

Penn Township Adds Water, Solar Resources

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Penn Township has acquired land that will provide a new water source and a location for a massive solar project and a nature educational center.

Supervisors confirmed Monday the township's Northwestern Lancaster County Authority bought more than 10 acres along Doe Run Road from **Kreider Farms**.

"It solidifies Penn Township's long-term water requirements well into the future," supervisor chairman Dave Sarley said. "We're very happy that this was not a contentions situation and we did not have to go into eminent domain."

Installation of a new well on the site has the potential to produce 700 gallons of water per minute, officials said.

The township's new water treatment plant is being built on the site, and the work is expected to be completed by Dec. 31, 2011.

The plant will treat water with a membrane filtration and ion exchange system that will remove cryptosporidium parasites and nitrates. The cost of the treatment project is approximately \$2 million.

The township also is building a 200kW ground-based solar system on site.

The supervisors agreed to enter into a 20-year lease with Solar Renewable Energy LLC in January for the system with a fixed lease payment of about \$50,000 annually.

Over the life of the lease, the township will receive approximately \$1,518,000 in revenue from the sale of solar renewable energy credits. Minus the cost of the lease, the township will net about \$518,000.

The township already completed a 64kW solar project last September.

Penn Township, and Kreider Farms have formed a partnership and will develop a sustainability demonstration project on the land. The project will exhibit alternative energy sources, best storm water management practices and stream bank restoration.

The township plans to offer the site as an outdoor classroom for students, developers and other municipalities.

"It's another of Penn Township's municipal-private partnerships," Sarley said.

"It's coming together. It's not just wishful thinking. It's not just a dream or vision," Dave Kratzer, township manager, said. "It's actual things that are coming together."

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