



P.O. Box 392 • Newfoundland NJ 07435 • (Phone) 973-492-3212

---

## NEWS FROM THE PEQUANNOCK RIVER COALITION

---

### More on the West Brook

September 26, 2011

To all:

I received the message below from the NJDEP concerning the West Brook. It sounds like the state is on top of this and is taking appropriate action. I greatly appreciate the emails folks sent in to support our concerns.

We will follow up and make sure the waterways are being fully restored.

Thanks!

Ross Kushner, Executive Director  
Pequannock River Coalition  
P.O. Box 392  
Newfoundland, NJ 07435  
[www.pequannockriver.org](http://www.pequannockriver.org)  
(973)492-3212

-----Original Message-----

From: Larry Baier [mailto:Larry.Baier@dep.state.nj.us]  
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2011 5:09 PM  
To: brynap@aol.com; mattberge@gmail.com; mhsmediaruth@gmail.com; richardmklein@gmail.com; wtomiello@optimum.net; josippie@optonline.net; pqguy@optonline.net; stephen.minett@prudential.com; anthony.g.sous@wellsfargoadvisors.com; SebetichM@wpunj.edu; hloribaumann@yahoo.com; otilia4@yahoo.com  
Cc: Armand Perez; Lisa Barno; Marcedius Jameson; Rich Paull; Pat.Hamilton@earthlink.net  
Subject: Re: Quarry Damages West Brook

Dear Friends of the Environment,

Thank you for your recent e-mails concerning excessive siltation of a tributary to West Brook emanating from the Saddle Mountain Quarry, In response to your complaint the Department's Bureau of Coastal and Land Use Enforcement and Northern Water Enforcement sent investigators to this site late last week and again today.

The cause of the problem appears to be the failure of Saddle Mountain Quarry to evaluate the freeboard in a settling pond before directing washwater to it. It overtopped a berm, with some of it leaving the property. The quarry ceased the discharge of washwater into the basin until the required freeboard (storage) could be reestablished, has secured the settling basin, and fixed the berm. The Department will require that the quarry create a revised SOP to ensure that employees of the quarry inspect the settling pond and determine

that the pond has adequate freeboard prior to any future discharge into it. Eliminating the discharge and the potential for a repeat event was our primary objective.

We are continuing to consult with the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries to determine the best course of remedial action for the tributary. We are keenly aware that this is one of only a handful of streams in the State where rainbow trout successfully reproduce (in the spring). At present, I am advised that clean up of the sediment in the stream is proceeding by hand. In addition, we have required the quarry to place temporary sediment barriers in the tributary to reduce potential migration of resuspended sediment into the West Brook. However, we are monitoring these activities closely due to our concern that the remedial actions taken to clean up the tributary might impact additional trout spawning habitat downstream in the West Brook. We are also concerned that the methods employed to remove the sediment might eliminate potential spawning substrate in the tributary itself. Lastly, we are concerned that hand removal may not be effective at removing enough sediment to fully restore the stream bed. Consequently we are evaluating the potential to use vacuum equipment in addition to or in lieu of hand removal of the sediment. We are being cautious in our approach to be sure that the remedy doesn't compound the problem.

Thank you for your patience and your continued vigilance and environmental concern.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Baier, Chief  
NJDEP, Bureau of Coastal and Land Use Enforcement