

Schenectady 5/19/87

Crossgates Mall at Issue Again

GUILDERLAND — Momentum toward granting the environmental permits Pyramid Crossgates Co. needs to construct Crossgates Mall in the eastern part of town has grown with the tentative approval of the company's stormwater management system.

In an internal memorandum to legal officers of the state Department of Environmental Conservation, state dam expert Walt Lynick said that, based on conversations with Pyramid representatives, he would approve the stormwater impoundment permits Pyramid has applied for.

According to Edward Miller, DEC coordinator of the Pyramid project, Lynick has concluded that the stormwater management system would not have an adverse impact on downstream facilities and in fact would lessen the runoff from the Pine Bush, where the \$85-million mall would be built on 169 acres.

Lynick's May 5 memo reviews errors on the stormwater management issue Pyramid allegedly made in information the company submitted to DEC in early February. But the memo says Lynick's subsequent conversations with Pyramid have corrected those errors, paving the way for his approval recommendation.

The memo notes the McKownville Reservoir would not be unduly strained by runoff from the mall, adding the reservoir has appropriate pipe capacities and its 24-inch outlet pipe would accommodate the runoff.

After correcting Pyramid's

calculations for pipe and culvert size, Lynick found when "comparing 'before' and 'after' conditions, the net effect would indicate no worsening of conditions due to the Crossgates development."

Lynick concludes that the "permit for the construction of the detention ponds, integral parts of the stormwater management system, can be approved."

The company is still awaiting word on air quality permits linked to additional traffic the mall is expected to generate along Western Avenue. Pyramid recently submitted data shifting a major intersection at Western and Schoolhouse Road slightly east, in an attempt to prove it could lower the air pollution figures earlier, disputed computations had generated for the Schoolhouse-Western intersection.

The company is awaiting a decision on environmental permits that DEC Commissioner Robert F. Flacke has said he will make by the end of June.

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