



For Immediate Release
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Environmental Quality Board Unanimously Votes in Support of the Hosensack Upgrade Petition – DEP Receives Greenlight to Study for Exceptional Value Status

Harrisburg, PA. This week the Environmental Quality Board voted unanimously to give PA DEP the green light to further study an upgrade petition for the Hosensack Creek and its tributaries that was submitted by Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited, and Lower Milford Township on February 3, 2015. Over 60 individuals contacted the Department in support of the stream upgrade petition so far, including support from State Rep. Justin Simmons and the Montgomery County Conservation District.

DEP presented to the Board that the petition was administratively complete, therefore requesting the Board vote to move the petition through the next regulatory step of review. Kelly Heffner, PA DEP, presented a map of the proposed upgrade area that includes 18 square miles and 23.8 linear stream miles, of which the existing stream designation is Cold Water Fishery, Migratory Fishery. The petitioners were present to speak on behalf of the Hosensack Creek.

"The Hosensack Watershed and the tributaries that feed it are irreplaceable sources of clean, fresh and healthy waters, with an enviable natural beauty. Despite all the good intentions and good rhetoric, if we don't apply the laws we have on the books to protect them from pollution and harm, then we cannot honor our commitment to present or future generations of children and families of passing on a resource that is as healthy as it was when delivered into our hands. Ensuring Pennsylvania's Exceptional Value Status is given to those reaches of the Hosensack Creek and its tributaries we have petitioned for is a vital step in ensuring all of our communities can continue to benefit from these waterways and the healthy drinking water, sustainable jobs, and unparalleled family fun they provide to the Delaware River Basin community," said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper.

"We submitted this petition after the Department, last February, denied a larger petition submitted by DRN and others in 2006 to upgrade the Upper Perkiomen Basin in its entirety to special protections status. We are urging that the Department now act quickly as the Hosensack petition highlights new science and

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additional data for the Hosensack Creek found through Freedom of Information Act requests should automatically trigger its protection as EV on the existing use list. It has federally listed species that deserve protection, and according to the Fish and Boat Commission, is on the wild trout list due to the presence of naturally reproducing brown trout. Brook trout are also present and studies conducted by FBC and Princeton Hydro found naturally producing wild brown trout throughout all 5 surveyed sections of the Hosensack that were sampled in 2014,” said Faith Zerbe, Delaware Riverkeeper Network. Ellen Koplin, a landowner in Lower Milford Township and the Township Manager who lives along a large stretch of the Hosensack Creek also attended the EQB meeting and spoke in support of the upgrade.

“Recognition and preservation of our Township’s natural features such as the Hosensack Creek, is very important to not only our Resident’s, but to all Pennsylvanians, and we hope that the DEP will find that the Hosensack Creek deserves to be upgraded. DEP’s assistance in protecting the native fish, turtles, and other flora and fauna in the Hosensack watershed is extremely important in this naturally sensitive Creek and we look forward to a positive outcome,” said Donna Wright, Lower Milford Township Supervisor.

To see the petition and map of the upgrade area visit: <http://bit.ly/DRN-UpgradeHosensack>

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