

February 23, 2006

Divers Nearing Completion of Ash Vacuuming

With heated wetsuits protecting them from the chilly water, divers are vacuuming the last half-acre of Delaware River bottom where pockets of ash remain from the late-August spill at the Martins Creek plant.

Currently, the divers are working in the second large area of ash that settled in the river within about a mile of the ash basin's discharge pipe. Cleanup of the first area was completed in mid-December. Completion of the second area is expected by early March, weather permitting. Working from two dive barges, the divers are vacuuming as much as 3,350 square feet a day.

Diving operations were suspended from Jan. 14-31 and again from Feb. 4-8 because of high flow in the river. Whenever the weather causes river flow to increase, safety of the

divers and underwater visibility are key factors in determining whether vacuuming can continue.

During last month's high river flow, some of the plastic pipelines that had been used to transport the vacuumed material to Ash Basin #4 at the Martins Creek plant broke loose and traveled downriver. Part of that piping lodged at Kiefer Island and part at the railroad trestle near the ConAgra plant. All three of the pipelines in use before the January rain had been anchored to the shoreline and emptied in anticipation of the high water. As a result, the piping that dislodged did not contain any ash. All of that piping has been recovered.



From the Cleanup Director



Although the wet fall and early winter weather limited the amount of time divers could safely vacuum ash from the river, we expect to complete this phase of the cleanup in the next few weeks. Thank you for your patience during this process.

Throughout the cleanup we have worked with local communities, plant neighbors, the regulatory agencies, environmental groups and the Academy of Natural Sciences, and we will continue to do so. We've made public our cleanup plans. We've conducted a timely, safe and scientifically sound cleanup. And we've worked hard to regain the trust of our neighbors.

We've continued to test the river water. Since early last fall, arsenic has been at or below the historic or "background" level reported by regulatory agencies as normally occurring in the river. This background level is significantly below the state and federal surface water standards. Tests of residential wells on both sides of the river have found no water quality issues attributable to the fly ash release - as we expected since groundwater typically flows to the river and not the other way around. We'll continue to provide those tests quarterly until August 2007 to provide reassurance for our neighbors.

The Normandeau Associates' biological assessment found no detectable short-term effects on fish or benthic macroinvertebrates - the small organisms that fish eat - in the Delaware River or surrounding area.

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Community Groups Provide Valuable Suggestions

Throughout the Martins Creek cleanup, we have been meeting regularly with the Martins Creek Environmental Advisory Committee and with the Plant Advisory Committee. Both groups, made up of community representatives from organizations in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, have provided valuable feedback and suggestions about the ash cleanup project and plant operations.

The Martins Creek EAC, which we formed following the ash spill, includes representatives of the Sierra Club of the Lehigh Valley, the Harmony Township Environmental Commission, Clean Water Action, the Martins Creek-Jacoby Watershed Association and the Lower Mount Bethel Township



Environmental Advisory Council. In its recent meetings, the group has advised PPL about possible environmental projects in the community that could benefit from the company's assistance.

The Plant Advisory Committee, which has met for a number of years, includes neighbors of the Martins Creek plant as well as municipal officials and representatives of community organizations and schools. Following the ash spill,

the PAC was expanded to include the Harmony Township mayor and representatives of the Lower Mount Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Committee and the Harmony Township Environmental Commission. At its recent meetings, the PAC has reviewed the emergency plans for the Martins Creek and Lower Mount Bethel plants and the tank farm and pipeline that supply and store fuel for the two plants.

From the Cleanup Director

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We're planning to sample again this year during the seasons when the fish and other organisms are most active biologically. The Academy of Natural Sciences assisted in developing the study plan we're following. We also are working with the community to determine if there are environmental projects where we can help.

As the vacuuming wraps up,

we are planning for the next phase - evaluating whether further action is needed. Although our regulatory permit for river cleanup activities extends only until April 1, we will still be here. If you believe there may be ash remaining on the shoreline near your property, call us and we'll take a sample, analyze it to see if it's ash or just organic material such as decomposed leaves, and then determine if further action is needed.

You can review the Data Summary

Report that contains the results of the assessments we've done of ash in the river and along the shorelines on our Web site at www.martinscreekcleanup.com.

We will continue to communicate with you. Please feel free to call me at 866-364-2800 if you have any questions or concerns.


Bob Barkanic

From the desk of Bob Barkanic, cleanup director.
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