

Issue #1,012 Harrisburg, PA December 11, 2023

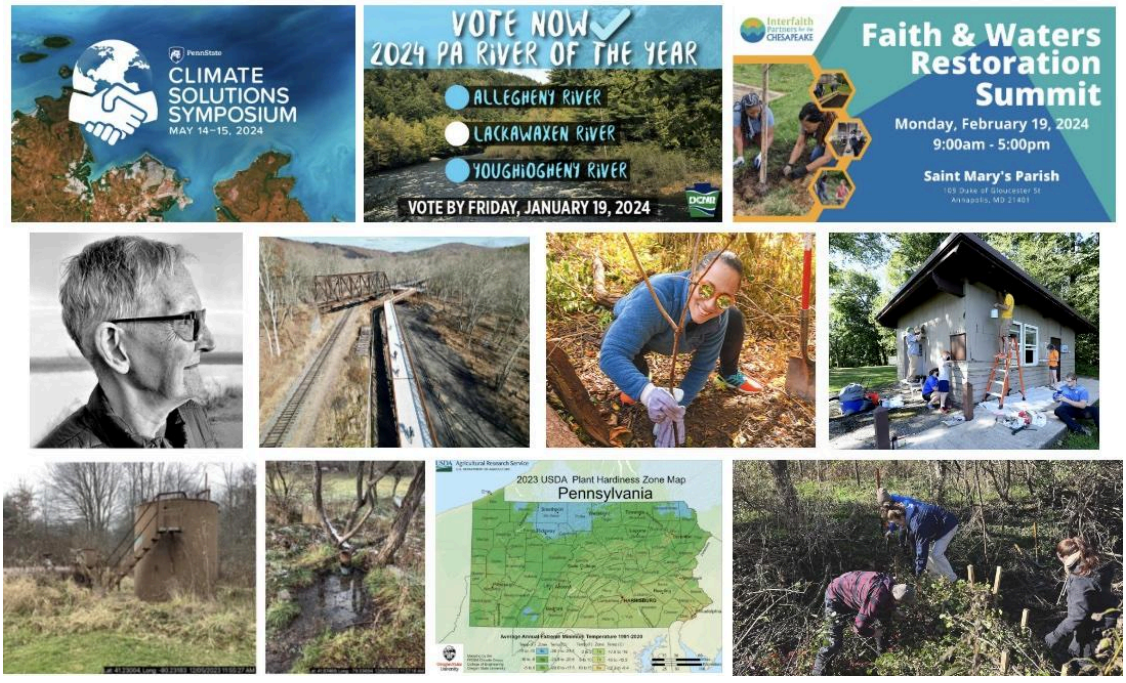
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[LATEST NewsClips](#)

118 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA



Here are 118 new stories in the ***PA Environment Digest*** about individuals, groups, local governments, farmers, businesses, watershed groups and many more working all across Pennsylvania to restore and protect the environment and show others the beauty that surrounds us.

Thank you for your leadership!

-- Hydrogen Tax Credit Changes, Riparian Buffers, Light Pollution On House Environmental Committee Agenda For Dec. 13 [PaEN]
-- House Environmental Committee To Hold Dec. 11 Hearing On Bill To Expand Renewable Energy Mandates In Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards [PaEN]
-- The Allegheny Front - Reid Frazier: What's The Current State of Clean Energy Transition?
-- Solar Power World: New 46 MW Solar Energy Facility In Beaver County To Generate Funds To Support Local Nonprofit Organizations
-- Bob Donnan Blog: Solar Power With Savings In November - 8th Electric Bill Under $8.00 In 2023

-- Philadelphia Solar Energy Assn. Accepting Entries In Student Imagine A Clean Energy Future Contest [PaEN]
-- TribLive Guest Essay: Pennsylvania Must Build Electric Vehicle Infrastructure - By Bob Donnan, Bobscaping Blog
-- Tribune-Democrat: Conemaugh Twp. Schools Eye Energy Savings Study
-- Citizens Voice: Utility Assistance Program Will Open For Applications Funded By American Rescue Plan Money
-- PUC Invites Comments On Proposed Changes To Low-Income Energy Reduction Program Regulations

-- DEP Plugs 132 Abandoned Conventional Oil & Gas Wells So Far; DEP Issued 499 NOVs For New Conventional Well Abandonments So Far In 2023 [PaEN]
-- DEP Expects $44 Million To Plug Conventional Wells Leaking Methane; $76 Million For 2nd Year Of Federal Conventional Abandoned Well Plugging Program [PaEN]
-- Roulette Oil & Gas LLC Withdraws Oil & Gas Wastewater Injection Well Application In Potter County [PaEN]
-- PA Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - Dec. 2 to 8 -- 9 Abandoned Conventional Wells; Failure To Restore Shale Gas Pad; No Progress In Spill Cleanups [PaEN]
-- DEP Sets Jan. 23 Hearing On Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Frazer Compressor Station In Chester County [PaEN]

-- TribLive: Natural Gas Smell Causes Evacuation At Plum Boro Middle School, Allegheny County [Plum Boro Natural Gas Home Explosion Killed 6 People In August]
-- The Derrick Editorial: Reliable Power Means Shoring Up Natural Gas Infrastructure
-- Centre Daily Times Guest Essay: Time To Make Our Electric Grid More Reliable By Increasing Renewable Energy, Storage - By State College Citizens' Climate Lobby
-- TribLive: MAX Environmental Yukon Hazardous Waste Landfill Could Pay $275,000 To Settle Pollution Claims In Class Action Lawsuit By Residents [75% Of Waste Comes From Shale Gas Industry]
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission: Low Stream Flows Trigger Shutdown Of 4 Shale Gas Drilling Water Withdrawals In Bradford, Tioga County [PaEN]

-- PennEnvironment, Three Rivers Waterkeeper Sue Styropek USA To Stop Plastic Pollution In

Raccoon Creek, Ohio River In Beaver County [PaEN]
-- TribLive: Lawsuit Alleges Federal Clean Water Act Violations From Beaver County Plastics Manufacturer
-- Beaver County Times: Lawsuit Claims Styropek Polluted Beaver County Waterways
-- Post-Gazette: Local Environmental Groups File Federal Lawsuit Against Plastics Manufacturer In Beaver County
-- PA Senate Hearing Focuses On Minimizing Risk And Harm In Development Of PA's Hydrogen Infrastructure [PaEN]

-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: Concerns Grow Over Perceived Viability Of Hydrogen Hubs
-- PA Capital-Star: Hydrogen Hubs Face Scrutiny At PA Senate Dems Hearing
-- Williamsport Sun Guest Essay: Hydrogen Hubs Won't Create Jobs - By Commonwealth Foundation
-- Scranton Times: Landfill Gas Processing Plant Holds Public Information Session In Throop About Storing Carbon Dioxide Deep Underground
-- PennFuture Blog: Mapping Climate Change By Viewing USDA's New Plant Hardiness Zones Map - By Brigitte Meyer, Staff Attorney [PaEN]

-- DEP Hosts Dec. 7 Outreach Session In Luzerne County On Priority Climate Action Plan Initiatives
-- DEP Hosts Dec. 12 Outreach Session In Bradford County On Priority Climate Action Plan Initiatives
-- Williamsport Sun: DEP Shares Details About Funding To Cut Greenhouse Gas Emissions At Outreach Session
-- Williamsport Sun: DEP Looking For Local, State Input On Climate Change Action
-- Penn State Climate Solutions Symposium May 14-15 To Focus On Forging New Partnerships In Climate, Research, Solutions [PaEN]

-- Penn State To Launch Climate Consortium To Identify, Create, Implement Solutions To Climate Change
-- WHYY: Heavy Rain, Floods, Heat: How Climate Change Makes Life Tougher For Unhoused People In The Philly Area
-- Columbia University: 'A Miracle Will Occur' Is Not Sensible Climate Policy - By James Hansen, Pushker Kharecha and Makiko Sato
-- EQT Joins The Oil & Gas Decarbonization Charter To Reduce Methane Emissions
-- Penn State Ranks 4th In US In 2024 QS World University Rankings For Sustainability

-- Republican Herald: DEP Investigating Accident At Gilberton Coal Mine, Schuylkill County
-- Observer-Reporter: Coal Miners Who Died In Robena Mine Explosion Remembered
-- PennLive Letter: Republican Con. Scott Perry's Latest Attack On Coal Miners Could Prove Deadly [Black Lung] - BlueGreen Alliance
-- Post-Gazette Editorial: To Preserve The Lives And Livelihoods Of Coal Miners, Enhance Federal Silica Regulations
-- LancasterOnline: Study Of Traffic Emissions Expands Millersville University's Efforts To

Assess Local Air Quality

-- EPA Announces $1 Million In Grants For Brownfield Job Training In Pittsburgh, Cumberland County [PaEN]
-- Rep. Rob Mercuri Presents Allegheny County Resident Lynn Appman With Keep PA Beautiful Community Pride Award [PaEN]
-- Courier Times: Newtown Twp. OKs Ban On Plastic Bags, Utensils And Straws
-- Scranton Times Column: Draft Shapiro For DEP Keystone Landfill Odor Patrol
-- Scranton Times Editorial: To Find Out What's Rotten At The Keystone Landfill, Follow Your Nose

-- MCall: Palmer Township's Warehouse Boom Has Redefined A Community; Why Everyone In The Lehigh Valley Needs To Pay Attention
-- The Allegheny Front: PA Senate Bill And Federal Rule Could Protect Kids From Lead In Water At School
-- LancasterOnline: Lancaster City Asks Residents To Identify Lead Water Service Lines
-- York Daily Record: Lake Williams Reservoir Dam Built To Handle Flood Of Biblical Proportion
-- TribLive Guest Essay: Public Scrutiny Will Benefit Pittsburgh Water Authority Customers - By Robert Powelson, Former PUC Commissioner

-- Penn State Extension Host Jan. 8 Webinar On Private Water Supply Education & Water Testing [PaEN]
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Releases New Study Of Groundwater Recharge Potential In Critical Aquifer Areas [PaEN]
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Releases 10-Year Evaluation Showing Water Losses In Public Water Supply Systems Have Remained Constant [PaEN]
-- New Legislation Creates Task Force To Address Rising Flood Insurance Premiums [PaEN]
-- Courier Times: PA Creates Flood Mitigation Task Force, What It Will Do And What It Means For Homeowners

-- WESA/WPSU: New PA Task Force To Increase Accessibility To Flood Insurance
-- Gettysburg Times: Watershed Alliance of Adams County Reports 2023 Accomplishments
-- Courier Express: Elk County Conservation District Completes Project On 20-Year-Old Acid Mine Treatment System
-- TribLive: Stream Restoration Work Being Done Along Powers Run Road In Allegheny County
-- American Farmland Trust Seeking PA Corn, Soybean Farmers To Join Soil Health Practices Study, $1,000 Stipend Offered For Qualified Farmers [PaEN]

-- PASA Sustainable Agriculture 2024 Sustainable Agriculture Conference Feb. 8-10 In Lancaster
-- Penn State: Novel 3D Agro-Hydrologic Model Informs Land Use And Nutrient Control In Troubled Waters
-- DEP Chesapeake Bay Healthy Waters Update: Funding Opportunities; County Implementation

Accomplishments
-- Tribune-Democrat: Cambria, Blair, Bedford Conservation Districts Awarded $500,000+ In Grants
-- Perry County Dairy Producer Gives Inside Look At Rotational Grazing Operation, How To Drive Strong Milk Production And Pasture Health [PaEN]

-- Penn State Center For Ag Conservation Assistance Training Names Jennifer Fetter Director
-- LancasterOnline - Ad Crable: Fake Beaver Dams May Be Next Big Restoration Tool For Watersheds, Susquehanna University Freshwater Research Institute
-- Susquehanna University: Dam Good Engineering! Beaver Dams The Blueprint For Conservation - Freshwater Research Institute
-- Registration Open! Interfaith Partners For The Chesapeake Bay Faith & Waters Restoration Summit Feb. 19 [PaEN]
-- LancasterOnline: Lancaster Conservation District Appoints Matt Kofroth Assistant Manager, Amanda Goldsmith Watershed Specialist
-- DCNR Awards Grant To French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust For Lawn Conversion, Streamside Tree Planting In Chester County [PaEN]

-- Courier Times Guest Essay: Pennsylvania Can Shape Its Conservation Future By Leading On New Federal Farm Bill - By PA Cong. Brian Fitzpatrick & Molly Parzen, Conservation Voters Of PA
-- PennLive: Raw Sewage Is Flowing Into The Susquehanna, But This Harrisburg Project Will Help Stop That
-- PA Capital-Star: Lt. Gov. Davis Highlights $17.5 Million Harrisburg Stormwater Infrastructure Project
-- Delaware Currents: Sewage Is Overflowing Into Philly's Rivers, Is The City's $2 Billion+ Fix Working?
-- Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance Names Phil Dunn As New Executive Director [PaEN]

-- DCNR Blog: Caring For Forests In Pennsylvania's State Parks
-- Citizens Voice Blog: Forest Stewardship Is Critical In State Parks
-- Reading Eagle: Forum Focuses On Mount Penn Preserve Trails And Forest Stewardship
-- Penn State Extension Community & Urban Forestry Team Invite You To Take Survey On Education Resources
-- Western PA Conservancy Protects 410 Acres Of Forestland Along Clear Creek In Somerset County; Land Added To Forbes State Forest [PaEN]

-- Natural Lands Announced Acquisition Of 46 Acres For Use As A Park In Aston Township, Delaware County [PaEN]
-- Inquirer - Frank Kummer: Roman Catholic Nuns' Convent Land Is Becoming Delaware County's Newest Park
-- WeConservePA: New GIS Dashboard Displays 20 Years Of Land Trust Land Conservation Information
-- Voting Begins For Pennsylvania's 2024 River Of The Year: Allegheny, Lackawaxen, Youghiogheny Rivers [PaEN]

-- WNEP: Cast Your Vote For The State's River Of The Year - Lackawaxen River In Running

-- WITF: DCNR Wants You To Pick Pennsylvania's River Of The Year
-- Warren Times: Allegheny River Nominated For River Of The Year
-- Reminder: Nominations Due For 2024 Parks & Forests Foundation Awards Dec. 15 [PaEN]
-- PA Environmental Council In Case You Missed It In November Now Available [PaEN]
-- Williamsport Sun: Rep. Flick To Host DCNR Grant Seminar Dec. 20

-- PennLive: Here's How Outdoors-Loving Non-Hunters Can Avoid Getting Shot During Deer Season
-- DCNR State Parks Winter/Holiday Environmental Education Activities, Teaching Ideas! [PaEN]
-- Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition: Winter Fun At Jennings Environmental Ed Center, Annual Student Symposium On The Environment
-- WeConservePA: Schuylkill River Trail's Auburn Gap Closes With Opening Of Auburn Bridge In Schuylkill County [PaEN]
-- WNEP: Unique Sculpture Trail Unveiled On Stretch Of D&H Rail Trail In Forest City, Susquehanna County

-- WNEP: Sickler's Bike & Sports Shop Celebrates 90 Years In Business, One Of The Big Hubs In NE PA For Cycling
-- TribLive: Friends Of Norwin Trails Seek Volunteers For North Huntingdon Trail Work In Westmoreland
-- TribLive: Friends Of Norwin Trails Hosts First Trail Maintenance Day: 'A Beautiful Gem For North Huntingdon'
-- Warren Times: North Country Trail Group Highlights 2023 Work, Looks Ahead To 2024
-- York Daily Record: Damaged Dam On Codorus Creek In York City To Be Demolished, For Greenway

-- WESA: Pittsburgh Parks Tax Spending Draws Little Fire In Council Session
-- TribLive: 10-Year-Old Allegheny Twp. Girl Revved To Compete In National Trail Bike Competitions
-- Herald-Standard: Mountain Watershed Assn. To Present Final Plan For Youghiogheny River Watershed Dec. 7
-- The Nature Conservancy-Pennsylvania Nature News: 2023 Impact Report; Volunteer Accomplishments; 50 Years Of Federal Endangered Species Act
-- TribLive: Go Laurel Highlands Recognizes 9 Photo Contest Winners

-- US DOT Awards Pennsylvania $840,000 To Develop Statewide Wildlife Crossings Plan [PaEN]
-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: PA Gets $840,000 Federal Grant To Reduce Animal-Vehicle Crashes
-- PA Capital-Star: PA To Receive Grant Funding For Development Of Wildlife Corridors Plan
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal: Remembering Mike Burke, The Bard Of The On The Wing Column, Born And Raised In Loretto, Cambria County

-- York Daily Record - Brian Whipkey: PA Native Outdoor Allie Turns Love Of Hunting, Outdoors Into Influencer Career

-- Warren Times: Audubon Nature Center - Wildlife Ripples In The Water
-- PA Firefly Festival Update: Applications For 2024 Firefly Festival Ticket Lottery Available Jan. 1
-- Observer-Reporter: Marie Exotics Reptile Rescue Protects Scaly Friends From Abandonment

Visit the PA Environment Digest website to learn more.

Going The RIGHT WAY:

-- 118 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 64 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
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-- 75 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
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-- 84 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 115 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 78 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 126 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 104 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
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-- 92 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 121 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
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-- 48 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 68 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 37 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 25 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 3,190 New Stories In 2022 - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership [PaEN]
[Posted: December 10, 2023]

Weekly List Of PA Environment & Energy Articles & NewsClips By Topic

PA Environment Digest Puts Links To The Best Environment & Energy Articles and NewsClips From Last Week Here By Topic--

-- 12.11.23 - PA Environment Digest - All Articles & NewsClips From This Issue By Topic

It gives you an in-depth view of environment and energy issues being reported by media across Pennsylvania.

Other Handy Groups Of Articles & NewsClips From This Week--

-- 118 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA [PaEN]

-- Environment & Energy Educational Opportunities For Students & Adults [PaEN]

-- PA Senate/House Environmental and Energy NewsClips [PaEN]

-- Top 10 Stories: Harrisburg/PA Politics Reported By Local News Media Last Week [PaEN]

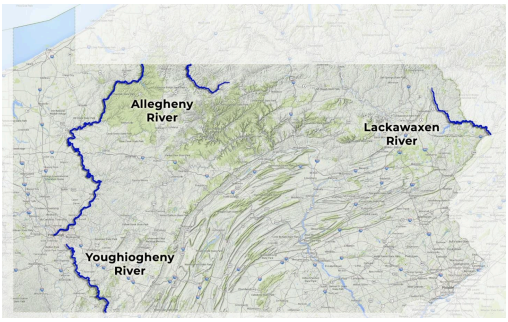
Are You Telling Your Story? Send articles, comments to: PaEnviroDigest@gmail.com.

CLICK HERE to View or Print the December 11 PA Environment Digest.

[Posted: December 10, 2023]

Voting Begins For Pennsylvania's 2024 River Of The Year: Allegheny, Lackawaxen,

Youghiogheny Rivers



On December 5, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn announced the public is invited to vote online for the 2024 Pennsylvania River of the Year, choosing from among three waterways nominated throughout the state.

The nominees are the Allegheny River, the Lackawaxen River and the Youghiogheny River. Click Here to learn more about each river. Click Here to vote by January 19.

"I am excited for this year's competition and look forward to seeing which river comes out on top," Dunn said. "This annual competition is a great way to highlight Pennsylvania's special waterways and the benefits they bring for conservation, recreation, economic development, and so much more. We look forward to tallying up votes and announcing the 2024 River of the Year in the coming months."

Nominations were based on each waterway's conservation needs, successes, and programming plans if the nominee is voted 2024 River of the Year.

Selection of public voting choices is overseen by the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) in cooperation with DCNR. Dunn noted that the online public selection process continues to be increasingly popular as it enters its fourteenth year.

The Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers website enables voting and offers details on nominated waterways and the River of the Year program. Voting is managed through Woobox, an online contest application restricting voting to one email address.

The Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers, an affiliate of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, administers the River of the Year program with funding from DCNR.

Presented annually since 1983, last year's 2023 River of the Year designation was awarded to the North Branch Susquehanna River.

"We are excited to once again kick off the public online voting process for Pennsylvania River of the Year," said Janet Sweeney, executive director of the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers. "As we all continue to spend more time outdoors and deepen our appreciation for the beautiful natural resources of Pennsylvania, the annual River of the Year voting process is a fun way to rally behind and support your favorite waterway."

After a waterway is chosen for the annual honor, local groups implement a year-round slate of activities and events to celebrate the river, including a paddling trip, or sojourn.

The organization nominating the winning river will receive a $10,000 leadership grant from DCNR to help fund River of the Year activities.

The Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers and DCNR also work with local organizations to create a free, commemorative poster celebrating the River of the Year.

The River of the Year sojourn is among many paddling trips supported each year by DCNR and the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers.

An independent program, the Pennsylvania Sojourn Program, is a unique series of a dozen such trips on the state's rivers.

The water-based journeys for canoeists, kayakers and others raise awareness of the environmental, recreational, tourism and heritage values of rivers.

Visit DCNR's Pennsylvania's Rivers Conservation Program webpage to learn more about these initiatives.

Visit Explore PA Trails and Get Outdoors PA for recreation areas near you.

Visit the PA Parks & Forests Foundation's Events webpage and DCNR's Calendar of Events for activities happening near you.

For more information on state parks and forests and recreation in Pennsylvania, visit DCNR's website, 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. [Posted: December 6, 2023]

Marcellus Drilling News: Senate Republican Leaders Urge DEP To Withdraw Environmental Justice Policy Saying They Lack Statutory Authority, And Out-of-State Groups Not Actual Residents Express EJ Concerns

On December 6, the Marcellus Drilling News published a November 30 letter from Senate Republican Leaders to DEP expressing their opposition to the Interim Final Environmental Justice Permitting Policy and urging DEP to immediately "withdraw this policy and work with the General Assembly to address environmental injustices that may exist in our communities…."

The Marcellus Drilling News reported both "Senate Republicans and the Marcellus Shale Coalition recently contacted the DEP, requesting the agency to pull back its new EJ policy regulation."

The MDN also posted the Marcellus Shale Coalition's 36 pages of comments on DEP's EJ Policy.

The Senate Republican letter began, "Governor Shapiro has indicated permitting reform is a primary goal of his administration. While we agree that reforming DEP's difficult, lengthy, and unpredictable permitting process is necessary, this Policy represents a bold step in the opposite direction.

"This Policy will further complicate—rather than streamline—the permitting process in Pennsylvania. The Policy adds additional layers of regulatory requirements that will cost Pennsylvania jobs and new investments in our Commonwealth.

"Businesses and facilities located in environmental justice communities will face increased regulatory scrutiny in both permitting and compliance.

"In addition to the chilling effect the Policy will have on economic growth in Pennsylvania, DEP has exceeded its authority by putting forth the Policy despite the lack of any statutory authorization to do so."

"The Policy mandates various additional opportunities for public outreach and public participation in the permitting process, which will add to existing permit delays and project costs.

"It further provides for increased scrutiny of ongoing operations in environmental justice communities, and provides for the imposition of new civil penalties when a violation occurs.

"In addition, the policy requires that the identification and mapping of environmental

justice areas be updated every two years."

Out-Of-State Interests, Not Residents

"Pennsylvania has already enacted some of the strongest laws in the nation to protect our communities from air and water pollution.

"Moreover, history has shown more often than not, it is out-of-state interest groups who appear to express their viewpoint on environmental justice issues rather than actual residents of the community."

Withdraw Policy

"While we applaud the Shapiro administration's objective of ensuring equity and environmental justice in the administration of DEP's constitutional, statutory, and regulatory duties, such drastic reforms must be enacted through the legislative process.

"DEP unilaterally adopted this Policy and has been operating under its terms since September—long before the close of the public comment period.

"It is certainly ironic that DEP would adopt such a policy—which is intended to withhold permits from applicants who seek to do business in Pennsylvania unless and until they have received the requisite level of public input—while DEP itself has adopted this policy without considering any public comment or input.

"In light of all of the foregoing, we urge the DEP to immediately withdraw this policy and work with the General Assembly to address environmental injustices that may exist in our communities across the Commonwealth."

The letter was signed by Senate President Pro Tempore Kim Ward, Senate Majority Leader Joe Pittman, Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Scott Martin and Gene Yaw, Majority Chair of the Senate Environmental Committee.

Click Here for a copy of the letter.

More History

The Department of Environmental Protection has been in the process of attempting to update its Environmental Justice Permit Review Policy since a revised draft was first published for comment in 2018.

The 2018 draft was developed with the help of nine listening sessions DEP held across the state in April and May of 2017.

Successive revised drafts were published and reviewed with the public and DEP advisory committees in 2021 and 2022.

DEP posted the current Interim Final EJ Policy and PennEnviroScreen Tool on its website August 17 and opened a public comment period on September 16 with a deadline for comments that was extended until November 30.

DEP started to implement the Interim Final Policy on September 16.

DEP held a total of 12 in-person and virtual hearings on the policy during the comment period.

DEP gave presentations on the policy to a variety of its advisory committees and DEP's Environmental Justice Advisory Board also reviewed various drafts of the policy over the years and provided comments to DEP.

For a more detailed history and background on the current Interim Final EJ Policy and PennEnviroScreen Tool, visit DEP's Environmental Justice Policy Revision webpage.

NewsClips:

-- Marcellus Drilling News: Marcellus Shale Coalition Analyzes PA DEP Enviro Justice Policy

-- PA Business Report: Senate Republicans Urge DEP To Withdraw Updated Environmental Justice Policy

Resource Links - Environmental Justice:

-- Republicans, Shale Gas Industry Oppose House Bill Requiring The Evaluation Of Cumulative Impacts Of Some New Pollution Sources On Communities Already Burdened By Pollution [PaEN]

-- House Committee Reports Out Bill Requiring The Evaluation Of Cumulative Impacts Of Some New Pollution Sources On Communities Already Burdened By Pollution; And Other Bills [PaEN]

-- DEP To Hold Last 3 Hearings On Interim Final Environmental Justice Permit Review Policy [PaEN]

-- 150+ Residents Of Chester Opposed To An LNG Natural Gas Export Facility Proposed In Their Community Let Their Feelings Be Known To The House Philadelphia LNG Export Task Force [PaEN]

PA Oil & Gas Industry Public Notice Dashboards:

-- PA Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - Dec. 2 to 8 -- 9 Abandoned Conventional Wells; Failure To Restore Shale Gas Pad; No Progress In Spill Cleanups [PaEN]

-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices/Opportunities To Comment - December 9 [PaEN]

-- DEP Sets Jan. 23 Hearing On Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Frazer Compressor Station In Chester County [PaEN]

-- DEP Posted 68 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In December 9 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

Related Articles:

-- Marcellus Drilling News: Senate Republican Leaders Urge DEP To Withdraw Environmental Justice Policy Saying They Lack Statutory Authority, And Out-of-State Groups Not Actual Residents Express EJ Concerns [PaEN]

-- PA Business Report: Senate Republicans Urge DEP To Withdraw Updated Environmental Justice Policy

-- DEP Expects $44 Million To Plug Conventional Wells Leaking Methane; $76 Million For 2nd Year Of Federal Conventional Abandoned Well Plugging Program [PaEN]

-- DEP Plugs 132 Abandoned Conventional Oil & Gas Wells So Far; DEP Issued 499 NOVs For New Conventional Well Abandonments So Far In 2023 [PaEN]

-- Roulette Oil & Gas LLC Withdraws Oil & Gas Wastewater Injection Well Application In Potter County [PaEN]

-- Independent Fiscal Office Reports 3rd Quarter Natural Gas Production Down 0.5% Over 3rd Quarter 2022, But Increased Over Last 12 Months [PaEN]

-- PA Senate Hearing Focuses On Minimizing Risk And Harm In Development Of PA's Hydrogen Infrastructure [PaEN]

-- House Environmental Committee To Hold Dec. 11 Hearing On Bill To Expand Renewable Energy Mandates In Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards [PaEN]

-- Hydrogen Tax Credit Changes, Riparian Buffers, Light Pollution On House Environmental Committee Agenda For Dec. 13 [PaEN]

-- PennEnvironment, Three Rivers Waterkeeper Sue Styropek USA To Stop Plastic Pollution In Raccoon Creek, Ohio River In Beaver County [PaEN]

-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission: Low Stream Flows Trigger Shutdown Of 4 Shale Gas

Drilling Water Withdrawals In Bradford, Tioga County [PaEN]

NewsClips:

-- TribLive: MAX Environmental Yukon Hazardous Waste Landfill Could Pay $275,000 To Settle Pollution Claims In Class Action Lawsuit By Residents [75% Of Waste Comes From Shale Gas Industry]

-- TribLive: Natural Gas Smell Causes Evacuation At Plum Boro Middle School, Allegheny County [Plum Boro Natural Gas Home Explosion Killed 6 People In August]

-- The Derrick Editorial: Reliable Power Means Shoring Up Natural Gas Infrastructure

-- Centre Daily Times Guest Essay: Time To Make Our Electric Grid More Reliable By Increasing Renewable Energy, Storage - By State College Citizens' Climate Lobby

-- EQT Joins The Oil & Gas Decarbonization Charter To Reduce Methane Emissions

-- TribLive: Murrysville Council OKs Lease For Gas, Oil Rights Under 2 Public Parks

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-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: Concerns Grow Over Perceived Viability Of Hydrogen Hubs

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-- Williamsport Sun Guest Essay: Hydrogen Hubs Won't Create Jobs - By Commonwealth Foundation

-- TribLive: Rain Fails To Ease Concerns Over Falling Water Level At Beaver Run Reservoir In Westmoreland

-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: PA May See Biggest Drop In Decade For New Shale Gas Wells

-- TribLive: Southwest PA Enjoying Low Natural Gas Prices After Large Drop From Last Year

-- Tribune-Democrat: Peoples Gas Says Credit Offsets 149% Natural Gas Price Hike

-- Interfaith Partners For The Chesapeake Bay: Dec. 7 Screening Of 'A Plastic Wave' - How To Reduce Your Plastic Waste, 7:00 p.m.

-- The Allegheny Front: Lawsuit Claims Ohio Approvals To Frack State Lands Violated Law

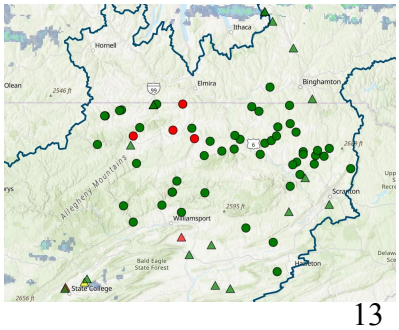
-- Inside Climate News: Massachusetts Public Utilities Agency Sets Framework For Reducing Natural Gas Use For Heating

-- Inside Climate News: From Fracked Gas In PA To Toxic Waste In Texas, Tracking Vinyl Chloride Production In The US

-- Bloomberg: Europe's Winter Natural Gas Price Slump Shifts Focus To Summer Storage

[Posted: December 6, 2023]

Susquehanna River Basin Commission: Low Stream Flows Trigger ShutDown Of 4 Shale Gas Drilling Water Withdrawals In Bradford, Tioga County



On December 4, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission Hydrologic Conditions Monitor tracked the shutdown of four shale gas drilling water withdrawal points due to low streamflow conditions in Bradford and Tioga counties.

The SRBC bypass trigger flows are independent of general drought condition changes reported by the Department of Environmental Protection as recently as December 2. Read

more here.

The shale gas water withdrawals shut down so are are--

-- Bradford County: Repsol Oil & Gas USA, LLC Fall Brook Water Withdrawal in Troy Township. Read more here.

-- Bradford County: Repsol Oil & Gas USA, LLC Seeley Creek Water Withdrawal in Wells Township. Read more here.

-- Tioga County: Seneca Resources Company, LLC Elk Run Water Withdrawal in Sullivan Township. Read more here.

-- Tioga County: Seneca Resources Company, LLC Marsh Creek Water Withdrawal in Delmar Township. Read more here.

Click Here for a map showing the current status of shutdowns.

Contact the Susquehanna River Basin Commission to report suspected violations of these requirements.

For more information on programs, training opportunities and upcoming events, visit the Susquehanna River Basin Commission website. Click Here to sign up for SRBC's newsletter. Follow SRBC on Twitter, visit them on YouTube.

NewsClip:

-- TribLive: Rain Fails To Ease Concerns Over Falling Water Level At Beaver Run Reservoir In Westmoreland

Related Article:

-- DEP: Clinton & York Counties In Drought Warning, Westmoreland Added To Drought Watch, 13 Counties Remain In Drought Watch [PaEN]

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-- Inside Climate News: From Fracked Gas In PA To Toxic Waste In Texas, Tracking Vinyl Chloride Production In The US
-- Bloomberg: Europe's Winter Natural Gas Price Slump Shifts Focus To Summer Storage
[Posted: December 4, 2023]

DEP Expects $44 Million To Plug Conventional Wells Leaking Methane; $76 Million For 2nd Year Of Federal Conventional Abandoned Well Plugging Program

On December 5, DEP told the Oil and Gas Technical



Advisory Board it expects to receive an estimated $44 million to plug conventional oil and gas wells leaking methane under the federal Methane Emission Reduction Program and $76 million in second-year funding for plugging abandoned conventional oil and gas wells.

DEP also said it will be submitting a grant application for $1.9 million to the U.S. EPA to help fund its initiative to qualify for primacy for regulating Class VI carbon sequestration injection wells.

Here is a brief summary of updates DEP provided to the Board on key topics--

-- Federal Methane Emission Reduction Program Grant: DEP expects to receive a $44 million U.S. EPA grant to plug active, marginal conventional oil and gas wells leaking methane as early as December 15. DEP said they submitted a "barebones" application and the details of how the funding would be invested will be developed with a workgroup of the PA Grade Crude [Oil] Development Advisory Council. DEP said they are looking at a grant program to conventional operators to plug these wells. The agency is also looking to develop a mechanism for plugging so-called home-use gas wells that are leaking methane.

-- Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Well Plugging Grant: DEP expects to submit an application for $76 million by December 31 for abandoned and orphan conventional oil and gas well plugging and associated costs like identifying potentially responsible parties, documenting additional abandoned wells. DEP said they will also be opening a grant program for qualified well plugging firms to plug abandoned conventional wells next year.

-- Chapter 78 Conventional Environmental Regulations: Two regulatory packages are in development related to conventional oil and gas well development.

The Environmental Protection Standards proposed rulemaking includes protection of public resources, recently upheld by the PA Supreme Court, and a "grab bag" of other changes including water supply impact protection, water impoundments, borrow pits, erosion and sedimentation protections, and various reporting changes. DEP will be moving the regulation forward, but there is no timeframe to getting it to the Environmental Quality Board at this point.

The second Waste Management draft rulemaking covers waste storage and management at conventional oil and gas sites and changes to the area of review requirements. DEP will be setting up a meeting with a work group to the PA Grade Crude [Oil] Development Advisory Council to go over a line by line review of the draft regulations. DEP anticipates going to the April 25 CDAC meeting for formal comments from that group.

-- Proposed Certified Oil & Gas Inspectors Program: Kris Shiffer, the Director of the Bureau of Oil and Gas Planning and Program Management, did a presentation on the concept of establishing a certified well inspector program for the Oil and Gas Program modeled on the certified storage tank inspector program DEP already operates. Shiffer came from the Storage Tank Program.

Shiffer did a similar presentation to the PA Grade Crude Development Advisory Council on October 12 and provided additional details. Read more here.

DEP is looking at the certified inspector program to increase the frequency of oil and gas well inspections without hiring additional state inspectors.

DEP now has 28 oil and gas inspectors which means it would take over 15 years to inspect each well on the books just one time. DEP would need at least another 60 inspectors to get to a more acceptable inspection frequency.

-- Discussion Of Financial Assurance For Plugging Unconventional Gas Wells: Kurt Klapkowski, Deputy Secretary for Oil & Gas Management, invited the Board to be part of a

discussion on how to update the bonding requirements for unconventional gas wells in response to a petition submitted by the Sierra Club and other groups to the Environmental Quality Board.

He said he was not comfortable with the extrapolation method the petition used to calculate shale gas well plugging costs because it is a different process than plugging conventional wells.

He noted DEP has not had to plug any unconventional gas wells, but said the industry does have experience and data on costs.

He said since 2020, the industry has plugged 245 unconventional gas wells in Pennsylvania.

Klapkowski also said he would be open to a broader discussion of plugging financial assurance to include concepts like using an Indemnification Fund to pay cleanup costs similar to the Fund now used by the Storage Tank Program or private insurance concepts like DEP discussed with the PA Grade Crude Development Advisory Council in October with One Nexus. Read more here.

He said these other tools would require legislative action.

-- Injection Well Primacy Application: Klapkowski updated the Board on the status of the application to EPA on the Class VI carbon sequestration injection well primacy. On November 2, EPA announced grants of $1.9 million would be available to each state to go through the Class VI program primacy application process. DEP is reviewing its existing legal and regulatory authority to meet the EPA program requirements. Klapkowski said there are elements that are difficult for Pennsylvania to meet since our regulations are different. Klapkowski said the fastest way to adopt federal regulations by reference would be the legislative route.

DEP also said--

-- Roulette Oil and Gas LLC withdrew its application for an oil and gas wastewater injection well in Clara Township, Potter County on September 14, 2023. Read more here.

-- The EPA permit for the Penneco Environmental Solutions, LLC injection well has been appealed to the EPA Environmental Appeals Board. Read more here.

For more information, visit DEP's Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board webpage. Questions should be directed to Todd Wallace by calling 717-783-6395 or send email to: twallace@pa.gov.

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Chloride Production In The US
-- Bloomberg: Europe's Winter Natural Gas Price Slump Shifts Focus To Summer Storage
[Posted: December 5, 2023]

DEP Plugs 132 Abandoned Conventional Oil & Gas Wells So Far; DEP Issued 499 NOVs For New Conventional Well Abandonments So Far In 2023



On December 6, the Shapiro Administration announced it has capped and plugged 132 abandoned conventional oil and gas wells so far in 2023-- plugging more wells in the Governor's first 11 months than in the previous eight years combined.

Unfortunately, DEP has issued 499 notices of violations for new conventional oil and gas well abandonments without plugging so far in 2023. Read more here. New conventional well abandonments is the number one violation cited by DEP, according to a 2022 compliance report. Read more here.

DEP expects to submit an application for $76 million by December 31 for abandoned and orphan conventional oil and gas well plugging and associated costs for the second year of funding under the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Conventional Well Plugging Program. Read more here.

DEP expects to receive an additional $44 million U.S. EPA grant as early as December 15 from the federal Methane Emission Reduction Program authorized by the federal Inflation Reduction Act to plug active, marginal conventional oil and gas wells leaking methane. Read more here.

Capping and plugging orphaned and abandoned wells improves public health, reduces planet-warming methane emissions, and creates good-paying jobs.

That's why, from Day One of his Administration, Gov. Shapiro directed the Department of Environmental Protection to draw down as much federal funding as possible to cap and plug the orphaned and abandoned wells that dot Pennsylvania.

"By focusing on capping and plugging these wells, my Administration is making real progress towards tackling greenhouse gas emissions here in Pennsylvania and creating thousands of good-paying, union jobs in the process," said Gov. Josh Shapiro. "We must reject the false choice between protecting jobs and protecting our planet. I believe we can do both – we can embrace the Commonwealth's role as an energy leader, create good-paying jobs, and fulfill our constitutional obligation to protect Pennsylvania's clean air and pure water. Let's plug the wells, improve our air quality, and strengthen our communities."

More than 350,000 orphaned wells across our Commonwealth make up nearly 8% of our total methane emissions. Methane is particularly dangerous because it is up to 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide – warming our planet and contributing to air pollution that damages our lungs and our hearts.

Because many wells in Pennsylvania were drilled before modern mapping and regulations, DEP only had locations for about 30,000 wells, a fraction of the estimated 350,000 orphaned wells. For too long, the Commonwealth had inadequate resources to address the

problem.

Click Here for the complete announcement.

Visit DEP's Federal Well Plugging Dashboard and Abandoned & Orphans Wells webpages for more information.

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[Posted: December 6, 2023]

PA Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - Dec. 2 to 8 -- 9 Abandoned Conventional Wells; Failure To Restore Shale Gas Pad; No Progress In Spill Cleanups



From December 2 to 8, DEP's Oil and Gas Compliance Database shows oil and gas inspectors filed 652 inspection report entries.

[**Note:** DEP's Compliance Database was not updating regularly this week due to an IT problem, so the system may be behind.]

So far this year-- as of December 1--
-- NOVs Issued In Last Week: 71 conventional, 31 unconventional
-- Year To Date - NOVs Issued: 6,152 conventional and 1,201 unconventional
-- Inspections Last Week: 247 conventional and 404 unconventional
-- Year To Date - Inspections: 15,027 conventional and 21,186 unconventional
-- Wells Drilled Last Week: 2 conventional and 9 unconventional
-- Year To Date Wells Drilled: 172 conventional and 388 unconventional

9 Abandoned Conventional Wells

On December 5, 2023, DEP inspected the Throckmorton 1 conventional gas well

operated by **Bialy Gas Production LLC** in Economy Borough, **Beaver County** and found the well to be abandoned and leaking natural gas.

DEP also issued notices of violation for not submitting production and waste generation and mechanical integrity reports.

DEP requested the operator to submit a written report by December 19, 2023 on how the operator plans to bring the well into compliance. [DEP inspection report]

On December 5, 2023, inspected four wells operated by **Pin Oak Energy Partners LLC**--

-- Isoldi Unit 1 conventional well in Mercer Borough, **Mercer County** and found it to be abandoned and not plugged with rusting production tanks. Violations were issued. [DEP inspection report - written report requested by January 5, 2023 on bringing the well into compliance]

-- Gustave & Pauline Welz 1 conventional well in Waterford Township, **Erie County** and found it to be abandoned and not plugged. In addition, an exposed pipeline from the well crossed a pond overflow area. Violations were issued. [DEP inspection report - No follow up action requested.]

-- Gustave & Pauline Welz 2 conventional well in Waterford Township, **Erie County** and found it to be abandoned and not plugged. In addition, the well was blowing natural gas into the atmosphere. Violations were issued. [DEP inspection report - DEP requested a written report by December 21, 2023 on how the operator will bring the wells into compliance.]

-- Walter & Aino Rinne 2 conventional well in Waterford Township, **Erie County** and found it to be abandoned and not plugged. Violations were issued. [DEP inspection report - DEP requested a written report by December 21, 2023 on how the operator will bring the wells into compliance.]

On December 6, 2023, DEP inspected the McBurney 1 conventional gas well operated by **OWS Acquisition Co. LLC** in Heritage City, **Mercer County** and found it remains abandoned and not plugged.

The original violation for abandonment was issued June 20, 2023. Leaks from the wellhead observed in the last inspection have been corrected. Production valves are closed.

DEP's inspection report did not indicate any follow up action.

On December 7, 2023, DEP inspected two conventional wells operated by **Pitt Oil & Gas LLC** in Brokenstraw Township, **Warren County**--

-- Arthur K. Wickham A&D 1: DEP found the well to be abandoned and not plugged and the operator failed to submit production and waste generation and well integrity reports. Multiple notices of violation were issued. DEP's inspection report requested a written report by December 29, 2023 on how the operator would bring the well into compliance.

-- Arthur Ward 3: DEP found the well to be abandoned and not plugged and the well was discharging fluids on the ground. Multiple notices of violation were issued. DEP's inspection report requested a written report by December 29, 2023 on how the operator would bring the well into compliance.

On December 4, 2023, DEP did a follow up inspection of the Warren Rail Car 2 conventional gas well in Warren City, **Warren County** operated by **Armac Resources LLC** and found the abandoned well had not yet been fully plugged.

DEP issued a violation for abandoning the well and not plugging it on September 29, 2023 and the operator has unsuccessfully taken steps to plug the well that was leaking natural

gas.

DEP requested the operator to submit a written report by December 14, 2023 with a revised timeline for plugging the well. [DEP inspection report.]

DEP issued or continued 499 notices of violation for abandoning conventional oil and gas wells without plugging them so far in 2023. Read more here.

No Cleanup Progress At Shale Gas Pad

On December 5, 2023, DEP did a follow up inspection of the Crain shale gas well pad in Rome Township, **Bradford County** operated by **Chesapeake Appalachia LLC** and found no progress in addressing wastewater issues first identified on October 6, 2023.

DEP noted Chesapeake was setting up to frack three newly drilled shale gas wells on the site.

DEP found contaminated water within secondary containment structures on the site.

DEP's inspection report said the October violations remain outstanding. No follow up actions were indicated.

Conventional Spills

On December 6, 2023, DEP inspected the Kish 1 conventional well site in Jefferson Township, **Mercer County** in response to a notification from **Diversified Prod LLC** on December 4, 2023 of a wastewater spill when a valve failed on a storage tank.

DEP found the operator had excavated contaminated soil and taken it to a landfill for disposal. The wastewater tank was also going to be replaced.

Notices of violation were issued for the spill.

DEP's inspection report requested a written report by December 23, 2023 on how the operator was going to complete bringing the well site into compliance.

On December 5, 2023, DEP inspected three conventional wells operated by **Farrington & Hepler Gas & Oil Inc**. in Economy Borough, **Beaver County**--

-- Musgrave 4: DEP found dark staining on the ground which is evidence of a leak or spill from the well and requested the operator to evaluate the release. DEP also found low hanging power lines running through trees and onto the ground near the pump jack and requested clarification where these power lines were actively in use.

Notices of violation were issued related to the release and a written report was requested by December 23, 2023 from the operator on how the well site was going to be brought into compliance. [DEP inspection report]

-- Musgrave 6: DEP found dark staining at the well and conductivity readings indicated a release. Wastewater tanks down slope from the well were found to have a disconnected hose and there was evidence of a release of contaminated fluids from the tanks.

Violations were issued related to these releases and the DEP requested a written report by December 23, 2023 from the operator on how the well site was going to be brought into compliance. [DEP inspection report]

-- Robert Hood 1: DEP found the well was "actively leaking fluids as bubbling and dripping fluid could be seen" and "distressed vegetation was observed."

DEP issued notices of violation related to the release and requested a written report by December 23, 2023 from the operator on how the well site was going to be brought into compliance. [DEP inspection report]

Failure To Complete Site Restoration

On December 5, 2023, DEP inspected the Ferrebee BEA shale gas well drilling site in

Ohioville Borough, **Beaver County** operated by **Geopetro LLC** and found the operator had failed to complete restoration of the well pad site and related facilities.

Problems noted in the inspection include evidence of earth slumping and movement, sparse vegetation cover and erosion and sedimentation issues.

DEP issued notices of violation related to site restoration and denied the operator's request to terminate operations at the site.

DEP's inspection report requested a written report by December 23, 2023 on how the operator intends to bring the site into compliance.

Federal Well Plugging Sites

DEP again devoted considerable inspection time on multiple federally-funded conventional oil and gas well plugging project sites in Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Venango and Washington counties.

Coterra Energy

DEP again focused on inspections of **Coterra Energy, Inc**. facilities in the Dimock region of **Susquehanna County** last week.

Report Violations

To report oil and gas violations or any environmental emergency or complaint, visit DEP's Environmental Complaint webpage.

Check These Resources

Visit DEP's Compliance Reporting Database webpage to search their compliance records by date and operator and the Inspection Reports Viewer.

Sign up for DEP's eNOTICE service which sends you information on oil and gas and other permits submitted to DEP for review in your community.

*(**Photos: Top Row: Bialy Gas Production LLC** conventional abandoned well leaking gas in Beaver County; **Chesapeake Appalachia LLC** no progress in shale gas wastewater cleanup in Bradford County; **Farrington & Hepler Gas & Oil Inc**. leaking conventional well + another leaking well in Beaver County; **Middle Row: Farrington & Hepler Gas & Oil Inc**. open conventional production tank with evidence of release in Beaver County; **Geopetro LLC** failed shale gas well site restoration in Beaver County; **OWS Acquisition Co. LLC** abandoned conventional well in Mercer County; **Bottom Row: Pin Oak Energy Partners LLC** exposed pipeline crossing pond outflow in Erie County + abandoned conventional well rusted wastewater tank in Mercer County; **Pitt Oil & Gas LLC** abandoned well leaking fluids in Warren County.)*

[**Note:** If you believe your company was listed in error, contact DEP's Oil and Gas Program.]
[**Note:** These may not be all the NOVs issued to oil and gas companies during this time period. Additional inspection reports may be added to DEP's Oil and Gas Compliance Database.]

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-- Bloomberg: Europe's Winter Natural Gas Price Slump Shifts Focus To Summer Storage
[Posted: December 9, 2023]

Roulette Oil & Gas LLC Withdraws Oil & Gas Wastewater Injection Well Application In Potter County



On December 5, the Department of Environmental Protection told the Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board Roulette Oil and Gas LLC withdrew its application for an oil and gas wastewater injection well in Clara Township, Potter County on September 14, 2023.

Tom Donohue, DEP Oil & Gas Program, said, "They didn't really give us a reason for it, but there was a lot of public opposition for this well, and it's been withdrawn and there's no immediate plans to resubmit this one."

Comments submitted by Lauren Barr, Save Our Streams PA, on the proposed Roulette Oil and Gas LLC injection well showed the principals involved in the company have been involved in abandoning eight other injection wells in Clara and Hebron Townships in Potter County.

The comments were made at a July 25 hearing held by the Department of Environmental Protection to gather comments on the injection well application.

On September 19, 2023, DEP inspected the Contant 1 conventional well operated by Roulette Oil and Gas LLC in Harrison Township, Potter County and issued notices of violation for failure to plug the well upon abandoning it. Read more here.

Visit the DEP Oil & Gas Wastewater Injection Well webpage for more information on this program.

*(**Photos:** Proposed site of injection well at the Clara Field 20 well and related equipment.)*

Related Articles - Injection Wells:

-- Comments Submitted On Proposed Roulette Oil & Gas Wastewater Injection Well In Potter County By Save Our Streams PA Show Principals Have Been Involved In Abandoning 8 Previous Injection Wells [PaEN]
-- DEP To Hold July 25 Hearing On Proposed Roulette Oil & Gas Wastewater Injection Well In Potter County [PaEN]
-- DEP Issues NOVs To Roulette Oil & Gas LLC For Abandoning Another Conventional Well In

Potter County; Roulette Applying For Oil & Gas Wastewater Injection Well Permit [PaEN]
-- PA General Energy Announced It Will Plug Proposed Oil & Gas Waste Injection Well In Grant Twp., Indiana County [PaEN]

PA Oil & Gas Industry Public Notice Dashboards:

-- PA Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - Dec. 2 to 8 -- 9 Abandoned Conventional Wells; Failure To Restore Shale Gas Pad; No Progress In Spill Cleanups [PaEN]
-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices/Opportunities To Comment - December 9 [PaEN]
-- DEP Sets Jan. 23 Hearing On Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Frazer Compressor Station In Chester County [PaEN]
-- DEP Posted 68 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In December 9 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

Related Articles:

-- Marcellus Drilling News: Senate Republican Leaders Urge DEP To Withdraw Environmental Justice Policy Saying They Lack Statutory Authority, And Out-of-State Groups Not Actual Residents Express EJ Concerns [PaEN]
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About Storing Carbon Dioxide Deep Underground
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: Concerns Grow Over Perceived Viability Of Hydrogen Hubs
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-- Inside Climate News: Massachusetts Public Utilities Agency Sets Framework For Reducing Natural Gas Use For Heating
-- Inside Climate News: From Fracked Gas In PA To Toxic Waste In Texas, Tracking Vinyl Chloride Production In The US
-- Bloomberg: Europe's Winter Natural Gas Price Slump Shifts Focus To Summer Storage
[Posted: December 5, 2023]

DEP Sets Jan. 23 Hearing On Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Frazer Compressor Station In Chester County



The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the December 9 PA Bulletin inviting comments at a January 23 hearing on the RACT III, Title V Air Quality Permit and State Implementation Plan Revision for the Transcontinental Gas Pipeline, LLC Frazer Compressor Station in East Whiteland Township, Chester County. (PA Bulletin, page 7674)

The hearing will be held at the DEP Southeast Regional Office, 2 E. Main Street in Norristown starting at 10:00 a.m.

To register to speak at the hearing, please contact Stephanie Berardi, Regional Communications Manager, at sberardi@pa.gov or 484.250.5808.

Read the entire PA Bulletin notice for instructions on reviewing the permit application and on submitting comments. (PA Bulletin, page 7674)

For more information on environmental programs in Pennsylvania, visit DEP's website, Report Emergencies, Submit Environmental Complaints; Click Here to sign up for DEP's newsletter; sign up for DEP's eNotice; visit DEP's Blog, Like DEP on Facebook, Follow DEP on Twitter and visit DEP's YouTube Channel.

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-- Bloomberg: Europe's Winter Natural Gas Price Slump Shifts Focus To Summer Storage
[Posted: December 8, 2023]

PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices/Opportunities To Comment - December 9

The following DEP notices were published in the December 9 PA Bulletin related to oil and gas industry facilities. Many of the notices offer the opportunity for public comments.



-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the December 9 PA Bulletin inviting comments at a January 23 hearing on the RACT III, Title V Air Quality Permit and State Implementation Plan Revision for the **Transcontinental Gas Pipeline, LLC - Frazer Facility Compressor Station** in East Whiteland Township, **Chester County**. (PA Bulletin, page 7674) Read more here.

-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the December 9 PA Bulletin that it had **disapproved** an Act 2 Land Recycling Risk Assessment at the **ARG Refinery in Bradford, McKean County** on remediation of soil and groundwater contaminated with Benzene, Toluene, Ethyl Benzene, Xylenes (total), Cumene (Isopropylbenzene), Methyl tert-Butyl Ether, Naphthalene, Trimethyl benzene, 1,2,4-(Trimethyl benzene, 1,3,4-), Trimethyl benzene, 1,3,5-, Fluorene, Phenanthrene, Anthracene, Pyrene, Chrysene, Benzo(a)- anthracene, Benzo(b)fluoranthene, Benzo(a)pyrene, Benzo- (g,h,i)perylene and groundwater: Benzene, Toluene, Ethyl Benzene, Xylenes (total), Cumene (Isopropylbenzene), Methyl tert-Butyl Ether, Naphthalene, Trimethyl benzene, 1,2,4-(Trimethyl benzene, 1,3,4-), Trimethyl benzene, 1,3,5-, Phenanthrene, Pyrene, Chrysene for EU-1W. (PA Bulletin, page 7664)

-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the December 9 PA Bulletin that it had **disapproved** an Act 2 Land Recycling Final Report for the **Penneco Oil Company Kenneth D. Mumanu 1 Well Site in Grant Township, Indiana County** on remediation of soil contaminated with Aluminum, Barium, Boron, Chloride, Iron, Lithium,

Manganese, Seleium, Strontium, Vanadium, and Zinc for the site located in Grant Twp., **Indiana County**. (PA Bulletin, page 7664)

Land Recycling/Brownfield Cleanups

-- Chesapeake Appalachia LLC - Rylee Shale Gas Well Pad: DEP received a Final Report on remediation of soil contaminated by the release of production wastewater at the pad located in Auburn Twp., **Susquehanna County.** (PA Bulletin, page 7662)

-- Seneca Resources Company, LLC - Beechwood Shale Gas Well Pad: DEP received a Final Report on remediation of soil contaminated with production wastewater at the pad located in Shippen Twp., **Cameron County**. (PA Bulletin, page 7662)

-- Eco-Energy Philadelphia Ethanol Terminal: DEP issued a Technical Deficiency Letter related to a Final Report on remediation of soil contaminated with benzo(a)pyrene, arsenic, thallium and benzene for the facility located at 4099 South Columbus Blvd, in Philadelphia. (PA Bulletin, page 7665)

-- Seneca Resources Company LLC - Covington Shale Gas Well Pad: DEP approved a Final Report on remediation of soil contaminated with production wastewater at the pad located in Covington Twp., **Tioga County**. (PA Bulletin, page 7664)

-- Buckeye Pipeline - Bear Creek Release: DEP approved a Final Report on remediation of soil contaminated with gasoline in Bear Creek Twp., **Luzerne County.** (PA Bulletin, page 7664)

-- Penneco Oil Company - Kenneth D. Mumanu 1 Well Site: DEP **disapproved** a Final Report on remediation of soil contaminated with Aluminum, Barium, Boron, Chloride, Iron, Lithium, Manganese, Seleium, Strontium, Vanadium, and Zinc for the site located in Grant Twp., **Indiana County**. (PA Bulletin, page 7664)

-- ARG Refinery - Bradford, McKean County: DEP **disapproved** a Risk Assessment on remediation of soil and groundwater contaminated with Benzene, Toluene, Ethyl Benzene, Xylenes (total), Cumene (Isopropylbenzene), Methyl tert-Butyl Ether, Naphthalene, Trimethyl benzene, 1,2,4-(Trimethyl benzene, 1,3,4-), Trimethyl benzene, 1,3,5-, Fluorene, Phenanthrene, Anthracene, Pyrene, Chrysene, Benzo(a)- anthracene, Benzo(b)fluoranthene, Benzo(a)pyrene, Benzo- (g,h,i)perylene and groundwater: Benzene, Toluene, Ethyl Benzene, Xylenes (total), Cumene (Isopropylbenzene), Methyl tert-Butyl Ether, Naphthalene, Trimethyl benzene, 1,2,4-(Trimethyl benzene, 1,3,4-), Trimethyl benzene, 1,3,5-, Phenanthrene, Pyrene, Chrysene for EU-1W. (PA Bulletin, page 7664)

Waste Permits

-- Range Resources- Appalachia, LLC - Reuse Water Storage Facility: DEP invites comments on a General Permit WMGR123 application for an oil and gas wastewater storage tank at the facility located in Jefferson Twp., **Washington County**. (PA Bulletin, page 7629)

Air Quality Permits

-- Eastern Gas Transmission & Storage, Inc. - Crayne Compressor Station: DEP invites comments on a proposed Air Quality Plan Approval application for the compressor station located in Franklin Twp., **Greene County.** (PA Bulletin, page 7632)

-- UGI LNG, Inc. - Natural Gas LNG Facility: DEP invites comments on the renewal of a State Only Air Quality Permit for the facility located in Ontelaunee Twp., **Berks County**. (PA Bulletin, page 7636)

-- Blackhill Energy, LLC - Young Compressor Station: DEP issued an Air Quality Plan Approval for multiple sources at the facility located in Springfield Twp., **Bradford County**. (PA Bulletin, page 7666)
-- Tenaska Natural Gas-Fired Power Plant: DEP issued an extension of the combustion turbine start up Air Quality Plan Approval to Feb. 28, 2024 for the facility located in South Huntingdon Twp., **Westmoreland County.** (PA Bulletin, page 7667)
-- Texas Eastern Transmission LP - Delmont Compressor Station: DEP issued an extension of the temporary Air Quality Plan Approval Operation Permit to May 28, 2024 for the facility located in Salem Twp., **Westmoreland County**. (PA Bulletin, page 7668)
-- Eastern Gas Transmission & Storage Inc. - Finnefrock Compressor Station: DEP issued a Title V Air Quality Permit for the facility located in Leidy Twp., **Clinton County**. (PA Bulletin, page 7668)
-- Blossburg Power LLC - Natural Gas-Fired Power Plant: DEP issued a State Only Air Quality Permit for the facility located in Covington Twp., **Tioga County**. (PA Bulletin, page 7668)

Air Quality Permit/State Implementation Plan Revision
-- Transcontinental Gas Pipeline, LLC - Frazer Facility Compressor Station: DEP invites comments at a January 23 hearing on the RACT III, Title V Air Quality Permit and State Implementation Plan Revision for the Transcontinental Gas Pipeline, LLC - Frazer Facility Compressor Station in East Whiteland Township, **Chester County**. (PA Bulletin, page 7674) Read more here.

Individual Stormwater Permits
-- Peoples Natural Gas Company, LLC - 10 Miles Natural Gas Pipeline: DEP invites comment on individual NPDES Stormwater Project for a project located in Amwell, Morris, South Franklin and South Strabane Townships, **Washington County**. (PA Bulletin, page 7625)

Erosion & Sedimentation Permits
-- EQM Gathering OPCO LLC - Pipeline Project: DEP issued a Chapter 102 permit for a project impacting Pigeon Creek located in Fallowfield Twp., **Washington County**. (PA Bulletin, page 7673)

Oil & Gas Well Drilling Permits [12.1.23]*
-- Last Week - Permits: DEP issued 5 conventional and 15 unconventional
-- Year To Date - Permits: DEP issued 183 conventional and 648 unconventional
-- Year To Date - Wells Drilled: 172 conventional and 388 unconventional
*DEP's Weekly Oil & Gas Program Workload Report

DEP Issued These New Oil & Gas Permits *
*Click Here to find oil and gas well permits recently issued near you

Sign Up! DEP eNotice: The Only Way You'll Know When Applications Come In To DEP
Did you know DEP can send you email notices when permit applications are submitted to DEP in your community?

This is the only way you can get notified of when oil and gas-related permits are

submitted to DEP.

You'll also get notice of new technical guidance documents and regulations. Click Here to sign up for DEP's eNOTICE today!

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[Posted: December 8, 2023]

Independent Fiscal Office Reports 3rd Quarter Natural Gas Production Down 0.5% Over 3rd Quarter 2022, But Increased Over Last 12 Months

On December 4, the Independent Fiscal Office reported third quarter natural gas production in Pennsylvania was down 0.5% from the third quarter of 2022, but has increased slightly over the past 12 months.

From July to September 2023, production was 1,870 billion cubic feet, up from 1,857 billion cubic feet in 4th quarter 2022, 1,845 billion cubic feet in first quarter 2023 and 1,864 billion cubic feet in second quarter 2023.

There were 102 new horizontal wells spud, a decrease of 56 new wells (-35.4%) from the prior year. If the current pace holds, there will be fewer wells drilled in 2023 than any year in the last decade.

The average Pennsylvania spot price was $1.31, a decrease of $5.61 (-81.1%) from the prior year. Regional prices reached the lowest level since 2020 Q3, when mitigation efforts related to COVID-19 caused energy prices to plummet.

Click Here for a copy of the report.

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-- Bloomberg: Europe's Winter Natural Gas Price Slump Shifts Focus To Summer Storage
[Posted: December 4, 2023]

PennEnvironment, Three Rivers Waterkeeper Sue Styropek USA To Stop Plastic Pollution In Raccoon Creek, Ohio River In Beaver County



On December 5, PennEnvironment and Three Rivers Waterkeeper announced they have filed a federal lawsuit against BVPV Styrenics LLC and its parent company, Styropek USA, Inc., for alleged violations of the federal Clean Water Act involving illegal discharges of plastics from their plastic manufacturing facility in Monaca, Beaver County.

"Whether we reach a negotiated settlement or a litigated solution, our goal in this case is the same: to end the illegal discharge of harmful plastic pollution into Raccoon Creek, the Ohio River and our environment," said David Masur, PennEnvironment's executive director. "Our right as private citizens and citizen groups to directly enforce the federal Clean Water Act against violators is a critical tool we can use to achieve that goal."

PennEnvironment and Three Rivers Waterkeeper, two nonprofit environmental groups, allege in their complaint that the Styropek facility located at the confluence of Raccoon Creek and the Ohio River discharges wastewater and stormwater that is routinely filled with tiny plastic beads, called "nurdles," that the plant manufactures in vast numbers.

The lawsuit claims that federal law prohibits these discharges.

The Styropek facility is located approximately 20 miles downstream from Pittsburgh and annually produces as much as 123,000 tons of these expandable polystyrene nurdles, each just 3 millimeters or less in diameter.

They are later expanded and molded at other facilities into familiar products such as Styrofoam.

"The discharge of microplastics into our waters is an immediate and growing problem right here in western Pennsylvania, posing threats to aquatic life and potentially even to people," explained Heather Hulton VanTassel, executive director of Three Rivers Waterkeeper, which first discovered and documented Styropek's illegal discharges. "While we are open to discussing a negotiated resolution of Styropek's violations, we will not shy from our intent to hold the company fully accountable for its ongoing violations of the Clean Water Act."

The environmental groups say a settlement could potentially end the legal proceedings

more quickly because the companies have said they want to avoid litigation in favor of negotiation — a stance the groups applaud.

The groups have already had communications regarding the violations alleged in the complaint with representatives of the companies and with the Department of Environmental Protection, and intend to explore every opportunity to reach a speedy resolution that will ensure the immediate and long-term health of the affected water bodies.

As part of Three Rivers Waterkeeper's efforts to curb plastic pollution in the region, the group has teamed with the Mountain Watershed Association to conduct monthly "nurdle patrols" of the Ohio River.

Since September 2022, patrols have found significant numbers of the tiny plastic beads, or nurdles, and traced them to Raccoon Creek and the wastewater outfalls at the Styropek facility, where they accumulate in the water and on vegetation, creek banks and river sediment. DEP and Styropek's own consultant have corroborated these findings.

The groups' lawsuit alleges that any discharge of nurdles violates the Clean Water Act because the company's wastewater and stormwater discharge permit does not authorize the release of the plastic pellets.

In addition, the groups allege that the accumulation of nurdles in the water and along creek banks violates two permit conditions designed to protect water quality from floating solids and from substances inimical to aquatic life.

The facility in Monaca is one of several owned by Styropek USA, Inc., and is immediately downstream of the recently opened Shell Polymers Plant in an area full of plastics manufacturers.

Along with its foreign affiliates, Styropek USA, Inc. identifies itself as the "largest EPS producer in the American Continent" with "the largest distribution network in America."

Under the federal Clean Water Act's citizen suit provision, private citizens affected by violations of the law are allowed to bring an enforcement action against the violator in federal court after providing 60 days' notice of the violations to the violator and to state and federal environmental agencies.

In this case, the plaintiffs filed their notice of intent on October 3, 2023. Citizens can seek civil penalties and a court order requiring the violator to comply with the law and remediate the harm caused by its violations.

Click Here for a copy of the lawsuit.

*(**Photo:** Plastic nurdles, The Allegheny Front.)*

NewsClips:

-- TribLive: Lawsuit Alleges Federal Clean Water Act Violations From Beaver County Plastics Manufacturer

-- Beaver County Times: Lawsuit Claims Styropek Polluted Beaver County Waterways

-- Post-Gazette: Local Environmental Groups File Federal Lawsuit Against Plastics Manufacturer In Beaver County

PA Oil & Gas Industry Public Notice Dashboards:

-- PA Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - Dec. 2 to 8 -- 9 Abandoned Conventional Wells; Failure To Restore Shale Gas Pad; No Progress In Spill Cleanups [PaEN]

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[Posted: December 6, 2023]

PA Senate Hearing Focuses On Minimizing Risk And Harm In Development Of PA's Hydrogen Infrastructure

On December 4, Sen. Katie Muth (D-Chester), chair of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, joined Sen. Carolyn Comitta (D-Chester), Democratic Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, to co-host a public hearing on the proposed development of hydrogen infrastructure in Pennsylvania.

The hearing, held at the East Vincent Township Building in Spring City, Chester County focused on potential environmental impacts, community safety implications, and the various risks and challenges associated with the development and reliance on hydrogen as an energy source.

"No matter what energy source we are talking about, public health and safety must be the first and primary consideration in any development. Pennsylvania residents deserve a safe and healthy place to live, and all levels of government have an obligation to protect the public, not enhance the profits of corporations," Sen. Muth said.

"Many questions remain unanswered regarding how the public's money will be spent on these proposed concepts involving hydrogen energy. Further, yesterday's hearing showed us that Pennsylvania does not have the necessary regulations or laws in place to protect residents from harm by the current fossil fuel energy operations.

"We need decision makers to include emergency responders and the public in any plans that will impact their lives and livelihoods and ensure transparency regarding how the people's money is being spent.

"We need climate action and public protections, not another harmful human experiment that only benefits fossil fuel corporations who already get massive subsidies via taxpayer dollars and continue to loot and pollute our state," said Sen. Muth.

In October, President Joe Biden announced seven regional clean hydrogen hub projects, including two at least partially in Pennsylvania, would receive $7 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding to accelerate the domestic market for low-cost, clean hydrogen across the country.

"Hydrogen hubs are coming and hydrogen may be part of our clean-energy transition, especially in hard-to-decarbonize sectors. However, any approach, including hydrogen, must meet environmental, economic, sustainability, environmental justice, and public health and safety

standards," Sen. Comitta said. "Yesterday's hearing shed light on these and other factors when it comes to the role of hydrogen in transitioning from emissions and building a clean energy economy."

The two prospective hydrogen hubs in Pennsylvania include the Mid-Atlantic Hydrogen Hub (MACH2) based in Southeastern Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey which was awarded up to $750 million.

The second project, the Appalachian Hydrogen Hub (ARCH2) was awarded up to $925 million and is proposed in West Virginia, Ohio and Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Both hydrogen hubs currently are in Phase 1 of the H2Hubs program, the detailed planning phase, and are estimated to stay there for 12 to 18 months.

"This hearing raised significant safety concerns about using existing pipeline infrastructure for hydrogen distribution in Pennsylvania and exposed the fossil fuel industry's intent to use hydrogen as a distraction tactic to delay our transition to renewable energy," Senator Tim Kearney (D-Delaware) added. "We need to focus all of our attention on the most safe and cost-effective solutions for decarbonizing our economy."

According to testimony submitted by MACH2, the MACH2 hub is proposed to include 77-82% green hydrogen projects with the balance being 15-20% pink hydrogen powered by nuclear energy and one proposed orange hydrogen project utilizing methane emissions currently being flared from the City of Philadelphia wastewater treatment facility.

They indicated that MACH2 will not include any fossil fuels.

"If implemented safely and correctly, green hydrogen technology has the potential to be an important part of our clean-energy transition for hard-to-decarbonize sectors like steel and cement manufacturing, long-haul transportation, and aviation," said Rep. Danielle Friel Otten (D-Chester). "But without adequate regulatory requirements, oversight, or scrutiny, hydrogen production also has the potential to increase carbon dioxide and methane emissions, jeopardize our clean groundwater supply, and endanger our communities. We need to establish a responsible and forward-thinking regulatory framework that prioritizes public health, safety, and consumer protection and positions our commonwealth as a true leader in the clean-energy landscape."

Green hydrogen, which will be the focus of MACH2, is when the energy used to power electrolysis comes from renewable sources like wind, water or solar.

Blue hydrogen, which will be generated at ARCH2, is hydrogen produced from natural gas with a process of steam methane reforming, where natural gas is mixed with very hot steam and a catalyst.

Participants in the hearing included Nick Cohen, President & CEO, Doral Renewables; Dr. Robert Howarth, Professor of Ecology & Environmental Biology, Cornell University; Tammy Murphy, Advocacy Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania; Megan McDonough, Pennsylvania State Director, Food and Water Watch; Sean O'Leary, Senior Researcher, Ohio River Valley Institute; and Karen Feridun, founder, Better Path Coalition.

In addition to the participants in yesterday's hearing, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, the Team Pennsylvania Foundation, and MACH2 each provided written testimony to the Committee.

Click Here for a video of the hearing and submitted testimony.

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-- Bloomberg: Europe's Winter Natural Gas Price Slump Shifts Focus To Summer Storage
[Posted: December 6, 2023]

House Environmental Committee To Hold Dec. 11 Hearing On Bill To Expand Renewable Energy Mandates In Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards



The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is scheduled to hold a hearing December 11 on House Bill 1467 (Otten-D-Chester) expanding the mandate for renewable energy under the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards to 30% by 2030.

Expected speakers include--
-- Andrew Williams, Sol Systems
-- Sharon Pillar, Pennsylvania Solar Center
-- Walker Adams, Leeward Renewable Energy
-- Asim Haque, PJM Interconnection
-- David Taylor, PA Manufacturers' Association
-- Jeff Mauk, Ceres

Background

House Bill 1467 was introduced by Rep. Danielle Friel Otten (D-Chester) in June would expand the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard Tier I renewable energy standard from the current 8% to 30% by 2030, including specific solar energy targets from 1% in 2024 to 4% by 2031.

The bill also creates a path for approval of community solar projects that are not currently authorized in Pennsylvania.

The hearing will be held in Room G-50 Irvis Building starting at 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch online.

Rep. Greg Vitali (D-Delaware) serves as Majority Chair of the House Environmental Committee and can be contacted by calling 717-787-7647 or sending email to: gvitali@pahouse.net. Rep. Martin Causer (R-Cameron) serves as Minority Chair and can be contacted by calling 717-787-5075 or by sending email to: mcauser@pahousegop.com.

Related Article:
-- Philadelphia Solar Energy Assn. Accepting Entries In Student Imagine A Clean Energy Future Contest [PaEN]
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About Storing Carbon Dioxide Deep Underground
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-- Bloomberg: Europe's Winter Natural Gas Price Slump Shifts Focus To Summer Storage
[Posted: December 5, 2023]

Hydrogen Tax Credit Changes, Riparian Buffers, Light Pollution On House Environmental Committee Agenda For Dec. 13

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is scheduled to meet December 13 on legislation to change the state hydrogen production tax credit, protect streams with riparian buffers and reduce light pollution.

The bills include--

-- Change Hydrogen Tax Credit To Make It More Green: House Bill 1215 (Vitali-D-Delaware) the state Act 108 tax credit for hydrogen production would be limited to hydrogen produced for hard-to-electrify sectors, expanded to include a larger incentive to companies using hydrogen produced from renewable energy sources and requires hydrogen producing companies to sequester a larger proportion of carbon emissions to receive the tax credit (sponsor summary).

In May, the Committee held its first hearing on hydrogen hubs and climate change, before Pennsylvania was selected for two hydrogen hubs. Read more here.

In June, the Committee was scheduled to consider House Bill 1215, but the Committee passed over the bill. Read more here.

The Committee held a second hearing on hydrogen hubs and climate change November 13, 2023. Click Here for a video.

-- Riparian Buffer Stream Protection: House Bill 1275 (Webster-D-Montgomery) authorizes municipalities to protect water quality and reduce flooding by protecting streams with forested buffers. The Committee held a hearing on the bill October 2. Read more here.

-- Reducing Light Pollution: House Bill 1803 (Pielli-D-Chester) requiring the use of light fixtures that reduce light pollution in state-owned or leased buildings (sponsor summary)

The meeting will be held in Room 205 Ryan Building starting at 9:30 a.m. Click Here to watch online.

Rep. Greg Vitali (D-Delaware) serves as Majority Chair of the House Environmental Committee and can be contacted by calling 717-787-7647 or sending email to: gvitali@pahouse.net. Rep. Martin Causer (R-Cameron) serves as Minority Chair and can be contacted by calling 717-787-5075 or by sending email to: mcauser@pahousegop.com.

Related Articles To Agenda:

-- House Committee Hears Benefits Of Forested Stream Buffers-- Increasing Property Values, Water Quality Improvements, Reduced Impacts From Flooding; Builders, Republican Chair Worried About A 'Taking' Of Property [PaEN]

-- House Environmental Committee Holds Hearing On Hydrogen Hubs [PaEN]

-- Things Are Different In The House: Hearing On Hydrogen Hubs Became 'Democracy' vs. 'Open Mic Night' [PaEN]

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[Posted: December 6, 2023]

New Legislation Creates Task Force To Address Rising Flood Insurance Premiums



On December 4, Sen. Steve Santarsiero (D-Bucks) and Representative Perry Warren (D-Bucks) joined Gov. Josh Shapiro in Yardley Borough for a ceremonial bill signing of House Bill 735, establishing a task force to address rising flood insurance premiums.

"After a devastating storm this summer dropped a month's worth of rain in a span of just two hours and flash flooding swept cars off of roads, and flooded homes, schools, and businesses in Bucks County, my Administration was on the ground immediately, providing assistance to rescue and recovery efforts, set up detours, and keep people safe," said Gov. Josh Shapiro. "Chaired by Insurance Commissioner Mike

Humphreys, the task force established by HB 735 will bring together leaders from my Administration and the Legislature to closely review the needs of our communities who are at an increased risk of flooding. They'll identify the kinds of programs that would make sure flood insurance is accessible and affordable for the Pennsylvanians who need it – and recommend the best courses of action our Commonwealth can take to help increase the number of Pennsylvanians protected by flood insurance."

"Eight years ago, I introduced what was then HB 1299 which was the precursor for HB 735, to help Pennsylvanians living in flood zones with flood insurance premiums," said Sen. Santarsiero. "Then, as now, residents in neighborhoods along the Delaware River were facing skyrocketing flood insurance costs that threatened their ability to protect their homes and made it almost impossible for them to sell. I want to thank my friend and successor in the House Rep. Warren for continuing the work on this issue with me. This is an important step toward helping Pennsylvanians across the Commonwealth find relief from rising flood insurance premiums."

The bill signing took place at the Yardley Inn, a restaurant in Yardley Borough that has been flooded several times. The building is set to begin renovations in early 2025 to move the restaurant further back from the Delaware River and elevate the foundation to prevent future flooding.

"Thank you to Governor Shapiro for coming to Yardley to sign House Bill 735 into law as Act 22 of 2023," Rep. Warren said. "I reintroduced this bill when I was first elected in 2017, it passed in the House in the 2019-2020 Session, and it was the first bill passed by the House Insurance Committee in 2021-2022, but it did not get across the finish line. This year, through the collective efforts of Senator Santarsiero, the House Insurance Committee, the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee and me, and in the wake of the devastating flooding in Upper Makefield and Lower Makefield in July, the bill passed in the House and Senate and has become law with Governor Shapiro's signature."

Reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program that Congress passed in 2012, called the Biggert-Waters Act, phased out the federal subsidy for flood insurance costs and directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to revise its floodplain maps.

Those new maps included many more homes in the flood zones and required flood insurance.

In late 2014 and early 2015 Sen, Santarsiero held townhalls and neighborhood meetings, as well as discussions with local stakeholders and elected officials. From those meetings it became clear the best option at the state level was a task force to review the problem and identify state solutions.

HB 735 establishes the Flood Insurance Premium Assistance Task Force to explore ways to lower flood insurance premiums and incentivize communities to invest in flood prevention measures.

The task force would consist of one appointee each from the Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, Insurance Commissioner, Secretary of Banking and Securities, Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader, House Majority Leader, and House Minority Leader.

Sen. Santarsiero introduced Senate Bill 442, the Senate companion bill, which passed out of the Senate Banking & Insurance Committee earlier this year.

The task force would have the power to review and analyze existing law, procedures, practices, processes, and rules related to the administration of flood insurance. In addition, the

task force would hold public hearings and accept written comments from the public.

"The establishment of a flood insurance task force is a proactive step towards ensuring homeowners and businesses in Bucks County can more easily recover from future flash floods," said Bucks County Commissioner Chair Bob Harvie. "My fellow Commissioners and I are committed to working closely with Governor Shapiro, state and local officials, insurance providers, and our dedicated emergency services personnel towards improving our response to these devastating floods."

The task force would have six months to issue a final report to include recommendations on--

-- Potential programs to provide flood insurance premium discounts;
-- Potential programs, whether through the mechanism of premium discounts or other relief, that create incentives for local governments to undertake or continue mitigation efforts;
-- The implementation of necessary changes in state statutes and practices, policies and procedures relating to the administration of flood insurance;
-- Ways to educate the public about flooding risks and mitigation techniques;
-- How to inform Pennsylvanians about flood insurance options when purchasing; recommendations to increase the number of flood insurance policies purchased by Pennsylvanians.

Rep. Warren added, "As Vice-Chair of the House Insurance Committee, this new law combines the committee's efforts to contain insurance costs while expanding insurance coverage, with our efforts to reduce and contain the cost of flooding. Senator Santarsiero and I worked with our local communities to forward this legislation, and Governor Shapiro coming to Yardley to sign the bill evinces the positive impact Act 23 will have for our communities. I look forward to the recommendations of the task force."

Sen. Santarsiero added, "Communities along Pennsylvania's rivers, creeks and streams have been devastated by plummeting property values due to unaffordable flood insurance premiums. While it was meetings with local constituents that initiated this legislation, the benefits of this legislation will help countless citizens across the Commonwealth."

NewsClips:

-- Courier Times: PA Creates Flood Mitigation Task Force, What It Will Do And What It Means For Homeowners
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[Posted: December 5, 2023]

Registration Open! Interfaith Partners For The Chesapeake Bay Faith & Waters Restoration Summit Feb. 19

The Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake invites you to the Faith & Waters Restoration Restoration Summit on February 19 at St. Mary's Parish in Annapolis, MD.

Join this gathering of faithful green leaders from congregations throughout the Chesapeake Bay area. This will be an opportunity for shared learning, inspiration, reflection, celebration, and fellowship.

The Summit will cover such topics as: Advocacy; Plastic Reduction; Environmental Justice; Native Plants; Tree Planting & Maintenance; Zero Waste; And More!

Plus you'll have a unique opportunity to see the historic Charles Carroll House which is normally closed to the public.

Scholarship Opportunities

Interfaith Partners are offering scholarships to cover tickets for representatives of underserved communities. Complete this form to submit a request for a free ticket.

Click Here to register and for more information. Questions should be directed to Laura Johnson at Laura@interfaithchesapeake.org.

For more information on programs, initiatives, upcoming events and how you can get involved, visit the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake website. Follow on Facebook and on Twitter. Click Here to sign up for regular updates (bottom of the page).

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[Posted: December 5, 2023]

Perry County Dairy Producer Gives Inside Look At Rotational Grazing Operation, How To Drive Strong Milk Production And Pasture Health



In the Center for Dairy Excellence's latest episode of the "Cow-Side Conversations" podcast, Neil Hertzler of Rock Hollow Dairy LLC in Perry County, Pennsylvania shares how his family transitioned their dairy operation to a rotational grazing model years ago.

The Hertzlers have 240 milking cows and are passionate about giving their cows as much grass and sunlight as possible.

With the start of winter and many grazing herds moving their cows off the grass, Neil describes some of the rewards of a pasture-based model, including strong milk production, herd health and longevity, and lower equipment costs.

He also shares some of the challenges, including weather patterns, moving large groups of cattle, heat spells and lameness.

Neil opens the podcast by describing the size and scale of his family's dairy operation. He

farms alongside his wife and four sons as well as his brother-in-law, sister, and a few employees.

All together, they farm approximately 600 acres. Half of that acreage is a permanent pasture system.

As a seasonal dairy farm, they average about 240 milking cows and go as high as 270 cows. Neil breeds for the spring and fall, so they can match when the grasses are growing strong.

His father initiated the rotational grazing model when Neil came home from college in 1999.

"We rotationally graze the cows, and that has been our core. What we love to do is graze cows on grass in a pasture-based system," Neil says in the podcast. "When I came home from college, I fell in love with that style system. It has been fascinating to me. Before that, our cows were kept in the barn and we brought the feed to them."

Click Here to listen to the podcast and for more information.

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[Posted: December 6, 2023]

American Farmland Trust Seeking PA Corn, Soybean Farmers To Join Soil Health Practices Study, $1,000 Stipend Offered For Qualified Farmers



The American Farmland Trust is seeking corn and soybean farms in Pennsylvania to join a soil health practices study to test a new tool they are developing with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to predict the costs and benefits of practices like no-till, cover crops and nutrient management.

The results from the Predictive Soil Health Economic Calculator (P-SHEC) will empower farmers to make more informed decisions surrounding soil health practices on their farms.

The Trust is offering a $1,000 stipend for qualified farmers who participate in our tool-piloting process and a $100 "finder reward" for groups that put us in contact with farmers featured in our pilot process.

The Trust wants to work with a few farmers who are interested in soil health, but not yet using soil health practices, and want more information on the economic costs and benefits of certain practices.

The specific criteria include--

-- Farmers who have never adopted or have recently implemented (0-2 years) the following soil health practices: no-till, reduced till, cover crops or nutrient management changes as defined by NRCS

-- Farmers must be farming rainfed-only (not irrigated) corn and soybean rotations

Farmers can expect to spend up to 10 hours with us over 2-3 months. The Trust will ask farmers to talk about their current practices and interest in adopting new soil health practices.

The Trust will provide the farmer with a private report detailing the results of our analysis. Nothing will be publicly released without consent.

Farmers should fill out this contact form to begin a conversation about joining the study. Questions should be directed to Jen Tillman, Research Scientist, JTillman@farmland.org or 360-928-6551.

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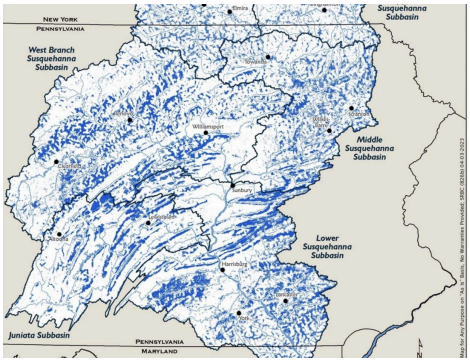
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Susquehanna River Basin Commission Releases New Study Of Groundwater Recharge Potential In Critical Aquifer Areas



On December 4, Susquehanna River Basin Commission published a groundbreaking study focused on groundwater recharge potential in over-utilized areas with limited water availability.

The study – Identifying Optimal Groundwater Recharge Locations and Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas within the Susquehanna River Basin – was completed by the Commission to help identify important areas of the basin.

One SRBC objective is to identify and promote the protection of open space and other land uses that provide for increased aquifer replenishment.

The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tool developed for this study incorporates factors influencing recharge (for example, geologic materials and surface slope) to locate areas of the basin with the best/highest capacity for sustained or enhanced recharge.

Additionally, the GIS framework can determine Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARAs) where water supplies have become more limited amid development and other increasing impervious cover.

With the identification of CARAs, Commission staff and stakeholders can select and/or prioritize actions to ensure the sustainability of water resources during periods of drought, particularly in areas that could have the most potential for impact.

The report looked at three Critical Recharge Areas in particular--
-- Spring Creek Watershed (State College Area, Centre County)

-- South Branch Conewago Creek Watershed (Hanover Area, York County)
-- Manheim/Lititz Valley (Lancaster County)

"Protecting and enhancing CARAs will assist with drought resiliency, improve or maintain water quality, and preserve water supplies for future use," explained John Balay, SRBC Manager of Planning & Operations. "With this tool, we can inform agricultural and forested land preservation activities, aquifer/stormwater recharge enhancement projects, and even abandoned mine land reclamation efforts."

All recharge datasets were compiled and stored in an ArcGIS Geodatabase and are available for download on the Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA) geospatial data portal.

If a local assessment of recharge potential in any region, county, watershed, or other scale is desired, a request can be made with the Commission through their website.

Click Here for a copy of the full report, a copy of a study fact sheet and maps associated with the report.

For more information on programs, training opportunities and upcoming events, visit the Susquehanna River Basin Commission website. Click Here to sign up for SRBC's newsletter. Follow SRBC on Twitter, visit them on YouTube.

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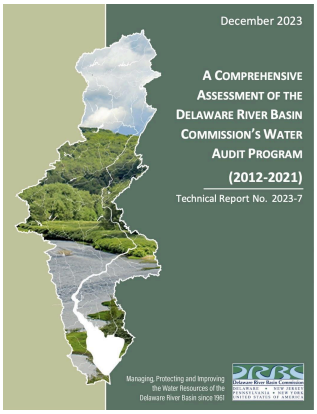
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Delaware River Basin Commission Releases 10-Year Evaluation Showing Water Losses In Public Water Supply Systems Have Remained Constant



On December 4, the Delaware River Basin Commission released a new report-- A Comprehensive Assessment of the Delaware River Basin's Water Audit Program (2012-2021)-- providing a detailed look at ten years of Water Audit Program data. This analysis is the first of its kind in the country.

The study found that water losses have remained relatively constant over the past ten years.

It is estimated that 8.629 million people live within the Delaware River Basin, and that 85% of those people live within service areas of public water suppliers.

Understanding how much water is lost in public water supply distribution systems helps suppliers reduce water demand at the source, reduce treatment costs, increase system efficiency and reduce lost revenue.

"The DRBC's Water Audit Program is key to managing a sustainable, equitable and secure water supply, and planning for future water needs throughout the Basin by tracking water use trends," said DRBC Deputy Executive Director Kristen Bowman Kavanagh. "Drinking water is an essential use of our Basin's resources, and data on water loss is a critical component of water resource planning. Through the water audit program, the DRBC now has a foundational dataset to support its Basin-scale planning efforts."

The Commission's Water Audit Program launched in 2012, and the DRBC was one of the first regulatory agencies in the country to require this type of audit.

Approximately 300 public water supply systems perform annual water audits under the DRBC Program, which helps water suppliers identify, track and report water loss from their distribution systems.

These 300 systems collectively have about 2.5 million service connections and 29,000 miles of water main.

"Building on its comprehensive compilation of the American Water Works Association's key water loss performance indicators derived from 10 years of annual water audits, the DRBC has conducted a robust, multi-faceted analysis of the audit results to identify underlying trends and relationships between system asset and operating conditions, water loss performance and water loss control practices," said Gary B. Trachtman, P.E., Principal Water Resilience Engineer with Arcadis U.S., Inc., and Chair of the AWWA Water Loss Control Committee's Subcommittee on Regulatory Practices.

Results from the study support the Commission's ongoing water conservation goals by providing a quantitative data-based foundation to guide future practices and policies, helping ensure reliable and sustainable water supplies in the Basin.

"The DRBC has assembled a detailed and thorough evaluation of a decade's worth of water efficiency data that is providing policymakers, water utilities and the public a highly

revealing look at the manner in which water resources are utilized by water utilities in the eastern United States," said George Kunkel, Principal at Kunkel Water Efficiency Consulting.

The report makes several recommendations, including improving DRBC's water audit review process, improving planning accuracy within the Basin, and continuing to get feedback from the regulated community about their experiences implementing audits.

"This well-researched comprehensive report provides a firm foundation for moving the water audit program in the Delaware River Basin from monitoring progress in water loss management, to promoting it," said Allan Lambert, Water Loss Research & Analysis Ltd.

Click Here for a copy of the report.

Visit DRBC's Water Audit Program webpage to learn more about this program.

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the Delaware River Basin Commission website. Click Here to sign up for regulator updates. Follow DRBC on Twitter. Visit them on YouTube.

Related Articles:

-- Hydrogen Tax Credit Changes, Riparian Buffers, Light Pollution On House Environmental Committee Agenda For Dec. 13 [PaEN]

-- Voting Begins For Pennsylvania's 2024 River Of The Year: Allegheny, Lackawaxen, Youghiogheny Rivers [PaEN]

-- American Farmland Trust Seeking PA Corn, Soybean Farmers To Join Soil Health Practices Study, $1,000 Stipend Offered For Qualified Farmers [PaEN]

-- Perry County Dairy Producer Gives Inside Look At Rotational Grazing Operation, How To Drive Strong Milk Production And Pasture Health [PaEN]

-- PennFuture Blog: Mapping Climate Change By Viewing USDA's New Plant Hardiness Zones Map - By Brigitte Meyer, Staff Attorney [PaEN]

-- Registration Open! Interfaith Partners For The Chesapeake Bay Faith & Waters Restoration Summit Feb. 19 [PaEN]

-- Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance Names Phil Dunn As New Executive Director [PaEN]

-- New Legislation Creates Task Force To Address Rising Flood Insurance Premiums [PaEN]

-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Releases New Study Of Groundwater Recharge Potential In Critical Aquifer Areas [PaEN]

-- Delaware River Basin Commission Releases 10-Year Evaluation Showing Water Losses In Public Water Supply Systems Have Remained Constant [PaEN]

-- Penn State Extension Host Jan. 8 Webinar On Private Water Supply Education & Water Testing [PaEN]

NewsClips:

-- WNEP: Cast Your Vote For The State's River Of The Year - Lackawaxen River In Running

-- WITF: DCNR Wants You To Pick Pennsylvania's River Of The Year

-- Warren Times: Allegheny River Nominated For River Of The Year

-- Bay Journal: After 40 Years, Chesapeake Bay Program Yields Mixed Results

-- DEP Chesapeake Bay Healthy Waters Update: Funding Opportunities; County Implementation Accomplishments

-- PennLive: Raw Sewage Is Flowing Into The Susquehanna, But This Harrisburg Project Will Help Stop That

-- PA Capital-Star: Lt. Gov. Davis Highlights $17.5 Million Harrisburg Stormwater Infrastructure Project

-- Delaware Currents: Sewage Is Overflowing Into Philly's Rivers, Is The City's $2 Billion+ Fix Working?
-- Tribune-Democrat: Cambria, Blair, Bedford Conservation Districts Awarded $500,000+ In Grants
-- Courier Express: Elk County Conservation District Completes Project On 20-Year-Old Acid Mine Treatment System
-- Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition: Winter Fun At Jennings Environmental Ed Center, Annual Student Symposium On The Environment
-- TribLive: Stream Restoration Work Being Done Along Powers Run Road In Allegheny County
-- Gettysburg Times: Watershed Alliance of Adams County Reports 2023 Accomplishments
-- LancasterOnline - Ad Crable: Fake Beaver Dams May Be Next Big Restoration Tool For Watersheds, Susquehanna University Freshwater Research Institute
-- Susquehanna University: Dam Good Engineering! Beaver Dams The Blueprint For Conservation - Freshwater Research Institute
-- York Daily Record: Damaged Dam On Codorus Creek In York City To Be Demolished, For Greenway
-- Courier Times: PA Creates Flood Mitigation Task Force, What It Will Do And What It Means For Homeowners
-- WESA/WPSU: New PA Task Force To Increase Accessibility To Flood Insurance
-- WNEP: Plans To Fix Flooding Problems In Scranton
-- Scranton Times: City, Engineers Provide Update On Keyser Valley Stormwater Plans As Residents Air Frustrations
-- York Daily Record: Lake Williams Reservoir Dam Built To Handle Flood Of Biblical Proportion
-- WHYY: Heavy Rain, Floods, Heat: How Climate Change Makes Life Tougher For Unhoused People In The Philly Area
-- WNEP: Flood Sensors Installed In Williamsport's Grafius Run
-- PASA Sustainable Agriculture 2024 Sustainable Agriculture Conference Feb. 8-10 In Lancaster
-- Penn State: Novel 3D Agro-Hydrologic Model Informs Land Use And Nutrient Control In Troubled Waters
-- Penn State Center For Ag Conservation Assistance Training Names Jennifer Fetter Director
-- PA Capital-Star: Millions In Federal Farm Conservation Funds In Jeopardy For PA Farmers If Programs Eliminated By Congress
-- Courier Times Guest Essay: Pennsylvania Can Shape Its Conservation Future By Leading On New Federal Farm Bill - By PA Cong. Brian Fitzpatrick & Molly Parzen, Conservation Voters Of PA
-- Herald-Standard: Mountain Watershed Assn. To Present Final Plan For Youghiogheny River Watershed Dec. 7
-- MCall: Palmer Township's Warehouse Boom Has Redefined A Community; Why Everyone In The Lehigh Valley Needs To Pay Attention
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal: Remembering Mike Burke, The Bard Of The On The Wing Column, Born And Raised In Loretto, Cambria County
[Posted: December 5, 2023

PennFuture Blog: Mapping Climate Change By Viewing USDA's New Plant Hardiness Zones Map

By Brigitte Meyer, Staff Attorney





This month, the USDA released the first update to its Plant Hardiness Zone Map in more than a decade, providing a stark, full-color depiction of the progress of climate change.

The USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map divides the country into thirteen hardiness zones based on the annual extreme minimum winter temperature at each location.

The extreme minimum winter temperature reflects the average of the coldest temperature reached in a location for each year over a specified time period and provides a reasonable estimate of the lowest temperature one can expect at that location each year.

Each hardiness zone covers ten degrees Fahrenheit and is broken into two five-degree half-zones (e.g. zone 5 is divided it half-zones 5a and 5b).

Gardeners and growers use this information to determine which perennial plants are likely to thrive at a location, and the USDA Risk Management Agency uses it to set crop insurance standards.

Scientists also use this data to model the spread of exotic weeds and insects.

The 2023 map is based on the average lowest annual winter temperature for the 30-year period from 1991 to 2020 and incorporates data from more than 13,412 weather stations nationwide.

Compared to earlier versions of the map, the 2023 map shows that many hardiness zones have shifted significantly over time.

In fact, between 2012 and 2023, about half the country, including much of Pennsylvania, has shifted a half-zone warmer.

For example, the 2012 map, based on data from 1976 to 2005, places nearly all of Lancaster County in Zone 6b, with an average extreme minimum winter temperature between -5 °F and 0 °F .

The new 2023 map shows that the average extreme minimum winter temperature in Lancaster County is now five degrees warmer, placing the county in Zone 7a.

Harrisburg, Erie, Scranton, Reading, the Poconos, and much of southwest PA similarly have shifted a half-zone warmer from their 2012 zones.

Comparing the 2023 map to the 1990 map, which is based on data from 1974 to 1986, (Pennsylvania Interactive 1990 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map) shows an even more dramatic shift.

In 1990, approximately half the Commonwealth fell into Zones 4b or 5, with average extreme minimum temperature ranging from -25 °F to -10 °F.

Now, only a small portion of the northernmost counties remains in Zone 5b, and no part of the Commonwealth remains in Zone 5a or 4b.

This means not only that the coldest temperature one can expect to experience anywhere in Pennsylvania is now ten degrees warmer than it was in 1990, but that the portion of the Commonwealth that will experience these cold temperatures is severely reduced.

While home gardeners may welcome the extended growing season that comes with warmer weather, this data signals trouble for some native plants.

A number of native plant species such as balsam fir, and bog laurel and creeping snowberry are already at the far southern fringe of their remaining habitat in Pennsylvania.

Research by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program has designated these and more than a dozen other native plant species as "extremely vulnerable" to warming temperatures.

Many of these species, including the white-fringed orchid, the leafy bog aster, bog rosemary, and Labrador tea grow only in bog or wetland habitats that are highly vulnerable to loss or reduction with climate changes..

Warmer temperatures also allow invasive insect species that prey on native plants to thrive.

For example, the emerald ash borer is an invasive insect that poses a serious threat to the 308 million ash trees in Pennsylvania forests.

Cold temperatures help reduce the number of emerald ash borer larvae that survive the winter, but significant larvae die off does not occur until temperatures fall to -10 °F.

The 2023 Plant Hardiness Zones Map indicates that the portion of Pennsylvania that can expect to experience temperatures this low has shrunk dramatically since 2012.

Similarly, low winter temperature has a dynamic role in impacting the range and population of the hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect that has infected, weakened, and killed an enormous number of the Pennsylvania state tree, the eastern hemlock.

The destruction of hemlocks by this pest has greatly affected Pennsylvania's forest habitats and streams by reducing shelter for wildlife and warming unshaded streams.

This, in turn, threatens aquatic species that depend on cooler water such as brook trout, rainbow trout, and the eastern hellbender.

Like the emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgids can survive subfreezing temperatures, but their survival rate drops off significantly once temperatures dip below zero, and most will die when temperatures reach -10 °F.

As the map below illustrates, as fewer locations experience the extreme cold necessary to keep the population in check, the woolly adelgid's range creeps ever northward, threatening more of these beautiful emblems of Pennsylvania's natural beauty and diversity.

The threat posed to our native plant species and the ecosystems they support is just one of the reasons that PennFuture is committed to combating and mitigating the impacts of the climate crisis by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, building resilient communities, and forging a just and equitable clean energy economy in Pennsylvania.

Visit the PennFuture website for more information on initiatives, programs, upcoming events and more.

*(**Maps:** 2023 USDA Hardiness Zone Map; 1976-2005 USDA Hardiness Zone Map.)*

(Reprinted from PennFuture Blog.)
[Posted: December 5, 2023]

DEP Invites Comments At Jan. 9 Hearing On Jessop Steel, LLC Air Quality Permit In

Washington County



The Department of Environmental Protection published notice of a January 9 hearing on a RACT III Title V Air Quality Permit for the Jessop Steel, LLC facility in Canton Township, Washington County. (Dec. 9 PA Bulletin, page 7632)

The hearing will be held at the DEP Southwest Regional Office, 400 Waterfront Drive in Pittsburgh from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.

To register to speak at a hearing, or to inquire if a hearing will be held, please contact Thomas Joseph at 412-442-4336 or send email to: tjoseph@pa.gov.

Read the entire PA Bulletin notice for instructions on how to review a copy of the application and on how to submit public comments. (Dec. 9 PA Bulletin, page 7632)

For more information on environmental programs in Pennsylvania, visit DEP's website, Report Emergencies, Submit Environmental Complaints; Click Here to sign up for DEP's newsletter; sign up for DEP's eNotice; visit DEP's Blog, Like DEP on Facebook, Follow DEP on Twitter and visit DEP's YouTube Channel.
[Posted: December 8, 2023]

Hearing Set For Jan. 23 On DEP Air Quality Permit For The Cleveland Cliffs Plate Facility In Chester County



The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the December 9 PA Bulletin of a January 23 hearing on a RACT III Title V Air Quality Permit for the Cleveland Cliffs Plate, LLC facility in Coatesville Borough, Chester County. (Dec. 9 PA Bulletin, page 7635)

The hearing will be held at the DEP Southeast Regional Office, 2 E. Main Street in Norristown starting at 1:30 p.m.

To register to speak at the hearing, please contact Ms. Stephanie Berardi, Community Relations Coordinator, at sberardi@pa.gov or 484.250.5808

Read the entire PA Bulletin notice for instructions on how to review the application and submit comments. (Dec. 9 PA Bulletin, page 7635)

For more information on environmental programs in Pennsylvania, visit DEP's website, Report Emergencies, Submit Environmental Complaints; Click Here to sign up for DEP's newsletter; sign up for DEP's eNotice; visit DEP's Blog, Like DEP on Facebook, Follow DEP on Twitter and visit DEP's YouTube Channel.
[Posted: December 8, 2023]

Rep. Rob Mercuri Presents Allegheny County Resident Lynn Appman With Keep PA Beautiful Community Pride Award



On December 5, Rep. Rob Mercuri (R-Allegheny) nominated Lynn

Appman for the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Community Pride Award in recognition of her efforts with the McCandless 'Litter Getters' and coordinating roadside cleanups through the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Pick Up Pennsylvania program.

"It was a pleasure to present a House of Representatives citation to Lynn Appman for her work with the McCandless 'Litter Getters'. Lynn helps organize two community clean up days each year. She also advocates for better state policies regarding litter reduction and making our state look more beautiful. Her commitment to environmental stewardship is second to none." said Rep. Mercuri.

Appman is passionate about keeping Pennsylvania beautiful and dedicates her free time to encourage others to join her cause. Rep. Mercuri presented Appman with the award and citation at a recent ceremony at the District office.

"Thank you, Rep. Mercuri, for this award. I am humbled and honored to receive it. We can all make a big difference keeping Pennsylvania Beautiful. I always carry a bag with me to pick up litter on walks and help educate people about the negative effects of litter. Get others involved by organizing cleanups in your community. It takes all of us to keep our state clean," said Appman.

"Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful congratulates and commends Lynn for her efforts to keep Allegheny County clean and beautiful. I am delighted to recognize Lynn for her work with the McCandless Litter Getters and for her advocacy for a clean and beautiful Pennsylvania. Thank you for keeping our shared public spaces clean, safe and beautiful," said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful.

Clean and beautiful communities tend to see less littering and other illegal behavior, making it a better place for all residents and providing a foundation for community and economic development.

"We are grateful for Rep. Mercuri for recognizing Lynn for her many contributions to the local community. We encourage all public officials to recognize the noble and necessary work and the special people who coordinate local programs that keep our communities clean and beautiful," said Reiter.

The Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Community Pride Award recognizes outstanding environmental stewardship by an individual, school, community organization or civic group that makes an outstanding commitment to litter control, recycling, beautification or general environmental stewardship.

The community Pride Award is available to elected officials to recognize those in the community working to change behaviors at the local level.

Elected officials interested in nominating a constituent for a Community Pride Award should visit the KPB Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Community Pride Award webpage. The award is open on a rolling basis.

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful website. Click Here to sign up for regular updates from KPB, Like them on Facebook, Follow on Twitter, visit their YouTube Channel.

Keep PA Beautiful helps mobilize over 100,000 volunteers a year to pick up litter, clean up illegal dumping and beautify Pennsylvania.

***(Photo:** Lynn Appman presented award by Rep. Rob Mercuri (R-Allegheny).)*

[Posted: December 5, 2023]

Budget Office Accepting Applications For Redevelopment Assistance Capital Projects Program Funding

The Governor's Budget Office announced it is now accepting applications for Redevelopment Assistance Capital Projects Program funding. The deadline to apply is January 12.

The Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) is a Commonwealth grant program administered by the Office of the Budget for the design, acquisition, and construction of a regional economic, cultural, civic, recreational, and historical improvement project.

RACP projects are authorized in the Redevelopment Assistance section of a Capital Budget Itemization Act, have a regional or multi-jurisdictional impact, and generate substantial increases or maintain current levels of employment, tax revenues, or other measures of economic activity.

RACP projects are state-funded projects that cannot obtain primary funding under other state programs.

[Note: As a practical matter, only applicants with projects already authorized by Capital Budget Itemized Project Authorization Law can apply.]

Click Here for all the details and to apply.

[Posted: December 10, 2023]

Western PA Conservancy Protects 410 Acres Of Forestland Along Clear Creek In Somerset County; Land Added To Forbes State Forest



On December 4, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy announced the permanent protection of 410 acres of steep forested slopes and riparian forest in Somerset County that safeguards water quality and wildlife habitat along Clear Run Creek, a tributary to Laurel Hill Creek.

The Jefferson Township property was immediately conveyed to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to become an addition to Forbes State Forest.

The large forested property is adjacent to the forest and in the viewshed of the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail, a 70.5-mile continuous footpath stretching along Laurel Ridge. The Conservancy acquired land in 1965 that helped to establish Laurel Ridge State Park for the primary purpose of creating the trail.

Clear Run Creek, a designated high-quality cold water stream by the Fish and Boat Commission, is stocked with trout and known to support natural trout production, including for the eastern brook trout.

The property, which protects the scenic views along the southern side of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, contains open areas managed for golden-winged warbler habitat.

Also, the protection of this land ensures habitat connectivity, an important consideration to ensure that plant and animal species have pathways, through connected habitats and landscapes, to move to more temperate and tolerable environments as the climate changes.

“This is a beautiful property that has so many conservation benefits,” said Tom Saunders,

president and CEO of the Conservancy. “We’re glad to add another property to Forbes State Forest. So many people enjoy that state forest and it’s one of the spectacular assets of our region.”

Conservation of this forestland was made possible thanks to grants from the DCNR Bureau of State Forestry, Richard King Mellon Foundation, Babcock Charitable Trust and Hillman Foundation.

Since the 1960s, the Conservancy has protected more than 80,000 acres of open space in the Laurel Highlands, most of it turned over to the state to establish and manage parks, game lands and wild areas.

For more information about conservation options to protect land, please contact the Conservancy at 412-288-2777 or land@paconserve.org.

More information is available on programs, initiatives and special events at the Western PA Conservancy website. Click Here to sign up for regular updates from the Conservancy, Like them on Facebook, Follow them on Twitter, join them on Instagram, visit the Conservancy’s YouTube Channel or add them to your network on Linkedin. Click Here to support their work.

The Conservancy has helped to establish 11 state parks, conserved more than 250,000 acres of natural lands and protected or restored more than 3,000 miles of rivers and streams, maintains 132 community gardens and other green spaces that are planted with the help of more than 11,000 volunteers and the support of more than 9,000 members.

Resource Link:

-- WeConservePA: New GIS Dashboard Displays 20 Years Of Land Trust Land Conservation Information

Related Articles:

-- Western PA Conservancy Protects 410 Acres Of Forestland Along Clear Creek In Somerset County; Land Added To Forbes State Forest [PaEN]

-- Natural Lands Announced Acquisition Of 46 Acres For Use As A Park In Aston Township, Delaware County [PaEN]

-- WeConservePA: New GIS Dashboard Displays 20 Years Of Land Trust Land Conservation Information

-- WeConservePA: Schuylkill River Trail's Auburn Gap Closes With Opening Of Auburn Bridge In Schuylkill County [PaEN]

-- DCNR Awards Grant To French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust For Lawn Conversion, Streamside Tree Planting In Chester County [PaEN]

-- US DOT Awards Pennsylvania $840,000 To Develop Statewide Wildlife Crossings Plan [PaEN]

[Posted: December 6, 2023]

Natural Lands Announced Acquisition Of 46 Acres For Use As A Park In Aston Township, Delaware County

On December 7, Natural Lands announced the acquisition of nearly 46 acres of open space by Aston Township, Delaware County, for a township park.



“It’s been a long but incredibly

rewarding process that's culminated in a huge open space achievement," said Robyn Jeney, land protection project manager for Natural Lands. "The preservation of this land is especially significant in a community that is almost 100 percent developed and with a density of nearly 3,000 residents per square mile."

More than two years ago, Natural Lands reached out to The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia as part of a proactive effort to identify and preserve the largest remaining unprotected properties in southeastern Pennsylvania.

As a conservation-minded nonprofit, the Sisters of St. Francis welcomed the opportunity to divest a portion of their lands for open space and public use.

Natural Lands was able to secure grant funding for Aston Township's purchase; the Township will own and operate the land as a passive-use park with hiking trails through meadows and woodlands.

Aston Township also committed $100,000 of its own funds to support the acquisition.

"Aston Township is very pleased to have acquired property from the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia along Convent Road," said William J. DeFeo III, Aston Township manager. "We saw this as a great opportunity to protect the environment and preserve this tract of ground as open space in our township for generations to come."

The property consists of woodlands and an open meadow and is located just 400 feet from West Branch Chester Creek, a Department of Environmental Protection-designated Trout Stocking Fishery. Preserving open space is one of the most impactful ways to protect water quality.

Natural areas act like a sponge, helping rainwater seep into the ground where pollutants get filtered out and water supplies are replenished. Were the land to have been developed, more rainwater would have washed directly into the creek, carrying soil and pollutants with it.

Financial support for the project came from Delco Green Ways Municipal Grant Program and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund.

Said Elaine Paul Schaefer, vice chair of Delaware County Council. "The County was thrilled to support this important preservation project through our Greenways Grant Program, and this project serves as a great example of how County support can be used to leverage funding from other sources to preserve open space and improve quality of life for our residents."

"DCNR is proud to support the preservation of this open space in southeastern Pennsylvania in an area facing significant development pressures," DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn said. "We look forward to seeing the impact this park and its trails have for future generations enjoyment and recreational use. Thank you to The Sisters of St. Francis, Aston Township, Delaware County, and Natural Lands for making this conservation project possible."

The project received additional financial support from Aston Township; the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Commonwealth Financing Authority; The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia; and the Virginia Cretella Mars Foundation.

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the Natural Lands website. Click Here to sign up for regular updates from Natural Lands and Like them on Facebook. Click Here to support their activities.

Natural Lands has preserved more than 125,000 acres, including 42 nature preserves and one public garden totaling more than 23,000 acres.

Related Articles:

-- Western PA Conservancy Protects 410 Acres Of Forestland Along Clear Creek In Somerset County; Land Added To Forbes State Forest [PaEN]
-- Natural Lands Announced Acquisition Of 46 Acres For Use As A Park In Aston Township, Delaware County [PaEN]
-- WeConservePA: New GIS Dashboard Displays 20 Years Of Land Trust Land Conservation Information
-- WeConservePA: Schuylkill River Trail's Auburn Gap Closes With Opening Of Auburn Bridge In Schuylkill County [PaEN]
-- DCNR Awards Grant To French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust For Lawn Conversion, Streamside Tree Planting In Chester County [PaEN]
-- US DOT Awards Pennsylvania $840,000 To Develop Statewide Wildlife Crossings Plan [PaEN]
[Posted: December 7, 2023]

WeConservePA: Schuylkill River Trail's Auburn Gap Closes With Opening Of Auburn Bridge In Schuylkill County



A former Pennsylvania Railroad bridge in Auburn, Schuylkill County has been rehabilitated as part of the extension of the Schuylkill River Trail. The historic plate girder bridge, which crosses the Schuylkill River, has been fitted with a new concrete trail deck and steel railings.

This project closes the last remaining break of the trail in Auburn which is located near the borders of Berks and Schuylkill Counties.

Eliminating the gap will create a 9.5-mile segment of the trail that will not only connect the two counties but also the towns of Auburn, Hamburg and Port Clinton.

Partners, funders, and the public gathered November 9th to welcome a large crowd and cut the ribbon on this major project.

Sen. David Argall (R-Schuylkill), DCNR Secretary Dunn, Rep. Jamie Barton (R-Schuylkill), and other federal and local officials shared remarks about the importance of this bridge to the trail and to the economies of both Berks and Schuylkill Counties.

The new structure closes the "Auburn Gap," as locals have been calling the project.

The initial stage of the project began in 2018 before facing delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic and easement issues. The completed section of trail is a good indicator of the kind of trail that will eventually run all the way to its terminus in Frackville.

Local bike clubs, neighbors, and even cyclists from Philadelphia are making use of the trail already.

Major partners and funders on the project included: Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage Area, the Federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the William Penn Foundation, the Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Schuylkill County, and Jeanne and Kenneth Porter.

Interested in visiting? You can start at the Auburn Trailhead for a 3 mile roundtrip to the

bridge, or be a little more adventurous and start at the Kernsville Dam Recreation Area Trailhead for about a 12 mile roundtrip. Please note, there is no parking at the bridge and the trail in this area is surrounded by private property.

Visit Explore PA Trails and Get Outdoors PA for recreation areas near you.

(Reprinted from WeConservePA website.)

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[Posted: December 7, 2023]

DCNR Awards Grant To French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust For Lawn Conversion, Streamside Tree Planting In Chester County



On December 5, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources awarded the French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust $159,700 of grant funding to develop a program for lawn conversion and streamside tree planting on properties permanently protected by the Trust.

Property owners whose lands are protected with a voluntary Conservation Easement held by French & Pickering and meet the eligibility criteria can receive technical assistance and up to 80% of costs covered to convert their lawns to native meadows and plant native trees along streams.

French & Pickering will connect landowners with local expert restoration contractors who will perform site preparation, plantings, and most importantly, several years of post-planting maintenance.

“Diverse native plant communities are critical for pollinators and birds, and forested buffers along streams prevent erosion and improve water quality” noted Karl Russek, French & Pickering’s Conservation Coordinator. “As the holder of nearly 200 easements on over 7,500 acres of land in northern Chester County, French & Pickering is uniquely placed to bring in expertise and resources to assist our landowners with improving the conservation value of their properties.”

French & Pickering and its partners will also focus on managing invasive plants and deer

impacts. The program will use native plant species as part of a larger effort to protect and expand the range of some of the state's most under-represented species.

French & Pickering anticipates 2024 will be the inaugural year of an annual program. Additional support for this program is provided by the Essential Foundation.

Contact Karena DiLeo at kdileo@frenchandpickering.org if you would like to learn more about participating in the program.

Visit DCNR's Lawn Conversion Program webpage for more on this program.

To learn more about land conservation, visit the French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust website.

***(Photo:** Adding trees to landscapes, like these planted at French & Pickering's Thomas P. Bentley Nature Preserve, aid in environmental restoration efforts.)*

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[Posted: December 6, 2023]

Reminder: Nominations Due For 2024 Parks & Forests Foundation Awards Dec. 15



The PA Parks and Forests Foundation is seeking nominations for its 2024 Annual Parks and Forests Awards which recognize the exemplary programs, services, staff, and volunteers that have made a positive impact on the state's parks and forests.

Nominations are due December 15 and will be announced in May.

With a mission of stewardship through volunteerism and education, PPFF's annual awards serve to recognize those who share in the commitment of conserving and enhancing our state's natural resources, help to ensure a welcoming environment for all in the outdoors, and strive to protect public lands for future generations.

Click Here for all the details and to make a nomination.

Visit the PA Parks & Forests Foundation's Events webpage and DCNR's Calendar of Events for activities happening near you.

Visit Explore PA Trails and Get Outdoors PA for recreation areas near you.

For more information on programs, initiatives, special events and how you can get involved, visit the PA Parks & Forests Foundation website. Click Here to sign up for regular updates from the Foundation, Like them on Facebook or Follow them on Twitter or tune in to their YouTube Channel. Click Here to become a member of the Foundation.

The Foundation and their 48 chapters mobilize 65,000 volunteers annually to steward YOUR state parks and forests.

*(**Photo:** Volunteers turning unused concession stand at Sam Lewis State Park into education center.)*

Related Articles:

-- Voting Begins For Pennsylvania's 2024 River Of The Year: Allegheny, Lackawaxen, Youghiogheny Rivers [PaEN]

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-- DCNR Awards Grant To French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust For Lawn Conversion, Streamside Tree Planting In Chester County [PaEN]

-- DCNR Blog: Caring For Forests In Pennsylvania's State Parks

-- DCNR Forest Focus Newsletter Highlights Draft Forests For All Plan; Extended Wildfire Season; 2024 Spongy Moth Outbreak; Forest Carbon Management [PaEN]

-- US DOT Awards Pennsylvania $840,000 To Develop Statewide Wildlife Crossings Plan [PaEN]

-- PA Environmental Council In Case You Missed It In November Now Available [PaEN]

NewsClips:

-- WITF: DCNR Wants You To Pick Pennsylvania's River Of The Year

-- Warren Times: Allegheny River Nominated For River Of The Year

-- WNEP: Cast Your Vote For The State's River Of The Year - Lackawaxen River In Running

-- Citizens Voice Blog: Forest Stewardship Is Critical In State Parks

-- Williamsport Sun: Rep. Flick To Host DCNR Grant Seminar Dec. 20

-- TribLive: Friends Of Norwin Trails Seek Volunteers For North Huntingdon Trail Work In Westmoreland

-- WHYY: Neighbors Fighting A Proposed Campsite On Landenberg's Big Elk Creek State Park In Chester County

-- Inquirer - Frank Kummer: Roman Catholic Nuns' Convent Land Is Becoming Delaware County's Newest Park

-- PennLive: Here's How Outdoors-Loving Non-Hunters Can Avoid Getting Shot During Deer Season

-- Warren Times: North Country Trail Group Highlights 2023 Work, Looks Ahead To 2024

-- Reading Eagle: Forum Focuses On Mount Penn Preserve Trails And Forest Stewardship

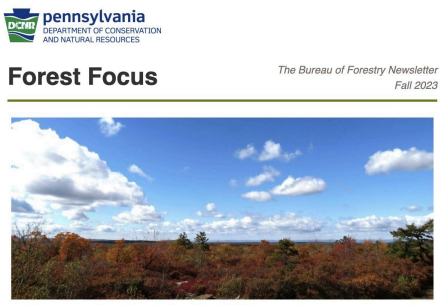
-- TribLive: Murrysville Council OKs Lease For Gas, Oil Rights Under 2 Public Parks

-- TribLive: 10-Year-Old Allegheny Twp. Girl Revved To Compete In National Trail Bike Competitions

-- WESA: Pittsburgh Parks Tax Spending Draws Little Fire In Council Session

-- WeConservePA: New GIS Dashboard Displays 20 Years Of Land Trust Land Conservation Information
-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: PA Gets $840,000 Federal Grant To Reduce Animal-Vehicle Crashes
-- PA Capital-Star: PA To Receive Grant Funding For Development Of Wildlife Corridors Plan
-- York Daily Record: Damaged Dam On Codorus Creek In York City To Be Demolished, For Greenway
-- The Nature Conservancy-Pennsylvania Nature News: 2023 Impact Report; Volunteer Accomplishments; 50 Years Of Federal Endangered Species Act
[Posted: December 8, 2023]

DCNR Forest Focus Newsletter Highlights Draft Forests For All Plan; Extended Wildfire Season; 2024 Spongy Moth Outbreak; Forest Carbon Management



The Fall issue of DCNR's Forest Focus newsletter features articles on a variety of important issues in the Bureau of Forestry and State Forests, including--
-- Forests For All: A Plan for PA's Forests And People
-- Extended 2023 Wildfire Season In PA
- What Can We Do About The Spongy Moth Outbreak? [2024 to be another bad year]
-- Forest Carbon Management
-- Fall 2023 Forest Research Update
-- The Best Of Forest Fridays!
-- Employee Spotlight: Danielle Rihel, Watershed Forestry Specialist
-- Getting To Know The New State Forester - Seth Cassell

Click Here to read the entire Forest Focus. Click Here to sign up for your own copy.
Visit DCNR's Bureau of Forestry webpage to learn more about forest programs.
Visit Explore PA Trails and Get Outdoors PA for recreation areas near you.
Visit the PA Parks & Forests Foundation's Events webpage and DCNR's Calendar of Events for activities happening near you.
For more information on state parks and forests and recreation in Pennsylvania, visit DCNR's website, 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.

Related Articles:
-- Voting Begins For Pennsylvania's 2024 River Of The Year: Allegheny, Lackawaxen, Youghiogheny Rivers [PaEN]
-- Western PA Conservancy Protects 410 Acres Of Forestland Along Clear Creek In Somerset County; Land Added To Forbes State Forest [PaEN]
-- US DOT Awards Pennsylvania $840,000 To Develop Statewide Wildlife Crossings Plan [PaEN]
[Posted: December 6, 2023]

US DOT Awards Pennsylvania $840,000 To Develop Statewide Wildlife Crossings Plan



On December 5, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration announced $110 million in grants for 19 wildlife crossing projects in 17 states, including four Indian Tribes.

The funding is made possible by a new program in the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and can support projects that construct wildlife crossings over and below busy roads, add fencing, acquire tracking and mapping tools, and more.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation received a $840,000 grant to develop a comprehensive statewide strategic plan to address the wide-ranging challenges and opportunities associated with the safe management and stewardship for wildlife crossings across the state.

The project will involve PennDOT, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Game Commission and others.

Click Here for the complete announcement.

Wildlife Corridor Study

On May 23, the House voted 129 to 72 to adopt the bipartisan House Resolution 87 (Dailey-D- Montgomery; Ortitay-R-Allegheny) to help protect Pennsylvania's critical animal habitats and determine the location of wildlife corridors.

The Resolution requires the report to be completed within the next 18 months.

"From the Poconos to the Ohio River Valley, Pennsylvania is a natural wonderland for a diverse array of native wildlife species," said Stephanie Wein, clean water & conservation advocate at PennEnvironment. "HR87 will help ensure that — from the monarch butterfly to elk and from black bear to our state bird, the ruffed grouse — these incredible animals can call Pennsylvania home, now and for future generations."

"Wildlife corridors" is a broad term for a number of different strategies utilized to allow animals to safely move between habitats fragmented by infrastructure development. Wildlife corridors keep animal populations healthy by giving them more hunting, foraging, migration and mating options.

"Pennsylvania is home to a wonderful diversity of plants, trees and wildlife. HR 87 will help us look at how we can preserve that, as well as enhance our thriving outdoor recreation industry and provide for safer travel for people and animals around the Commonwealth," said Rep. Daley.

The resolution will also help to identify key areas where Pennsylvania should construct wildlife crossings.

Every year, Pennsylvania is among the five worst states nationwide for wildlife-vehicle collisions: 166,000 animal collision claims were filed in Pennsylvania from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Building wildlife crossings, including underpasses and over passes, will save people as well as animals.

NewsClips:

-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: PA Gets $840,000 Federal Grant To Reduce Animal-Vehicle Crashes

-- PA Capital-Star: PA To Receive Grant Funding For Development Of Wildlife Corridors Plan

[Posted: December 6, 2023]

Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance Names Phil Dunn As New Executive Director



On December 5, the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance in Northumberland County announced the appointment of Phil Dunn as its new executive director.

Dunn has a rich background in environmental advocacy and will play a pivotal role in advancing the mission of SCRA, focusing on the restoration and revitalization of the Shamokin Creek Watershed.

He brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to environmental stewardship to this new role.

After graduating from Franklin & Marshall College, Dunn embarked on a 35-year career with the Senate of Pennsylvania, culminating in his retirement in 2019 as Chief of Staff to state Sen. John Gordner.

During his time with the Senate, Dunn worked extensively with state programs related to agriculture and environmental protection, thus establishing a solid foundation for his work with SCRA.

After retiring from the Senate, Dunn worked in conservation outreach on farms in 12 central Pennsylvania counties.

In addition to his legislative background, Phil's dedication to environmental causes is further underscored by his role as a Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward and his Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional Riparian Buffer Training Certificate.

He is also a member of One Water Partnership, a program sponsored by Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake.

This appointment is made possible through a grant from the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds.

Visit the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance website for more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events.
[Posted: December 5, 2023]

PA Environmental Council In Case You Missed It In November Now Available



The PA Environmental Council In Case You Missed It In November is now available featuring articles on--
-- New EPA Methane Controls Announced [EPA Release]
-- General Assembly Lagging Behind Public, Markets On Decarbonization
-- State Leaders Have Constitutional Obligation To Address Climate Change, Air Pollution
-- Philly Awards Celebrate Special Places, Innovative Leadership
-- NE PA Partnership Awards Highlight Individuals To Inspire Others To Protect
-- Explore PA With PEC and Purple Lizard Maps
-- NE PA Trail Of The Month: Split Rock Trail In Luzerne County
-- PEC Podcast: 2023 PA Statewide Watershed Conference

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the PA Environmental Council website, visit the PEC Blog, PEC Bill/Regulation Tracker, follow PEC on Twitter or Like PEC on Facebook. Visit PEC's Audio Room for the latest podcasts. Click Here to receive regular updates from PEC.

Related Article:
-- Voting Begins For Pennsylvania's 2024 River Of The Year: Allegheny, Lackawaxen, Youghiogheny Rivers [PaEN]
[Posted: December 6, 2023]

Environment & Energy Educational Opportunities For Students & Adults

Opportunities to learn more about environmental and energy issues affecting Pennsylvania for students and adults--

Awards/Recognition
-- Voting Begins For Pennsylvania's 2024 River Of The Year: Allegheny, Lackawaxen, Youghiogheny Rivers [PaEN]
-- WNEP: Cast Your Vote For The State's River Of The Year - Lackawaxen River In Running
-- WITF: DCNR Wants You To Pick Pennsylvania's River Of The Year
-- Warren Times: Allegheny River Nominated For River Of The Year
-- Rep. Rob Mercuri Presents Allegheny County Resident Lynn Appman With Keep PA Beautiful Community Pride Award [PaEN]
-- Penn State Ranks 4th In US In 2024 QS World University Rankings For Sustainability
-- Philadelphia Solar Energy Assn. Accepting Entries In Student Imagine A Clean Energy Future Contest [PaEN]
-- Reminder: Nominations Due For 2024 Parks & Forests Foundation Awards Dec. 15 [PaEN]
-- TribLive: Go Laurel Highlands Recognizes 9 Photo Contest Winners
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal: Remembering Mike Burke, The Bard Of The On The Wing Column, Born And Raised In Loretto, Cambria County
Grants
-- Williamsport Sun: Rep. Flick To Host DCNR Grant Seminar Dec. 20
-- American Farmland Trust Seeking PA Corn, Soybean Farmers To Join Soil Health Practices Study, $1,000 Stipend Offered For Qualified Farmers [PaEN]
Help Wanted
-- EPA Announces $1 Million In Grants For Brownfield Job Training In Pittsburgh, Cumberland County [PaEN]
Upcoming Events
-- Interfaith Partners For The Chesapeake Bay: Dec. 7 Screening Of 'A Plastic Wave' - How To Reduce Your Plastic Waste, 7:00 p.m.
-- House Environmental Committee To Hold Dec. 11 Hearing On Bill To Expand Renewable Energy Mandates In Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards [PaEN]
-- The Allegheny Front - Reid Frazier: What's The Current State of Clean Energy Transition?
-- Hydrogen Tax Credit Changes, Riparian Buffers, Light Pollution On House Environmental Committee Agenda For Dec. 13 [PaEN]
-- PA Firefly Festival Update: Applications For 2024 Firefly Festival Ticket Lottery Available Jan. 1
-- Penn State Extension Host Jan. 8 Webinar On Private Water Supply Education & Water Testing [PaEN]
-- PASA Sustainable Agriculture 2024 Sustainable Agriculture Conference Feb. 8-10 In

Lancaster
-- Registration Open! Interfaith Partners For The Chesapeake Bay Faith & Waters Restoration Summit Feb. 19 [PaEN]
-- Penn State Climate Solutions Symposium May 14-15 To Focus On Forging New Partnerships In Climate, Research, Solutions [PaEN]

Programs/Information

-- DCNR State Parks Winter/Holiday Environmental Education Activities, Teaching Ideas! [PaEN]
-- Western PA Conservancy Protects 410 Acres Of Forestland Along Clear Creek In Somerset County; Land Added To Forbes State Forest [PaEN]
-- Natural Lands Announced Acquisition Of 46 Acres For Use As A Park In Aston Township, Delaware County [PaEN]
-- Inquirer - Frank Kummer: Roman Catholic Nuns' Convent Land Is Becoming Delaware County's Newest Park
-- WeConservePA: New GIS Dashboard Displays 20 Years Of Land Trust Land Conservation Information
-- DCNR Forest Focus Newsletter Highlights Draft Forests For All Plan; Extended Wildfire Season; 2024 Spongy Moth Outbreak; Forest Carbon Management [PaEN]
-- DCNR Blog: Caring For Forests In Pennsylvania's State Parks
-- Citizens Voice Blog: Forest Stewardship Is Critical In State Parks
-- Inquirer: A Christmas Tree Shortage Means Farms Could Run Out Of Trees Early
-- Penn State: Novel 3D Agro-Hydrologic Model Informs Land Use And Nutrient Control In Troubled Waters
-- DCNR Awards Grant To French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust For Lawn Conversion, Streamside Tree Planting In Chester County [PaEN]
-- Penn State Center For Ag Conservation Assistance Training Names Jennifer Fetter Director
-- US DOT Awards Pennsylvania $840,000 To Develop Statewide Wildlife Crossings Plan [PaEN]
-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: PA Gets $840,000 Federal Grant To Reduce Animal-Vehicle Crashes
-- PA Capital-Star: PA To Receive Grant Funding For Development Of Wildlife Corridors Plan
-- Reading Eagle: Forum Focuses On Mount Penn Preserve Trails And Forest Stewardship
-- Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition: Winter Fun At Jennings Environmental Ed Center, Annual Student Symposium On The Environment
-- Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance Names Phil Dunn As New Executive Director [PaEN]
-- Penn State To Launch Climate Consortium To Identify, Create, Implement Solutions To Climate Change
-- PA Environmental Council In Case You Missed It In November Now Available [PaEN]

Public Participation

-- Marcellus Drilling News: Senate Republican Leaders Urge DEP To Withdraw Environmental Justice Policy Saying They Lack Statutory Authority, And Out-of-State Groups Not Actual Residents Express EJ Concerns [PaEN]
-- PA Business Report: Senate Republicans Urge DEP To Withdraw Updated Environmental Justice Policy
-- Herald-Standard: Mountain Watershed Assn. To Present Final Plan For Youghiogheny River

Watershed Dec. 7
-- DEP Hosts Dec. 7 Outreach Session In Luzerne County On Priority Climate Action Plan Initiatives
-- DEP Hosts Dec. 12 Outreach Session In Bradford County On Priority Climate Action Plan Initiatives
-- Williamsport Sun: DEP Shares Details About Funding To Cut Greenhouse Gas Emissions At Outreach Session
-- Williamsport Sun: DEP Looking For Local, State Input On Climate Change Action
-- Reminder: DEP Holds Dec. 18 Hearing On Panther Creek Power Application To Burn Waste Tires In Carbon County
-- DEP Invites Comments At Jan. 9 Hearing On Jessop Steel, LLC Air Quality Permit In Washington County [PaEN]
-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices/Opportunities To Comment - December 9 [PaEN]
-- DEP Posted 68 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In December 9 PA Bulletin [PaEN]
-- DEP Sets Jan. 23 Hearing On Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Frazer Compressor Station In Chester County [PaEN]
-- Hearing Set For Jan. 23 On DEP Air Quality Permit For The Cleveland Cliffs Plate Facility In Chester County [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Community & Urban Forestry Team Invite You To Take Survey On Education Resources

Background On Issues

-- DEP Expects $44 Million To Plug Conventional Wells Leaking Methane; $76 Million For 2nd Year Of Federal Conventional Abandoned Well Plugging Program [PaEN]
-- DEP Plugs 132 Abandoned Conventional Oil & Gas Wells So Far; DEP Issued 499 NOVs For New Conventional Well Abandonments So Far In 2023 [PaEN]
-- Roulette Oil & Gas LLC Withdraws Oil & Gas Wastewater Injection Well Application In Potter County [PaEN]
-- Scranton Times: Landfill Gas Processing Plant Holds Public Information Session In Throop About Storing Carbon Dioxide Deep Underground
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: PA May See Biggest Drop In Decade For New Shale Gas Wells
-- TribLive: Murrysville Council OKs Lease For Gas, Oil Rights Under 2 Public Parks
-- Williamsport Sun Guest Essay: Refund Should Be Due For University Of Pittsburgh's Shale Gas Health Impact Studies - By Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming), Majority Chair Senate Environmental Committee [Sen. Yaw called bill to reduce shale gas industry impacts 'stupid']
-- Bay Journal: After 40 Years, Chesapeake Bay Program Yields Mixed Results
-- DEP Chesapeake Bay Healthy Waters Update: Funding Opportunities; County Implementation Accomplishments
-- PA Capital-Star: Millions In Federal Farm Conservation Funds In Jeopardy For PA Farmers If Programs Eliminated By Congress
-- Courier Times Guest Essay: Pennsylvania Can Shape Its Conservation Future By Leading On New Federal Farm Bill - By PA Cong. Brian Fitzpatrick & Molly Parzen, Conservation Voters Of PA
-- Delaware Currents: Sewage Is Overflowing Into Philly's Rivers, Is The City's $2 Billion+ Fix

Working?
-- Delaware River Basin Commission: Recap Of Dec. 6 Business Meeting
-- Delaware RiverKeeper Dec. 8 RiverWatch Video Report
-- Perry County Dairy Producer Gives Inside Look At Rotational Grazing Operation, How To Drive Strong Milk Production And Pasture Health [PaEN]
-- LancasterOnline - Ad Crable: Fake Beaver Dams May Be Next Big Restoration Tool For Watersheds, Susquehanna University Freshwater Research Institute
-- Susquehanna University: Dam Good Engineering! Beaver Dams The Blueprint For Conservation - Freshwater Research Institute
-- PA Capital-Star: Millions In Federal Farm Conservation Funds In Jeopardy For PA Farmers If Programs Eliminated By Congress
-- TribLive: Stream Restoration Work Being Done Along Powers Run Road In Allegheny County
-- Gettysburg Times: Watershed Alliance of Adams County Reports 2023 Accomplishments
-- Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance Names Phil Dunn As New Executive Director [PaEN]
-- TribLive: Rain Fails To Ease Concerns Over Falling Water Level At Beaver Run Reservoir In Westmoreland
-- New Legislation Creates Task Force To Address Rising Flood Insurance Premiums [PaEN]
-- Courier Times: PA Creates Flood Mitigation Task Force, What It Will Do And What It Means For Homeowners
-- WESA/WPSU: New PA Task Force To Increase Accessibility To Flood Insurance
-- WNEP: Flood Sensors Installed In Williamsport's Grafius Run
-- WHYY: Heavy Rain, Floods, Heat: How Climate Change Makes Life Tougher For Unhoused People In The Philly Area
-- WITF/WPSU: National Weather Service In State College Forecasts A Warmer Winter This Year
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission: Low Stream Flows Trigger Shutdown Of 4 Shale Gas Drilling Water Withdrawals In Bradford, Tioga County [PaEN]
-- LancasterOnline: Study Of Traffic Emissions Expands Millersville University's Efforts To Assess Local Air Quality
-- PennEnvironment, Three Rivers Waterkeeper Sue Styropek USA To Stop Plastic Pollution In Raccoon Creek, Ohio River In Beaver County [PaEN]
-- TribLive: Lawsuit Alleges Federal Clean Water Act Violations From Beaver County Plastics Manufacturer
-- Beaver County Times: Lawsuit Claims Styropek Polluted Beaver County Waterways
-- Post-Gazette: Local Environmental Groups File Federal Lawsuit Against Plastics Manufacturer In Beaver County
-- Beaver County Radio: Shell To Test Petrochemical Plant Emergency Alarm Monthly In Beaver County
-- Inside Climate News: From Fracked Gas In PA To Toxic Waste In Texas, Tracking Vinyl Chloride Production In The US
-- Independent Fiscal Office Reports 3rd Quarter Natural Gas Production Down 0.5% Over 3rd Quarter 2022, But Increased Over Last 12 Months [PaEN]
-- TribLive: Southwest PA Enjoying Low Natural Gas Prices After Large Drop From Last Year
-- Tribune-Democrat: Peoples Gas Says Credit Offsets 149% Natural Gas Price Hike

-- TribLive: Natural Gas Smell Causes Evacuation At Plum Boro Middle School, Allegheny County [Plum Boro Natural Gas Home Explosion Killed 6 People In August]
-- WESA: More Than A Year After Natural Gas Explosion, McKeesport's 9th Street Clinic Reopens In New, Permanent Space
-- The Derrick Editorial: Reliable Power Means Shoring Up Natural Gas Infrastructure
-- Centre Daily Times Guest Essay: Time To Make Our Electric Grid More Reliable By Increasing Renewable Energy, Storage - By State College Citizens' Climate Lobby
-- Inside Climate News: Massachusetts Public Utilities Agency Sets Framework For Reducing Natural Gas Use For Heating
-- 9News: Abandoned Oil Well Plug Fails In Weld County, Colorado Causing A Geyser Of Yellow Fluid [Video]
-- EQT Joins The Oil & Gas Decarbonization Charter To Reduce Methane Emissions
-- Solar Power World: New 46 MW Solar Energy Facility In Beaver County To Generate Funds To Support Local Nonprofit Organizations
-- Bob Donnan Blog: Solar Power With Savings In November - 8th Electric Bill Under $8.00 In 2023
-- TribLive Guest Essay: Pennsylvania Must Build Electric Vehicle Infrastructure - By Bob Donnan, Bobscaping Blog
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: Controversial Solar Energy Project In Adams County Loses In Court Again
-- Erie Times: Venango Township Tables Vote On Proposed Solar Energy Facility Until January
-- Inquirer Guest Essay: 4 Ways Pennsylvania Can Prepare For Climate Change
-- PennFuture Blog: Mapping Climate Change By Viewing USDA's New Plant Hardiness Zones Map - By Brigitte Meyer, Staff Attorney [PaEN]
-- PA Senate Hearing Focuses On Minimizing Risk And Harm In Development Of PA's Hydrogen Infrastructure [PaEN]
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: Concerns Grow Over Perceived Viability Of Hydrogen Hubs
-- PA Capital-Star: Hydrogen Hubs Face Scrutiny At PA Senate Dems Hearing
-- Williamsport Sun Guest Essay: Hydrogen Hubs Won't Create Jobs - By Commonwealth Foundation
-- PennLive Guest Essay: PA US Senators Are Going To Bat For Hydrogen Hubs, Treasury Needs To Listen - By PA Building & Construction Trades Council
-- The Allegheny Front: Lawsuit Claims Ohio Approvals To Frack State Lands Violated Law
-- Tribune-Democrat: Conemaugh Twp. Schools Eye Energy Savings Study
-- Columbia University: 'A Miracle Will Occur' Is Not Sensible Climate Policy - By James Hansen, Pushker Kharecha and Makiko Sato
-- The Nature Conservancy-Pennsylvania Nature News: 2023 Impact Report; Volunteer Accomplishments; 50 Years Of Federal Endangered Species Act
-- TribLive: Probe Continues After Hunter, Mistaken For Coyote, Is Shot In Westmoreland
-- York Daily Record - Brian Whipkey: PA Native Outdoor Allie Turns Love Of Hunting, Outdoors Into Influencer Career
-- Warren Times: Audubon Nature Center - Wildlife Ripples In The Water
-- Williamsport Sun - Bill Bower: Reflections In Nature: Rabbits Are In A Low Cycle Within PA
-- TribLive: 2 Men Accused Of Releasing Alligator Along Kiski River Ordered To Pay Fines

-- Observer-Reporter: Marie Exotics Reptile Rescue Protects Scaly Friends From Abandonment

Visit the PA Parks & Forests Foundation's Events webpage and DCNR's Calendar of Events for activities happening near you.

Visit DEP's Teaching Green webpage to learn about more environmental education resources.

Visit the PA Environment Digest Calendar Of Events for more opportunities. [Posted: December 10, 2023] PA Environment Digest

DCNR State Parks Winter/Holiday Environmental Education Activities, Teaching Ideas!



DCNR's Bureau of State Parks December Environmental Education newsletter is full of winter and holiday educational activities!

-- Winter & Holiday Teaching Ideas, Lessons & Free Stuff! Winter Salt Watch; Project FeederWatch; Scavenger Hunt; Frozen Suncatchers
-- Audubon Christmas Bird Count - Dec. 14 to Jan. 5
-- In-Person & Virtual Educator Professional Development Workshops
-- Explore The Outdoors On First Day Hikes! [New Year's Day]
-- Conferences, Webinars, Grants & Awards
-- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion - December Holidays
-- State Park Updates
-- Check Snow & Ice Conditions At State Parks
-- Internship & Job Information Available For DCNR, DEP, All Agencies

Click Here to read the entire newsletter. Click Here to sign up for your own copy. Questions should be directed to calongo@pa.gov, DCNR Natural Resource Program Specialist.

Visit DCNR's Conservation Education Opportunities webpage for more on programs and opportunities for people of all ages in all regions.

Visit Explore PA Trails and Get Outdoors PA for recreation areas near you.

Visit the PA Parks & Forests Foundation's Events webpage and DCNR's Calendar of Events for activities happening near you.

For more information on state parks and forests and recreation in Pennsylvania, visit DCNR's website, 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. [Posted: December 8, 2023]

Penn State Extension Host Jan. 8 Webinar On Private Water Supply Education & Water Testing

On January 8, Penn State Extension will host a live webinar on Private Water Supply Education and Water Testing from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Do you live in one of the more than one million homes and farms in Pennsylvania that get their drinking water from a private well or spring? Do you know what is in your drinking

water and how to keep it safe for you and your family?

Would you like to have your water tested for free?

The Private Water Supply Education and Water Testing event is designed for people who manage a private drinking water supply (well, spring, cistern) in their primary residence.

It will cover how to test and protect your well or spring and when water treatment might make sense.

Speakers will also discuss well and spring system inspection and maintenance so you know how to protect your family, your property, and the groundwater we share.

This event is offered at no charge to participants thanks to funding provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health cooperative agreement with the US Centers for Disease Control Environmental Health Capacity building initiative and support from the Master Well Owner Network grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Click Here to register for this free event and for more information.

In-Person Water Education

Penn State Extension is also hosting an in-person water education workshop--

-- January 30: Dauphin County.

[Posted: December 8, 2023]

Penn State Climate Solutions Symposium May 14-15 To Focus On Forging New Partnerships In Climate, Research, Solutions



Penn State will host the 2024 Climate Solutions Symposium on May 14 and 15 at The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center.

Organized by the Penn State Climate Consortium, this year's two-day event will provide an immersive exploration of climate research and solutions.

It will feature multiple opportunities to learn about the latest climate research from Penn State's renowned faculty; network with peers from across the globe; and explore innovative solutions for mitigating, adapting to and building resilience against climate change.

Additionally, the symposium will offer time to forge partnerships with researchers, educators and practitioners dedicated to addressing climate change through innovation, education and engagement.

The symposium will include keynote speakers, breakout sessions, lightning talks, a poster session and an artwork engagement area.

This year's event is open to the public, and there is no cost to attend. Registration will be available in early 2024.

To increase participation and engagement, Penn State faculty and staff are invited to propose climate-related breakout sessions that they would like to convene and lead.

Individuals from all disciplines are welcome to propose sessions related to the Climate Consortium's 10 themes, and interdisciplinary topics are encouraged.

"The theme of this year's symposium is 'New Partnerships for People and the Planet,'" said Erica Smithwick, director of the Climate Consortium and chair of the symposium, as well as distinguished professor of geography at Penn State. "One of the goals of this event is to bring

people together to stimulate projects and partnerships where Penn State's interdisciplinary research strengths can inform and transform climate solutions."

In addition to the main symposium, there will be an optional pre-symposium workshop on May 13.

The purpose for the workshop is to gather teams of researchers that are working on Climate Solutions Accelerator project proposals or other promising climate-related projects.

The workshop will provide dedicated time and space for discussion, collaboration and idea advancement.

The Climate Solutions Symposium provides a unique view into Penn State's strength in climate science and solutions, highlighting the University's vast collection of expertise in a wide range of climate-relevant disciplines.

It also is a deliberate effort to promote networking and discussion to facilitate the development of new partnerships and projects aimed at addressing climate change.

Additionally, calls for posters and lightning talks will be announced in early 2024.

Visit the Penn State 2024 Climate Solutions Symposium webpage for more information.

(Reprinted from Penn State News.)
[Posted: December 6, 2023]

Philadelphia Solar Energy Assn. Accepting Entries In Student Imagine A Clean Energy Future Contest

The Philadelphia Solar Energy Association is now accepting entries in the Student Imagine A Clean Energy Future Contest. Entry deadline February 29.

Students in grades 5 to 12 may submit one or more entries in these categories--
-- Visual Arts: all visual mediums accepted - drawings, paintings, collages, etc.
-- Language Arts: write a 500 word (or less) essay, poem or other written expression
-- Video: 90 seconds or less.

The Association will award prizes for the winners in each of the categories and will exhibit the student work in a public venue in the Spring of 2024.

Click Here for all the details on submitting entries. Questions should be directed to lizhrob2@gmail.com.

Visit the Philadelphia Solar Energy Association website for more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events.

Related Article:
-- House Environmental Committee To Hold Dec. 11 Hearing On Bill To Expand Renewable Energy Mandates In Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards [PaEN]
[Posted: December 5, 2023]

News From PA House & Senate

The information you need to follow legislation in the House and Senate- starting with articles and NewsClips from last week--

Environment & Energy NewsClips--

Gov. Shapiro
-- Spotlight PA: We Tracked Shapiro's 11 Biggest Campaign Promises Thru His First Year, See How He Did
-- DEP Plugs 132 Abandoned Conventional Oil & Gas Wells So Far; DEP Issued 499 NOVs For New Conventional Well Abandonments So Far In 2023 [PaEN]

Budget
-- Spotlight PA - Stephen Caruso: A Leaky Roof Is About To Close The PA House Chamber For Months, Can The Legislature Finish A Budget First?

Oil & Gas
-- Marcellus Drilling News: Senate Republican Leaders Urge DEP To Withdraw Environmental Justice Policy Saying They Lack Statutory Authority, And Out-of-State Groups Not Actual Residents Express EJ Concerns [PaEN]
-- PA Business Report: Senate Republicans Urge DEP To Withdraw Updated Environmental Justice Policy
-- Williamsport Sun Guest Essay: Refund Should Be Due For University Of Pittsburgh's Shale Gas Health Impact Studies - By Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming), Majority Chair Senate Environmental Committee [Sen. Yaw called bill to reduce shale gas industry impacts 'stupid']

Natural Gas Explosions
-- TribLive: Natural Gas Smell Causes Evacuation At Plum Boro Middle School, Allegheny County [Plum Boro Natural Gas Home Explosion Killed 6 People In August]
-- WESA: More Than A Year After Natural Gas Explosion, McKeesport's 9th Street Clinic Reopens In New, Permanent Space
-- The Derrick Editorial: Reliable Power Means Shoring Up Natural Gas Infrastructure

Train Derailments
-- KYW: Freight Train Derails In South Philadelphia Overnight
-- WESA/AP: Norfolk Southern To End Relocation Aid After One-Year Anniversary Of Ohio Train Derailment

PA Politics Of Russian Invasion
-- AAA Gasoline Prices: PA- $3.51; National- $3.16; Ohio- $2.84
-- Independent Fiscal Office Reports 3rd Quarter Natural Gas Production Down 0.5% Over 3rd Quarter 2022, But Increased Over Last 12 Months [PaEN]
-- Baker Hughes: Natural Gas Drill Rigs In PA Drop By 1 to 20 Over Last Week
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: PA May See Biggest Drop In Decade For New Shale Gas Wells
-- TribLive: Southwest PA Enjoying Low Natural Gas Prices After Large Drop From Last Year
-- Tribune-Democrat: Peoples Gas Says Credit Offsets 149% Natural Gas Price Hike
-- Inside Climate News: Massachusetts Public Utilities Agency Sets Framework For Reducing Natural Gas Use For Heating
-- Bloomberg: Europe's Winter Natural Gas Price Slump Shifts Focus To Summer Storage

-- AP: Leaked OPEC Letter Shows The Oil Cartel's Worry Over The COP28 Climate Talks, Environmentalists Say

Environment/Energy Issues
-- Patch: Democratic Sen. Comitta Announces She Will Run For Reelection
-- Politics PA: Democratic Sen. Comitta Announces Reelection Run
-- House Environmental Committee To Hold Dec. 11 Hearing On Bill To Expand Renewable Energy Mandates In Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards [PaEN]
-- The Allegheny Front - Reid Frazier: What's The Current State of Clean Energy Transition?
-- The Derrick Editorial: Reliable Power Means Shoring Up Natural Gas Infrastructure
-- Centre Daily Times Guest Essay: Time To Make Our Electric Grid More Reliable By Increasing Renewable Energy, Storage - By State College Citizens' Climate Lobby
-- Hydrogen Tax Credit Changes, Riparian Buffers, Light Pollution On House Environmental Committee Agenda For Dec. 13 [PaEN]
-- PA Senate Hearing Focuses On Minimizing Risk And Harm In Development Of PA's Hydrogen Infrastructure [PaEN]
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: Concerns Grow Over Perceived Viability Of Hydrogen Hubs
-- PA Capital-Star: Hydrogen Hubs Face Scrutiny At PA Senate Dems Hearing
-- Williamsport Sun Guest Essay: Hydrogen Hubs Won't Create Jobs - By Commonwealth Foundation
-- PennLive Guest Essay: PA US Senators Are Going To Bat For Hydrogen Hubs, Treasury Needs To Listen - By PA Building & Construction Trades Council
-- Williamsport Sun: Rep. Flick To Host DCNR Grant Seminar Dec. 20
-- The Allegheny Front: PA Senate Bill And Federal Rule Could Protect Kids From Lead In Water At School
-- Scranton Times: Legislators - Time To Flood PUC Over PA American Water Rate Hike Request
-- New Legislation Creates Task Force To Address Rising Flood Insurance Premiums [PaEN]
-- Courier Times: PA Creates Flood Mitigation Task Force, What It Will Do And What It Means For Homeowners
-- WESA/WPSU: New PA Task Force To Increase Accessibility To Flood Insurance
-- PA Capital-Star: Millions In Federal Farm Conservation Funds In Jeopardy For PA Farmers If Programs Eliminated By Congress
-- Courier Times Guest Essay: Pennsylvania Can Shape Its Conservation Future By Leading On New Federal Farm Bill - By PA Cong. Brian Fitzpatrick & Molly Parzen, Conservation Voters Of PA
-- Rep. Rob Mercuri Presents Allegheny County Resident Lynn Appman With Keep PA Beautiful Community Pride Award [PaEN]
-- US DOT Awards Pennsylvania $840,000 To Develop Statewide Wildlife Crossings Plan [PaEN]
-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: PA Gets $840,000 Federal Grant To Reduce Animal-Vehicle Crashes
-- PA Capital-Star: PA To Receive Grant Funding For Development Of Wildlife Corridors Plan

Top 10 Stories On Harrisburg/PA Politics Last Week--

Because In Politics Everything Is Connected To Everything Else--

-- Top 10 Stories: Harrisburg/PA Politics Reported By Local News Media Last Week [PaEN]

Bill Calendars

House (December 11): House Resolution 196 (Matzie-D-Beaver) designating the week of September 18-24 Rail Safety Week; House Resolution 228 (Otten-D-Chester) designating the week of October 1 through 7, 2023, as "Climate Week" in Pennsylvania. <> Click Here for full House Bill Calendar.

Senate (December 11): Senate Bill 265 (Laughlin-R-Erie) amending the Sewage Facilities Act to allow garage floor drains to discharge into on-lot septic systems; Senate Bill 831 (Yaw-R-Lycoming) would direct the state to apply for primary authority to regulate Class VI carbon dioxide underground injection wells from the US Environmental Protection Agency and establish a legal and regulatory framework for potential carbon dioxide capture, utilization and sequestration in Pennsylvania. <> Click Here for full Senate Bill Calendar.

Committee Meetings

House
December 11-- House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee holds hearing on House Bill 1467 (Otten-D-Chester) expanding the mandate for renewable energy under the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards to 30% by 2030. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch online. Read more here.
December 11-- House Education Committee meets to consider House Bill 1542 (Markosek-D-Allegheny) establish a grant program to help school districts transition to electric school buses (sponsor summary). Room B-31 Main Capitol. Noon. Click Here to watch online.
December 11-- House Transportation Committee meets to consider Senate Bill 656 (Rothman-R- Cumberland) setting annual fee for electric and alternative fueled vehicles. Room 140 Main Capitol. 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch online.
December 12-- House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee hearing on Act 12 - private acquisition of public water & wastewater systems-- House Bill 1862 (Matzie-D-Beaver), House Bill 1863 (Matzie-D-Beaver), House Bill 1864 (Matzie-D-Beaver), House Bill 1865 (Matzie-D-Beaver) (sponsor summary). Room G-50 Irvis Building. 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch online.
December 13-- House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider House Bill 1215 (Vitali-D- Delaware) the state Act 108 tax credit for hydrogen production would be limited to hydrogen produced for hard-to-electrify sectors, expanded to include a larger incentive to companies using hydrogen produced from renewable energy sources and requires hydrogen producing companies to sequester a larger proportion of carbon emissions to receive the tax credit (sponsor summary); House Bill 1275 (Webster-D-Montgomery) authorizes municipalities to protect water quality and reduce flooding by protecting streams with forested

buffers; House Bill 1803 (Pielli-D-Chester) requiring the use of light fixtures that reduce light pollution in state-owned or leased buildings (sponsor summary). Room 205 Ryan Building. 9:30 a.m. Click Here to watch online. Read more here.
December 13-- House Local Government Committee meets to consider House Bill 31 (Struzzi-R-Indiana) authorize boroughs and cities to adopt stormwater management fees; House Bill 32 (Struzzi-R-Indiana) authorize Townships of the First Class adopt stormwater management fees. Room 60 East Wing. 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch online.
<> Click Here for full House Committee Schedule.

Senate
December 11-- Senate Judiciary Committee meets to consider House Bill 95 (Bullock-D-Philadelphia) increasing penalties for scattering rubbish Rules Room. Off the Floor. No Video Coverage.
<> Click Here for full Senate Committee Schedule.

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.

Session Schedule

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

Senate
December 11, 12, 13
January 2, 16, 17
February 5, 6, 7
Budget Hearings: February 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29; and March 5, 6, 7
Click Here for Senate Agency Budget Hearing Schedule.
March 18, 19, 20
April 8, 9, 10, 29, 30
May 1, 6, 7, 8
June 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

House [Updated]
December 11, 12, 13
January 2 (non-voting)
February 6
March 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27
April 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 29, 30
May 1, 6, 7, 8, 20, 21, 22
June 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

[Posted: December 10, 2023]

The Feds

Articles and NewsClips about federal actions impacting Pennsylvania--

-- DEP Expects $44 Million To Plug Conventional Wells Leaking Methane; $76 Million For 2nd Year Of Federal Conventional Abandoned Well Plugging Program [PaEN]
-- DEP Plugs 132 Abandoned Conventional Oil & Gas Wells So Far; DEP Issued 499 NOVs For New Conventional Well Abandonments So Far In 2023 [PaEN]
-- Bay Journal: After 40 Years, Chesapeake Bay Program Yields Mixed Results
-- PA Capital-Star: Millions In Federal Farm Conservation Funds In Jeopardy For PA Farmers If Programs Eliminated By Congress
-- Courier Times Guest Essay: Pennsylvania Can Shape Its Conservation Future By Leading On New Federal Farm Bill - By PA Cong. Brian Fitzpatrick & Molly Parzen, Conservation Voters Of PA
-- Courier Express: Elk County Conservation District Completes Project On 20-Year-Old Acid Mine Treatment System
-- The Allegheny Front: PA Senate Bill And Federal Rule Could Protect Kids From Lead In Water At School
-- Scranton Times: Federal Lawmakers Urge Biden To Approve NE PA Disaster Declaration For September Flooding
-- New Legislation Creates Task Force To Address Rising Flood Insurance Premiums [PaEN]
-- Courier Times: PA Creates Flood Mitigation Task Force, What It Will Do And What It Means For Homeowners
-- WESA/WPSU: New PA Task Force To Increase Accessibility To Flood Insurance
-- WITF/WPSU: National Weather Service In State College Forecasts A Warmer Winter This Year
-- PA Senate Hearing Focuses On Minimizing Risk And Harm In Development Of PA's Hydrogen Infrastructure [PaEN]
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: Concerns Grow Over Perceived Viability Of Hydrogen Hubs
-- PA Capital-Star: Hydrogen Hubs Face Scrutiny At PA Senate Dems Hearing
-- Williamsport Sun Guest Essay: Hydrogen Hubs Won't Create Jobs - By Commonwealth Foundation
-- PennLive Guest Essay: PA US Senators Are Going To Bat For Hydrogen Hubs, Treasury Needs To Listen - By PA Building & Construction Trades Council
-- Citizens Voice: Utility Assistance Program Will Open For Applications Funded By American Rescue Plan Money
-- TribLive Guest Essay: Pennsylvania Must Build Electric Vehicle Infrastructure - By Bob Donnan, Bobscaping Blog
-- PennLive Letter: Republican Con. Scott Perry's Latest Attack On Coal Miners Could Prove Deadly [Black Lung] - BlueGreen Alliance
-- Post-Gazette Editorial: To Preserve The Lives And Livelihoods Of Coal Miners, Enhance Federal Silica Regulations
-- Utility Dive: Federal Appeals Court Upholds FERC Action On PJM Capacity Market Rule,

Sets precedent When FERC Is Deadlocked
-- PennFuture Blog: Mapping Climate Change By Viewing USDA's New Plant Hardiness Zones Map - By Brigitte Meyer, Staff Attorney [PaEN]
-- EPA Announces $1 Million In Grants For Brownfield Job Training In Pittsburgh, Cumberland County [PaEN]
-- US DOT Awards Pennsylvania $840,000 To Develop Statewide Wildlife Crossings Plan [PaEN]
-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: PA Gets $840,000 Federal Grant To Reduce Animal-Vehicle Crashes
-- PA Capital-Star: PA To Receive Grant Funding For Development Of Wildlife Corridors Plan

[Posted: December 10, 2023]

EPA Announces $1 Million In Grants For Brownfield Job Training In Pittsburgh, Cumberland County

On December 8, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the selection of North Side Industrial Development Company in Pittsburgh and the Housing and Redevelopment Authorities of Cumberland County to receive a total of $1 million for environmental job training programs.

The grants through EPA's Brownfields Jobs Training Program will help recruit, train, and place workers for community revitalization and cleanup projects at brownfield sites across the Commonwealth.

North Side Industrial Development Company has been selected to receive $500,000 to train approximately 155 students from within the City of Pittsburgh and place at least 116 in environmental jobs upon completion of the program.

The training program includes 108 hours of instruction including 40-hour HAZWOPER, OSHA, green infrastructure, asbestos, and fieldwork training.

Housing and Redevelopment Authorities of Cumberland County has been selected to receive $500,000 to train at least 57 students from the Carlisle area and provide them with 203 hours of instruction and training.

The curriculum will span OSHA, asbestos, confined space entry, site assessments, and field work.

"This grant funding is an investment in our future," said EPA's Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz. "These are real dollars that will be used to benefit not only the job trainees themselves, but the environment as a whole."

"This is great news! We are really looking forward to being a recipient of these EPA Workforce Training funds. These funds are so important to our partner organizations, the diverse businesses, and workers so that they can get the necessary training for the future job opportunities in the Pittsburgh region," said Juan Garrett, Executive Director, North Side Industrial Development Company.

"The Cumberland County Housing and Redevelopment Authorities are invested in helping our communities, clients and the whole of Cumberland County find ample employment in fields that offer competitive wages and growth opportunities. We are very grateful to be a partner with the Employment Skills Center in Carlisle, PA. They are a true asset and have driven

this grant forward for our County. Thank you so much to the EPA and our federal representation for ensuring a bright future for careers within the environmental mitigation field!" – Mary Kuna, Executive Director, Housing and Redevelopment Authorities of Cumberland County

These grants will provide funding to organizations that are working to create a skilled workforce in communities where assessment, cleanup, and preparation of brownfield sites for reuse activities are taking place.

Individuals completing a job training program funded by EPA often overcome a variety of barriers to employment and many are from historically underserved neighborhoods or reside in the areas that are affected by environmental justice issues.

All of the FY24 Brownfields Job Training Program applications selected have proposed to work in areas that include disadvantaged communities as defined by the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool, delivering on President Biden's Justice40 Initiative which aims to deliver at least 40% of the benefits of certain government investments to underserved and overburdened communities.

Under the Brownfields Jobs Training Program, individuals typically graduate with a variety of certifications that improve their marketability and help ensure that employment opportunities are not just temporary contractual work, but long-term environmental careers.

This includes certifications in:

-- Lead and asbestos abatement,
-- Hazardous waste operations and emergency response,
-- Mold remediation,
-- Environmental sampling and analysis, and
-- Other environmental health and safety training

For more information, visit EPA's Brownfields Job Training Grant Program webpage.

Related Articles:

-- EPA Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz Visits Brownfields Job Training Site In Pittsburgh, Highlights Conservation Work [PaEN]
-- EPA Awards Brownfield Job Training Grants To Landforce In Pittsburgh, Energy Coordinating Agency, Philadelphia [PaEN]
[Posted: December 8, 2023]

Public Participation Opportunities/Calendar Of Events

Click Here for a list of public participation opportunities and a calendar of events.

-- Marcellus Drilling News: Senate Republican Leaders Urge DEP To Withdraw Environmental Justice Policy Saying They Lack Statutory Authority, And Out-of-State Groups Not Actual Residents Express EJ Concerns [PaEN]
-- PA Business Report: Senate Republicans Urge DEP To Withdraw Updated Environmental Justice Policy
-- Scranton Times: Landfill Gas Processing Plant Holds Public Information Session In Throop About Storing Carbon Dioxide Deep Underground
-- Herald-Standard: Mountain Watershed Assn. To Present Final Plan For Youghiogheny River Watershed Dec. 7
-- Penn State Extension Community & Urban Forestry Team Invite You To Take Survey On

Education Resources
-- DEP Hosts Dec. 7 Outreach Session In Luzerne County On Priority Climate Action Plan Initiatives
-- DEP Hosts Dec. 12 Outreach Session In Bradford County On Priority Climate Action Plan Initiatives
-- Williamsport Sun: DEP Shares Details About Funding To Cut Greenhouse Gas Emissions At Outreach Session
-- Williamsport Sun: DEP Looking For Local, State Input On Climate Change Action
-- Reminder: DEP Holds Dec. 18 Hearing On Panther Creek Power Application To Burn Waste Tires In Carbon County
-- DEP Invites Comments At Jan. 9 Hearing On Jessop Steel, LLC Air Quality Permit In Washington County [PaEN]
-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices/Opportunities To Comment - December 9 [PaEN]
-- DEP Sets Jan. 23 Hearing On Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Frazer Compressor Station In Chester County [PaEN]
-- Hearing Set For Jan. 23 On DEP Air Quality Permit For The Cleveland Cliffs Plate Facility In Chester County [PaEN]
-- PUC Invites Comments On Proposed Changes To Low-Income Energy Reduction Program Regulations
-- DEP Posted 68 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In December 9 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

Grants & Awards

Click Here for grants, awards, recognition programs and contest deadlines.

-- American Farmland Trust Seeking PA Corn, Soybean Farmers To Join Soil Health Practices Study, $1,000 Stipend Offered For Qualified Farmers [PaEN]
-- Williamsport Sun: Rep. Flick To Host DCNR Grant Seminar Dec. 20
-- Citizens Voice: Utility Assistance Program Will Open For Applications Funded By American Rescue Plan Money
-- PA Capital-Star: Millions In Federal Farm Conservation Funds In Jeopardy For PA Farmers If Programs Eliminated By Congress
-- Courier Times Guest Essay: Pennsylvania Can Shape Its Conservation Future By Leading On New Federal Farm Bill - By PA Cong. Brian Fitzpatrick & Molly Parzen, Conservation Voters Of PA

PA Bulletin Public Notices

Highlights of the environmental and energy notices in the December 9 PA Bulletin--

-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices/Opportunities To Comment - December 9 [PaEN]

-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the December 9 PA

Bulletin inviting comments at a January 23 hearing on the RACT III, Title V Air Quality Permit and State Implementation Plan Revision for the **Transcontinental Gas Pipeline, LLC - Frazer Facility Compressor Station** in East Whiteland Township, **Chester County**. (PA Bulletin, page 7674) Read more here.

-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the December 9 PA Bulletin of a January 9 hearing on a RACT III Title V Air Quality Permit for the **Jessop Steel, LLC** facility in Canton Township, Washington County. (Dec. 9 PA Bulletin, page 7632) Read more here.

-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the December 9 PA Bulletin of a January 23 hearing on a RACT III Title V Air Quality Permit for the **Cleveland Cliffs Plate, LLC** facility in Coatesville Borough, Chester County. (Dec. 9 PA Bulletin, page 7635) Read more here.

-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the December 9 PA Bulletin that it had **disapproved** an Act 2 Land Recycling Risk Assessment at the **ARG Refinery in Bradford, McKean County** on remediation of soil and groundwater contaminated with Benzene, Toluene, Ethyl Benzene, Xylenes (total), Cumene (Isopropylbenzene), Methyl tert-Butyl Ether, Naphthalene, Trimethyl benzene, 1,2,4-(Trimethyl benzene, 1,3,4-), Trimethyl benzene, 1,3,5-, Fluorene, Phenanthrene, Anthracene, Pyrene, Chrysene, Benzo(a)- anthracene, Benzo(b)fluoranthene, Benzo(a)pyrene, Benzo- (g,h,i)perylene and groundwater: Benzene, Toluene, Ethyl Benzene, Xylenes (total), Cumene (Isopropylbenzene), Methyl tert-Butyl Ether, Naphthalene, Trimethyl ben- zene, 1,2,4-(Trimethyl benzene, 1,3,4-), Trimethyl benzene, 1,3,5-, Phenanthrene, Pyrene, Chrysene for EU-1W. (PA Bulletin, page 7664)

-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the December 9 PA Bulletin that it had **disapproved** an Act 2 Land Recycling Final Report for the **Penneco Oil Company Kenneth D. Mumanu 1 Well Site in Grant Township, Indiana County** on remediation of soil contaminated with Aluminum, Barium, Boron, Chloride, Iron, Lithium, Manganese, Seleium, Strontium, Vanadium, and Zinc for the site located in Grant Twp., **Indiana County**. (PA Bulletin, page 7664)

-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the December 9 PA Bulletin it has issued a modification to a Waste Facility Permit for the transfer of the **Little Blue Run Residual Waste Disposal Impoundment** from Energy Harbor Generation, LLC to LBR Acquisition Company LLC for the facility located in Green Township, **Beaver County** and Hancock County, West Virginia. (PA Bulletin, page 7666)

-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the December 9 PA Bulletin it has issued a modification to a Waste Facility Permit for the transfer of the **Hatfield's Ferry Coal Combustion Waste Landfill** from Energy Harbor Generation LLC to Lawrenceville Acquisition Company, LLC for the facility located in Monongahela Twp., **Greene County**. (PA Bulletin, page 7666)

-- The **Department of Revenue** published notice in the December 9 PA Bulletin of changes to the Oil Franchise Tax -- 2024 Oil Franchise Tax Decreases From 61.1 Cents/Gallon Of Gasoline To 57.6 Cents/Gallon; Diesel Fuel Decreases From 78.5 Cents/Gallon To 74.1 Cents/Gallon [2024 Rate; 2023 Rate]

Meetings
December 12-- CANCELED. Environmental Quality Board. Next scheduled meeting is January 9. *(formal notice)*

PA Bulletin - December 9, 2023

Note: The Department of Environmental Protection published 68 pages of public notices related to proposed and final permit and approval/ disapproval actions in the December 9 PA Bulletin - pages 7607 to 7675.

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.

Related Tools ----------

Visit DEP's Public Participation Center for public participation opportunities.

-- Allegheny County Health Department Public Comment Notices

DEP Proposals Out For Public Review
Other Proposals Open For Public Comment - DEP webpage
Submit Comments on Proposals Through DEP's eComment System
Recently Closed Comment Periods For Other Proposals - DEP webpage
Other Proposals Recently Finalized - DEP webpage

DEP Regulations In Process
Proposed Regulations Open For Comment - DEP webpage
Submit Comments on Proposals Through DEP's eComment System
Proposed Regulations With Closed Comment Periods - DEP webpage
Recently Finalized Regulations - DEP webpage
DEP Regulatory Update - DEP webpage

DEP Technical Guidance In Process
Draft Technical Guidance Documents - DEP webpage
Technical Guidance Comment Deadlines - DEP webpage
Submit Comments on Proposals Through DEP's eComment System
Recently Closed Comment Periods For Technical Guidance - DEP webpage
Technical Guidance Recently Finalized - DEP webpage
Copies of Final Technical Guidance - DEP webpage

DEP Non-Regulatory/Technical Guidance Documents Agenda [March 2023] - DEP webpage

[Posted: December 8, 2023]

Stories Invited - About PA Environment Digest

Send your stories, photos and links to videos about your project, environmental issues or programs for publication in the **PA Environment Digest** to: PaEnviroDigest@gmail.com.

PA Environment Digest is a publication of **PA Environment News LLC** and is edited by David E. Hess, former Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. He can be contacted by sending email to: PaEnviroDigest@gmail.com.

Did you know you can search back issues of **PA Environment Digest** since May 28, 2004 on dozens of topics, by county and on any keyword you choose? Just click on the search page.

PA Environment Digest weekly was the winner of the PA Association of Environmental Educators' 2009 Business Partner of the Year Award.

Also take advantage of these related publications--

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