

October 21, 2005

Upgrades to Ash Basin Discharge System Near Completion

With upgrades to the Basin #4 discharge system nearly completed, PPL is working with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection on approval to once again use the basin for fly ash from the Martins Creek plant's coal-fired units.

The upgrades that have been made to the Basin #4 discharge system include installation of new steel-reinforced concrete stoplogs, construction of a steel wall on the basin side of the discharge structure, and installation of two valves on the pipeline between the discharge structure and the river. A manhole on the discharge pipe at the base of the ash basin along Dupues Ferry Road also has been replaced.

The test phase for the modifications, which will begin as early as the week of Oct. 24 under DEP supervision, will demonstrate that the basin is safe to return to service.

PPL has been placing ash removed from the Delaware River during the cleanup operation in the basin with DEP approval. This past week, a 7,800-foot pipeline was installed from the PPL Boat Launch area to Basin #4 to carry material removed from the river bottom by divers using hand-held vacuum lines.

PPL plans to restart its coal-fired generating units after Ash Basin #4 is returned to service.



From the Cleanup Director



While this month's heavy rain and high river flows forced us to suspend cleanup in the river temporarily, we used the time wisely. We have been continuing preparations for the diver-vacuuming operation, and we have a plan to survey the river to determine the extent the ash was moved by the high water. We will have divers in the river as soon as it can be done safely, to find out where we need to concentrate the cleanup effort.

We are committed to cleaning up the ash that spilled into the river in August. The rain doesn't change that commitment. We've said since the beginning of this incident that we will make it right – and we will.

Part of making it right is making sure that the community has the information it needs. We met with the Lower Mount Bethel

Township Environmental Advisory Committee Oct. 10, and with the Harmony Township Environmental Commission Oct. 11. On Oct. 13, we met with the Martins Creek Plant Advisory Committee, which has been expanded to include more representatives from both sides of the river. And, on Oct. 19, we held the first meeting of the Martins Creek Cleanup Advisory Committee, which includes representatives of environmental groups that have an interest in the Delaware River.

The meetings were productive, and we appreciate the thoughtful concern and suggestions of all the people attending.

I would like to hear from you, too, if you have a suggestion, question or concern. Please call me at 866-364-2800 or send an e-mail to cleanupdirector@pplweb.com. Thank you.



Bob Barkanic

Plans Made to Survey River Bottom

Heavy rain in the Northeast that began Oct. 7 and continued off and on until Oct. 14 raised the volume flowing down the Delaware River to 44,600 cubic feet per second (cfs) on Oct. 14. That high flow may have moved the ash deposited in the river after the August leak in the Basin #4 discharge system.

As soon as the flow recedes, we plan to send divers into the river to determine how much of the ash remains in the areas that had previously been identified within about a mile downriver from the PPL Boat Launch.

To survey the river bottom, the divers need to be able to see clearly underwater

and to remain in one place long enough to operate hand-held measuring equipment. To do that safely and productively, the river flow needs to be 5,000 cfs or less. Before the rain began Oct. 7, the river flow had been about 2,190 cfs. After that first heavy rain, it was 43,500 cfs on Oct. 9.

Historically, it has taken seven to 10 days for the river to return to a more normal level after high flows like these.

When the divers return to the river, they will survey the area of the portable dam that had been placed around the area directly in front of the basin discharge and the boat launch where the ash deposit had been heaviest. The first and largest section

of that area was about 95 percent cleaned up before the rain, while the second section was about 60 percent cleaned up. They also will examine the two 19-acre areas where ash deposits previously were identified. And they will look for ash deposits from the end of those two ash deposits to the point where the Lehigh River joins the Delaware.

Four teams of divers will assess the river and the portable dam area. It's expected to take several days of work with the four teams. We'll let you know what they find.



Diver Vacuuming Set to Begin

We're moving ahead with plans to clean up the river. During the time the river flow was too high to continue the immediate cleanup effort, we continued preparing for the diver-vacuuming operation.

Activities included making the lease arrangements for the land and getting the necessary permits to place filtration plants on both sides of the river to separate the ash from the river water and return the filtered water to the river.

Ash will be carried to the filtration plants through pipelines and transported by trucks to Basin #4.

We've also arranged for electrical service to operate the filtration equipment, as well as for areas to build and launch the 20- by 41-foot custom-built diver platforms.

Initially, divers will vacuum ash from under and just outside the portable dam. That ash will be carried to Basin #4 through the pipeline we built.

Ash vacuumed from the portable dam area will be transported by pipeline to Basin #4.

From the desk of Bob Barkanic, cleanup director.
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