



To: Pat Patterson, Regional Director PADEP  
Cc: Alexandra Chiaruttini, Chief Counsel PADEP; Adam Bram, Ragesh Patel, Dustin Armstrong, Sachin Shankar, Senator Andrew Dinniman, Deanna Tanner, Jordan Yeager  
From: Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper  
Date: January 17, 2018  
Re: Activity at Bishop Tube and Pathways of Exposure

Dear Pat,

I am reaching out for two reasons, to inquire about recent site activity and to share information on pathways of exposure.

January 16, 2018, residents nearby the Bishop Tube site noticed activity at the site, particularly the presence of dumpsters that smell like petroleum as well as the laying down of plastic sheeting. It is unclear why these items were brought on site, by whom or what activity is taking place at the site. Can you please tell us what is going on at the site so we can inform the community. There are particular concerns that site activity may result in additional water or air releases that the community should be aware of. I have included photos of the activity.

In addition, I wanted to identify for you multiple known pathways of exposure to the contamination at, and emanating from, the Bishop Tube site that you should be considering and the community is concerned about:

- ⇒ Kids playing in, walking in, Little Valley creek adjacent to and downstream from the site, including the length of the identified plume.
- ⇒ Kids play/gather rocks, etc from Little Valley creek.
- ⇒ Kids swim in Little Valley Creek.
- ⇒ Kids gather tadpoles and fish from Little Valley Creek that they then bring home.
- ⇒ Animals play in, walk in and drink from Little Valley creek, adjacent to and downstream from the site.
- ⇒ Dogs that walk on the property muddy days get mud on their paws, they then come home and lick their paws and track mud from the site into homes.
- ⇒ People are going look at the Duffy's Cut site by cutting through the bishop site and/or while wandering around looking for or investigating this historic site they end up at the bishop tube site.

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- ⇒ People cut through the Bishop Tube site from General Warren Village to go to rt 30 and Giant.
- ⇒ Fencing is either lacking or so damaged that it does not prevent easy access to or through the site and contaminated areas.
- ⇒ Middle school kids hang out at the site recreationally including in the buildings.
- ⇒ Kids skateboard in the buildings.
- ⇒ Neighbors swim in a spring fed pond – on their private property – that is down plume and fed by groundwater from the site.
- ⇒ One resident is believed to still be on well water that is not treated.
- ⇒ People on winding way live in a converted barn that uses well water for irrigation on their property, including via a sprinkler and all through their plant beds.
- ⇒ When there has been earth moving at the site dust has blown onto neighboring properties.
- ⇒ Little Valley Creek floods frequently and overflows into neighboring properties – on average a reported 5 or 6 times a year. Yards are flooded. Houses on north side of Rt 30 along Malin Rd have a lot of low properties that often flood. Some get water in their basements from Little Valley Creek.
- ⇒ A wastewater pipe from the site goes up to the train tracks – it discharges onto the downslope side of the train tracks.
- ⇒ People fish for trout in Little Valley Creek and so are in direct contact with the water.
- ⇒ People are known to eat the trout that they catch from little valley creek.
- ⇒ When folks go to peoples Light and Theater for dinner there is a concern that they are receiving well water.
- ⇒ There is concern that vegetable gardens in backyards are impacted by creek water and/or groundwater.

Photos taken January 16, 2018

