



Major project to improve air quality on track for 2008 completion

Progress continues on the \$600 million scrubber project at PPL's Montour power plant. The first limestone deliveries have been made.

As of the end of October, construction was more than 80 percent complete and on-schedule for completion early next summer.

Limestone, which will be brought to the plant by truck and train, is a key raw material in the scrubber process. The scrubbers work by spraying a mixture of water and pulverized limestone onto the exhaust gases, which are

created when the plant burns coal to produce electricity.

The result is cleaner air and a byproduct, synthetic gypsum, which will be used to make drywall at a separate manufacturing facility being built by United States Gypsum Co. across the road from the power plant. This facility, made possible by PPL's scrubber project, will create 150 new jobs for the community surrounding the plant.

"We'll be finished with the major construction this fall," said Tom Markowski, project site manager at PPL Montour. "Rigorous testing

of the scrubbers will begin very soon, and the system should come on line by early summer 2008.

"The challenge ahead is to maintain our focus on safety as we head into the winter months and toward completion of the scrubber project," he said.

Residents will see a difference in the sky next year

When the PPL Montour scrubber project is completed next summer, residents will see white vapor coming from the stack. The vapor will look the same as the water vapor that comes out of the cooling towers.

"Exhaust gases will leave the chimney at lower temperatures, so what you will see is an odorless vapor that will be visible when the plant is running," said Tom Markowski, project site manager.

The scrubbers will remove nearly all of the sulfur dioxide, a byproduct of burning coal, from the plant's emissions.

Another environmental bonus from the Montour scrubber project is a new, significantly larger 5-acre wetlands that PPL created because part of the scrubber project is being built on an existing wetlands area.

By 2010, all of PPL's major coal-fired generation units will have scrubber technology.



A new conveyor will bring limestone, a key ingredient in the scrubber process, to the power plant.

PPL hosts autism program at Montour Preserve

More than 40 people followed three hiking trails at the PPL Montour Environmental Preserve on Oct. 6 to learn about the causes, treatments and possible cures for autism.

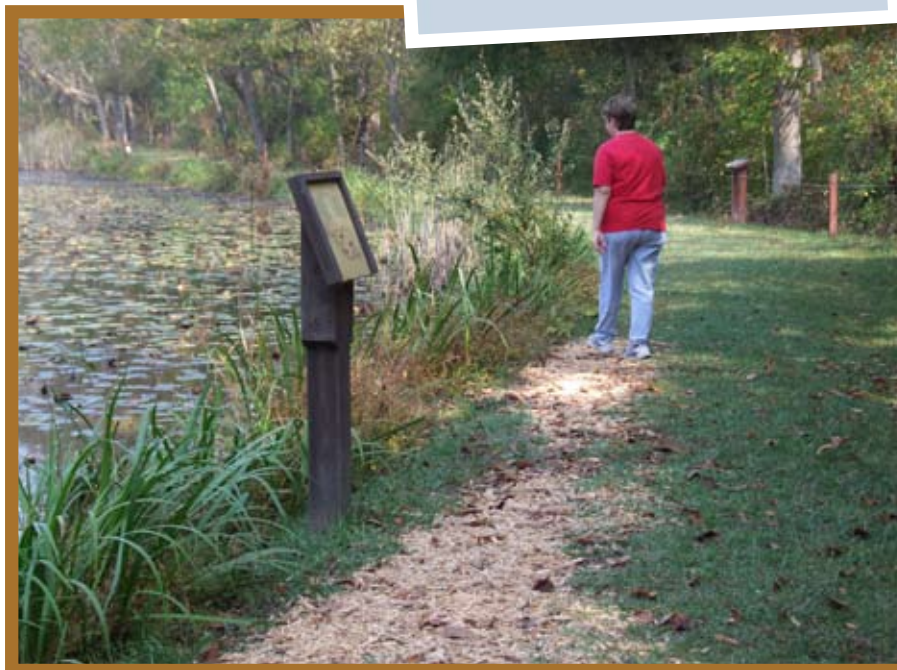
Hosted by PPL and coordinated by the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit, "Hike the Trail to Autism Awareness" brought together parents, educators and people seeking more information about autism. Autism is a disorder that affects people's social behaviors, including the way they speak, communicate, think and act around others.

Participants followed three trails at the preserve and read information about the disease posted along the pathways.

"Hike the Trail to Autism Awareness was an excellent way for people to learn more about autism," said Jake Betz, public relations manager at Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit, which serves students in Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union counties.

"At the same time, they had the opportunity to walk in and enjoy the beautiful PPL Montour Preserve, which is truly one of our region's major natural assets," he said.

"Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit welcomed the opportunity to partner with PPL in planning an event that was both informational and recreational," Betz added. "PPL was extremely helpful to CSIU staff in organizing an activity that was both interesting and fun."



More than 40 people walked the quiet trails at Montour Environmental Preserve to learn about autism.

Pipeline construction will not affect recreation, programs at Montour Preserve

United States Gypsum Co. will soon begin constructing a 6.2-mile natural gas pipeline from Hughesville to its new manufacturing facility near PPL's Montour power plant in Washingtonville. This facility - and the 150 new jobs it

will create for the region - was made possible by PPL's installation of state-of-the-art environmental equipment at PPL's Montour power plant.

PPL is installing scrubbers at the plant to remove nearly all of the sulfur dioxide from plant emissions, and synthetic gypsum is created as a byproduct of the scrubbing process.

The gas pipeline, expected to be finished in March, will cross PPL property, including the PPL Montour Environmental Preserve.

"The work will involve some digging, but it will not affect the public's recreational use of the preserve. All of our facilities and trails will remain open," said Kevin Drewencki, superintendent at PPL Montour Preserve.

Drewencki said orange fencing will be placed around the trenches as a safety precaution. As soon as the trenches are filled, the land will be restored to its original condition, he said.

Chilli Challenge triathlon posts record turnout, helps local economy

Perfect fall weather and colorful foliage greeted the 205 people who participated in the fifth annual Chilli Challenge triathlon adventure race Oct. 20 at PPL Montour Environmental Preserve, an event that's growing in popularity and making a difference in the local economy.

"We were pleased with this year's attendance, which grew by nearly 30 percent over last year," said David Decoteau, director of recreation for the Montour Area Recreation Commission.

"The setting of Lake Chillisquaque, the race's namesake, in the beautiful PPL Montour Preserve offers scenic landscapes and a wide variety of terrain as we mountain bike, kayak and hike for more than 27 miles," he said. "You'll find many seasoned athletes at the Chilli, but team categories make it possible for racers of all levels of fitness to participate and have fun."

According to the entrance survey, this year's collective group of

Chilli racers spent \$13,085 while they were in the area. Fifty-seven percent of the participants traveled more than 50 miles to participate in the race, and 10 percent of them stayed overnight in area hotels.

Proceeds from the entrance fees

"This is a huge thing because that barrier has not ever been broken in the five-year history of the Chilli," David Decoteau said. "Turning in a sub-two-hour time is pretty amazing."

went to support programs at the YMCA in Milton and the Montour County Recreation Authority to enhance trails, playgrounds and outdoor activities in and around Montour County.

Along with the record turnout,

this year's event brought another first.

Although the course was wet, Steve Templin of Milton broke the two-hour barrier and set a new record of 1:59:38, beating the previous time of 2 hours and six seconds.

"This is a huge thing because that barrier has not ever been broken in the five-year history of the Chilli," Decoteau said. "Turning in a sub-two-hour time is pretty amazing."

Kevin Drewencki, superintendent of Montour Preserve, said you don't have to participate in a triathlon to enjoy the natural beauty of the land PPL maintains around Lake Chillisquaque.

"We offer activities for people of all ages and abilities year-round," he said. "Anytime of year is a great time to experience the woods, wildlife and nature programs at Montour Preserve. Our welcome mat is always out."

The 205 Chilli racers take in the beauty at Lake Chillisquaque at Montour Environmental Preserve.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DIANNE FANTASKEY

PPL Montour
18 McMichael Road
Washingtonville, PA 17884

Cold weather doesn't stop the activities at PPL's Montour Preserve

Backyard butterflies

2-3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 11

Mary Jo Gibson, local science teacher and Columbia County Master Gardener, will show you how to construct your very own butterfly garden so you can attract these "jewels of the garden" to your home next spring.

Wildlife art expo

Noon to 5 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 17
11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 18

This two-day exhibit features wildlife art done by local artists using wood, canvas and paper. This is a great opportunity to get a close look at original art, meet the artists, pick up a few ideas, or purchase art for your collection or as a gift.

Wings over water

9:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 8

Observe the varied species of waterfowl that stop at Montour Preserve on their annual migration. The program begins indoors with a brief talk and video presentation; then we go outdoors to observe and identify waterbirds, many of which can only be seen at this time of year. Dress for the weather and plan for some walking. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Keeping in touch

PPL publishes this newsletter to keep you informed about issues and events at the Montour power plant that relate to the community. We invite you to e-mail plant manager Michael Munroe at mgmunroe@pplweb.com or call 570-437-1200 with any questions or comments about Montour plant operations.