

## From the Cleanup Director



Much remains to be done in the river cleanup. We are completing cleanup of ash in the Delaware River in front of the ash basin discharge and the PPL Boat Launch. We'll also begin removing ash from the two large areas

of ash deposits or "pools" within about a mile downriver.

Since the last issue of this newsletter, we have received approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for the second phase of the removal – the final cleanup of the ash in the river immediately in front of the ash basin discharge and the PPL Boat Launch. Shaw Environmental, a firm with experts in environmental remediation, began that work immediately. Following the removal of ash and stones in that area, we will restore the river bottom using material from a nearby quarry that is very similar to the material on the native Delaware River bottom.

At the same time, we are beginning work on the third phase of the cleanup, which will remove the ash from the pools that divers identified within about a mile downriver. We've submitted requests for approvals of that phase from the responsible government agencies and are

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## River Cleanup Work Accelerates

Cleanup of the ash deposits in the river moved into high gear the week of Sept. 26, following approval from the Pennsylvania DEP of the second phase of the cleanup.

- Construction of a portable dam was completed near the ash basin discharge and the PPL Boat Launch. With the area dry, we can excavate the ash and rock in that area.
- Approvals were requested for the next phase of the project. In this phase, we will remove ash from the two pools that divers identified in the river. The two pools, a total area of about

40 acres in the river, will be cleaned by divers using vacuum dredging equipment.

- Large barges will be placed in the river to hold the dredging equipment. Material removed will be pumped to filtration units, and the cleaned water will be returned to the river. Filtration equipment for the pool closest to the PPL Boat Launch will be placed on land owned or leased by PPL on the Pennsylvania side of the river. Equipment for the second pool will be placed on leased land on the New Jersey side.

PPL pumped out a large section of river behind a temporary dam to allow for complete removal of ash on the bottom.



### In the next issue

Next issue we'll provide information about the results of the samples we've taken of river sediment.

## From the Cleanup Director

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working to get the necessary equipment here quickly.

I've heard people say that this process is taking too long. No one would like to see the cleanup done more quickly than PPL. However, we need to be prudent to make sure we do the job safely and with minimal impact to the river's ecosystem.

We're also not happy with how long it has taken to get results from the residential well tests to the residents who requested those tests. We know it is a matter of concern, and we are working with the lab doing the tests to ensure the remaining results are mailed quickly.



Bob Barkanic

## Residential Well Sampling Continues; 109 Results Mailed

Analytical Laboratory Service, Inc., of Middletown, Pa., mailed final results for initial tests conducted on residential wells to 109 property owners on Sept. 23.

We are working with ALSI to ensure that final results for the remaining wells that have been sampled are completed and mailed promptly. More than 230 wells have been tested.

All of the well-test results received so far have shown no quantifiable levels of selenium, arsenic or mercury.

## Pennsylvania Health Department Physician's Statement

Here's what public health physician Cynthia Goodman, M.D., M.S., of the Division of Environmental Health Epidemiology in the Pennsylvania Department of Health, has said about health effects from recreational use of the Delaware River following the ash spill:

"Based on my review of the test results with our state toxicologist, the exposure to hazardous substances (in particular arsenic) in the Delaware River because of the spill from the Martins Creek plant ash basin was minimal at most.

"There does not seem to be any health threat from this exposure,

based on all the results I have seen. "Regarding possible exposure to arsenic, the organic form of arsenic is less toxic than the inorganic form. Fish taken from the river would have the less toxic organic form of arsenic and would, therefore, be okay to eat.

"There is no concern about swimming because of the spill. If you were swimming during the spill, don't worry that your health will be affected down the road. Any exposure to arsenic was very minimal."

## Groundwater Monitoring Increased near Ash Basin #1

Under a plan approved by Pennsylvania DEP, we are assessing the groundwater quality near Ash Basin #1.

We suspended using that basin after a small amount of seepage was discovered and preliminary analyses of adjacent monitoring wells showed higher levels of selenium in some of the wells than we had seen previously. Selenium is one constituent in fly ash.

To gather more data, we've installed additional monitoring wells on PPL property near the basin.

We've also installed instruments to determine the depth and flow path of groundwater.

Test results so far show selenium levels continue to decline. Initial test results were as high as 75 parts per billion (ppb). The most recent results, for samples taken on Sept. 22, were:

Monitoring well 1-6, 50.4 ppb

Monitoring well 1-7, 2.5 ppb

Monitoring well 1-8, 21.3 ppb

Monitoring well 1-9, 24.8 ppb

The federal and state drinking water standard for selenium is 50 ppb.

From the desk of Bob Barkanic, cleanup director.  
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