



For Immediate Release

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DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK SUBMITS NEW INFORMATION TO EPA SHOWING HIGH LEAD LEVELS NEAR PHILADELPHIA GUN CLUB

Bensalem, Bucks Cty, PA – This week, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network provided additional lead concentration data to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to further support a petition asking EPA to investigate potential releases of lead into the Delaware River from the Philadelphia Gun Club shooting range. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network first petitioned EPA on April 26, 2013, urging it to conduct an assessment of the Philadelphia Gun Club’s trap shooting range in Bensalem, Pennsylvania to evaluate whether lead accumulation resulting from decades of lead pellet shooting activities at the site could be releasing lead into soil, groundwater, and surface water connected to the Delaware River.

“The data we have provided shows lead levels as high as 2000 mg/kg in soils collected adjacent to the Philadelphia Gun Club, far exceeding the 800 mg/kg nonresidential and the 400 mg/kg residential screening levels recommended by EPA, and far surpassing the highest levels found in our upstream sample collection of 54 mg/kg. With data like this there can be no justifiable reason why EPA would not undertake a review of whether the Philadelphia Gun Club is an ongoing source of lead contamination to the River and is so highly contaminated that clean-up under federal law is required. If EPA were to fail to undertake the requested review it would be clear that politicking and lobbying were undermining the process,” said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper**.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network based its April 26 petition on the results of soil sampling conducted adjacent to the Philadelphia Gun Club, which showed lead concentrations significantly exceeding residential and commercial screening levels. According to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network petition, the high lead concentrations found demonstrate the need for further investigation to

determine whether the site poses a risk to human health or wildlife. Delaware Riverkeeper Network undertook additional soil sampling, again with the assistance of a certified lab, to further support the April 26 petition. According to the supplemental submission, the additional data shows even higher concentrations of lead in soils adjacent to the Philadelphia Gun Club site and confirms the need for EPA to exercise its authority under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to determine whether a clean-up may be necessary.

The Philadelphia Gun Club regularly practices shoots at its property in Bensalem, Bucks County, which is located immediately adjacent to the Delaware River. According to the Philadelphia Gun Club, its members used lead shot during shooting activities occurring from 1880 through 1994 at the range. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network continues to be concerned about the quality or kind of shot that may be used on the site current day. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network petition and supplemental submission document the organization’s concern that residual lead shot, accumulated at the ground surface of the shooting range over the course of at least **114 years** of regularly conducted shooting activities, may presently be releasing lead to near surface soils, groundwater, and surface waters.

Some of the Conclusions/Findings of the Supplemental Sampling
Lead Concentrations in Fine Fraction of Sediment

Highest Lead Concentration in Samples Along PGC Site:	2000 mg/kg
Average Lead Concentration for 10 Samples Along Eastern Portion of PGC Site:	1041 mg/kg
Average Lead Concentration for All 17 Samples Along PGC Site:	784 mg/kg
Average Lead Concentration in Samples from Neshaminy State Park:	36 mg/kg
<i>EPA Recommended Screening Levels</i>	400 mg/kg (residential) 800 mg/kg (non-residential)

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