



For Immediate Release

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**DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK'S LEGAL CHALLENGE CAUSES
PHILADELPHIA GUN CLUB TO APPLY FOR POLLUTION PERMIT FOR ITS DISCHARGES
INTO THE DELAWARE RIVER**

Philadelphia, PA, The Federal District Court in Philadelphia has entered a final judgment against the Philadelphia Gun Club in a Clean Water Act citizen suit brought by the Delaware Riverkeeper, Maya van Rossum, and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. The judgment obligates the Philadelphia Gun Club to apply for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permit from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection by December 31, 2012, and to pay legal costs incurred by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. The suit alleged that the Philadelphia Gun Club, which holds live pigeon shoots on its property adjacent to the Delaware River in Bensalem, PA, was violating the Clean Water Act by discharging shot, casings, dead and dying pigeons and other material into the River without a permit. According to the Club's own statements, the practice has been going on for over 100 years.

"No one has the right to pollute the River. The blatant disregard of our federal environmental protection laws cannot be tolerated," said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and a Plaintiff in the case**. "The Court's judgment is the first step toward promoting compliance and ensuring a cleaner, healthier and safer Delaware River for all to enjoy."

Ms. van Rossum added "the intentional and ongoing discharge of what amounts over time to large quantities of gunshot into the Delaware River is a violation of law pure and simple; it is also a safety hazard and a disturbance for those trying to enjoy this reach of the River for wild

birding, boating, fishing, and other outdoor recreation. We sent two notice letters to the Philadelphia Gun Club prior to the filing of our lawsuit in the hope that it would do the right thing and comply with the law voluntarily; it refused and so we had to resort to the court.”

“Our work on this issue is not over. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network will be tracking the Philadelphia Gun Club’s permit application to ensure that the entity is properly regulated under federal law,” added Ms. van Rossum. “We will also undertake efforts to ensure that those who recreate on the River during the club’s shooting activities are not injured by the spray of shotgun pellets that currently rains down on the River during the regular shooting events. Nonetheless, today is a good day - the River’s voice has been heard!”

Plaintiffs first filed their complaint against the Philadelphia Gun Club on March 30, 2012 to challenge the pollution caused by the Philadelphia Gun Club’s ongoing live pigeon shoots. The complaint was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The Philadelphia Gun Club holds live pigeon shoots on its property adjoining the Delaware River at 3051 State Road, Bensalem, Pennsylvania. Delaware Riverkeeper Network attorney Elizabeth Brown noted, “The lawsuit challenged the club’s practice of holding live pigeon shoots over the River as a violation of the Clean Water Act, because of the ongoing and unpermitted introduction of pollution into the Delaware River, primarily in the form of gunshot that rains down on the water during the Club’s shooting events.”

Established in 1988 upon the appointment of the Delaware Riverkeeper, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) membership organization. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network helps citizens address threats in their own communities; restore damaged streams, wetlands and ecosystems; collect water quality data needed to secure sound decision-making; and when necessary enforces environmental protection laws through legal action. DRN’s professional staff and volunteers work throughout the entire Delaware River Watershed including portions of Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

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