



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 15, 2013

**EVERGREEN CONSERVANCY HONORED FOR  
STREAM MONITORING**

*Innovative Program for Round-the-Clock Water Quality Checks  
Wins Western Pennsylvania Environmental Award*

**Indiana, Pa.**— An innovative program to tackle the problem of non-point source pollution, one of the most challenging water quality problems in Pennsylvania, is a winner of the 2013 Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards, announced today by Dominion and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

Representatives of the Evergreen Conservancy, which created this program, will accept the award at the Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards Dinner and Awards Ceremony on Thursday, May 23, 2013 at the Westin Convention Center Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh. The award is presented for leadership, effectiveness and results in making an impact on the environment by Dominion and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and includes a \$5,000 donation.

Non-point source pollution is one of the major water quality problems in Pennsylvania, and one that cannot be easily addressed due to the difficulty of locating the source. With the start of unconventional deep well natural gas drilling in Indiana County, there was a new concern for the water quality in local waterways.

So the Evergreen Conservancy began a water quality initiative to continuously monitor streams, examine potential non-point source pollution and establish guidelines for reporting potential pollution problems. They installed 31 monitoring devices in streams throughout the county where problems with Marcellus shale, acid mine drainage, sewage, erosion, sedimentation, or other potential non-point source pollution may occur in order to monitor the streams for potential pollution events. If a spike in conductivity is noted, Evergreen representatives could notify state and local officials to pinpoint the source of the problem and the responsible party.

Evergreen then partnered with the Indiana County Emergency Management department to install four more monitors in streams near areas that have experienced a high incidence of chemical spills and leaks. These monitors can notify Evergreen and Emergency Management

immediately after such an incident, allowing for a rapid response and preventing spills and leaks from becoming damaging pollution problems.

This project is one of five winners from throughout Western Pennsylvania chosen by a group of independent judges of environmental experts and Pennsylvania Environmental Council staff in response to a call for entries earlier this year.

All entries were judged on the basis of their relevance to local environmental priorities, evidence of their impact on the environment, their approach to solving an environmental problem, and the environmental benefit of their work.

The Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards program is open to individuals and organizations that demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence, leadership and accomplishment, and made significant contributions toward improving Western Pennsylvania's environment. Dominion and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council sponsor the Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards each year to encourage the community to emulate the achievements of the winning entries, thereby promoting innovative environmental efforts and enhancing the quality of life in Western Pennsylvania.

#### **About the Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards**

The Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards recognizes and honors outstanding achievements of organizations, businesses, and individuals in a wide range of environmental initiatives throughout the region and pays tribute to those that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence, leadership, and accomplishment in their respective fields.

By sponsoring these awards, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Dominion hope to encourage the community to emulate the achievements of the successful nominees, thereby promoting innovative environmental efforts and enhancing the quality of life in Western Pennsylvania.

The Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards program is made possible by a grant from Dominion.

###

**Contacts:** Sally Tarhi  
Pennsylvania Environmental Council  
(412) 481-9400  
[WPEA@pecpa.org](mailto:WPEA@pecpa.org)

Cindy Rogers  
724-349-4333