

January 25, 2006

## Divers to Resume Work When High River Flow Recedes

Because of high flow in the Delaware River following the heavy rain Jan. 17 and 18, the ash vacuuming operation has been suspended. Flows reached as high as 82,000 cubic feet per second on Jan. 19 – more than double the flow rate that occurred after the rain in early October. Divers will resume work when the flow recedes to a safe level.

With milder weather following the holidays and the addition of a third dive platform and team of divers, steady progress had been made in the cleanup. All three teams of divers were working in the second area within about a mile

downriver from PPL's boat launch where ash settled. Cleanup of the first area was completed in mid-December.

Before the current high river flow, about a three-acre area remained where pockets of ash had been identified. The three dive teams were cleaning as much as 3,800 square feet per day. The ash that was removed was pumped to



The three barges are moored until the high water recedes.

Basin #4, with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection approval, through three pipelines.

### From the Cleanup Director



While the flow in the Delaware River is too high for vacuuming of the remaining ash, we've been working on ways to increase the divers' productivity when they are able to resume work, including modifying the vacuuming equipment.

In many of the areas where the ash settled, there are several inches of sediment and gravel over a layer of ash. The sediment not only makes

the vacuuming a slow process, the stony material in it has a tendency to clog the pumps, forcing work to stop while maintenance and repairs are done. We've designed and are testing new nozzles for the vacuum hoses that should reduce the amount of stones and gravel that enters the hoses. That should minimize the "downtime" and enable the vacuuming to be done faster.

We've also constructed a small platform similar to the three that house the dive operations. That platform is outfitted to allow repair work for the dive platforms and pipeline to be done in the river. That, too, will minimize the amount of downtime and help to increase the productivity of the vacuuming operation.

We're taking these steps to ensure the remaining cleanup work is done quickly, thoroughly and safely.

Recently, we've had a few inquiries from residents along the river who reported seeing material close to the shoreline that could be ash. We've taken samples in those areas and found no ash. At this time of year, generally the grey silt-like material along shorelines is organic – the decomposing remnants of fall leaves. We will continue to do these samples. Whenever you see an area that looks like it could contain ash, give me a call at 866-364-2800.

  
Bob Barkanic

## Residential Wells in Pennsylvania Tested for Third Time

Samples of residential wells in Pennsylvania were taken this past weekend (1/20-1/22) in the third test since the ash spill. The well tests are being offered quarterly through August 2007.

Of the 133 Pennsylvania residents whose wells were tested previously, 47 requested the third test. In addition, samples were taken for seven residents whose wells had not been tested earlier.

Residents whose wells were sampled can authorize release of the data to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection or the Pennsylvania Department of Health, or both, for their review.

Results of the well tests are expected to be mailed to residents in mid-February. After that, a summary of the results will be available on the Internet at [www.martinscreekcleanup.com](http://www.martinscreekcleanup.com).

New Jersey residents who have participated in the well testing program will receive a letter offering an opportunity to have their wells tested again in February. Samples will be collected Feb. 17-19.

If you have not yet had your well tested and would like to do so, call 1-866-364-2800. Wells are tested for the 16 metals listed in the U.S. Environmental Protection



Agency's primary and secondary drinking water standards. No tests are done for bacterial contamination since that is not found in fly ash.

From the desk of Bob Barkanic, cleanup director.  
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