



VALLEY FORGE CHAPTER of TROUT UNLIMITED

January 31, 2022

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Environmental Protection Specialist
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
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Subject: Bishop Tube Public Comment

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I again reiterate that we at Valley Forge Chapter of Trout Unlimited are very disappointed in the DEP's proposed Remedial Response Plan.

The Pennsylvania Constitution guarantees the residents of Pennsylvania the right to clean air, clean water and a healthy environment. The DEP's inaction to date is denying us of these fundamental rights.

The Remediation Plan is not a plan but rather a lengthy idea of how DEP might move forward. It lacks a starting point since further investigations are necessary. It lacks clarity in the process moving forward and since the contaminants are still unknown the remedial chemicals cannot be prescribed. There is no time line. There is no standard specified to which the site is to be cleaned up. There is no plan. We will need additional information on the specifics of the so called "remedial plan" before we can provide meaningful comments on the it.

Little Valley Creek has been designated as "Exceptional Value" under Pennsylvania state law. Exceptional Value designation entitles Little Valley Creek and associated wetlands to a higher legal standard of protection. The proposed remediation fails to meet DEP's legal obligation, or that of the responsible parties, to meet the applicable Exceptional Value legal standards and protections that apply to the Little Valley Creek and associated wetlands. Rather than consider these as mandatory legal standards to be achieved, the DEP considers them as standards simply "to be considered." This is a violation of state law.

There is a lack of information on the risks to the biota (plant life, wildlife and aquatic life) at this site, in and around Little Valley Creek and downstream, including in the receiving streams of Valley Creek and the Schuylkill River. The municipality's technical expert stated at the East Whiteland public hearing on 11/5/21 that the chemicals, not specified to date, to be used to decontaminate the soils through chemical oxidation and/or in situ chemical reduction, coupled with soil mixing, could affect the environmental biota at the Bishop Tube site and downstream. This concern has received no attention in any DEP



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analyses and response reports. We have a right to know what the impact will be on the natural environment there. The issues of the long-term heavy metals effects on aquatic life are not discussed. How is DEP going to handle the presence of residual DNAPL in the deep bed rock?

Pre-remedial investigations should evaluate the site for the presence of emerging and newly regulated contaminants (such as PFAS compounds which are known to exist in Valley Creek.) (Is Bishop Tube a source?) and fully delineate the impacts in soil and ground water to the most stringent applicable MSC's or another applicable standard.

DEP must require that all contaminated soils be removed from the Bishop Tube site to remove a long-term source of contamination. In addition, all groundwater contaminants of concern must be removed, or rendered completely inert or immobile for an indefinite period, including in soil and bedrock on and off the site. In locations where this is impossible, the remedy must prevent any contaminant of concern from becoming or continuing to be a contamination source. DEP also must ensure that any remedy chosen protects and does not further degrade the Little Valley Creek. DEP must ensure that any remedy selected address all toxic contaminants of concern identified including, but not limited to, Trichloroethene (TCE), Vinyl Chloride, and Hexavalent Chromium.

We need to know how DEP is going to manage the technical and financial challenges of the Plan?

DEP must explicitly consider the fact that the site has been approved for residential use by the township. It would appear that it has not done so.

Respectfully,

Pete Goodman

Environmental Chairperson

On Behalf of our Board of Directors and more than 850 members

