

The Times-Tribune

We're *All* About It

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

\$2.00 NEWSSTAND

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

BLAME FLOWS IN RIVER MESS

DEP: Water company's silt pollution of waterways in Dunmore, Scranton violated law

BY JIM LOCKWOOD
STAFF WRITER

Pennsylvania American Water's inadvertent release of large amounts of silt from the No. 7 Reservoir in Dunmore into Roaring Brook and the Lackawanna River violated the state's Clean Streams

Law and regulations on sediment control, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection.

The silt and sediment pollution from a PAW project to rehabilitate the reservoir's old dam muddied Roaring Brook and the Lackawanna

River for miles. The DEP became aware of the pollution Feb. 4 and has been investigating. Environmental advocates of clean waterways, including the Lackawanna River Conservation Association and Trout Unlimited, have expressed

fears that ecological damage from the sediment will significantly impair the waters and their aquatic wildlife of macroinvertebrates and fish for some time, perhaps years.

The DEP on Wednesday released to media outlets 17 reports of inspections at dif-

ferent waterway locations that represent the first time the DEP said it has determined violations have occurred.

Water company spokeswoman Susan Turcmanovich said in an email that PAW received the reports from

DEP on Friday, March 1, and "This was the first correspondence we received from DEP indicating any violations related to this permit."

The violations include:
Regulations on erosion

Please see **RIVER**, Page A6

A6 THE TIMES-TRIBUNE

FROM PAGE A1

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024

RIVER: DEP says release of silt and sediment a violation of law

FROM PAGE A1

and sediment control during a dam project requiring that work "must be done in a manner to minimize erosion of banks and bed of the stream and

disturbance of the regimen of the stream."

The Clean Streams Law's prohibition against discharges of "any substance of any kind or character resulting in pollution," and that also says, "Any such dis-

charge is hereby declared to be a nuisance."

The DEP has not yet issued any notices of violations or imposed fines regarding the situation, agency spokeswoman Colleen Connolly said Wednesday.

Previously, the DEP sampled water and sediment from the muddied waterways and conducted a survey of macroinvertebrates. Testing of the samples remains underway and there are no results yet,

Connolly said.

Meanwhile, water from the reservoir continues to flow over the primary spillway of the dam, as has been the case since valves in the dam were closed on Feb. 12, Turcmanovich said.

"Plans to continue work on the dam project are moving forward with input from DEP," Turcmanovich said.

Contact the writer:
jlockwood@scrantontimes.com;
570-209-5893.

Copyright © 2024, The Times-Tribune

thetimes-tribune.com



Subscriptions.....570-348-9190
Classified ads.....570-348-9157

Business.....C1 Lottery.....A2
Classified.....C4 Obituaries.....A7-9
Comics.....C2-3 Opinion.....A11
Healthy/Sci.....A10 Sports.....B1
Horoscope.....C3 TV.....C5

Good morning



Morning rain
High: **55°**
Low: **32°**

Weather, B6