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Last Updated: 11:48 am | Wednesday, December 19, 2007

# EPA: Old Peters site not polluting

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**KINGS MILLS** – An abandoned munitions factory on the shores of the Little Miami River is not leaching pollution into the popular waterway, state environmental officials announced Wednesday.

That conclusion came from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's study last summer – the first examination since the late 1990s – of fish and other aquatic life along a nearly a four-mile stretch of the Little Miami River near the old Peters Cartridge Co. factory in Warren County.

"It's a very healthy river and it's doing just great," said Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski. "The job now is to keep it that way."



According to the report, part of the series of tests being done by state and local volunteers of the Green Acres Foundation, the Little Miami River's aquatic creatures were relatively healthy in 1998 and are more so now. Moreover, there are no unhealthy levels of heavy metals leaching into the river from the old industrial site, which stopped production of gunpowder and ammunition in 1944.

"Biological communities have improved in the Little Miami River ... although the 1998 results documented exceptional conditions, further improvement of index scores was observed during 2007," the report said.

"River sediments were tested for heavy metals, and results were within acceptable ecological levels. Biological community results for this study documented that the Peters Cartridge facility currently is not causing impairment to the Little Miami River."

The \$18,000 study, sponsored by DuPont, the latest owner of the Peters factory site, will be incorporated into a larger, three-year, OEPA study of the entire lower Little Miami River that will be released in 2009.

Despite the good news, OEPA officials recommended that those fishing the river continue to follow a general rule of not eating more than one sport fish meal from the river – or any other Ohio waterway – per week.

The river has been named a State and National Scenic River and attracts thousands of sport fishers, canoeists and hikers every year. Many cyclists enjoy the nearby Little Miami Bike Trail that runs past the old plant.

The Peters property was declared a federal hazardous waste site in 1996.

Booming residential and commercial development in the area – Warren County is Ohio's second-fastest-growing county – has some worried that the dozen-plus waste water treatment plants along the river and its tributaries might not be adequate to maintain water quality.

Carter Randolph, a Green Acres official, has lived for 40 years in Hamilton County's Symmes Township, about one quarter mile from the river.

"Development in this area often gets ahead of the river improvement. Then the river quality catches up by improving in quality. The trick now is to keep the river quality ahead of the development," said Randolph.



If you go

On the second Saturday of each month – March through November – citizen volunteers spend about an hour collecting water and other samples from the Little Miami River in Warren and northern Hamilton counties.

And on Jan. 12 the local Green Acres Foundation is sponsoring a public brunch for current and prospective volunteers who might want to join the efforts to preserve the lower Little Miami River watershed area in Southwest Ohio. Those interested in the latest report on the river's quality are invited to the fifth annual Saturday Stream Snapshot Data Sharing Brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Izaak Walton League Lodge, 544 Branch Hill-Loveland Road in Loveland.

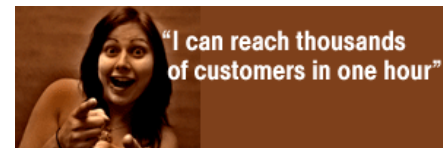
For more information go to <http://www.green-acres.org/> and click on "water quality."

To view the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's latest study of the Little Miami River near the Peters Cartridge Co., go to [http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/document\\_index/psdindx.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/document_index/psdindx.html)

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