

The following is an excerpt from a newspaper article in Lancaster, where Penn-Mar Ethanol was trying for approval for about a year before moving to Chambersburg. NOTE THE EVACUATION PLAN. How many Chambersburg area employees and families within 2.5 miles of the proposed plant would be evacuated when there is an “incident”? How many within 5 miles would need to seek shelter inside?

## Proposed ethanol plant details emergency-response plan

By AD CRABLE  
New Era Staff Writer

A major leak of ammonia gas at a proposed ethanol plant in Conoy Township could result in the evacuation, sheltering or warning of 78,000 Lancaster County residents.

Under a state-required emergency response plan filed by Penn-Mar Ethanol, local emergency officials would make the call on whether to take pre-

ventive measures that would affect residents living within 8.5 miles of the plant in Lancaster, York, Dauphin and Lebanon counties.

If they do, residents living within 2.5 miles of the plant would be evacuated. Residents living within five miles would be sheltered where they are at the time, while those up to 8.5 miles away would be warned while plumes of the gas and weather are monitored.

Affected municipalities in Lancaster

County would include the townships of Conoy, West Donegal, Mount Joy, West Hempfield, Rapho and East Donegal, and the boroughs of Marietta, Elizabethtown, Columbia and Mount Joy.

Up to 8,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia would be stored at the proposed plant along the Susquehanna River.

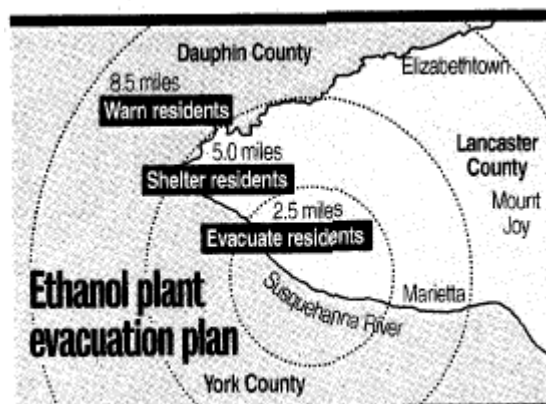
Another toxic substance to be stored in a large quantity at the plant would be 7,000 gallons of sulfuric acid, according to documents filed by Penn-Mar

Ethanol with Conoy Township as part of a conditional-use application.

A consultant for Penn-Mar Ethanol today said both ammonia and sulfuric acid are commonly used in industry or agriculture, and a large spill or leak affecting the communities beyond the plant is “extremely unlikely.”

“I’ve never heard of an entire ammonia tank failure, except perhaps in

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Chris Emler/NEW ERA