

Superfund site gains fed. approval

ANACONDA, Mont. — A Superfund waiver was signed in early May allowing Atlantic Richfield Co. (ARCO) to transfer 2,000 acres of land to the local government.

In exchange the county assumed oversight and maintenance of the area and ARCO has agreed to commission a Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course on a portion of the site.

The course's 21-hole layout (including three practice holes) and driving range will be routed through the abandoned copper

smelting facility, dotted with slag deposits of arsenic, copper and zinc. Groundbreaking took place in late May.

The agreement signed by county commissioners, Environmental Protection Agency regional director Bill Yellowtail and a representative of the U.S. Department of Justice protects Anacosta-Deer Lodge from federal or state waste cleanup liability.

Under the agreement, indemnification is transferable — opening the area for economic development.

Maryland range to open this month

ELKTON, Md. — The Chesapeake Golf Club has received special permission from the Board of Zoning Appeals to construct a 25-tee driving range.

Pending the necessary permits, co-owner and PGA professional Andrew Barbin hopes the range will be ready by July 1.

The 20-acre site, owned by Mason-Dixon Sand and Gravel

Co., will be leased to the club to provide needed facilities for public and club use. The site will include a practice tee, a driving tee, a practice fairway, several target greens and parking for more than 50 vehicles.

The driving range area will be 150 yards wide and 275 yards long. Lights from the tee stalls will focus only on the tee area.

Opposing views aired at N.H. golf conference

By MARVIN ARMSTRONG

KEENE, N.H. — Experts and lay people, golf supporters and its environmental foes discussed environmentally friendly golf development during the "Greener Greens — Impacts of Golf Course Development" conference, held here in June.

Sponsored by Antioch New England Graduate School College, the conference format included a leadoff presentation by United States Golf Association (USGA) agronomist Jim Skorulski, who shared results from recent USGA research on new management procedures. The studies, done in conjunction with the Audubon Society of New York State and their sanctuary program, indicated that healthy turf does tie up and filter pesticides and pollutants.

Following Skorulski, the conference broke for panel presentations and discussions on the development experiences of specific courses:

- The Shattuck Golf Course in Jaffrey, N.H., was discussed as an example of a cooperative effort. Course development safeguards had been agreed upon by the Concerned Citizens of Jaffrey and course developers. However, town selectmen discarded some conditions and refused to monitor requirements, negating the efforts of both the environmentalists and developers.

- Another panel — led by Consultant James Phippard of Brickstone Masons, Inc. and Alfred Merrifield, the assistant city manager of Keene, N.H. — discussed a case regarding the expansion of Bretwood Golf Course and the protection of a water source here.

Bretwood was expanded using the "go-slow" and "work-with-regulators" method. Phippard worked with the city to study the water samples, change aspects of the course design, and adopt an integrated pest management plan. Both the city and developer said they are satisfied with the multi-year permit process.

- Presentations by Nancy Childs of Beaver Brook Watershed Coalition and Danda L. Burghdoff of the City of Waltham (Mass.) Planning Department addressed the successful development of a golf course on land "surplused" by the state of Massachusetts. The 346-acre parcel, formerly state hospital property, became the site of a nine-hole course, with the remainder set aside as a unit of the Metropolitan Parks System.

• Later panels were chaired by
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Marvin Armstrong is a golf course architect and freelance writer based in Franconstown, N.H.



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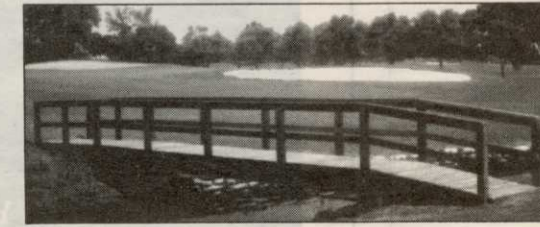
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N.H. golf conference

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Jean Mackay, staff ecologist, Audubon Society of New York State; Tim Madden, superintendent of Mount Snow Golf Course in Mt. Snow, Vt.; and Superintendent Ken Lallier of The Queechee Club in Queechee, Vt.. Their experiences of working toward an environmentally friendly golf course shed light on the individuality of each course: the varying susceptibility to disease and pests, the different micro-climates and the across-the-board attitudes of golfers.

Also discussed by Mackay, Madden and Lallier was the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP), mentioned by Skorulski during his opening remarks. The program, founded by the Audubon Society of New York State, assists courses in promoting the value of wildlife and environment. So far, more than 1,000 golf courses are participating in the program — 15 have achieved ACSP certification.

The conference ended with a presentation by Ward Stone, director of the Wildlife Pathology Unit of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Focusing on the environmental impact of golf courses, he encouraged people to look at what developments are doing — not appearing to do.

However, his suggestion that all golf courses around the country make weekly tours of their courses to pick up dead birds re-polarized conference attendees and left some people with a bitter taste in their mouths.