

# Million pop bottles remain empty

By CHRIS MALETTE  
Staff Reporter

More than one million empty pop bottles, taking up warehouse space in an east hill warehouse, will likely remain empty unless talks between the company which owns them comes to terms with the federal government and a private company on ways of making them safe for sale to the public.

Jeorg Ostermann, a representative of Coca Cola,

the company which owns the warehouse on the corner of Bridge and Sidney Streets, said today the industry is likely looking at the fourth quarter of 1981 for the re-introduction of 1.5 litre pop bottles.

"The industry is negotiating for a third party (other than the federal government or the industry itself) to do the coating needed to allow the bottles back on the market," said Ostermann.

He was referring to the proposed plastic coating on the torpedo-like bottles the industry feels will keep the federal government convinced there is no danger of personal injury to consumers in the event one of the bottles shatters. The bottles were banned in August 1979 after 50 people were injured by bottles which exploded or accidentally smashed. The shards of glass sent forth from the bottles were described as shrapnel by victims.

"The idea behind one company doing the coating is to prevent any one soft drink company from getting the jump on the others when the big bottles are re-introduced," said Ostermann. "The bottles would be coated and released all at once so there would be one uniform release of them on the market."

Until this time, the 1,283,202 bottles will sit gathering dust in the warehouse here in Belleville.

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