

PRESS RELEASE

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Potomac Riverkeeper Network Posts \$1000 Reward for Information Identifying Source of Potomac River Oil Plume

Washington, D.C. (December 1, 2016) Potomac Riverkeeper Network announced today that it is offering a \$1000 reward for information identifying those responsible for the plume of pollution in the Potomac River that forced area water utilities to take measures to protect the drinking water of millions of area residents this week.

An oily substance floating on the surface of the river was identified last Sunday about 45 miles upstream of the District, near Point of Rocks, Maryland. River models predict that it could arrive in the District as soon as today or tomorrow. Local utilities have set booms, closed intakes and/or increased the frequency of monitoring to avoid introducing the unidentified pollution into municipal water supplies.

“Our rivers are vital to our health and our economy. When individuals or corporations use these public resources as their private dump, it impacts us all. That’s why we’re offering a reward to encourage anyone who saw something, to say something,” says Dean Naujoks, Potomac Riverkeeper.

“The sheer size of our watershed demands that citizens play a role in its protection. Our organization was founded on the idea that those closest to our rivers — through their work or their recreation — are best able to identify and prevent pollution. The more people realize how valuable our rivers are, and play a role in protecting them, the more likely we are to prevent situations like this,” says Jeff Kelble, President of Potomac Riverkeeper Network.

The EPA is the lead federal agency coordinating the response and spearheading the investigation to identify the source of the pollution. Potomac Riverkeeper Network will pass along information it receives to EPA to aid in their investigation.

Tips about potential sources of this pollution can be reported to Potomac Riverkeeper Network at <http://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/report-pollution-how-to/>

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*Headquartered in Washington, DC, Potomac Riverkeeper Network and its three Riverkeepers; Potomac, Shenandoah, and Upper Potomac, work to protect the public's right to clean water in our rivers and streams. We stop pollution to promote safe drinking water, protect healthy river habitats, and enhance public use and enjoyment. Over the last decade, our call for clean drinking water has reached millions of residents living in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.
www.prknetwork.org*