

Vermont

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Department of Environmental Quality Engineering.

Karl H. Deubert, a UMass professor based at the Cranberry Experiment Station in East Wareham, Mass., said: "I am sure that proper pesticide use on golf courses will have no detrimental effect on the quality of groundwater."

"Most pesticide residues in groundwater were found in the 0.01 and 1.0 ppb (parts per billion) range," he said.

Deubert used the postage stamp to illustrate the difference between ppm and ppb. "A one-cent stamp is 7/8 inch wide. One million of these stamps would form a line a little under 14 miles long. Accordingly, one billion of these stamps would form a line almost 14,000 miles long. One part per billion (ppb) would then be equivalent to one one-cent stamp roughly between Boston and New Zealand."

Deubert said, "The reason for excitement about these residue levels is difficult to understand when we may find, in most areas where chlorination is used, up to 1,000 times more chloroform in drinking water (83 ppb being the U.S. average) than pesticide residues where they are detectable."

Unprecedented action

Michael J. O'Connor of Vergennes, environmental chairman, director and past president of the Vermont Golf Course Superintendents, termed the Nov. 9 decision "unprecedented."

O'Connor serves on a subcommittee formed to gather data and form recommendations for the Vermont Pesticide Advisory Council, is a spokesperson for the golf course industry in Vermont, and for more than 10 years has been on the Vermont Golf Course Superintendents Association board of directors.

In a letter to Vermont golf course owners, he noted that the decision went beyond the issue of development.

He wrote: "Your superintendent is concerned with the environment. His greatest pride comes from supervising and reassuring you as owners that your facility is the type of responsible land use so many people enjoy."

"If golf courses in Vermont are to fall victim to unsubstantiated claims, and if the Environmental Commission feels some of the most authoritative experts in the turfgrass industry can be overruled, consider this:

"Golf in Vermont began because the private sector developed the golf course industry. If golf courses pose a health threat, how is it that our Northeast neighbors, and states with some of the strictest environmental laws in the country, have established a working relationship to allow sound land-use decisions to be made?"

O'Connor warned: "As owners, you should be concerned with the

political process and how it has affected your reputation within the golf industry."

Kenneth W. Pillsbury of Huntington, a semi-retired dairy farmer and former vocational agriculture teacher in Connecticut, came down hard in favor of the project.

In a Burlington Free Press guest column Nov. 29, Pillsbury wrote: "Sherman Hollow Inc. has received national recognition as having created the most comprehensive program to protect the environment of any golf course in

"It is not expected that Sherman Hollow will be a panacea for all of Huntington's economic and growth problems, but it will certainly provide the town with a more promising, a more secure future."

— Huntington resident

the United States."

Pillsbury contrasted "the glaring difference in approach" by Chittenden County Superior Court Judge Matthew Katz, who last August granted Sherman Hollow a conditional-use zoning permit, and the Environmental Board. He said Katz made an objective effort to examine how such a development would help lessen fiscal and residential development problems Huntington has experienced for many years.

Katz' decision met with cool
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Walker says: Emphasize pluses

Curt Walker, executive director of the Association of Golf Course Architects of America, emphasizes the benefits of a golf course.

"You have to make the point of the economic plus that the community will derive because of a golf course and the potential developments around the golf course; the advantage of open space and green belt areas in your community," he said.

He added that using effluent for golf course irrigation and providing wildlife with a safe habitat also were advantages of golf courses.

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