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NEWS FROM THE PEQUANNOCK RIVER COALITION

Quarry Damages West Brook

September 23, 2011

Last week while monitoring the West Brook we found a section of the brook coated with grey silt, destroying all the critical insect life. Further investigation showed the source to be a small stream that enters the West Brook about a half-mile west of Magee Road. This stream was once a gravel-bedded jewel, flowing cold and crystal-clear into the West Brook. Now it is floored with a thick layer of grey sediment, courtesy of the Saddle Mountain Quarry on West Brook Road in Ringwood. In places the silt is half-a-foot deep. The entire stream has been utterly destroyed. Worse, this oozing layer is migrating into the West Brook and eventually into the Wanaque Reservoir. A true disaster! Photos are below.



This was not a complete shock. In our opinion, the Saddle Mountain Quarry has been a ticking time-bomb for the West Brook. In the past, sediment from the quarry has frequently clouded the water of the pristine brook, reaching it through tributaries that pass through the quarry. Since this is a pristine trout-production waterway, it is as sensitive as any in the state and terribly exposed. Now, the sediment control for the quarry has proven a horrendous failure.

We have filed a complaint with the NJDEP and we know investigators have visited the site. So far, our follow-up inquiries have gone unanswered. From our perspective, the sediment needs to be removed NOW, before it does any more damage or spreads any farther. We are certain this clean-up will be expensive, but the cost for inaction could be much higher.

Once again, we ask that you contact the NJDEP and let it be known that the situation needs immediate attention. Address your emails to:

Armand.Perez@dep.state.nj.us
Marcedius.Jameson@dep.state.nj.us
Larry.Baier@dep.state.nj.us

Believe me; your messages do make a big difference. We'll keep you posted.

For more information:

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