



TREDYFFRIN TOWNSHIP PRESS RELEASE

Contact: William F. Martin, Township Manager; wmartin@tredyffrin.org, 610-644-1400

Statement of Tredyffrin Township

Today, Tredyffrin Township received a letter dated September 29 from the National Environmental Law Center (the “NELC”) on behalf of PennEnvironment and Trout Unlimited. In it, the NELC has put the Township and the Tredyffrin Township Municipal Authority on notice that it intends to commence a lawsuit under the Federal Clean Water Act related to discharges into Valley Creek resulting from three separate breaches of the Valley Creek Trunk Sewer (“VCTS”) line that occurred on March 17, 2012, February 5, 2014 and March 18, 2014.

Importantly, the letter reveals no new facts, except that there is an impending lawsuit. When each of the breaks in the VCTS occurred, the Township’s reaction was immediate, as was its notification to the public and to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (“PaDEP”), representatives from which were onsite quickly to monitor the repairs. PaDEP has been complimentary of the Township’s response times to the breaches. The Township and DEP have been in continuous contact since the breaches.

With each of the respective breaches, the Township, its outside sanitary sewer consultant, and DEP, all unanimously but reluctantly concluded that temporary discharge into Valley Creek presented the only viable solution while the line was repaired.

The Township is disappointed by the timing of NELC’s letter and confused by what motivated it, as both complainants are aware of the substantial progress the Township has made since the breaks occurred. The Township has commenced a thorough evaluation of its alternatives for a more permanent remedy to the problem. In March of this year, the Township engaged an outside engineering firm to perform a thorough evaluation and provide recommendations on alternatives to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the VCTS in the future. The engineer’s initial report was submitted to the Township last month and is being presented the Board of Supervisors in late October. Both PennEnvironment and Trout Unlimited have been fully informed about these initiatives. Importantly, the Township has created a draft of an emergency response plan to address possible future occurrences, in which both complainants provided meaningful input that was included in the plan. One of the complainants – Pete Goodman from Trout Unlimited – was very complimentary of the Township’s swift reply to the breaks and its commitment to its plan for a more permanent remedy. See the video of Mr. Goodman (his statements occur at 1:58:47 of the video) linked here:

<http://tredyffrin.pegcentral.com/player.php?video=3e5c105f89ecef59ccba5a4f2f3b178b>

The Township and all of the Valley Creek’s stakeholders share the common goal of ensuring the cleanliness and vitality of the Valley Creek and its inhabitants. The Township was in the regrettable situation where it was forced to pursue its only viable alternative. The Township’s reaction to the breaks was immediate, and it remains committed to the pursuit of initiatives to reduce and mitigate the effects of future breaks.

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