

October 14, 2005

High Water Stirs Up Fly Ash

Temporary increase in arsenic levels in river water

Heavy rain and high water conditions over the weekend of Oct. 8 stirred up some of the fly ash on the river bottom, raising arsenic levels in the river water for a short time.

Arsenic readings remained well below current drinking water standards, and for the most part were below even the more restrictive standard to take effect in January. After brief periods of increased levels, they quickly declined.

There was no impact on public water supplies that draw water from the river,

and there was no detectable level of arsenic in Easton's municipal water supply.

PPL was ready for the high-water conditions, and began water sampling every two hours at 13 locations between Martins Creek and Philadelphia to check for evidence

(continued on back)



Before and after photos show the extent of the flooding at the cleanup site.

From the Cleanup Director



A major part of my job is keeping you, our plant neighbors, informed about the cleanup of the ash spill here at the Martins Creek power plant.

We've created a special Internet site, a toll-free telephone number, and a special e-mail account that reaches me directly.

Another major part of my job is to listen to what our neighbors have to say, and to improve communications when necessary.

When people told us that we ought to be mailing information to our neighbors - especially those without easy access to the Internet - we started this newsletter. It's being mailed to about 3,500 households in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Another way we are listening is by expanding the ways that people can provide input to PPL about the cleanup, and about the operation of the Martins Creek plant.

I'm creating a new cleanup advisory group, and I've invited

environmental organizations and the environmental advisory committees of Lower Mount Bethel and Harmony townships to join. We're also expanding the Martins Creek Plant Advisory Committee - a group we've had for many years - to include additional members on both sides of the river. And, we've attended public meetings to talk about the ash spill and take questions, and will continue to do so.

I'm committed to giving you the information you want, and to listening to your input and suggestions. Please feel free to visit our Web site, www.martinscreekcleanup.com, to e-mail me at cleanupdirector@pplweb.com, or to call me toll-free at 1-866-364-2800. If you know anyone who'd like to be added to our newsletter mailing list, just let me know.

Finally, let me offer a heartfelt thanks to those who have provided comments and feedback to PPL on this cleanup effort. We appreciate your input - and your patience - and we continue to work very hard to make things right.



Bob Barkanic

Environmental Groups Invited to Join New PPL Advisory Council



Responding to requests by environmental groups to have a larger role in the cleanup process, PPL is forming a Cleanup Advisory Committee.

We have invited the Sierra Club of the Lehigh Valley, the Harmony Township Environmental Commission, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Clean Water Action, the Martins Creek-Jacoby Watershed Association and the Lower Mount Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council to join.

We plan to have regular meetings to keep these groups informed, and we are looking forward to the input they will provide as we continue to clean up the ash that leaked from a basin at our Martins Creek power plant in late August.

High Water Stirs Up Fly Ash

(continued from front)

of ash movement. We notified surrounding townships, the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Departments of Environmental Protection, the Delaware River Basin Commission and others when testing began, and we kept them informed about results throughout the weekend.

Arsenic levels reached 13.4 parts per billion for a four-hour period just downriver of the Martins Creek plant

Saturday morning. At Easton, arsenic was recorded at 12 parts per billion at 6 p.m. Saturday, 17.7 parts per billion at 9:30 p.m., 11 parts per billion at 10 p.m., then dropped in the next four tests to 4, 2, 1 and 1 parts per billion.

The current standard for drinking water is 50 parts per billion. It will be reduced to 10 parts per billion in January for Pennsylvania, and 5 parts per billion for New Jersey. With the exception of those

readings noted above, all arsenic readings remained below 10 parts per billion during the flooding period, and most remained below the 5 parts per billion level.

It's too soon to know for sure what effect the flooding had on the ash deposits in the river, and on the cleanup effort. We'll know more after we can perform a thorough survey of the river bottom.

From the desk of Bob Barkanic, cleanup director.
Contact him at cleanupdirector@pplweb.com, or toll-free at 1-866-364-2800.

