



Delaware Riverkeeper Network Field Report, 7/1/2013 Conducted by Joe Zenes

This field report details sediment problems that were observed on July 1st, 2013. Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) was out monitoring the effects of a rain event that occurred during the early morning of July 1st. According to NOAA (weather.gov), between 1” and 1.5” of rain fell in total on July 1st including afternoon showers. These problems were documented along Loop 323 from mile marker 7.76 to mile marker 8.17.

When arriving at Access Road 30.01 off of River Road, Montague NJ, sediment-laden water could be seen travelling the length of the road and entering a storm drain where Mountain Road meets River Road. The runoff was observed in the drainage ditch on the far side of River Road. Despite recent attempts to increase E&S controls near the construction entrance, sediment-laden water was still running off the ROW and down the access road. In front of the reinforced triple silt fences, there was a large puddle of sediment-laden water that was leaching through the hay bales and under the compost socks and continued to flow down Mountain Road. Photos 14 and 24 from the following album;

<https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sreDIR?uname=105703332397473503863&target=ALBUM&id=5895993119444236385&authkey=Gv1sRqCP6NzN6nktvblwE&invite=CNfJzroM&feat=email> shows where sediment-laden runoff was getting through the silt fencing and exiting the ROW. There was a large amount of water and sediment pooling behind the silt fencing again. Compost socks were also not properly installed and were in a state of disrepair with large holes in them. Note that someone attempted to block the flow of water with small piles of gravel that were very ineffective.

I also received a phone call at 6:40pm from Emil Merusi who lives on Mountain Road with the ROW going through his property. He wanted to inform me that a recently installed water filter for his drinking water, installed by TGP, was not functioning properly. His drinking water was brown and he needed to change the filter although it had been installed within the past month. I believe he has an attorney handling situations with his well and TGP. He also reported to me that brown water was running down Mountain Road for an extended period of time. We wanted to acknowledge his reporting of problems at Mountain Road in addition to our own observations.

The following observations were made further down the pipeline and address issues with S107A and W111. Photos can be found in the following album;

<https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sreDIR?uname=105703332397473503863&target=ALBUM&id=5896006492109540625&authkey=Gv1sRqCMylh4-4hPT13gE&invite=CLTin4wM&feat=email>.

S106 can be seen in the first photo as an isolated feature. It no longer flows across the ROW since all the soil has been stripped and there is mud blocking the channel under the equipment bridge (see under the blue ended timbers). There is mud piled up where the stream channel should be. Photos 2-6 show the progression of sediment-laden water travelling to where a pit was dug following previous rain events. These prior events caused runoff to overflow into W111 and S107A.

The remainder of the images shows sediment within the wetlands. It flowed through W111 and into S107A, which was already cloudy due to disturbances on the other side of the ROW. The sediment can be seen in the waters of S107A and flowing into Bob Eisner's pond (photo 19). Photo 18 shows the confluence of S107A and S107B just before they enter the pond. Disturbances appear to have stopped the flow of S107B as seen in photo 17. Note that in previous documentation, both streams had roughly the amount of flow. The final photo in the album shows a turtle head in the pond (S107).

This section of the field report details observations made behind Mr. Merusi's home dealing with springs and images can be found in the following album;

https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sredir?uname=105703332397473503863&target=ALBUM&id=5896015385067760881&authkey=Gv1sRgClj9qKW8_rIA&invite=CImE660J&feat=email. Construction activity has uncovered springs that may have been subsurface prior to TGP's work. I believe these have been the main cause to the problems with Access Road 30.01 where we have continually had overtopping of the E&S controls as detailed multiple times in prior reports. These springs are flowing off the steep slope of the mountainside and continue across the ROW with no designated stream channel. Some of the springs have been redirected to follow the edge of the ROW towards S105. Trench breakers have been installed after several rain events creating conduits to direct storm water across the ROW. Holes have also been dug along the perimeter of the ROW to capture the runoff. In the top left hand corner of photo 4, you can see a channel where the water flows off the mountain and into the slope breaker.

Sediment can be seen flowing along the perimeter fence and occasionally under them and off the ROW. Photo 14 shows the end of a slope breaker that has multiple layers of E&S controls yet sediment laden storm water is still exiting the ROW. Sediment-laden water can also be seen travelling along the perimeter fencing towards a third slope breaker, which is also overflowing off the ROW and towards S105 and W110. Photo 25 of 43 shows sediment-laden water leaching under the E&S controls, past the hay bales not properly staked, and off the construction ROW.

Photo 33 shows a minimal flow of S105, which originates from a springhouse located just off the uphill side of the ROW. Note that Mr. Merusi used the springhouse to fill his swimming pool with the water from it and for watering his garden. After a month of near record rainfall for June, there is little to no flowing in what remains of the stream channel after TGP's construction activity. Photo 36 shows an area across the ROW where water flows out of the mountain and now redirected into these slope breakers. Photo 42 also shows a source of the water that flows off the mountain and across the ROW. The last photo just shows where the access road meets the construction ROW.

Resource signage at the next waterbody has S112 printed on it as can be seen in photo 1 of the following album

<https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sredir?uname=105703332397473503863&target=ALBUM&id=5896025383710677121&authkey=Gv1sRgCOSbpoGX3fj2swE&invite=COvC5fUH&feat=email>, but is not listed on the FWW permit. The sign lacks pertinent information to identify its location in the field, such as the mile marker. The waterbody sign for S111E is in the same condition with no markers distinguishing its location in the field.

The uphill side of the ROW has had little disturbances therefore the streams have a steady flow of clear water. However, following the stream away from the construction ROW, light colored sediment can be observed in the stream indicating that sediment had exited the ROW and entered S111E as can be seen in photos 6 through 14. The last three photos show a different stream in which the water is running cloudy away from the ROW.

Further down the ROW observations were made at S111F and S113A, both of which are not listed in the FWW permit. Hay bales are staked out beyond the ROW boundaries in the stream channel filled with cloudy water as can be seen in photo 1 of the following album;

<https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sredir?uname=105703332397473503863&target=ALBUM&id=5896029929735207761&authkey=Gv1sRgCK2XrvnJ9OSEzwE&invite=CML7tvqJ&feat=email>. A brown filter sock was haphazardly laid in the channel below the equipment bridge in an attempt to keep sediment from exiting the ROW (photo 4). Multiple E&S controls in place are still allowing sediment to enter into an unidentified wetland as seen in photo 7. The water pooled behind the reinforced silt fencing created a stagnant water breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Photo 1 from the following album <https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sredir?uname=105703332397473503863&target=ALBUM&id=5896035035159806849&authkey=Gv1sRgClap8tvJk8e7Sw&invite=CO2LxbcE&feat=email>, shows the E&S controls being overtopped again depositing sediment into S113, also not listed on the FWW permit. Photos show sediment leaching under hay bales. Some of the hay bales are also staked in a stream channel off of the ROW. Doubled E&S control fences up the slope also show signs of failure and build up of sediment in between the two silt fences. On the outside, there's evidence of water flowing off the ROW and into S113 and associated wetlands. The last photo is looking southeast up S113 towards the ROW where the E&S controls are failing.