

Groundwater Study Accepted by DEP

New monitoring wells will track groundwater quality at proposed Landfill 3 site.

On June 23, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approved a groundwater study report for the Bulger facility. The study provided a thorough analysis of hydrogeologic conditions and groundwater quality across the entire property.

Groundwater quality at the site has been studied since the early 1980s, when the first of three waste impoundments was closed. The three surface impoundments were used for the disposal of treated pickle liquor waste from the steel industry* as well as other industrial waste. Those early studies showed high levels of salts—specifically chloride, nitrate

and sulfate, chemicals from the treatment of the waste pickle liquor — in shallow groundwater near the impoundments.

In the 1980s and 1990s, MAX installed groundwater interceptors to collect the impacted groundwater and prevent contamination from spreading off site. Collected groundwater is treated in the on-site wastewater treatment plant and discharged under a water-quality permit.

Studies show continued improvements in the quality of the groundwater at the site as a result of the collection and treatment systems. Also helping to improve groundwater quality are the re-closure projects that stop rainwater and snowmelt from seeping through the impoundments. No contamination has spread off site and none of the remaining groundwater impacts are affecting Little Raccoon Run.

Of the more than 100 monitoring wells and exploratory boreholes that have been drilled at the site



More than 100 monitoring wells and exploratory boreholes have been drilled at the site over the last 30 years.

over the last 30 years, 42 are actively monitored. The network of active monitoring wells includes new wells along the boundary of proposed Landfill 3; these wells will be used to continuously test the quality of groundwater flowing toward, around and away from the new landfill.

MAX Environmental General Manager Carl Spadaro says that while private well water from nearby residents has been historically tested, and continues to be tested, no residential wells or other

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Mark Your Calendar!

Tire & Electronic Recycling Event Scheduled for August 8, 2020

Drop-off procedures to follow COVID-19 precautions.

MAX's annual community tire and electronics recycling event, typically held around Earth Day but postponed this year due to COVID-19, is scheduled for Saturday, August 8, 2020. The event is open to residents from Bulger and immediately surrounding areas.

Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling is supporting the electronics recycling part of the collection. All types of electronics, except for appliances, will be accepted at the recycling event.

TVs may be any size but must be intact; stripped glass tubes cannot be accepted. "Otherwise, anything with a cord can be accepted for recycling," says Ellen Keefe, Director of Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling. Up to eight unwanted tires from passenger cars and light-trucks will be accepted from each resident. Tires from commercial operators cannot be accepted.

For questions related to the recycling event, contact Carl Spadaro, Environmental General Manager, at (412) 445-9789 or cspadaro@maxenvironmental.com. For more information about electronics recycling or

Bulger Community Recycling Event

(See electronics restrictions.)
Saturday, August 8, 2020
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

MAX Bulger Facility
200 MAX Drive
Bulger, PA 15019

For GPS users:
70 Bulger-Candor Road
may be used as a point of entry.

Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling, visit www.westmorelandcleanways.org. (Note their new location and please call before dropping off items due to potential COVID-19 restrictions.)

COVID-19 Support for Greater Washington County Food Bank

While MAX was among many businesses that experienced negative impacts from COVID-19, we feel very fortunate that we did not shut down our operations or layoff employees. In recognizing the impact of COVID-19, MAX Yukon donated \$500 to the Greater Washington County Food Bank.

As September's Hunger Action Month™ approaches, we welcome feedback on opportunities to best serve those in need close to home. If you know someone in need or are hosting a local event, please contact us by calling the Bulger office at (724) 796.1571 or emailing us at cspadaro@maxenvironmental.com.

Anyone interested in donating time or resources to the food bank, or anyone in need of assistance, may reach them by calling (724) 632.2190.

The food bank website is at <https://www.gwcfb.org> and their mailing address is:

Greater Washington County Food Bank

909 National Pike West
Brownsville, PA 15417

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling on the opening of their new facility!

355 Pleasant Unity Mutual Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

Please call ahead for potential restrictions due to COVID-19.

MAX Corporate Office

Foster Plaza #5, 651 Holiday Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
(412) 343-4900

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potential drinking water sources are located hydraulically downgradient of the former disposal units or the proposed Landfill 3 site.

DEP's approval of the groundwater study allows MAX to move forward on submitting a revised Phase I permit application for proposed Landfill 3. Spadaro expects the application to be submitted by this fall. "We will inform the public of the application through letters to residents on our mailing list, a newspaper advertisement, and letters to Smith Township and Robinson Township," says Spadaro. Copies of the revised application will be submitted to Smith Township as well as to the Heritage Public Library for individuals interested in reviewing and commenting on the materials.

For more information on the groundwater study or proposed Landfill 3 development, visit www.maxenvironmental.com or view the information repositories at the Smith Township Municipal Complex and at the Heritage Public Library. You may also contact us at:

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* *Pickling refers to the process of dipping steel into acid to clean impurities off the surface.*

Waste Impoundment Re-closure Work Nearing Completion

Progress continues on the last of seven phases of work to re-close former waste impoundments at the Bulger facility. The work, which will be complete next year, is occurring on a 5-acre parcel of land north of Bulger Block Road.

Performed under an agreement with the PADEP, the work, involves using non-hazardous waste materials as construction fill to raise the surface grades of former disposal areas. Once the grades are of proper height, the areas are capped and then covered with soil and vegetation.

The re-closure decreases the amount of leachate created in the former disposal areas by promoting runoff of rainwater and snowmelt, rather than allowing it to seep into the fill. The cap system adds another layer of environmental protection in place at the property. Other measures include a leachate collection and treatment system and monitoring of groundwater within and around the site via monitoring wells that have been in place since the 1980s.

"The re-closure project started in 2006 to provide long-term environmental protection of these legacy areas," said MAX Vice President Bill Follett. Once capping and closure is complete, MAX will enter into a post-closure monitoring period to ensure that these areas remain protected.

Bulger Facility Office

200 MAX Drive
Bulger, PA 15019
(724) 796-1571

