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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 16, 2019

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Elcon chemical hazardous waste - *We are not out-of-the-woods yet!*
PADEP Notice of Intent to Deny action - Public Comment Needed

Falls Township, PA - PADEP issued a “Notice of Intent to Deny” needed RCRA permitting to Elcon Recycling Services for their proposed chemical hazardous waste storage and treatment facility on Dean Sievers Place. The proposed facility would treat 165,000 tons per year of chemical hazardous waste brought in by as many as 25 tanker trucks every day to a site less than ½ mile from the Delaware River.

“While today’s action by DEP is not the absolute final denial, it is an important action by the State that gets us one step closer to stopping Elcon from building this facility so close to our precious Delaware River, a vital ecological and economic resource to the region, as well as a vital drinking water supply for millions of people throughout Bucks County, Philadelphia and South Jersey” said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network**.

The denial comes at the end of PADEP’s 10-month technical review of Elcon’s permit application where DEP found 18 deficiencies. “Some of the discrepancies within the 3300 page permit application included whether Elcon was going to treat PCBs or not, that some of the buildings and parking lot were not even within the property boundary and that Elcon inappropriately inflated the value of their economic community benefits. These are significant discrepancies,” said **Fred Stine, Citizen Action Coordinator for the Delaware Riverkeeper Network**. “And this company wants us to believe they will competently treat 165,000 tons of hazardous waste next to our drinking water supply.”

The challenge is not over according to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. Elcon can and likely will respond to DEP’s Notice. The opportunity for the public to comment runs from June 1 through July 15, 2019. “The Pennsylvania Constitution promises all residents of the Commonwealth the right to a clean and healthy environment. Denying approval to Elcon is absolutely warranted by Pennsylvania’s Environmental Rights Amendment as well as state and federal environmental protection laws. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is urging residents from both sides of the River, including upstream and downstream, to raise their voices and write to PADEP urging them to finally, once and for all, deny Elcon’s permit. And we are so grateful for the tireless work of POWA (Protect Our Water & Air), Clean Air Council, and others who collectively were key to this important success,” **van Rossum** added.

Information on how to comment can be found at the Delaware Riverkeeper Network’s website:

<http://www.delawareriverkeeper.org/sites/default/files/PADEP%20release%20-%20SERO%20Elcon%20NOID%20%282019-05-15%29.pdf>

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