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Preservation Work at the Carrie Furnaces National Historic Landmark

Homestead, PA - Earlier this week, Rivers of Steel began the initial stages of preservation work on the draft stack for the Carrie Furnaces National Historic Landmark in Swissvale, PA. Because the draft stack is a "contributing structure" to the National Historic Landmark status of the Carrie Furnaces, the stack must be restored to its original character.

Restoration of the stack is happening in two phases. Phase one, which began this week, focuses on the deconstruction of the top 75 feet of the 225-foot stack in order to stabilize the structure and to protect the surrounding buildings. With funding from Allegheny County, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the National Park Service, Rivers of Steel has engaged Songer Services, Inc. of Washington, PA to perform this work.

The deconstruction phase is projected to take about one month, and is scheduled for times when the site is not open to the public. Regular public tours times on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays will continue during the deconstruction phase.

August R. Carlino, President and Chief Executive Officer of Rivers of Steel said this work is part of the organization's ongoing efforts to preserve Carrie Furnaces. "Every dollar we raise - whether it is from a grant, a donation, a paid visitor, or from an event held at Carrie Furnaces – goes back into their preservation, stabilization, and restoration. The more Rivers of Steel does in restoration and stabilization, the opportunities for Carrie expand and increase, and that generate more tax revenue for the local governments and creates more jobs."

Phase two - the restoration of the stack - will require a separate fundraising campaign in advance of the work. At this time, a schedule for phase two is indefinite. Parties interested in supporting this preservation work are encouraged to speak with Lisa Connelly, Director of Development, at 412.464.4020, ext. 66 or email lconnelly@riversofsteel.com.

Rivers of Steel Heritage Corporation is a non-profit that manages the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, an eight-county region and one of 49 such organizations as designated by Congress. Its mission, in partnership with the National Park Service and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, is to conserve the industrial, cultural, natural, and recreational resources of southwestern Pennsylvania.

For more information on Rivers of Steel, please visit riversofsteel.com or contact Carly McCoy at cmccoy@riversofsteel.com.