



Delaware Riverkeeper Letter Demands Action & Answers on Trinseo Spill; In Stream Surveillance in Region Shows Species at Risk

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Delaware River - Bristol, PA - Philadelphia, PA: A surveillance undertaken by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network of the natural ecosystems in the vicinity of the Trinseo Chemical Release demonstrates there is much to be concerned about in terms of ecosystems and wildlife in need of agency monitoring. Responding to the ongoing failure of federal and state agencies to be forthcoming with information about the chemical release and agency action that is or is not being taken in response, the Delaware Riverkeeper [sends a letter](#) urging information and action.

“It is good to see the Philadelphia Water Department working hard to be more proactive, communicative and clear about the impacts of the Trinseo Chemical Release and the status of Philadelphia’s drinking water. But where are the other state and federal agencies?” demands **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper.**

“Where is the U.S. Coast Guard, the Pennsylvania DEP, the New Jersey DEP, the US EPA? Why have we not received information about the potential impacts to, and monitoring of, the ecosystems in the path of harm? Mill Creek, Otter Creek, the Bristol Marsh, as well as native eel, native mussels and macroinvertebrates that are the base of the food chain and all live in the vicinity of the spill? We have been asking and getting no answers other than there are no reported sightings of impacts to wildlife. That is just not good enough!” adds van Rossum. “We want to know, who is assessing the ecosystem impacts; what are they sampling for, where are they sampling, how frequently are they sampling and what are they finding. It’s not good enough to look out at the River and, seeing no dead birds or floating fish, to declare the natural resources haven’t been harmed. It is essential we investigate and monitor the full breadth of impacts - from drinking water supply, to the dragonfly nymphs, to the migratory and resident fish, to the near term and/or long-term impacts to ecosystem habitats – and it is essential that our protocols for every catastrophic pollution release includes this full breadth of data collection and report out to our communities.”

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“Also, what investigations have the agencies undertaken to independently confirm how much of the chemical was released rather than just relying on Trinseo’s statements? Given that Trinseo is making known its plans to resume operations shortly, what efforts have been undertaken to make sure this can’t happen again?” van Rossum asks.

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, Delaware Riverkeeper Network Senior Scientist Dr. Erik Silldorff, and Chief Videographer Ed Rodgers, toured the vicinity of the spill site to confirm the natural resources at risk. ([Video available for review here.](#)) Emerging wetland plants in the Bristol Marsh downstream of the spill; along with native eels, native mussels and macroinvertebrates were among the natural resources in the vicinity confirmed by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network team. The presence and emergence of these key natural resources confirms the importance of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network’s persistent urging that natural resources be closely and carefully monitored and that the natural resource agencies report on their activities.

Video and photos of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network observations & monitoring activities will be posted as part of our ongoing response efforts at this webpage: <https://www.delawariverkeeper.org/trinseo-chemical-spill> . (Raw video footage or photos can be made available to press outlets upon request to ed@delawariverkeeper.org.)

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is the only environmental advocacy organization working to protect the entire Delaware River system, including the mainstem, tributaries and its watershed. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has often served as an important partner, helping to mobilize and guide community volunteerism when and however appropriate in the wake of catastrophic spill events including oil spills, chemical spills and other catastrophes for our Delaware River system. For more information on the organization see www.DelawareRiverkeeper.org .

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