

October 7, 2005

From the Cleanup Director



Steady progress is being made on the cleanup of the Delaware River.

We're excavating fly ash from an 800- by 200-foot area where a portable dam has been installed. We're getting the necessary permits, land and equipment so that divers can

begin vacuum-dredging two large areas of ash deposits located downriver. We are testing the diver-dredging operation. And we're continuing to do shoreline cleanups whenever residents request them.

We've also made progress on residential well tests. The lab is working to complete the backlog of tests. A few remain to be done. We've called residents to answer questions and review the results of more than 200 of the tests.

All of those results showed levels of selenium, arsenic and mercury below state and federal drinking water standards.

Since the fly ash spilled in August, we also have taken more than 1,100 samples of river water. Some of the data from those tests is on our Web site at www.martinscreekcleanup.com, and we're working to get the rest posted there shortly, along with the residential well test results.

There is much ahead in the cleanup, but you have my assurance that we will continue this effort until we make it right.



Bob Barkanic

Dredging Operation Demonstrated

Divers have begun a two-week Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection-approved demonstration of the vacuum-dredging process that will be used to clean up two areas of fly ash deposited in the Delaware River within about a mile of the PPL Boat Launch.

Because the deposits lie on the river bottom under 10 to 20 feet of water, diver-controlled vacuum-dredging is the best method for the cleanup. The operation will continue until the fly ash has been removed.

During the demonstration, divers have been able to effectively vacuum ash from the river bottom with minimal disturbance to the native

river bottom under the ash.

When the diving operation gets under way fully, the divers will work from two 20- by 41-foot custom-built dive platforms, which can be moved as work in an area is completed.

Great care is being taken to ensure that the cleanup doesn't harm the river. For example, the submersible pumps used by the vacuum system employ a special hydraulic fluid that is actually a food-grade, high-temperature vegetable-based oil. That way, if there should be an accidental release, it would pose no harm to the environment.

Material vacuumed from the river

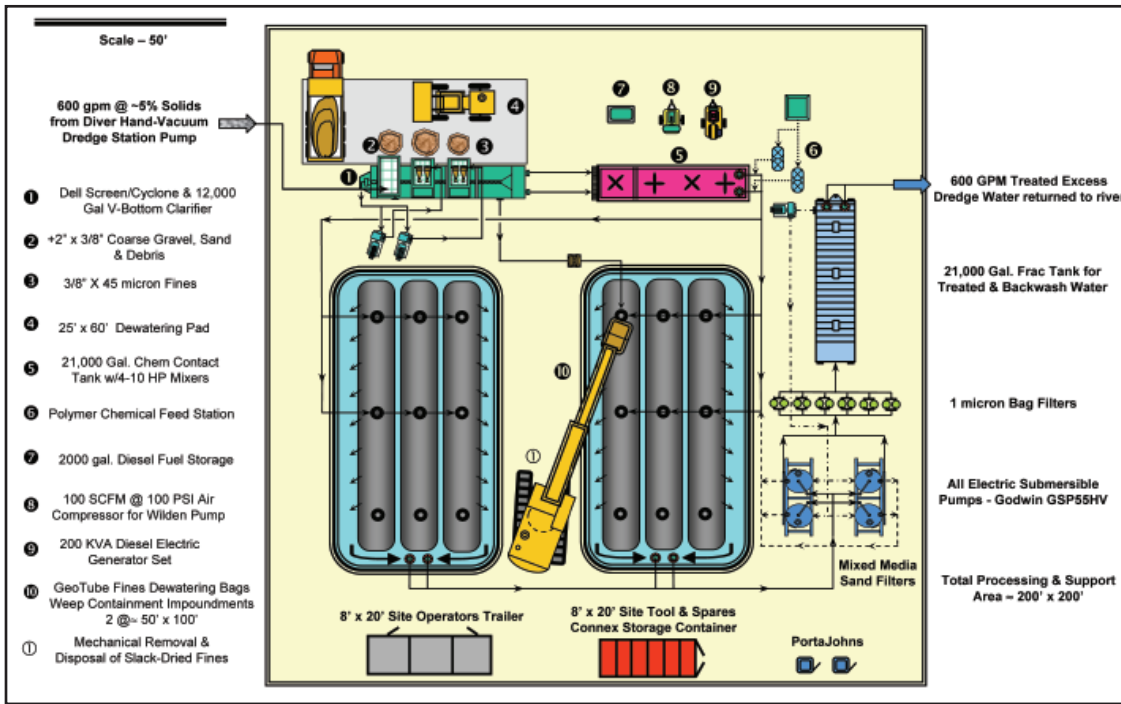
(continued on back)

An Update on the Cleanup

Since the last issue of this newsletter:

- Water has been pumped out of the area within a portable dam in front of the PPL Boat Launch. Work is under way to scrape ash and sediment from the river bottom.
- Upgrades to the Ash Basin #4 discharge system – including the installation of new steel-reinforced concrete stoplogs, construction of a steel wall on the basin side of the discharge structure and the installation of two valves between the discharge structure and the river – are nearly complete.
- Under a plan approved by Pennsylvania DEP, we are assessing the groundwater quality near Ash Basin #1. On PPL property near the basin, we have installed additional wells for monitoring and instruments to determine the depth and flow path of groundwater.
- We have sampled more than 230 residential wells. Owners of those wells are being sent final results of the tests, and we're making calls to everyone to answer any questions. All of those results showed levels of selenium, arsenic and mercury below drinking water standards.

(continued on back)



This is a diagram of one of two water filtration plants that would be built by PPL - one on each side of the river - under a proposal now being considered by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The plants would filter the ash being dredged from the bottom by teams of divers, then return the clean water to the river. (The notations include technical specifications of the equipment. We will provide more details and explanation as the project moves forward.)

Dredging Operation Demonstrated

(continued from front)

will be pumped to water treatment plants that will be built. For the first area of ash deposited downriver from the PPL Boat Launch, a 40,000-square-foot plant will be placed on PPL-owned or -leased land on the Pennsylvania side of the river. This plant will be capable of processing water and ash sediment pumped from the dredge platform at the rate of 600 gallons per minute.

For the second area, located within one mile of the boat launch, the water treatment plant will be located on leased land on the New Jersey side. This plant

will be capable of processing water and ash sediment pumped from two dredge platforms at the rate of 1,200 gallons per minute.

Once the water is cleaned, it will be discharged back to the river. Solid material from the cleanup will be placed in Ash Basin #4. However, there will be no discharge of water from Basin #4 until the Pennsylvania DEP gives PPL its approval. The DEP has said that it must first be satisfied on several matters, including a full understanding of the cause of the wooden stoplog failure, our emergency response plan and our inspection and

maintenance program for the basin.

Representatives of the Pennsylvania DEP, the New Jersey DEP, the Delaware River Basin Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers visited Martins Creek on Sept. 29 to learn more about and observe the diver-dredging demonstration.

In addition to acquiring the two water treatment plants and the two customized dredge platforms, preliminary work on this part of the cleanup has included applying for various permits from local, state and federal governmental agencies and leasing property for river access and placement of the plants.

An Update on the Cleanup (continued from front)

- Over the weekend of Oct. 1, about 150 young shad were found dead in the "turbidity curtain," a temporary silt screen at the cleanup area in front of the PPL Boat Launch. The screen is designed to prevent any sediment disturbed during the cleanup from moving downstream. While trying

to escape from feeding bass, the shad landed on a part of the screen that the river current had caused to billow out of the water. PPL has weighted the screen to keep water in it, and has reported the incident to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

From the desk of Bob Barkanic, cleanup director.
Contact him at cleanupdirector@pplweb.com, or toll-free at 1-866-364-2800.

