

Head of Water Pollution Board Upset; His Firm Muddies Pond in Springfield

By ADOLPHE V. BERNOTAS

CONCORD, N. H. (AP) — John Palazzi, chairman of the New Hampshire Water Pollution Commission, said Tuesday that he's the "most embarrassed guy in the state" because his construction firm is muddying Stocker Pond in Springfield — in violation of the strict 1967 state laws against water pollution.

Palazzi told The Associated Press: "Nobody feels worse about this than I do."

The Palazzi Construction Co. is doing work under a state Highway Department contract on Interstate 89. The recent rains have been washing silt off the highway slopes and into the 24-acre, state-owned pond.

Feels Sympathy

Meanwhile, the head of the state's water pollution control agency — part of a New England-wide compact commission — said in an interview that he feels sympathy for Palazzi.

William Healy, head of the New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Commission, said Tuesday that Palazzi "has nothing to be embarrassed about. He's doing all he can."

Palazzi said he is hoping that grass on the highway slopes begins to grow and halt some of the runoff into the pond. "If anybody has any suggestions at all, please tell them to call me," he said.

Palazzi offered to spend \$11,000 for chemical treatment of the pond but Healy advised him against it.

Said Healy: "We don't feel like suggesting that because with the rain we've been having you can treat it one day and the next day you'll have the same muddy situation."

The idea behind the chemical treatment would be to introduce into the lake a substance which would drag the mud to the bottom.

Palazzi said that his crews

have tried everything from building catch basins to working long hours in hopes of completing the job and stopping the problem.

Healy said that the situation has been a matter of concern to his agency, Palazzi's agency, the Highway Department, Fish and Game Department and the governor's office.

Seek Solution

He said the officials have been meeting to try to come up with a solution but so far the

lake remains turgid "and, I'm afraid, will remain so" until either the grass starts to grow or a dry spell comes.

Palazzi said that another firm in the area, the Payne Construction Co. of Keene, has contributed to the problem, but admitted that "it's my company that's doing most of it."

"Nobody, believe me, is sorer about this than I am," he said. "I'm doing whatever I can. It's an embarrassing situation."