



*The ARAMARK Tower
1101 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2994*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Pollutionopolis, America's Most Disgusting Town,
Unveiled at Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center**

PHILADELPHIA, August 1 — It's a weird place to visit and you really, really wouldn't want to live there.

Welcome to Pollutionopolis, America's most contaminated and disgusting city.

Pollutionopolis isn't a real place, of course, but rather a new sculptural installation that debuted here today at the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center. The Center, Philadelphia's premier eco-tourism attraction, will open on Sept. 19.

"Pollutionopolis is a fun and whimsical sculpture with a very serious message," said Kumar Kishinchand, Philadelphia's water commissioner, who unveiled the work with Philip R. Goldsmith, the city's managing director.

"Virtually every object in Pollutionopolis shows some way humans have of polluting rivers and streams," Kishinchand added.

And there are plenty of objects for visitors of all ages to the Interpretive Center to see, including:

A towering smokestack that emits chemicals contributing to acid rain? Check. A mine that sends spent water into the river? You bet. A large pipe that discharges human and industrial waste? Sure. A lawn mower that scatters clippings into the sewer system? Yes. A cute stuffed rat to remind you where you are? Naturally.



"YUCK!" says Megan Marengo, 10 mos., in a completely proper reaction to Pollutionopolis, America's most contaminated and disgusting town. The sculpture will soon be joined by other exhibits currently being installed at the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center, which will open Sept. 19.

Note to editors: Other Pollutionopolis and Interpretive Center images are available.

Pollutionopolis is the brainchild of Steve Feldman, head of Steve Feldman Design, a Philadelphia firm. Quinlan Scenic Studios, of Marcus Hook, Pa., sculpted the installation.

Feldman said Pollutionopolis incorporates many found objects to make the sculpture's environmental point.

"We use real car parts, tires, plastic bottles and an oil drum to draw a connection between visitors' lives and Pollutionopolis," he said.

"They see and use those objects every day. There's no escaping the impression that we all have a stake in pollution and its prevention," Feldman noted.

Another installation, Hidden River, by internationally acclaimed environmental artist Stacy Levy, was also unveiled at the ceremony.

The Interpretive Center is housed within the Fairmount Water Works, a complex of graceful neo-classical buildings nestled beside the Schuylkill River. When completed, the center will feature an Urban Watershed exhibit, a Water laboratory, a Water Wheel replica, a Turbine Technology exhibit, a classroom, an audio-visual theater, interpretive displays, river balconies, an esplanade and a watershed technology center.

The center will be able to accommodate 100,000 visitors yearly and will be completely ADA accessible.

The Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center is a project of the Philadelphia Water Department

###