

PPL Begins Next Round of Monitoring Along River

On June 1, PPL began taking sediment samples along the riverbank on both sides of the Delaware River as a continuing part of the company's monitoring following the ash spill from PPL's Martins Creek plant.

Employees of BBL, an environmental consulting firm, are doing the sampling along the riverbanks below the high-water line, particularly in areas where sediment typically accumulates, such as backwaters and tips of islands.

Samples will be taken downstream from the Martins Creek boat launch area to Easton. BBL also will collect sediment samples from Hendricks Island to Trenton to add to the sediment samples collected previously from Easton to Hendricks Island.

In addition to the downstream samples, BBL will take samples upstream from the plant for comparison purposes.

The work marks the beginning of "Phase IV" of the company's response to the August spill from the Martins Creek plant ash basin. In this phase, PPL will continue its assessment of the river and consult with the agencies that form the Natural Resource Damage Assessment team to determine what else, if anything, needs to be done.



This phase includes biological testing of fish, insects and other aquatic life in the river that will start later in June. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection recently approved beginning the Phase IV sampling.

From the Cleanup Director

With the arrival of warm weather, many area residents have returned to Delaware River recreational activities. If you haven't done so already, when you're in the area, be sure to stop by the Martins Creek boat launch to see the restoration work there. The boat launch is again open to the public, and picnic facilities are available.

Following the completion of the ash-vacuuming operation in mid-March, the pipeline and dive barges were removed from the river and the areas that had been used to support the work of the divers were restored. We've also removed the temporary construction bridge over the Oughoughton Creek at Depues Road and graded and seeded the fields near the Martins Creek plant's ash basin that had the leak last August.

This spring we also continued to respond to residents along the river who had concerns that there may have

been ash deposits near their property. We collected samples, and all tests have shown no ash.

We will continue to respond to your concerns. Call me at 866-364-2800, and we will have someone come out to evaluate any areas where you believe there may be ash. If ash is found, we'll talk to the Pennsylvania DEP, which will determine what, if any, additional action will be taken.

You'll notice more news about the Martins Creek plant in this issue of the newsletter. Beginning with the next issue, this newsletter will become a report on activities and events at the Martins Creek plant. News about any future activities in the ash cleanup will be included in this new quarterly Martins Creek plant newsletter. Information about the cleanup also will continue to be available online at www.martinscreekcleanup.com.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Barkanic".

Bob Barkanic

Peregrine Falcons, Ospreys Return to Martins Creek Nests

It was 10 years ago that PPL installed its first peregrine falcon nest at the Martins Creek plant to help the raptor make a comeback. Today, home for a pair of the fastest birds of prey is a nesting box attached to the enclosure for the continuous emissions monitoring equipment on the plant's Unit 4 stack.

"The pair of peregrine falcons produced four chicks this spring," said John Drabic, PPL's supervisor-Safety, Health and Environmental Resources.

Both the peregrine falcon and the osprey once were on the endangered species list. "We were able to provide ideal locations and the right kind of support to help them make a comeback," Drabic said. "And it fit

nicely with our commitment to the environment and to protecting wildlife."

At the Martins Creek plant, there had been two nesting pairs of ospreys for several years. This year there are three. "It took them awhile, but the new pair persisted and built a home on a transmission tower near our coal yard office building," Drabic said.

There will be a chance to see the ospreys or "fish hawks" Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m. to noon at Martins Creek Environmental Preserve. Meet at the pavilion along DePues Ferry/Foul Rift Road to learn about



the osprey's life cycle and how these birds have made a comeback from the endangered species list. Pre-registration is required. To register, call 570-251-6196 or e-mail pplpreserves@pplweb.com.

Events Calendar

CSI: Critter Scene Investigation
Friday, July 7, 6:30-8 p.m.
Pavilion on DePues Ferry/Foul Rift Road.

Every day in the woods, animals fall victim to predators. In this free program that is geared toward children, teams of investigators will examine "critter scenes," gathering evidence to determine the victim and suspect.

Fishing the Delaware
Sunday, July 23, 1:30-3 p.m.
Second Floor Conference Room, Martins Creek Plant.

During this free program, local fishing enthusiast John Mauser will share the secrets he learned during many seasons of fishing the Delaware River.

Amazing Arthropods
Sunday, Aug. 6, 2-3:30 p.m.
Pavilion on DePues Ferry/Foul Rift Road.

Insects, spiders and their relatives are the world's most abundant living things. Join professional naturalist and author John Serrao for this free program.

Beyond Bait and Bobber
Saturday, Aug. 26, 1:30-3 p.m.
PPL boat launch off DePues Ferry Road.

Join Mike LoDolce, local certified fishing guide and tournament fisherman for this free educational seminar on fishing.

Preregistration is required for these programs. To register, contact PPL at 570-251-6196 or pplpreserves@pplweb.com.

Weekly Tests Planned for Plant Alert Systems

The emergency alert systems in the Martins Creek and Lower Mount Bethel Energy plants play an important role in notifying employees and others on the plant sites if an emergency should occur. The Lower Mount Bethel Energy plant recently activated its system.

To be sure that the systems are working properly, weekly tests are done. The brief tests of both plant alert systems will be done on Monday mornings to minimize the inconvenience for plant neighbors.

From the desk of Bob Barkanic, cleanup director.

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

