

# Sierra Club to challenge ethanol plant in Conoy

By AD CRABLE

New Era Staff Writer

A regional environmental group says it will actively campaign against a proposed \$80 million ethanol plant in Conoy Township.

The 3,000-member Gifford Pinchot Chapter of the Sierra Club, with an estimated 800 to 1,000 members in Lancaster County, announced its opposition after a June 29 presentation by local opponents of the plant.

"The more we learn, the more we are convinced that we need to actively campaign against (the plant)," said Jack Flatley, chairman of the Sierra Club chapter, based in Harrisburg.

"We have grave concerns about the whole ethanol business."

Flatley said the state Department of Environmental Protection has made a "grave mistake" in classifying the proposed plant as

a "minor source" of air pollution and thus subject to less restrictive regulations.

Much of the Sierra Club's efforts, including testimony of the organization's scientific experts, will be funneled into reversing that decision.

The national Sierra Club has sued some ethanol plants in the past for violations of the federal Clean Air Act," Flatley said.

Expect club members to show up at future public meetings on the project in Conoy Township to testify and perhaps protest the project, he said.

The plant, proposed by a group of farmers and businessmen from Lancaster, York and Maryland, needs a conditional-use approval from Conoy Township supervisors. Hearings have not yet been set.

The plant would be built on 65 acres adjacent to the Susquehanna River and the county incinerator.