



For Immediate Release

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Delaware Riverkeeper Files Lawsuit Against Gun Club for Shooting Over River

Bristol, PA – March 30, 2012 the Delaware Riverkeeper Network filed a complaint challenging the pollution and safety risk to boaters caused by the Philadelphia Gun Club's ongoing life pigeon shoots. The complaint was filed in District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The lawsuit challenges the pigeon shoots as a violation of the Clean Water Act, introducing ongoing pollution into the Delaware River in the form of gun shot and both live and dead birds which rain down on the water during the regularly held events.

The Philadelphia Gun Club holds live pigeon shoots on its property adjoining the Delaware River at 3051 State Road, Bensalem, Pennsylvania, and has been doing so for well over one hundred years. During the course of these day-long shooting events, the Philadelphia Gun Club discharges and allows the discharge of pollutants including, but not limited to, lead shot and fragments, steel shot and fragments and shot and fragments composed of other metals, as well as the bodies of birds that are either killed or injured, and later subject to drowning during the events. The Philadelphia Gun Club does not hold a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit ("NPDES permit") in violation of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act ("Clean Water Act" or "CWA") and Pennsylvania's Clean Streams Law.

Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, said "the intentional and ongoing

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discharge of what amounts over time to large quantities of lead, steel and other shot into the Delaware River, as well as the dead and/or dying bodies of birds is a violation of law that has to stop, pure and simple. Shooting over the River is also a safety hazard and a disturbance for those who are trying to enjoy this reach of the river for wild birding, boating, fishing or otherwise. We warned the Philadelphia Gun Club in writing over a year ago that we would be filing this lawsuit if they didn't stop their illegal practice; we were hoping they would do the right thing; they haven't stopped and so we are going to court to try to make them stop."

"This is a case of illegal water pollution, pure and simple" continues van Rossum, "But for many it is also a moral issue over how we value and treat the health of our River, whether we respect the safety of those enjoying the River, and for how we are treating defenseless birds who are subjected to unspeakable cruelty as a result of the ongoing 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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