



Immediate Release

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Delaware Riverkeeper Network So Effective Opponents Attempted (But Failed) to Shut Down Organization's Website.

Bristol, PA. On Friday night, June 9, 2010, hackers attempted to break into and shut down the Delaware Riverkeeper Network's website. The effort was identified and immediately foiled by Delaware Riverkeeper Network staff. Within hours of the hackers putting fouling scripts onto the site in an effort to shut it down, the organization was already working to, and did, reverse the damage that had been done. The hackers goal was obviously to shut the website down, not to harm anyone that visited the site.

The timing of the hack leads the organization to believe that the hackers are those who support initiatives the organization opposes.

"This is a sign of how powerful and effective we are as an organization" said Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum. "One only spends the time and resources to attempt this level of damage when they understand you are a real threat. Our opposition to the Delaware Deepening, the Southport development project, and Natural Gas Drilling in the Marcellus Shale, and our support for new PA regulations that would require forested buffers on high quality streams in lieu of development, all had postings shortly before the hack attempt. These projects are backed by powerful forces. It makes one wonder."

It was just 3 years ago that the organization's boat used to investigate projects and pollution incidents threatening the River was stolen and vandalized, left for dead floating on the

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Delaware it was used to protect. “While we never found the criminals who desecrated our boat, the outcome was not to harm the organization but to rally more supporters and funders to our side. Within 6 months of that incident we had a new boat out on the water helping us defend against illegal and harmful activities and pollution” recounts van Rossum. “This attempted hack, once folks learn about it, is likely to have the same effect. We are investing in beefed up security to ensure this cannot happen again” says van Rossum.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization that has been working since 1988 to protect and defend the Delaware River and all the communities it benefits. Individuals wishing to donate to our increased website security can do so by send a donation to Delaware Riverkeeper Network, 300 Pond Street, Bristol, PA 19007; or visiting the organization’s website at www.delawariverkeeper.org.

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