Crossgates Hearings Are Shelved by DEC

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GUILDERLAND — Public hearings on the proposed Pyramid Crossgates Mall will not be reconvened.

In a three-point decision, Robert Flacke, state Department of Environmental Conservation commissioner, said last night he will decide within 60 days, whether to grant the 11 environmental permits needed to construct the \$85 million shopping mall.

Parties to the mall issues have until May 11 to comment on the mitigation measures of expected violations of air quality standards at five receptor points at the intersection of Schoolhouse Road and Western Avenue, the commissioner added.

Flacke had until today to decide whether to reconvene the hearings which were suspended last summer after more than 80 sessions were held. Last No-

vember Flacke ruled he needed more information before a decision could be made on the permit applications.

A spokesman for Pyramid Crossgates said the developers would not comment on Flacke's decisions until today as they did not receive notification of the decision last night.

Pyramid Crossgates has maintained the state agency has the necessary information needed to make a decision while opponents to the mall have contended otherwise. Opponents have argued insufficient air quality data has been collected by DEC and the state Department of Transportation.