



For Immediate Release
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**DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK PETITIONS EPA TO INVESTIGATE HIGH
LEAD LEVELS BY PHILADELPHIA GUN CLUB**

Bensalem, Bucks County, PA – The Delaware Riverkeeper Network has petitioned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to investigate potential lead contamination by the Philadelphia Gun Club into the Delaware River. In a petition delivered this week, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network requested that the EPA conduct an assessment of the Philadelphia Gun Club’s trap shooting range in Bensalem, Pennsylvania for release of lead into the soil, groundwater, and surface waters of the Delaware River resulting from decades of lead pellet shooting activities on the site.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network conducted soil sampling adjacent to the Philadelphia Gun Club and found lead concentrations significantly exceeding acceptable residential and commercial lead levels and has requested that EPA, under its Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) authority, conduct an assessment of the site so that any hazardous and toxic exposure to humans, wildlife and the environment which exists can be identified, curtailed and the site be cleaned up as required by federal law.

“We are deeply concerned by the lead levels we are seeing in soils adjacent to the Philadelphia Gun Club and want the U.S. EPA to take immediate measures to assess whether there is a past and ongoing toxic pollution situation at the site. If their assessment confirms our preliminary findings then we will expect the agency to ensure that any harmful environmental exposures be immediately cleaned up. The Delaware River is a popular recreational and fishing River, as is the Neshaminy State Park located just a half mile upstream and is a popular striped

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bass fishing location for springtime anglers; it is critical that any lead pollution leaching to the River be immediately identified and addressed” said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper. “The Philadelphia Gun Club has been conducting lead shooting activities next to and over the Delaware River for more than a century with little regard for the consequences of their actions. It is time that both our state and federal environmental agencies to hold them accountable for compliance with the law, for cleaning up pollution they have caused, for stopping their pollution discharges into the Delaware River that continue to this day without a permit, and for preventing the very serious safety hazard that exists for boaters whenever these shoots are occurring.”

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