



SCHUYLKILL RIVER NATIONAL & STATE HERITAGE AREA

Schuylkill River Heritage Area
140 College Drive
Pottstown, PA 19464
www.schuylkillriver.org

For Immediate Release
September 17, 2014

Contacts:
Tim Fenchel, SRHA
484-945-0200
Dana Melia, Exelon Generation
(610) 718-3025

Schuylkill River Heritage Area Distributes Over \$330,000 in Grants to Improve Water Quality in the River and Streams

POTTSTOWN — The Schuylkill River Heritage Area distributed grants totaling \$337,465 Wednesday to seven projects aimed at improving water quality in the Schuylkill River and its tributaries.

The Schuylkill River Restoration Fund grants were awarded to six projects that will focus on stormwater runoff and agricultural pollution. Also awarded was one land transaction grant that will assist with protection of a priority watershed parcel. (See 2014 Project Summaries for recipients and project descriptions).

The grant fund is administered by the Schuylkill River Heritage Area. This year, funds were provided by Exelon Generation's Limerick Generating Station, the Philadelphia Water Department, Aqua PA, and MOM's Organic Market.

About 35 people attended the award announcement, which took place at the Cook Wissahickon School in Philadelphia, the site of a recently completed stormwater improvement project funded through an earlier Schuylkill River Restoration Fund grant. That project included restoring a meadow with native plants. Following the announcement a tour was given of the meadow project, a second phase of which was included in the 2014 grant round.

Speakers included Schuylkill River Heritage Area Executive Director Kurt Zwinkl, Delaware River Basin Commission Executive Director Steven J. Tambini, as well as Kelly Anderson of the Philadelphia Water Department, and Chris Gerdes of Exelon Generation's Limerick Generating Station.

“Over the past nine years, we have distributed over \$2 million to 62 projects that effectively keep pollution from entering the Schuylkill River and its tributaries,” said

Schuylkill River Heritage Area Executive Director Kurt Zwikl. “A clean river is essential to the health of the 1.5 million people who draw drinking water from the river. It is also important to the economic wellbeing of waterfront communities throughout the region.”

Grant recipients were carefully selected by an advisory committee consisting of: Exelon Generation, Delaware River Basin Commission, Philadelphia Water Department, Environmental Protection Agency, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Schuylkill River Heritage Area, Aqua PA, and the Schuylkill Action Network.

This year, Exelon Generation contributed \$226,534 to the fund, the Philadelphia Water Department donated \$100,000, Aqua PA provided \$5,000 and MOM’s Organic Market contributed \$768. All funds not distributed this year will be rolled over into 2015.

“Protecting and preserving the Schuylkill River is very important to us,” said Tom Dougherty, Limerick site vice president. “This program is a great partnership between Exelon and other environmental leaders in the community and recognizes the efforts to improve the quality of the Schuylkill River.”

The Land Transaction Assistance Grants program, introduced three years ago, provides matching grants of up to \$4,000 per project to pay for costs associated with property purchases and conservation easements on high priority lands for water quality and habitat protection.

Exelon has provided over \$1.8 million to the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund since it was founded in 2005; the Philadelphia Water Department has contributed \$500,000 over the past five years. The annual fund began as part of a demonstration project for what is known as the water supply program at Exelon’s Limerick Generating Station. That program is under the purview of the Delaware River Basin Commission.

“Limerick Generating Station is committed to environmental stewardship and proud to support the 2014 Schuylkill River Restoration Fund grants,” said Dougherty. “We salute the 2014 grantees and thank them for their innovative projects to further protect and preserve the Schuylkill River and its tributaries.”

The Philadelphia Water Department’s contribution to the fund is leveraged by other watershed partners and is directed towards addressing stormwater management and pollution mitigation projects upstream of the City’s two drinking water intakes on the Schuylkill River.

The Schuylkill Action Network continues to seek additional contributors in an effort to further expand the fund.

###

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area, managed by the non-profit Schuylkill River Greenway Association, uses conservation, education, recreation, historic preservation and tourism as tools for community revitalization and economic development.

Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC) is the nation's leading competitive energy provider, with 2012 revenues of approximately \$23.5 billion. Headquartered in Chicago, Exelon has operations and business activities in 47 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. Exelon is one of the largest competitive U.S. power generators, with approximately 35,000 megawatts of owned capacity comprising one of the nation's cleanest and lowest-cost power generation fleets. The company's Constellation business unit provides energy products and services to approximately 100,000 business and public sector customers and approximately 1 million residential customers. Exelon's utilities deliver electricity and natural gas to more than 6.6 million customers in central Maryland (BGE), northern Illinois (ComEd) and southeastern Pennsylvania (PECO).