



SCHUYLKILL RIVER NATIONAL & STATE HERITAGE AREA

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Schuylkill River Heritage Area Receives More Than \$300,000 in Grants to Improve the Watershed

POTTSTOWN — The Schuylkill River Heritage Area has received a total of \$324,441 from Exelon Nuclear’s Limerick Generating Station and the Philadelphia Water Department to support the Schuylkill River Watershed Restoration Fund—a fund used to improve water quality in the river and its tributaries.

Grants from that fund were awarded Monday to four non-profit agencies for projects that will mitigate abandoned mine drainage (AMD), stormwater run-off and agricultural pollution.

Exelon Nuclear contributed a total of \$224,441 to this year’s fund, while the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD)—a first-time contributor—donated \$100,000.

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area (SRHA) oversees the Watershed Restoration Fund, distributing money annually to non-profit organizations and government agencies for projects that will enhance water quality in the Schuylkill River Watershed.

“This program has allowed us to fund several important projects over the past few years that have improved the health of the Schuylkill River Watershed,” said Kurt Zwikl, Executive Director of the SRHA. “This unique partnership with Exelon Nuclear truly demonstrates their ongoing commitment to the Schuylkill River. We look forward to bringing more organizations into this partnership and are grateful to the Philadelphia Water Department for their contribution.”

Carol R. Collier, Executive Director of the Delaware River Basin Commission attended the grant announcement, which took place at Aidenn Lair Park, in Upper Dublin

Township, site of a recently completed stormwater improvement project from the 2008 grant round.

“I am pleased to be here today, as we announce four, very deserving, non-profit grant recipients and to welcome the Philadelphia Water Department as a new funding partner,” Collier said. “I encourage others in the Schuylkill River watershed to join Exelon and PWD in making contributions to support this important work.”

Also in attendance were: State Sen. Stewart Greenleaf, State Rep. Thomas Murt, Limerick Generating Station Site Vice President Bill Maguire, and PWD General Manager of Public Affairs and Environmental Education Joanne Dahme. Grant recipients were also in attendance. Following the press announcement, a tour was given of the Aidenn Lair Park Stormwater Basin Retrofit and Naturalization project.

Exelon has provided close to \$1 million over the past five years that the program has been in existence. The annual fund began as part of a demonstration project for what is known as the water supply program at Exelon Nuclear’s Limerick Generating Station. That program is under the purview of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). The Schuylkill Action Network has been working to grow the program by seeking additional funders.

The Schuylkill River is a source of drinking water for Philadelphia, and funding from the PWD will be targeted specifically for projects that address stormwater management and pollution mitigation upstream of, within the direct drainage of, or in areas that significantly influence Philadelphia drinking water intakes.

“Through this unconventional partnership and leveraged grant opportunity, the Philadelphia Water Department continues to improve the Schuylkill River’s condition so that Philadelphia’s drinking water is at its best,” said Kelly Anderson, manager for the PWD’s Source Water Protection Program.

This year, four projects dealing with agricultural and storm water drainage improvements and abandoned mine drainage restoration were selected. (Please see 2010 Grant Awards listed on attached sheet). All the projects will benefit the entire watershed because they reduce the amount of run-off and pollution that enters creeks, and ultimately, the river, which is a source of drinking water for over one million people.

Recipients were selected by a committee made up of representatives from Exelon, the Delaware River Basin Commission, Philadelphia Water Department, Environmental Protection Agency, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and the Schuylkill River Heritage Area.

“Protecting and preserving the Schuylkill River is very important to us,” said Bill Maguire, Limerick site vice president. “This program is a great partnership between Exelon and other environmental leaders in the community.”

Here's how the water supply program works: Exelon withdraws water from the Schuylkill River to support the non-contact cooling water needs of its Limerick Generating Station. However, DRBC requirements allow Exelon to withdraw water only when the flows are adequate and the temperature is below 59 degrees. In the past, Delaware River water was pumped 40 miles to the Limerick plant, generally from about May 1 to November 1, due to these restrictions. A condition of a 2004 DRBC docket decision approved the company's request for an opportunity to demonstrate that greater operational flexibility to meet Limerick Generating Station's cooling water needs would not cause negative environmental impacts to the Perkiomen Creek or the Schuylkill River. This reduces Limerick's dependence on the Delaware River. Since this is more cost effective, a portion of all the money saved is redirected into the Schuylkill River Watershed Restoration Fund. Exelon's yearly contribution is based on the amount of water that is not required to be pumped from the Delaware River or other sources.

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The Schuylkill River Heritage Area is a non-profit organization that uses conservation, education, recreation, historic preservation and tourism as tools for community revitalization and economic development.

Exelon Corporation is one of the nation's largest electric utilities. The company has one of the industry's largest portfolios of electricity generation capacity, with a nationwide reach and strong positions in the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic. Exelon distributes electricity to approximately 5.4 million customers in northern Illinois and southeastern Pennsylvania and natural gas to approximately 485,000 customers in the Philadelphia area. Exelon is headquartered in Chicago and trades on the NYSE under the ticker EXC.