

PA DEP will be conducting an aerial black fly (biting gnat) larviciding operation along the Delaware River and Lehigh River on Monday, July 17, 2017. This aerial activity will utilize a helicopter to apply Vectobac 12AS (also known as B.t.i.) to the aforementioned waterways in Bucks, Lehigh, and Northampton counties in PA and Mercer, Hunterdon, and Warren counties in NJ.

Work on the Delaware River will take place between the Slateford area of Northampton Co and the Yardley area of Bucks Co. Work on the Lehigh will take place between Allentown and Easton.

The B.t.i. material is a naturally occurring bacteria (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*) that kills the immature (larval) form of the black fly when they feed on it in the waterways. This application of B.t.i. is not toxic to fish or other aquatic macroinvertebrates found in the treated waterways.

The activity will begin at approximately 08:30. The helicopter will apply B.t.i. to designated areas every few miles along the treated waterways. Application is done by first circling the area to look for people on the ground or obstructions in the air. Then, the helicopter will fly perpendicular to the water flow (whenever possible) and apply the B.t.i. material which is a brown, viscous liquid with a fish oil odor to it. Work will progress north on the Delaware River from Yardley.

The helicopter used for this operation will be N659HA, a gray/red/blue Bell OH-58. The aircraft is operated by Helicopter Applicators of Gettysburg, PA. I will be on site at all landing zones managing the operation.

Any questions about the operation may be directed to me. Product label and SDS are available upon request.

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<http://www.dep.pa.gov/blackfly>

For more information on the Black Fly:

<http://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/CleanWater/BlackFly/Pages/default.aspx>