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FEDERAL LAWSUIT AGAINST NL INDUSTRIES WILL MOVE FORWARD TO TRIAL

*NY/NJ Baykeeper and Edison Wetlands Association continue to advocate for
the cleanup of contaminants in the Raritan River sediments*

MATAWAN, NJ - NY/NJ Baykeeper and Edison Wetlands Association (EWA) have passed a significant legal hurdle in their effort to clean up the sediments of the Raritan River next to the site where NL (formerly National Lead) operated a titanium dioxide plant. Judge Michael A. Shipp issued an opinion determining that NY/NJ Baykeeper and EWA have constitutional standing to sue NL on March 27. Testimony from the environmental groups was critical to Judge Shipp's decision in moving the case forward to trial.

In 2009, NY/NJ Baykeeper and EWA filed a federal lawsuit against NL with the purpose of compelling the cleanup of contaminated sediments in the Raritan River bordering the current Riverton development project. NL contaminated the sediments of the Raritan River with arsenic, copper, lead, nickel, and zinc for decades, through discharges that continued even after its plant closed. These contaminants may pose a substantial risk to wildlife and human health.

"NY/NJ Baykeeper and its allies are here for the long haul to ensure that the Lower Raritan River gets cleaned and that the polluter, NL, pays – not the public. And the Judge just ruled that we're the right folks to do it," said Greg Remaud, Acting Director of NY/NJ Baykeeper.

“Raritan Riverkeeper’s concern is the overall health and wellbeing of the river and its occupants and users. Our testimony demonstrated that use of the river for fishing, SCUBA diving, paddling and other recreational uses has been diminished by NL’s activities,” said Bill Schultz, Raritan Riverkeeper.

NY/NJ Baykeeper and EWA are represented in their lawsuit against NL by Terris, Pravlik & Millian, LLP.

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About NY/NJ Baykeeper

NY/NJ Baykeeper is the citizen advocate of the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary. Since 1989, we’ve worked to protect, preserve, and restore the environment of the most urban estuary on Earth – benefiting its natural and human communities. Through our Estuary-wide programs we seek to end pollution, improve public access, conserve and restore public lands, restore aquatic habitats, encourage appropriate development and discourage inappropriate development, carry out public education, and work with federal and NY/NJ state regulators and citizen groups as partners in planning for a sustainable future for the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary watershed. Raritan Riverkeeper is a program of the NY/NJ Baykeeper. To learn more, visit www.nynjbaykeeper.org.

Protecting, preserving, and restoring the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary since 1989.
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