

PA Environment Digest

An Update On Environmental Issues In Pennsylvania
Edited By: David E. Hess
Former Secretary, PA Department of Environmental Protection

Issue #743

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Sept. 24, 2018

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LancasterOnline.com: Health Dept. Confirms 2 Deaths In PA From West Nile Virus, 33 Human Cases Statewide

[Heather Stauffer, LancasterOnline.com, Friday](#) reported the Department of Health has confirmed 2 deaths from [West Nile Virus](#) so far this season-- one each in Lancaster and Lebanon counties.

Statewide the Department of Health has confirmed 33 human cases of West Nile Virus.

Certain mosquito species carry the West Nile virus, which can cause humans to contract West Nile encephalitis, an infection that can result in an inflammation of the brain. According to the Department of Health, all residents in areas where virus activity has been identified are at risk of contracting West Nile encephalitis.

Weeks of unusually wet weather this summer has led to almost perfected conditions for mosquito breeding, and breeding season will not be over until the first, hard killing frost.

Individuals can take a number of precautionary measures around their homes to help eliminate mosquito-breeding areas, including:

- Dispose of cans, buckets, plastic containers, ceramic pots, or similar containers that hold water.
- Properly dispose of discarded tires that can collect water. Stagnant water is where most mosquitoes breed.
- Drill holes in the bottom of outdoor recycling containers.
- Have clogged roof gutters cleaned every year as the leaves from surrounding trees have a tendency to plug drains.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and don't let water stagnate in birdbaths.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools not in use and remove any water that may collect on pool covers.



If a resident has stagnant pools of water on their property, they can buy Bti (short for *Bacillus thuringiensis subsp. israelensis*) products at lawn and garden, outdoor supply, home improvement and other stores. This naturally occurring bacterium kills mosquito larvae, but is safe for people, pets, aquatic life and plants.

Additionally, these simple precautions can prevent mosquito bites, particularly for people who are most at risk:

- Make sure screens fit tightly over doors and windows to keep mosquitoes out of homes.
- Consider wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks when outdoors, particularly when mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk, or in areas known for having large numbers of mosquitoes.
- When possible, reduce outdoor exposure at dawn and dusk during peak mosquito periods, usually April through October.
- Use insect repellents according to the manufacturer's instructions. An effective repellent will contain DEET, picardin, or lemon eucalyptus oil. Consult with a pediatrician or family physician for questions about the use of repellent on children, as repellent is not recommended for children under the age of two months.

For more information about West Nile virus and the state's surveillance and control program, please visit the [West Nile Virus](#) website. [Note: Unfortunately this website is not being updated.]

NewsClips:

[PA Reports 2 Human Deaths From West Nile Virus In Lancaster, Lebanon Counties With 11 West Nile Virus Cases, Philly Asks Residents To Help Bad Year For Birds With West Nile In Pennsylvania](#)

[Posted: Sept. 21, 2018]

CFA Funds 359 Projects To Improve Water Infrastructure & Recreation, Restore Watersheds



Gov. Tom Wolf Tuesday announced the [Commonwealth Financing Authority](#) approved funding for 359 new projects-- \$16.2 million to support 123 projects using funds collected from the Act 13 drilling impact fee on unconventional gas wells in the Marcellus Shale-- and nearly \$50 million to support 236 Small Water and Sewer Program projects to protect and improve municipalities' water systems.

"These projects will ensure that vital services are being provided to communities all across the Commonwealth," Gov. Wolf said. "From ensuring Pennsylvanians have access to

clean water, to protecting communities from the devastating effects of flooding, to simply giving residents the chance to hike a new trail in their community, these projects will improve the quality of life for countless families and individuals across the Commonwealth."

Act 13 Funded Projects

The Marcellus Legacy Fund was created by Act 13 of 2012 to provide for the distribution of unconventional gas well impact fees to counties, municipalities, and Commonwealth agencies.

The act stipulates that a portion of the fee revenue will be [transferred to the CFA for](#)

[statewide initiatives](#) that will include abandoned mine drainage abatement, abandoned well plugging, sewage treatment, greenways, trails and recreation, baseline water quality data, watershed restoration, and flood control.

The 123 Act 13 projects approved by the Authority are located in 38 counties. The total funding amount is \$16.2 million. The approved projects include--

- **Abandoned Mine Drainage Abatement:** One project approved, \$500,000 total
- **Flood Mitigation:** 12 projects approved; \$2,886,069 total
- **Greenways, Trails and Recreation:** 90 projects approved; \$10,586,673 total
- **Orphan or Abandoned Well Plugging:** One project approved; \$20,624 total
- **Sewage Facilities:** Four projects approved; \$231,328 total
- **Watershed Restoration and Protection:** 15 projects approved; \$1,993,662 total

[Click Here](#) for a complete list of Act 13 projects approved highlighted in pale yellow.

Small Water/Sewer Projects

The [PA Small Water and Sewer Program](#) provides grants to assist municipalities with the construction, improvement, expansion, or repair of their water supplies or sanitary sewer systems.

The small water and sewer projects approved by the Authority range from the construction of a new pump station to ensure reliable-long term public drinking water and fire protection in Houtzdale, Clearfield County; the replacement of vitrified clay sewer pipe with new PVC pipe that can meet system demand during storm events in Mt. Jewett, McKean County; the replacement of old and leaky fire hydrants that contribute to contaminated water in Boswell, Somerset County; and the construction of a new 150,000-gallon welded steel water storage tank in Valley View, Schuylkill County.

Other projects include improvements and replacements of water mains, water treatment plants, sewer systems, and water line extensions in hundreds of municipalities in 49 counties across the Commonwealth. The total funding amount is just under \$50 million.

[Click Here](#) for a complete list of Small Water and Sewer projects approved highlighted in yellow.

For more information on environmental and energy project funding, visit the [Commonwealth Financing Authority](#) webpage.

NewsClips:

[CFA Distributes Millions To Benefit Western PA Recreation, Watershed, Water Infrastructure Work](#)

[Sewer, Recreation Projects Get State Funding In Lackawanna County](#)

[Luzerne County Towns To Share More Than \\$1.5 Million In Recreation, Water Grants](#)

[13 Projects In Luzerne County Receive Water, Recreations Funding](#)

[Danville Awarded \\$200K State Grant For Mahoning Creek](#)

[Grants To Boost Unity Businesses, Improve Derry Sewage Facilities](#)

[Sen. Corman Announces \\$880,000 In State Grants For Water, Sewer Projects](#)

[Sen. Corman: Wildlife For Everyone Foundation To Receive \\$250K For Wildlife Center](#)

[Sen. Corman Announces \\$150,000 In State Funds For Centre County Recreation Area](#)

[Sen. Corman Announces \\$18,173 Grant For Halderman Park, Juniata County](#)

[Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Firming Up Fee Proposal For Regional Stormwater Solutions](#)

[Letter: Reauthorize Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund](#)

[Bill By Cong. Cartwright Would Eliminate Federal Coal Royalty Loophole](#)

Stories Related To This Announcement:

[DCNR Announces Trail Improvement Grants At Laurel Highlands Trail Summit In Cambria County](#)

[Wildlife For Everyone Foundation Receives Grant For Wildlife Center At Tom Ridge Wetlands Preserve In Centre County](#)

Related Stories This Week:

[Bay Journal: Op-Ed: Flood Of 10 Million Trees Could Help Offset Impact Of Future PA Deluges House Committee Meets Sept. 24 To Consider Bill Creating Keystone Tree Fund](#)

[NRCS-PA Now Accepting Applications For Financial, Technical Farm, Forest Conservation Assistance](#)

[NRCS-PA Accepting Applications For Emergency Watershed Protection Assistance In PA; DEP To Pay 25% Local Share](#)

[Stroud Water Research Center Premiere Of Lay Of The Land: Healthy Soils, Healthy Waters Film Oct. 11, Lancaster](#)

[Posted: Sept. 18, 2018]

DCNR Announces Trail Improvement Grants At Laurel Highlands Trail Summit In Cambria County



Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn Tuesday joined hiking and trail enthusiasts from the [Laurel Highlands region](#) to outline major trail improvements enriching the outdoors experience in an area renowned for its wealth of natural resources.

Reflecting a state investment of almost \$550,000, six projects improving regional trails were outlined by the secretary at the annual [Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Trail Summit](#).

“In an area graced with abundant waterways, state parks, and forestlands, it’s difficult to improve upon this region’s natural bounty, but the Wolf

Administration is doing just that -- extending and improving trails where our DCNR experts see the need,” Dunn said. “We know the public supports a growing trail network to explore and appreciate this wealth of environmental beauty.”

The secretary noted trail-use by hikers, bikers, and others figured prominently in a recent Outdoor Industry Association study that found Pennsylvania’s outdoor recreation industry is the 5th largest in the nation.

“That same study showed Pennsylvania’s outdoor recreation economy generates \$29 billion in consumer spending; \$1.9 billion in state and local tax revenue and \$8.6 billion in wages and salaries,” Dunn said. “It also sustains 251,000 direct Pennsylvania jobs.”

Totaling \$539,500, DCNR investments in the Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape will focus on the region’s [Ghost Town Trail](#). Project recipients include:

-- **Indiana County, \$222,000**, for development of a Ghost Town Trail Extension and [Hoodlebug](#)

[Trail](#) Extension. Work would include preparation of drawings and specifications to be used for advertising, bidding, and construction of two pedestrian bridges, ADA access, landscaping, sign, and other related site improvements. Also, development of approximately two miles of trail

-- **Indiana County, \$24,500** for development of the Raxis Access Area, a 3-acre site at the mid-point on the Ghost Town trail in Buffington Township. Work would include construction of a comfort station/maintenance building, parking lot, utilities, landscaping, and sign

-- **Indiana County, \$78,000**, for the purchase a specialized four-wheel drive tractor with front loader

-- **Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority, \$100,000**, for rehabilitation of the Raxis Branch section of the Ghost Town Trail. Work would include streambank and trail restoration; installation of riparian buffer, ADA access, landscaping, signage, and other related site improvements

-- **Cambria County, \$50,000** for construction of the Red Mill Bridge on the Raxis Branch of the Ghost Town Trail. The bridge is in Blacklick Township, Cambria County

-- **Nanty Glo Borough, Cambria County, \$65,000** for further development of Ghost Town Trail/McMullen Memorial Field Complex. Work would include construction of comfort station/concession stand, parking, pedestrian walkway; installation of fencing, site amenities, landscaping, ADA access, signage, and other related site improvements

Conservation Landscapes are place-based strategies for natural resource stewardship and advocacy in key landscapes across the state where there are strong natural assets and local readiness.

They are marked by support for land conservation, locally-driven planning and community revitalization efforts.

The [Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape](#) works in Westmoreland, Fayette, Somerset, and Cambria counties, with most attention focused on four featured sub-landscapes: Laurel Ridge, Chestnut Ridge, the Great Allegheny Passage, and the Stonycreek-Quemahoning Initiative.

[Click Here](#) to see the other Conservation Landscape areas around the state.

Pennsylvania has more than 12,000 miles of trails stretching across the state. They can be found by visiting the [Explore PA Trails](#) website.

DCNR Grants

[**Note:** PA Recreation & Park Society, DCNR will hold Community Conservation grant [Workshops In October and November](#) for potential applicants.]

For more information on state parks and forests and recreation in Pennsylvania, visit [DCNR's website](#), [Click Here](#) to sign up for the Resource newsletter, Visit the [Good Natured](#) DCNR Blog, [Click Here](#) for upcoming events, [Click Here](#) to hook up with DCNR on other social media-- Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

(Photo: Secretary Dunn with Cambria County Commissioner Thomas C. Chernisky (left) and William "B.J." Smith (right).)

NewsClip:

[Laurel Highlands Summit Showcases Health, Economic Benefits Of Local Trails](#)

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[PA Trails Advisory Committee Seeking Applications For 7 Positions](#)

[Western PA Trail Volunteer Fund Seeking Project Grant Applications](#)

[Manada Conservancy: A Walk In Penn's Woods Oct. 7 In Dauphin County At DeHart Dam](#)

[Posted: Sept. 18, 2018]

Wildlife For Everyone Foundation Receives Grant For Wildlife Center At Tom Ridge Wetlands Preserve In Centre County



The [Wildlife For Everyone Foundation](#) received a \$250,000 grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority Tuesday to kick off planning and construction of the [Wildlife Center at the Tom Ridge Wetlands Preserve](#) in Huston Township, Centre County.

The Foundation's proposed Wildlife Center will be an ADA-certified, outdoor learning space and nature observatory that will feature a one-mile, accessible trail allowing all individuals to experience nature regardless of their physical limitation.

"The planned Wildlife Center will significantly improve the quality of life for our community and region by providing increased access to our natural resources," said Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman (R-Centre), who supported the Foundation's bid for state grant money.

"This is an exciting project that not only encourages people to get out and experience nature, it makes experiencing the outdoors accessible to everyone. It's yet another example of why our community is a great place to live and visit," added Sen. Corman.

The Wildlife Center project addresses the shortage of accessible natural areas across the state that offer passive recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities.

This project will meet or exceed all ADA requirements and provide full accessibility, allowing persons with physical challenges to navigate easily from the parking lot to all features of the Center including the trail loop, picnic facilities and restrooms.

The project will include a one-mile accessible boardwalk with benches and observation areas, educational pavilion with picnic tables, interpretive signage and restrooms. A handicap-accessible fishing platform is also planned.

Stream restoration on 660 feet of Bald Eagle Creek where the fishing pier will be constructed is scheduled for October 2018.

The 135-acre property gifted to the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation by the WHM Group in 2010 includes 55 acres of mitigated wetlands.

The Ridge and Julian Wetlands attract over 190 species of birds as migrants or breeding residents.

The accessible Wildlife Center will capitalize on the beauty of the wetlands for the

aesthetic, educational and recreational value it offers its visitors. Groundbreaking is planned for the summer of 2019.

“I am thrilled after 18 months of planning with our talented committee to receive this crucial grant for our new Wildlife Center project from the Department of Community and Economic Development,” said Jerry Regan, Chair of the Wetlands Project for the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation. “We can now get to work on the detailed drawing and bid the project out this winter. If all goes to plan, we will begin construction in the summer and have a dedication next fall. Creating accessibility for everyone is the keystone of this project and when completed, it will become a crown jewel in our state’s rich outdoor heritage.”

DCNR Grants

[**Note:** PA Recreation & Park Society, DCNR will hold Community Conservation grant [Workshops In October and November](#) for potential applicants.]

For more information on programs, initiatives, projects and how you can become involved, visit the [Wildlife For Everyone Foundation](#) website.

(Photo: Steve Dershem, Centre County Commissioner; Barb Schroeder, Public Relations Coordinator, Wildlife for Everyone Foundation (WFEF); Ashley Diehl, WFEF Board member; Janet Nyce, Vice Chair, WFEF Board; Jake Corman, PA Senator; Glenn Thompson, U.S. Representative; and Denny Coleman, Wildlife Center Committee member in front.)

NewsClip:

[Sen. Corman: Wildlife For Everyone Foundation To Receive \\$250K For Wildlife Center](#)

Related Stories:

[Governor's Hunting, Fishing, Conservation Advisory Council Opposes Hawn's Bridge Peninsula Development At Raystown Lake](#)

[Bay Journal: Invasive Northern Snakeheads Found In Octoraro Creek, Lancaster County](#)

[Penn State: Few Hatchery Brook Trout Genes Present In PA Watershed Wild Fish](#)

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[Manada Conservancy: A Walk In Penn's Woods Oct. 7 In Dauphin County At DeHart Dam](#)

[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

DCNR: Pennsylvania Offers Fall Foliage Reports For Residents, Travelers Starting Sept.

27



Starting September 27, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will begin its [weekly Fall Foliage Reports](#), updated every Thursday, to help residents and travelers experience Autumn as it unfolds across the

Commonwealth.

Fall foliage typically peaks for several weeks near the beginning of October across Pennsylvania.

Visitors can get suggestions about the best spots to view fall foliage on the [Penn's Woods Fall Foliage story map](#) and on the [Pennsylvania Tourism Office](#) website.

"With 121 state parks and more than 2.2 million acres of state forestland, Pennsylvanians are truly blessed with an abundance of prime fall-foliage viewing areas," said DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn. "Across the state, our park personnel and foresters look forward to recommending both the best times and locations to glimpse our autumn woodlands in all their splendor."

While the leaves are the star of the show, Pennsylvania is abounding with great festivals, pick-your-own farms, and unrivaled haunted attractions that make the state the obvious choice for autumn.

Each year, Pennsylvania's nearly 200 million domestic travelers inject an estimated \$40.8 billion into Pennsylvania's economy, generate \$4.1 billion in tax revenues, and are responsible for nearly 500,000 jobs related to or benefiting from tourism.

"Not only does Pennsylvania boast some of the best foliage in the world, it's home to some of the most fun and unique ways to view the gorgeous autumn colors," said Carrie Fischer Lepore, Deputy Secretary of the Office of Marketing, Tourism and Film in the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). "From historic train rides and scenic hikes to outdoor festivals and hillside wineries, I encourage residents and visitors alike to pursue their happiness in Pennsylvania this fall."

DCNR's [Bureau of Forestry regional experts](#) can discuss the chemistry of fall foliage color, as well as the projected outlook for fall foliage in their region of Pennsylvania.

For more information on state parks and forests and recreation in Pennsylvania, visit [DCNR's website](#), [Click Here](#) to sign up for the Resource newsletter, Visit the [Good Natured](#) DCNR Blog, [Click Here](#) for upcoming events, [Click Here](#) to hook up with DCNR on other social media-- Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

(Photo: [George Weigel: Fall Foliage In PA's Grand Canyon](#); [Leonard Harrison State Park, Tioga County](#).)

NewsClips:

[Online Fall Foliage Maps Track Seasonal Leaf Changes](#)

[DCNR Blog: Producing The Show: Pennsylvania Fall Foliage Factors](#)

[Weigel: Why Are So Many Trees Dropping Their Leaves Already?](#)

[Is An Early Fall Making The Leaves Fall Early, Or Is It Something Else?](#)

[Will Fall Equinox \(Sept. 22\) Actually Resemble Fall In Lehigh Valley?](#)

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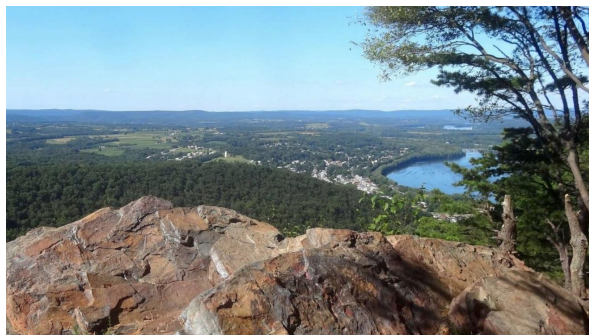
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[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

The Nature Conservancy-PA Conservation Easement Protects 1,620 Acres Along Kittatinny Ridge In Perry County



The [Nature Conservancy-PA](#) Tuesday secured a conservation easement protecting 1,620 acres in Perry County, near Marysville, after a vote by the Duncannon Borough Council.

“TNC is proud to play a key role in protecting this beautiful and ecologically important property that is already cherished by people living in the Harrisburg region,” said Bill Kunze, executive director of TNC’s office in Pennsylvania.

“Permanent protection of this land also gets us closer to our goal of protecting the entire [Kittatinny Ridge](#), a critical migration corridor for birds and other wildlife.”

TNC will enroll the property in its [Working Woodlands Program](#), which engages private landowners in sustainably managing productive forestlands to benefit wildlife and people.

“Over the years, the borough has conducted regular timber harvests in this area to generate revenue,” said Josh Parrish, director of TNC’s Working Woodlands program. “However, invasive and exotic species such as striped maple, mile-a-minute vine and tree of heaven are choking out native trees and other wildlife habitat on the property.”

In response, TNC aims to promote a more diverse, resilient native forest ecosystem that will stand up to these and other threats. Such a forest, sustainably managed and certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, will also return more timber revenues over the long-term.

One of the first steps towards reaching these goals includes developing a forest management plan that prioritizes healthy wildlife habitat, improved air and water quality, and long-term forest product revenues for the landowner.

“I am thrilled that we were able to partner with The Nature Conservancy to solidify our commitment to the responsible stewardship and maintenance of this important land resource, while gaining part of the capital we will need to stabilize and upgrade our infrastructure,” said Darryl Croutharmel, Duncannon Borough Council President.

This conservation easement comes on the heels of an acquisition made by TNC a year ago, that led to creation of the 353-acre [Cove Mountain Preserve](#). Together, the properties represent a stronghold within the Kittatinny Ridge, a chain of forested ridgetops that serves as one of the most important wildlife corridors within the northeastern U.S.

The easement also permanently protects a portion of the Sherman’s Creek Watershed from future development.

All partners involved in securing the easement, including the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, agree that managing this property for a mix of conservation, recreation and sustainable forestry will only improve the quality of water flowing from the landscape and into the Susquehanna River and, ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay.

“This most notable achievement goes far beyond benefitting the Perry County region,” said DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn. “The angler wading the Susquehanna, the boater on

the Chesapeake, they both share in the rewards of this tract's watershed protection. Meanwhile, visitors from afar are welcome to roam this acreage, land protected by our invaluable partner—The Nature Conservancy.”

The property, which boasts locally popular hikes like [Hawk Rock Overlook](#), will remain open to the public for hiking and seasonal hunting. It is also in proximity to the [Appalachian Trail](#), a world-class hiking destination and national treasure.

In addition to making improvements to the trailhead parking lot, TNC plans to develop an eight-mile loop to connect the property's lower trails to the AT and another trail overlooking the Susquehanna Water Gap.

The property will have a lower trail that features an early-1800s sawmill smokestack and path to Sherman's Creek for kayaking and canoeing.

For more information on programs, initiatives and other special events, visit the [PA Chapter of The Nature Conservancy](#) website. [Click Here](#) to sign up for updates from TNC, [Like them on Facebook](#), [Follow them on Twitter](#) and [Join them on Instagram](#). [Click Here](#) to become a member.

Grant Workshops

The [PA Recreation and Park Society](#) and DCNR are again partnering on a series of 6 workshops designed to help applicants develop project ideas in preparation of submitting a grant application to the [Community Conservation Grant Program](#) in 2019. [Click Here](#) for more.

NewsClip;

[Cable: Lancaster Farmland Trust Preserves 500th Farm In Lancaster County](#)

Related Stories:

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[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

Bay Journal: Op-Ed: Flood Of 10 Million Trees Could Help Offset Impact Of Future PA Deluges

By: Harry Campbell, [Chesapeake Bay Foundation-PA](#)



Veteran newspaper photographer [John Pavoncello](#) has been eye-to-eye with all kinds of human drama. In the short time his drone imaging business has been up and running, Pavoncello has gone above and beyond to record traumas faced by fire and law enforcement first responders.

But it was the sight of nature's powerful force that he called “crazy.”

Pavoncello was contracted by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to fly his camera over a portion of the

lower Susquehanna River after a week of relentless rainstorms in late July.

Pavoncello has seen the river at its beautiful best in spring, and bulging with damaging ice flows in winter. But never like this. The Susquehanna was an angry, swollen,

chocolate-colored torrent.

“You just don’t get the perspective standing along the bank,” Pavoncello said, thinking back on the magnitude of roiling, brown water.

This aerial perspective of the deluge of runoff illustrates powerfully the urgency that more solutions must be found on the ground.

It just so happens that one of the most ambitious and challenging efforts to reduce the pollutant payload that flows into the Susquehanna and other Commonwealth waterways is taking root.

The [Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership](#) is a collaborative effort, coordinated by the CBF, to add 10 million trees to Pennsylvania’s landscape before the end of 2025.

Trees alongside streams and streets are among the most cost-effective tools for cleaning and protecting waterways. The canopy and deep roots allow rain to soak into the soil, stabilizing streambanks, improving soil quality and keeping streams cool for fish like brook trout.

The [partnership, launched in April](#), has galvanized national, regional, state and local agencies, conservation organizations, watershed groups, conservancies, outdoors enthusiasts, businesses and individuals.

In the partnership’s first month, about 1,500 volunteers and the CBF’s restoration specialists planted 31,000 trees at more than 50 locations.

The Arbor Day Foundation, along with Pennsylvania Departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources, and Environmental Protection, are among the partners.

The Commonwealth is significantly behind in meeting its pollution-reduction commitments and the Keystone 10 Million Tree Partnership can jump-start efforts to close the gap.

Roughly [19,000 miles of Pennsylvania’s rivers and streams are impaired](#) by polluted runoff and the legacy of coal mining.

The Commonwealth’s [Clean Water Blueprint](#) calls for about 95,000 acres of forested buffers to be planted in Pennsylvania’s portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Adding 10 million new trees alongside streams, streets and other priority landscapes would accelerate the Keystone State toward its clean water goals, achieving as much as two-thirds of the 95,000-acre goal.

Special emphasis has been placed on planting trees in the Southcentral Pennsylvania counties of Lancaster, York, Adams, Cumberland and Franklin. All are thriving agricultural regions, which contribute the greatest amount of pollutants that flow into the Bay.

Response to the spring season of tree plantings has been encouraging. Additional groups in and out of Pennsylvania’s portion of the Bay watershed have been asking to join the partnership.

That’s good, as planting 10 million trees by the end of 2025 will take many hands. Between planting seasons, summer months were for maintaining trees already planted.

Partners in Pequea Park, Lancaster County were successful, losing just three of 200 larger trees planted.

Conodoguinet Creek Watershed volunteers maintained their plantings by carrying water to seedlings during a heat wave.

The effort’s partners will add more trees from September through November.

In 2019, the partnership hopes to nearly double its impact. That means that 50 planting partners will engage at 100 planting sites, 3,000 volunteers will be mobilized and 50,000 trees

will go into the ground next spring.

Benefits from the trickle-down effect of so many plantings extend beyond the cleaner water that flows from them.

The need for so many trees, tubes, stakes and other supplies has also provided an economic boost to nurseries and other companies that can supply them.

As for the mighty, muddy Susquehanna, there may not be enough trees to withstand such an unusual force of nature as seen through John Pavoncello's lens.

But the lasting images should be a reminder that consequences downstream could be less "crazy" if more trees are working upstream.

To learn more about this tree-planting initiative, visit the [Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership](#) website.

For more on Chesapeake Bay-related issues in Pennsylvania, visit the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation-PA](#) webpage. [Click Here](#) to sign up for Pennsylvania updates (bottom of left column). [Click Here](#) to support their work.

For information on local and state efforts to meet Chesapeake Bay-related pollution reduction obligations, visit DEP's [PA Chesapeake Bay Plan](#) webpage.

Harry Campbell is Executive Director of the [PA Office of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) and can be contacted by sending email to: hcampbell@cbf.org.

NewsClips:

[Op-Ed: Flood Of 10 Million Trees Could Help Offset Impact Of Future PA Deluges](#)
[Transportation Officials Scrambling For Ways To Handle Damage From Record Rainfall](#)
[Why Flooding Was So Bad Near The Susquehanna River In York](#)
[No FEMA, No Flood Insurance, York County Veteran Among Those Will Big Bills To Rebuild](#)
[Corps Of Engineers Monitor High Water At Sayers Dam](#)
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[Agriculture, Forestry Workgroups Present Key Recommendations To Meet PA's Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Obligations](#)
[LancasterOnline: Lancaster Farmland Provides \\$676M In Annual Environmental Benefits Estimated \\$939.2 Million Return On Investment In Protecting, Restoring Dauphin County's Natural Resources](#)
[Carbon County Has \\$800 Million Return On Investment From Natural Resources](#)
[Emma Creek Restoration Project Reduced Flood Damage, Sediment & Nutrient Pollution In Huntingdon County](#)
[Another Green Infrastructure Project Reduces Flooding In Manheim, Lancaster County](#)
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[Op-Ed: Of Pennsylvania Floods And Our Future](#)

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[NRCS-PA Accepting Applications For Emergency Watershed Protection Assistance In PA; DEP To Pay 25% Local Share](#)
[Stroud Water Research Center Premiere Of Lay Of The Land: Healthy Soils, Healthy Waters Film Oct. 11, Lancaster](#)

How You Can Help

[Want To Find A Watershed Group Near You? Try The PA Land Trust Assn. Watershed Association Finder](#)

Take Action:

[How Good Is The Water Quality In Streams In Your Community? Take A Look, Then Act](#)

(Reprinted from the [Chesapeake Bay Journal](#).)

[Posted: Sept. 18, 2018]

Gov. Wolf Signs Executive Order Creating PFAS Action Team

Gov. Tom Wolf Friday announced he has signed



[Executive Order 2018-08](#) to establish a multi-agency PFAS Action Team and taking other executive actions to address growing national concerns surrounding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

These man-made chemicals are resistant to heat, water and oil, and persist in the environment and the human body, heightening concern among residents in areas of the state in which these chemicals have been identified in drinking water.

“This issue is by no means limited to Pennsylvania, but I am using all the authority I have to address this emerging environmental and public health issue because our residents deserve clean air, pure water, and to know that the environment they live in is safe,” Gov. Wolf said. “I have consistently called on the federal government to demonstrate leadership by establishing national safe drinking water standards for PFAS, but in the absence of federal action, Pennsylvania will move forward aggressively to ensure Pennsylvania residents are protected.”

PFAS substances were commonly used in applications including surface coating of paper and cardboard packaging products, carpets, non-stick pans, and textiles, as well as firefighting foams.

These substances have been detected in air, water, and soil in and around production manufacturing facilities as well as airports and military bases which utilized firefighting foams.

Companies began phasing out the production and use of several PFAS substances in the early 2000s, and two of the most well studied—perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)—are no longer manufactured or imported into the United States.

Despite the phase-out, contamination has been identified at 11 sites in Pennsylvania, each of which are being addressed by state and federal cleanup efforts.

The PFAS Action Team will be responsible for developing a comprehensive response to identify and eliminate the sources of contamination.

The Action Team will be led by the secretaries of Environmental Protection, Health, Military and Veteran Affairs, Community and Economic Development, Agriculture, and the State Fire Commissioner.

Their efforts will specifically address strategies to deliver safe drinking water and minimize risks from firefighting foam and other PFAS sources, manage environmental contamination, create specific site plans, explore funding for remediation efforts, and increase public education.

Toxicologist

In addition to the creation of the Action Team, the governor also announced that the Commonwealth will prioritize the hiring of a state toxicologist, and two associate toxicologists in order to evaluate defensible PFAS drinking water limits and strategy.

The Department of Health is already in the process of hiring one toxicologist and will immediately begin the search for an additional two.

[**Note:** The Environmental Quality Board accepted a petition for from the Delaware RiverKeeper in August 2017 to study the issue of setting a state maximum contaminant level for PFOA in the Delaware River. [Click Here for more.](#)

[The departments of Environmental Protection and Health told members of the Environmental Quality Board August 27 of this year the lack of a state toxicologist has delayed the evaluation of a rulemaking [petition asking the Board to set a maximum contaminant level](#) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in drinking water. [Click Here for more.](#)]

EPA

While the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency typically sets maximum contaminant levels, no timeline has been established for action at the federal level despite repeated calls from Gov. Wolf and officials nationwide.

Earlier this week, Gov. Wolf [wrote to EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler](#) to again urge that EPA move forward to establish a more-protective maximum contaminant level for PFOA and PFOS.

[**Note:** EPA has a process underway to set a maximum contaminant level for PFOA and PFOS and held a public meeting in Horsham, Montgomery County on July 25 to hear public comments on a standard. [Click Here](#) for more.]

[Click Here](#) for the details on EPA MCL initiative.

Congressional Delegation

Separately, the Governor reached out to [members of Pennsylvania's congressional delegation](#) to request their support for proposed legislation that provides funding to states to test, address, monitor and remediate contaminants and suspected contaminants of drinking water, groundwater, surface water, and lands.

“While my administration is taking action to address these and other emerging contaminants, I write to ask for your assistance in moving forward with the federal response,” wrote Gov. Wolf. “Failure to address PFAS nationally using a holistic approach will continue to put public health at risk and lead to a patchwork of inconsistent state laws and regulations.”

Testing Water Systems

And, in order to better understand the potential extent of this issue statewide, the governor has directed DEP to develop a PFAS sampling plan to test public water systems across the Commonwealth in order to identify any additional systems with elevated PFAS levels in drinking water.

Sampling will help locate other areas, beyond the known contamination sites, where steps to address contamination may be needed. Sampling is scheduled to begin in early 2019, and water systems will be selected based on risk characteristics developed by the department.

State Legislative Action

The governor also called for legislation that establishes an interim notification level similar to California's which would require state notification if there is a detection of PFOS and PFOA above a protective level established as a percentage of EPA's published Health Advisory Level.

Background

Water sampling done in Warminster, Warrington and Horsham townships in Montgomery County reported that the groundwater that feeds public and private wells for at least 70,000 people was found to be among the worst in the nation, most all in the vicinity of the former Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base at Willow Grove, the current Horsham Air Guard Station in Horsham and the site of the former Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster.

As a result of the use of firefighting foams at these military facilities in Bucks and Montgomery Counties, people have been exposed for many years to dangerous concentrations of PFOA in their drinking water.

The federal Department of Defense, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies have been involved in responding to these issues.

DEP is also responding directly to PFOA and related groundwater contamination at

several locations, including recently in [East and West Rockhill townships in Bucks County](#) under the state Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act.

For more information on PFOA and PFOS contamination and other sites under investigation, visit DEP's [PFOA and PFOS: What Are They](#) webpage.

New Jersey/Federal Action

Since the rulemaking petition was accepted by the EQB in August of 2017, actions have been taken on setting an MCL for PFOA and related contaminants by New Jersey.

In November of 2017, New Jersey became the [first state to set a formal MCL for PFOA](#) and the related perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) in drinking water.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection set a 14 parts per trillion MCL for PFOA and a 13 parts per trillion standard for PFNA.

NewsClips:

[Hurdle: Wolf Sets Up Government Panel To Study PFAS Chemicals](#)

[Is It Time To Buy Pennsylvania Water Stocks?](#)

[Erie Water Works Boosts Chlorine In Drinking Water](#)

[Midstate Construction Firm Fined \\$10K For Violating Federal Lead Paint Rules](#)

[Editorial: Detroit Isn't The Only City With A Lead Problem In School Water](#)

Related Stories:

[Lack Of State Toxicologist Delays Evaluation Of Petition To Set PFOA Drinking Water Standard](#)

[Environmental Quality Board Accepts Petition For Study Setting PFOA Standard](#)

[July 11 DEP Hearing On Interim Response At Ridge Run PFAS, PFOS, PFOA Well](#)

[Contamination Site, Bucks County](#)

[EPA To Hold July 25 Community Meeting On PFAS In Horsham, Montgomery County](#)

[Posted: Sept. 21, 2018]

DEP: \$469,501 Settlement To Resolve Civil Penalties For United Refining Company Violations In Warren County

The Department of Environmental Protection Monday announced it has agreed to a \$469,501 Consent Assessment of Civil Penalty with [United Refining Company](#) for violations of the Air Pollution Control Act and Title V Permit at the URC refinery in the City of Warren, Warren County.

DEP inspections between September 16, 2014, and December 10, 2015, and continuous emission monitoring data, revealed multiple permit violations at the refinery, including:

- URC failed to inspect and measure primary and secondary seal gaps for several large storage tanks;
- URC failed to repair, empty, or remove from service a large storage tank after a defect had been detected;
- URC failed to conduct particulate testing for several air contamination sources; and
- URC exceeded emissions limits for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and hydrogen sulfide on several occasions for multiple sources from 2010 through 2016.

"DEP is committed to enforcing the conditions of the permits we issue, and keeping Pennsylvania's air free of excess pollution," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell.

DEP issued Notices of Violation for these permit violations. The violations were corrected by URC prior to the Consent Assessment of Civil Penalty and no further action related

to these violations is required by URC.

Questions should be directed to Melanie Williams DEP Northwest Regional Office, 814-332-6625 or send email to: melanwilli@pa.gov.

NewsClips:

[United Refining To Pay \\$469,501 For Pollution Control Violations](#)

[Crossley: Middle Susquehanna RiverKeeper Trains Retriever To Detect Sewage](#)

[Posted: Sept. 17, 2018]

DEP: Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program Faces Fiscal Cliff In FY 2020-21

DEP Deputy Secretary for Waste, Air, Radiation and Remediation George Hartenstein told the [Citizens Advisory Council](#) Tuesday the [Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program](#) faces a significant drop off in funding in FY 2020-21 that threatens to cut the pace of site cleanups and the related remediation response program in half.

Hartenstein noted expenditures to keep up with state and federal hazardous sites cleanup and response obligations have run about \$52 million a year.

However, revenues are only projected to continue at about \$23.7 million through FY 2020-21 at which time the remaining balance in the hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund would be drastically reduced.

The practical reality, Hartenstein said, is “You cannot open a cleanup of a hazardous waste site, if you don’t know if you have the money.”

The primary source of funding for the program was the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax which expired at the end of 2015.

The program is now funded through a combination of temporary transfers from the Act 13 unconventional drilling impact fees-- \$19 million, hazardous waste fees -- \$1.7 million and penalties, interest and cost recovery-- \$3 million-- totalling about \$23.7 million in the current year.

DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell told the Council on July 17 there needs to be a serious conversation with the General Assembly on how to permanently fund the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program at adequate levels into the future.

Hartenstein said one of the other challenges faced by DEP’s Environmental Cleanup Program are emerging contaminants like [PFAS in drinking water](#) which he said may be more widespread than previously thought.

With respect to the Storage Tank Program, Hartenstein said one of the challenges faced by the program is the age of tanks now in use in Pennsylvania.

He noted 68 percent of the underground tanks-- 14,984-- are now more than 20 years old and 24 percent-- 5,361-- are more than 30 years old.

DEP regulates 22,144 underground tanks and 17,712 aboveground tanks.

There have been over 17,000 confirmed underground and aboveground tank releases and DEP has overseen over 15,700 tank cleanups. There are currently 28 state-led underground cleanups now going on funded by the [Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund](#).

DEP’s [Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields Program](#) oversees assessment and cleanup of contaminated land and assures the safe operation of storage tanks. DEP partners with economic and industrial development associations, local governments, communities and businesses to foster the cleanup of Pennsylvania’s brownfields and other industrial sites.

DEP provides [brownfields redevelopment](#) and [economic development](#) assistance through our award-winning [Land Recycling Program](#). DEP manages the cleanup of storage tank releases and state and federal superfund sites under [Site Remediation](#) programs.

DEP's Storage Tank program permits, registers and establishes operating requirements for above and underground [storage tanks](#).

[Click Here](#) for a copy of Hartenstein's presentation to Council.

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is on October 16 in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg starting at 10:00.

[Don Welsh](#), former EPA Region III Administrator, President of the PA Environmental Council, DEP Deputy Secretary for State/Federal Relations, among other positions, serves as Chair of the Citizens Advisory Council.

For more information, visit DEP's [Citizens Advisory Council](#) webpage. Questions should be directed to Keith Saladar, Executive Director, ksalador@pa.gov or call 717-787-8171.

NewsClips:

[Hurdle: Wolf Sets Up Government Panel To Study PFAS Chemicals](#)

[Maykuth: Penn Report: City Should Prepare For S. Philly Refinery Closure](#)

Related Stories:

[PA's Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act Is 30 Years Old: Where Will Future Funding Come From?](#)

[Lack Of State Toxicologist Delays Evaluation Of Petition To Set PFOA Drinking Water Standard](#)

Related Stories This Week:

[Gov. Wolf Signs Executive Order Creating PFAS Action Team](#)

[EPA Removes Recticon/Allied Steel Corp. Superfund Site In Chester County From Priorities List](#)

[Report By Kleinman Center For Energy Policy Raises Concerns Over Philadelphia Refinery Site](#)

[Posted: Sept. 18, 2018]

Keep PA Beautiful Encourages Pennsylvania K-12 Schools To Participate In Recycle-Bowl Competition



[Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) is encouraging educators in Pennsylvania to get their schools involved in Keep America Beautiful's [2018 Recycle-Bowl Competition](#).

Recycle-Bowl is a program designed to revitalize student participation in recycling through a national K-12 recycling competition.

The objectives of the competition include: new recycling programs established within schools, the increase of recycling rates in schools that currently recycle and the provision of teacher/student educational opportunities about recycling and

waste reduction.

Recycle-Bowl competition begins October 15 and runs through [America Recycles Day](#), November 15.

"The Recycle Bowl provides motivation to get kids excited about recycling at school, at

home and within the community. It culminates on America Recycles Day, so it's a perfect opportunity to introduce or expand recycling programs within our schools and encourages students to take responsibility to protect our natural resources by making recycling part of their way of life," said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "I encourage Pennsylvania teachers to get their students involved in this friendly competition."

[In 2017, Albert M. Greenfield School](#) in Philadelphia was named State School Division Champion of the Recycle-Bowl. Students and faculty of the school collected 11,536 pounds of recyclables generated from within the school, during the competition.

More than 1,000 elementary, middle and high schools in 42 states around the country participated in this fun and exciting race to collect the most recyclable material and learn about waste reduction and environmental responsibility through in-school recycling.

An impressive 2 million pounds of material were collected for recycling by the more than 550,000 participating students, teachers and administrators.

To register, or for more information, visit the [2018 Recycle-Bowl Competition](#) webpage.

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) website. [Click Here](#) to become a member. [Click Here](#) to sign up for regular updates from KPB, [Like them on Facebook](#), [Follow on Twitter](#), [Discover them on Pinterest](#) and visit their [YouTube Channel](#).

Also visit the [Illegal Dump Free PA](#) website for more ideas on how to clean up communities and keep them clean and KPB's [Electronics Waste](#) website.

NewsClips:

[Philadelphia: Stop Recycling Takeout Containers, You Can Keep Caps On Water Bottles](#)

[What Erie County's Recycling Changes Mean For You](#)

[Can Lehigh Valley Capitalize On China's Recycling Chaos](#)

[Lackawanna Waste Firm Gearing Up For Fight Over Transfer Station Proposal](#)

[Keystone Landfill Opponents Get Day In Court Over Expansion Plans](#)

[Erie's Prof. Sherri Mason Wins \\$250,000 Heinz Award For Microplastics Contamination Research](#)

Related Story:

[Albert M. Greenfield School, Philadelphia, Named KAB Recycle-Bowl State School Division Winners](#)

Related Story This Week:

[ORSANCO: Ohio River Sweep Student Poster Contest Now Accepting Entries](#)

[Posted: Sept. 18, 2018]

New PA Uniform Construction Code Will Save New Home Owners Up To 25 Percent Of Energy Costs



The Department of Labor and Industry Monday announced a new [Uniform Construction Code](#) for both new commercial and residential buildings will take effect on October 1, the first update since 2009.

Moving from the 2009 to the 2015 International Code Council Code will result in energy use savings of up to [25 percent for owners and occupants](#) of new residential

buildings and up to [11.5 percent for new commercial buildings](#).

New increased insulation values and less expensive compliance costs in the 2015 Code translates to [saving \\$300 to \\$500 per year](#) for residential housing, depending on home size and type of fuel.

As a result of this new Code, building owners and occupants not only save money and energy, but reduce their carbon footprint.

The updated codes will apply to all Commonwealth residents including business owners who build and/or renovate commercial structures, commercial and residential contractors, building and construction code officials, architects, engineers and construction trades.

“It’s been nearly a decade since there has been a major adoption of more current codes, a change that is expected to have a positive impact on both commercial and residential construction projects across the commonwealth,” said L&I Secretary Jerry Oleksiak. “I’d like to thank the builders, building and construction code officials, stakeholders and Pennsylvania residents whose invaluable insight and expertise was the cornerstone of this effort to streamline and modernize the UCC codes.”

For more information on the new Code, visit the Department of Labor and Industry’s [Uniform Construction Code](#) webpage.

Articles Evaluating Energy Impacts Of The Code Changes:

[Re-Coding Commercial Construction In Philadelphia](#)

[PA Adopts 2015 IECC, Philly Adopts 2018 Commercial IECC](#)

[New Buildings in Pennsylvania to Leap Forward in Efficiency](#)

[Pennsylvania Adopts Energy Rating Index Option To Their Building Code](#)

[Pennsylvania Adopts New Building Codes for More Energy Efficient Lighting Controls](#)

[Pennsylvania to Adopt the 2015 IECC \(with Amendments\)](#)

NewsClip:

[Centre County Moves Forward On Energy-Saving Projects](#)

[Posted: Sept. 19, 2018]

DEP's Driving PA Forward Offers Grants, Rebates For Electric Vehicle Charging Stations



The Department of Environmental Protection Wednesday launched new grant and rebate programs for zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) charging and fueling stations to increase options for ZEV owners and encourage more people to consider these clean vehicles for their next car.

The application period opens September 20.

Application deadlines are 4:00 p.m. on January 25, July 15, and December 16, 2019.

The application period is continuous until funds are exhausted, and vouchers will be issued on a first come, first served basis. All applications from each period will be reviewed.

Businesses, nonprofits, government agencies, and other organizations are eligible to apply.

The funding comes from Pennsylvania’s \$118 million settlement with Volkswagen Group of America for cheating on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency emissions tests.

The grants and rebates are available through the [Driving PA Forward initiative](#). The goal of the initiative is to permanently reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) pollution from vehicles.

“Electric vehicles reduce air pollution that can trigger asthma attacks and other health issues, especially in children and elderly residents. Reducing tailpipe emissions also helps Pennsylvania attain and maintain air quality standards,” said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. “I’m excited to make electric vehicles more feasible for Pennsylvania residents by expanding the network of charging stations available.”

Up to \$3 million in grants is available for acquisition, installation, operation, and maintenance of ZEV fast-charging equipment and hydrogen fuel cell equipment through 2019.

Grants are awarded as reimbursements after completed projects, with a maximum amount of \$500,000. The amount awarded depends on the charging or fueling capacity of the proposed equipment.

Another \$3 million is available in rebates for Level 2 (240-volt) charging stations for 2018. Stations can be located on publicly accessible, government-owned or non-government-owned property or at workplaces or multi-unit dwellings that are not publicly accessible.

Successful applicants will receive a rebate voucher that may be redeemed once project work is complete. Applicants will have 180 days to complete projects.

Mobile source emissions in Pennsylvania account for nearly half of NOx pollution, which can lead to ground-level ozone formation and poor air quality. Children and elderly residents are especially susceptible to health impacts such as asthma from poor air quality.

Applicants will find program guidelines, eligibility requirements, instructions, and links to the online applications at the [Driving PA Forward initiative](#) webpage.

Other Clean Vehicle Grants/Rebates

- Application periods are open for several other clean vehicle grants or rebates, including--
- **September 30:** [Duquesne Light, Nissan Electric Vehicle Rebate](#)
 - **December 14:** [DEP Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebates](#) (First-Come)
 - **December 14:** DEP [Alternative Fuels Incentive Grants](#)

(Photo: [Tesla electric vehicle charging station](#) at the Weis Market on Union Deposit Road in Harrisburg.)

NewsClips:

[Grants, Rebates For Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Announced](#)

[EPA Details Broad Expansion Of Biofuel Waiver Program](#)

[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

Part I: Boy Scout Takes On 4 Conservation Projects To Qualify For Prestigious William T. Hornaday Silver Award - Project #1: Saving Cranberry Glade Lake

By Peter Livengood, 12th Grade Student From Ohiopyle, Fayette County

Editor’s Note: This is the first in a series of four articles by Peter Livengood, a 12th grade, homeschooled student from near Ohiopyle in Fayette County. In the articles he describes four projects he completed this year to qualify for the [William T. Hornaday Silver Award](#)-- think of it as an Olympic Medal for conservation work by a Boy Scout. Peter will know if he qualified for the award on October 23.

This spring and summer, I have been on a quest. For the Boy Scouts of America's William T. Hornaday Silver Medal for Conservation.

The William T. Hornaday Awards program was implemented by the Boy Scouts in 1937 and was named in honor of Dr. William T. Hornaday, a wildlife and natural resources champion in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

There are 3 levels of recognition that Boy Scouts can receive through this program for conservation service work: the William T. Hornaday Badge, Bronze Medal, and Silver Medal. Each higher level award requires more dedication and effort.

The Silver Medal is the highest youth conservation award that Boy Scouts of America bestows, and it is also one of the rarest awards in Scouting, with an average of only 2-3 youth per year across the nation receiving the Silver Medal.

This article is Part 1 of a Four-Part Series that will detail the work done in each of the four extensive projects that I completed this year during my pursuit of the Silver Medal. The focus of this article is the fourth and final project that I completed this summer: "Saving Cranberry Glade Lake: A Research Assessment"

The goal of my project was to perform research on [Cranberry Glade Lake](#), a 72-acre man-made lake located near me in [Confluence,] Somerset County.

The lake is choked by excessive aquatic vegetation, which I initially believed to be all invasive species. The aquatic vegetation issue has become so severe over the past several years that the lake is nearly unusable.

Cranberry Glade Lake used to be a popular fishing and recreation lake but is now rarely visited.

The lake also used to host a nesting pair of Ospreys, but is not currently. This is likely due to the fact that Ospreys cannot effectively fish through dense vegetation.

I wanted to do something to restore the lake and remove the invasive species.

My initial plan of action involved stocking [Triploid Grass Carp](#) in the lake. Triploid Grass Carp are a sterile variety of Grass Carp, an herbivorous fish species native to Asia.

Triploid Grass Carp can be used effectively in waterways with excess aquatic vegetation to eat the vegetation, thus reducing the plant coverage and improving the body of water.

I thought this sounded perfect for Cranberry Glade Lake! Until I started to do more research...

And believe me, I did a lot of research...all summer long! I found that Triploid Grass Carp can have negative impacts on the ecosystem, especially when placed in the wrong environment.

They are selective with the plants they consume and require certain water condition to thrive.

After learning this, another research idea came to mind. Why not create several fish enclosures in the lake and stock them with Triploid Grass Carp to ascertain whether the Carp would actually thrive and eat the weeds?



Designing an experiment like this would save on expense and would prove the possible effectiveness of Triploid Grass Carp as a control method for Cranberry Glade Lake.

This idea sounded great! Until I did more research...

I consulted several natural resource professionals who I knew were familiar with the subject. Both of them are college professors at California University of Pennsylvania, [Dr. Robert Whyte](#) and [Dr. David Argent](#).

As I discussed my project ideas with them, they brought several important things to my attention.

First of all, escape-proof fish enclosures are impossible to make. This means that the Triploid Grass Carp that I stock could escape without me being aware, and this would reduce the accuracy and consistency of my experiment.

Secondly, because the Grass Carp would escape, I would have to install a spillway containment device at the breast of the dam to prevent the Triploid Grass Carp from escaping Cranberry Glade Lake and heading downstream to other waterways.

Third, I could perform other research that does not involve the risks associated with stocking Triploid Grass Carp and still accomplish the same determination and gather additional valuable information on Cranberry Glade Lake itself.

I began working closely with Dr. Argent to develop a plan that was useful and environmentally sound.

We developed a plan to include the following: recording a summer-long profile of the water temperature, pH, turbidity, phosphate, nitrate, nitrite, total dissolved solids, and electro conductivity levels, developing of a contour map indicating the depth of the Lake, developing a vegetation map to include species presence and distribution.

I also planned to conduct research on the feeding and water condition preferences of Triploid Grass Carp.

All of this data and research would be assessed at the end of the summer to determine if Triploid Grass Carp would be a suitable and sustainable management solution for Cranberry Glade Lake.

This research would also provide a comprehensive baseline of the lake that could be consulted by future researchers and lake managers.

This was the project plan that we settled on and that I carried out, with the help of the volunteers, including a fellow college student, another Boy Scout, family members and resource professionals.

Even though I am still in high school, I was able to receive college credit through California University of Pennsylvania for the research that I conducted through a Biological Research Investigation Class.

As part of the Biological Research Investigation, I compiled the data collected from the research into a formal research poster.

I will present this poster to other college students at several poster events at the University. Dr. Argent helped me to edit the poster and ensure that my data was accurately represented.

In total, this project involved 15 volunteers and 561 total hours, 236 hours of which were my own.

The research poster and a research report were given to Dr. Argent. He forwarded this information to the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, so they can use my research to guide

their management decisions.

(Photo: Peter using two test probes to measure temperature, pH near breast of the dam.)

Peter Livengood has been a Boy Scout since 2013 in Troop #687 in Farmington and lives on a small family farm. He has been a certified [Conservation Ambassador](#) by the PA Wildlife Leadership Academy since 2015, attended the [Penn State Conservation Leadership School](#) in 2016 and 2017, is a member of the [Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society](#) and was appointed to the [Governor's Youth Advisory Council on Hunting, Fishing and Conservation](#). He can be contacted by sending email to: PeterE.Livengood@gmail.com.

Other Articles In This Series:

[Part II: Researching Raptors On Chestnut Ridge Near Uniontown](#)

[Part III: Restoring The Understory At Ohiopyle State Park's Kentuck Campground](#)

[Part IV: Restoring Blooming Bioswales For A Better Youghiogheny River In Ohiopyle](#)

[Posted: Sept. 18, 2018]

Boy Scout Part II: Researching Raptors On Chestnut Ridge Near Uniontown

By Peter Livengood, 12th Grade Student From Ohiopyle, Fayette County

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of four articles by Peter Livengood, a 12th grade, homeschooled student from near Ohiopyle in Fayette County. In the articles he describes four projects he completed this year to qualify for the [William T. Hornaday Silver Award](#)-- think of it as an Olympic Medal for conservation work by a Boy Scout. Peter will know if he qualified for the award on October 23.



Envision sitting on a mountaintop. It's an early morning in mid-September. The fog in the valley is just starting to lift, as the sun sparkles from a blue sky.

To the casual observer, this day looks like any other gorgeous fall day. But you are a researcher, fully equipped with binoculars, tripod, spotting scope, camera, telephoto lens, field guides, notebook, and pencils.

You realize that something special is happening today—the Broad-Winged Hawks are migrating.

Thousands of them. And you are ready, simply awaiting their arrival...

I suddenly wake up to realize that I was only dreaming. It is actually June 19th, and I am sitting at home.

I sadly acknowledge that September is still two-and-a-half long months away. And so are the Broad-Winged Hawks.

But that still does not dim my passion for hawkwatching. Especially now that I have discovered "The Summit Mountain Hawkwatch." But before I go any further, I should probably explain to you what I am talking about.

Hawkwatching is a citizen-scientist activity where trained volunteers identify and count migrating birds of prey in order to obtain population estimates. Hawkwatchers gather at hawkwatch sites across the nation.

“The Summit Mountain Hawkwatch” is located on the crest of Chestnut Ridge in southwestern Pennsylvania near Uniontown. Chestnut Ridge is an approximately 90-mile long mountain ridge that runs from near Morgantown, WV to Indiana, PA.

Chestnut Ridge is unique in the fact that it is the farthest west ridge in the Allegheny Mountains of Pennsylvania. This means that you could travel in a straight line west from Chestnut Ridge, all the way to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, without crossing a mountain ridge as high as Chestnut Ridge.

The Summit Mountain Hawkwatch is situated atop Chestnut Ridge, which provides an excellent view of the surrounding terrain.

Broad-Winged Hawks and other birds of prey often utilize mountain ridges, such as Chestnut Ridge, during migration. This is due to a phenomenon known as ridge lift.

Ridge lift occurs when the wind strikes the side of a ridge or mountain and the air current is deflected upward. Birds of prey (raptors) can use this updraft to soar effortlessly during migration, thus conserving energy by not having to flap their wings.

Because of the numerous mountain ridges throughout Pennsylvania, many raptors migrate through the state. There are quite a few active hawkwatch sites in Pennsylvania, with a hawkwatch site on most of the major mountain ridges.

Until this spring, Chestnut Ridge was one exception.

This spring, I discovered and established “The Summit Mountain Hawkwatch” as a Boy Scout Project.

I am working towards Boy Scouts of America’s highest youth award for conservation work, the William T. Hornaday Silver Medal Award. I completed my hawkwatching project as 1 of 4 projects that the Silver Medal requires.

This project involved an approximate total of 890 hours, 375 of which were my own. I created an official site for [The Summit Mountain Hawkwatch](#) on the Hawk Migration Association of North America’s website, [HawkCount.org](#).

All migrating raptor count data collected at this site, alongside other hawkwatch site’s data, will be used by researchers to assess raptor population trends.

Now, all of that probably seemed unrelated to the start of my article. But it is not. It is all part of the science behind hawkwatching, which is my passion.

This spring migration season was mostly consumed by my Boy Scout Project, research about raptor migration patterns, geography, and paperwork. But this fall, I can go back to hawkwatching.

I have actually taken on hawkwatching at The Summit Mountain Hawkwatch as a Biological Research Investigation college course with California University of Pennsylvania for this coming fall.

I received a research grant from the University for equipment and will be receiving both college credit and a research stipend.

I have many reasons to look forward to fall, but the biggest reason is pursuing a passion. After the Broad-Winged Hawks come through in September, I will be counting the Red-Tails, and the Sharp-Shins, and the Falcons, and the Eagles, and the...

Anyway, your passion does not have to be hawkwatching to do exciting things. There is

something to look forward to in every field of study. You can make interesting discoveries no matter what you are involved with.

Whatever your passion is, pursue it. Do not be afraid to dream big or soar high.

And if you ever feel adventurous, come visit me at the hawkwatch. Come sit on the mountaintop, soak up the view, and watch the miracle of migration. Just don't forget your binoculars...

(Photo: View from the Jumonville Cross site where Peter first hawkwatched on Chestnut Ridge.)

Peter Livengood has been a Boy Scout since 2013 in Troop #687 in Farmington and lives on a small family farm. He has been a certified [Conservation Ambassador](#) by the PA Wildlife Leadership Academy since 2015, attended the [Penn State Conservation Leadership School](#) in 2016 and 2017, is a member of the [Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society](#) and was appointed to the [Governor's Youth Advisory Council on Hunting, Fishing and Conservation](#). He can be contacted by sending email to: PeterE.Livengood@gmail.com.

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[Part IV: Restoring Blooming Bioswales For A Better Youghiogheny River In Ohiopyle](#)

[Posted: Sept. 19, 2018]

Boy Scout Part III: Restoring The Understory At Ohiopyle State Park's Kentuck Campground

By Peter Livengood, 12th Grade Student From Ohiopyle, Fayette County

Editor's Note: This is the third in a series of four articles by Peter Livengood, a 12th grade, homeschooled student from near Ohiopyle in Fayette County. In the articles he describes four projects he completed this year to qualify for the [William T. Hornaday Silver Award](#)-- think of it as an Olympic Medal for conservation work by a Boy Scout. Peter will know if he qualified for the award on October 23.



This project was the third conservation project that I completed this summer as I worked towards the Boy Scout William T. Hornaday Silver Medal Award. I completed this project in the [Ohiopyle State Park's Kentuck Campground](#) in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Have you ever went camping and just plopped your tent down anywhere?

Have you ever strayed off the marked pathways and trails when walking in a campground?

Did you ever think this was a problem? If you answer yes to this question, you are

correct...take the Kentuck Campground as an example.

Much of the forest understory (small trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants growing beneath the forest canopy) has been destroyed by people. The understory depletion is causing several issues, including soil erosion and a lack of privacy for campers.

The Ohiopyle State Park needed someone to come in, do research on both the issue and possible solutions, and then make an understory restoration recommendation.

As it turned out, that someone was me. But I wasn't sure where to start.

I went to the [Biological and Environmental Sciences Department](#) at California University of Pennsylvania and met with a professor, [Dr. Mark Tebbitt](#). He helped me formulate a project plan that used scientific investigation to provide the data that I needed.

As a bonus, I found out that my research during this project would count as a Biological Research Investigation college course.

My initial plan went something like this. We (myself, other Boy Scouts, and Dr. Tebbitt) would identify the native species indigenous to the Kentuck Campground that could be used to replant areas with understory destruction.

These species would need to be native, hardy, and part/mostly shade tolerant shrubs, small trees, and possibly forbs. We would conduct vegetation surveys on each loop road of the Campground to determine what the most prevalent ideal species were in that area.

We would perform screening surveys to assess which of the identified ideal species would provide the densest foliage, and thus the best screening.

This data would provide us the needed information to develop a restoration recommendation for the Park Manager.

Another facet of my project did not deal with plants...it dealt with people!

We believed that the cause of the understory destruction was campers walking in between the campsites to get somewhere. However, during the course of the project, we found that there was a much more significant issue.

Campers were setting up their tents outside of their individual campsites, in the area between the campsites and even into the forest. This destroyed the understory in those areas.

The solution...install 3 experimental tent pads in the Campground to give campers a designated, level place to set up their tent.

I also drafted a camper survey to determine the effectiveness of the tent pads and to receive additional suggestions.

After my research was completed, I used the research data collected and the observations made during my project to create the "2018 Understory Restoration Plan for the Ohiopyle State Park Kentuck Campground."

This is a comprehensive recommendation that the Ohiopyle State Park can follow to restore the Kentuck Campground.

This project was a total of approximately 550 hours, roughly 230 of which were my own.

And the next time you go camping, remember... look out for the understory!

(Photo: Area of understory depleted in the Kentuck Campground; Newly installed tent pad site.)

Peter Livengood has been a Boy Scout since 2013 in Troop #687 in Farmington and lives on a small family farm. He has been a certified [Conservation Ambassador](#) by the PA Wildlife Leadership Academy since 2015, attended the [Penn State Conservation Leadership School](#) in 2016 and 2017, is a member of the [Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society](#) and was appointed to the

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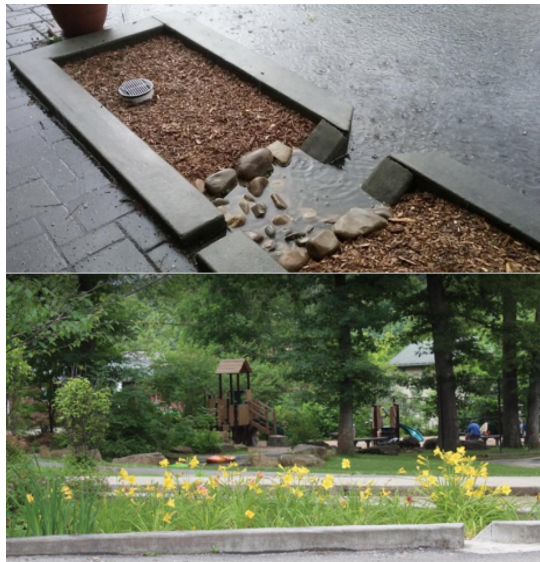
[Part IV: Restoring Blooming Bioswales For A Better Youghiogheny River In Ohiopyle](#)

[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

Boy Scout Part IV: Restoring Blooming Bioswales For A Better Youghiogheny River In Ohiopyle

By Peter Livengood, 12th Grade Student From Ohiopyle, Fayette County

Editor's Note: This is the last in a series of four articles by Peter Livengood, a 12th grade, homeschooled student from near Ohiopyle in Fayette County. In the articles he describes four projects he completed this year to qualify for the [William T. Hornaday Silver Award](#)-- think of it as an Olympic Medal for conservation work by a Boy Scout. Peter will know if he qualified for the award on October 23.



Everyone's heard of a bioswale before, right? Well, maybe not. Up to about 4 months ago, I could not have told you (or anyone) what a bioswale was and how it worked.

So, let's get down to the definition: A bioswale is a man-made landscape design element that is designed to capture and filter street run-off water to remove road pollutants such as salt and gasoline.

Bioswales provide a natural method of storm water conveyance that is superior to the standard storm drains and storm sewers. A bioswale works like this: envision a flower garden contained within a concrete curb along a city street.

When it rains, run-off water from impermeable surfaces (parking lots, streets, etc.) flows along the side of the roadway. There are sloped inlets cut into

curbs that channel the water into a bioswale.

Once the water has entered the bioswale, it percolates down through the mulch, plants, and soil of the bioswale, effectively filtering and cleaning the water. The water then flows into a perforated pipe at the bottom of the bioswales, and the water is conveyed away.

So, how did I get so well versed in the science of bioswales?

I took on the renovation of 4,000 square feet of bioswale area in the Borough of Ohiopyle as my Eagle Scout/William T. Hornaday Silver Medal Award Project.

The bioswales in Ohiopyle were constructed in 2010. There was no regular maintenance

performed on the bioswales for a period of 7 years, which resulted in the bioswales becoming overrun by invasive plants and weeds, and the inlets in the street curbs became clogged with leaves and debris, preventing water from entering the bioswales (which makes them useless).

My project restored the bioswales to full functionality, making them both beautiful (with flowers and mulch) and useful in keeping the Youghiogheny River clean.

To ensure the ongoing maintenance and success of the Bioswales, I created a maintenance fund. The Ohiopyle Borough hired an official Bioswale maintenance person with the money that I raised for the maintenance fund.

As part of my efforts, I created a GoFundMe page, "[Ohiopyle Bioswale Maintenance Fund](#)," to provide a long-term source of funding to keep the Bioswales beautiful and Youghiogheny River clean for years to come.

Through my project, "Blooming Bioswales for a Better River," over 1,700 hours of community service were recorded. The work included myself and 35 volunteers-- other Boy Scouts, family members, a [Penn State Master Gardener](#) and many others.

Five community members, myself included, received the President's Volunteer Service Award for our volunteer hours during the project.

Now you might see this 1,700 hours of service number and think that I am surely a madman. Why would anyone do that much work?

Well actually, community service really doesn't seem like work. It has a different, happier feel about it.

Now, whenever I go into the town of Ohiopyle, I can see the results of my project and how much of a difference it makes for the tourists, the residents, and the Youghiogheny River.

I understand that some folks may not have the time, resources, or desire to take on so large a community service project as I did. Don't worry. You don't have to.

Anything and everything you do to give back to your community will be rewarding in a special way. Don't believe me? Try it and find out!

I promise you that it will be worth your effort. And if you ever come to Ohiopyle, be sure to take notice of... "the blooming bioswales."

(Photos: Newly restored bioswale during a rainstorm (top); Renovated blooming bioswale near the Ohiopyle playground - Peter Livengood.)

Peter Livengood has been a Boy Scout since 2013 in Troop #687 in Farmington and lives on a small family farm. He has been a certified [Conservation Ambassador](#) by the PA Wildlife Leadership Academy since 2015, attended the [Penn State Conservation Leadership School](#) in 2016 and 2017, is a member of the [Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society](#) and was appointed to the [Governor's Youth Advisory Council on Hunting, Fishing and Conservation](#). He can be contacted by sending email to: PeterE.Livengood@gmail.com.

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Senate/House Agenda/Session Schedule/Gov's Schedule/ Bills Introduced

Here are the Senate and House Calendars for the next voting session day and Committees scheduling action on bills of interest as well as a list of new environmental bills introduced--

Bill Calendars

House (Sept. 24): [House Bill 107](#) (Godshall-R- Montgomery) providing a mechanism to cover costs of extending natural gas distribution systems; [House Bill 1401](#) (DiGirolamo-R-Bucks) which amends Title 58 to impose a sliding scale natural gas severance tax, in addition to the Act 13 drilling impact fee, on natural gas production (NO money for environmental programs) and includes provisions related to minimum landowner oil and gas royalties; [House Bill 1446](#) (Quinn-R- Bucks) encouraging infrastructure for electric and natural gas fueled vehicles; [House Resolution 284](#) (Moul-R-Adams) urging Congress to repeal the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's MS4 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program ([sponsor summary](#)); [Senate Bill 1172](#) (Vulakovich-R-Allegheny) further providing for enforcement of price gouging provisions during an emergency declaration ([Senate Fiscal Note](#) and summary). <> [Click Here](#) for full House Bill Calendar.

Senate (Sept. 24): [Senate Bill 820](#) (Aument-R- Lancaster) providing liability protection for owners and operators of on-farm agritourism activities ([sponsor summary](#)); [Senate Bill 917](#) (Dinniman-R-Chester) amends Act 101 Municipal Waste Planning and Recycling Act to include spent mushroom compost under the definition of "compost materials to encourage its reuse ([sponsor summary](#)); [Senate Bill 930](#) (Dinniman-D- Chester) sets notification requirements related to pipeline emergencies ([sponsor summary](#)); [Senate Bill 931](#) (Dinniman-D-Chester) requires the installation of automatic or remote controlled safety valves in natural gas pipelines in densely populated areas; [Senate Bill 1199](#) (Rafferty-R- Montgomery) providing for a landowners' bill of rights in cases of eminent domain, including by private entities like pipeline companies ([sponsor summary](#)); [Senate Resolution 104](#) (Bartolotta-R- Washington) resolution urging the Governor to end the moratorium on new non-surface disturbance natural gas drilling on state forest land ([sponsor summary](#)); [Senate Resolution 373](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) is a concurrent Senate-House resolution to establish a Senate-House legislative Commission to Study Pipeline Construction and Operations and to recommend improvements for the safe transport of oil, natural gas and other hazardous liquids through pipelines; [House Bill 544](#) (Moul-R-Adams) further providing for liability protection for landowners opening their land for public recreation; [House Bill 927](#) (Rader-R-Monroe) amends Act 101 Municipal Waste Planning and Recycling Act to eliminate the mandate on smaller municipalities to have a leaf waste collection program ([House Fiscal Note](#) and summary); [House Bill 1550](#) (Klunk-R-York) amending the Agricultural Area Security Law to allow for a residence for the principal landowner ([House Fiscal Note](#) and summary). <> [Click Here](#) for full Senate Bill Calendar.

Committee Meeting Agendas This Week

House: the [Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) meets to consider [House Bill 2640](#) (Mako-R-Lehigh) requiring DEP to forward notices of noncompliance issued by the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency for violation of the Toxic Substances Control Act or state Solid Waste Management Act to the municipality where the violation occurred ([sponsor summary](#)), [Senate Bill 652](#) (Regan-R-Cumberland), which would make it a felony to simply trespass on the right-of-way of pipelines, electric power lines, railroad tracks, refineries or on the property of any of 21 other “critical infrastructure facilities” outlined in the bill. ([Click Here for more background](#)); the [Commerce Committee](#) meets to consider [House Bill 2638](#) (Stephens-R-Montgomery) establishes the Military Installation Remediation Authority to address cleanup costs at the former Willow Grove Naval Air Station funded by redirecting Sales Tax revenue from the redevelopment of the facility ([sponsor summary](#)); the [Transportation Committee](#) meets to consider [House Bill 2486](#) (Everett-R-Lycoming) providing a voluntary check off on drivers licenses and vehicle registrations for contributions to the Keystone Tree Fund ([sponsor summary](#)); the [Click Here](#) for full House Committee Schedule.

Senate: the [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) holds a hearing on foreign influence on natural gas development in PA and meets to consider [House Bill 2154](#) (Causer-R-Cameron), which would weaken environmental standards for conventional oil and gas drilling, [Senate Resolution 214](#) (Greenleaf-R-Montgomery) urging Pennsylvania natural gas producers to export gas to European countries in an effort to curtail the monopoly that Russia has on supply to that region ([sponsor summary](#)); the [Transportation Committee](#) meets to consider [House Bill 86](#) (Lawrence-R-Chester) eliminating tailpipe emissions testing for 1992-1995 vehicles in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia areas ([House Fiscal Note](#) and summary), [House Bill 2131](#) (Quigley-R-Montgomery) requiring PennDOT to plant native species of vegetation along highways ([House Fiscal Note](#) and summary); the [Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee](#) meets to consider [House Bill 2075](#) (Charlton-R-Delaware) authorizing rate recovery for customer-owned lead water service lines ([House Fiscal Note](#) and summary). [Click Here](#) for full Senate Committee Schedule.

Other: [Senate-House Nuclear Energy Caucus hearing on Impacts of Nuclear Power Plant Deactivations On Energy & National Security](#)

Bills Pending In Key Committees

Check the [PA Environmental Council Bill Tracker](#) for the status and updates on pending state **legislation and regulations** that affect environmental and conservation efforts in Pennsylvania.

Bills Introduced

The following bills of interest were introduced last week--

Safety Info For Schools Near Pipelines: [Senate Bill 1257](#) (Dinniman-D-Chester) requiring owners of hazardous liquid and natural gas pipelines to provide schools within 1,000 feet of the pipelines with information on how to respond to a leak or product release ([sponsor summary](#)).

Landslide Insurance & Assistance Program: [Senate Bill 1131](#) (Costa-D-Allegheny) establishing the Landslide Insurance and Assistance Program within the PA Emergency

Management Agency ([sponsor summary](#)).

Session Schedule

Here is the latest voting session schedule for the Senate and House--

Senate

September 24, 25, 26

October 1, 2, 3, 15, 16, 17

November 14

House

September 24, 25, & 26.

October 1 (Non-Voting), 2 (Non-Voting), 9, 10, 15, 16, & 17.

November 13

Governor's Schedule

Gov. Tom Wolf's work calendar will be posted each Friday and his public schedule for the day will be posted each morning. [Click Here](#) to view Gov. Wolf's Weekly Calendar and Public Appearances.

The Feds

Gov. Wolf Urges Congress To Reauthorize Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund

Gov. Tom Wolf Thursday urged Congress to reauthorize the [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#)-- an important federal tool that communities across Pennsylvania-- rural, suburban, and urban-- have used to revitalize their neighborhoods and create outdoor recreation opportunities for all citizens.

"Congress must act to save this important community development and conservation tool for states and local communities," Gov. Wolf said. "Our economy depends on strong and attractive communities for businesses and workers to move, stay, and grow. Congress needs to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund without delay."

Gov. Wolf sent this [letter to the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation](#)--

Over 50 years ago, Congress passed the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, a remarkable bipartisan measure that provides urban and rural outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans. Unfortunately, without congressional action this tremendous resource to states will expire at the end of this month.

I write to request that you support H.R. 502, which was reported from the House Committee on Natural Resources last week, and to urge your leadership to make this a priority in



the coming days.

This bill provides for the permanent reauthorization of the LWCF and will ensure that the Fund will continue to enable new recreational opportunities for future generations in Pennsylvania and across the nation.

LWCF grants have improved thousands of communities throughout the Commonwealth and have helped fund significant improvements in our award-winning State Parks. Projects range in size from large, high-profile undertakings-- like the rehabilitation of the Big Savage Tunnel, a key point along the [Great Allegheny Passage](#) trail-- to more local initiatives, such as the rehabilitation of Milltown Dam Park in Chester County.

Federal projects have added to the Appalachian Trail, rehabilitated historic [Valley Forge National Park](#) and enabled dozens of other projects across the state.

Last week I attended a moving event at the [Flight 93 National Memorial](#) in Shanksville PA, marking the 17th anniversary of the September 11th attacks on our nation and memorializing the 40 passengers and crew who lost their lives on Pennsylvania soil that day.

LWCF funds were instrumental in enabling the creation of that fitting memorial as a place of reflection and tribute to all who lost their lives on that tragic day.

Tremendous strides have been made in meeting local outdoor recreation needs thanks to the LWCF in Pennsylvania.

The 40 percent guaranteed funding to the states in the bill will address greatly needed infrastructure upgrades, meet new health and safety requirements, and respond to changing population trends.

Parks created through this visionary law provide areas that will forever be available to address the needs of our youth, adults, seniors, and those of all abilities.

I am requesting your support for permanent reauthorization of the Act. Your commitment is critical to carry forward the visionary legacy of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.”

[Click Here](#) for a copy of the letter.

In Pennsylvania

To date LWCF has provided more than \$309 million in funding support to Pennsylvania, from well-known places like the [Appalachian Trail](#) and the [Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area](#) in Lebanon County to local projects like public park development and improvement in counties and municipalities across Pennsylvania.

[Click Here](#) for more background on LWCF projects funded in Pennsylvania.

Contact your [Representative](#) and [Senator](#) in Congress to let them know you support LWCF and want to see it both reauthorized and fully used for its intended purpose – to protect natural, cultural, and recreational opportunities in Pennsylvania.

For more information on this issue, visit the [Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition](#) website.

NewsClip:

[Letter: Reauthorize Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund](#)

Related Stories:

[U.S. House Committee Marks Up Bill Extending Life Of Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund](#)

[Op-Ed: Time Is Running Out For The Federal Land And Water Conservation Fund](#) - PEC

[Op-Ed: Congress Needs To Permanently Reauthorize Land & Water Conservation Fund](#) - Ed Perry

[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

News From The Capitol

Waning Days Of Senate, House: Environmental Bills We're Watching, Good And Bad



The General Assembly returns to session Monday, September 24 for 9 scheduled voting days in the Senate and 8 voting days in the House before the November 6 election.

While it is unlikely that any bills just starting their legislative journey will be adopted by the Senate and House and get to the Governor's desk, the more likely scenario is bills that are halfway through may get the votes to go all the way.

Any bill that does not receive final action dies on November 30 at the end of session and has to start over in

January.

Bills *PA Environment Digest* is watching that could see final action before the election include--

-- **Conventional Oil & Gas Drilling** - [House Bill 2154](#) (Causer-R-Cameron), which would weaken environmental standards for conventional oil and gas drilling, was passed by the House in a rush in June and is now in the [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#). The Senate is being strongly lobbied by the industry to get the bill to the Governor's desk. Environmental groups are united in their opposition against the bill. [Click Here for more.](#) [Senate Environmental Committee is scheduled to meet on this bill [September 25 Off the Floor.](#)]

-- **Regulatory and Permitting "Reform" Bills** - In May the House passed a 5 bill package of regulatory and permitting "reform" bills that would effectively hamstring the adoption of regulations by state agencies, including environmental regulations, and allow private consultants to take over review of DEP permits. [Click Here for more.](#)

The bills include--

-- **Killing A Regulation By Doing Nothing:** [House Bill 1237](#) (Keefer-R-York) authorizes the General Assembly to kill an economically significant final regulation from any agency by doing nothing and not passing a concurrent regulation to approve the regulation. The bill is in the [Senate Rules Committee](#). ([House Fiscal Note](#) and summary.)

This legislation is similar to a bill-- [Senate Bill 561 \(DiSanto-R-Dauphin\)](#)-- passed by the Senate on June 13 last year by a party-line vote (Republicans supporting) allowing the General Assembly to kill regulations by doing nothing. The bill is in the [House State Government Committee](#).

-- **Taking Permit Reviews Away From DEP, State Agencies Giving It To Third Parties:** [House Bill 1959](#) (Rothman-R-Cumberland) establishes the Pennsylvania Permit Act which requires agencies to create and develop a navigable online permit tracking system and takes authority to issue certain permits away from state agencies like DEP and creates a new bureaucracy of third-party reviewers. The bill is in the [Senate Intergovernmental Operations Committee](#). ([House Fiscal Note](#) and summary.)

There was no mention of the fact the General Assembly and Governors have cut DEP

General Fund money going to DEP by 40 percent over the last decade with the resulting loss of over 25 percent of its staff. [Click Here](#) for more.

-- **Cap On Number Of Regulations:** [House Bill 209](#) (Phillips-Hill-R-York): Establishes the Independent Office of the Repealer, a new bureaucracy to undertake an ongoing review of existing regulations; receive and process recommendations; and make recommendations to the General Assembly, the governor, and executive agencies for repeal. It also places a cap on all regulations and requires agencies to delete two regulations for every new regulations agencies seek to adopt. It is modeled after policies adopted by the Trump Administration. The bill is in the [Senate Rules Committee](#). ([House Fiscal Note](#) and summary).

--**Waiving Penalties:** [House Bill 1960](#) (Ellis-R-Butler) which requires each agency to appoint a Regulatory Compliance Officer with the authority to waive fines and penalties if a permit holder “attempts” to comply is now in the [Senate Intergovernmental Operations Committee](#). ([House Fiscal Note](#) and summary.)

-- **Repeal Any Regulation By Resolution:** [House Bill 1792](#) (Benninghoff-R-Mifflin) gives the General Assembly the ability to repeal any state regulation in effect by a concurrent resolution by requiring a single vote in the Senate and House is in the [Senate Rules Committee](#). The process is modeled after a federal procedure used by the Trump Administration to repeal regulations ([sponsor summary](#)).

Currently, the General Assembly can repeal any regulation by passing a new law which involves a more extensive committee review and several votes each by the Senate and House. ([House Fiscal Note](#) and summary.)

-- **Senate Wildcard:** [Senate Bill 1231](#) (Brooks-R-Crawford), which would require an automatic review of “economically significant” regulations every three years moving forward, was introduced in August and is now in the [Senate Rules Committee](#) ([sponsor summary](#)). This bill could be fast-tracked.

-- **Critical Infrastructure Protection:** [Senate Bill 652](#) (Regan-R-Cumberland), which would make it a felony to simply trespass on the right-of-way of pipelines, electric power lines, railroad tracks, refineries or on the property of any of 21 other “critical infrastructure facilities” outlined in the bill passed the Senate in May. It grew out of a concern to not have a repeat of the mass demonstrations that accompanied the Dakota Access Pipeline. Members in the Senate expressed concerns about the bill infringing on First Amendment rights. This bill is now in the [House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#). [Click Here](#) for more. [The House Environmental Committee is scheduled to [meet on this bill September 25](#).]

Another bill-- [Senate Bill 754](#) (Martin-R-Lancaster)-- that has not yet been considered by the [Senate State Government Committee](#), tries to address the same issue by imposing the public costs for dealing with any “public assembly, meeting or gathering” entirely on the individuals doing the protesting. [Click Here](#) for more.

-- **Temporary Cessation of Coal Mine Operations** - [House Bill 1333](#) (Gabler-R-Clearfield), which would eliminating the current DEP limit on how long surface mine operators can temporarily cease mining operations from 180 days to the federal standard of what could be up to five years, is now in the [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#). The bill has been opposed by environmental groups as opening a wide window for coal operators to abandoned sites without the appropriate safeguards. [Click Here](#) for more.

-- **Regulating Lawn Fertilizer** - [Senate Bill 792](#) (Alloway-R-Franklin), which would require lawn fertilizer applicators to be certified in application techniques and creates an education

program on lawn fertilizer application, addresses a big hole in efforts to reduce polluted runoff from homeowner and other lawns. The bill is now in the [House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee](#) which held a [hearing on the bill in June](#). [Click Here](#) for more.

-- **Opening Private Land To Recreation Liability** - [House Bill 544](#) (Moul-R-Adams), which would further extend liability protection for private landowners who open their property for recreation, has provisions beneficial to trail and other recreation groups. Other [changes have been suggested to the bill](#) to better address issues related to bicycle and other trails, some of which have been incorporated. The bill is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

-- **Eastern Hellbender designation as state amphibian** - An 18-month long student-led project to designate the Eastern Hellbender as the official state amphibian and clean water ambassador resulted in the Senate passing [Senate Bill 658](#) (Yaw-R-Lycoming) last November, but the bill has remained in the [House State Government Committee](#) since then. The students and many other groups and the public is pushing for final House action on the bill. [Click Here](#) for more.

There are many other bills that will be moving in the Senate and House, so keep your eyes open.

Check the [PA Environmental Council Bill Tracker](#) for the status and updates on pending state **legislation and regulations** that affect environmental and conservation efforts in Pennsylvania.

(Photo: Eastern Hellbender.)

Related Committee Meeting Stories:

[Bill To Weaken Conventional Oil & Gas Drilling Standards On Senate Environmental Committee Agenda For Sept. 25](#)

[Senate Environmental Committee Holds Sept. 25 Hearing On Foreign Influence On Natural Gas Development In PA](#)

[Nuclear Energy Caucus Hearing Sept. 25 On Impacts Of Nuclear Power Plant Deactivations On Energy & National Security](#)

[House Environmental Committee Meets Sept. 25 On Controversial Critical Infrastructure Trespass Bill](#)

[House Committee Meets Sept. 24 To Consider Bill Creating Keystone Tree Fund](#)

[Posted: Sept. 21, 2018]

Bill To Weaken Conventional Oil & Gas Drilling Standards On Senate Environmental Committee Agenda For Sept. 25

The [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) has scheduled an off-the-floor meeting September 25 to consider [House Bill 2154](#) (Causer-R-Cameron), which would weaken environmental standards for conventional (not Shale gas) oil and gas drilling.

The notice indicates there may be a possible amendment to the bill.

Also on the agenda is [Senate Resolution 214](#) (Greenleaf-R-Montgomery) urging Pennsylvania natural gas producers to export gas to European countries in an effort to curtail the monopoly that Russia has on supply to that region ([sponsor summary](#)).

Background On Conventional Drilling Bill

Gov. Wolf and environmental groups have opposed House Bill 2154 as a wholesale weakening of environmental standards applied to conventional oil and gas drilling. In fact, the bill is based on the original 1984 Oil and Gas Act.

It is interesting to note DEP reported at the end of August that the number of conventional oil and gas well violations of existing requirements more than tripled between 2015 and 2017 from 1,024 to 3,273 last year. [Click Here](#) for more.

Prior to House passing the bill in June by a party-line vote (Republicans supporting), the Governor's Secretary of Legislative Affairs William C. Danowski, Jr. [wrote to all members of the House Tuesday](#) saying--

"I write to make it emphatically clear that the Administration, including the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), is strongly opposed to House Bill 2154, Printer's Number 3477.

"We have collectively engaged, through DEP and the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), in what we thought to be productive conversations at the [Pennsylvania Grade Crude Development Advisory Council](#) (CDAC) over the past year.

"We believe that those efforts were headed toward development of a bill that we could support. However, House Bill 2154, PN 3477 is not it.

"This bill is bad for the environment. For example, the legislation allows for up to 210 gallons of crude oil or 630 gallons of brine, to be spilled without having to be reported.

"It also relaxes casing and cementing requirement, which significantly increases the risk of water contamination, and would relax water restoration or replacement standards where a well operator affects a public or private water supply.

"Additionally, the legislation encourages the proliferation of methane by allowing wells to remain in active status (i.e. uncapped) if equipment is left on site.

"This bill is also bad for landowners. It would remove the requirement to notify landowners 24 hours in advance of drilling and would eliminate the requirement for operators to obtain and post a well permit prior to commencing site construction, while affording landowners only 15 days to raise objections to a proposed well location.

"Further, the bill would prevent local municipalities from making reasonable zoning decisions, a right which was upheld by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in the Robinson Township decision.

"These are merely a few examples of major concerns with the legislation that cannot be resolved through piecemeal attempts to amend.

"The Administration acknowledges that the conventional industry is facing particular challenges and is in need of a legislative solution. However, the bill in its current form is unworkable, and a new product needs to be crafted.

"We were sincere in our offer to return to CDAC to work toward a collaborative product, and that offer still stands.

"However, the Administration strongly opposes House Bill 2154, PN 3477, and would ask for a negative vote should this bill run on final passage."

[Click Here](#) for a copy of the letter.

DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell [wrote to members](#) of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee expressing similar concerns saying, in part, "As written, the bill presents environmental and public health risks and loosens current environmental protections to the point, in some cases, of nullification."

The [PA Environmental Council](#), [Environmental Defense Fund](#) [wrote to all members of the House](#) calling the bill a wholesale weakening of necessary environmental protection standards for conventional oil and gas drilling.

Rep. Martin Causer (R-Cameron), prime sponsor of the bill said, “The conventional oil and gas industry has long been a cornerstone of the economy in my district and areas across the northern tier, providing thousands of good, family-sustaining jobs.

“This bill will help preserve those jobs by removing the threat of unreasonable and unnecessary regulations from the backs of our conventional producers in favor of rules that are relevant and appropriate to these shallow well operations.

“The lack of understanding by many bureaucrats about the vast differences between the types of drilling has really put our conventional operators at risk.

“It is extremely frustrating, especially given the good stewardship long practiced by conventional producers. They live in the communities where their wells are located, breathing the same air and drinking the same water as everyone else. They clearly have a vested interest in doing things right.”

[**Note:** From 1859 to 1984, the conventional oil and gas drilling industry drilled as many as 760,000 wells and left an estimated [560,000 wells unaccounted for](#) and likely not plugged to modern standards, abandoned or orphaned in its wake before the first modern environmental well plugging requirements were adopted in 1984-- 125 years later and opposed bitterly at the time by conventional drillers. [Click Here](#) to learn more about abandoned wells.]

The Committee meeting will be an “off the floor” meeting in the Rules Committee Room. Off the Floor means there is no set time for the meeting so it could be held at any time after the Senate breaks from session on September 25.

Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming) serves as Majority Chair of the [Senate Environmental Committee](#) and can be contacted by calling 717-787-3280 or sending email to: gyaw@pasen.gov. Sen. John Yudichak (D-Luzerne) serves as Minority Chair and can be contacted by calling 717-787-7105 or sending email to: yudichak@pasenate.com.

Related Stories:

[DEP: Conventional Oil & Gas Well Violations More Than Triple Between 2015-17](#)
[Senate Environmental Committee Holds Sept. 25 Hearing On Foreign Influence On Natural Gas Development In PA](#)

[Waning Days Of Senate, House: Environmental Bills We’re Watching, Good And Bad](#)

Related Stories This Week:

[Waning Days Of Senate, House: Environmental Bills We’re Watching, Good And Bad](#)
[Senate Environmental Committee Holds Sept. 25 Hearing On Foreign Influence On Natural Gas Development In PA](#)

[Nuclear Energy Caucus Hearing Sept. 25 On Impacts Of Nuclear Power Plant Deactivations On Energy & National Security](#)

[House Environmental Committee Meets Sept. 25 On Controversial Critical Infrastructure Trespass Bill](#)

[House Committee Meets Sept. 24 To Consider Bill Creating Keystone Tree Fund](#)

[Posted: Sept. 21, 2018]

Senate Environmental Committee Holds Sept. 25 Hearing On Foreign Influence On Natural Gas Development In PA



The [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) is scheduled to hold a hearing September 25

to discuss foreign influence on natural gas development in Pennsylvania.

The Committee expects to receive comments from--

- Thomas B. Murphy, Director, [Penn State Marcellus Center for Outreach and Research](#);
- Kevin J. Mooney, Reporter, [The Daily Signal](#) (a news platform from the [Heritage Foundation](#));
- Thomas J. Shepstone, [Shepstone Management Company, Inc.](#) and publisher of [Natural Gas Now](#).

Background

In [June](#), [The Caucus/LancasterOnline.com](#) published a lengthy article on allegations Russia, which depends on natural gas exports to Europe for cash, tried to preserve its dominance by sowing discord and opposition to the development of natural gas in the United States, Pennsylvania and to specific projects like the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The article follows a [report by the Republican staff on the U.S. House Committee on Science, Space And Technology](#) released in March of this year that concluded, “Russian agents were exploiting American social media platforms in an effort to disrupt domestic energy markets, suppress research and development of fossil fuels, and stymie efforts to expand the use of natural gas.”

The Caucus/LancasterOnline.com article pointed to a series of stories published by the RT website, which is owned by RTTV America, Inc. a registered foreign agent with the U.S. Department of Justice, that highlighted protests to natural gas development in the state.

The example articles included “[Pipeline To Move Fracked Gas Across Pennsylvania As Critics Cry Foul](#)” and “[Protesters Resisting Mariner East 2 Pipeline In Pennsylvania Feeling Intimidated](#).”

Caucus/LancasterOnline.com also cited the [story by Amy Sisk, a reporter for StateImpact PA](#), as she recounted how a photo she took at the Dakota Access Pipeline demonstrators site was used by Russia’s Internet Research Agency to illustrate a story on the U.S. House Committee staff report on Russian influence in the energy sector.

Sisk’s found out about the use of the photo from a [story in the Washington Post](#) on how Russian Internet trolls sought to inflame the debate over climate change, fracking and the Dakota Pipeline.

David Masur from PennEnvironment was quoted in the Lancaster article as saying, “Certainly the case against fracking is clearly supported by the facts and doesn’t need ‘fake news’ or any foreign interference to know that dirty drilling is bad for our air, water, health and environment.”

He added he hadn’t heard of Russian interference in the energy debate before a reporter emailed him.

[Click Here](#) to read the Caucus/LancasterOnline.com story.

The hearing will be held in Hearing Room 1 of the North Office Building starting at 10:00. [Click Here](#) to watch live.

Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming) serves as Majority Chair of the [Senate Environmental Committee](#) and can be contacted by calling 717-787-3280 or sending email to:

gyaw@pasen.gov. Sen. John Yudichak (D-Luzerne) serves as Minority Chair and can be contacted by calling 717-787-7105 or sending email to: yudichak@pasenate.com.

(Photo: Mariner East 2 Pipeline construction in Lancaster County, [LancasterOnline.com](#).)

Background NewsClips:

[PA Natural Gas Boom Falls In Russia’s Crosshairs, Amplifies Discord In American Politics.](#)

Energy Sector

[How A Reporter's Photo Wound Up In The Russia Investigations](#)

[National Republicans Brewing Russian Scandal To Target Greens](#)

[Russian Trolls Sought To Inflame Debate Over Climate Change, Fracking, Dakota Pipeline](#)

NewsClips This Week:

[Treating Protest As Terrorism: U.S. Plans Crackdown On Keystone XL Activists](#)

[Cusick: Cumberland County Criticizes Mariner East 2 Pipeline For Dodging Safety Questions](#)

[Cumberland County Wants Mariner East 2 Pipeline To Address Citizens' Safety Concerns](#)

[Cable: Did Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Bulldozing Detention Basin Cause Mount Joy Mobile](#)

[Home Park Destruction?](#)

[Only 11% Of PA's Natural Gas Pipelines Are Mapped For The Public](#)

[Op-Ed: Beaver County Pipeline Explosion: How To Prevent Future Catastrophes](#) - PennFuture

[Op-Ed: Oppose Ban On Natural Gas Pipeline Construction](#)

[Boston: Natural Gas Pipeline Pressure Before Explosions Was 12 Times Too High](#)

[Tougher Laws On Pipeline Protests Face Test In Louisiana](#)

Related Stories:

[PUC Approves Resolution Of Mariner East 2 Pipeline Valve Dispute In Chester County](#)

[CFA Awards \\$850,000 Grant To Valley Energy, Inc. To Extend Natural Gas Pipeline In Bradford County](#)

[Waning Days Of Senate, House: Environmental Bills We're Watching, Good And Bad](#)

[Bill To Weaken Conventional Oil & Gas Drilling Standards On Senate Environmental](#)

[Committee Agenda For Sept. 25](#)

[Nuclear Energy Caucus Hearing Sept. 25 On Impacts Of Nuclear Power Plant Deactivations On Energy & National Security](#)

[House Environmental Committee Meets Sept. 25 On Controversial Critical Infrastructure](#)

[Trespass Bill](#)

[House Committee Meets Sept. 24 To Consider Bill Creating Keystone Tree Fund](#)

[Posted: Sept. 21, 2018]

Nuclear Energy Caucus Hearing Sept. 25 On Impacts Of Nuclear Power Plant Deactivations On Energy & National Security



The [House-Senate Nuclear Energy Caucus](#) is scheduled to hold a [hearing September 25](#) on the impact of nuclear power plant deactivations on energy and national security.

The Caucus is expected to hear comments from--

-- [Edward McGinness](#), Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Nuclear Energy, U.S. Department of Energy;

-- **Paul Stockton**, Current Managing Director and

Former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs, [Sonecon, LLC](#); and

-- **Amy Roma**, Partner, [Hogan Lovells](#) and Co-Author, [Back from the Brink: A Threatened Nuclear Energy](#).

The hearing will be in Room 8-EB East Wing of the Capitol Building in Harrisburg from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. [Click Here](#) to watch the hearing online.

Senators Ryan Aument (R-Lancaster) and John Yudichak (D-Luzerne) along with Representatives Becky Corbin (R-Chester) and Rob Matzie (D-Allegheny) serve as co-chairs of the Nuclear Energy Caucus.

For more information on this and past hearings, visit the [Nuclear Energy Caucus](#) webpage.

(Photo: Three Mile Island, Dauphin County.)

Related Stories:

[Nuclear Energy Caucus: Testimony Highlights Environmental Impacts Of Premature Shutdown Of Nuclear Power Plants](#)

[PA Environmental Council: Putting A Price On Carbon Would Spur Energy Competition, Help Nuclear Power Plants](#)

[Nuclear Energy Caucus Hears Testimony On Jobs, Environmental Impacts Of Closing Nuclear Power Plants](#)

[Nuclear Energy Caucus Hearing: The Federal Government Is Not Going To Act In Time To Save Nuclear Power Plants](#)

Related Stories This Week:

[Waning Days Of Senate, House: Environmental Bills We're Watching, Good And Bad Bill To Weaken Conventional Oil & Gas Drilling Standards On Senate Environmental Committee Agenda For Sept. 25](#)

[Senate Environmental Committee Holds Sept. 25 Hearing On Foreign Influence On Natural Gas Development In PA](#)

[House Environmental Committee Meets Sept. 25 On Controversial Critical Infrastructure Trespass Bill](#)

[House Committee Meets Sept. 24 To Consider Bill Creating Keystone Tree Fund](#)

NewsClips:

[Editorial: Flood Of Truth From Florence On Saving Coal, Nuclear Plants](#)

[NJ's Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant Shutdown In Deal To Avoid Building Cooling Towers](#)

[Posted: Sept. 21, 2018]

House Environmental Committee Meets Sept. 25 On Controversial Critical Infrastructure Trespass Bill

The [House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) is scheduled to meet September 25 on [Senate Bill 652](#) (Regan-R-Cumberland), which would make it a felony to simply trespass on the right-of-way of pipelines, electric power lines, railroad tracks, refineries or on the property of any of 21 other “critical infrastructure facilities” outlined in the bill.

Specifically, the bill says an individual commits an offense if they do the following (it's listed first)-- “Enters or attempts to enter property containing a critical infrastructure facility, knowing that the person is not licensed or does not have the permission of the owner or lawful occupant of the property to do so.”

There are no other qualifiers like causing any damage.

Twenty-one types of facilities are included in the definition of “Critical Infrastructure Facility”--

- Natural gas or natural gas liquids transmission, distribution facility or pipeline, pipeline interconnection, metering station, pipeline compressor station, terminal or storage facility, gas processing, treatment or fractionation of natural gas or natural gas liquids;
- Oil and gas production facilities, well sites, separation and dehydration facilities, storage and meter stations;
- Electric power generating facility, substation, switching station, or electrical power lines and any energy facility involved in the production, storage, transmission or distribution of electricity, fuel or other form or source of energy or research, development, or demonstration facilities regardless of whether the facility is still under construction or is otherwise not functioning, except a facility subject to the jurisdiction of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (18 USC Section 1366(c));
- Water intake structure, water treatment and distribution structure or wastewater treatment and collection infrastructure;
- Dam regulated by the state or federal government;
- Petroleum or alumina refinery; crude oil or refined products storage and distribution facility, chemical, polymer or rubber manufacturing facility, a facility identified and regulated by the Department of Homeland Security Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program;
- Telecommunications switching station, remote terminal, wireless telecommunications infrastructure, radio or television transmission facilities;
- Port, railroad switching yard, railroad tracks, trucking terminal;
- Steelmaking facility using an electric arc furnace; and
- Any equipment and machinery stored on location or at a storage yard used to construct critical infrastructure.

When the Senate passed the bill in May, Republicans generally supported the bill (with 6 exceptions) and Democratic members opposed.

Democratic members expressed concerns that it would limit the First Amendment rights of people to express their opinions about a facility. In other cases, the bill language was noted as overly broad to the point of being unworkable, like in the case of “trespassing” on electric power line or railroad track rights-of-way.

Sen. Larry Farnese (D-Philadelphia) compared the proposal to [his efforts to outlaw SLAPP suits](#) where developers and others file lawsuits against citizens and community groups in hopes of intimidating them to drop their opposition. Sen. Farnese’s bill-- [Senate Bill 95](#)-- passed the Senate overwhelmingly 42 to 8 in April of last year.

Also on the Committee agenda is [House Bill 2640](#) (Mako-R-Lehigh) requiring DEP to forward notices of noncompliance issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for violation of the Toxic Substances Control Act or state Solid Waste Management Act to the municipality where the violation occurred ([sponsor summary](#)).

The meeting will be held in Room B-31 of the Main Capitol starting at 9:00. Committee meetings are typical webcast on the [House Republican Caucus](#) website.

Rep. John Maher (R-Allegheny) serves as Majority Chair of the [House Environmental Committee](#) and can be contacted by calling 717-783-1522 or sending email to: jmaher@pahousegop.com. Rep. Mike Carroll serves as Minority Chair and can be contacted by calling 717-787-3589 or sending email to: mcarroll@pahouse.net.

NewsClips:

[Cusick: Cumberland County Criticizes Mariner East 2 Pipeline For Dodging Safety Questions](#)

[As Mariner East 2 Pipeline Nears Completion, Cumberland County Resident Worries About Danger](#)

[Cumberland County Wants Mariner East 2 Pipeline To Address Citizens' Safety Concerns](#)
[Crabbe: Did Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Bulldozing Detention Basin Cause Mount Joy Mobile Home Park Destruction?](#)

[Williams Reports Completion Of Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline, Requests Permission For Full Service](#)

[Only 11% Of PA's Natural Gas Pipelines Are Mapped For The Public](#)

[Op-Ed: Beaver County Pipeline Explosion: How To Prevent Future Catastrophes](#) - PennFuture

[Op-Ed: Oppose Ban On Natural Gas Pipeline Construction](#)

[Boston: Natural Gas Pipeline Pressure Before Explosions Was 12 Times Too High](#)

[Tougher Laws On Pipeline Protests Face Test In Louisiana](#)

[Treating Protest As Terrorism: U.S. Plans Crackdown On Keystone XL Activists](#)

Related Stories:

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[Bill To Weaken Conventional Oil & Gas Drilling Standards On Senate Environmental Committee Agenda For Sept. 25](#)

[Senate Environmental Committee Holds Sept. 25 Hearing On Foreign Influence On Natural Gas Development In PA](#)

[Nuclear Energy Caucus Hearing Sept. 25 On Impacts Of Nuclear Power Plant Deactivations On Energy & National Security](#)

[House Committee Meets Sept. 24 To Consider Bill Creating Keystone Tree Fund](#)

[Posted: Sept. 21, 2018]

House Committee Meets Sept. 24 To Consider Bill Creating Keystone Tree Fund



The [House Transportation Committee](#) is scheduled to meet on September 24 to consider [House Bill 2486](#) (Everett-R-Lycoming) providing a voluntary check off on drivers licenses and vehicle registrations for contributions to the Keystone Tree Fund ([sponsor summary](#)). The legislation would add "Keystone Tree Fund" as a voluntary checkoff box to the Department of Transportation's drivers license application (original and renewal) and the vehicle registration

renewal application.

The checkoff box would allow applicants to voluntarily donate \$3 to the fund.

"To repair the waters and meet our constitutional obligation as trustee of the Pennsylvania's natural resources we will need a comprehensive statewide strategy that involves farms, towns and the general public, but one important step is to plant more trees," said Rep. Garth Everett, prime sponsor of the bill. "Along streams, trees help to filter out pollutants running off the land. In urban areas, trees help to soak up storm water, reducing flooding and erosion."

Senators Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming) and John Yudichak (D-Luzerne), Majority and

Minority Chairs of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, have introduced a companion bill in the Senate-- [Senate Bill 1208](#).

The House Committee will be called Off the Floor and meet in Room 205 of the Ryan Building.

Rep. John Taylor (R-Philadelphia) serves as Majority Chair of the Committee and can be contacted at 717-787-3179 or send email to: jtaylor@pahousegop.com. Rep. William Keller (D-Philadelphia) serves as Minority Chair and can be contacted at 717-787-5774 or send email to: wkeller@pahouse.net.

Green Infrastructure Related Stories:

[New Statewide Partnership Launches Major Effort To Plant 10 Million Trees To Cleanup Pennsylvania's Streams, Rivers](#)

[Renew The State's Commitment To Keeping Pennsylvania Clean, Green And Growing Meeting The Challenge Of Keeping Pennsylvania Clean, Green And Growing](#)

[Agriculture, Forestry Workgroups Present Key Recommendations To Meet PA's Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Obligations](#)

[LancasterOnline: Lancaster Farmland Provides \\$676M In Annual Environmental Benefits Estimated \\$939.2 Million Return On Investment In Protecting, Restoring Dauphin County's Natural Resources](#)

[Carbon County Has \\$800 Million Return On Investment From Natural Resources Emma Creek Restoration Project Reduced Flood Damage, Sediment & Nutrient Pollution In Huntingdon County](#)

[Another Green Infrastructure Project Reduces Flooding In Manheim, Lancaster County Green Infrastructure Offers Triple Benefits, Cost Effective Solutions To Stormwater Pollution, Reducing Flood Damage](#)

[Op-Ed: Of Pennsylvania Floods And Our Future](#)

Related Stories This Week:

[CFA Funds 359 Projects To Improve Water Infrastructure & Recreation, Restore Watersheds House Committee Meets Sept. 24 To Consider Bill Creating Keystone Tree Fund](#)

[NRCS-PA Now Accepting Applications For Financial, Technical Farm, Forest Conservation Assistance](#)

[NRCS-PA Accepting Applications For Emergency Watershed Protection Assistance In PA; DEP To Pay 25% Local Share](#)

[Stroud Water Research Center Premiere Of Lay Of The Land: Healthy Soils, Healthy Waters Film Oct. 11, Lancaster](#)

NewsClips:

[DEP Secretary: Chesapeake Bay Plan Affects Water Quality For Locals](#)

[Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Firming Up Fee Proposal For Regional Stormwater Solutions](#)

[Flooding, Pollution, Sewage Overruns Region's Broken Waterways](#)

[Washington Twp Dealing With Runoff Issues To Comply With State Water Pollution Rules](#)

[AP: Panel Wants More Use Of Natural Water Protection Measures For Great Lakes](#)

[Shade Tree Commission Seeks Answers After Trees Vandalized In Carbondale](#)

[Op-Ed: Flood Of 10 Million Trees Could Help Offset Impact Of Future PA Deluges](#)

Other Committee Meetings This Week:

[Bill To Weaken Conventional Oil & Gas Drilling Standards On Senate Environmental](#)

[Committee Agenda For Sept. 25](#)

[Senate Environmental Committee Holds Sept. 25 Hearing On Foreign Influence On Natural Gas Development In PA](#)

[Nuclear Energy Caucus Hearing Sept. 25 On Impacts Of Nuclear Power Plant Deactivations On Energy & National Security](#)

[House Environmental Committee Meets Sept. 25 On Controversial Critical Infrastructure Trespass Bill](#)

How You Can Help

[Want To Find A Watershed Group Near You? Try The PA Land Trust Assn. Watershed Association Finder](#)

Take Action:

[How Good Is The Water Quality In Streams In Your Community? Take A Look, Then Act](#)

[Posted: Sept. 18, 2018]

Environmental Issues Forum Oct. 15 By Joint Conservation Committee On Biogas, Bioenergy From Organic Waste

The [Joint House-Senate Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) is scheduled to hold an Environmental Issues Forum on biogas and bioenergy from organic waste on October 15.

The Forum will feature presentations on technologies used by Pennsylvania companies to produce biogas and bioenergy from a variety of organic waste.

Turning organic waste from areas like landfills into energy offers a variety of benefits from providing electricity, heating home and businesses and for generating fuel for automobiles.

Janice Kelsey, Vice President of [Solar CITIES, Inc.](#) and Dan Spracklin, CEO of [SoMax BioEnergy](#) will present information on the technology and process behind biogas and bioenergy.

The Forum will be held in Room 8E-A East Wing of the Capitol Building starting at Noon. Committee Forums and hearings have been webcast through [Sen. Hutchinson's webpage](#) in the past.

Anthracite Roundtable

The Joint Conservation Committee is also scheduling a roundtable discussion on anthracite coal in Pennsylvania for October 4 in Coaldale, Schuylkill County. LTBA.

Sen. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) serves as Chair of the Joint Conservation Committee.

For more information, visit the [Joint Conservation Committee](#) website, [Like them on Facebook](#) or [Follow them on Twitter](#). [Click Here](#) to sign up for regular updates from the Committee.

[Posted: Sept. 19, 2018]

News From Around The State

NRCS-PA Now Accepting Applications For Financial, Technical Farm, Forest Conservation Assistance



The [Natural Resource Conservation Service-PA](#) is now accepting applications for technical and

financial assistance to improve and enhance natural resources on their farm and forest land.

Funding is available through the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP) and [Agricultural Management Assistance](#) (AMA) program administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The first application deadline for fiscal year 2019 is October 19 for both EQIP and AMA.

Assistance is available to help farmers and forest landowners plan and implement conservation practices to improve water and air quality, build healthier soil, improve grazing and forest lands, conserve energy, enhance organic operations, and achieve other environmental benefits.

Popular practices include waste storage structures, heavy use area pads, energy, cover crops, irrigation water management, poultry windbreaks and more.

Additionally, NRCS offers special initiatives through EQIP, including:

- **On-Farm Energy Initiative:** helps producers conserve energy on their operations.
- **Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative:** helps producers install high tunnels designed to extend the growing season into the cold months, increase productivity, keep plants at a steady temperature and conserve water and energy.
- **Organic Initiative:** helps producers to install conservation practices on certified organic operations or those working toward organic certification.

NRCS conservationists will work with producers to develop a conservation plan on their land to identify concerns and opportunities, help determine objectives and recommend solutions.

“Our high-quality comprehensive conservation plans can provide farmers with step-by-step recommendations they can use to improve their water quality, soil health and more -- all while reducing input costs,” said Denise Coleman, Pennsylvania NRCS State Conservationist.

NRCS accepts applications year-round but makes funding selections at application cut-off deadlines. Pennsylvania producers with applications in before October 19, 2018 will have a higher chance of application approval as funding is limited.

Applications received after that date will be accepted and considered for funding in the second ranking in December, if funds remain.

To participate in USDA conservation programs, applicants should be farmers or farm or forest landowners and must meet eligibility criteria.

To take advantage of NRCS technical assistance and expertise or federally funded conservation on your farm or land, please contact your local [USDA NRCS Field Office](#), or visit the [NRCS-PA](#) webpage for applications and program information.

[Click Here](#) for a list of NRCS-PA financial assistance programs.

NewsClips:

[Cradle: Lancaster Farmland Trust Preserves 500th Farm In Lancaster County](#)

[Cradle: Dairy Farmers Get \\$5 Million In Grants For New Initiatives, Including Organic Milk](#)

[Lehigh Valley Colleges Take Up Research Mantle In Stomping Out Spotted Lanternfly](#)

[Hundreds Of Baby Chicks Found On Vacant Philadelphia Lot](#)

Related Story:

[NRCS-PA Accepting Applications For Emergency Watershed Protection Assistance In PA; DEP To Pay 25% Local Share](#)

Related Stories This Week:

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[Bay Journal: Op-Ed: Flood Of 10 Million Trees Could Help Offset Impact Of Future PA Deluges](#)
[House Committee Meets Sept. 24 To Consider Bill Creating Keystone Tree Fund](#)
[Stroud Water Research Center Premiere Of Lay Of The Land: Healthy Soils, Healthy Waters](#)
[Film Oct. 11, Lancaster](#)
[Posted: Sept. 17, 2018]

Chesapeake Bay Land & Water Initiative Now Accepting Grant Applications

THE CHESAPEAKE BAY LAND AND WATER INITIATIVE

The [Land Trust Alliance](#) and [Chesapeake Bay Funders Network](#) have announced a new round of grants is now available through the [Chesapeake Bay Land and Water Initiative](#). The deadline for applications is November 9.

A partnership of the Funders Network and the Alliance, the Land and Water Initiative seeks

projects that will accelerate land conservation and stewardship on conserved lands to protect and restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (*all or parts of 43 counties in Pennsylvania are in the watershed*).

The Initiative invites letters of inquiry (LOIs) from eligible organizations undertaking projects that positively impact water quality and meet the stated priorities and interests of the Initiative's grant program.

Funding requests of \$10,000–30,000 will be considered. LOIs will be accepted through November 9, 2018, and successful applicants will be invited in late December 2018 to submit full proposals for consideration.

Webinar Oct. 1

Prospective grantees are invited and encouraged to attend a conference call and webinar on Monday, October 1, at 1:00 p.m. to learn more about the grant program and LOI process. More information and [registration is available here](#).

We also encourage you to take a look at projects funded in our previous grant rounds in [2017](#) and [2018](#).

[Click Here](#) for the full request for LOIs. [Click Here](#) for general FAQs for operating the Alliance's [online application system](#).

If you have questions or need more information after reviewing the Request for LOIs, please contact Jennifer Miller Herzog by sending email to: jmillerherzog@lta.org or call 406-580-6410.

NewsClips:

[DEP Secretary: Chesapeake Bay Plan Affects Water Quality For Locals](#)

[Hayes: Does PA Need A State Amphibian? Meet The Hellbender](#)

[Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Firming Up Fee Proposal For Regional Stormwater Solutions](#)

[Florence Moved On, But High Waters May Send Torrent Of Pollution To Chesapeake Bay](#)
[Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Firming Up Fee Proposal For Regional Stormwater Solutions](#)

[Op-Ed: Flood Of 10 Million Trees Could Help Offset Impact Of Future PA Deluges](#)
[Latest From The Chesapeake Bay Journal](#)

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Related Stories:

[NRCS-PA Now Accepting Applications For Financial, Technical Farm, Forest Conservation Assistance](#)

[NRCS-PA Accepting Applications For Emergency Watershed Protection Assistance In PA; DEP To Pay 25% Local Share](#)

[Posted: Sept. 21, 2018]

Pike Conservation District Holds Local Road Maintenance Workshop Oct. 11



With winter just around the corner, [Pike County Conservation District](#) is hosting a free [Road Maintenance Workshop](#) on October 11 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, at the Dingman Township Fire Hall, 680 Log Tavern Road in Milford.

The event is geared toward municipal and community association staff and officials who are responsible for maintaining local roadways.

The workshop will begin with coffee, donuts, and exhibitors, including: [Chemung Supply](#)

[Corporation](#), [Medico Industries](#), [Pennsylvania One Call System](#), PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program, [Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies](#), and Pike County Penn State Extension.

Wade Brown of the Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies will discuss Stormwater Best Management Practices from 9:30 to 10:30, followed by a presentation on Winter Maintenance, from 10:45 to 11:45 by Robert Peda of PennDOT Local Technical Assistance Program.

Soft drinks will be provided by Medico Industries, and the event will conclude with a raffle.

[Click Here](#) for more information. Reservations are requested by October 3 by email to: kgromalski@pikepa.org or call 570-226-8220.

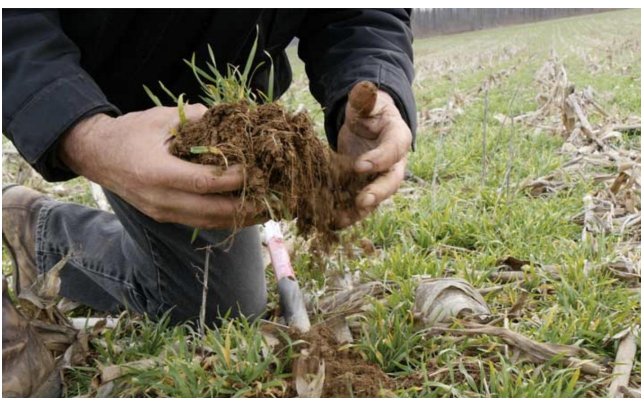
For more information on programs, initiatives, technical and financial assistance, visit the [Pike County Conservation District](#) website.

Related Story:

[Pike County Conservation District Celebrates Natural Resources Nov. 1](#)

[Posted: Sept. 21, 2018]

Stroud Water Research Center Premiere Of Lay Of The Land: Healthy Soils, Healthy Waters Film Oct. 11, Lancaster



On October 11 Chester County-based [Stroud Water Research Center](#) will host the premier of the documentary film "[Lay Of The Land: Healthy Soils, Healthy Waters](#)" featuring local farmers sharing their experiences of

how best management practices have improved their bottom line and protected water quality.

After the film there will be a panel discussion with farmers in the film, Q & A session, and suggestions for what you can do in your own backyard to help protect our streams and rivers.

The premier and discussion is in celebration of [Lancaster Ag Week](#) and is being sponsored by [Ernst Conservation Seeds](#).

The film is produced by [Natural Light Films](#) in partnership with the Stroud Center, [Lancaster County Conservancy](#), and [Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance](#).

The premier will be held at the Community Mennonite Church Of Lancaster, 328 West Orange Street in Lancaster starting at 6:00 with a reception.

[Click Here](#) to RSVP or for more information.

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the [Stroud Water Research Center](#) website, [Click Here](#) to subscribe to UpStream. [Click Here](#) to subscribe to Stroud's Educator newsletter. [Click Here](#) to become a Friend Of Stroud Research, [Like them on Facebook](#), [Follow on Twitter](#), include them in your [Circle on Google+](#) and visit their [YouTube Channel](#).

NewsClips:

[Cable: Lancaster Farmland Trust Preserves 500th Farm In Lancaster County](#)

[Cable: Dairy Farmers Get \\$5 Million In Grants For New Initiatives, Including Organic Milk](#)

[Lehigh Valley Colleges Take Up Research Mantle In Stomping Out Spotted Lanternfly](#)

[Hundreds Of Baby Chicks Found On Vacant Philadelphia Lot](#)

Related Stories:

[PA Grazing Lands Coalition Releases New Grapevine Grazing & Soil Health Podcast Series](#)
[Study Of Spring Creek Watershed, Centre County Finds Conservation Dairy Farming Could Help PA Meet Water Quality Targets](#)

[Study: Riparian Buffers Provide Over \\$10,000/Year/Acre In Benefits - Reducing Erosion, Flooding, Increased Water Purification, Habitat, Property Values, More](#)

[Bay Journal Op-Ed: Turkey Hill Clean Water Partnership Leads The Way In Lancaster County](#)

Related Stories This Week:

[CFA Funds 359 Projects To Improve Water Infrastructure & Recreation, Restore Watersheds](#)

[Bay Journal: Op-Ed: Flood Of 10 Million Trees Could Help Offset Impact Of Future PA Deluges](#)

[House Committee Meets Sept. 24 To Consider Bill Creating Keystone Tree Fund](#)

[NRCS-PA Now Accepting Applications For Financial, Technical Farm, Forest Conservation Assistance](#)

[NRCS-PA Accepting Applications For Emergency Watershed Protection Assistance In PA; DEP To Pay 25% Local Share](#)

[Posted: Sept. 17, 2018]

Pike County Conservation District Celebrates Natural Resources Nov. 1



A hike through the forest might feel very different if you imagine a network of communication happening below your boots. This year, the [Pike County Conservation District Annual Dinner](#) on November 1 will feature a live performance of TREES by [NACL Streets](#).

The event is a celebration of the natural resources of Pike County, and the great conservation work completed by Conservation District partners, its Board of Directors, and staff.

TREES is about the connectivity, communication, and co-operative existence in forests.

“TREES is a metaphor for our own humanity as we search for and build communities,” says NACL Streets Director Tannis Kowalchuk, an actress and teacher dedicated to creative place-making and community engagement.

The original stilt walking performance, which includes drums and accordion, is based on the bestselling book [The Hidden Life of Trees](#) by German forester Peter Wohlleben.

“Traditionally, the sustainability equation has included the three pillars of people, planet and profit,” says PCCD Executive Director Michele Long. “More recently, that equation has been broadened to include culture as a fourth pillar. It is through that perspective that we welcome NACL Streets to share their original work, which blends science and art, and was created by local people under professional direction.”

The evening begins with a social gathering at 6:00 p.m., which is cash bar, followed by dinner and welcoming remarks at 6:30. The performance of TREES takes place at 7:30.

The Annual Dinner, which is open to the public, will be held November 1, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., in The Waterfront Room at [Silver Birches Resort](#) on Lake Wallenpaupack. The cost is \$35 per person for a buffet-style meal and the performance.

[Click Here](#) for more information on the Annual Dinner. RSVPs are requested by Thursday, October 25 by sending email to: pikecd@pikepa.org or call 570-226-8220.

For more information on programs, initiatives, technical and financial assistance, visit the [Pike County Conservation District](#) website.

Related Story:

[Pike Conservation District Holds Local Road Maintenance Workshop Oct. 11](#)

[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

DEP Invites Comments On Proposed Cranberry Creek Redesignation In Monroe County

The Department of Environmental Protection [published notice](#) in the September 22 PA Bulletin inviting comments and information on a proposed redesignation of Cranberry Creek Watershed in Monroe County.

The request is a result of a rulemaking petition submitted to the Environmental Quality Board by the [Brodhead Watershed Association](#) and accepted for study on April 16, 2013.

Data should be submitted to Mark Brickner, Division of Water Quality, Bureau of Clean Water, P.O. Box 8774, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8774, mbrickner@pa.gov. Data should be submitted by October 22, 2018. Questions concerning this evaluation can be directed to Mark Brickner at 717-787-9637.

[Click Here](#) to read the full notice. [Click Here](#) for background on this watershed stream evaluation.

For more information on stream redesignation evaluations, visit DEP's [Stream Redesignation Evaluations List](#) webpage.

[Posted: Sept. 21, 2018]

DEP Blog: The Ins And Outs Of Septic Systems In Pennsylvania

By Janice Vollero, DEP Bureau Of Clean Water

About 26 percent of Pennsylvania households rely on a septic system located on their property to treat their sewage. Most of these homes also have a private well for their drinking water.

If you use a septic system, [be septic smart!](#) If you understand how your system works and how to maintain it, you will:

- Protect your drinking water supply and your health;
- Ensure your system's longevity—and avoid paying thousands for a new system;
- Protect your property value; and
- Help protect Pennsylvania's groundwater, streams, rivers, and lakes.



Because of Pennsylvania's geology, soils, land development patterns, and aging septic systems, there's a risk of substandard septic systems contaminating our groundwater and surface waters—our streams, rivers, and lakes.

When surface waters are contaminated with viruses and bacteria from sewage, swimmers are at increased risk of contracting eye and ear infections, acute gastrointestinal illness, hepatitis, or other infectious diseases.

When groundwater is contaminated, it may pollute your own and others' drinking water supply and spread disease in people and animals. Did you know viruses can survive in groundwater for more than a year?

In 2016, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) reported that septic system failure was implicated in 202 impaired stream miles and 3,304 impacted lake acres in Pennsylvania.

Here are the ins and outs of septic system maintenance to protect your health, your budget, and Pennsylvania's waters.

Who Has Oversight Of Your Septic System?

In Pennsylvania, local municipalities (for example, boroughs and townships) are responsible for making sure that private septic systems of 10,000 gallons or less meet DEP requirements.

Any time you have any questions about an existing septic system or installation of a new system on your property, you should first call your local government office. Many municipalities have a local Sewage Enforcement Officer, who properly sites, permits, and inspects the installation of all septic systems to ensure they meet requirements.

Some municipalities also have a sewage management program to make sure property owners perform the necessary maintenance of their septic systems.

Soil Is Your Best Friend: How Your Septic System Operates

Your household sends into your septic system not only human waste, but also all other liquid wastes—bath water, kitchen and bathroom sink water, laundry water, and water softener backwash.

So here's what happens underground when you flush, do laundry, or use the sink or tub:

The heavier solid matter settles to the bottom of the septic tank, where microorganisms feed on the waste and break it down. Lighter fats, oils, and greases float to the top of the tank, forming a scum that may eventually break down or be skimmed during system maintenance.

The liquid that remains is still sewage. As it exits the tank, it contains disease-causing bacteria and viruses, as well as other contaminants.

Another treatment step is needed before the sewage reaches the groundwater or surface water.

The sewage flows through a pipe to a bed of gravel or other aggregate, called a drainfield. Here, it's dispersed to percolate through the soil for further treatment by microbes.

Because of its filtering ability and the microbes it contains, soil is the most important part of a septic system! It is the critical barrier between partially treated sewage and groundwater and surface waters.

The type of septic system you can have depends on many factors—soil depth to bedrock or groundwater, how quickly or slowly the water moves through the soil, and the soil type and texture, just to name a few.

A general rule of thumb is that the site needs at least 20 inches of good soil.

Keep Things Moving Underground

The average lifespan of a septic system is estimated at 15 to 40 years, but it may last longer if properly maintained. Just like changing the oil in your car, maintaining your septic system extends its life for a small cost compared to the expense of installing a new system, which typically runs \$15,000 or more.

Think at the sink, and don't overload the commode. Consider what you put down your sink and toilet. Limit the use of your garbage disposal. Avoid using common household items that can clog your system or kill the microbes underground that you need to treat the wastewater.

“System Cloggers” -- diapers, baby wipes (even ones marketed as “flushable”), cat litter, cigarettes, coffee grounds, fats, grease, solids, feminine hygiene products and prophylactic devices.

“Treatment Killers” -- household chemicals, gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, paint, and high amounts of antibacterial soaps and detergents.

Don't strain your drain. The less water you use, the less your septic system has to work. Stagger the use of water-based appliances, use high-efficiency plumbing fixtures, and repair any leaks in your home.

Shield your field. Keep anything heavier than your lawnmower off your drainfield. Divert rain and surface water away from it. Plant trees and bushes away from the drainfield, since roots can clog the field and cause the system to fail. Your local garden center will be able to tell you the likely length of tree and shrub roots.

Protect it and inspect it. According to Pennsylvania regulations, solids should be pumped out of the septic tank every three years, or when an inspection shows the tank is more than one-third filled with solids or scum.

An inspector will also check that electrical float switches, pumps, and mechanical components are all operating correctly.

Your local sewage management program may have more stringent requirements for inspections and pumping. Call the Sewage Enforcement Officer at your local government office for more information.

Be aware of the following warning signs of a malfunctioning septic system:

- Wastewater backing up or gurgling into household drains.
- A strong odor or black ooze around the septic tank or drainfield.

-- Bright green grass or spongy conditions appearing on or near your drainfield.

If your system is malfunctioning, call your local Sewage Enforcement Officer immediately. The sooner you act, the less pollution will occur and the lower the cost of repair work.

With proper operation and maintenance, your septic system will serve your home and help protect the waters of Pennsylvania for years to come. Do your part and be septic smart!

More Information

September 17 to 21 is SepticSmart Week, an educational program from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [Click Here](#) for a variety of education brochures, videos and more.

Additional information is available at DEP's [Onlot Disposal System](#) webpage. [Click Here](#) to watch a Penn State Extension webinar on onlot septic system care and maintenance.

[Posted: Sept. 17, 2018]

Comments Invited On PUC Procedures For Acquisition Of Publicly-Owned Water, Sewage Systems

The [Public Utility Commission](#) Thursday adopted a [Tentative Supplemental Implementation Order](#) that puts forth proposals to further improve procedures for how the PUC examines the acquisition and valuation of municipal and authority-owned water and wastewater systems under Section 1329 of the Public Utility Code.

The Commission voted 5-0 to issue proposed revisions for public comment on potential changes to procedures and guidelines for applications seeking rate base valuation treatment under Section 1329 of Chapter 13 of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Code (Code).

Signed into law as Act 12 of 2016, Section 1329 addresses the sale of water and wastewater systems owned by municipal corporations or authorities by providing a process for the sale of public water and wastewater assets for at fair market rates.

With the benefit of approximately two years' experience applying Section 1329 to applicable transfers of control under Chapters 11 and 13 of the Code and PUC regulations, the Commission now seeks to create more certainty in the process, improve the quality of valuations and further ensure that the adjudication process is both fair and efficient.

The Commission invites interested parties to provide formal comments-- and to offer recommendations for consideration-- on its proposals to improve the processes, evidence and guidelines for Section 1329 applications.

Comments are due within 30 days of publication of the Tentative Supplemental Implementation Order in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, with reply comments due 15 days thereafter.

[Click Here](#) for a copy of the proposed Order.

NewsClips:

[PUC Releases Management Efficiency Investigation Report For Philadelphia Gas Works 1,000 MW Moxie Freedom Natural Gas Power Plant Near Wilkes-Barre Now Online](#)
[Luzerne County Readies Assessment For New Moxie Freedom Natural Gas Power Plant](#)
[Penelec Surcharge For Not Shopping For Electric Providers Shut Down By PUC](#)
[Duquesne Light Seeks To Raise Home Rates By 4%, Give One-Time \\$25 Credit](#)
[Philadelphia Gas Works Proposes LNG Venture With Private Partner](#)

[Fight Over SEPTA's Natural Gas Generator Continues, Even As Construction Nears Its End](#)
[Clean Energy Groups Outline Principles For PJM Capacity Market Reform](#)
[Editorial: California Renewable Power Policy Likely to Become National Model](#)
[Local UGI Crews Heading To Boston To Assist After Gas Explosions](#)
[Boston Gas Explosion: It's Very Hard To Tell Them We Are Homeless](#)
[Lawsuit Filed Against Columbia Gas Over Boston-Area Explosions](#)
[U.S. EIA: Carbon Dioxide Emissions From Energy-Related Sources Decreased In 2017](#)
[Unplanned Natural Gas Power Plant Outage Drove ISO-NE Labor Day Spike](#)
[New York PSC Actions Move State Closer To Energy Storage, Climate Goals](#)
[Editorial: Flood Of Truth From Florence On Saving Coal, Nuclear Plants](#)
[NJ's Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant Shutdown In Deal To Avoid Building Cooling Towers](#)
[Interior Rolls Back Methane Pollution Rules For Drilling On U.S. Lands](#)

[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

EPCAMR Pairs With Groasis To Provide Food Growboxxes For Youth In Coalfield Communities

Luzerne County-based [Eastern PA Coalition For Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#) recently received a \$50,000, two year grant from [Inquiring Systems, Inc.](#) for a [Groasis Growboxx](#)© project.

The mission of the grant is to help youth in the coal region reclaim their backyards. This region was heavily extracted for Anthracite coal for nearly 200 years. Many of the miners lived in company houses and already spent the majority of their earned income at the company store through the use of scrips.

In order to become more self-sustaining, people grew their own foods in patchwork gardens. In doing so, they reclaimed their freedom from the mining companies.

“While EPCAMR normally focuses on reclaiming land and polluted mine water, this project will allow us to reclaim the backyards of residents located in previously mining impacted areas and provide families with an option to garden together and grow some healthy food options much like the mining families of the past,” said Executive Director at EPCAMR, Bobby Hughes.

A Growboxx© is a biodegradable planting technology that helps plants keep consistent moisture and adds many benefits to gardening. These “intelligent buckets” increase plant survivability by 90 percent while simultaneously using 90 percent less water.

The boxes will be donated to local children, along with seeds, seedlings, soil amendments, and other necessary items to grow their own food. Denise Hernandez, Urban Outreach Specialist at EPCAMR, will be one of the staff to facilitate the dispersal of the Growboxxes to youth in the targeted coalfield communities.

“We’re excited about engaging the community and helping youth appreciate where food comes from,” Hernandez said.

The project will also include an educational aspect where children are taught about the importance of growing their own fruits and vegetables along with coal mining history of the Wyoming Valley and even nutrition.

Laura Rinehimer, Watershed Outreach Education Specialist at EPCAMR, explained, “This project provides an opportunity for youth to learn about plants first-hand through engaging in the process of growing vegetables from seed to table.”

Rinehimer is responsible for creating a multidisciplinary, standards aligned curriculum for the project that will be provided to area teachers in the targeted school districts we would like to work with in the Wyoming Valley.

In addition to the Growboxxes and gardening supplies, several iPads will also be distributed to local schools so that they can share their experiences with children around the world through a concurrent project taking place in Ethiopia.

Claudia Meglin is managing the project for Inquiring Systems, Inc.-- "We are looking forward to deepening our collaboration with EPCAMR to empower communities that have suffered under the demise of capitalistic extraction."

Additionally, a documentary will be filmed to monitor the growth of the project, run by videographer John Welsh.

Today, children in the region face a different type of oppression.

Fifty-Eight percent of individuals lie below the poverty level. For families with no transportation, often times, the easiest and cheapest food options are fast food or processed food options from local convenience stores.

The focus area for the project can be seen as a food desert in many ways and it is difficult for people without vehicles to make trips to grocery stores to obtain nutritious, fresh fruits and vegetables.

By teaching kids to grow their own food, it will help reclaim the freedom to eat healthy and make informed nutrition choices.

EPCAMR plans to partner with local Luzerne County children in the 4th grade class in the following schools and organizations: The Graham Academy, Wilkes-Barre Area, Nanticoke Area and Hanover Area.

Mt. Zion Baptists Church youth and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church youth from the Greater Wilkes-Barre Area will also be involved. Staff will be reaching out to the School Districts and the Churches shortly.

EPCAMR is patiently awaiting the arrival of 200 Growboxxes. If it is successful with the classrooms that we will be looking to work with, we will be making an appeal to Groasis to provide us with additional Growboxxes to get them to each of the other 4th grade classes in each of the school districts to reach even more youth and families in the Wyoming Valley.

A pilot program will start in the fall with the full-blown program commencing in the spring.

Questions about the project should be directed to EPCAMR at 570-371-3522.

For more information on programs, initiatives and how you can get involved, visit the [Eastern PA Coalition For Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#) website.

NewsClips:

[EPCAMR Pairs With Groasis To Provide Food Growboxxes For Youth In Coalfield Communities](#)

[400,000 Gallons Of Water Had No Effect On Mine Fire Under PGW Plant Site In Allegheny County](#)

[Barletta Says Jeunesville Mine Fire Out](#)

[DEP Cannot Confirm Hazleton-Area Mine Fire Is Extinguished](#)

[DEP Wants More Testing Before Declaring Jeunesville Mine Fire Is Out](#)

[Posted: Sept. 19, 2018]

Independence Conservancy To Hold 3 Community Tire Collection Events This Fall In Beaver County



The [Independence Conservancy](#) will hold [3 Community Tire Collection Events](#) in Beaver County this Fall from 9:00 a.m. to Noon--

-- **September 22:** Hookstown Fair Grounds, 1198 State Route 168, Hookstown;

-- **September 29:** Brighton Township Road Department, 1250 Brighton Road, Beaver; and

-- **October 6:** Ambridge Borough Building, 600 11th Street, Ambridge.

The cost for tire and wheel disposal ranges from \$3 per passenger car or light truck tire to \$75 per farm tractor

rear tires over 150 pounds.

Since 2004, the Conservancy has collected 51,638 tires for proper disposal.

[Click Here](#) for all the details. [Click Here](#) for a flyer on the collection events.

For more information on programs, initiatives and how you can get involved, visit the [Independence Conservancy](#) website.

Related Story:

[Reminder: Sept. 22 PRC Household Chemical Collection Event In Allegheny County](#) (And Other Collection Events In Western PA)

[Posted: Sept. 17, 2018]

ORSANCO: Ohio River Sweep Student Poster Contest Now Accepting Entries



The interstate [Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission](#) is now accepting entries for the [2019 Ohio River Sweep Student Poster Contest](#) through December 21.

The contest is open to students in grades K through 12 who live or attend school in a county along the Ohio River or students whose county participates in the River Sweep, which includes counties along the Allegheny, Beaver,

Monongahela, and Kentucky Rivers.

There will be 1 Grand Prize of \$500 awarded, along with 13 Grade Level Winners of \$50 each. The school of the Grand Prize Winner will also receive \$100 for their art department.

Hanna Jones from Mt. Lebanon High School in Allegheny County was the Grand Prize Winner in the [2018 Ohio River Sweep Poster Contest](#).

Pennsylvania had two other winners in 2018-- [Luke DeVore](#) a Second Grader in Woodland Hills Academy and [Charlise Cooper](#) a Third Grader also in Woodland Hills Academy in Pittsburgh.

[Click Here](#) for all the details. Questions should be [directed to Lisa Cochran](#).

Watch for the announcement of the [2019 Ohio River Sweep](#)!

For more information on programs, initiatives and other upcoming events, visit the [Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission](#) website.

(Photo: 2018 winning poster by Hanna Jones and winners Luke DeVore and Charlise Cooper.)

NewsClips:

[Hayes: Does PA Need A State Amphibian? Meet The Hellbender](#)

[\\$18 Million Discovery Center In Fairmount Park Is Ready To Welcome Visitors](#)

[EPCAMR Pairs With Groasis To Provide Food Growboxxes For Youth In Coalfield](#)

[Communities](#)

[Drexel's Academy Of Natural Sciences To Reopen 80-Year-Old Dioramas After Restoration](#)

Related Stories:

[Pittsburgh Students Win ORSANCO Ohio River Sweep Poster Contest](#)

[ORSANCO River Sweep A Success In PA, 400+ Volunteers Picked Up 35 Tons Of Trash](#)

Related Story This Week:

[Keep PA Beautiful Encourages Pennsylvania K-12 Schools To Participate In Recycle-Bowl Competition](#)

[Posted: Sept. 17, 2018]

DEP To Hold Oct. 1 Hearing On Drilling Waste Injection Well In Allegheny County

The Department of Environmental Protection Tuesday announced it will hold a public hearing on an application from [Penneco Environmental Solutions](#) to authorize oil and gas waste disposal at the Sedat #3A oil and gas well in Plum Borough, Allegheny County.

The hearing is scheduled for October 1 at 6:00 p.m. at Plum Borough School District's [Oblock Junior High School](#) Auditorium, 440 Presque Isle Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15239.

Both DEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency must approve permits for this proposed injection well.

EPA issued an underground injection control permit for this well on March 7, 2018, allowing the company to inject waste water into the well pending DEP issuance of a permit to change its use from production to disposal.

On March 13, 2018, Penneco submitted an application to DEP to change the use of the Sedat #3A Well to allow disposal.

People who wish to testify should register in advance by contacting DEP Community Relations Coordinator Lauren Fraley at lfraley@pa.gov or 412-442-4203 before noon on September 28. There will also be an opportunity to register at the door prior to the hearing.

Individuals will be called to comment in the order that they registered. Each registered participant will have up to five minutes to present testimony in the form of comments, statements or questions. Testifiers should bring at least one written copy of their testimony and exhibits for submission to DEP.

DEP will respond to all comments and questions raised in the testimony in a written comment and response document.

In order to accommodate the greatest number of residents interested in testifying, DEP requests that organizations designate one individual to speak on their behalf. Doors will open and onsite registration will begin at 5:30 p.m.

For those unable to attend the hearing, written testimony will be accepted at DEP's Southwest Regional Office, 400 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 until October 8.

Each written statement must contain the name, address and telephone number of the person submitting the comments, identification of the permit application (Sedat #3A) and a concise statement of the comments on the permit application and the relevant facts upon which the comments are based.

A copy of the application is available for review on DEP's [Underground Injection Well](#) webpage. Questions should be directed to Lauren Fraley, DEP Southwest Regional Office, by calling 412-442-4203 or sending email to: lfraley@pa.gov.

NewsClip:

[DEP Sets Public Hearing On Drilling Waste Injection Well In Allegheny County](#)

[Posted: Sept. 18, 2018]

Report By Kleinman Center For Energy Policy Raises Concerns Over Philadelphia Refinery Site



The [Kleinman Center for Energy Policy](#) Thursday released a report raising concerns about contamination at the [Philadelphia Energy Solutions \(PES\) refinery site](#) and highlights the utter lack of public participation in the remediation planning process.

According to the report-- [Beyond Bankruptcy: The Outlook for Philadelphia's Neighborhood Refinery](#)-- Sunoco did not follow the required public

participation process for remediation planning under DEP's Land Recycling Program. As a result, local residents, city agencies, elected officials, and other stakeholders were not able to provide input.

The Department of Environmental Protection has already approved Sunoco's analysis of contamination for eight of the eleven refinery sites deemed an "area of concern," meaning Sunoco may comply with site-specific standards under the Land Recycling Program.

Two of the three remaining areas of concern for which site characterization reports have yet to be approved involve pollution that has migrated off site, and one area of concern involves the New Jersey drinking water aquifer.

Separate from DEP, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is expected to open a public comment period on the proposed site cleanup plan, which is estimated to be available by 2020.

The report said, "The omission of public involvement in the remediation planning for the refinery is a meaningful grievance. Given the magnitude, severity, and toxicity of the site's contamination, coupled with its proximity to highly populated environmental justice neighborhoods, population centers, and drinking water resources, public involvement is critical to informing the municipality and community about existing risks, appropriateness of site-specific standards, and remediation options. In turn, this input could inform, improve, and garner public support for the project approach and goals."

Joseph Otis Minott, Esq., Executive Director and Chief Counsel of [Clean Air Council](#), issued the following statement--

"Sunoco has unlawfully denied local residents, city agencies, elected officials, and other

stakeholders the opportunity to meaningfully provide input during the remediation planning process for the PES refinery site.

“The lack of public participation in planning for remediation at the site is completely unacceptable, especially given the extensive environmental contamination at the site and the proximity of the refinery to environmental justice neighborhoods.

“As PES is likely to go bankrupt again in the near future, it is critical that the city engage the public in thoroughly assessing the best possible future use of the refinery site that aligns with Philadelphia’s sustainability goals.”

[Click Here](#) for a copy of the report.

[NOTE: This post will be updated as more information becomes available.]

NewsClip:

[Maykuth: Penn Report: City Should Prepare For S. Philly Refinery Closure](#)

Related Stories:

[DEP: Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program Faces Fiscal Cliff In FY 2020-21](#)

[EPA Removes Recticon/Allied Steel Corp. Superfund Site In Chester County From Priorities List](#)

[House Environmental Committee Meets Sept. 25 On Controversial Critical Infrastructure Trespass Bill](#)

[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

EPA Removes Recticon/Allied Steel Corp. Superfund Site In Chester County From Priorities List

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Tuesday announced the [Recticon/Allied Steel Corp. Superfund Site](#) in East Coventry Township, Chester County is being deleted from the Superfund National Priorities List.

“Completing Superfund cleanups continues to be a priority at EPA as we work to create a safer and healthier environment for all communities affected,” said EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio. “Removing the Recticon/Allied Steel Corp. site from the list represents an important step toward achieving this goal.”

The five-acre site, which was placed on the National Priorities List in 1989, consists of two properties: the former Recticon facility and the Allied Steel Products Corporation facility. Historical operations and spills at the site contaminated soil and groundwater with hazardous chemicals.

On December 15, 2017, EPA issued the Final Close Out Report for the site documenting that all performance standards at the site have been achieved and that no additional Superfund response actions are necessary to protect human health and the environment.

Cleanup work included excavation and offsite disposal of contaminated soils, and installation of a groundwater extraction and treatment system in combination with bioremediation to address contaminated groundwater.

A water line was also constructed to provide municipal water to 14 nearby businesses and residences. Both properties that comprise the site are currently being reused by commercial businesses.

Since October 2017, EPA has deleted 12 sites and partially deleted three sites from the National Priorities List.

[Click Here](#) for more information on the Recticon/Allied Steel Corp. site.

NewsClip:

[Maykuth: Penn Report: City Should Prepare For S. Philly Refinery Closure](#)

Related Stories:

[DEP: Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program Faces Fiscal Cliff In FY 2020-21](#)

[Report By Kleinman Center For Energy Policy Raises Concerns Over Philadelphia Refinery Site](#)

[Posted: Sept. 18, 2018]

PUC Approves Resolution Of Mariner East 2 Pipeline Valve Dispute In Chester County

The [Public Utility Commission](#) Thursday approved a motion to resolve a complaint concerning construction or location of a pipeline valve station for Sunoco's Mariner East 2 Pipeline project filed by West Goshen Township, Chester County.

The Commission voted 5-0 to approve a [motion by Commissioner David W. Sweet](#), adopting a [Recommended Decision issued](#) by Administrative Law Judge Elizabeth Barnes, following extensive review of this case.

The complaint related to proposed construction of a pipeline valve station outside a defined area in the township and alleged that Sunoco has violated an earlier agreement reached between Sunoco, West Goshen Township and Concerned Citizens of West Goshen Township.

Under the terms of the Recommended Decision approved today:

- Sunoco is enjoined from constructing or locating a valve or related facilities in West Goshen Township, except for a designated use area, without first consulting with and obtaining the express written consent of West Goshen Township.
- Sunoco shall provide engineering documents and plans to experts for West Goshen Township for safety reviews, including plans to eliminate a valve in the township and automate a valve approximately 2.5 miles from the township.
- Sunoco shall file an affidavit attesting to the fact that it has installed remotely operated or automatic valves in proximity to West Goshen Township.

[Click Here](#) to read the decision.

NewsClips:

[Cusick: Cumberland County Criticizes Mariner East 2 Pipeline For Dodging Safety Questions As Mariner East 2 Pipeline Nears Completion, Cumberland County Resident Worries About Danger](#)

[Cumberland County Wants Mariner East 2 Pipeline To Address Citizens' Safety Concerns](#)
[Crabbe: Did Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Bulldozing Detention Basin Cause Mount Joy Mobile Home Park Destruction?](#)

[Williams Reports Completion Of Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline, Requests Permission For Full Service](#)

[Only 11% Of PA's Natural Gas Pipelines Are Mapped For The Public](#)

[Op-Ed: Beaver County Pipeline Explosion: How To Prevent Future Catastrophes](#) - PennFuture

[Op-Ed: Oppose Ban On Natural Gas Pipeline Construction](#)

[Boston: Natural Gas Pipeline Pressure Before Explosions Was 12 Times Too High](#)

[Tougher Laws On Pipeline Protests Face Test In Louisiana](#)

[Treating Protest As Terrorism: U.S. Plans Crackdown On Keystone XL Activists](#)

Related Stories:

[CFA Awards \\$850,000 Grant To Valley Energy, Inc. To Extend Natural Gas Pipeline In Bradford County](#)

[House Environmental Committee Meets Sept. 25 On Controversial Critical Infrastructure Trespass Bill](#)

[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

DEP: Nov. 7 Hearing On RACT II Air Quality Plan For Pipeline Compressor Station In Forest County

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the September 22 PA Bulletin it will hold a hearing November 7 on a proposed RACT II Air Quality Plan for a Tennessee Gas Pipeline compressor station in Howe Township, Forest County ([PA Bulletin, page 5922](#)).

The hearing will be held at the DEP Northwest Regional Office, 230 Chestnut Street in Meadville, Crawford County starting at 9:00 a.m.

To register to speak at the hearing, or to inquire if the hearing will be held, contact Melanie Williams (Regional Community Relations Coordinator) at 814-332-6615 or send email to: melanwilli@pa.gov.

The last day to pre-register to speak at the hearing will be October 31, 2018. If DEP does not receive any pre-registered speakers by this date, the hearing will be canceled.

Read the complete notice for all the details ([PA Bulletin, page 5922](#)).

NewsClips:

[United Refining To Pay \\$469,501 For Pollution Control Violations](#)

[Museum To Commemorate 70th Anniversary Of Deadly 1948 Donora Smog](#)

[Maryland To Appeal EPA Denial Of Air Pollution Petition On PA, Other Coal Power Plants](#)

[EPA Decision On Interstate Air Pollution Petition Fails To Protect Health, Environment](#)

[Shell's New Climate Move On Methane Emissions](#)

[Interior Rolls Back Methane Pollution Rules For Drilling On U.S. Lands](#)

[Posted: Sept. 21, 2018]

CFA Awards \$850,000 Grant To Valley Energy, Inc. To Extend Natural Gas Pipeline In Bradford County

The [Commonwealth Financing Authority](#) Tuesday awarded an \$850,000 state grant to [Valley Energy, Inc.](#) for a pipeline project located in Bradford County, according to Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming), Majority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

The grant from the [Pipeline Investment Program](#) will help to fund the \$1.8 million dollar project to extend gas service to East Athens in Athens Township, Bradford County through the installation of approximately 18,000 feet of pipeline.

The extension will service 66 new gas customers and seven commercial properties. Company officials have indicated that they would begin engineering and permitting later this year with construction expected to start and be completed in 2019.

“There is widespread support in seeing locally produced natural gas used locally to benefit our area homeowners and businesses,” Sen. Yaw said. “As one of many supporters, we look forward to the advancement of this important project to the community and its citizens. I’m glad that the CFA saw value in Valley Energy’s application.”

The PIPE program was crafted by Sen. Yaw and approved by the Legislature in [2016 as an amendment to the Fiscal Code bill](#) providing grants to construct the last few miles of natural gas distribution lines to business parks, existing manufacturing and industrial enterprises, which will result in the creation of new economic base jobs in the Commonwealth while providing access to natural gas for residents.

There have been a total of 12 pipeline extension projects funded by this program totalling \$9,956,374. [Click Here](#) for a list of approved projects.

The Commonwealth Financing Authority has an open application period for this program.

For more information, visit the CFA [Pipeline Investment Program](#) webpage.

Related Stories:

[PUC Approves Resolution Of Mariner East 2 Pipeline Valve Dispute In Chester County](#)
[House Environmental Committee Meets Sept. 25 On Controversial Critical Infrastructure Trespass Bill](#)

[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

Businesses Showcase Cutting-Edge Tech Solutions For Reducing Oil & Gas Methane Emissions In PA



The [Center for Methane Emissions Solutions](#) Thursday brought together members of the business and environmental communities, along with representatives of Gov. Tom Wolf's administration, in Pittsburgh to discuss opportunities for reducing emissions from natural gas development in Pennsylvania.

The event was co-sponsored by the [PA Environmental Council](#) and [Environmental Defense Fund](#) and underscored the feasibility of reducing oil and gas methane emissions, even as the federal government takes

steps to remove national clean air protections.

"The Wolf administration is proud of the progress it has made implementing its [Methane Reduction Strategy](#) to address climate change while supporting responsible energy development, safeguarding public health, and protecting our environment," said Deputy Chief of Staff Sam Robinson. "As we continue to move forward with the Reduction Strategy, we are eager to utilize the most technologically advanced tools available to achieve the largest possible reductions at the lowest possible cost."

Methane is the primary constituent of natural gas and is also a potent greenhouse gas responsible for 25 percent of the man-made warming being experienced.

In February of this year, [an analysis by Environmental Defense Fund](#) estimated methane emissions from Pennsylvania's oil and gas sites may be five times higher than what oil and gas companies report to the Department of Environmental Protection.

The methane forum featured demonstrations from FLIR Systems, which manufactures cameras that allow operators to find invisible gas leaks. Technologies such as these are among existing tools that can cut methane emissions in half for no net cost, according to the International Energy Agency.

“FLIR cameras are widely used today by the most forward-thinking companies in the oil and gas industry,” said Frank Pennisi, president of the Industrial Business Unit at [FLIR](#). “We stand at the ready with our optical gas imaging technology to empower industry stakeholders to realize even greater emission and waste reduction benefits while concurrently saving money.”

Many other methane reduction strategies are being developed by Pennsylvania-based companies and academic institutions including Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

“As the second largest natural gas producing state in the nation, it is critical for the energy industry to tackle methane emissions to both protect air quality and ensure the viability of this industry as it faces growing competition in the energy sector,” said Isaac Brown, director of the Center for Methane Emissions Solutions. “Fortunately, the region is at the vanguard of a robust industry of methane mitigation companies that are already working with the oil and gas industry to provide cost-effective solutions. Today’s speakers put on display how innovation is transforming the way industry operates for the betterment of Pennsylvania communities and in response to a citizenry that is calling for smart solutions now.”

The event also included a [special virtual reality experience](#) developed by EDF that transports users to a modern day gas facility, allowing them to find and fix virtual methane leaks while underscoring current opportunities to reduce this potent greenhouse gas, which often leaks with other harmful pollutants that deteriorate air quality and create risks to public health.

Pennsylvania is among the early states to set standards to control harmful emissions from oil and gas facilities, actions which will help the state cut future emissions while benefiting the economy.

“Forward-looking leaders such as Gov. Tom Wolf understand that methane is a problem and that sensible methane controls protect the health of Pennsylvania communities, spur job growth and reduce natural gas waste,” said Andrew Williams, director of regulatory and legislative affairs at EDF. “Expanding controls to apply to the thousands of existing natural gas facilities operating across the state will secure Pennsylvania’s role as a leader in establishing smart energy policies that reduce environmental risk, protect residents and grow the economy.”

For more information on methane reduction technology, visit the [Center for Methane Emissions Solutions](#) website.

(Photo: Isaac Brown of the Center for Methane Emissions Solutions speaks to the environmental and economic benefits of a growing methane mitigation industry.)

NewsClips:

[Cusick: DEP Moving Forward With Methane Limits For Existing Oil & Gas Sources](#)

[Shell’s New Climate Move On Methane Emissions](#)

[Shell, Exxon’s 1980s Documents Predicted Climate Change Damage](#)

[Interior Rolls Back Methane Pollution Rules For Drilling On U.S. Lands](#)

Related Stories:

[Royal Dutch Shell Raises Ambition To Drive Down Methane Emissions To Near Zero By 2025](#)

[Wolf Announces Final General Permits Limiting Methane Emissions From New Unconventional Oil & Gas Operations](#)

[EPA Proposes New Air Emission Limits On Methane From Oil & Gas Operations; PA Reaction](#)

[House Environmental Committee Meets Sept. 25 On Controversial Critical Infrastructure Trespass Bill](#)

[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

Royal Dutch Shell Raises Ambition To Drive Down Methane Emissions To Near Zero By 2025

International oil and gas major Royal Dutch Shell Monday announced a [strong, quantifiable target to limit methane emissions to near-zero levels by 2025](#) from managed assets globally.

The goal is stringent, time-bound, and covers both oil and gas side emissions, earning it high marks on [this 5-point scale](#).

Shell is the third global producer this year to set a methane reduction goal; [BP announced its target in April](#) and [ExxonMobil in May](#).

“Shell’s industry-leading target makes clear that the race to near-zero methane emissions is on. Strong commitments like this suggest to investors, governments, and business partners alike that an operator is serious about its positioning in a cleaner energy economy,” said [Ben Ratner](#), Senior Director for Environmental Defense Fund+ Business.

“Company leadership on methane does not stop with setting targets. Follow through with good data and transparency are vital – as is leadership in standing up for strong, sensible methane policy that can improve performance across the industry.”

[Click Here](#) for the Shell announcement.

NewsClips:

[Shell Ethane Plant: Beaver County, A Community Ripe For Revival](#)

[Shell, Exxon’s 1980s Documents Predicted Climate Change Damage](#)

[AP: Climate Change Makes Hurricanes Worse, Studies Say](#)

[Report: U.S. Almost Halfway To Achieving Paris Climate Goals Thanks To State, City Action](#)

[U.S. EIA: Carbon Dioxide Emissions From Energy-Related Sources Decreased In 2017](#)

[New York PSC Actions Move State Closer To Energy Storage, Climate Goals](#)

[California Had Its Own Climate Summit, Now What?](#)

[California To Launch Its Own Satellite To Track Greenhouse Gases](#)

[Editorial: California Renewable Power Policy Likely to Become National Model](#)

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[House Environmental Committee Meets Sept. 25 On Controversial Critical Infrastructure](#)

[Trespass Bill](#)

[Posted: Sept. 17, 2018]

Gov. Wolf Issues Proclamation To Declare Sept. 24-28 Clean Energy Week

Gov. Tom Wolf Friday issued a formal proclamation declaring the week of [September 24 to 28 Clean Energy Week](#) to highlight the advances made in the Commonwealth on clean energy to deal with issues like climate change and to create job opportunities.

The text of the proclamation follows--

WHEREAS, clean energy resources are



critical to improving air quality in Pennsylvania, protecting the health of residents, helping to reduce Pennsylvania's carbon footprint, and addressing climate change, the most critical environmental threat confronting the world; and

WHEREAS, clean energy resources support good-paying jobs, present ever-growing economic development opportunities, and reduce dependence on foreign fuel imports; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's clean energy portfolio includes electricity generated from renewable sources such as wind, solar, and hydroelectric, as well as energy conservation, energy efficiency, and energy storage; and

WHEREAS, currently more than 90 percent of Pennsylvania's zero-emission electricity is generated by nuclear power; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has a robust clean energy sector that provides tens of thousands of good paying jobs in construction, manufacturing, clean technology, and services across the state; and

WHEREAS, the number of jobs in the clean energy sector in Pennsylvania grew by over 2 percent last year, with nearly 90,000 people currently employed in the field; and

WHEREAS, through Act 129 – Pennsylvania's flagship energy efficiency law – the Commonwealth has saved over 8.8 million megawatt hours of electricity usage since 2009 resulting in \$6.4 billion in savings to Pennsylvania electric customers, while employing over 65,000 people in the field; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Pennsylvania has over 354 megawatts of solar power generation installed at nearly 19,000 homes, farms, and businesses, and nearly 5,000 people employed in the solar energy field; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has over 1,300 megawatts of wind power generation installed on 24 wind farms providing enough electricity to power nearly 350,000 Pennsylvania homes, with nearly 3,000 people employed in the wind energy field; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has 892 megawatts of conventional hydropower and 1,583 megawatts of pumped storage hydropower capacity and hundreds of people employed in the traditional hydro-electric field; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has over 10,400 megawatts of generation capacity from five nuclear power plants, ranking second in the nation in electricity generation from nuclear power, which supplies over 40 percent of the state's net electricity generation, with nearly 5,000 people employed in the nuclear energy field; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania purchases at least 30 percent of all electricity consumed in state-owned facilities from clean and renewable energy sources, ranking us as the top state for renewable energy purchases in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has taken numerous steps in recent years to demonstrate and encourage energy conservation, sustainability, and the usage of renewable energy, including passing new legislation to grow Pennsylvania's solar industry, promoting energy efficiency through utility ratemaking, and allowing innovative project financing through Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy investments; and

WHEREAS, a cleaner, more resilient, more diverse energy grid benefits all Pennsylvania residents by protecting public health and ensuring the availability of low-cost, reliable energy; and

WHEREAS, for all these reasons, Pennsylvania seeks to be a leader in development of clean energy resources

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim September 24 – 28, 2018, as CLEAN ENERGY WEEK in Pennsylvania and encourage all Pennsylvanians to support clean, lowest-emitting energy technologies.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this twentieth day of September two thousand eighteen, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-third.

[Click Here](#) for a copy of the proclamation.

(Photo: [Elizabethtown College's 2.6-megawatt solar PV system](#) in Lancaster County.)

NewsClips:

[Grants, Rebates For Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Announced](#)

[Cusick: DEP Moving Forward With Methane Limits For Existing Oil & Gas Sources](#)

[Power Co-Ops Helping To Bring Solar Energy To Rural Areas](#)

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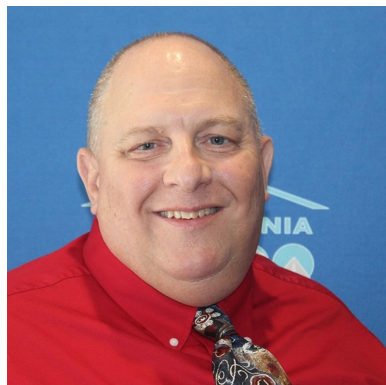
[New York PSC Actions Move State Closer To Energy Storage, Climate Goals](#)

Related Stories:

[New PA Uniform Construction Code Will Save New Home Owners Up To 25% Of Energy Costs](#)
[More Than 86,000 Pennsylvanians Work In Clean Energy, Energy Efficiency Jobs](#)

[Posted: Sept. 21, 2018]

PUC Creates New Office of Cybersecurity Compliance and Oversight, Appoints Michael C. Holko Director



The [Public Utility Commission](#) Thursday announced the appointment of Michael C. Holko, of Dauphin County, as the Director of a new Office of Cybersecurity Compliance and Oversight (OCCO)

The new position was created by the PUC to direct the Commission's cybersecurity and regulatory oversight program in helping to ensure that the Commonwealth's regulated utilities are protected from cyber-attacks and ensuring adequate, safe and reliable public utility service to consumers.

"We are pleased to add Michael to our PUC team as he joins us in this most critical position," said PUC Chairman Gladys M.

Brown at today's Public Meeting. "The creation of our new Office of Cybersecurity Compliance and Oversight is the next important step in the Commission's continued efforts to protect Pennsylvania utility customers from experiencing disruption of utility services and other vital systems and services we depend on."

Holko's experience includes positions at the state's Office of Administration's Bureau of Personnel, the state's Office of the Budget, the Pennsylvania Justice Network and most recently as a program manager at the state's Office of Administration, Office for Information Technology.

Holko received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Slippery Rock University. He resides in Harrisburg.

As the Director of the Office of Cybersecurity Compliance and Oversight, Holko will advise the Executive Director and Commissioners on policy issues and procedural improvements

involving cybersecurity oversight functions of regulated utilities; draft proposed cyber-related regulations; and oversee the preparation of orders, rulemakings, policy statements, Secretarial Letters and memoranda related to cybersecurity policies and procedures of those regulated utilities.

Chairman Brown also noted that October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and discussed how the PUC is working with utilities, state agencies such as the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, emergency responders, and other organizations to better prepare for cyber and physical attacks, strengthen critical systems, share information about current and future threats, and ensure that essential services are as resilient as possible.

Last summer, those entities joined other stakeholders around the world in EARTH EX 2017, a [first-ever transnational exercise](#) to test responses to a large-scale power outage event.

Chairman Brown also stressed it is equally important for consumers to review Pennsylvania's [online cybersecurity guide](#) for tips to prevent identity theft, protect passwords, keep children safe online and secure mobile devices and referred utilities to the [Cybersecurity Best Practices for Small and Medium Pennsylvania Utilities Guide](#), published by the PUC and available on its website.

[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

DCNR Blog: Wealth Of Pennsylvania Trails Means Brighter Future For Trail Towns



Trails are valued for the connection they offer between home, school, and work; the opportunity for healthy exercise; and the chance for family togetherness. Trails also open the door to the outdoors!

Trail Opportunities In PA

If you live in Pennsylvania, consider yourself lucky to be able to experience a great variety of trail experiences:

-- The Commonwealth is a leader in the nation

in converting rail corridors to rail trails.

-- There's a growing [system of water trails](#) based on the thousands of miles of rivers and streams that served as the earliest transportation and trade routes, now being used by paddlers launching their kayaks and canoes. Map guides, information at Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) access points, and the [PFBC website](#) are helpful tools.

-- Other trails range from local nature trails to large regional systems such as the [Delaware and Lehigh Trail Corridor](#) -- 165 miles long and stretching from Wilkes-Barre to Bristol Borough in Bucks County.

-- State forests and parks offer many opportunities, from strenuous hiking to leisurely strolling, and places to ride bikes, horses, ATVs, and snowmobiles.

-- Pennsylvania hosts the best-known hiking trail in the nation -- the [Appalachian Trail](#) -- traversing the state from the northern New Jersey border to the Maryland line.

Trail Towns & Community Connections

Pennsylvania communities are seeing the value of connecting to these trail corridors. It

enhances their town's quality of life with close-to-home recreation and also brings more vitality and business to their downtowns, as well as conserves history and natural resources.

As an example of the economic impact, more than 125,000 people hike or bike the [Pine Creek Rail Trail](#) in the [Pennsylvania Wilds](#) annually, spending almost \$7 million on food, lodging, and other goods such bikes, bike supplies, clothing, and camping gear to use the trail.

So, what is a trail town?

It's any community along a trail corridor, and there are programs established to help these communities. These programs help communities learn how to capitalize on the economic impact trails can generate.

One such program is coordinated by the [Allegheny Trail Alliance](#), which helps communities along the [Great Allegheny Passage](#) take advantage of the economic opportunity that arises around -- and often walks or rides into -- their towns.

Assistance includes a [trail town guide book \(PDF\)](#), community planning programs, targeted infrastructure investments, and even a loan program for small businesses.

There are a number of designated trail towns along a corridor of [revitalized trailside communities](#) on the Great Allegheny Passage that reap the economic benefits of trail-based tourism and recreation as part of a larger, coordinated approach to regional economic development.

Forest City: Trail Town In Susquehanna County

In the far northeast corner of Pennsylvania, Forest City is nestled in the corner of Susquehanna, Lackawanna, and Wayne counties.

The borough is four avenues by 10 blocks as the main city with a small surrounding suburb housing 1,911 in the 2010 census. At its height in the early 20th century, between the timber, silk, lumber, and coal industries, the population was close to 6,000 -- a booming town with a busy Main Street.

This small town's past economy was built on natural resources, and there is opportunity for its future economy to do the same.

DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn recently visited Forest City to highlight the [Delaware and Hudson \(D&H\) Trail](#), a 38-mile-long trail in the abandoned rail corridor from Simpson, Lackawanna County, to the New York border near Susquehanna. The D&H Trail connects at its southern end to the 32-mile [Lackawanna River Heritage Trail](#).

Borough Mayor Christopher Glinton showed the secretary its sign at the trailhead that highlights historic and recreational destinations, as well as a directory of local small businesses -- including where to find the closest ATM -- to encourage trail users to visit the downtown.

"This is part of our larger efforts to be welcoming to the visitors that the trail attracts," Glinton said.

From a recent study completed by the [PA Rails to Trails Conservancy](#), 10,800 non-motorized users visit the D&H Trail annually, which generated an estimated \$750,000 in economic impact.

In August, Forest City held a [Trail Town Festival](#) that highlighted outdoor recreation opportunities on the D&H Trail, but also a number of programs conducted by the Forest City Area Historical Society.

Grants + Learn More

[DCNR grants have encouraged](#) planning and trail connections so that trail towns can take advantage of trail users pumping dollars in to their communities.

[**Note:** PA Recreation & Park Society, DCNR will hold Community Conservation grant [Workshops In October and November](#) for potential applicants.]

As a handy resource for searching, mapping, and sharing information about trails, DCNR and partners offer the one-stop shop website -- ExplorePATrails.com.

For further assistance, contact a DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation [regional adviser \(PDF\)](#).

For more information on state parks and forests and recreation in Pennsylvania, visit [DCNR's website](#), [Click Here](#) to sign up for the Resource newsletter, Visit the [Good Natured](#) DCNR Blog, [Click Here](#) for upcoming events, [Click Here](#) to hook up with DCNR on other social media-- Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

(Photo: Local, state officials celebrate trails in Forest City.)

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(Reprinted from the [Sept. 19 DCNR Resource](#) newsletter. [Click Here](#) to sign up for your copy.)

[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

Western PA Trail Volunteer Fund Seeking Project Grant Applications



The [Western PA Trail Volunteer Fund](#) of the Pittsburgh Foundation is now [seeking grant applications](#) to purchase tools, materials, and supplies to be used by volunteer trail projects that create, maintain, or enhance the network of trails suitable for bicycle touring in Western Pennsylvania and interconnected trails in nearby areas.

The deadline for this round of grants is December 1. However the Fund accepts applications at several times of the year-- March 1, June 1, September 1 as well as

December 1.

The fund celebrates and encourages the volunteers whose work has made such valuable

contributions to western Pennsylvania's growing network of motor-free trails.

Visit the [Western PA Trail Volunteer Fund](#) website for more information on how to apply.

DCNR Grants

[**Note:** PA Recreation & Park Society, DCNR will hold Community Conservation grant [Workshops In October and November](#) for potential applicants.]

(*Photo: [Great Allegheny Passage Trail](#), [Ohiopyle State Park](#), Fayette County.*)

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[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

DCNR Blog: A New Visit To An Old Logger's Path In Lycoming County

By: Michael Hoffman, Forest Resource Planner, DCNR's Bureau of Forestry



The eerie morning mist was still lifting from the forest floor while sunray fingers broke through the Allegheny trees above and touched the lush vegetation and sea-green rock faces that guided the brook below.

Engulfed and enchanted by the totality of verdant space that beset me, I understood at once that I was experiencing perhaps the epitome of an eastern deciduous forest in all its rapture.

Lured by postcard forest scenery, fabled “ghost towns,” and the liberation that comes with thrusting oneself “into the wild,” my brother Eric and I put one foot in front of the other along the [Old Logger's Path](#) that traverses some truly picturesque and heritage-laden places in the mountainous regions of our state.

A Trail With Rich History

Old Loggers Path is an orange-blazed long-distance backpacking trail that follows former railroad grades, logging roads, bark trails, and other remnants of old industrial transportation, hence the name. The trail is a circuit through remote areas in northeastern Lycoming County.

Our starting point, Masten, once was the site of a lumber mill company town (and later a CCC camp) where some ruined infrastructure, such as that of some previously standing houses and dam used for saw operation, can still be seen.

In 1905, the mill town was founded by Charles Sones and was sold a little over 10 years later to the giant Pennsylvania Lumber Company.

The Susquehanna & New York railroad grades that once serviced the area now support much of the Old Logger's Path, and Eric and I set out on those on our first day to cover 17 miles of the 27-mile circuit hike.

Enjoying The Journey

Eric and I selected some sweltering, 90-degree weather for hiking, so swimming to cool off became the norm.

Conveniently, the trail passes alongside the shaded and quite spectacular Rock Run for some its course, and the deep pools and cool-running flows there provided some relieving space for chilling out and gathering clear water in the middle of the day.

By evening, we reached the shores of Pleasant Stream, where we set up camp, swam again, and cooked food for the evening on my portable stove.

While cooking streamside, I noticed first-of-all the brook trout rising in the pools to feed on the evening's critters -- a sight which brought me great delight -- and I regretted instantly that I was without my fly rod.

Secondly, I noticed the severe impacts from the 2016 storm that flooded the landscape and drastically altered the stream channel, leaving in its wake a dramatic wash-out of small boulders that undoubtedly originated from farther up the drainage.

After supper, Eric and I settled in for the evening by a campfire and recounted some thematic, funny moments of the day before turning in.

At about five o'clock in the morning, it began to rain. Hard. These are the moments when it pays dividends to come prepared with the right gear.

In my case, that meant a tent I could rely on to keep the water out, and sleeping pad that let me roll over and sleep somewhat comfortably for a few more hours until the rain stopped!

When the skies finally cleared, the site was a little muddy, but I was grateful for the extra sleep. We made some instant coffee, packed our gear, and headed out.

Connecting People To Penn's Woods

As we climbed out of the Pleasant Stream valley on the second day, we came upon a big "clearing" in the forest with some yellow equipment parked within, and I took advantage of the opportunity to explain to Eric the timber harvesting process that continues in Penn's Woods.

Eric still lives around Bucks County, where our family is from, so I think the sight surprised him.

As I dropped some more education on my "little" brother, I was reminded of what an important role DCNR's Bureau of Forestry has in connecting people with land resources and all the opportunities it has to illustrate and educate about the effects of those connections.

Our state is rich in natural resources, and the utilization of trails like Old Logger's Path, has provided for the fitness of many families -- past, present, and hopefully into the future, if we apply wisdom.

Nature From The Bird's Eye View

Later, we came out to a few vistas that looked over the valley below. Being up high really gave us the vantage to perceive so much of the land at once. It really felt like having a “bird’s eye view.”

The views were wide and expansive, going on for miles. It was a great place to stop and contemplate our place in the world before moving on to the last leg of the hike.

Back To The Beginning, Feeling Like New

Later in the day, we finished where we started -- at Masten. Everything looked the same, but I knew we emerged changed for the better, with a fresh perspective, enriched by our experience.

Eric and I talk about it often, and we always have our sights set on the next opportunity.

While wilderness travel, on some level, translates to some dimension of physical discomfort, the rewards that come from feelings of accomplishment, aesthetic experience, and transcendental connectedness can be great. In the case of the Old Logger’s Path, the juice was worth the squeeze!

Find more Pennsylvania trails in the deep woods or close to home by visiting the [Explore PA Trails](#) website.

DCNR Grants

[**Note:** PA Recreation & Park Society, DCNR will hold Community Conservation grant [Workshops In October and November](#) for potential applicants.]

For more information on state parks and forests and recreation in Pennsylvania, visit [DCNR’s website](#), [Click Here](#) to sign up for the Resource newsletter, Visit the [Good Natured](#) DCNR Blog, [Click Here](#) for upcoming events, [Click Here](#) to hook up with DCNR on other social media-- Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

(Photo: Vista from the [Old Logger’s Path](#).)

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(Reprinted from [DCNR Good Natured Blog](#).)

[Posted: Sept. 18, 2018]

PA Trails Advisory Committee Seeking Applications For 7 Positions



The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is accepting letters of interest for seven [Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee](#) appointments representing the following user groups: bicycling, hiking, cross-country skiing, water trails users, and three members at large.

The Committee is a 20-member, DCNR-appointed committee that represents both motorized and non-motorized trail users and advises the Commonwealth on the use of state and federal trail

funding.

It is charged with implementing the recommendations of the [PA Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan](#) and the [PA Land and Water Trail Network Strategic Plan](#) to develop a statewide land and water trail network to facilitate recreation, transportation, and healthy lifestyles.

Appointed members will serve a three-year term beginning January 1, 2019. Interested candidates must submit a cover letter and resume by email to: RA-explorepatrails@pa.gov by October 31.

DCNR Grants

[**Note:** PA Recreation & Park Society, DCNR will hold Community Conservation grant [Workshops In October and November](#) for potential applicants.]

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(*Photo: [Montour Trail](#), Southwest PA.*)

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[Manada Conservancy: A Walk In Penn's Woods Oct. 7 In Dauphin County At DeHart Dam](#)

(Reprinted from the [Sept. 19 DCNR Resource](#) newsletter. [Click Here](#) to sign up for your copy.)
[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

Manada Conservancy: A Walk In Penn's Woods Oct. 7 In Dauphin County At DeHart Dam



Join [Manada Conservancy](#), [Dauphin County Woodland Owner's Association](#) and [Capitol Region Water](#) on October 7 at 1:00 for a [A Walk In Penn's Woods](#) at the DeHart Dam Reservoir in Clark's Valley.

This guided 1.5 mile walk will explore Capital Region Water's DeHart Dam and Reservoir in scenic Clarks Valley. This rare opportunity to walk the DeHart Dam will highlight the journey of drinking water from raindrop to the tap and the

role we share in stewarding these water resources.

The beautiful area in the surrounding Clarks Valley is home to abundant wildlife, working forest, public lands and clean water. Nature will be observed at its finest with a Manada Conservancy field expert to identify birds, wildlife, flowers and invasive species. Forest and tree health will be discussed along the way.

Walk participants are advised to wear well-fitting sturdy shoes or boots. Terrain may be uneven and there are moderate inclines.

Participants will meet in the gravel parking lot at the DeHart Dam entrance, approximately 12 miles northeast of Dauphin PA and accessed from Rt. 325 (Clarks Valley Road). Parking is limited and carpooling is recommended. Google Maps will identify the parking location as "Dehart Dam, Halifax, PA."

This program is free and open to the public, but registration is required and is limited to 50 participants. Please register by contacting the Manada Conservancy office by sending email to: office@manada.org or call 717-566-4122.

Walk In Penn's Woods

The [Walk in Penn's Woods](#) is a cooperative initiative of private forest organizations and public forest management agencies to encourage the public to experience "Penn's Woods."

In 2017, 64 Walks were organized in 46 counties with over 1,000 people walking in the woods.

The groups involved in Walk in Penn's Woods include-- [PA Forestry Association](#), [PA Sustainable Forest Initiative Implementation Committee](#), [Center for Private Forests](#), [PA Forest Stewards](#), [Association of Consulting Foresters](#), Penn State Extension and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

[Click Here](#) for a list of Walks scheduled for this year. For more information on the initiative, visit the [Walk in Penn's Woods](#) webpage.

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[Western PA Trail Volunteer Fund Seeking Project Grant Applications](#)
[Posted: Sept. 17, 2018]

Brandywine Museum Natural Wonders Exhibit Explores Nature In Contemporary Art, Chester County



On view through October 21 at the [Brandywine River Museum of Art](#) in Chester County is a landmark exhibition, *Natural Wonders: The Sublime in Contemporary Art*, featuring 13 major American artists whose work examines our relationship with nature—exploring both its beauty and its capacity to inspire awe and fear.

The [Brandywine Conservancy](#), the Museum's sister program, will also hold a guided trail walk related to the Natural Wonders exhibit on September 27.

Organized by the Brandywine with guest curator

Suzanne Ramljak, *Natural Wonders* includes recent works by Suzanne Anker, Lauren Fensterstock, Patrick Jacobs, Maya Lin, Roxy Paine, Miljohn Ruperto & Ulrik Heltoft, Diana Thater, Jennifer Trask, Mark Tribe, Kathleen Vance, T.J. Wilcox, and Dustin Yellin, which investigate the intersection between the natural and artificial realms and the wild and cultivated.

Through some 40 recent works, which often reflect the current anxiety and concern for the sustainability of the Earth's resources, the artists raise questions about our strained relationship with the natural world: from species extinction, to the loss of open space, to the prevalence of GMOs and the increase in designer breeding of both plants and animals.

Many of these themes serve as a complement to the work of the Brandywine Conservancy and its fifty-plus-year effort to conserve land and safeguard water throughout the Brandywine Valley.

"As the director of the Conservancy, I am always thrilled when our sister organization presents an exhibition that highlights our relationship to the environment and the threats we face to preserve our natural resources," said Ellen Ferretti. "Every day we work to protect and

conserve open space and dependable clean water sources now for all future generations. Natural Wonders offers a unique artistic perspective on these environmental challenges and I look forward to the dialogue it will create among our visitors.”

Artists such as Maya Lin, Roxy Paine, Dustin Yellin and Diana Thater present works in the exhibition that engage with ecological concerns, including the museum debut of Thater’s Road to Hana series, which captures in a multi-screen video wall the fantastical “painted forest” of rainbow eucalyptus on the Hawaiian island of Maui.

Other works enlist sophisticated technologies and techniques—from 3D printing and lenticular prints, to advanced 4K digital cinema—to capture and convey nature’s formidable powers, such as the North American premiere of Mark Tribe’s New Nature series of 4K videos drawn from wilderness preserves in the United States.

Patrick Jacobs’ intricate, three-dimensional dioramas, which often focus on fungi and weeds, invoke the beauty that can be found in organic life that is often perceived as undesirable or dangerous.

Likewise Jennifer Trask’s sculptures encourage the viewer to ponder the relationship between mortality and fertility, as she uses animal bones as source material for her detailed carvings of plants and flowers.

“The history of American art in the Brandywine region, in many ways, is the history of artists exploring the power and beauty of nature,” said Thomas Padon, the James H. Duff Director of the Brandywine River Museum of Art. “With Natural Wonders, visitors have an opportunity to experience contemporary perspectives on this subject, with works of art that challenge and confront our presumptions of nature. This exhibition has particular resonance here, as the Brandywine River Museum of Art is located in a bucolic setting in which nature becomes an integral part of the visitor experience.”

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Brandywine commissioned a site-specific piece by Kathleen Vance: a 35-foot-long re-creation of a segment of the Brandywine River—complete with flowing water—in the Museum’s atrium. *(photo)*

Known for her Traveling Landscape series of works that engage viewers in exploring the changing topography of natural waterways, Vance conducted research on the Brandywine River’s history and shoreline as a prelude to developing her piece.

Her commission offers visitors the rare opportunity to see her work within view of the very body of water that inspired it. With the river visible through the Museum’s floor-to-ceiling windows, the installation directly stages the interplay of artifice and nature at the core of the exhibition.

“Our idea of the sublime in nature has been largely shaped by Edmund Burke’s 1757 treatise, *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful*,” said Suzanne Ramljak, the exhibition’s curator. “Burke identified seven unnerving aspects of the sublime—including darkness, obscurity, privation, and magnificence—and these features can be found in the interpretations of nature in this exhibition. The selected works are also alluring, arousing the mixed emotion of delight and dread that is a hallmark of sublime experience.”

Natural Wonders: The Sublime in Contemporary Art is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with an introductory essay by Ramljak and an incisive conversation between artists Mark Dion and Alexis Rockman, whose works have long explored the human impact on nature, and who address art’s role in the face of environmental threats.

Published by Rizzoli, the catalogue includes statements by the featured artists, providing

further insight into the sources and connections to nature in their art.

Guided Trail Walk

On September 27 the [Brandywine Conservancy](#) will hold a guided trail walk related to the Natural Wonders exhibit.

The Harvey Run Trail Walk: Finding Natural Wonders will be led by easement steward Susan Charkes, author of the recently published new edition of AMC's *Best Day Hikes Near Philadelphia*, and dean of education Mary Cronin.

[Click Here](#) for all the details.

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the [Brandywine Conservancy](#) website. [Click Here](#) to sign up for regular updates from the Conservancy (middle of the webpage.) Visit the [Conservancy's Blog](#), [Like the Conservancy](#) on Facebook and [Follow them on Instagram](#).

(**Photo:** 35-foot-long re-creation of a segment of the Brandywine River-- complete with flowing water.)

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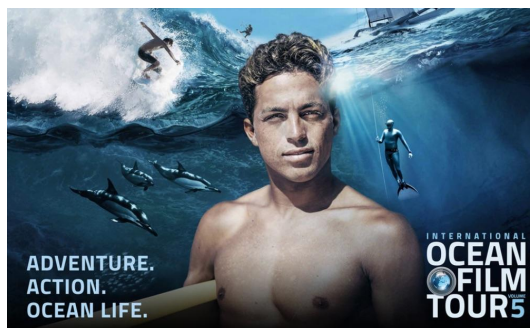
[Brandywine Conservancy & Museum Of Art Seeks Renewal Of Accreditation Thru Land Trust Alliance](#)

[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

International Ocean Film Tour Features Adventure Films & Environmental Documentaries Sept. 27 In Philadelphia

The [International Ocean Film Tour](#) sails into Philadelphia on September 27 with an exciting lineup of high seas adventures and inspiring environmental documentaries.

Hosted by the [Philadelphia Environmental Film Festival](#) and [The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University](#), the program features [six captivating films](#), totaling 120 minutes, of the year's best water sports action and conservation films from the seven seas.



“We are thrilled to bring the International Ocean Film Tour back to Philadelphia for the second year,” said Debra Wolf Goldstein, executive director of the film festival. “This is a unique, outdoor adventure-focused film experience for all ages. We’re delighted to partner with the Academy for this one-night-only event.”

Presenting the sea in all its diversity and beauty, the program takes viewers on a wondrous voyage. [Click Here](#) to watch the trailer for the Film Tour.

This year’s International Ocean Film Tour began in March, with more than 130 stops so far in Europe, Australia and the U.S. This is the Tour’s only stop in the Philadelphia region.

Held at the Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, doors open at 6:30 p.m.; the program begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15. [Click Here](#) to purchase tickets.

[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

Wildlands Conservancy Highlights October Educational Programs, Activities



The Lehigh Valley-based [Wildlands Conservancy](#) highlighted upcoming educational programs and activities in October, including--

- **October 4:** [Pre-K Pathfinders: Creepy Crawlies](#)
- **October 12:** [Hoody Hoot Hike](#)
- **October 18:** [You And Me: Spider Lore](#)
- **October 24:** [Trick Or Tree Project Tour & Planting](#)
- **October 31:** [Spooky Halloween Hike](#)

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the [Wildlands Conservancy](#) website. [Like on Facebook](#), [Follow on Twitter](#) and [Join on Instagram](#). [Click Here](#) to support the Conservancy.

[Posted: Sept. 19, 2018]

DCNR, Central PA Conservancy Dedicate Letort Spring Garden Preserve In Cumberland County



Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn joined [Central Pennsylvania Conservancy](#) officials Saturday in the dedication of the state-supported Letort Spring Garden Preserve in South Middleton Township, Cumberland County. Facilitated by an almost \$208,000 investment from DCNR, the conservancy's acquisition of the 34-acre Letort Spring Garden Preserve on east branch headwaters of Letort Spring Run will help protect one of Pennsylvania's premier limestone

trout streams.

"The Wolf Administration is proud of its investment in the purchase of this historic property, which goes a long way toward protecting a watershed that is revered by so many," said Dunn. "The Letort is iconic, not just to anglers, but to naturalists across the state for its wild and clean-flowing qualities. All those gathered here today share in this notable accomplishment."

The Central Pennsylvania Conservancy hosted the public dedication to celebrate its latest acquisition, a historic watercress farm at the headwaters of Letort Spring Run.

The event was dedicated to donors, both public and private, who helped raise \$420,000 since 2015 to complete the purchase for the public benefit.

"The Letort is one of Pennsylvania's most storied, limestone streams, one that not only carries a wily population of wild brown trout and the resources to support it, but also a host of tales, trials, transformations, and treasured moments through history," said Central Pennsylvania Conservancy Executive Director Anna N. Yelk. "Central Pennsylvania Conservancy is honored to steward its east-branch headwaters, now protected in perpetuity, and to restore its banks and

share its natural and cultural heritage for future generations to enjoy."

The Conservancy intends to lead efforts to rehabilitate the landscape from a former watercress farm to an improved environment for wildlife and storm-water management.

The acquisition gives anglers access to 1,000 yards of protected stream front along a Class A trout stream.

Open to all, the property will offer families and nature enthusiasts the opportunity to view the wildlife and biological diversity limestone spring meadows provide. The Letort Nature Trail, a 19th century railroad corridor, runs through the tract, providing public access to natural wetlands.

The purchase was funded in part by a DCNR [Community Conservation Partnerships Program grant](#), in a program that has been positively impacting Pennsylvania communities for 25 years.

Each dollar of [Keystone Fund](#) investment typically leverages \$3.13 in direct local investments in parks, trails, community green spaces, and libraries.

Since 1993, the Keystone Fund has invested \$1.02 billion in over 4,500 projects. Through DCNR, the fund has helped protect more than 161,000 acres of green space for county and municipal parks, greenways, wildlife habitat, and other open space uses.

Grant Workshops

The [PA Recreation and Park Society](#) and DCNR are again partnering on a series of 6 workshops designed to help applicants develop project ideas in preparation of submitting a grant application to the [Community Conservation Grant Program](#) in 2019. [Click Here](#) for more.

For more information on state parks and forests and recreation in Pennsylvania, visit [DCNR's website](#), [Click Here](#) to sign up for the Resource newsletter, Visit the [Good Natured](#) DCNR Blog, [Click Here](#) for upcoming events, [Click Here](#) to hook up with DCNR on other social media-- Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

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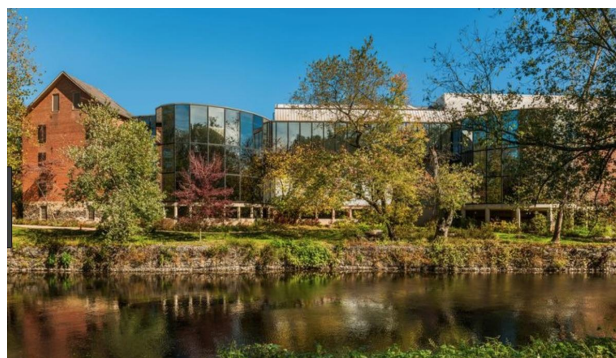
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[Central PA Conservancy Acquires Watercress Farm At Letort Spring Run Headwaters In Cumberland County](#)

[PA Recreation & Park Society, DCNR To Hold Community Conservation Grant Workshops In Oct., Nov.](#)

[Posted: Sept. 17, 2018]

Brandywine Conservancy & Museum Of Art, Chester County, Seeks Renewal Of Accreditation Thru Land Trust Alliance



The [Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art](#) in Chester County Thursday announced it is applying for renewal of its land trust accreditation.

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands

forever.

The [Land Trust Accreditation Commission](#), an independent program of the [Land Trust Alliance](#), conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs every five years.

"Accreditation ensures that the Brandywine holds itself to the highest professional standards in the land trust field. It provides confidence to our landowners, constituents, members and donors that this organization can responsibly fulfill the promise of preserving and stewarding our working and natural resources for generations to come," said Ellen Ferretti, Director of the Brandywine Conservancy.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how the Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art complies with national quality standards, which address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust.

For the full list of standards or to learn more about the accreditation program, please visit the [Land Trust Accreditation Commission](#) website.

Comments can be submitted online, emailed to: info@landtrustaccreditation.org, faxed to 518-587-3183 or mailed to: Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments, 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

The deadline for comments on the Brandywine's application is December 14, 2018.

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the [Brandywine Conservancy](#) website. [Click Here](#) to sign up for regular updates from the Conservancy (middle of the webpage.) Visit the [Conservancy's Blog](#), [Like the Conservancy](#) on Facebook and [Follow them on Instagram](#).

(Photo: [Brandywine Museum of Art, Smithsonian Magazine](#).)

Related Story:

[Brandywine Museum Natural Wonders Exhibit Explores Nature In Contemporary Art, Chester County](#)

[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

Sept. 19 Resource Newsletter Now Available From DCNR



The [September 19 Resource](#) newsletter is now available from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources featuring articles on--

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-- [Western PA Trail Volunteer Fund Seeking Grant Applications](#)

-- [DCNR, Central PA Conservancy Dedicate Letort Spring](#)

[Garden Preserve, Cumberland](#)

-- [New Harrisburg Playgrounds Address Recreation, Stormwater Pollution, Flood Reduction](#)

-- [DCNR Efficiencies Contribute To State Government Savings](#)

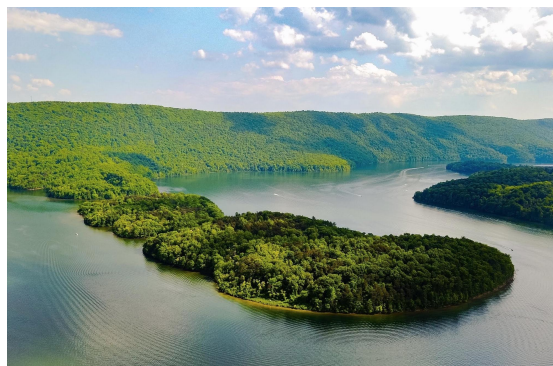
-- [Good Natured Pennsylvanians - Gwen Wills, PA Trails Advisory Committee](#) *(photo)*

- [PA Trails Advisory Committee Seeking Applicants](#)
- [Take A Walk In Penn's Woods October 7](#)
- [Game Commission Hosts National Hunting & Fishing Day Sept. 23 At Middle Creek](#)
- [National Network For Landscape Conservation Reports On Progress, Priorities](#)
- [DCNR Names Managers At Gifford Pinchot, Tobyhanna, Shikellamy State Parks](#)
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[Posted: Sept. 20, 2018]

Governor's Hunting, Fishing, Conservation Advisory Council Opposes Hawn's Bridge Peninsula Development At Raystown Lake



The Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation [sent a four-page letter](#) to the US Army Corps of Engineers on August 31 expressing opposition to the private development of Hawn's Bridge Peninsula at [Raystown Lake in Huntingdon County](#) by a developer from Texas.

The Council made the recommendation as part of a public comment process on the proposed revision of the [Raystown Lake Master Plan](#).

The Council said they strongly encourage carrying forward the language in the 1994 plan which

pledges complete protection of the Hawn's Peninsula. Their hope is that the Terrace Mountain's designation remains a Low-Density Recreation Area.

The [Coalition to Protect Hawn's Peninsula](#), formed to oppose any development on Raystown Lake especially the Hawn's Bridge Peninsula, expressed their appreciation for the support the Governor's Advisory Council has given in writing this letter.

The Coalition group is made up of concerned citizens who want to preserve the unspoiled landscape around the lake. Raystown Lake is known as Pennsylvania's Crown Jewel precisely because of its unique natural landscape.

"Let's keep it that way," the Council said in a statement.

In the letter, the Council thanked the Corps for the opportunity to provide comment in the update of the 1994 Master Plan, as required by Section 1309 of the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation Act.

The Raystown Lake Master Plan is the strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all projects recreational, natural and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resource development project.

The Governor's Council interpreted "strategic" to mean a long-term view and approach to managing the Raystown Lake Project and its natural resources and regionally unique values.

The Council's view of the 1994 Master Plan relating to conserving the Project's unique habitats, low-density recreational opportunities, and stellar scenic and aesthetic qualities is that it is as valid today as when it was originally conceived.

The Council said they believe the expansive and largely undisturbed viewshed offered from the lake, or high atop Terrance Mountain, is the most significant attribute this remarkable destination offers and should be preserved.

The letter goes on to address the various wildlife, ecosystem, shale barrens, boating capacity and safety on Raystown Lake.

The Advisory Council is a group of twenty distinguished volunteers appointed by Governor Wolf to deliberate on a range of issues, including all forms of outdoor recreation, the preservation of our environment, and our hunting, fishing and trapping heritage.

Spokesman Robert B. Miller, Jr for the Governor's Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation has given permission to share the letter with the public. Miller can be contacted by sending email to: robmille@pa.gov.

[Click Here](#) to read a copy of the Council's letter.

For more information on the Hawn's Bridge Peninsula issue, contact Kathy Gates, Secretary, [The Coalition To Protect Hawn's Bridge Peninsula](#), by sending email to: savehawns Peninsula@gmail.com or calling 814-386-7501.

(Photo: Hawn's Bridge Peninsula at Raystown Lake.)

Related Story:

[Op-Ed: Raystown Lake Threatened By Incompatible, Unsustainable Development, Army Corps Is Collecting Public Comments](#)

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[Posted: Sept. 19, 2018]

Fort Indiantown Gap Announces 2nd Mountain Hawk Watch Now Open Thru Dec. 15 In Lebanon County



[Fort Indiantown Gap](#), a PA National Guard training facility in Lebanon County, Thursday announced the [2nd Mountain Hawk Watch](#) observation area will be open now through December 15 to coincide with the official migratory bird watching season.

As in the past, the site will be open dawn until dusk and is only to be used to count migratory raptors.

The observation area for 2nd Mountain Hawk Watch is located adjacent to and on Fort Indiantown Gap ranges where troops train and bivouac.

“We have been happy to have this partnership for more than 34 years,” said David Schwenk, president of Second Mountain Hawk Watch, “and we understand the balance between the military mission and our mission to count migratory raptors.”

Lt. Col. Lane Marshall, garrison commander, agreed, “This has been a great partnership. By formalizing our season, we hope to meet our mission of training troops here while also supporting conservation,” he said “during the off-season, the training areas can be used by the troops.”

The site will be closed to foot and vehicle traffic during the off-season.

2nd Mountain Hawk Watch was established in 1984 in collaboration with partners to assist birders with environmental stewardship.

If you would like to assist [2nd Mountain Hawk Watch](#) with counting migratory birds, please contact David Schwenk, 717-533-2814.

Visit the [2nd Mountain Hawk Watch](#) website for more information.

(Photo: The regulars.)

NewsClips:

[Bad Year For Birds With West Nile In Pennsylvania](#)

[Flocks Of Black Birds Darkening Pittsburgh Skies, But It's Not A Bad Omen](#)

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[Boy Scout Part II: Researching Raptors On Chestnut Ridge Near Uniontown](#)

[Posted: Sept. 21, 2018]

Bay Journal: Invasive Northern Snakeheads Found In Octoraro Creek, Lancaster County

By: Donna Morelli, [Chesapeake Bay Journal](#)



Pennsylvania angler Mark Mabry knew he had something big on his line while fishing the Lancaster County section of Octoraro Creek this summer. He didn't expect to reel in a 25-inch [northern snakehead](#) — a notorious invasive species with a big appetite and the ability to shuffle short distances on land.

"I was a little shocked," he said. "They're fun to catch, but it's not what I want to see."

Mabry's catch was the first snakehead confirmed in the Pennsylvania portion of the Octoraro Creek, a tributary of the Susquehanna River. According to Michael Kauffmann, the Southeastern Area Fisheries Manager for the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, it was soon followed by others.

"One of the first anglers that contacted me said, 'I caught one, but a friend of mine caught two the other day,' " Kaufmann said. "And then we got a message that there were five of them lying on the bank. We kept getting calls or emails indicating they caught single fish but friends caught multiple fish. This went on for about three weeks before it started dying down."

Snakeheads, a fish native to Asia, caused a great deal of concern in the Chesapeake Bay region in 2002, when they first appeared in a suburban Maryland pond. Scientists and anglers worried about the potentially widespread impact of their voracious appetite on the ecosystem as they competed with native fish for food.

Fifteen years later, with snakeheads living in many of the Bay's creeks and rivers, such fears have generally been put to rest, at least for now. But there is concern about the localized effect the Octoraro snakeheads might have on American eels and Chesapeake logperch.

Snakeheads are toothy, slimy and huge, weighing up to 20 pounds. They can also breathe out of water as long as they stay wet, and use their fins to travel short distances on land. They mostly eat fish, frogs, small minnows, crawfish and eels, but have also been known to bring down ducks and small mammals.

Until this summer, known Pennsylvania populations of snakeheads have been mostly limited to the Schuylkill and Delaware rivers and small ponds and lakes near Philadelphia. The fish living there, and in random ponds and lakes in the state, have been introduced by people, Kaufmann said.

The Octoraro snakeheads appear to have traveled north on their own and were caught below the Octoraro Reservoir. The threatened Chesapeake logperch and the American eel, which biologists are trying protect and propagate, have been found near the reservoir's dam.

"We are concerned, besides the usual concerns about all invasive species, that this is the general location where eels are trapped and transferred," Kaufmann said. "They gather there."

So far, the presence of snakeheads in other Bay tributaries has not wreaked environmental havoc.

Snakeheads now swim in many Maryland rivers that drain into the Bay, including on the Eastern Shore. They were noted in the lower Potomac River by 2004 and have since become well-established in most, if not all, of that river's tributaries in Virginia, Maryland and the

District of Columbia. One was found in Opequon Creek, a West Virginia tributary to the Potomac, in April.

In 2012, snakeheads moved into the Rappahannock River and reached the James River this year, said John Odenkirk, fisheries biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Odenkirk said that snakeheads in the Potomac tributaries have reached an equilibrium with their surroundings and their growth has plateaued. His surveys of snakeheads and bass showed that, on average, 10 snakeheads were caught every hour and largemouth bass were counted at 25 fish per hour.

Both fish occupy similar niches and seem to be coexisting for now.

Like the nonnative blue and flathead catfishes, snakeheads have become popular sportfish — and fishery managers in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia encourage the catch to help keep its population in check.

There are no limits as to when or how to catch them, nor how many an angler can take. Anglers work from shore and by kayak. They are caught even by bowfishing, in which a rig that combines a casting line with the structure of a bow and arrow is used.

“Anglers love them, especially the bow hunters,” Odenkirk said. “Snakeheads like shallow water so they are vulnerable to being attacked from above.”

Some anglers get paid for their catch. Maryland and Virginia allow the commercial sale of snakehead, which has become a specialty dish in some Washington, DC, and Baltimore restaurants.

According to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, a cumulative total of 17,151 pounds of snakeheads were commercially harvested from the Potomac River between 2011 and 2017.

Virginia passed a law this year allowing commercial harvest of the fish.

Fishing for snakeheads has become so popular that some anglers are calling for catch-and-release to protect their numbers. If anglers were to successfully lobby for the management of snakeheads as sportfish, limits on the catch could further strengthen their hold in the Bay region.

That’s the last thing that Joseph Love, a fisheries biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, wants to see.

“We’ve had sea lamprey in the Great lakes area for 40 or 50 years and they didn’t become a problem until a certain set of conditions happened, and now, boom, they are a problem,” Love said. “We’ve had blue cats in the Potomac for a while now, but it’s only recently where the population has surged to the point where people are worried about crab fisheries in the Bay.”

Heavy rains, like those in the Bay region this summer, help snakeheads move into new areas, Love said. They tend to travel on freshets — a flow of freshwater from storms or melting snow.

“I was surprised to see how fast they have spread,” Love said. “Fifteen years isn’t a whole heck of a lot of time.”

To learn more about this invasive species, visit the Fish and Boat Commission’s [Snakehead](#) webpage.

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(Reprinted from the [Chesapeake Bay Journal](#).)

[Posted: Sept. 19, 2018]

Penn State: Few Hatchery Brook Trout Genes Present In PA Watershed Wild Fish

By: Jeff Mulhollem, [Penn State News](#)

Despite many decades of annual brook trout stocking in one northcentral Pennsylvania watershed, the [wild brook trout populations](#) show few genes from hatchery fish, according to researchers who genotyped about 2,000 brook trout in Loyalsock Creek watershed, a 500-square-mile drainage in Lycoming and Sullivan counties celebrated by anglers for its trout fishing.

This finding is important because, according to lead researcher [Shannon White](#), a Penn State doctoral degree student in ecology, a debate continues in many states — including Pennsylvania — about the potential effects on wild trout populations, when hatchery-raised brook trout are stocked in streams where wild brook trout are present.

Supplementing wild populations with captive-raised fish increases angling opportunities and has occurred in Pennsylvania for more than a century, White pointed out. But uncertainty remains about the long-term effects of genetic introgression from hatchery-raised fish on wild populations.

In particular, she said, introgression between hatchery and wild individuals can cause declines in wild population fitness, resiliency and ability to adapt to changing habitat and climate that could contribute to local population loss.

"This was the first study that we are aware of that looked at genetic introgression on wild brook trout in an actively stocked watershed," White said. "We were somewhat surprised to find more than nine out of 10 fish we evaluated had the wild trout genotype, because similar studies of wild salmon, rainbow trout and other salmonids have shown significant genetic introgression from stocked fish."



Researchers quantified the extent of introgression in wild brook trout — meaning they possessed genes from stocked, hatchery trout — at 30 sites in the Loyalsock Creek watershed, and genetic assignment tests were used to determine the origin — wild versus captive-raised — for 1,742 wild-caught and 300 hatchery brook trout.

To determine if introgression was higher or lower in certain habitats — possibly indicating that habitat could predict the probability of introgression — researchers examined the correlation between introgression and 11 environmental variables.

In the end, there was very little statistical evidence to suggest that habitat characteristics affected the probability of introgression in the studied streams, noted Tyler Wagner, adjunct professor of fisheries ecology, whose research group in the College of Agricultural Sciences conducted the research.

"But this result was largely driven by the fact that we had such low rates of introgression to start with," said Wagner, assistant unit leader of the [Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit](#) at Penn State.

Even with frequent stocking at most sites, more than 93 percent of wild-caught individuals were judged to be of genetically wild origin, and slightly less than 6 percent of wild-caught brook trout were introgressed.

There are good reasons why hatchery-raised, stocked brook trout have mostly not introduced their genes into the wild brook trout gene pool in the Loyalsock Creek watershed, and likely not in most other watersheds across Pennsylvania, White pointed out.

"Why brook trout aren't showing high rates of introgression is still uncertain; however, our guess at this point is that it stems from the high mortality of hatchery-raised fish," she said. "Studies have shown that hatchery raised fish have low fitness and survival and most die within a few months of stocking due to angler harvest, predation or environmental factors. They are stocked in April and May and most of them are gone by July, so few make it to the October-November spawning season."

Another factor limiting genetic introgression, White believes, is that small-stream ecosystems are difficult places for hatchery fish to survive.

"Compared to a larger river or lake, small streams are tough," she said. "It is harder for trout to find food and avoid predators. One thunderstorm can completely change flow patterns. Given that stocked fish are not very good at living in the wild to begin with, when they are put into these really volatile systems there is higher mortality."

The research, recently [published in Evolutionary Applications](#), likely has management implications, White believes. But she stressed that the findings should not be misconstrued as a green light to stock brook trout over wild brook trout populations.

Just the opposite. White urges state agencies and private groups to make stocking decisions on a watershed basis, rather than a stream basis.

"In our research we saw evidence that hatchery trout — and their genes — traveled farther than we would have expected, into small tributaries far from stocking points," she said. "That is one thing we found in this study that surprised us — the large spatial scale at which introgression occurs."

Also involved in the research were William Miller, former Penn State doctoral student, and Stephanie Dowell and Meredith Bartron, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Fishery Center, in Lamar, Pennsylvania.

The R.K. Mellon Freshwater Research Initiative, the National Science Foundation and

the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service supported this research.

Shannon White can be contacted by sending email to: slw361@psu.edu or by calling 804-387-3498.

To learn more about trout in Pennsylvania, visit the Fish and Boat Commission's [Trout](#) webpage.

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(Reprinted from [Penn State News](#).)

[Posted: Sept. 19, 2018]

In Memoriam: Steve MacNett, 51st Senator For Pennsylvania



Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati (R-Jefferson) and Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman (R-Centre) issued the following statement Wednesday on the passing of Steve MacNett--

“We are incredibly saddened to learn of the passing of our friend Steve MacNett. Steve was a brilliant attorney who served the Senate with acumen for more than four decades.

“He began his Senate career as a messenger in 1966, then held several different positions in the Senate until being promoted to General Counsel to the Senate Republican Caucus, the position he served in for more than 30 years until his retirement in 2011.

“Steve was able to master complex subject matters in short periods of time and had a tremendous ability to craft intricate legal statutes in artful

ways. He handled litigation and legislation, as well as investigations and inquisitions, with Irish grace and an unbelievable resolve.

“Steve’s dedication and service to the Senate is unmatched. His intellect and kindness helped us all to be better public servants. He was the consummate professional in every sense of the word. We extend our sincere sympathies to Steve’s daughters Colleen and Pam and his entire family.”

2011 Retirement

In [announcing his retirement on January 4, 2011](#), then Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi (R-Delaware) said--

“Steve’s record of service in the Senate - he has worked for the Senate more than 44

years, since November 1, 1966 - is unparalleled, and it may never again be matched.

“When Steve began working for the Senate, Bill Scranton was governor and Ray Shafer was seven days away from being elected to succeed him.

“Steve’s career has spanned the administrations of Governors Scranton, Shafer, Milton Shapp, Dick Thornburgh, Bob Casey, Tom Ridge, Mark Schweiker and Ed Rendell.

“He has worked for Republican leaders Robert D. Fleming, Richard Frame, Henry G. Hager, Robert C. Jubelirer, John Stauffer, F. Joseph Loeper, David J. “Chip” Brightbill and me.

“Steve was named to the position of General Counsel for the Senate Republican Caucus in 1977. Prior to that, he worked for the caucus as Chief Counsel, Deputy Chief Counsel, and Assistant Counsel.

“His first job in the Senate was as a page”

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[Posted: Sept. 19, 2018]

Environmental NewsClips - All Topics

Here are NewsClips from around the state on all environmental topics, including General Environment, Budget, Marcellus Shale, Watershed Protection and much more.

The latest environmental NewsClips and news is available at the [PA Environment Digest Daily Blog](#), [Twitter Feed](#) and add [PaEnviroDigest Google+](#) to your Circle.

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Wildlife

[Susquehanna River Boaters Warned Safety Buoys Above Holtwood Dam Were Washed Away](#)
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[Schneck: 100 Monarchs And Counting Adding To Hurting Population](#)
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[I Do It for The Butterflies: Monarchs Rule This Franklin County Home](#)
[AP: Big Cats In Pennsylvania: Mountain Lions Or Bobcats?](#)
[Rains Close PA Game Land Roads](#)

West Nile/Zika Virus

[PA Reports 2 Human Deaths From West Nile Virus In Lancaster, Lebanon Counties](#)
[With 11 West Nile Virus Cases, Philly Asks Residents To Help](#)
[Bad Year For Birds With West Nile In Pennsylvania](#)

[Click Here For This Week's Allegheny Front Radio Program](#)

Public Participation Opportunities/Calendar Of Events

This section lists House and Senate Committee meetings, DEP and other public hearings and meetings and other interesting environmental events.

NEW means new from last week. Go to the [online Calendar](#) webpage for updates.

Note: DEP [published the 2018 meeting schedules](#) for its advisory committees and boards.

Please Be Advised! Committee Schedules Can Change Without Much Notice!

September 22-- [PA Resources Council](#). [Backyard Composting Workshop](#). Castle Shannon Library, Allegheny County. 10:30 to Noon.

September 22-- [PA Resources Council](#). [Household Chemical Collection Event](#). South Park, Allegheny County. 9:00 to 1:00.

September 22-- [Brandywine Conservancy Bike The Brandywine In Chester County To Benefit](#)

[Clean Water Programs](#). [Chadds Ford Historical Society](#), 1736 N. Creek Road, Chadds Ford.

September 22-- [Westmoreland Land Trust](#). [10th Anniversary Celebration - Wide Open Spaces Party](#). Land Trust's barn headquarters, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg. 4:30 to 7:30.

September 22-- NEW. [Independence Conservancy Community Tire Collection](#). Hookstown Fair Grounds, 1198 State Route 168, Hookstown, Beaver County. 9:00 to Noon.

September 23-- [Audubon Society of Western PA](#). [Backyard Habitat Trees and Shrubs, Supporting Wildlife In Winter Workshop](#). [Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve](#), 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh. 10:00.

September 23-- [Brodhead Watershed Association](#). [East Stroudsburg University Tree Museum Tour/Hike](#). Monroe County.

September 24-- NEW. [House Commerce Committee](#) meets to consider [House Bill 2638](#) (Stephens-R-Montgomery) establishes the Military Installation Remediation Authority to address cleanup costs at the former Willow Grove Naval Air Station funded by redirecting Sales Tax revenue from the redevelopment of the facility ([sponsor summary](#)). Room 60 East Wing. Noon. *Committee meetings are typically webcast on the [House Republican Caucus](#) website.*

September 24-- NEW. [House Transportation Committee](#) meets to consider [House Bill 2486](#) (Everett-R-Lycoming) providing a voluntary check off on drivers licenses and vehicle registrations for contributions to the Keystone Tree Fund ([sponsor summary](#)). Room 205 Ryan Building. Off the Floor. *Committee meetings are typically webcast on the [House Republican Caucus](#) website.*

September 24-- NEW. [Senate Transportation Committee](#) meets to consider [House Bill 86](#) (Lawrence-R-Chester) eliminating tailpipe emissions testing for 1992-1995 vehicles in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia areas ([House Fiscal Note](#) and summary), [House Bill 2131](#) (Quigley-R-Montgomery) requiring PennDOT to plant native species of vegetation along highways ([House Fiscal Note](#) and summary). Rules Room. Off the Floor.

September 25-- NEW. [Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee](#) meets to consider [House Bill 2075](#) (Charlton-R-Delaware) authorizing rate recovery for customer-owned lead water service lines ([House Fiscal Note](#) and summary). Room 461. Noon.

September 25-- NEW. [House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) meets to consider [House Bill 2640](#) (Mako-R-Lehigh) requiring DEP to forward notices of noncompliance issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for violation of the Toxic Substances Control Act or state Solid Waste Management Act to the municipality where the violation occurred ([sponsor summary](#)), [Senate Bill 652](#) (Regan-R-Cumberland), which would make it a felony to simply trespass on the right-of-way of pipelines, electric power lines, railroad tracks, refineries or on the property of any of 21 other "critical infrastructure facilities" outlined in the bill. ([Click Here](#) for more background). Room B-31 Main Capitol. 9:00. *Committee meetings*

are typically webcast on the [House Republican Caucus](#) website.

September 25-- [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) holds a hearing on foreign influence on natural gas development in PA. Hearing Room 1 North Office Building. 10:00. [Click Here](#) to watch live. [Click Here](#) for more.

September 25-- NEW. [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) meets to consider [House Bill 2154](#) (Causser-R-Cameron), which would weaken environmental standards for conventional oil and gas drilling, [Senate Resolution 214](#) (Greenleaf-R-Montgomery) urging Pennsylvania natural gas producers to export gas to European countries in an effort to curtail the monopoly that Russia has on supply to that region ([sponsor summary](#)). Rules Room. Off the Floor. [Click Here](#) for more.

September 25-- NEW. [Senate-House Nuclear Energy Caucus hearing on Impacts of Nuclear Power Plant Deactivations On Energy & National Security](#). Room 8-EB East Wing. 8:00. [Click Here](#) to watch it live.

September 25-- [Nuclear Regulatory Commission Public Meeting On Extending Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Plant License For 20 Years](#). [Peach Bottom Inn](#), 6085 Delta Road, Delta, York County. 6:00 to 8:00

September 25-- [PA Resources Council](#). [Recycling Awareness Workshop](#). Mt. Lebanon Public Library, Allegheny County. 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

September 25-26-- [Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed](#). [2018 Delaware River Watershed Forum](#). Cape May, NJ.

September 26-- DCNR Public Meeting On Forest District Plans: [William Penn Forest District](#). [French Creek State Park](#) Conference Room, 843 Park Road, Elverson, Chester County. 6:00 to 8:00. [Click Here](#) for more.

September 26-- DCNR Public Meeting On Forest District Plans: [Moshannon State Forest District](#). Moshannon State Forest District Office, 3372 State Park Road, Penfield, Clearfield County. 6:00 to 8:00. [Click Here](#) for more.

September 27-- NEW. [PA Grade Crude \(Oil\) Development Advisory Council](#) meeting. PA Turnpike Building, 700 S. Eisenhower Blvd., Middletown, Dauphin County. 10:00. DCED Contact: Zach Reber 717-720-1451 or send email to: zreber@pa.gov.

September 27-- NEW. [Brandywine Conservancy Harvey Run Trail Walk: Finding Natural Wonders](#). [Brandywine River Museum Of Art](#), 1 Hoffman's Mill Road, Chadds Ford, Chester County.

September 27-- NEW. [International Ocean Film Tour - Adventure, Action, Ocean Life](#). The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway,

Philadelphia. 6:30.

September 28-- [DEP Low-Level Waste Advisory Committee](#) meeting Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Rich Janati, 717-787-2147, rjanati@pa.gov.

September 28-- [Brodhead Watershed Association. Members & Friends Celebration, Awards Dinner. Camelback Resort's Aquatopia](#) in Tannersville, Monroe County.

September 29-- [PA Resources Council. Backyard Composting Workshop. Construction Junction](#), Point Breeze, Allegheny County. 11:00 to 12:30.

September 29-- [PA CleanWays, Vector Control Of Cumberland County Tire Collection Event. East Pennsboro Township Public Works](#), 645 Tower Road in Enola. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
NOTE: Pre-registration, Prepayment are requested.

September 29-- NEW. [Independence Conservancy Community Tire Collection](#). Brighton Township Road Department, 1250 Brighton Road, Beaver, Beaver County. 9:00 to Noon.

September 29-- [Gifford Pinchot's Grey Towers. Free Ice Cream, Magic & Open House](#). Milford, Pike County. 11:00 to 4:00.

September 29-- [Penn State Extension Rain Barrel Workshops \(3\)](#). Hanover Township Community Center, 3660 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem. 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. and from 11:30 to 12:30.

October 1-- NEW. [DEP Hearing On Penneco Environmental Solutions Drilling Waste Injection Well In Allegheny County](#). Plum Borough School District's Oblock Junior High School Auditorium, 440 Presque Isle Drive, Pittsburgh. 6:00.

October 1-2-- [2018 Eastern PA Greenways & Trails Summit. SteelStacks](#), 101 Founders Way in Bethlehem.

October 1-3-- [Engineers' Society of Western PA. PA Brownfield Conference](#). Sands Bethlehem Casino, Bethlehem.

October 3-- [PA Chamber Fall Regional Environmental Conference In Harrisburg](#).

October 4-- [Joint House-Senate Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Roundtable Discussion on the status and future of anthracite coal in Pennsylvania. LTBA. Coal Dale, Schuylkill County.

October 5-- [House Tourism & Recreation Development Committee](#) Roundtable Discussion of tourism issues affecting the Laurel Highlands. [State Theatre For The Arts](#), 37 E. Main Street, Uniontown, Fayette County. 9:00.

October 5-- [Berks Conservation District Farm Conservation Tour](#). [Deep Roots Valley Farm](#), 1047 Irish Creek Road, Mohrsville. 11:00 to 2:30.

October 5-- [Alliance For The Chesapeake Bay](#). [2nd Annual Sportsmen's Forum](#). [Middle Creek Wildlife Area](#), Lebanon County. 8:00 to 6:00.

October 6-- [PA Resources Council](#). [Hard-To-Recycle Collection Event](#). [Settlers Cabin Park, Robinson Township](#), Allegheny County. 9:00 to 1:00.

October 6-- **NEW**. [Independence Conservancy Community Tire Collection](#). Ambridge Borough Building, 600 11th Street, Ambridge, Beaver County. 9:00 to Noon.

October 6-- [PA Forestry Association Annual Conference - Managing & Conserving Pennsylvania's Forested Waters](#). Toftrees Resort, State College, Centre County.

October 6-- [Penn State Extension Spotted Lanternfly Public Meeting](#). Richland Community Library, 111 East Main Street in Richland, Lebanon County. 10:00 to 11:00

October 7-- [PA Resources Council](#). [Backyard Composting Workshop](#). Blueberry Hill Park, Franklin Park, Allegheny County. 10:30 to Noon.

October 7-- **NEW**. [Manada Conservancy](#). [A Walk In Penn's Woods At DeHart Dam, Dauphin County](#). Participants will meet in the gravel parking lot at the DeHart Dam entrance, approximately 12 miles northeast of Dauphin PA and accessed from Rt. 325 (Clarks Valley Road). Google Maps will identify the parking location as "Dehart Dam, Halifax, PA." 1:00.

October 9-11-- [PA Association of Conservation Districts](#). [Annual Watershed Specialists Meeting](#). State College.

October 10-- [DEP Technical Advisory Committee On Diesel Powered \(Mining\) Equipment](#). DEP New Stanton Office, 131 Broadview Road, New Stanton. 10:00. DEP Contact: Peggy Scheloski, 724-404-3143 or mscheloske@pa.gov.

October 10- [DEP Hearing \(If Needed\) On Georgia Pacific Plant RACT II Air Quality Plan in Sergeant Township, McKean County](#). DEP Northwest Regional Office, 230 Chestnut Street, Meadville. 9:00.

October 10-- [Western PA Conservancy](#). [Affordable Farmland Protection Strategies Workshop](#). [Mattress Factory Museum](#), 500 Sampsonia Way, Pittsburgh. 9:30 to 5:00

October 10-- [Penn State Extension Spotted Lanternfly Public Meeting](#). Park Street Complex, 648 West Park Street, Honesdale, Wayne County. 6:00 to 7:30

October 11-- **CANCELED**. [DEP Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is December 13. DEP Contact: Kirit Dalal, 717-772-3436 or send email to:

kdalal@pa.gov. (*formal notice*)

October 11-- NEW. [DEP Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#) Regulation, Legislation and Technical Committee conference call. 10:00. DEP Contact: Daniel Snowden 717-783-8846 or send email to: dsnowden@pa.gov. (*formal notice*)

October 11-- NEW. [Stroud Water Research Center. Premiere Of Lay Of The Land: Healthy Soils. Healthy Waters Film.](#) Community Mennonite Church Of Lancaster, 328 West Orange Street, Lancaster 6:00.

October 11-- NEW. [Pike County Conservation District Local Road Maintenance Workshop.](#) Dingman Township Fire Hall, 680 Log Tavern Road, Milford. 9:00 to Noon.

October 13-- [PA Resources Council. Vermicomposting Workshop.](#) Ross Township Community Center, Allegheny County. 12:30 to 2:00.

October 13-- [PA Resources Council. Household Chemical Collection Event.](#) Bradys Run Park, Beaver County. 9:00 to 1:00.

October 15-- NEW. Environmental Issues Forum by [Joint House-Senate Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) on biogas and bioenergy. Room 8E-A, East Wing Capitol Building. Noon. [Click Here](#) for more.

October 16-- [Environmental Quality Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00. DEP Contact: Laura Edinger, 717-772-3277, ledinger@pa.gov. (*formal notice*)

October 16-- [DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. Contact: Keith Saladar, Executive Director, ksalador@pa.gov or call 717-787-8171.

October 17-- [DEP State Board For Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators](#) meeting. 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Edgar Chescattle, echescattie@pa.gov.

October 17-- DCNR Public Meeting On Forest District Plans: [Buchanan State Forest District](#), District Office, 25185 Great Cove Road, McConnellsburg, Fulton County. 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. [Click Here](#) for more.

October 17-- [PA Chamber Fall Regional Environmental Conference In Mars, Butler County.](#)

October 17-21-- [Passive House Western PA. North American Passive House Network 2018 Conference. David L. Lawrence Convention Center](#), Pittsburgh.

October 18-- CANCELED. [DEP Radiation Protection Advisory Committee](#) meeting rescheduled to November 15. DEP Contact: Joseph Melnic 717-783-9730 or send email to: jmelnic@pa.gov. (*formal notice*)

October 18-- [DEP Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center Board](#) meeting. DEP Southcentral Regional Office, Susquehanna Room, 909 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg. 9:00. DEP Contact: Dawn Hissner 717-787-9633 or send email to dhissner@pa.gov. (*formal notice*)

October 18-- [PA State Assn. Of Township Supervisors](#). [PA Stormwater Conference](#) [Western]. Butler County.

October 18-- [PA Resources Council](#). [Recycling Awareness Workshop](#). Sewickley Public Library, Allegheny County. 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

October 18-- [Susquehanna River Basin Commission Small Water System Finances, Funding Preparing For Emergencies, Regulatory Updates Workshop](#). SRBC offices, 4423 North Front Street, Harrisburg. 8:40 to 3:15.

October 20-- [Eastern PA Coalition For Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#). [Fall Cleanup In Centralia, Columbia County](#).

October 20-- [Penn State Extension Spotted Lanternfly Public Meeting](#). Lebanon Community Library, 125 North 7th Street, Lebanon, Lebanon County. 10:00 to 11:00

October 23-- **CANCELED**. [DEP Climate Change Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is December 4. DEP Contact: John Krueger, 717-783-9264, jkrueger@pa.gov.

October 23-- [PRPS, DCNR Community Conservation Grants Workshop](#). Montgomery County Fire Academy, 1175 Conshohocken Road, Conshohocken. 9:00 to Noon. [Click Here](#) for more.

October 24-- [PA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Planning Steering Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 1:00. [Click Here](#) to register to join the meeting by webinar. Participants also need to call in 1-650-479-3208, PASSCODE 643 952 548.

October 24-- [DEP Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee](#) meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Nancy Herb, 717-783-9269, nherb@pa.gov.

October 24-- **CANCELED**. DCNR Public Meeting On Forest District Plans: [Clear Creek State Forest District](#). Scheduled for October 30.

October 24-- [Academy Of Natural Sciences Of Drexel University Hosts Voting For The Environment Program](#). Academy, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia. 6:30 to 8:00.

October 24-25-- [Penn State Extension: Biochar & Torrefied Biomass Short Course](#). Penn State University Agricultural Engineering Building, Shortlidge Road, University Park.

October 25-- [PRPS, DCNR Community Conservation Grants Workshop](#). Luzerne County

Community College, Educational Conference Center (Building #10), 1333 South Prospect Street, Nanticoke. 9:00 to Noon. [Click Here](#) for more.

October 30-- DCNR Public Meeting On Forest District Plans: [Clear Creek State Forest District](#). District Office, 158 South Second Ave., Clarion, Clarion County. 6:30 to 8:00. [Click Here](#) for more.

October 30-- [PA Chamber Fall Regional Environmental Conference In King of Prussia](#).

October 30-31-- [Northeast Recycling Council Fall Conference](#). Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

October 31-- [DEP State Board for Certification of Sewage Enforcement Officers](#) meeting. Conference Room 11B, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Kristen Szwajkowski, 717-772-2186, kszwajkows@pa.gov.

November 1-- [U.S. Green Building Council Central PA Chapter Forever Green Awards Ceremony](#). Civic Club of Harrisburg.

November 1-- [PRPS, DCNR Community Conservation Grants Workshop](#). Giant Food Store Community Room, 3301 Trindle Road, Camp Hill, Cumberland County. 9:00 to Noon. [Click Here](#) for more.

November 1-- **NEW.** [Pike County Conservation District Celebrates Natural Resources Annual Dinner](#). The Waterfront Room at [Silver Birches Resort](#), Lake Wallenpaupack. 6:00 to 8:00.

November 1-2-- [PA Water And Wastewater Technology Summit](#). Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College.

November 3-- [PA Resources Council](#). [Vermicomposting Workshop](#). [Construction Junction](#), Point Breeze, Allegheny County. 11:00 to 12:30.

November 5-- [Penn State Extension Protect Your Springs, Wells, Septic Systems & Cisterns Workshops \(2\)](#). [Terre Hill Community Center](#), 131 West Main Street, Terre Hill, Lancaster County. 2:00 to 4:00 and 6:00 to 8:00

November 6-- [PA Resources Council](#). [Vermicomposting Workshop](#). North Park Rose Barn, Allegheny County. 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

November 7-- [DEP Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Todd Wallace, 717-783-9438, twallace@pa.gov.

November 7-- **NEW.** [DEP Hearing \(If Needed\) on RACT II Air Quality Plan for a Tennessee Gas Pipeline Compressor Station In Howe Township, Forest County](#). DEP Northwest Regional Office, 230 Chestnut Street in Meadville, Crawford County. 9:00

November 7-- [PRPS, DCNR Community Conservation Grants Workshop](#). Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Centre County, 780 Waupelani Drive Ext., State College, Centre County. 9:00 to Noon. [Click Here](#) for more.

November 8-- DCNR Public Meeting On Forest District Plans: [Rothrock State Forest District](#), Shaver's Creek CFD Community Building, 8707 Firemans Park Ln, Petersburg, Huntingdon County. 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. [Click Here](#) for more.

November 8-- DCNR Public Meeting On Forest District Plans: [Weiser State Forest District](#), District Office, 16 Weiser Lane, Aristes, Columbia County. 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. [Click Here](#) for more.

November 13-- DCNR Public Meeting On Forest District Plans: [Pinchot State Forest District](#), District Office, 1841 Abington Road, North Abington Township, Lackawanna County. 6:00 to 8:00. [Click Here](#) for more.

November 13-- [PRPS, DCNR Community Conservation Grants Workshop](#). Trinity Point Church of God, 180 W. Trinity Drive, Clarion, Clarion County. 9:00 to Noon. [Click Here](#) for more.

November 14-- [PA Resources Council](#). [Vermicomposting Workshop](#). South Park Buffalo Inn, Allegheny County. 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

November 14-- [PRPS, DCNR Community Conservation Grants Workshop](#). Collier township Community Center, 5 Lobaugh Street, Oakdale, Allegheny County . 9:00 to Noon. [Click Here](#) for more.

November 15-- [DEP Radiation Protection Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson. 9:00. DEP Contact: Joseph Melnic 717-783-9730 or send email to: jmelnic@pa.gov. [\(formal notice\)](#)

November 16-- [PA State Assn. Of township Supervisors](#). [PA Stormwater Conference](#) [Eastern]. Montgomery County.

November 20-- [South Mountain Partnership Trails Workshop - Building Strong Community Connections](#). [Shippensburg University](#), Cumberland County. 8:30 to 5:00.

November 29-- [Academy Of Natural Sciences of Drexel University](#). [Delaware Watershed Research Conference](#). Academy Offices in Philadelphia.

December 4-- **NEW**. [DEP Climate Change Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: John Krueger, 717-783-9264, jkrueger@pa.gov.

December 5-- [DEP Storage Tank Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson

Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Kris Shiffer 717-772-5809 or send email to: kshiffer@pa.gov.
([formal notice](#))

December 6-- [10,000 Friends Of Pennsylvania Commonwealth Awards Dinner](#). [ArtsQuest](#), Bethlehem.

December 13-- **NEW**. [DEP Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:15. DEP Contact: Kirit Dalal, 717-772-3436 or send email to: kdalal@pa.gov. ([formal notice](#))

-- Draft regulations setting methane emission limits for oil and gas operations

December 17-- [PA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Planning Steering Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 1:00. [Click Here](#) to register to join the meeting by webinar. Participants also need to call in 1-650-479-3208, PASSCODE 644 895 237.

January 27-30-- [Partnership For The Delaware Estuary](#). [2019 Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit](#). Cape May, NJ.

April 29 to May 2-- [Center for Watershed Protection](#). [2019 National Watershed and Stormwater Conference](#). South Carolina.

May 8-10-- [PA Assn. Of Environmental Professionals](#). [2019 Annual Conference - Growth Through Collaboration](#). State College.

Related Tools -----

Visit DEP's [Public Participation Center](#) for public participation opportunities.

[Click Here](#) for links to DEP's Advisory Committee webpages.

Visit [DEP Connects](#) for opportunities to interact with DEP staff at field offices.

[Click Here](#) to sign up for DEP News a biweekly newsletter from the Department.

[DEP Facebook Page](#) [DEP Twitter Feed](#) [DEP YouTube Channel](#)

[DEP Calendar of Events](#) [DCNR Calendar of Events](#)

[Senate Committee Schedule](#) [House Committee Schedule](#)

You can watch the [Senate Floor Session](#) and [House Floor Session](#) live online.

Grants & Awards

This section gives you a heads up on upcoming deadlines for awards and grants and other

recognition programs. **NEW** means new from last week.

September 27-- [NFWF Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund](#)
September 28-- [Dept. Of Ag Research Grants: Lanternfly, Conservation Practices](#)
September 28-- [DCNR Multifunctional Riparian Forest Buffer Grants](#)
September 28-- [DEP Calendar 2017 Recycling Performance Grants](#)
September 29-- [Sinnemahoning Watershed Restoration Grants](#)
September 30-- [Fish & Boat Commission Clean Vessel Act Grants](#)
September 30-- [Duquesne Light, Nissan Electric Vehicle Rebate](#)
September 30-- [Project Learning Tree Environmental Ed Grants](#)
September 30-- [PPL Foundation STEM Educator Grants](#)
October 1-- [DEP Small Business Advantage Grants-Water Quality Projects](#) (*First-come*)
October 15-- [DEP Coastal Zone Grants](#)
October 15-- [NRCS-PA Emergency Watershed Protection Assistance Grants](#)
October 19-- **NEW.** [NRCS-PA Farm, Forest Conservation Assistance \(EQIP, AMA\)](#)
October 31-- [PA Resources Council Gene Capaldi Lens On Litter Photo Contest](#)
October 31-- [Axalta, Philadelphia Eagles All-Pro Teachers Program](#)
October 31-- [Dept. of Agriculture Spotted Lanternfly Student Calendar Contest](#)
November 1-- [Delaware River Basin Commission Fall Photo Contest](#)
November 9-- **NEW.** [Chesapeake Bay Land And Water Initiative Grants](#)
November 16-- [PA Housing Finance Agency RFP For Housing Proposals](#)
November 20-- [PA Visitors Bureau Scenic Beauty Photo Contest In 5 Counties](#)
December 1-- [USDA Rural Community Water Infrastructure Funding](#) (*Rolling Deadline*)
December 1-- **NEW.** [Western PA Trail Volunteer Fund Grants](#)
December 14-- [DEP Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebates](#) (*First-come*)
December 14-- [DEP Alternative Fuels Incentive Grants](#)
December 15-- [Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grants](#)
December 21-- **NEW.** [ORSANCO Ohio River Sweep Student Poster Contest](#)
December 31-- [DEP County Act 101 Waste Planning, HHW, Education Grants](#)
January 25-- **NEW.** [DEP Grants/Rebates Electric Vehicle Charging Stations](#)
July 15-- **NEW.** [DEP Grants/Rebates Electric Vehicle Charging Stations](#)
December 16-- **NEW.** [DEP Grants/Rebates Electric Vehicle Charging Stations](#)
March 1-- **NEW.** [Western PA Trail Volunteer Fund Grants](#)
June 1-- **NEW.** [Western PA Trail Volunteer Fund Grants](#)
September 1-- **NEW.** [Western PA Trail Volunteer Fund Grants](#)
December 1-- **NEW.** [Western PA Trail Volunteer Fund Grants](#)

-- Visit the [DEP Grant, Loan and Rebate Programs](#) webpage for more ideas on how to get financial assistance for environmental projects.

-- Visit the DCNR [Apply for Grants](#) webpage for a listing of financial assistance available from DCNR.

Regulations, Technical Guidance & Permits

Here are highlights of actions taken by agencies on environmental regulations, technical guidance and permits.

Regulations -----

No new regulations were published this week. [Pennsylvania Bulletin - September 22, 2018](#)

Technical Guidance -----

The Governor's Executive Board [published notice](#) in the September 22 PA Bulletin of a reorganization of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Governor's Office Posts Catalog Of Nonregulatory Documents For Each Agency

The Governor's Office published the latest update to its agency by agency Catalog Of Nonregulatory Documents (existing technical guidance and interpretations of regulations) required by [Executive Order 1996-1](#) in the September 22 PA Bulletin ([PA Bulletin page 5943](#)).

Here are the locations of documents in the Catalog for several environment-related agencies--

- Department of Agriculture - 5947
- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - 5961
- Department of Environmental Protection - 6008

DEP Technical Guidance

DEP also has available a forward-looking list of technical guidance documents it has in various stages of development called the Non-Regulatory Agenda. The last update was published in the July 7 PA Bulletin. [Click Here](#) for more.

DEP's existing technical guidance can be found in [DEP's eLibrary](#).

DEP Regulations

DEP also publishes a Regulatory Agenda twice a year giving notice of regulations in development or to be finalized. [Click Here](#) for more. DEP also has a [Regulatory Update](#) that posts to provide a listing of regulations in process.

DEP's existing regulations can be found in [Title 25 of the Pennsylvania Code](#).

[Posted: September 21, 2018]

Permits -----

Note: The Department of Environmental Protection published 55 pages of public notices related to proposed and final permit and approval/ disapproval actions in the September 22 PA Bulletin - [pages 5869 to 5924](#).

Related Tools -----

Sign Up For DEP's eNotice: Did you know DEP can send you email notices of permit applications submitted in your community? Notice of new technical guidance documents and

regulations? All through its eNotice system. [Click Here](#) to sign up.

Visit DEP's [Public Participation Center](#) for public participation opportunities.

DEP Proposals Out For Public Review

[Other Proposals Open For Public Comment](#) - DEP webpage

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