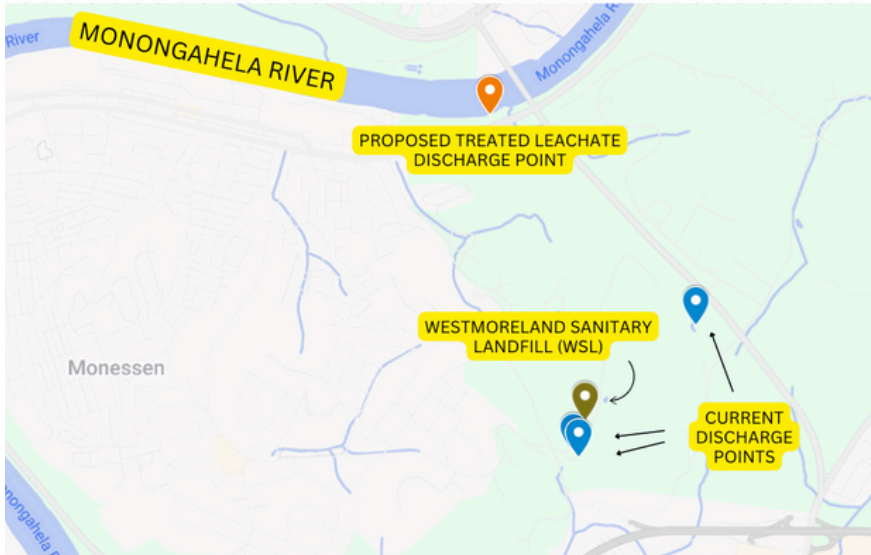


WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WSL'S NEW NPDES PERMIT AND PA DEP HEARING



Questions you may have about the permit:

1. How close do I live to the leachate discharge?
2. What is in WSL's leachate?
3. How has or will WSL's leachate harmed/harm my health?
4. What can I do?

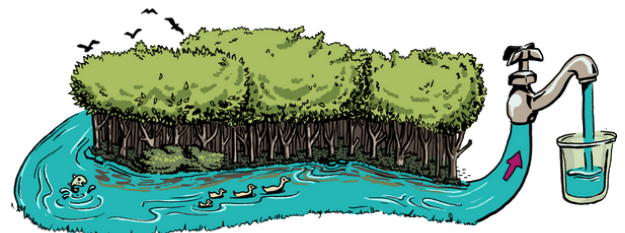
The NPDES Permit Hearing Process

The federal statute, the Clean Water Act (CWA), aims to prevent, reduce, and eventually eliminate pollution going into our waterways. Water discharged into our waterways is regulated by NPDES permits (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System). NPDES permits regulate certain amounts of pollutants (or effluent discharges) to be discharged into the Waters of the United States, such as the Monongahela River.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) oversees the issuance of permits, compliance, and enforcement of the CWA and NPDES permits; however, Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) is delegated that task in Pennsylvania. This hearing aims to collect the community's opinion on the Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill's new permit, which would allow direct discharges into the Monongahela River, a source of drinking water for Southwest PA. The hearing focuses solely on the impacts related to the water discharge permit.

Facts about WSL

Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill (WSL) has been owned by Noble Environmental since 2016, and has had four consent orders for environmental contamination violations and one consent assessment for civil penalties since 2020. WSL still does not comply with these orders. Many of WSL's violations relate to leachate contaminating the local environment.



CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN:

- **Man-made chemicals**, such as PFAS and related contaminants: Exposure to PFAS has been linked to a range of health effects, including cancer, cardiovascular disease, and endocrine disruption.
- **Radiologicals**: Radium, barium, and radon are naturally occurring radioactive particles that may be mobilized from the shale layer and found in the wastewater and are known carcinogens.
- **Heavy Metals**: Excessive exposure or accumulation of certain heavy metals can lead to various health problems, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, respiratory issues, and certain cancers.
- **Organic Compounds**: Leachate can contain a wide range of organic compounds, including pesticides, irritants, and carcinogens.

HOW TO COMMENT:

Oral comments will be accepted on **March 20, 2025**, at the Rostraver CFD Social Hall, located at 1100 Fells Church Rd, Rostraver, PA 15012, from 6 PM to 8:30 PM.



**PA DEP
Fact Sheet**

1. Comments are limited to 3 minutes, approximately 450 words.
2. Please include the name, address, email, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments, and identify the draft NPDES [PA0285358]
3. A written copy of the oral comments should be submitted to the DEP.
4. If you'd like to bring photographs or documents to support your comment, please provide a copy for submission to the DEP.
5. Contact Emily Green at emgreen@pa.gov or by calling 412-442-4042 at least 24 hours before the hearing to register to give a comment

Written comments will be accepted until the close of business on **April 3, 2025**, either by email at RA-EPNPDES_SWRO@pa.gov or by mail to: C/O Clean Water Program, 400 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15222



Permit

1. Comments can be longer in length.
2. Include your name, address, email, phone number, and the identification of the permit (PA0285358).
3. Focus on specific objections to the contents of the permit.

Questions?

Contact: Dylan@protectpt.org

heather@threeriverswaterkeeper.org

