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## **Valley Creek Sewage Leak**

On Saturday March 17, a stream watch volunteer in Valley Forge National Historical Park spotted sewage effluent running into Valley Creek, apparently emerging from the Tredyffrin Township Municipal Authority's sanitary sewer force main. Public works staff from Tredyffrin Township and resource management staff from Valley Forge NHP came to the scene and, with support from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, began a containment that continues. It is estimated that approximately 15,000 gallons of effluent flowed into the creek before the leak was contained.

Valley Creek is an Exceptional Value stream with a Class A fishery. It provides habitat for a naturally reproducing brown trout population, as well as for numerous additional species. No fish kill has been observed, and no effluent is currently detected in the stream.

A 20 x 30' wide, 15' deep pit was excavated to expose the 30" pipe and contain the leaking effluent. Using convoys of tanker trucks, the effluent was pumped from the pit and carried off-site to a sewage treatment plant. Divers were able to locate the break in the pipe, which appears to be 2" wide and 8" long. A first attempt to repair the pipe was not successful, although a temporary patch, containing the leak. A protection boom has been placed in the stream as a precaution. Erosion and sedimentation control measures have been placed to prevent silt from reaching the stream. The authority has been able to reduce pressure on the pipe, and the current leakage is minimal and being controlled. These containment actions will continue until a full repair is completed.

Additional equipment is being shipped in to bypass the break in order to permanently repair the line.

Because the area is an active construction site, Valley Forge NHP has closed it to the public. Wilson Road and Library Lane are closed and no parking is permitted. The trails adjacent to Valley Creek north of the turnpike are closed. The section of Valley Creek between the Turnpike Bridge and Wilson Road is closed to fishing.

A final repair to the pipe could take several weeks. Cleanup and remediation of the area already are underway. The area will remain closed to public use until all work is completed. For more information, contact Rhonda Schier at 610-783-1008.