



## CRATER RESOURCES COMMUNITY UPDATE

Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

April 2009

### EPA RESTORATION WORK ON QUARRY 3 NEARS COMPLETION

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is slated to begin cleanup work on Quarry 3 in the Crater Resources Superfund Site this spring. The project will involve removing about 40,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils from the site located in the Renaissance Office Park on Renaissance Boulevard. The work will also involve importing about 84,000 cubic yards of clean fill. The imported material will be trucked from a project off the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

#### **ODOR CONTROL**

As EPA begins to remove soils from the site, residents may notice an odor similar to moth balls. The soils being removed are primarily contaminated with SVOC's (Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds). If odors occur, they are expected to be generated when the tarry substances are excavated from the quarry and placed in trucks. The odors could result from the volatilization of naphthalene which is a SVOC that is a tarry substance that is being excavated from the quarry. The soil will be treated to help control odor. To ensure safety, EPA will be conducting daily air sampling.

#### **ODOR NOT A HAZARD**

The odors, if they occur, should only be a nuisance because, while these compounds pose a hazard over time to the groundwater under the quarry, they are not a direct hazard to human health or the environment after being excavated and transported along local roads and the interstate.

#### **TRUCK SAFETY AND TRAFFIC**

All of the truck loads will be covered and any excess soils washed off as they leave the site. EPA has been working with township staff along with police and fire officials in order to minimize disruption to those near the site and ensure the health and safety of residents along the route.

In order to accomplish this work:

- The contractor for the parties performing the work has identified two truck routes to the Schuylkill Expressway from the site.
- Both routes exit the Renaissance Office Park at Renaissance Boulevard, then to Swedeland Road and on through Swedeland to West Conshohocken or through to Gulph Road to I-76 (Schuylkill Expressway).
- Approximately 2,000 truck loads, at the rate of 40-50 per day, will be required for the contaminated soils and about 4,200 truck loads for the restorative fill over the next several months.

### APRIL COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- On April 23rd EPA, along with the parties performing the work, will be available to answer questions about the plans, schedules and health and safety issues.
- On April 28th, EPA officials will be on hand to meet with residents during an informal information session to answer questions and provide updated information about the cleanup progress.

**See Details and Dates for both meetings  
on Page Four (back page)**

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## WORK PLAN

The Quarry 3 work will begin with the removal of water from three ponds within the quarry. The sediments in the ponds will also be removed and the ponds will be backfilled.

Next, the contaminated soils in the west end will be removed, followed by soils from the remainder of the quarry.

Design for work on the remaining parcels of the site will begin later this year and it is anticipated that the work could take place in 2010 on portions at the east end of the site. This work will require either removal of the soils or the installation of a permanent cap over the soils. These actions are necessary to help move the site towards completion.



**Entrance to Quarry 3 off  
Renaissance Boulevard**

## SITE LOCATION

The Crater Resources Site is bordered on the south by the Gulph Mills Golf Course and on the east and northeast by Renaissance Boulevard.

The western portion of the site is adjacent to where Crooked Lane intersects with the SEPTA railroad tracks.

## SITE BACKGROUND

The site consists of four quarries, formerly used for disposal, on a 95-acre parcel of land.

- Beginning in 1919, the Alan Wood Steel Company disposed of wastes generated by its coking facility in Swedeland, Pennsylvania, into three of the quarries (Quarries 1, 2, and 3).
- In 1977, Alan Wood Steel declared bankruptcy and transferred ownership of the coking facility to Keystone Coke Company, a subsidiary of Alabama By-Products Corporation.
- Keystone Coke Co. continued to dispose of wastes in Quarry 3 until 1980.
- Various organics and tar wastes were disposed of in Quarry 1 from 1918 to 1965 via a pipeline from the Alan Wood Steel coking facility.
- Quarry 2 was filled with similar wastes as well as solid wastes, including cinders, bricks, and paint cans.
- Quarry 3 was used as the main disposal quarry, receiving waste ammonia liquor (WAL) directly from the coking facility via pipeline.
- Quarry 3 received organics and tar wastes until 1980; three ponds filled with water remain in the quarry today.
- Quarry 4 was mined for sand and gravel and later backfilled with construction debris.
- Public wells within four miles of the site supply drinking water to area residents.

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**Pond located within Quarry 3**



**Looking north from Quarry 3 toward Renaissance Boulevard**

**Community Meeting on  
Thursday, April 23rd from 6:30 to 8:30 pm  
in the Freedom Hall at the  
Upper Merion Township Building  
175 West Valley Forge Road  
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406**

**Meet with EPA Officials one-on-one on  
Tuesday, April 28th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm  
in the Administrative Conference Room at the  
Upper Merion Township Building  
175 West Valley Forge Road  
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406**

### Site Contacts

For additional information about the Crater Resources Superfund Site located in Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, please contact a representative listed below:

**William Hudson**  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
U.S. EPA Region 3  
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**Additional information about the Crater Resources Superfund Site is available on EPA's website at:**

**U.S. EPA Region 3 - ID # PA980419097**  
[www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super)

Select the 'PA' link and then, on the next page, click on the 'Crater Resources' link. To review Site-related documents, click on the 'Administrative Record' link.

**Administrative Records Room**  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-814-8157 (by appointment)  
online at <http://www.epa.gov/arweb>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Attn: William Hudson  
Mailcode 3HS52  
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**EPA Update for the Crater Resources Superfund Site**

