Mead at 231-3319 or 1-800-950-6397, Ext. 3319, or at amead@herald-leader.com.

Sentiments running deep

News-Graphic March 21, 07

Group opposing water pipeline holds protest at historic bridge

By JACK HOPKINS
Georgetown News-Graphic

SWITZER – An anti-pipeline group gathered in front of the historic Switzer covered bridge on Tuesday to declare its opposition to the water project.

"We want to fight this pipeline coming through our beautiful area," said Tona Barkley, of Owen County, one of the organizers of Citizens for Alternative Water Solutions.

Kentucky American Water Company wants to build the pipeline to carry water from the Kentucky River in Owen County to its facilities in Fayette County.

The project would come through Scott County beneath U.S. 460 and Ironworks Pike.

Barkley's husband, John Harrod, claimed the pipeline is going to enrich only Kentucky American.

"This expensive boondoggle is destructive to good farm homes and land. They will only increase profit for themselves and it will be a higher cost to residents," Harrod said.

The group of about 15 to 20 people repeatedly expressed concern about damage to the land.

"We hope to educate residents that the pipeline is coming through their community and to look for an alternative solution," said Andy McDonald, of Franklin County.

News-Graphic/Jack Hopkins

John Harrod was one of several speakers at the Switzer covered bridge during the CAWS protest Tuesday.

Susan Lancho, communications and corporate responsibility manager for Kentucky American, was at the gathering in Franklin County, just over the county line from Scott County.

"I'm here to see what they wanted to share about the issue and get their concerns. We've been in constant dialogue since December, to make sure they get the most updated information. We'd like to mitigate as much concern as possible," Lancho said.

"The pipeline is a regional issue, not just Lexington," she said. "We cover 10 counties, along with the Bluegrass Water Supply Commission and Georgetown Water."

Lancho said Kentucky American is also concerned about the work's impact on the 2010 World Equestrian Games.

"We'd like to get a 30-month win-

See WATER, Back page

Rain Barrel Bargains!

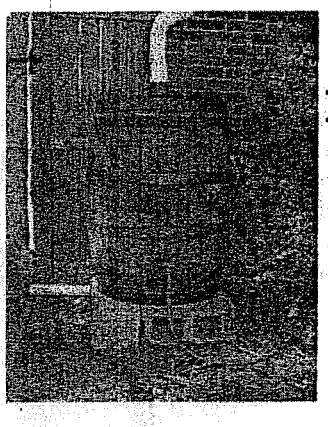
Join Bluegrass PRIDE for a

Rain Barrel Workshop

on Saturday October 1st

1 PM at

McConnell Springs.



For **only $85** you will leave with your very own white oak rain barrel, a $160 value.

Pre-pay to guarantee your spot. Register by calling 866.222.1648 or visit www.kentuckypride.com. There are only 25 barrels available, so don't delay!

SEE YOU THERE !!

What harmful chemicals may leach from PVC pipes commonly used to deliver water?

w-windy, rs-rain/snow mix, f=fog. | Jet Stream

Check this page every day for information about your body and how to stay well. Don't forget to go to **Kentucky.com** for up-to-date information.

YOUR HEALTH

Herald-Leader 3-14-07

Ingredient in plastics might be harmful

BISPHENOL-A TRACES FOUND IN NEARLY ALL HUMANS TESTED

By Susanne Rust
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

MILWAUKEE — Although its name may not be familiar, bisphenol-A is everywhere. It's in the lining of your soup can, the clear plastic of your baby's bottle and the sealants covering your teeth.

But it might be harmful to your health.

An expert panel of endocrinologists, statisticians and biologists was called together last week by a federal agency to review a report on this ubiquitous chemical. The final review, which was supposed to be announced last Wednesday, was postponed.

For several years, scientists have been concerned about bisphenol-A. Hundreds of papers have shown that it can be toxic in extremely low doses. The chemical mimics estrogen and binds to estrogen receptors on cells. In more than 100 experiments conducted on lab animals, it has been shown to cause genetic changes leading to prostate cancer as well as decreased testosterone, low sperm counts and signs of early female puberty. Work also has been done on human tissue, with results showing that exposure can cause changes in prostate and breast tissue.

Traces of bisphenol-A have been found in nearly every American tested for it.

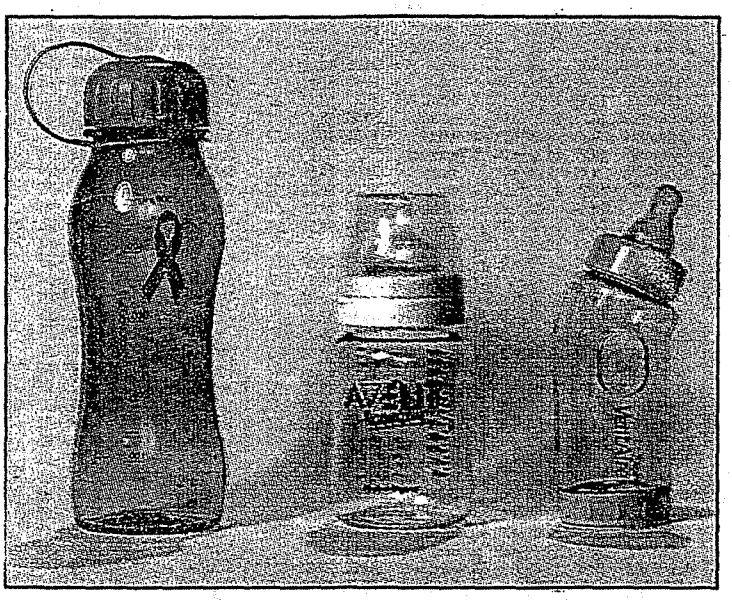
Patricia Hunt, a reproductive biologist at Washington State University, became interested in bisphenol-A research after all of her laboratory mice started showing high levels of genetic abnormalities in 2003. She soon discovered the animals had been exposed to bisphenol-A that was leaching from their polycarbonate cages, and it was this chemical that had caused the abnormalities.

Since then, she has conducted experiments showing that at low doses, the chemical can cause problems. In a recent study, she demonstrated that bisphenol-A, when exposed to pregnant female mice, affected not only the pregnant mice, but the egg production of the female pups.

That's an effect that spans three generations: the pregnant mouse, the fetal mouse and the eggs of the fetal mouse.

Hunt, the Washington State researcher, said the chemical is more likely to leach as a product ages. Bottles that show wear, are cracked or are cloudy should be discarded. And exposing these products to high temperatures should be avoided.

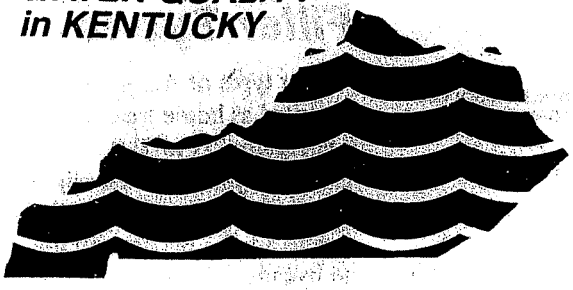
Polycarbonates can be identified by the recycling No. 7, which often appears with arrows in the shape of a triangle at the bottom of a bottle or container.



GARY PORTER | MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

Bisphenol-A is used from lining your soup can to your baby's bottle. Sometimes it is toxic to humans.

For several years, scientists have been concerned about bisphenol-A. Hundreds of papers have shown that it can be toxic in extremely low doses. In more than 100 experiments on lab animals, it has been shown to cause genetic changes.



Using Activated Carbon Filters To Treat Home Drinking Water

by Joseph L. Taraba, Agricultural Engineering Department; Linda M. Heaton, Department of Human Environment: Design and Textiles; and Thomas W. Ilvento, Department of Rural Sociology.

Many people judge the quality of their water — whether it is supplied by public or private water systems — by its taste, odor and appearance. But the risk to one's health cannot always be judged by these factors. Many of the chemicals or biological organisms that affect health cannot be seen, tasted or smelled.

When consumers become concerned about the safety of their water supply, they may consider adding water treatment devices to their homes. The array of choices and the terminology associated with these devices can bewilder even the most knowledgeable consumer. This publication will assist a consumer in:

- Determining whether a water treatment device is needed.
- Understanding what the devices can remove from water and how they work.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of a water treatment device for the home.

EPA Drinking Water Treatment Device Categories

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has defined three general categories of filters for treating home drinking water: water filters, bacteriostatic water filters and water purifiers.

1. Water filters, generally comprised of activated carbon (AC), are intended to remove rust; sediment; organic compounds that impart taste, odor or color; chlorine and some other contaminants. They make no claims for pesticidal (antimicrobial) activity, and they are not designed to remove or destroy bacteria unless they are labeled water purifiers.

2. Bacteriostatic water filters, also comprised of AC, generally remove the same contaminants as water filters, but they are impregnated with an additional chemical agent, such as silver ions, that is intended to hinder the growth of bacteria trapped *within* the filter itself. (Bacteriostatic means the ability to inhibit the further growth of bacteria.) The label can then state "inhibits bacterial growth within the filter medium."

3. Water purifiers are designed to treat raw water of unknown microbial quality to make it suitable for human consumption. They must kill or remove essentially all bacteria, protozoa and protozoan cysts that the label or instructions claim to remove.

Water purifiers are further subdivided as pesticidal devices and pesticides. Consumers should not confuse the words pesticide and pesticidal with chemicals used in agriculture or households to control weeds, insects, molds or bacteria. Here the words mean an agent that destroys a pest. In this case the pest is human pathogen bacteria, protozoa and protozoan cysts.

(a) *pesticidal devices* purify water by physical or mechanical means, such as filtration, heating, etc. No antimicrobial chemical agent is involved.

(b) *pesticides* purify water through the use of antimicrobial agents (such as iodine) contained in the product.

Registering Treatment Devices

If a manufacturer claims that a unit will inhibit or reduce the growth of microorganisms, or kill or remove pathogenic organisms, and the unit contains a chemically active ingredient to promote the inhibition, the unit and the manufacturer are required to register with the EPA before the devices can be legally offered for sale. But if a unit does not contain a chemically active ingredient, then only the manufacturer must be registered. If a manufacturer makes no claims that the unit will inhibit or reduce microorganism growth, then neither the unit nor the manufacturer must be registered. The EPA registration *does not* imply any EPA approval of the unit nor its effectiveness for the manufacturer's stated purpose.

The registration means:

- *The manufacturer claims that the unit has some sort of pesticidal property.*
- *Under normal use the pesticidal agent will not leach out of the unit in concentrations which would be harmful to humans.*

The registration does not mean:

- *The unit is in any way endorsed or approved by EPA as a water treatment device.*
- *The unit is in any way superior or inferior to any other unit.*

County OKs run-off ordinance changes

By HEATHER HARRIS
Georgetown News-Graphic

Two amendments that will change the way growth is regulated and organized in Scott County were unanimously passed by the Scott County Fiscal Court Thursday night.

The first proposed amendment to Ordinance 2002-07, will "update the quality and quantity of run-off water in urbanized areas," said Brad Frazier, Scott Joint Planning Commission engineer.

The updates will also set new guidelines for development in the county and offer rewards to those who abide by specific criteria.

"The existing subdivision and development regulation requirements are not satisfying the community's needs," the ordinance reads. "The regulation requirements must be updated to reflect current professional thinking, engineering principles and best management practices to address storm water management."

Water management is important to the Scott County area because "Scott County boasts some of the most prestigious streams in Kentucky" the ordinance states. "It is important to safeguard these waterways from pollutants and changes in their ecology."

The new ordinance will provide contractors and engineers with specific criteria under which water drainage systems can be built. Also any new developments that occur within Scott County will be required to provide the planning commission with a storm management plan that address elements of the water cycles, such as groundwater recharge, channel protection and water quantity control, Frazier said.

Klepper

The other major change in the storm water management portion of the subdivision and regulation development ordinance is the addition of "storm water credits" given to builders if they take pains to build an "environmentally-friendly site," Frazier said.

Such nature-friendly additions to a site could include vegetative channels instead of pipes to handle run-off, Frazier said.

Another amendment to the Scott County subdivision and development ordinance passed unanimously Thursday will require new builders in the Georgetown area to submit subdivision plats and development plans to the commission in a digital format.

"This would allow us to see what's working in a plan and what's not working," Planning Director Kelley Klepper said about the digital proposal or Geographic Information System.

Several new developments are already submitting their building plans in the digital format, including Derby Estates, Canewood and the new Lowe's store, Klepper sad.

Klepper also added that the GIS would help local fire and emergency service employees "plat and plan" the county as related to their response calls.

In other news at Thursday night's meeting, Magistrate Bobby Rankin requested that the court support a motion to ask the Department of Transportation for more road signs at Ky. 922 and U.S. 460.

"There are lost tractor-trailers from Lexington on those roads all the time," Rankin said. "They're looking for I-75 and just run up and down 922."

Rankin said that more interstate signs would keep the big rigs from traveling the winding country road.

The court unanimously approved the measure and will contact the state about the roadway signs.

Thinking of what we once did amazes me

GEORGE LUSBY
Crawfish & Minnows

The older I get, the more I wonder about things, especially things from the past. I received an e-mail this week entitled "I can't believe I made it." Looking back, it is hard to believe those of us who grew up in the '40s and '50s ever did make it.

When I was a little lad, we never had car belts in our cars, and it was not unusual for nearly all the kids on Second Street to pile in the back of Mr. Price's pickup and ride all across the state for a ball game or picnic.

We even stood on the running boards of the older cars. Of course, young people today don't even know what a running board is. I don't know why we didn't get killed.

We swam in McKnight's pond that was covered with green scum and played another swimming hole with the cows in Askew's pond up by the railroad. We drank water from the creek and not from a bottle, and we never got sick. How did we ever survive?

We had fights with our best friends and punched each other and threw rocks and learned to get over it, and our parents just said, somehow we made it.

We didn't get in trouble very often, but if we did we were on our own. Our parents' bailing us out was not an option. In fact, they usually were on the other side, and if you had trouble at school you didn't come home and tell your side of the story. You just hoped the teacher didn't call and tell hers.

Those of us who grew up over a half-century ago didn't have the government to look after our best interest. There were no lawyers ready to sue if we were involved in an accident. After all, it was an accident. It was just that and we moved on.

Somehow, this generation survived and produced some of the greatest leaders this world has ever had. And there were seven general store stories from our little corner of the world on Second Street.

Sometimes I am even amazed that we made it, but we did.

George Lusby, Scott County judge-executive, contributes opinion columns which are printed each Sunday in the News-Graphic. A collection of his columns is now available at the News-Graphic office.

Parents, kids find

Plan will address future water supplies for county

By DARRELL LOWSLEY
Georgetown News-Graphic

Scott Fiscal Court will pay $5,000 to the Bluegrass Area Development District for its work on a water supply plan each Kentucky county must develop.

"The study will ensure that the county has an adequate water supply for the next 20 years," County Judge-Executive George Lusby said. "It's very important because we want to make sure that our children have water in the future.

"They will look at all the water supply that we have and make a recommendation on what we need to do."

Georgetown receives water from Royal Spring and an interconnect with Frankfort. Elkhorn Creek is still used occasionally as a back-up. Some county residents receive water from Kentucky-American Water Company in Lexington, Lusby said. A few roads are also serviced by Harrison County Rural Water District.

The projected use of the reservoir in the northwest end of the county will be included in the study.

Phase 1, which will take about a year to complete, is an assessment of the area's water supply treatment and distribution systems to determine if they will be adequate to meet projected demands through the next 20 years.

Phase II, which must be done by July 15, is a plan of action to deal with any identified deficiencies and to protect source or sources of water supply from contamination, according to Bluegrass Area Development officials.

The 1990 state legislative plan was amended last year. It

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167 Rucker Ave.
Georgetown, Ky. 40324
10-18-07

Mr. Gene Thomas
Environmental Technician
Scott County Health Department
East Washington St.
Georgetown, Ky. 40324

Mr. Thomas,

Further in regard to dry septic trench, please see enclosures. They indicate problems associated with centralized sewage treatment:

1. Aging, deteriorating sewer structures are increasingly subject to failure.

2. Centralized municipal sewage treatment plants fail, resulting in release of raw sewage into environment.

3. Concrete used in sewer construction requires Portland cement, manufacture of which is among leading consumers of electricity. Cement manufacture is thus a main cause of air pollution/climate warming, and will be a target of anti-pollution legislation.

Enclosures further suggest advantages of dry septic trench:

1. Option to cultivate back-filled trench for vegetables can relieve food shortage among low-income families.

2. By inducing home horticulture, dry septic trench can reduce motor driving for food shopping, which may become necessary as petro-fuel prices rise.

Sincerely,

Steve Price

P.s.--By reducing home water consumption, dry septic trench can also increase feasability of roof-water capture as means of homestead independence.

167 Rucker Ave.
Georgetown, Ky. 40324
10-12-07

Mr. Gene Thomas
Environmental Technician
Scott County Health Department
Washington Street
Georgetown, Ky. 40324

Mr. Thomas,

Like an agricultural extension service, your health department offers information and education to the public that, hopefully protect and improve the lives of those who receive it. Ag. Extension, for example, offers advice on home horticulture and canning of produce.

I recall from my life in Georgetown lots of advice on health and hygiene that I have received from your health department--how to avoid head-lice; reminders to get vaccinations against polio, tetanus, whooping cough, etc.; encouragement toward healthy diet; etc. Why couldn't your education effort include advice for safe management of septic waste in event of home toilet malfunction, or failure of down-stream sewage treatment?

School children are prepared for emergencies through firedrills, tornado mobilizations, and formerly through air-raid drills. Why shouldn't they be similarly prepared, through education, for toilet and/or sewer failure?

What is the best, safest response to toilet or sewer failure? In my opinion, it is disposal of septic waste in an outdoor linear trench, or a series of them. Dry disposal in septic trench offers a big advantage over wet-flush systems: the opportunity to raise horticulture crops on the resulting ideal planting medium--18 inches of loose soil above a 6-inch layer of concentrated organic fertilizer.

Please see enclosures in this regard. Maybe door-to-door distribution of such information to Scott County residents whose sewage treatment is failing, would solve this environmental problem, while causing a beneficial increase in home horticulture.

Sincerely,
Steve Price