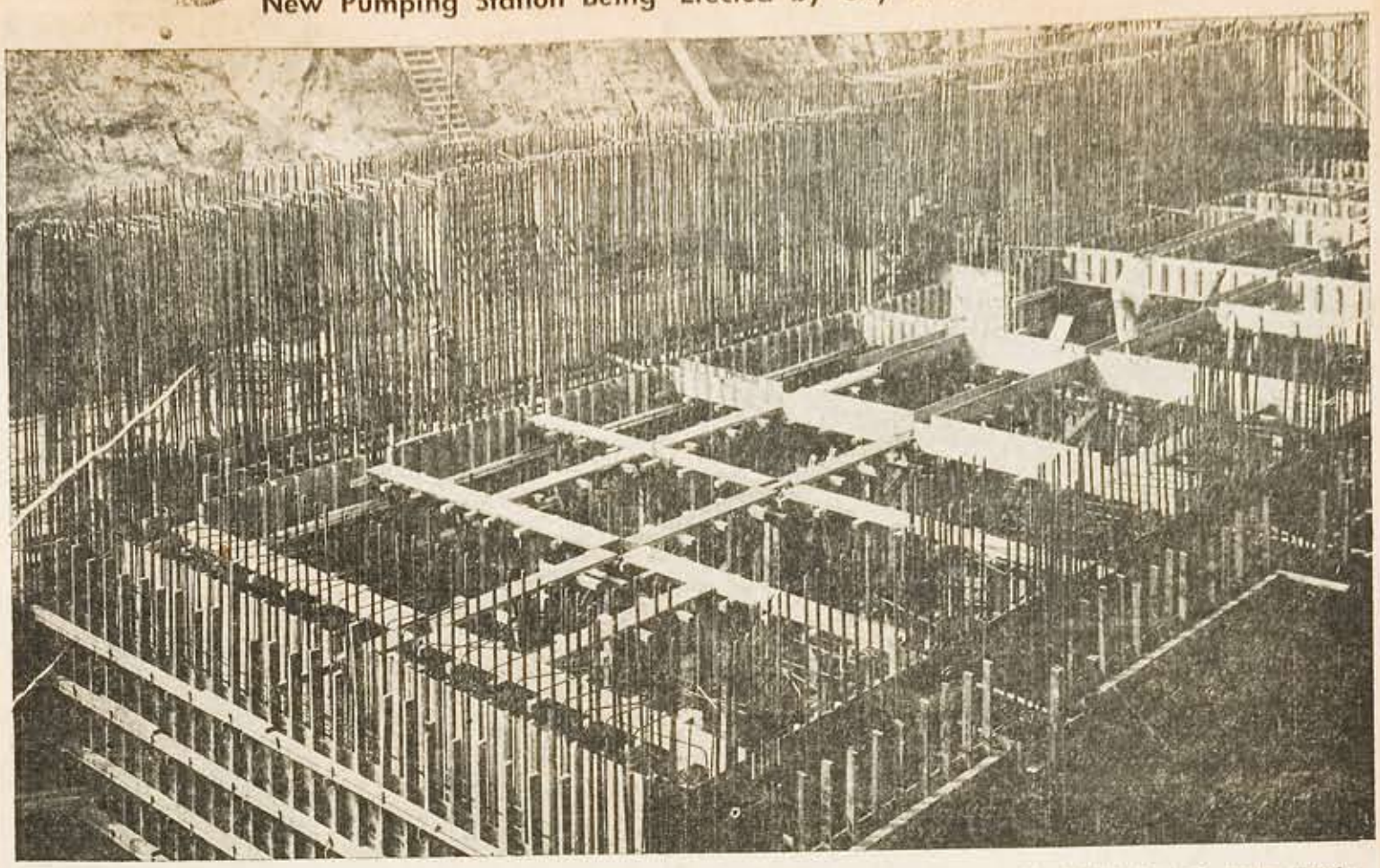
New Pumping Station Being Erected by City at Torresdale



The above picture shows the Torresdale pumping station now under construction. A little over half of Philadelphia's water supply is obtained from the Delaware and the Torresdale filter plant is the only one on that river. When completed the plant is expected to supply 212 million gallons of water a day. This is part of the city's post-war improvement program. The picture shows the vast amount of steel, lumber and other materials used in the superstructure. The work is expected to be completed early in 1948. The picture below is an architects drawing of how the plant will appear when completed.

New Electric Pumping Plant Being Built at Torresdale

A new electric water pumping plant, planned by the city for years, is being constructed in Torresdale and is expected to supply 212 million gallons of water a day early in 1948.

A major part of Philadelphia's post-war improvement program, the Torresdale pumping plant should be completed this summer, now that the steel on the superstructure is being raised. Its capacity for low service pumping below the Pennypack in the central city area should be 200 million gallons of water a day. For high service pumping east of the Pennypack, it should be 12 million gallons per day.

Construction of this plant will make possible repairs on the conduits at Lardner's Point. Together they should supply 410 million gallons of water a day and the city will be assured ample protection in case of any emergency peak hour demand.

A Fox Chase booster station on Lardner st. above Rising Sun ave. will increase pressures to that area, now being serviced through the Oak Lane Reservoir booster and the Torresdale high service pumps. This should be completed in the late spring of 1948.

These additions to the city's water supply system have been needed for years. The Torresdale filter plant, built at the turn of the century (from 1900-1908) to filter water pumped from Lardner's Point had become so badly worn, that it was unable to maintain adequate service. Originally the large steam pumps with which it was fitted were considered to be of the best and engineers came from all over Europe to inspect them.

However, maintainence was deferred for such a long period of time that it would have been impossible to make repairs without taking the whole plant apart. This couldn't be done since the plant provides 150 million gallons of water a day. In 1929 the Bureau of Water started, then abandoned a program, for the installation of electric pumps. Again, in 1940 studies were made under a rehabilitation program. The conclusion was that a new steam plant should be built at Lardner's Point or that there should be two pumping stations that would provide for greater reliability. The depression and the war stymied that plan, also. With the evolvement of the city planning commission's program a new course was decided upon.

In view of the cheaper maintainence cost of electric over steam and the greater reliability of two pumping stations over one, the city decided to build a new electric pumping station plant at Torresdale and reconstruct one of the three engine houses at Lardner's Point as well as install electric pumps.