

Update on Swiftwater Campus Heating Oil Tank Leak

Presented to the Community and Board during the September 8, 2021 PMSD School Board Meeting

Good evening. As Dr. Robison said, I am Curtis Beam, the district's Facilities Operations Manager. I here to provide the Board and public with an update on the Swiftwater Campus Heating Oil Tank Leak.

Pocono Mountain School District was notified by Sanofi and Monroe County Emergency Management of what appeared to be heating oil leaking into the Swiftwater Creek from a storm drain near Sanofi on Tuesday, August 24, following the heavy rains from Hurricane Henri. There were also reports that residents who lived along Swiftwater Creek on Lower Swiftwater Road could smell the odor of heating oil.

PMSD responded immediately to the reports and was able to determine that the heating oil leak was from an inground heating oil tank near the Swiftwater Intermediate School. In coordination with the PA Department of Environmental Protection, PMSD identified and plugged the storm drain carrying the oil to the Swiftwater Creek and used pads and booms to soak up as much oil as possible. In addition, Sanofi deployed a boom into the creek to soak up any additional heating oil coming from the storm drain and Emergency Management deployed a boom by Ski Haven. When Hurricane Ida hit last week, more heating oil product entered the stream. This was not a new heating oil leak, but appeared to be heating oil residue that was still in the storm drain pipe.

In the two weeks since the initial report of the heating oil leak, the district has taken a number of steps to stop the leak, prevent additional oil from reaching the Swiftwater Creek and to ensure community members have safe drinking water available to them. Some of the more significant actions taken are as follows:

- Drained the heating oil tank of oil and water. This was accomplished on August 25 and 26.
- Was assigned a DEP geologist to oversee the district's efforts to stop and clean up the oil leak.
- Contracted with a DEP certified drinking water hauler, Palmeri Inc., to make potable drinking water available to the residents who on Lower Swiftwater Road and in Ski Haven along the Swiftwater Creek. The water tank was placed on the Swiftwater Campus in the baseball field parking lot. It is available 24-hours daily, 7-days a week.
- PMSD Security Officers went door-to-door providing notice of the availability of clean drinking water to residents along the Swiftwater Creek in the Lower Swiftwater Road and Ski Haven areas.
- Contracted with Mobile Environmental Analytical, Inc. (MEA) to plan and execute the district's site remediation efforts.

- MEA is using test wells in the area near the tank to pump oil and water out of the surrounding soil to prevent the oil from migrating any further into the ground or near the storm drain.
- MEA has started the process of responding to calls from concerned citizens who are concerned about their well water and who live along the Swiftwater Creek in what are considered high priority areas.
- MEA is conducting a characterization study and investigation into the cause of the leak.
- MEA is develop a plan for DEP to review to clean up the site and tank.

Thank you.