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Emergency Coal Waste Basin at Martin's Creek Plant Springs a Leak; Coal Fired Units Shut Down

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Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) was notified last night that the back up basin that was being used by PPL to store the coal fly ash from the company's coal fired units and to hold the fly ash from the clean up of the polluted sludge from its disastrous blowout 14 days ago has "sprung a leak". As a result, PPL has shut down its coal-fired units at the facility.

DRN has advocated for the shut down of the coal fired units since the blow out occurred August 25 and for the company to stop using the back-up basin for the coal waste because the basin is not built to present-day standards.

"We are outraged that PPL and PADEP allowed the use of this substandard basin for the coal fly ash and other industrial wastes that they may deposit there", said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper. "This new breakage in the back-up basin is absolute proof that there is inadequate oversight on this site by the company and the PADEP. Action must be taken to get control of this site in an environmentally safe manner immediately before there's a repeat of the basin blowout," said van Rossum.

"At this point the entire facility should be shut down and the use of all basins must cease", said Tracy Carluccio, Director of Special projects for DRN. "The PPL plant is a continuing disaster and the Delaware River and the river communities must not be subjected to any further disasters. This facility has to be taken completely off line", said Carluccio. Carluccio reported that she was unable to reach any personnel from PADEP for information.

Both van Rossum and Carluccio are investigating the site today.

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