



For Immediate Release:
May 1, 2019

Contact:
Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, 215-369-1188 x102

Elcon Denied – A Victory for the River and the Millions that Depend on it

Falls Township, PA - A standing room only crowd cheered the Falls Township Board of Supervisors as they voted unanimously to deny Elcon's land development permit application on April 30. The Supervisors stated loud and clear – echoing the opinion of the community - that Falls Township is not the right location for a chemical hazardous waste facility.

Elcon Recycling Services, LLC had proposed to build a hazardous waste treatment facility, importing as much as 210,000 tons of toxic waste per year annually to a site in Bucks County that is less than ½ mile from the Delaware River.

“With this decision, the Supervisors showed that protecting the drinking water supply for the millions of people in Lower Bucks County, South Jersey and the Greater Philadelphia region is the highest priority,” **said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper.** “This proposed treatment facility threatened the River and environment.”

A coalition of environmental organizations handed the Supervisors 3,400 signed petitions urging them to deny the application. The Elcon proposal included building a 7-foot tall retaining wall and trucking in 70,000 cubic yards of fill in an attempt to keep the site from flooding. However, experts and community members expressed concern that more frequent and severe storms and rising river levels make current floodplain elevations obsolete, posing a threat to the stability of any retaining wall. Delaware Riverkeeper Networks experts also pointed out that the elevation of Elcon's proposed stormwater management system was still below the 200-year flood elevation.

Citing concerns of a chemical spill from Elcon, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and the community reminded the Supervisors that just a few decades ago the Delaware River was so polluted with chemical waste that migratory fish could not spawn and dock workers would pass out from the chemical fumes. The site of the proposed facility is located on Dean Seivers Place, Falls Township, which has several wetlands that are hydrologically connected to Biles Creek, a tributary of the Delaware.

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701
Bristol, PA 19007
Office: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215) 369-1181
dm@delawareriverkeeper.org
www.delawareriverkeeper.org

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network will continue to work to protect the River from Elcon. “The threat of Elcon is not completely gone. It is time we double our efforts because Elcon has already threatened to sue the Township and we need to stop PADEP from approving the state permits,” said **Fred Stine, Citizen Action Coordinator**.

###

Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is a nonprofit membership organization working throughout the four states of the Delaware River Watershed including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New York. DRN provides effective environmental advocacy, volunteer monitoring programs, stream restoration projects, public education, and legal enforcement of environmental protection laws.