

July 5, 2001

VIA FACSIMILE AND MAIL

Mr. Robert Young, P.G.
Hydrogeologist
Pennsylvania Department of
Environmental Protection
Division of Water Management
Southeast Regional Council
555 North Lane, Suite 6015
Conshohocken, PA 19428

RE: **Former Philadelphia Coke Facility**
4501 Richmond Street

Dear Mr. Young:

I write to confirm a recent discovery at the former Philadelphia Coke facility, which we reported to the Department on the evening of June 25, 2001, via the hotline. We spoke to duty officer Miller.

By way of background, Eastern Enterprises, the owner of the former Philadelphia Coke facility, has been acquired by KeySpan Corporation. KeySpan was securing access at the site and noted two below grade pipes leading from the piers toward former facilities at the site. As you may recall from your prior involvement, all structures except the piers were demolished many years ago.

KeySpan representatives discovered that the pipes were filled with No. 2 fuel oil. They traced the pipe runs and began to remove the oil using a vacuum truck. At the inland end of the pipe, KeySpan found oil contaminated soil as well as a layer of oil on the top of the perched groundwater table beneath the soil. Based upon initial reconnaissance, it appears that the area of soil contamination is at least 20 feet in radius. No oil contaminated soil was found approximately 30 to 50 feet closer to the piers, indicating that there is no impact to surface water.

This conclusion is confirmed by the absence of contamination found in the downgradient monitoring wells at the site. As you may recall, the Department concluded that no further monitoring was required in those wells approximately two years ago. Since there have been no recent activities at the site, the release from the end of the pipe is historic – perhaps dating back to the demolition activities and certainly the time during which we were monitoring groundwater.

KeySpan is in the process of delineating the size of the area and will then formulate a plan to address this contamination.

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