

Crossgates may reduce flooding on Western Avenue, planner says

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A Pyramid Crossgates Co. consultant testified Tuesday that the proposed \$85 million Crossgates mall should reduce flooding on Western Avenue near Stuyvesant Plaza.

Harry Nichols, a senior associate with Raymond Keyes Engineers of White Plains, said his firm has designed four retention ponds for the 170-acre mall site to "decrease the rate of flow" of water.

Nichols made his remarks during cross-examination by Marc Pellegrino, a state Environmental Conservation attorney, at the 14th day of environmental impact hearings on the mall.

Pellegrino questioned Nichols about flooding because the engineer said there "is a history of it below Stuyvesant Plaza."

Nichols was one of four consultants for Pyramid Crossgates Co. who testified at the hearing Tuesday on the mall's possible effects on soil and water. The 150-store structure has been proposed for the southeastern section of Guilderland's Pine Bush, between Washington Avenue Extension, Western Avenue and the Thruway.

The panel's testimony, unlike previous testimony on economics and social impact, is needed to fulfill the requirements of three Environmental Conservation Department permits. Those permits, if approved, would allow the developer to alter and impound the

Krumkill and to pollute the defunct McKownville Reservoir.

In other developments Tuesday, Bruce Phillips, a McKownville resident and State Department of Health attorney, charged that Carlton L. Noyes, the developer's water consultant, used the wrong state standards when he measured the level of pollution in the McKownville Reservoir. Phillips is the husband of Mary Phillips, treasurer of Concerned Citizens Against Crossgates.

Phillips said Noyes' statement Monday that water in the reservoir is polluted was based on standards for purified water.

Phillips, who said he is a specialist on state laws dealing with sanitation but not water quality, contended that if Noyes had used standards for unpurified water he would have found the reservoir "well within compliance of state standards."

Noyes has maintained it isn't possible to use the reservoir for a future water supply because it contains water high in pollutants. McKownville residents stopped drinking from the reservoir in 1973 when silt from a neighboring reservoir clogged equipment at the McKownville Water District filtration plant, Donald Reeb, said during a break in the hearing.

The hearing schedule calls for sessions from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. today, 12:30-5 p.m. and 7:30-10 p.m. sessions Thursday and a two-week break starting next Monday. The hearings are held at the Ramada Inn on Western Avenue in Guilderland.