

April 10, 2006

EPA Endorses PPL's Cleanup of River

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released the results of the preliminary assessment it did following the Martins Creek ash spill. The agency concluded that PPL is taking the appropriate steps to address the environmental effects of the spill.

No further federal action is warranted, according to the EPA.

"We welcomed the EPA assessment and we agree with its conclusion," said Bob Barkanic, PPL's Martins Creek cleanup director, "because as we've said all along, we've done everything possible. We acted quickly to make the situation right, and clearly the EPA agrees."

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network had asked

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From the Cleanup Director



Divers finished vacuuming fly ash from the river on March 11. But we are not done. A work plan for the next phase, which we're calling Phase IV, is being reviewed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. In this phase, we will do a thorough assessment of the river and consult with the agencies to determine what else, if anything, needs to be done. Following Pennsylvania DEP

approval of the plan, a copy will be available on our Web site, www.martinscreekcleanup.com.

We also have submitted a Data Summary Report to the Pennsylvania DEP. The report is a summary of the investigations performed as part of the removal of fly ash and the assessment of ash distribution in the Delaware River. The report is available on our Web site.

But let me assure you that, even though the vacuuming has ended, we will still be here. If you

believe there may be ash remaining near your property, call me at 866-364-2800. We will evaluate it and talk to the Pennsylvania DEP, which will determine what additional action will be taken.

Recently a number of residents have called about a greenish-gray foam they've noticed on the surface of the river. Since the foam also has been seen upriver from our plant, this is not related to the Martins Creek fly ash spill. We checked with the Pennsylvania DEP, and their biologists have also observed it on other area rivers. They believe it's a natural phenomenon, caused by low river flow, nutrients in the river, cold water and warm temperatures.

As the weather turns warmer, many of you are eager to get back on the river. As you do so, you can rest assured that river water tests continue to find none of the constituents in fly ash above background level – the very low level normally occurring in the river before the ash spill.



Bob Barkanic

Calling Volunteers: Earth Day Event Planned

During the floods in 2004 and 2005, trees and other debris washed from the banks along Martins Creek. A lot of it lodged in an area off Little Creek Road near the village of Martins Creek.

The debris formed a logjam that completely blocked the creek and a new channel formed. The new channel is eroding the banks of the creek and has filled in pools that used to be home to a wide variety of fish and other aquatic life.

In a joint Earth Day project, PPL, the Martins Jacoby Watershed Association,

Haines & Kibblehouse (H&K) and Lower Mount Bethel Township are going to remove the debris dam and as much woody debris from the flood plain as



possible in order to restore the normal stream channel.

Volunteers are needed to help with

the project Saturday, April 22, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Volunteers must be 14 or older and able to pick up the woody debris.

You can volunteer for all or part of the day. Lunch will be provided, and each volunteer will receive an Earth Day T-shirt. Bring work gloves and wear footwear appropriate for muddy conditions. The event will be held rain or shine.

To volunteer, call Marcella Chiadis at 610-498-6251 or send an e-mail to mmchiadis@pplweb.com.

Fourth Residential Well Test Scheduled in Pennsylvania

Samples of residential wells in Pennsylvania will be taken April 21-23 in the fourth test since the ash spill. The well tests are being offered quarterly through August 2007.

Residents whose wells are sampled can authorize release of the data to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Department of Health for their review.

Results of the well tests are expected to be mailed to residents about three weeks after the sampling.

Pennsylvania residents who participated in the well testing program previously have received a letter offering an opportunity to have their wells sampled during the April testing.

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.

PPL's Cleanup

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the EPA to conduct a preliminary assessment under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), or Superfund. A preliminary assessment is the EPA's first step in designating Superfund sites.

In its letter to PPL, the EPA said:

"EPA's evaluation of current analytical results of samples collected downstream of the release indicate that no further federal action at the site is warranted at this time. EPA's evaluation of the groundwater analytical results from residential wells indicate that the fly ash release has not affected ground water quality downgradient of the site. PPL continues to assess the Delaware River to address any pockets of fly ash that remain on the river bottom.

"Based on PPL's efforts to date, along with other state and federal involvement, EPA Region III anticipates no need, at this time, to pursue further actions under CERCLA."

From the desk of Bob Barkanic, cleanup director.

Contact him at cleanupdirector@pplweb.com, or toll-free at 1-866-364-2800.

