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STANDARDS SET FOR CLEANUP, REUSE OF HAZLETON MINE RECLAMATION PROJECT

Site to be Reclaimed for Commercial Development

WILKES-BARRE -- Cleanup standards have been established to address three unpermitted landfills, abandoned mine lands and other environmental problems at a 277-acre redevelopment site in Hazleton, Luzerne County.

Hazleton Redevelopment Authority and Hazleton Creek Properties LLC have signed a consent order and agreement (COA) with the Department of Environmental Protection detailing cleanup requirements under the state's Land Recycling Program.

This special industrial area agreement is required as part of the "determination of applicability" that DEP issued Oct. 5, authorizing the company to operate under a general permit to reclaim the site. The general permit regulates the beneficial use of dredge material, cement kiln dust, lime kiln dust and coal ash in reclamation work.

“The consent order and agreement establishes cleanup standards for any contamination or other environmental problems that are encountered during redevelopment of this property,” DEP Northeast Regional Director Michael Bedrin said.

Hazleton Creek Properties and Hazleton Redevelopment Authority will use onsite spoil materials and the dredge/ash/kiln mixture to cover portions of the old landfills and reclaim the abandoned mine areas. The COA also details the removal of capacitors found on site and cleanup of any contaminated soils under the supervision of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The current owner of the property is Pagnotti Enterprises Inc. of Wilkes-Barre. Hazleton Redevelopment Authority has an exclusive option to acquire the site.

The authority and Hazleton Creek Properties are seeking a release of liability by cleaning up and redeveloping the site to the standards set forth in the special industrial area agreement. In order to receive the release of liability, Hazleton Creek Properties must address and remediate all threats to public health or the environment encountered during the project life.

The property once was part of the Hazleton Shaft Colliery that was abandoned in the 1940s. Hazleton Creek Properties proposes to reclaim the site and construct a 20,000-seat amphitheater and other commercial development.

For more information on the remediation of abandoned industrial sites, visit the DEP website at www.depweb.state.pa.us, Keyword: “Land Recycling.”

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