



For Immediate Release

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**DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER FILES LEGAL CHALLENGE AGAINST PA DEP
FOR OVERTURNING TOWNSHIP DECISION AND MANDATING TOWNSHIP APPROVE A
NEW SEWAGE DISCHARGE WITHOUT COMPLYING WITH ANTI-DEGRADATION AND
OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LAWS**

Union Township, Berks County, PA. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) took legal action to compel the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to comply with Anti-degradation and Sewage Facility Act requirements. DRN challenged a PADEP order that Union Township, Berks County, revise its Sewage Facility Plan to allow a new pollution discharge from a proposed small flow sewage treatment facility, despite Union Township's decision that other alternatives were better available for protection of the creek and serving building owner needs. The proposed sewage treatment facility would discharge directly into Mill Creek, a stream for which DRN has submitted an upgrade petition to redesignate as an Exceptional Value waterway due to its high quality waters.

Specifically, DRN appealed PADEP's order to the Environmental Hearings Board alleging that PADEP failed to adequately: (1) consider DRN's pending Redesignation Petition and related documentation to redesignate Mill Creek to an Exceptional Value stream; (2) comply with PA's Anti-degradation laws, the Clean Streams Law, and Sewage Facilities Act; (3) evaluate project alternatives; and (4) consider the discharge's ecological impact on downstream organisms or the social, economic, and public health impact on downstream residents. The appealed was filed on February 27, 2012. Union Township also appealed the PADEP order.

For more information see [YouTube video: http://youtu.be/DLYN4qsvhAo](http://youtu.be/DLYN4qsvhAo)

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