



Retired coal units being demolished

Demolition work has begun on the structures for the retired coal-fired units at PPL's Martins Creek power plant. PPL is using Brandenburg Industrial Service Co. to safely remove all of the asbestos from the plant structures, tear down structures associated with the retired plant and fill in underground facilities.

Demolition is expected to take about six months to complete.

"We've always intended to remove the old structures for the retired units," said plant manager Pete Giella. "We decided to move ahead with demolition at this time because of the high value that scrap steel has in today's market. We also

want to prevent the now-vacant structures from deteriorating, and creating maintenance and safety concerns for plant workers."

PPL already has sold the turbine-generators and diesel generators to other companies for reuse.

The two coal-fired units at Martins Creek, which were built in the 1950s, shut down permanently in September as part of an agreement with environmental agencies in Pennsylvania and New Jersey to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions.

PPL has also started the process of closing and reclaiming the coal-ash disposal basin at the Martins Creek plant.

Work begins to close ash basin

As part of the ongoing decommissioning of the Martins Creek coal-fired power plant, employees have begun to close Ash Basin No. 4.

The basin, which is lined with plastic, contains a mixture of water and fly ash, a byproduct of burning coal.

The first phase of the project will be removing the water gradually from the basin. The water will be filtered and treated when required, then pumped into an on-site retention pond before being released into the Delaware River under guidelines set by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

This process is expected to take about a year to complete.

When all the water has been removed from the basin, the remaining fly ash will be capped with a liner. The basin will then be filled with soil. Vegetation will be planted to avoid erosion and ensure proper storm water runoff.

Martins Creek's coal-fired Units 1 and 2 were shut down in September 2007, under a voluntary agreement with state environmental agencies.



Pigging out on the pipeline

You've probably heard of a road hog, but have you ever heard of a pipeline pig?

The U.S. Department of Transportation requires pipeline operators to routinely assess the integrity of their pipelines.

PPL Interstate Energy Company relies on sophisticated electronic equipment – known as a pig – that travels through its 84-mile underground pipeline, looking for signs of corrosion and damage on the inside or outside of the pipe.

The unglamorous name fits the appearance of the device, its method of travel (flowing along with the oil moving through the pipe) and its function (rooting through the pipe to check its condition).



PPL Interstate Energy Company uses a pipeline "pig," seen here, to inspect its pipelines for damage .

As the pig moves through the pipe, it constantly records information that can tell us the exact location of any problems. PPL Interstate Energy also has used pigs to inspect the pipeline for dents caused by excavators along its right of way.

PPL Interstate Energy is installing additional equipment on two short pipelines at Martins Creek. The new equipment will allow the company to check for corrosion and damage in the mile-long pipes that run from the terminal to the plant.

Tending to feathered friends

Paul "Birdman" Karner has been instrumental in helping to build a healthy bird population in and around Martins Creek.

Karner of Bangor is a federally licensed bird bander. He has worked with PPL to build nest boxes for kestrels, bluebirds and tree swallows throughout the company's land surrounding the Martins Creek power plant.

An avid bird-watcher, Karner also leads some of the birding programs at the Martins Creek Environmental Preserve.

"Martins Creek offers a diverse habitat that is ideal for many types of birds," Karner said. "Providing nest sites for these species is helping them make a comeback."



Paul Karner, a federally licensed bird bander, leads a program at the Martins Creek Environmental Preserve.

Walk on the wild side

A new hiking trail has opened in Lower Mount Bethel Township, just in time for summer.

The nearly 3-mile trail, between DePues Ferry and Del Haven roads, was built by the township on PPL property.

The project was a joint effort among PPL, the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, Lower Mount Bethel Township and the Martins-Jacoby Watershed Association.

The trail will lead to the new visitors'

center, which will host public educational programs on energy, nature and the environment.

Construction on the center

began in July and is expected to be completed in the fall.

Last year, PPL donated 9 acres and pledged a total of \$75,000 to

help the township build the center, which will be an important community resource.

PPL's support of the community center and hiking trail are examples of the company's commitment to improving wildlife habitat, land preservation and public recreation.



Wildflowers line the path along the new walking trail at Martins Creek.

Flying high at Martins Creek

The peregrine falcons nesting at PPL's Martins Creek had another successful year atop the power plant stack, welcoming four new chicks in May.

Nestled halfway up a 600-foot stack, the nesting box is attached to an enclosure that encircles the Unit 4 power plant stack and houses continuous emissions monitoring equipment for the power plant. PPL's Jack Hahn, a journeyman-electrician, and John DePalma, an instrument and control technician, monitor the box regularly and keep a log of the falcons' activity.



This spring PPL set up a Web site for the public to be able to watch the chicks growing up at Martins Creek. The site features updates on the peregrines at Martins Creek as well as at PPL's Montour power plant and PPL's headquarters in downtown Allentown.

The Martins Creek peregrines were even featured in The Express-Times and on WNEP's Pennsylvania Outdoor Life program.

The chicks have flown away to parts unknown, but the parents are expected to return to the nesting site early next spring. To learn more about the peregrines, go to birdsofpreyatppl.com.

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Outdoor fun for the whole family

Looking for some free summer fun?

PPL's Martins Creek Environmental Preserve offers educational programs throughout the summer:

Wildlife Rehabilitation

1:30-3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 3

Join Kathy Uhler from the Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Center as she shares the joy and hard work of caring for animals. Get an up-close look at some of the mammals, birds and turtles that she works with.

Native Gardening

9-11 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 17

Native plants, shrubs and trees are acclimated to the local climate, resistant to pests and support wildlife. Join Bill Sweeney of the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center as he discusses creating wildlife friendly, functional habitats with native plants.

Summer Walk-N-Talk

10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 23

What says summer to you? Fireflies and crickets? Monarch butterflies and milkweed patches? Shooting stars and fireworks? Join Bud Cole of the Three B's Nature Center for a walk along the Tekening Trails to observe the secrets of summer. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy footwear.

Skins and Skulls

1:30-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6

We can learn a lot about different species of animals by studying skins and skulls. Join PPL's Fred Gast for some hands-on time with animal skins and skulls. This program is geared to a younger audience.

Survival: The Next Step

10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 13

Our lives are ever more dependent on technology – from vehicles, cell phones, the Internet and GPS units. What do we do when technology lets us down or our plans

unravel? Anyone who spends time in the outdoors should have certain basic skills and carry basic survival items. Join PPL naturalists Jon Beam and Fred Gast as they demonstrate inexpensive gear, share tested techniques and discuss planning for the unexpected. Dress for the weather.

Geocaching 101

1:30-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20

A treasure hunt for the 21st century, geocaching is a new trend growing in popularity with the increasing availability of hand-held GPS devices. Join PPL naturalist Katie Gill for a relaxing hike to a nearby cache on the Tekening Trails and see what treasures await you. There will be some GPS units available to borrow.

All programs are free and will be held at the Cedars Pavilion on Foul Rift Road. Registration is required.

To register, contact us at 570-251-6196 or pplpreserves@pplweb.com.