

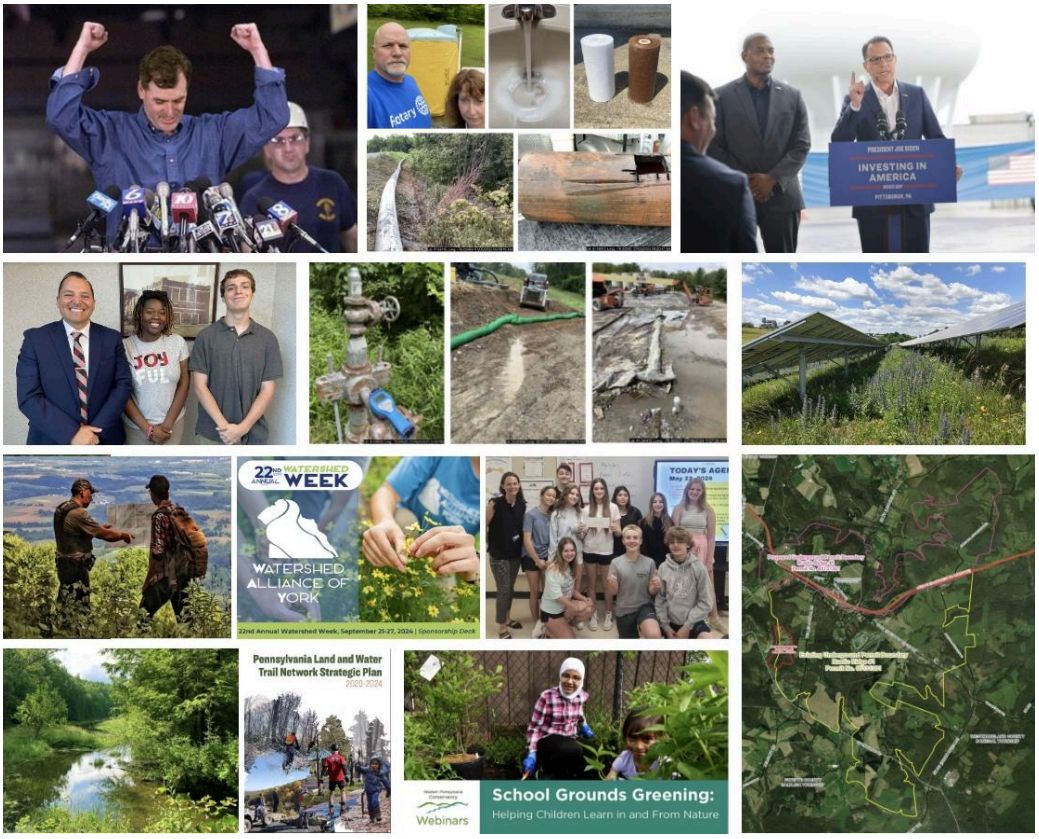
Issue #1,045 **Harrisburg, PA** **July 29, 2024**

[PA Environment Digest Blog](#) [Twitter Feed](#)

[Facebook Page](#) [Calendar Of Events](#)

[Grants & Awards](#) [LATEST NewsClips](#)

107 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA



Here are 107 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!

-- Northeast Pennsylvania Environmental Partners Announce Award Recipients; Recognition Dinner Oct. 17 In Luzerne County [PaEN]
-- Shade Creek Watershed Assn. Celebrates 25th Anniversary Sept. 21 In Somerset County [PaEN]
-- Republican Herald: Swatara Co-op Trout Nursery Celebrates 25 Years
-- DCNR Good Natured Blog: I'm Having A Great Forestry Intern Experience! - By Connor Duncan, DCNR Forestry Intern [PaEN]
-- Student Interns Are Learning About The Water Industry With Trade College Summer Experiences At The Chester Water Authority [PaEN]
-- Feature: Rock - Water - Air: The Quecreek Mine Rescue In Somerset County 22 Years Later [PaEN]

-- No One Warned A Cameron County Family Their Water Well Was Contaminated By A Seneca Resources Shale Gas Wastewater Pipeline Rupture [PaEN]
-- Shell Petrochemical Plant Asks DEP To Classify Chemical Makeup, Flow Rate Of Gases Going To Be Burned Off By Flares, Air Pollution Sources, Control Equipment Operating At The Plant Confidential Business Information [PaEN]
-- PA Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - July 20 to 26 - Abandoned Well Violations To Owner Of 727 Conventional Wells 'Returned To Sender,' More Wastewater Pipeline Spills; 2nd Attempt To Plug Shale Gas Well [PaEN]

-- Grist - Jake Bolster: Road Dumping Returns: How Pennsylvania's Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Quietly Dumped Waste Across The State
-- MotherJones.com: Frackers Are Spraying Toxic Wastewater On Pennsylvania Roads Despite Ban
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: Fight Over Road Dumping Oil & Gas Wastewater Is A Rural-Urban Tension [They Now Dump More On Paved Roads; Road Dumping Is Waste Disposal - This Is 2024, Not 1859 Learn The Real Facts]
-- NonProfitQuarterly.org - Justin Nobel: Is Radioactivity The Key To Holding The Fracking Industry Accountable? [Bryan Latkanich Case In Washington County]
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Approved, Renewed 22 Shale Gas Well Pad Water Use General Permits In June; 155 General Permits In 2024 [PaEN]
-- Environmental Defense Fund Blog: New Report Reveals The Need For Protective Standards For All Gas Well-Related Gathering Pipelines

-- Altoona Mirror: PUC Files Complaint: Peoples Natural Gas Accused Of 22 Safety Violations, $800,000 Fine Proposed In 2021 Tyrone Explosion
-- PA Capital-Star/Inside Climate News: National Spotlight Shines On Shapiro's Contested Environmental Record
-- Fortune: Harris Reverses Earlier Anti-Fracking Stance And No Longer Supports A Ban
-- Bloomberg: Harris Backs Off Fracking Ban As Republicans Campaign On Past Position

-- The Hill: Harris Does Not Support Fracking Ban - Campaign Official

-- TribLive: New Law Adds Free-Speech Protection Against Frivolous 'SLAPP' Lawsuits
-- Post-Gazette: Lawmakers Introduce New Bipartisan Bill In Congress To Push Rail Safety After Norfolk Southern Train Derailment
-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: Rail Safety Measure Needed To Prevent 'Ticking Time Bombs' In Rail Yards, US House Committee Told
-- DEP Requiring Any Facility Operating Under A Temporary Title V Air Plan Approval For More Than 12 Months To Submit a Title V Operating Permit On Or Before Nov. 25, 2024 [PaEN]
-- House Committee To Hold 2nd Hearing July 29 On Governor's Energy Plan To Diversify Energy Generation, Improve Grid Reliability, Lower Consumer Energy Costs [PaEN]

-- Gov. Shapiro Signs Bipartisan Solar For Schools And Geologic Sequestration Of Carbon Bills Into Law [PaEN]
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA Schools Can Soon Apply For Grants To Offset Cost Of Solar Projects
-- PA Environmental Council Podcast: New Solar For Schools Program
-- Penn State Study Finds Solar Farms With Stormwater Controls Mitigate Runoff, Erosion [PaEN]
-- Shapiro Administration Secures $396.1 Million In Federal Funding To Cut Carbon Pollution From Industries, Create Jobs [PaEN]

-- Pittsburgh Business Times: How Western PA's Industrial Sector Can Tap Into $396 Million In Federal Climate Funding Received By DEP
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: Pennsylvania Gets Nearly $400 Million For Industrial Decarbonization
-- The Allegheny Front - Reid Frazier: PA Gets $400 Million From EPA To Lower Carbon Emissions From Industries
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Pennsylvania To Receive $396 Million For Industrial Decarbonization
-- With Support from Met-Ed/Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund, Green Building Alliance Launches Resilient Communities Initiative In Reading, Meadville [PaEN]

-- Green Building Alliance Thanks Sen. Fetterman For Seeking Critical Grant Support For Program To Expand Small Business Resilience In Erie, New Kensington, Westmoreland County [PaEN]
-- Spotlight PA: Federal Dollars Driving Energy Policy In Pennsylvania Toward Solar, Hydrogen
-- EPA Announces $13.9 Million In Environmental, Climate Justice Community Change Grants In PA [PaEN]
-- WHYY: Flurry Of Grant Money Flowing To Philly Region For Environmental Projects
-- WTAE: Nuclear Energy Leader Discusses Industry Future: 'It's A Community Of Women'

-- StateImpactPA: Harley-Davidson In York Gets $89 Million In Federal Funding To Boost E-Motorcycle Production

-- PennEnvironment: New Interactive Map Spotlights State, National Parks With Access To Electric Vehicle Charging [PaEN]
-- The Allegheny Front - Kara Holsopple: New Book By Rob Jackson Provides Hope For Restoring The Atmosphere From Climate Pollution
-- TribLive Guest Essay: Climate Action Is A Moral Imperative - By Rev. Erik Hoeke, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
-- TribLive: Historical Society Mines Derry Area's Coal Mining Past For Living History Program In Westmoreland

-- Call For Nominations! PA Assn. Of Environmental Professionals Karl Mason And Walter Lyon Awards [PaEN]
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Karl Blankenship: Pennsylvania's Budget Pledges Ongoing Support For Chesapeake Bay Cleanup
-- Inside Climate News: Historic Investments, Accountability Push Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Efforts In Right Direction Says EPA Region III Administrator Adam Ortiz
-- State Conservation Commission Starts Accepting Resource Enhancement & Protection Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications Aug. 1 [PaEN]
-- Watershed Alliance Of York, Partners Host 22nd Annual Watershed Week Sept. 21 - 27 [PaEN]

-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: A Collaborative Triumph In The Conestoga Watershed - Hammertown Tributary
-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: Restoring Streams, Cultivating Partnerships - Gordonville Farm Riparian Buffer
-- Penn State Extension - Ag Conservation Currents: Ag Progress Days; Livestock Watering; Grass Riparian Buffers; REAP Application Period Opens; ABCs Of Agricultural Conservation
-- Lancaster Farming: USDA Secretary Calls For Systemic Changes In Agriculture At Rodale Organic Farming Field Day
-- Penn State Extension - Watershed Winds: Why Did My Streamside Tree Die? Monitoring Soil Moisture; Pond & Lake Wildlife; Private Wells & Water Systems; Water-Related Education Programs

-- The Allegheny Front/WHYY - Sophia Schmidt: Task Force Makes Recommendations On Flood Insurance - New Tax Breaks, Grants And Assistance
-- Wilkes-Barre Times: Agnes Flood Documentary To Be Screened At River Common Sept. 12
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Newsletter Highlights Chesapeake Bay Report Card; Tioga River Mine Drainage Treatment Project; eDNA; New Cooling Tower Tech [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Aug. 21 Webinar - Water Testing Through Penn State's Ag Analytical Lab [PaEN]
-- Learn How You Can Qualify For Free Well Water Testing During Aug. 22 Penn State Extension Webinar [PaEN]

-- Spotlight PA: Public Water System Privatization On The Rise In PA, Here's What You Need To Know
-- WESA/AP: Demand For Rare Elements Used In Clean Energy Could Help Clean Up

Abandoned Coal Mines In Appalachia
-- Registration Open! 2024 Delaware River Watershed Forum Sept. 26-27 In Bethlehem; Delaware Conservation Fund Symposium Sept. 25 [PaEN]
-- Delaware RiverKeeper July 26 RiverWatch Video Report
-- Lehigh County-based Wildlands Conservancy Highlights Upcoming Programs: Stream Restoration; Volunteer Opportunities; Wine & Dine Dinner; Student American Chestnut Project

-- York Daily Record: Contaminated Foundry Site In Adams County Gets Grant, Loans To Be Rehabilitated
-- Patch.com: Students Team Up With Bucks Beautiful To Enhance Buckingham Wetlands
-- MCall Guest Essay: We Need Detailed Soil Maps Of Our Cities So We Know Where It's Safe To Work, Live, Play And Grow Food - By Nora Vaughn, Lehigh University Student
-- Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority Will Be Accepting Applications For Recycling Mini Grants Starting Aug. 12
-- Beaver County Times: Electronics Recycling Event At Riverside H.S. Aug. 6 In Beaver County

-- WESA/The Allegheny Front: Report: Chemical Recycling Of Plastic Won't Benefit The Ohio Valley
-- Republican Herald: Citizens Of Western Schuylkill County Face New Landfill Threat By Backwood Waste Management
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: Active or Passive? Plans For Big Elk Creek State Park In Chester County Spark Controversy
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: A New Plan For Pennsylvania Forests - New Uses, More Trails, Continued Logging
-- Scranton Times Quills Blog: Plant Trees For Free In Pennsylvania

-- Western PA Conservancy Hosts July 31 School Grounds Greening - Helping Children Learn In And From Nature Webinar [PaEN]
-- The Allegheny Front: Section Of Clear Creek State Forest Recognized By Old-Growth Forest Network In Mercer County
-- Penn State Extension - Woods & Wildlife News: Integrated Forest Management; Invasion Ecology; Preventing Feral Hog Invasions; Woodland Steward Series; Forest Farming - Ginseng
-- Natural Lands Partners With Landowner Michael Kaczenski To Protect 252 Acres Of Forest Land In Carbon County [PaEN]
-- WeConservePA: Berks Nature Partnered With Fleetwood Borough To Increase Protection For Local Drinking Water Under New Fleetwood Reservoir Woodland Conservation Easement Covering 190 Acres [PaEN]

-- WeConservePA: Berks Nature Partners With Landowner Kevin Stein To Protect 139+ Acres In The Kittatinny Ridge Landscape [PaEN]
-- WeConservePA: ClearWater Conservancy Partners With Diane Albright To Protect 95-Acre Woodland As Part Of Beaver Branch Gorge Biological Diversity Area In Centre County [PaEN]
-- WeConservePA: French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust Protects 4.6 More Acres In West Vincent Twp., Chester County

-- DCNR Designates New Umbrella Magnolia Groves Wild Plant Sanctuary In York County [PaEN]
-- The Allegheny Front: A Rare Prairie In Pennsylvania Is In Full Bloom Right Now At DCNR Jennings Environmental Center, Butler County

-- Warren Times - Josh Cotton: Seldom Seen Mushroom Found Near Kinzua Dam
-- Warren Times: Audubon Community Nature Center Nature's Garden A Learning Experience
-- Center For Biological Diversity: EPA Releases New Strategy To Protect Endangered Plants, Animals From Insecticides
-- EPA Releases Draft Strategy To Better Protect Endangered Species From Insecticides
-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]

-- DCNR: Aug. 14 Trails Advisory Committee Forum Mercer County; DCNR Seeks Survey Input From Trail Managers, Providers On Land/Water Trail Plan [PaEN]
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: Active or Passive? Plans For Big Elk Creek State Park In Chester County Spark Controversy
-- Williamsport Sun - Bill Bower: Reflections In Nature - We All Need To Experience Nature
-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: A Summer Road Trip From Pittsburgh To Goddard State Park
-- Warren Times: Allegheny National Forest Chapter Of The North Country Trail Assn. Wraps Up Trail Shelter Project

-- TribLive: Goats Get To Work Clearing Natrona Riverfront In Preparation For Work On Three Rivers Heritage Trail Connection
-- WNEP: Senior Residents Enjoy Kayak Ride Along Susquehanna River In Snyder County
-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: Hazelwood Summer Camp Teaches Life Lessons Along With Rowing On The Mon River
-- Post-Gazette - Mary Ann Thomas: Restored Glade Run Lake In Butler Is Back To Where It Used To Be
-- Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, 50+ Vendors To Host Susquehanna Greenway Expo Aug. 3 At Shikellamy State Park Marina, Sunbury [PaEN]

-- TribLive: Big Ideas In Store For Tarentum, Cheswick Riverfronts Using Fish & Boat Commission Fishing, Boating Access Grant
-- Post-Gazette: $16 Million In Funding Awarded For Sharpsburg Riverfront, New Kensington Plant Redevelopments
-- NextPittsburgh: Exploring Allegheny River Towns: Sharpsburg Is A Tiny Ball Of Fun
-- DCNR State Parks July Environmental Education Newsletter: Summer Learning & Literacy Road Trip; Celebrating Park & Recreation Professionals; Literacy Survey, Professional Workshops [PaEN]
-- WESA: Game Commission To Expand Hunting Lands By 5,200 Acres

-- TribLive: 'Frog Week' Part Of PA Woods & Forests Goal To Draw Attention To Backyard Creatures In Westmoreland
-- Inquirer: It's Been 10 Years Since The Spotted Lanternfly Landed In PA, Is It As Bad As We Feared?

-- Inquirer: Spotting And Stopping The Spotted Lanternfly
-- Erie Times: Cocaine Trade Threatens Winter Habitat Of PA's Warblers, Orioles And More In Central America
-- Williamsport Sun - Dan Brauning, Lycoming Audubon: Migration Marvels - A Look At How Birds Exemplify The Cycle Of Life

-- TribLive: $1.2 Million Federal Grant To Help PA Expand Eastern Massasauga Rattler's Habitat

Visit the PA Environment Digest website to learn more.

REAL Leadership:

-- 107 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 127 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 152 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 115 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 108 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 125 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 98 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 100 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 102 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 128 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 121 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 108 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 166 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 126 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 117 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 66 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 113 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 94 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 93 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 120 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 88 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 111 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 91 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 105 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 87 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 138 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 76 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 101 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 92 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 92 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 35 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 4,258 Stories In 2023 - Environmental & Conservation Leadership, Significant Events In PA [PaEN]
-- 3,190 New Stories In 2022 - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership [PaEN]

[Posted: July 28, 2024]

Stories You May Have Missed Last Week: 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--

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

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

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

-- Environment & Energy Educational Opportunities For Students & Adults [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 July 29 PA Environment Digest.

[Posted: July 28, 2024]

Northeast Pennsylvania Environmental Partners Announce Award Recipients; Recognition Dinner Oct. 17 In Luzerne County



On July 22, The **Northeast Environmental Partners** announced the recipients of the 34th Annual Environmental Partnership Awards.

Awardees will be honored at the Evening for Northeast Pennsylvania's Environment on October 17, at the Woodlands Inn & Resort in Plains, Luzerne County.

Environmental Partnership Awards

Recipients of the 34th Annual Environmental Partnership Awards:

-- Anthracite Bicycle Coalition, Lackawanna County
-- **Deborah Pike** & the Dallas Intermediate School "Turtle Titans," Luzerne County
-- **Forest City Outdoor Town Action Team**, Susquehanna County
-- Lacawac Sanctuary's **Pocono Lake Ecological Observatory Network** (PLEON), Wayne County
-- Lackawanna/Luzerne County Master Watershed Stewards, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties

-- Susquehanna Brewing Company, Luzerne County

Emerging Environmental Leader Award

The 2024 Emerging Environmental Leader Award will be presented to **Michelena DeNaples, Lackawanna County**.

Michelena has demonstrated exceptional motivation and passion for conservation. As a member of the 2023-2024 Young Ambassador Program with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, Michelena led her fellow Scranton Prep students in volunteer events with a focus on environmental issues.

Her Parks Conservation group planted hundreds of trees, collected trash, and cleared invasive plants along the Lackawanna Heritage Trail and the Lackawanna River.

Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award

The 30th Annual Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award will be presented to **Grant Genzlinger, Wayne County**.

Mr. Genzlinger has played a pivotal role as a conservation leader since the 1970s. Throughout his tenure, he has effectively bridged connections between individuals in both private and public sectors.

His extensive network spans local and broader geographical areas, enabling him to facilitate collaborations that solve problems and enhance efficiency.

Known for his outspoken nature, he offers valuable insights derived from years of experience. His dedication is unwavering as he tirelessly advocates for awareness and access to the natural splendor of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Genzlinger remains steadfast in his commitment to safeguarding and promoting our rivers, waterways, and woodlands.

Awards Dinner

Awardees will be honored at the Evening for Northeast Pennsylvania's Environment on October 17, 2024, at the Woodlands Inn & Resort in Plains, Luzerne County.

This year's Emcee will be Mr. James Hamill, Senior PTN Correspondent & Public Relations at Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau.

Tickets and more information will be available soon at the Evening for Northeast Pennsylvania's Environment webpage. Please contact Angela Vitkoski 570-718-6507 or avitkoski@pecpa.org with questions about the event, how to register, or opportunities to sponsor.

The Northeast Environmental Partners include the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, PPL Corporation, Procter & Gamble Paper Products Company, and Wilkes University

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.

[Posted: July 23, 2024]

Shade Creek Watershed Assn. Celebrates 25th Anniversary Sept. 21 In Somerset County

The Shade Creek Watershed Association will celebrate its 25th Anniversary on September 21 with an open house at its



offices at 1221 No. 1 Road in Cairnbrook, Somerset County from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The Association is an all volunteer nonprofit organization founded in 1999 to protect and restore water and fish habitat of the Shade Creek Watershed. Its primary focus is water monitoring and treatment on Dark Shade Creek and its tributaries.

Thanks to the cleanup and restoration efforts of the Shade Creek Watershed Association in conjunction with the Dark Shade Brownfields Project, native brook trout were reintroduced into Shingle Run in 2008.

Association members also constructed a passive treatment system for the Reitz #1 Abandoned Mine Discharge, which impacts Laurel Run, another trib to Dark Shade Creek.

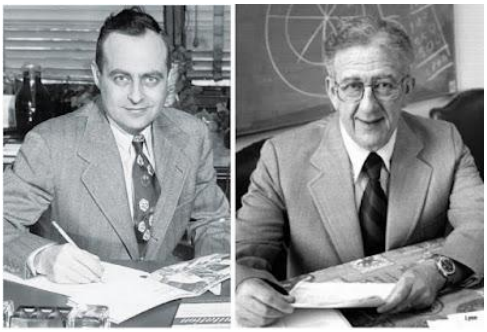
The open house features field trips to the Reitz #4 and State Game Lands 228 passive mine drainage treatment systems, videos and poster presentations.

For more information on the anniversary celebration, send email to: melissareckner@hotmail.com

Visit the Shade Creek Watershed Association website for more information on how you can get involved.

[Posted: July 24, 2024]

Call For Nominations! PA Assn. Of Environmental Professionals Karl Mason And Walter Lyon Awards



The PA Association of Environmental Professionals is now accepting nominations for the Karl Mason and Walter Lyon Awards to commemorate the vision of both remarkable pioneers. The deadline for nominations is August 19.

These prestigious awards are presented to Pennsylvanians who made a unique and creative contribution to the field of environmental management in Pennsylvania with preference given to the fields of administration, law, regulation and community organization.

Each year, the Karl Mason Award is presented to meritorious nominees selected by the PAEP Board of Directors.

The Walter Lyon Award will be selected in the same manner and has been an annual addition that started in 2014.

One nominee will be chosen for the two categories as follows--

-- An individual who demonstrated exemplary leadership in the field of environmental management. (the Karl Mason Award)

-- An organization, project or program that made a unique, creative, or significant contribution toward maintenance or restoration of Pennsylvania's environmental quality or to the field of environmental management. (the Walter Lyon Award)

Click Here to submit a nomination.

Karl Mason

Karl Mason served as Pennsylvania's first State Environmental Administrator from 1952 to 1966.

Karl's holistic vision of environmental management embraced essential, but conflicting, needs associated with waste disposal and community environmental protection.

The general framework established by Karl serves as the foundation for Pennsylvania's environmental protection programs to this day.

Karl believed and put into practice the notion that environmental protection is primarily the business of professionals who have the skills, by virtue of their scientific training, to manage the technical and scientific complexities of maintaining a safe, healthy and clean environment.

He was committed to the belief that continuing education was an essential part of the career of every environmental professional.

Walter Lyon

Walter Lyon began his professional career as a sanitary engineer at the U.S. Public Health Service in Washington D.C. serving as Assistant Chief of the Planning and Development Branch, Division of Engineering Resources from 1950-1954.

He then served for three years as the Assistant Chief of the Environmental Health Section, Philadelphia Department of Public Health.

From 1983 to 2013, Walter went on to teach and consult in the areas of environmental engineering and water policy.

For many years, Walter participated in the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals conferences and special events and generously shared his knowledge and experience.

He was a strong advocate for employing highly educated, qualified, and experienced environmental professionals in the public and private sectors and serves as a role model for the environmental professionals of today and tomorrow.

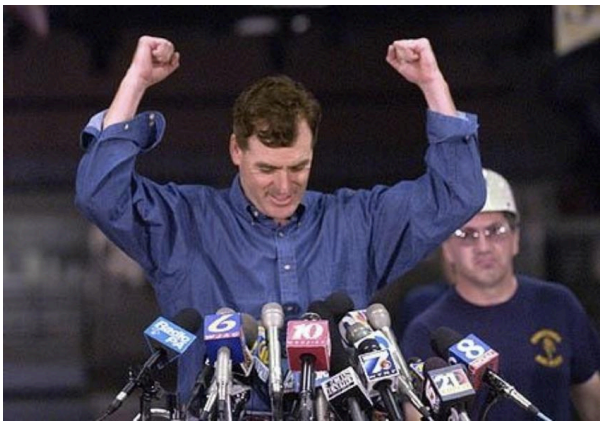
2024 PaEP Conference

Registration is now open for the 2024 PaEP Conference to be held September 11-13 in State College. Click Here for all the details.

For more information on programs, initiatives, workshops and other special events, visit the PA Association of Environmental Professionals website. Click Here to sign up for regular updates on PAEP activities or Like them on Facebook. Click Here to become a member.
[Posted: July 23, 2024]

Feature: Rock - Water - Air: The Quecreek Mine Rescue 22 Years Later

By David Hess, Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection at the Time of the Rescue



On July 24, 2002 miners broke through into an abandoned, water-filled mine flooding the Quecreek Mine with over 150 million gallons of water. Nine miners scrambled to safety, but nine were trapped in a pocket of air in the dark, cold, water filled mine.

The nine miners were rescued four days later through the combined efforts of state and federal mine rescue agencies and hundreds of workers

and local volunteers.

Seven years ago I wrote a personal account of the rescue operation from my perspective as Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection for the 15th anniversary of the rescue.

This was the first-time I put this very personal story of such a public event down on paper.

I wanted to do it in part so some of the details don't get lost in the future, but, more importantly, to also express how incredibly proud I am of the job the men and women of DEP did on those four hot July days 15 years ago to bring about the safe rescue of the nine miners at Quecreek.

From those in Deep Mine Safety handling the details of the rescue itself, to the water quality staff dealing with the millions of gallons of water being pumped out of the mine, our communications staff who worked around the clock with the unprecedented world-wide media attention and even our summer interns who got the experience of a lifetime, it was an outstanding example of public employees doing their jobs.

Hundreds of people from DEP and other state agencies were involved, working along with our federal counterparts and the entire Somerset community, to achieve a single goal, knowing, the entire time, the odds were not on our side.

What follows is my story of how we all converged on the Arnold Farm in Somerset County 15 years ago and were witness to what I can only call a miracle.

Click Here to read the whole story.

Thank You: My thanks to Gov. Mark Schweiker, Joe Sbaffoni, David La Torre and Bill Arnold for providing comments on this article in draft and for remembering some details I was hazy on after 15 years.

(Photos by Commonwealth Media Services and the Department of Environmental Protection.)

Visiting The Rescue Site

For information on visiting the rescue site in Somerset County, go to the Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation website.

Resource Links:

-- 20th Anniversary Of Quecreek Mine Rescue To Be Celebrated In July 22-23 In Somerset County [PaEN]

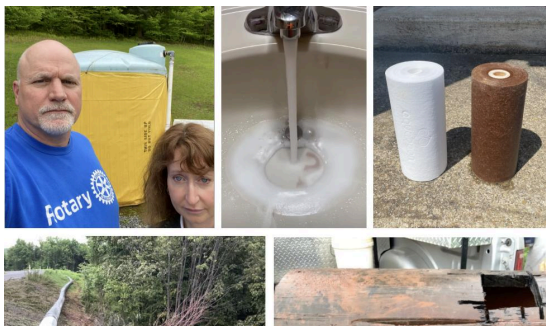
-- Commonwealth Media Services: Quecreek Mine Rescue - Critical Decisions [Video]

-- Click Here for the DEP Commemorative Booklet "Nine for Nine" with lots of photos from each phase of the rescue and the names of key DEP players.

-- Click Here for the DEP Timeline Of The Quecreek Mine Rescue.

[Posted: July 22, 2024]

No One Warned A Cameron County Family Their Water Well Was Contaminated By A Seneca Resources Shale Gas Wastewater Pipeline Rupture



The Seneca Resources Company, LLC reported to DEP that at 4:00 p.m. on July 3, 2022 a plastic pipeline ruptured and spilled an estimated 18,000

gallons of shale gas drilling wastewater in Shippen Township, Cameron County.

On the morning of July 4th, about a mile away and downhill from the spill, John and Paige Rosenberger knew nothing about the spill, all they knew was their well pump wasn't working.

John is a retired State Trooper who was on the force for 25 years. He hunted in Cameron County with his father when he was young and really liked the area.

He and his wife Paige bought their home and 46 acres and moved in after he retired in May of 2018 and became part of the community.

John serves as president of the local Rotary Club.

"We knew this was our forever home, the home and property you work your entire life for and we truly loved living here," John said.

July 5

On July 5, they called their plumber in Emporium and he came and pulled the pump out of the 220 foot deep well; he said it had bad wiring. By 4:30 that evening they had a new pump and wiring installed.

John let the water run from an outside hose so the water would clear.

"I don't know why to this day, but as a kid, I used to drink out of a hose and I put it up to my mouth and the taste of salt entered my brain, but I didn't think about it at that time," said John.

"Now, my wife and I had not showered for two days over July 4th, she hopped in one shower, I hopped in another. We tried to take showers. The soap would not lather up. I just couldn't get lathered. It felt sticky," explained John.

"So then I went downstairs and I actually took a glass of water because we do drink our well water, and it was the saltiest water I've ever tasted," John said, and he immediately spit it out. [Click Here for a video of the water.]

"I've been to the beach many, many, many times and got salt water in my mouth. I would compare it to that except saltier, and couldn't understand it." said John.

Since it was 8:00 in the evening it was too late to call anyone, so John had to wait until morning.

He was not aware that while he was dealing with his well pump, an inspector for the Department of Environmental Protection arrived at the site of the pipeline spill at 8:15 a.m. on July 5, in response to the July 3 notification by Seneca Resources of the spill. [DEP inspection report.]

The inspector stayed on site until 1:30 confirming the spill, taking water samples and doing conductivity measurements to confirm it was wastewater and inspected the ruptured 16-inch plastic wastewater pipeline Seneca had already replaced so they could keep operating.

The inspector also looked at the impact of the spill-- the "saturated" soils, "stressed" vegetation (trees had already started to turn brown), followed the spill down to a nearby stream, which the inspector noted "goes subsurface multiple times" before reaching a road, and identified a dozen dead salamanders. Photos were taken and included in the report.

No notice of violations for the spill were included in the July 5, 2022 inspection report [which normally happens in the case of spills], and there was no request to Seneca Resources to do anything [which was also unusual compared to other oil and gas spills].

There was also no mention of investigating to see if any water supplies were impacted by the spill.

The last note in the report was-- “This case has been referred to the Department’s Environmental Cleanups and Brownfield Program.”

In a follow-up inspection on July 29, 2022, DEP said the wastewater pipeline that ruptured was “decommissioned,” but in inspection reports on August 18, 2022 and October 20, 2022 they said it was back in operation.

No more information about the 18,000 gallon spill was included in these reports.

July 6 - Everybody Showed Up

The next morning, at Paige’s suggestion, they called Penn State’s Agricultural Analytical Services Laboratory and the first thing the person at the Lab asked was-- “Is there any fracking in the area?”

Yes. “Bingo, we think that’s your problem,” Penn State said.

John then called the Seneca Resources/Highland Field Services office in Kane, McKean County, and within 10 minutes an “executive with Seneca Resources/Highland” called him back.

“He asked me to explain the situation and my address. I did… everything. And his quote was, "This is 100% our fault. We had a fracking wastewater spill on Sunday, July 3rd at 4:00 p.m. where a pipe ruptured and the fracking wastewater spewed into the air, into the forest and ran down the hillside."

John said he explained the wastewater “disappeared in a hollow, and that the DEP had been notified and that they would notify the DEP on our behalf that we were now reporting a problem.”

“When the [Seneca/Highland] executive came down [to our house] the first day, he told me it [the spill] was approximately 18,000 gallons. He didn't list it in barrels. He actually listed gallons,” said John.

“At a later point in time, he said it was 16,000 gallons, several weeks later. Several months later, I was told 12,000 gallons. It seems like it kept going down every time we talked about how many gallons were there,” explained John.

“I believe, if I remember correctly, I received or made 43 phone calls that day,” said John. “That same [Seneca Resources] executive showed up [at our house] with that section of pipe that ruptured in the back of his truck. So we of course took pictures of that.

“And representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection were there. Moody and Associates [a consultant for Seneca Resources] also showed up about 6:00 that evening. Everyone wanted to take water samples.”

John said Seneca Resources advised them not to drink their water and the next day they arranged to have a 2,500 gallon water tank brought in to provide them with temporary water, as required by state law.

“We also called the DEP Williamsport office to report it to make sure that we had reported the problem,” said John.

“We moved to Emporium for peace and quiet in 2018, and since that day [July 6, 2022], we have had absolutely no peace and absolutely no quiet,” said John.

First DEP Notice Of Violation

On July 8, 2022, DEP’s Environmental Cleanup Program issued the first of two notices of violation related to the wastewater pipeline rupture and spill.

“An inspection by DEP on July 6, 2022, revealed that pollution or a danger of pollution of the waters of the Commonwealth exists at the site.

“As a result of a leak in a pipeline conducting production water related to Utica shale gas

extraction, the soils and waters of the Commonwealth were contaminated. This contamination constitutes a creation of a danger of pollution and pollution as defined in the Clean Streams Law (CSL)."

"The inspection conducted on July 6, 2022 revealed impacts to soil, and surface water that extend for approximately 1 mile downstream from the release point.

"Additionally, groundwater impacts were discovered at a nearby residence indicating contamination has migrated to the subsurface to an unknown degree.

"As the landowner or responsible party, you have the responsibility under Section 316 to correct any polluting condition at the Site, consistent with the Land Recycling and Environmental Remediation Standards Act (Act 2) and in a manner which is satisfactory to the DEP.

"You have responsibility under Section 601 of the CSL and Section 1917-A of the Administrative Code to abate any public nuisance at the site, consistent with the Land Recycling and Environmental Remediation Standards Act (Act 2) and in a manner which is satisfactory to the DEP."

DEP said it anticipated receiving information identifying soil and groundwater pollution from the spill and a plan for future action by September 1, 2022.

Water Sample Results

The first well water sample results taken by Moody and Associates for Seneca Resources on July 6, 2022 showed chlorides at 8,490 mg/L, barium at 94.6 mg/L, aluminum at .213 mg/L, manganese at .698 mg/L and Total Dissolved Solids at 16,600 mg/L, according to the Rosenbergers.

Pre-spill water well sample results from home sampling tests done for the Rosenbergers by Penn State University's Agricultural Analytical Services Laboratory in 2020 and 2021 found chloride at less than 1 mg/L, aluminum at .04 mg/L, barium at .017 mg/L and Total Dissolved Solids at less than 20 mg/L.

On July 22, 2022, at the Rosenberger's request, Moody did a specific test of the well water for radioactivity that found Radium 226 at 222 pCi/L [44 times the drinking water standard of 5] and thorium at 8,175.5 pCi/L [545 times the drinking water standard of 15]. [Read sample results]

Dr. William Burgos, a Penn State Professor who has done extensive research on oil and gas wastewater, said after reviewing the results-- "I would be concerned about the Rosenberger's drinking that water because the measured thorium concentration is off the charts."

He did note a caveat that the relative standard deviation of the measurements is high indicating the lab may have "uncertainty" about the results.

Temporary Water Supply

There was no doubt the Rosenbergers had a severely contaminated well they could not use and have been relying ever since on Seneca Resources refilling their 2,500 gallon temporary water tank so they could have water to live in their home.

Because Seneca did not initially weatherize the tank against winter temperatures, on Christmas Eve 2022 everything completely froze in the system and they had no water, John said.

He had to use his own heaters to thaw it out.

Although the water is required to meet drinking water standards, John said he saw algae floating in the water and has had to change the sediment filters on his system every two weeks to ensure the water he's using is "clean".

Pumping 300,000 Gallons Of Water

John said the first thing Seneca Resources did to try to fix their well was to flush it out.

"Moody's set up a system to start pumping our well," said John. "We felt a moral obligation to do that. It was explained to us that maybe this can help flush out the system, maybe it [shale gas wastewater] won't continue down, but obviously it went somewhere in my opinion.

"So we did allow that. I believe starting July 16th to November 2nd, we had Moody's representatives there pretty much every day… sometimes 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with some weekends off," said John.

He said three big tanks were parked in their quarter-mile long driveway to fill with the wastewater and other trucks would come in one or two times a day to haul it away because they couldn't just dump it on the ground. [Click Here for a video.]

"I would say at least 200,000 to 300,000 gallons of water came out of that [original] well," John said. "We had an outstanding well, it never ran dry. It kept pumping."

"So have they [sample results] come down substantially? Absolutely," said John. "With the numbers that we had from our water testing from 2020 and 2021, have they ever gotten to those numbers? No.

"We're two years into it, they have never gotten to the numbers we had before. And again, like everything else at our house, we've always said, you got to get us back to what we had before their spill. Moody's sampling results continue to show the contaminant numbers coming out of our well fluctuate on a monthly basis due to the aquifer being polluted," said John.

A New Well - Not

"The Executive at Seneca/Highland offered to drill us a new water well, 850 feet from our home on our property, at the end of August of 2022. I said that would be fine but you must find us good drinking water like we had before your spill," requested John.

"When the results of the new well testing came back, an Executive at Moody and Associates stated: "the numbers are mirroring the numbers from your current well," said John.

"I informed the Seneca/Highland Executive, in person, on September 19, 2022, after receiving these test results that we were done and the aquifer is obviously destroyed for the foreseeable future.

"I gave him the option of negotiating directly with us to 'buy-out' our home and property, a decision that devastated my wife and I, or the only other option would be to file a civil lawsuit against his companies.

"They provided us with a ridiculous offer for our home and property, and said take it or go hire an attorney," said John. "We were forced at that point to hire an attorney."

Official DEP Water Pollution Determination

On January 9, 2023-- six months after the Seneca spill-- DEP issued three official determinations that three water supply wells were "adversely affected by oil and gas operations" in Shippen Township, Cameron County, without identifying the source of the spill.

DEP redacted the names of the well owners in Shippen Township, but the ShippenTwp1 letter was confirmed to be the Rosenbergers.

The letter included water well sample results showing chloride at 10,777 mg/L [standard 250], barium at 95 mg/L [standard 2 mh/L], manganese at 6.12 mg/L [standard .05 mg/L] and Total Dissolved Solids at 23,360 mg/L [standard 500 mg/L].

DEP's ShippenTwp2 letter and ShippenTwp3 letter had lower results, but they were still above drinking water standards.

[Click Here for a list of all 408 water supplies determined by DEP to be adversely affected by oil and gas operations-- without the names-- since 2008.]

DEP Request For Temporary Water

On February 2, 2023, the DEP Environmental Cleanup Program issued a second notice of violation to Seneca Resources Company for polluting three private water supplies as a result of their "oil and gas activities."

DEP said, "We request that you provide temporary water within 24 hours of this Notice to the location of the Water Supplies set forth in Exhibit A [names redacted]."

"If temporary water is already being provided, we request that you continue providing that supply until otherwise approved by the Department."

"The Department's investigation revealed that Seneca has caused or allowed the unpermitted discharge of chlorides, total dissolved solids, barium, and manganese, common constituents of production fluids, into the groundwater, a water of the Commonwealth in Shippen Township, Cameron County."

The notice further requested Seneca to submit a restoration plan for the water supplies impacted within 30 days of the violation notice..

John said DEP's Environmental Cleanup Program did regular testing of their well and if that testing showed results were under drinking water standards, and returned to their pre-spill testing results for eight consecutive quarters, they would deem the well clear.

They never reached that goal.

In March 2024, DEP presented a water restoration plan to the Rosenbergers for their original well.

"[DEP said] here's Seneca's plan for your water, the water restoration plan for your home using your original well. They're just completely discounting the new well," John said.

The restoration plan included doing a 72-hour purge of their original well and then test it for a month and then install "all these systems, including reverse osmosis, a water softener system and ozone filter" to keep the water clean, said John.

"We have a UV light, we have a sediment filter, we want it back to what we had with that. I don't want all this other stuff on there. I don't want to deal with that," John told DEP.

So, the water restoration plan issue remains unresolved.

Civil Lawsuit For Punitive Damages

"A civil suit has been initiated by us against Seneca Resources and Highland Field Services [in April 2023 in Cameron County Common Pleas Court]," said John. "They have fought us on everything concerning the civil suit and have even questioned our honesty and integrity, discounting our water analysis tests prior to their spill because I collected the samples instead of a third party."

At a hearing on July 3 that was attended by over 40 county residents, both sides gave a status report on discovery motions and responses.

Paige said the goal of the lawsuit is both compensatory and punitive.

"DEP's not going to fine them a lot, maybe a lawsuit will compel them to make changes. If they have to pay on a lawsuit, they'll think twice whether they drag pipes around and do things they're not supposed to do," said Paige. "Maybe that'll make them think. That's the only thing we have to force their hand. We are fighting for the residents of Cameron County and all victims, including potential victims of these spills. It was us this time but the next time it will be the Smith's or the Jones's or whoever. If something we are doing changes the way Seneca

Resources conducts business then we will have succeeded."

The only enforcement action DEP has taken with Seneca Resources has been to issue the two notices of violation.

Megan Lehman, Communications Manager for DEP's Northcentral Regional Office, said, "DEP has been diligently working with Seneca and the impacted parties since this incident occurred with the goal of achieving long-term compliance, including any necessary mitigation efforts, remedial action, and restoration of the impacted water supplies.

"To date, Seneca has entered the Act 2 land recycling process to remediate soil impacts. DEP received Seneca's Act 2 final report for soil impacts and approved it on January 2, 2024.

"Seneca is continuing to assess other environmental conditions through collection of groundwater samples from monitoring wells, aquifer testing of water supplies, ongoing surface water sampling, and aquatic assessments of stream health.

"DEP continues its oversight of this case to ensure full compliance and is committed to working with Seneca to complete the Act 2 process for groundwater as expeditiously as possible."

"DEP is committed to protecting every Pennsylvanian's constitutional right to clean air and pure water. That's why DEP sent out inspectors to this site, worked with the homeowner to regularly test their water, and is holding the responsible party accountable."

Bottomline

In answer to a question about why not move somewhere else, John said--

"Where's the nearest well pads? They weren't there even six years ago. Right now, there are 54 active unconventional wells within three miles of our house that were not there six years ago.

"So again, I guess you say who owns the land around you? But even if it's state game lands [which has shale gas drilling]. I guess there's a [State Forest] moratorium now, but who's to say in the future?"

"We gave them [Seneca] an opportunity, even if they wanted to keep things quiet. Let's face it, two months into it, if they would've offered us a certain amount of money and they said, "This is an unfortunate accident. We're sorry," we may have taken it and gone.

"I'm not here to say we wouldn't. I don't know. But, by them not even negotiating in good faith at all, has led us to this point."

"It is absolutely ridiculous what we have endured up to this point and what we continue to endure on a daily basis," said John. "One day you can be sitting in your home and through no fault of your own a company poisons your well water.

"Your only recourse is to sue a multi-million-dollar company as a retired couple in their 50's.

"I spent a career fighting for other people and for what is right. We will fight for as long as necessary to make sure this does not happen to others who do not have the time, money, stamina or health to fight.

"Seneca Resources has a pattern of fracking wastewater spills since at least 2017. These spills are documented by the PADEP.

"We are literally prisoners in our own home as we cannot sell our property and we cannot obtain any home equity loans against our property.

"We have been tight-lipped up to this point. You will not find any social media posts, newspaper articles or anything else about our situation. We feel the time is now to change that,"

said John.

Click Here to see photos and videos from the spill, and Rosenberger home.

State Agencies Lack Authority

This is another example showing state agencies do not have the statutory authority to ensure shale gas-related pipelines for gas, wastewater and freshwater are built and operated in a way that is safe and protects public health and the environment.

There are tens of thousands of miles of these pipelines crisscrossing the countryside with little thought given to their impacts, in many cases because they are described as "temporary."

For example, a natural gas gathering pipeline slid down a hill in Westmoreland County and punched through the basement of a family's home and no state agency had any jurisdiction to do anything about it. Read more here.

In the case of the Rosenbergers, no one notified local officials, the local water authority or individual property owners with wells a major gas drilling wastewater spill had occurred that could threaten them. They were in the dark.

No one investigated whether any water supplies were impacted, and like the "canary in a coal mine" from another age, it wasn't until the Rosenbergers drank the water and spit it out they knew they had a problem.

The owners of gas and hazardous liquid pipelines are the most penalized industry in the state when it comes to environmental violations-- over $71 million in the last decade alone.

It is time for the General Assembly to at last come to grips with these issues and do something.

Other Personal Stories

Here are just a few of the many personal stories of how oil and gas infrastructure impacts public health and the environment--

-- KDKA: Natural Gas Gathering Pipeline Crashes Into, Thru Westmoreland County Home And A Loophole In State Law That Doesn't Regulate Gathering Pipelines For Safety [PaEN]

-- Natural Gas Pipeline Pigging Facility Malfunction Dec. 27 Released 1.1 Million Cubic Feet Of Natural Gas; Same Facility Plagued Community With Blowdowns 3 Times A Day, 7 Days A Week For Nearly 10 Years Until Criminal Charges Brought Against CNX [PaEN]

-- Washington County Family Lawsuit Alleges Shale Gas Company Violated The Terms Of Their Lease By Endangering Their Health, Contaminating Their Water Supply And Not Protecting Their Land [PaEN]

-- Navy Veterans Patrick & Helen Robinson Relate Their 7-Year Struggle Dealing With Impacts Of Mariner East Pipeline Construction In Indiana County, And They Continue [PaEN]

-- Cambria County Family Sues Sunoco After 3 Years Of Dealing With Damage To Home, Well, Septic System, Property From Mariner East Pipeline Construction [PaEN]

-- 3 Days That Shook Washington County: Natural Gas Plant Explosion; Pipeline Leak Of 1.1 Million Cubic Feet Of Gas; 10,000 Gallon Spill At Compressor Station [PaEN]

Oil & Gas Industry Health/Environmental Impacts:

-- Gov. Shapiro: We Need Stronger Laws To Deal With The 'Corporate Greed' That Let Oil & Gas Operators Get Away With Abandoning Wells For Far Too Long [PaEN]

-- Feature: 60 Years Of Fracking, 20 Years Of Shale Gas: Pennsylvania's Oil & Gas Industrial Infrastructure Is Hiding In Plain Sight [PaEN]

-- Conventional Oil & Natural Gas Drilling: An Industrial Machine Moving Across The PA Countryside Leaving Behind Big Liabilities & Spreading Pollution Everywhere It Goes [PaEN]

-- Citizen Complaint, Company Report Results In DEP Inspection Finding 63,000 Gallon Wastewater Spill At Seneca Resources Shale Gas Well On State Game Lands In Elk County; More Leaks, Spills [PaEN]
-- EQT Shale Gas Wastewater Truck Rolls Over Spilling More Than 4,600 Gallons Of Wastewater In Lycoming County [PaEN]
-- Equitrans Determined Leak Of Over 1.1 Billion Cubic Feet Of Natural Gas From Cambria County Storage Facility Was Caused By Corrosion In Conventional Gas Well Casing [PaEN]
-- Ohio/PA Train Derailment, Pipeline Explosions, Uncontrolled Releases Put Spotlight On Public Health, Safety Threats Posed By Petrochemical, Natural Gas Industrial And Pipeline Infrastructure In PA [PaEN]
-- 9th Compendium Of Studies On Health & Environmental Harms From Natural Gas Development Released - 'The Rapidly Expanding Body Of Evidence Compiled Here Is Massive, Troubling And Cries Out For Decisive Action' [PaEN]
-- University Of Pittsburgh School Of Public Health Studies Find Shale Gas Wells Can Make Asthma Worse; Children Have An Increased Chance Of Developing Lymphoma Cancer; Slightly Lower Birth Weights [PaEN]
-- Senate Hearing: Body Of Evidence Is 'Large, Growing,' 'Consistent' And 'Compelling' That Shale Gas Development Is Having A Negative Impact On Public Health; PA Must Act [PaEN]
-- State Dept. Of Health Apologizes For Not Listening To Communities Suffering Health Impacts From Shale Gas Development; New Health Study Results 'Just The Tip Of The Iceberg' [PaEN]
-- State Dept. Of Health Invites Citizens To File Environmental Health Complaints Related To Natural Gas Development; Health Will Also Review Environmental Test Results [PaEN]
-- Environmental Health Project Finds Results 'Very Concerning' From University Of Pittsburgh Studies Showing Links Between Natural Gas Development And Lymphoma Cancer, Worsening Asthma Conditions, Lower Birth Weights [PaEN]
-- Between The Lines Podcast: Pediatrician Dr. Ned Ketyer Explains The Results Of New Studies Of The Health Impacts Of Natural Gas Development On Children And Adults [PaEN]
-- New University Of Chicago Medical Study Connects Natural Gas Development In PA To Real, Serious Human Health Outcomes In Comparison To New York State [PaEN]
-- Environmental Health Project: PA's Natural Gas Boom - What Went Wrong? Why Does It Matter? What Can We Do Better To Protect Public Health? [PaEN]
-- Presentations Now Available From Shale Gas & Public Health Conference In Nov. Hosted By PA League Of Women Voters & University Of Pittsburgh Graduate School Of Public Health [PaEN]
-- Yale School Of Public Health Study Found PA Children 2 To 3 Times More Likely To Be Diagnosed With Leukemia If They Live Near Unconventional Shale Gas Facilities [PaEN]
-- Study: Industry Data Shows Hazardous Air Pollutants Are 'Ubiquitous' In The Natural Gas Transmission System; More Justification For Robust Leak Prevention Programs [PaEN]
-- Penn State Study: Potential Pollution Caused By Road Dumping Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater Makes It Unsuitable For A Dust Suppressant, Washes Right Off The Road Into The Ditch [PaEN]
-- New Penn State Study: Brine Water Pumped From Played-Out Conventional Oil & Gas Wells And Used As Dust Suppressants, Winter Road Treatments Exceed Environmental, Health Standards, Just Like Conventional Oil & Gas Brine Water [PaEN]

-- DEP Report Finds: Conventional Oil & Gas Drillers Routinely Abandon Wells; Fail To Report How Millions Of Gallons Of Waste Is Disposed; And Non-Compliance Is An 'Acceptable Norm' [PaEN]
-- Conventional Oil & Gas Well Owners Failed To File Annual Production/Waste Generation Reports For 61,655 Wells; Attorney General Continues Investigation Of Road Dumping Wastewater [PaEN]
-- Public Source: 'It's Just Too Close:' People Living Near Natural Gas Drilling, Industrial Facilities Suffer As State And Local Governments Fail To Buffer Homes
-- What It's Like To Raise A Family In The Most Fracked County In PA - Washington County: PA Physicians For Social Responsibility [Video]
-- Environmental Health Project: Setback Distances And The Regulations We Need To Protect Public Health From Oil & Gas Facilities [PaEN]
-- Senators Santarsiero, Comitta To Introduce Bill Increasing Setback Safety Zones From Shale Natural Gas Drilling Sites From 500 To 2,500 Feet, Based On Latest Science [PaEN]
-- Inside Climate News: Gov. Shapiro Provides Fresh Support To Key Changes Recommended In 2020 Grand Jury Report To Tighten Regulation Of The Natural Gas Drilling Industry To Better Protect Public Health, Environment [PaEN]
-- Environmental Health Project: How DEP Issues Permits For Shale Gas Facilities Without Considering Cumulative Impacts - How New Facilities Will Add To Existing Pollution Loads And Impact The Area [PaEN]
-- DEP: Widespread Presence Of PFAS 'Forever Chemicals' In Fresh Water Leading Shale Gas Operators To Use Contaminated Water In Fracking Operations; DEP Doesn't Require Routine PFAS Testing [PaEN]
-- DEP Issued 754 Notices Of Violation For Defective Oil & Gas Well Casing, Cementing, The Fundamental Protection Needed To Prevent Gas Migration, Groundwater & Air Contamination, Explosions [PaEN]
-- Creating New Brownfields: Oil & Gas Well Drillers Notified DEP They Are Cleaning Up Soil & Water Contaminated With Chemicals Harmful To Human Health, Aquatic Life At 272 Locations In PA [PaEN]
-- Center For Rural Pennsylvania: Rural Population To Shrink 5.8%; Fewer Young People, More Older People; Current Policies Failed To Sustain Communities, Ensure Long-Term Rural Resiliency [PaEN]

Oil & Gas Legislative/Regulatory Issues:

-- Gas Industry, Sen. Bartolotta Seek Legislation To Eliminate Environmental Hearing Board Appeals Of DEP Permits For Natural Gas Pipeline Facilities [5.21.24]
-- Sen. Yaw To Introduce Bill To Punish Counties That Seek To Protect Their Residents From Impacts Of Natural Gas Thru Lawsuits [5.8.24]
-- Sen. Yaw, Republican Chair Of Senate Environmental Committee, Calls Bill To Reduce Shale Gas Industry Impacts On Health, Environment 'Stupid' [10.30.23]
-- Senate Republicans Pass Bill Authorizing An Authority To Take Over Permitting Large-Scale Energy Projects; Eliminating Public Comment; Waiving Any Regulation; Providing Immunity From Prosecution; Barbers Reviewing Permits? [5.1.24]
-- PA House Republicans Announce Energy Package, Including An Energy Advocate Within DEP To Veto Any Action That Would Impact PA's Energy Portfolio And An Independent Energy Office With The Same Power [3.28.24]

-- Bill Reported Out Of Senate Committee Would Allow Pipelines Like Mariner East To Apply For Waivers Of Any PUC Regulation, Law Or Policy [5.3.24]
-- PUC: Act 13 Drilling Impact Fee Revenue Drops $100 Million From Last Year's Record To $179.6 Million; Puts Hole In State, Local Budgets [6.18.24]
-- PA Marcellus Shale Gas Coalition Doubles-Down On Support For Exporting PA Natural Gas To China, Our Economic, Military Competitor [4.18.24]
-- Stars and Stripes Guest Essay: Pause On Permits For New LNG Gas Export Facilities Right Move For National Security - Rivals Like China Are Using US LNG To Build Influence - By Steve Anderson, US Army Brigadier General - Retired [3.8.24]
-- Marcellus Drilling News: 'Selling Oil And Natural Gas To China?' 'It Simply Should Not Happen, Period' [3.6.24]
-- US Senators Introduce Bill To Ban US LNG Gas Sales To Any Entity Under The Control Of Communist China To Protect US Jobs; Americans From Price Spikes; EQT Says We Have A 'Duty' To Provide LNG Gas To China; Where Do AMERICAN Interests Lie? [3.5.24]
-- Pennsylvania's Electric Grid Is Dependent On One Fuel To Generate 59% Of Our Electricity; Market Moving To Renewables + Storage [3.18.24]
-- PJM, Electric Grid Operators Recommend Additional Steps To Overcome Vulnerabilities In Natural Gas Infrastructure To Ensure More Reliable Grid Operation [2.22.24]
-- House Committee Told Governor's Energy Plan Diversifies Energy Generation, Avoids One-Fuel Dependence, Improves Grid Reliability, Lowers Consumer Costs, Generates Jobs; Or Upends Competitive Markets And Is A 'Death Wish' For Our Economy [6.24.24]
-- IRRC Approves Final Revised PUC Regulations Strengthening Rules For Intrastate Hazardous Liquids Pipelines; Gas Pipelines Fined Over $71 Million, Have Worst Compliance Record Of Any Industry, Including Criminal Charges [6.21.24]
-- DEP Imposed $2.2 Million In Penalties Against Shale Gas Drilling, Pipeline Companies In 2023 For Violations Dating Back To 2018 [5.14.24]
-- DEP: Shale Gas Drilling Resulted In 54 Incidents Of New Wells Interfering With Abandoned Oil & Gas Wells, Water Wells Or Other Shale Gas Wells [3.20.24]
-- DEP Imposed $422,365 In Penalties On 14 Conventional Oil & Gas Well Operators In 2023 For Abandoning Wells, Spills, Venting Gas; 93 Operators Cited For Abandoning 271 Wells [3.6.24]
-- DEP Declares 101 Medina Res Dev Co. LLC Conventional Oil & Gas Wells Abandoned, Not Plugged In Crawford, Erie Counties On March 5 [3.7.24]
-- PA Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - June 8 to 14 - Abandoned Conventional Well Violations Now Top 512, Equaling All Of 2023 [6.15.24]
-- DEP: 89% Of Conventional Oil & Gas Well Owners Did Not Comply With Well Integrity Reporting For 34,455 Wells In 2023 [3.27.24]
-- DEP: 86% Of Conventional Oil & Gas Well Owners Did Not Comply With Waste Disposal, Production Reporting For 33,505 Wells In 2023 [3.29.24]
-- House Committee Reports Out Bills To Ban Road Dumping Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater; Prohibit Use Of PFAS 'Forever Chemicals' In Consumer Products [6.11.24]
-- House Hearing: Shapiro Administration Supports Bill Banning Road Dumping Oil & Gas Wastewater, Prohibiting Its Use As Coproduct Under Residual Waste Regulations [6.10.24]
-- House Hearing: Penn State Expert Says 'Pennsylvania Should Ban Road Spreading Of Oil & Gas Wastewater;' Contaminants Exceed Health, Environmental Standards [6.10.24]

-- House Hearing: Penn State Center For Dirt & Gravel Road Studies Says Road Spreading Oil & Gas Wastewater Is Not An Effective Dust Suppressant, Does Not Meet Environmental Testing Standards [6.10.24]
-- Witness At Senate Hearing On Oil & Gas Wastewater Road Dumping Reports Her Home Has Been Surrounded By Dumping; Dumping Again On The Upswing In 2024 [4.25.24]]
-- Senate Hearing: The Case For An Immediate, Total Ban On Road Dumping Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater [4.17.24]
-- Senate Hearing: Penn State Expert: 'No More Research That Needs To Be Done' To Justify A Ban On Road Dumping Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater [4.17.24]
-- Senate Hearing: First-Hand Account Of Health, Environmental Impacts From Road Dumping Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater - 'Inhaling Oil & Gas Wastewater 24-Hours A Day' [4.17.24]
-- Senate Hearing: 3.5 Million Gallons Of Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater Dumped On PA Public Roads Since DEP's 'Moratorium' On Dumping Started 6 Years Ago [4.17.24]
-- Senate Hearing: DEP Still Evaluating The Data On Road Dumping Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater; Asks Public To Report Road Dumping [4.17.24]
-- PUC To Hold July 15 Prehearing Conference On Future Of Venango Water Company, Related Companies As Follow-Up To Conventional Oil Well Wastewater Spill In Venango County [6.18.24]
-- Penn State Research Traced Radioactive Radium In Freshwater Mussels To Oil & Gas Wastewater [6.1.24]
-- DEP Issues $1.1 Million Civil Penalty To Equitrans For Violations Related To The Uncontrolled Venting Of 1.1 Billion Cubic Feet Of Gas From The Rager Mountain Gas Storage Area In Cambria County [4.9.24]
-- Washington County Family Lawsuit Alleges Shale Gas Company Violated The Terms Of Their Lease By Endangering Their Health, Contaminating Their Water Supply And Not Protecting Their Land [PaEN]
-- Oil & Gas Industry Impacts: Navy Veterans Patrick & Helen Robinson Relate Their 7-Year Struggle Dealing With Impacts Of Mariner East Pipeline Construction In Indiana County, And They Continue [PaEN]
-- Oil & Gas Industry Impacts: Cambria County Family Sues Sunoco After 3 Years Of Dealing With Damage To Home, Well, Septic System, Property From Mariner East Pipeline Construction [PaEN]
-- Spotlight PA: Little Information Made Public About Free Water Testing Ordered As Part Of Mariner East Natural Gas Liquids Pipeline Settlement To Criminal Charges By Attorney General [4.4.24]
-- Republican Rep. Krupa Introduces HB 1656 To Ban Oil, Gas Wastewater Injection Wells To Protect The Public From Radioactive, Toxic Materials [9.5.23]
-- More Articles:
To see the record of inaction and action on pipelines since 2016, Search PA Environment Digest under the subject "Pipelines."
PA Oil & Gas Industry Public Notice Dashboards:
-- PA Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - July 20 to 26 - Abandoned Well Violations To Owner Of 727 Conventional Wells 'Returned To Sender,' More Wastewater Pipeline Spills; 2nd Attempt To Plug Shale Gas Well [PaEN]

-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices, Opportunities To Comment - July 27 [PaEN]
-- DEP Posted 74 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In July 27 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

Related Articles This Week:

-- No One Warned A Cameron County Family Their Water Well Was Contaminated By A Seneca Resources Shale Gas Wastewater Pipeline Rupture [PaEN]
-- Shell Petrochemical Plant Asks DEP To Classify Chemical Makeup, Flow Rate Of Gases Going To Be Burned Off By Flares, Air Pollution Sources, Control Equipment Operating At The Plant Confidential Business Information [PaEN]
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Approved, Renewed 22 Shale Gas Well Pad Water Use General Permits In June; 155 General Permits In 2024 [PaEN]
-- DEP Requiring Any Facility Operating Under A Temporary Title V Air Plan Approval For More Than 12 Months To Submit a Title V Operating Permit On Or Before Nov. 25, 2024 [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Aug. 21 Webinar - Water Testing Through Penn State's Ag Analytical Lab [PaEN]
-- Learn How You Can Qualify For Free Well Water Testing During Aug. 22 Penn State Extension Webinar [PaEN]

NewsClips:

-- Grist - Jake Bolster: Road Dumping Returns: How Pennsylvania's Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Quietly Dumped Waste Across The State
-- Fast Company: It's Illegal For Oil & Gas Companies To Dump Wastewater On Pennsylvania Roads - They Do It Anyway
-- MotherJones.com: Frackers Are Spraying Toxic Wastewater On Pennsylvania Roads Despite Ban
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: Fight Over Road Dumping Oil & Gas Wastewater Is A Rural-Urban Tension [They Now Dump More On Paved Roads; Road Dumping Is Waste Disposal - This Is 2024, Not 1859 Learn The Real Facts]
-- NonProfitQuarterly.org - Justin Nobel: Is Radioactivity The Key To Holding The Fracking Industry Accountable? [Bryan Latkanich Case In Washington County]
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: Pennsylvania Could Be A Lithium Goldmine, If The Tech Catches Up [Oil & Gas Wastewater]
-- Environmental Defense Fund Blog: New Report Reveals The Need For Protective Standards For All Gas Well-Related Gathering Pipelines
-- Gov. Shapiro Signs Bipartisan Solar For Schools And Geologic Sequestration Of Carbon Bills Into Law [PaEN]
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA Hopes To Regulate Carbon Storage Wells With New Law
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: Pennsylvania Law Seeks To Make State A Geologic Carbon Storage Center
-- PA Capital-Star/Inside Climate News: National Spotlight Shines On Shapiro's Contested Environmental Record
-- Fortune: Harris Reverses Earlier Anti-Fracking Stance And No Longer Supports A Ban
-- Bloomberg: Harris Backs Off Fracking Ban As Republicans Campaign On Past Position
-- The Hill: Harris Does Not Support Fracking Ban - Campaign Official

-- WESA: VP Harris Has Said She Wants To Ban Fracking, PA Republicans Are Ready To Attack
-- Bloomberg: EQT Gas CEO Says Fracking Ban Would Be 'Constructive' For Prices
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: EQT Natural Gas' Toby Rice On Presidential Politics: 'Time To Hold Leaders Accountable' [EQT, PA Shale Gas Says We Have A 'Duty' To Sell More Gas To China Our Economic, Military Competitor]
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: EQT Gas Driller, Equitrans Together Again As $5.45 Billion Deal Closes
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: What EQT Gas Will Do With Its Newly Acquired Mountain Valley Pipeline
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA Hopes To Regulate Carbon Storage Wells With New Law
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: Pennsylvania Law Seeks To Make State A Geologic Carbon Storage Center
[Posted: July 25, 2024]

Penn State Extension Aug. 21 Webinar - Water Testing Through Penn State's Ag Analytical Lab



On August 21, Penn State Extension will host a webinar on Water Testing Through Penn State's Ag Analytical Lab from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

If you have a private water system, it is your responsibility to test it regularly to ensure it meets drinking water standards.

Learn about the Penn State Agricultural Analytical Services Lab drinking water testing program, including available test packages, how to collect a water sample, and assistance with interpreting the results.

Who is this for?
-- Private water system users
-- Those interested in learning more about their water supply

What will you learn?
-- Why water testing is important
-- How to take a water sample
-- Water testing services offered by the Penn State Ag Analytical Lab

Click Here to register and for more information.

Visit the Penn State Extension website to learn about many other educational programs.

Related Resource:
-- Learn How You Can Qualify For Free Well Water Testing During Aug. 22 Penn State Extension Webinar [PaEN]

Related Articles:
-- No One Warned A Cameron County Family Their Water Well Was Contaminated By A Seneca Resources Shale Gas Wastewater Pipeline Rupture [PaEN]
-- Grist - Jake Bolster: Road Dumping Returns: How Pennsylvania's Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Quietly Dumped Waste Across The State

[Posted: July 25, 2024]

Learn How You Can Qualify For Free Well Water Testing During Aug. 22 Penn State Extension Webinar



On August 22, Penn State Extension will host a Private Water Supply Education And Water Testing webinar from Noon to 1:00 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.

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

It 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 for residents of Pennsylvania who use a private water supply (well, spring, cistern) in their primary residence.

What will you learn?

-- How to test and protect your well or spring
-- When water treatment makes sense
-- Well/spring system inspection and maintenance

Funding for this program was possible by the Pennsylvania Department of Health cooperative agreement with CDC 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 and for more information.

Visit the Penn State Extension website to learn about many other educational programs.

Related Resource:

-- Penn State Extension Aug. 21 Webinar - Water Testing Through Penn State's Ag Analytical Lab [PaEN]

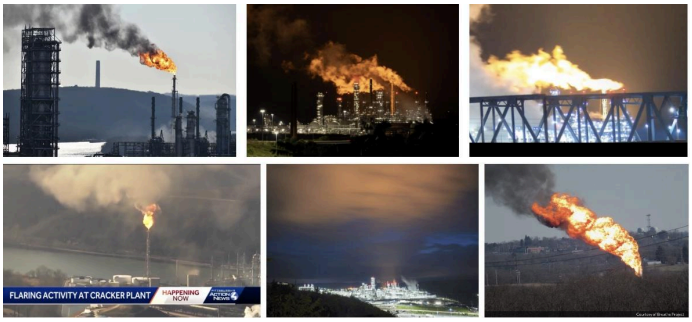
Related Articles:

-- No One Warned A Cameron County Family Their Water Well Was Contaminated By A Seneca Resources Shale Gas Wastewater Pipeline Rupture [PaEN]

-- Grist - Jake Bolster: Road Dumping Returns: How Pennsylvania's Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Quietly Dumped Waste Across The State

[Posted: July 25, 2024]

Shell Petrochemical Plant Asks DEP To Classify Chemical Makeup, Flow Rate Of Gases Going To Be Burned Off By Flares, Air Pollution Sources, Control Equipment Operating At The Plant Confidential Business Information



On April 12, 2024, the Shell Petrochemical Plant requested the Department of Environmental Protection to classify the composition and flow rate of gases going to be burned off at flares and the air pollution sources and pollution control equipment operating at the Beaver County facility confidential business information.

DEP routinely requested and Shell provided this information as part of more than 80 facility inspections from May 16, 2023 through April 1, 2024.

Lauren Camarda, DEP Southwest Regional Office Communications Manager, said, "When the decision to request the information is made, it aids in DEP's understanding of plant operations at the time of inspection."

The gases burned off by the flares include ethane, acetylene, ethylene, methane, hydrogen, nitrogen and others, according to information provided by Shell in DEP's inspection reports.

The percentage of chemicals burned and rate of flow varies depending on which parts of the plant are operating, according to the inspection reports.

Because of a history of air quality violations at the facility, in particular incomplete combustion of harmful gases going to the flares to be burned, it is important the composition and flow rate of those gases is known. Read more here.

Starting with the April 11, 2024 inspection report, something changed, and Shell no longer provided much of this information to DEP on the dates the agency did inspections.

The inspector's report for that day said--

"I contacted Shell Chemicals to inform them of my observations and to request the list of operating sources and control devices and an analysis of the gas composition for the material being routed to the flare.

"On 4/12/24 Shell Chemicals asserted that the requested information is confidential. The Department is reviewing the claim and a decision is pending."

No list of sources and control devices was included or the gas composition information.

The same note appeared in the following four DEP inspection reports--

-- April 12, 2024 (same note, no sources, control devices or gas composition)
-- April 15, 2024 (same note, no sources, control devices or gas composition)
-- April 16, 2024 (same note, no sources, control devices or gas composition)
-- April 22, 2024 (same note, no sources, control devices or gas composition)
-- April 26, 2024 (same note, no sources, control devices or gas composition)

Starting after these inspection reports, something changed again. The same note was included, but the reports did include the list of sources and control devices operating, but no gas composition information.

-- May 10, 2024 (note but sources/control devices listed)
-- May 16, 2024 (note but sources/control devices listed)
-- May 21, 2024 (note but sources/control devices listed)

-- May 24, 2024 (note but sources/control devices listed)
-- May 30, 2024 (note but sources/control devices listed)
-- June 3, 2024 (note but sources/control devices listed) [the most recent report posted]

Camarda said Shell made the original assertion of confidentiality in April, but only recently submitted a written justification for the confidentiality claim to DEP.

"Under the federal Clean Air Act and Section 13.2 of the Pennsylvania Air Pollution Control Act, an operator may assert a confidentiality claim.

"Shell has recently asserted that the composition and flow rate of gas going to the flare and sources operating at the time of the inspection is confidential business information.

"DEP has instructed Shell to provide written justification for its claims, which it recently did.

"In its confidentiality request, Shell stated that if the information was released to the public, it could adversely affect the competitive position of Shell and the process could be reverse engineered by competitors with access to that information.

"DEP is currently evaluating these claims.

"If, after DEP's evaluation, it determines that the information should be treated confidentially, DEP will still have access to the information. It would not, however, be made publicly available."

Visit DEP's Shell Petrochemical Facility webpage for copies of inspection reports and other information related to DEP permits for the facility.

Related Articles - Shell Petrochemical:

-- DEP: Shell Petrochemical Plant Title V Air Quality Permit Application Complete, Now Posted On DEP's Website; Comment Period Opening Soon [PaEN]
-- DEP Signs Consent Order Including $10 Million In Penalties, Local Payments With Shell Petrochemical Plant In Beaver County To Resolve Air Quality Violations; Plant To Restart May 24 [PaEN]
-- DEP: Shell Petrochemical Plant Pays Additional $2,671,044.75 In Civil Penalties For 12-Month Air Quality Violations After May 2023 Consent Order [PaEN]
-- Beaver County Residents Call For Accountability, Emergency Preparedness After Dozens Of Malfunctions, Pollution From Shell Petrochemical Plant [PaEN]
-- PA Taxpayers To Give $130.9 Million In Tax Credits To Subsidize Shell Petrochemical Plant In Beaver County; Total Expected To Be $1.17 Billion Thru 2042; No Regard For Environmental Compliance Record [PaEN]
-- Attorney General Henry Files Charges Against Shell Falcon Pipeline For Failure To Report Drilling Issues That Caused Industrial Waste, Potential for Water Pollution [PaEN]

PA Oil & Gas Industry Public Notice Dashboards:

-- PA Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - July 20 to 26 - Abandoned Well Violations To Owner Of 727 Conventional Wells 'Returned To Sender,' More Wastewater Pipeline Spills; 2nd Attempt To Plug Shale Gas Well [PaEN]
-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices, Opportunities To Comment - July 27 [PaEN]
-- DEP Posted 74 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In July 27 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

Related Articles This Week:

-- No One Warned A Cameron County Family Their Water Well Was Contaminated By A Seneca Resources Shale Gas Wastewater Pipeline Rupture [PaEN]

-- Shell Petrochemical Plant Asks DEP To Classify Chemical Makeup, Flow Rate Of Gases Going To Be Burned Off By Flares, Air Pollution Sources, Control Equipment Operating At The Plant Confidential Business Information [PaEN]
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Approved, Renewed 22 Shale Gas Well Pad Water Use General Permits In June; 155 General Permits In 2024 [PaEN]
-- DEP Requiring Any Facility Operating Under A Temporary Title V Air Plan Approval For More Than 12 Months To Submit a Title V Operating Permit On Or Before Nov. 25, 2024 [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Aug. 21 Webinar - Water Testing Through Penn State's Ag Analytical Lab [PaEN]
-- Learn How You Can Qualify For Free Well Water Testing During Aug. 22 Penn State Extension Webinar [PaEN]

NewsClips:

-- Grist - Jake Bolster: Road Dumping Returns: How Pennsylvania's Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Quietly Dumped Waste Across The State
-- Fast Company: It's Illegal For Oil & Gas Companies To Dump Wastewater On Pennsylvania Roads - They Do It Anyway
-- MotherJones.com: Frackers Are Spraying Toxic Wastewater On Pennsylvania Roads Despite Ban
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: Fight Over Road Dumping Oil & Gas Wastewater Is A Rural-Urban Tension [They Now Dump More On Paved Roads; Road Dumping Is Waste Disposal - This Is 2024, Not 1859 Learn The Real Facts]
-- NonProfitQuarterly.org - Justin Nobel: Is Radioactivity The Key To Holding The Fracking Industry Accountable? [Bryan Latkanich Case In Washington County]
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: Pennsylvania Could Be A Lithium Goldmine, If The Tech Catches Up [Oil & Gas Wastewater]
-- Environmental Defense Fund Blog: New Report Reveals The Need For Protective Standards For All Gas Well-Related Gathering Pipelines
-- Gov. Shapiro Signs Bipartisan Solar For Schools And Geologic Sequestration Of Carbon Bills Into Law [PaEN]
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA Hopes To Regulate Carbon Storage Wells With New Law
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: Pennsylvania Law Seeks To Make State A Geologic Carbon Storage Center
-- PA Capital-Star/Inside Climate News: National Spotlight Shines On Shapiro's Contested Environmental Record
-- Fortune: Harris Reverses Earlier Anti-Fracking Stance And No Longer Supports A Ban
-- Bloomberg: Harris Backs Off Fracking Ban As Republicans Campaign On Past Position
-- The Hill: Harris Does Not Support Fracking Ban - Campaign Official
-- WESA: VP Harris Has Said She Wants To Ban Fracking, PA Republicans Are Ready To Attack
-- Bloomberg: EQT Gas CEO Says Fracking Ban Would Be 'Constructive' For Prices
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: EQT Natural Gas' Toby Rice On Presidential Politics: 'Time To Hold Leaders Accountable' [EQT, PA Shale Gas Says We Have A 'Duty' To Sell More Gas To China Our Economic, Military Competitor]

-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: EQT Gas Driller, Equitrans Together Again As $5.45 Billion Deal Closes
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: What EQT Gas Will Do With Its Newly Acquired Mountain Valley Pipeline
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA Hopes To Regulate Carbon Storage Wells With New Law
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: Pennsylvania Law Seeks To Make State A Geologic Carbon Storage Center
[Posted: July 24, 2024]

DEP Requiring Any Facility Operating Under A Temporary Title V Air Plan Approval For More Than 12 Months To Submit A Title V Operating Permit On Or Before Nov. 25, 2024

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin that it is requiring any facility operating under a temporary Title V Air Quality Plan Approval for more than 12 months to submit an application for a Title V Air Quality permit on or before November 25, 2024.

The requirement to submit a Title V Operating Permit application within 12 months of beginning operation will also apply to the owners or operators of new or modified Title V facilities authorized and operating under a plan approval after July 27, 2024.

DEP said in the notice the change is required to meet federal Clean Air Act requirements and because submission requirements in state regulations provided two different deadlines.

This submission deadline could impact a number of shale gas facilities like natural gas processing plants, compressor stations, well pads and other air pollution sources.

Read the entire PA Bulletin notice for more information.

Questions regarding this notice may be directed to the DEP Bureau of Air Quality by email to: ra-epair@pa.gov.

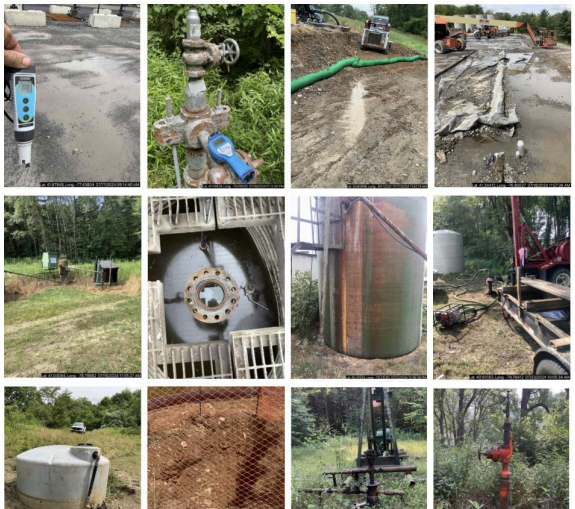
For more information on environmental programs in Pennsylvania, visit DEP's website, Report Emergencies, Submit Environmental Complaints; Click Here to sign up for DEP's newsletter; sign up for DEP's eNotice; visit DEP's Blog, Like DEP on Facebook, Follow DEP on Twitter and visit DEP's YouTube Channel.
[Posted: July 26, 2024]

PA Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - July 20 to 26 - Abandoned Well Violations To Owner Of 727 Conventional Wells 'Returned To Sender,' More Wastewater Pipeline Spills; 2nd Attempt To Plug Shale Gas Well

From July 20 to 26, DEP's Oil and Gas Compliance Database shows oil and gas inspectors filed 436 inspection entries and caught up posting previous inspection reports.

So far this year, DEP took these actions as of July 19--

-- NOVs Issued In Last Week: 56 conventional, 13 unconventional



-- Year To Date - NOVs Issued: 4,925 conventional and 579 unconventional
-- Enforcements 2024: 294 conventional and 69 unconventional
-- Inspections Last Week: 221 conventional and 462 unconventional
-- Year To Date - Inspections: 9.240 conventional and 13,626 unconventional
-- Wells Drilled Last Week: 4 conventional and 3 unconventional
-- Year To Date Wells Drilled: 83 conventional and 172 unconventional

5 Abandoned Conventional Wells

On July 16, 2024, DEP inspected the Shaffer Nancy 2 conventional well in Brady Township, **Clearfield County** owned by **Stonehaven Energy MGT Co LLC** and found it to be abandoned and not plugged and venting gas.

The original violations for abandonment, venting gas and failure to submit well production, waste generation and well integrity reports were issued on May 30, 2023 and the owner did nothing to address the violations.

DEP's inspection report continued the violations, but did not request any specific actions by the owner.

DEP's inspection report for another Stonehaven Energy's Walls 3 conventional well last week noted notices of violations mailed to Stonehaven for that well were returned by the USPS as "return to sender." Read more here.

DEP's eFACTS database shows Stonehaven Energy holds 727 well permits.

Is this another conventional operator abandoning all its wells to be plugged at public expense?

On July 23, 2024, DEP inspected the Romanelli 25 conventional well in Donegal Township, **Butler County** owned by **Kenic Gas & Oil Co** and found well plugging operations underway on this abandoned well.

The original violation for abandoning the well was issued on May 18, 2023.

DEP's eFACTS database shows Kenic holds 19 conventional well permits, including two abandoned wells.

DEP's inspection report continued the violation for well abandonment.

On July 23, 2024, DEP inspected three conventional wells-- Luther Gates, 3, 4 & 6 in Eldred Township, **Warren County** owned by **PA Oil Prod Co**. and found them all to be abandoned and not plugged.

DEP evaluated the wells for the federal well plugging program and verified their location.

DEP's eFACTS database shows PA Oil Prod holds 47 conventional well permits, none abandoned.

DEP's inspection reports [#6 as an example] included no violations.

On July 25, 2024, DEP inspected the Edward Anyzek 1 conventional well in Le Boeuf Township, **Erie County** owned by **Medina Res Dev Co LLC** and found well plugging operations underway on this abandoned well.

The original violation was issued on July 15, 2024.

DEP's eFACTS database shows Medina holds 486 conventional well permits, at last 65

of which are abandoned, but not this one

DEP's inspection report continued the violations for well abandonment.

On July 26, 2024, DEP inspected the WM Ernest 70 conventional gas well in Highland Township, **Elk County** owned by **ARG Resources, Inc**. in response to a complaint and found it to be abandoned and leaking gas.

DEP reported a methane meter "found the combustible gas from the well exceeding allowable limits."

DEP's eFACTS database shows ARG Resources holds 1,860 conventional well permits, many of which are abandoned or inactive.

In June of 2023, DEP solicited bids for plugging 10 oil and gas wastewater wells abandoned by ARG Resources, Inc.

ARG Resources, Inc. is a company related to the American Refining Group which owns and operates the Bradford Oil Refinery in Bradford, PA. Read more about the company here.

DEP's inspection report did not include any violations.

Abandoned Shale Gas Well 2nd Plugging Attempt

On July 22, 2024, DEP inspected the KARP WYO 2H Shale Gas Well in Lemon Township, **Wyoming County** owned by **Chesapeake Appalachia LLC** just after the completion of a second attempt to plug the well to stop gas venting.

The initial plugging operation was completed on June 20, 2022, but did not stop gas from being released to the atmosphere.

DEP's inspection report said the re-plugging effort resulted initially in no gas being detected from the well, but the violation for well abandonment was continued.

577 Conventional, 10 Shale Gas Abandoned Well Violations In 2024

So far in 2024, DEP issued 577 new or continued violations to conventional oil and gas well owners for abandoning and not plugging wells; and 10 violations were issued to five shale gas well owners [Chesapeake Appalachia LLC, Atlas Resources, LLC; Atlas Resources, LLC (follow-up inspection)' Repsol Oil & Gas, EQT Chap LLC; M4 Energy; M4 Energy (follow-up inspection); EQT (Rice Drilling B LLC); and Roulette Oil & Gas LLC)] for abandoning wells and not plugging wells.

Shale Gas Well Venting Gas

On July 22, 2024, DEP did a routine inspection of the Hopson Shale Gas Well Pad 5H well in Asylum Township, **Bradford County** owned by **Chesapeake Appalachia LLC** found the well to be venting gas.

DEP's inspection report included new violations related to the gas venting and requested the owner to submit a plan by August 23, 2024 on how the well will be brought into compliance.

Shale Gas Well Spills

On July 17, 2024, DEP did a complaint inspection at the Whispering Pines Shale Gas Well Pad in Delmar Township, **Tioga County** owned by **Clean Energy Exploration & Production LLC** and found continued violations for spills and contaminated water on the well pad site.

The original violations were issued on January 16, 2024.

DEP's inspection report recommends the owner assess the contamination near the frac wastewater tanks and in other areas and conduct an Act 2 Land Recycling Program cleanup if needed.

On July 18, 2024, DEP did an inspection of the DCNR Tract 726 Pad in Plunketts Creek Township, **Lycoming County** owned by **PA General Energy Co. LLC** and found evidence to indicate "a potential pollutional event may have occurred" on the pad.

The inspector took water samples and conductivity readings. A vacuum truck was seen removing fluids from a containment area near the well cellars and from around the drilling mud tanks on site.

DEP's inspection report includes initial violations for the spill and said "additional violations may be issued pending results of water sample analysis."

DEP requested the owner to submit a plan by August 5, 2024 on how the well pad will be brought into compliance.

2nd Horizontal Pipeline Drilling Spill In Tioga County

On July 24, 2024, DEP did an inspection of the Gas Connector Pipeline site in Chatham Township, **Tioga County** owned by **NFG Midstream Covington LLC** in response to a July 24, 2024 notification by the owner of a second spill related to horizontal drilling under Crooked Creek.

On July 16, the owner reported a similar spill on this same project in the same area. Read more here.

The second spill came from an overfilled temporary storage tank being used to clean up fluids from the first spill on July 16.

Cleanup was already underway at the time of the inspection.

DEP's inspection report issued violations for the new spill and immediately closed them due to the cleanup.

Lack Of Progress In Cleaning Up Shale Gas Wastewater Pipeline Spill

On July 17, 2024, DEP did follow-up inspections of two sites impacted by shale gas wastewater pipeline pump spills at NITMS006-NITM-H009 and NITMS15-NITMH15 and in Franklin and Whiteley Townships, **Greene County** owned by **EQM Gathering OPCO LLC** and found "inadequate progress made on spill remediation since the spill was initially reported on 7/11/2024" at both locations.

The cause of the spills in both cases were ruptured hoses connected to two booster pumps.

DEP's inspection reports continued the violations issued on July 11, 2024 and noted the inadequate cleanup progress.

Leak From Onsite Shale Gas Wastewater Pipeline

On July 23, 2024, DEP inspected the E08-L Shale Gas Well Pad in Jones Township, **Elk County** owned by **Seneca Resources Co LLC** in response to a July 22 notification by the owner of a wastewater pipeline spill.

A hole in an onsite plastic wastewater pipeline caused the spill on the well pad estimated at the time of the inspection to be about 20 gallons.

DEP noted the plastic pipeline had been repaired and the spill cleanup was underway at the time of the inspection, including the removal of contaminated soil to a depth of approximately seven feet.

DEP's inspection report included violations related to the spill and the owner was requested to submit a plan by August 6, 2024 on how the well pad will be brought into compliance.

Click Here to read about another Seneca wastewater pipeline rupture in Cameron County.

Conventional Well Wastewater Spills

On July 22, 2024, DEP did an inspection of the Joseph Kahl 4365 conventional well in Derry Township, **Westmoreland County** owned by **Diversified Prod LLC** in response to a notification of a wastewater spill at the site.

The spill occurred after a wastewater storage tank overflowed when an automatic shut down float failed.

Spill cleanup was underway at the time of the inspection. An estimated 30 gallons of wastewater spilled.

DEP's inspection report included violations related to the spill and a request for the owner to submit a plan by August 8, 2024 on how the site will be brought into compliance.

On July 23, 2024, DEP inspected the Reed O Huffman UX3 conventional well in Center Township, **Greene County** owned by **Pillar Energy PA LLC** and found evidence of a wastewater tank spill.

The inspector said the plastic wastewater tank was "propped up using a stone" and there was evidence of a leak under and near the tank.

A representative of the owner said the tank would be removed within the next week "and that visual clean up of the impacted soil would commence once the area below the production fluid tank can be accessed."

"The Department is requesting documentation of the production fluid tank removal and impacted material clean-up once completed. The Department is also requesting clarification regarding the amount of produced fluid that leaked from the tank upon discovery of the leak."

DEP's inspection report included violations related to the spill that were immediately closed noting they were "corrected."

2024 Land Recycling/Brownfield Cleanups

So far in 2024, DEP received or acted on 179 Act 2 Land Recycling notices related to oil and gas facility site cleanups. Almost none related to conventional oil and gas spills. Read more here.

Conventional Wells Venting Gas

On July 18, 2024, DEP did a complaint inspection at the James T. Burns 3074 conventional well in Rose Township, **Jefferson County** owned by **Diversified Prod LLC** and found it continued to vent gas.

The original violations for venting gas were issued on June 6, 2024 and the owner did nothing to correct them.

A representative of the company and their consultant were onsite who were trying to determine if there was some other source of methane other than the well leaking gas around the well casing.

DEP's inspection report continued the violations, but requested no specific actions from the well owner.

On July 24, 2024, DEP inspected the Danner 1 conventional gas well in Victory Township **Venango County** owned by **Myers Gas** in response to a complaint and found the well was leaking gas ten feet from a hiking trail.

DEP's inspection report said there was a "noticeable odor of natural gas" detected coming from the well casing.

The well owner was contacted and said he was going to make repairs.

No violations were included in the inspection report.

Failure To Submit Shale Gas Production, Waste Reports

Failure to submit production and waste generation reports is a big step toward well abandonment.

On July 22, 2024, DEP issued a notice of violation to **Roulette Oil & Gas Co, LLC** for failing to submit monthly production and waste generation reports for four shale gas wells in **Potter County** for the last six months-- January through June.

The wells include:

-- Colussy YX201 in Roulette Twp., Potter County (active)
-- Kaple YX202 in Roulette Twp., Potter County (active)
-- Kaple YX208 in Roulette Twp., Potter County (active)
-- Guardian Pad B611 Hebron Twp., Potter County. (Unspecified/Abandoned)

Click Here for a copy of the violation.

On July 22, 2024, DEP issued a notice of violation to **AMS Energy, LLC** for failing to submit monthly production and waste generation reports for six shale gas wells in **Butler County** for the last six months-- January through June.

The wells include:

-- W.Watson 1 47.6: Winfield Twp., Butler County
-- D. Brewer 1 67.3: Winfield Twp., Butler County
-- Klabnik 1: Winfield Twp., Butler County
-- Brunn 1 50: Winfield Twp., Butler County

-- McCrea 1: Clearfield Twp., Butler County
-- L. Graff 1-103.27: Jefferson Twp., Butler County
Click Here for a copy of the violation.

On July 22, 2024, DEP issued a notice of violation to **Monona LLC** for failing to submit monthly production and waste generation reports for the Stickle 1H shale gas well in Fairfield Township, **Westmoreland County** for the last six months-- January through June.

Report Violations

To report oil and gas violations or any environmental emergency or complaint, visit DEP's Environmental Complaint webpage.
Text photos and the location of abandoned wells to 717-788-8990.

Check These Resources

Visit DEP's Compliance Reporting Database webpage to search their compliance records by date and owner 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: Row 1-- Clean Energy Exploration & Production LLC** shale gas well pad contaminated water; **Diversified Prod LLC** conventional well leaking gas; **EQM Gathering OPCO LLC** inadequate cleanup of shale gas wastewater pipeline spill at two locations; **PA General Energy Co. LLC** spills on shale gas well pad; **Row 2-- Stonehaven Energy MGT Co LLC** conventional well venting gas, signs of leaking well; **Chesapeake Appalachia LLC** second attempt to plug shale gas well; **Diversified Prod LLC** conventional wastewater tank overflowed; **Kenic Gas & Oil Co** abandoned conventional well plugging underway; **Row 3-- Pillar Energy PA LLC** leaking conventional plastic wastewater tank; **Seneca Resources Co LLC** soil removed to 7 feet deep due to wastewater pipeline leak on shale gas well pad; **ARG Resources, Inc**. abandoned conventional well leaking gas; **Myers Gas** conventional well leaking gas next to a hiking trail.)*

[**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.]

PA Oil & Gas Industry Public Notice Dashboards:
-- PA Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - July 20 to 26 - Abandoned Well Violations To Owner Of 727 Conventional Wells 'Returned To Sender,' More Wastewater Pipeline Spills; 2nd Attempt To Plug Shale Gas Well [PaEN]
-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices, Opportunities To Comment - July 27 [PaEN]
-- DEP Posted 74 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In July 27 PA Bulletin [PaEN]
PA Oil & Gas Industry Public Notice Dashboards:

-- PA Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - July 20 to 26 - Abandoned Well Violations To Owner Of 727 Conventional Wells 'Returned To Sender,' More Wastewater Pipeline Spills; 2nd Attempt To Plug Shale Gas Well [PaEN]
-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices, Opportunities To Comment - July 27 [PaEN]
-- DEP Posted 74 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In July 27 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

Related Articles This Week:

-- No One Warned A Cameron County Family Their Water Well Was Contaminated By A Seneca Resources Shale Gas Wastewater Pipeline Rupture [PaEN]
-- Shell Petrochemical Plant Asks DEP To Classify Chemical Makeup, Flow Rate Of Gases Going To Be Burned Off By Flares, Air Pollution Sources, Control Equipment Operating At The Plant Confidential Business Information [PaEN]
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Approved, Renewed 22 Shale Gas Well Pad Water Use General Permits In June; 155 General Permits In 2024 [PaEN]
-- DEP Requiring Any Facility Operating Under A Temporary Title V Air Plan Approval For More Than 12 Months To Submit a Title V Operating Permit On Or Before Nov. 25, 2024 [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Aug. 21 Webinar - Water Testing Through Penn State's Ag Analytical Lab [PaEN]
-- Learn How You Can Qualify For Free Well Water Testing During Aug. 22 Penn State Extension Webinar [PaEN]

NewsClips:

-- Grist - Jake Bolster: Road Dumping Returns: How Pennsylvania's Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Quietly Dumped Waste Across The State
-- Fast Company: It's Illegal For Oil & Gas Companies To Dump Wastewater On Pennsylvania Roads - They Do It Anyway
-- MotherJones.com: Frackers Are Spraying Toxic Wastewater On Pennsylvania Roads Despite Ban
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: Fight Over Road Dumping Oil & Gas Wastewater Is A Rural-Urban Tension [They Now Dump More On Paved Roads; Road Dumping Is Waste Disposal - This Is 2024, Not 1859 Learn The Real Facts]
-- NonProfitQuarterly.org - Justin Nobel: Is Radioactivity The Key To Holding The Fracking Industry Accountable? [Bryan Latkanich Case In Washington County]
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: Pennsylvania Could Be A Lithium Goldmine, If The Tech Catches Up [Oil & Gas Wastewater]
-- Environmental Defense Fund Blog: New Report Reveals The Need For Protective Standards For All Gas Well-Related Gathering Pipelines
-- Gov. Shapiro Signs Bipartisan Solar For Schools And Geologic Sequestration Of Carbon Bills Into Law [PaEN]
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA Hopes To Regulate Carbon Storage Wells With New Law
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: Pennsylvania Law Seeks To Make State A Geologic Carbon Storage Center
-- PA Capital-Star/Inside Climate News: National Spotlight Shines On Shapiro's Contested Environmental Record

-- Fortune: Harris Reverses Earlier Anti-Fracking Stance And No Longer Supports A Ban
-- Bloomberg: Harris Backs Off Fracking Ban As Republicans Campaign On Past Position
-- The Hill: Harris Does Not Support Fracking Ban - Campaign Official
-- WESA: VP Harris Has Said She Wants To Ban Fracking, PA Republicans Are Ready To Attack
-- Bloomberg: EQT Gas CEO Says Fracking Ban Would Be 'Constructive' For Prices
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: EQT Natural Gas' Toby Rice On Presidential Politics: 'Time To Hold Leaders Accountable' [EQT, PA Shale Gas Says We Have A 'Duty' To Sell More Gas To China Our Economic, Military Competitor]
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: EQT Gas Driller, Equitrans Together Again As $5.45 Billion Deal Closes
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: What EQT Gas Will Do With Its Newly Acquired Mountain Valley Pipeline
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA Hopes To Regulate Carbon Storage Wells With New Law
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: Pennsylvania Law Seeks To Make State A Geologic Carbon Storage Center
[Posted: July 27, 2024]

PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices, Opportunities To Comment - July 27



The following notices were published in the July 27 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 July 27 PA Bulletin that it is requiring any facility operating under a temporary Title V Air Quality Plan Approval for more than 12 months to submit an application for a Title V Air Quality permit on or before November 25, 2024.

The requirement to submit a Title V Operating Permit application within 12 months of beginning operation will also apply to the owners or operators of new or modified Title V facilities authorized and operating under a plan approval after July 27, 2024. Read more here.

-- The Susquehanna River Basin Commission published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin the Executive Director gave his approval to or renewed 22 general water use permits in June for individual shale gas well drilling pads in Bradford, Susquehanna and Tioga counties. This brings the total general water permits approved by the SRBC in 2024 to 155. Read more here.

-- **Shell Chemical Appalachia LLC** - Petrochemical Plant: DEP issued a GP-1 Air Quality General Permit for the continued operation of multiple air pollution sources at the facility located in Potter and Center Townships, **Beaver County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4392)

Land Recycling/Brownfield Cleanups
-- Chesapeake Appalachia LLC - Dacheus Shale Gas Well Pad: DEP approved a Final Report on remediation of soil contaminated with diesel fuel to meet the Statewide Health Standard at the pad located in Cherry Twp., **Sullivan County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4389)
-- Coterra Energy, Inc. - J. Loffredo Shale Gas Well Pad: DEP approved a Final Report on remediation of soil contaminated with production wastewater to meet the Statewide Health Standards at the pad located in Nicholson Twp., **Wyoming County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4389)
-- STL Resources LLC - Sturgis South Sale Gas Well Pad: DEP approved a Final Report on remediation of soil contaminated with production wastewater to meet the Statewide Health Standards at the pad located in Grugan Twp., **Clinton County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4389)
-- SWN Production Company, LLC - Dimmig Shale Gas Well Pad: DEP approved a Final Report on remediation of soil contaminated with production wastewater, foamer and de-foamer at the pad located in Forkston Twp., **Wyoming County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4389)

2024 Land Recycling/Brownfield Cleanups
So far in 2024, DEP received or acted on 179 Act 2 Land Recycling notices related to oil and gas facility site cleanups.

Waste Permits
-- Sandy Run Biogas, LLC - Landfill Gas Facility: DEP issued a Waste Permit for a landfill gas facility located in Broad Top Twp., **Bedford County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4390)
-- Danco Industries, Inc. - Oil & Gas Wastewater Processing: DEP issued a Waste Permit for this oil and gas wastewater processing facility located in Barkeyville Boro, **Venango County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4391)

Air Quality Permits
-- Eastern Gas Transmission And Storage, Inc. - South Oakford Compressor Station: DEP invites comments on an Air Quality Plan Approval covering multiple sources of air pollution at the facility located in Hempfield Twp., **Westmoreland County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4360)
-- Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC - Greencastle Compressor Station: DEP invites comments on a Title V Air Quality Operating Permit covering multiple sources of air pollution at the facility located in Montgomery Twp., **Franklin County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4362)
-- Highspire Terminals DE LLC - Gasoline/Distillate Terminal: DEP invites comments on a State Only Air Quality Operating Permit covering multiple sources of air pollution at the facility located in Lower Swatara Twp., **Dauphin County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4362)
-- XTO Energy, Inc. - Cypher Shale Gas Well Pad: DEP issued a GP5-A Air Quality General Permit covering multiple sources of air pollution at the facility located in Clearfield Twp., **Butler County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4391)
-- Hilcorp Energy Co. - Mahoning-Buckner Shale Gas Well Pad: DEP issued a GP5-A Air General Permit covering multiple sources of air pollution at the facility located in Mahoning Twp., **Lawrence County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4391)
-- Reading Terminals DE, LLC - Petroleum Product Storage Tank: DEP reactivated an existing GP2 Air Quality General Permit for the facility located in Sinking Spring Boro, **Berks County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4391)
-- CNX Midstream Operating Company, LLC - RHL-22 Dehydration Station: DEP issued a

GP5 Air Quality General Permit for the operation of multiple sources of air pollution at the facility located in Richhill Twp., **Greene County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4391)
-- Shell Chemical Appalachia LLC - Petrochemical Plant: DEP issued a GP1 Air Quality General Permit for the continued operation of multiple air pollution sources at the facility located in Potter and Center Townships, **Beaver County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4392)
-- Armstrong Power LLC - Natural Gas-fired Power Plant: DEP issued an extension of the Air Quality Plan Approval for six months to allow more time for evaluation of stack test reports at the facility located in South Bend Twp., **Armstrong County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4393)
-- Diversified Energy Company- Kewanee Deemer Compressor Station: DEP terminated the Air Quality Plan Approval/Operating Permit due to the shutdown of certain air pollution sources at the facility located in Brady Twp., **Clearfield County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4394)

Erosion & Sedimentation Permits
-- Coterra Energy, Inc. - Unknown Project: DEP issued a Chapter 102 permit for a project impacting Dark Hollow and West Creeks located in Auburn Twp., **Susquehanna County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4399)
-- Seneca Resources Co LLC - Unknown Project: DEP issued a Chapter 102 permit for a project impacing Grays Run (High Quality) and Lycoming Creek (High Quality) located in Lewis Twp., **Lycoming County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4399)
-- Appalachia Midstream Services LLC - Unknown Project: DEP issued a Chapter 102 permit for a project impacting Deuel Creek and East Branch Wyalusing Creek in Rush Twp., **Susquehanna County.** (PA Bulletin, page 4399)
-- Range Resources Appalachia LLC - Pipeline Project: DEP issued a Chapter 102 permit for a project impacting Cross Creek (High Quality) and South Fork Cross Creek (High Quality) located in Cross Creek and Smith Townships, **Washington County.** (PA Bulletin, page 4399)

NOTE: Oil & Gas Well Permits: Received 4 shale gas, 10 conventional; Under review 4 shale gas, 10 conventional week ending July 19

Oil & Gas Well Drilling Permits [7.19.24]*
-- Last Week - Permits: DEP issued 0 conventional and 6 unconventional
-- Year To Date - Permits: DEP issued 118 conventional and 290 unconventional
-- Year To Date - Wells Drilled: 83 conventional and 172 unconventional
*Weekly Workload Report - 7.19.24
*DEP's Weekly Oil & Gas Program Workload Report - Most Recent

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!

Act 14 Notices To Municipalities

Many communities and citizens are not aware that a state law passed in 1984 gives them the first chance to comment on Department of Environmental Protection permit applications even before they are submitted to the agency. Read more here.

PA Oil & Gas Industry Public Notice Dashboards:

-- PA Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - July 20 to 26 - Abandoned Well Violations To Owner Of 727 Conventional Wells 'Returned To Sender,' More Wastewater Pipeline Spills; 2nd Attempt To Plug Shale Gas Well [PaEN]

-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices, Opportunities To Comment - July 27 [PaEN]

-- DEP Posted 74 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In July 27 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

Related Articles This Week:

-- No One Warned A Cameron County Family Their Water Well Was Contaminated By A Seneca Resources Shale Gas Wastewater Pipeline Rupture [PaEN]

-- Shell Petrochemical Plant Asks DEP To Classify Chemical Makeup, Flow Rate Of Gases Going To Be Burned Off By Flares, Air Pollution Sources, Control Equipment Operating At The Plant Confidential Business Information [PaEN]

-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Approved, Renewed 22 Shale Gas Well Pad Water Use General Permits In June; 155 General Permits In 2024 [PaEN]

-- DEP Requiring Any Facility Operating Under A Temporary Title V Air Plan Approval For More Than 12 Months To Submit a Title V Operating Permit On Or Before Nov. 25, 2024 [PaEN]

-- Penn State Extension Aug. 21 Webinar - Water Testing Through Penn State's Ag Analytical Lab [PaEN]

-- Learn How You Can Qualify For Free Well Water Testing During Aug. 22 Penn State Extension Webinar [PaEN]

NewsClips:

-- Grist - Jake Bolster: Road Dumping Returns: How Pennsylvania's Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Quietly Dumped Waste Across The State

-- Fast Company: It's Illegal For Oil & Gas Companies To Dump Wastewater On Pennsylvania Roads - They Do It Anyway

-- MotherJones.com: Frackers Are Spraying Toxic Wastewater On Pennsylvania Roads Despite Ban

-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: Fight Over Road Dumping Oil & Gas Wastewater Is A Rural-Urban Tension [They Now Dump More On Paved Roads; Road Dumping Is Waste Disposal - This Is 2024, Not 1859 Learn The Real Facts]

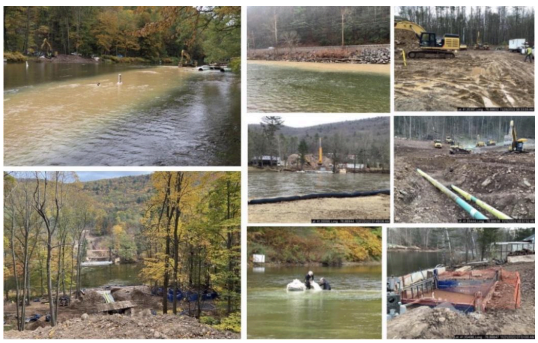
-- NonProfitQuarterly.org - Justin Nobel: Is Radioactivity The Key To Holding The Fracking Industry Accountable? [Bryan Latkanich Case In Washington County]

-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: Pennsylvania Could Be A Lithium Goldmine, If The Tech Catches Up [Oil & Gas Wastewater]

-- Environmental Defense Fund Blog: New Report Reveals The Need For Protective Standards For All Gas Well-Related Gathering Pipelines

-- Gov. Shapiro Signs Bipartisan Solar For Schools And Geologic Sequestration Of Carbon Bills Into Law [PaEN]
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA Hopes To Regulate Carbon Storage Wells With New Law
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: Pennsylvania Law Seeks To Make State A Geologic Carbon Storage Center
-- PA Capital-Star/Inside Climate News: National Spotlight Shines On Shapiro's Contested Environmental Record
-- Fortune: Harris Reverses Earlier Anti-Fracking Stance And No Longer Supports A Ban
-- Bloomberg: Harris Backs Off Fracking Ban As Republicans Campaign On Past Position
-- The Hill: Harris Does Not Support Fracking Ban - Campaign Official
-- WESA: VP Harris Has Said She Wants To Ban Fracking, PA Republicans Are Ready To Attack
-- Bloomberg: EQT Gas CEO Says Fracking Ban Would Be 'Constructive' For Prices
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: EQT Natural Gas' Toby Rice On Presidential Politics: 'Time To Hold Leaders Accountable' [EQT, PA Shale Gas Says We Have A 'Duty' To Sell More Gas To China Our Economic, Military Competitor]
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: EQT Gas Driller, Equitrans Together Again As $5.45 Billion Deal Closes
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: What EQT Gas Will Do With Its Newly Acquired Mountain Valley Pipeline
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA Hopes To Regulate Carbon Storage Wells With New Law
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: Pennsylvania Law Seeks To Make State A Geologic Carbon Storage Center
[Posted: July 26, 2024]

Susquehanna River Basin Commission Approved, Renewed 22 Shale Gas Well Pad Water Use General Permits In June; 155 General Permits In 2024



The Susquehanna River Basin Commission published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin the Executive Director gave his approval to or renewed 22 general water use permits in June for individual shale gas well drilling pads in Bradford, Susquehanna and Tioga counties.

This brings the total general water permits approved by the SRBC in 2024 to 155. Read more here.

The approvals were granted under SRBC regulation 18 CFR 806.22(e) and (f) that creates a general permit-type process to grant approval for water use by individual shale gas drilling pads.

Individual uses of this general permit are not subject to public review.

A separate water withdrawal approval is required by SRBC for actually withdrawing water from a specific water source for use by shale gas drilling operations. Read more here.

Here's a list of the general permits approved--

-- RENEWAL—**Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC**; Pad ID: Chancellor; ABR-20090532.R3; Asylum Township, **Bradford County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 7.5000 mgd; Approval Date: June 5, 2024.

-- RENEWAL—**Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC**; Pad ID: Corbett Unit Pad; ABR-201905006.R1; Overton Township, **Bradford County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 7.5000 mgd; Approval Date: June 5, 2024.

-- RENEWAL—**Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC**; Pad ID: James Barrett; ABR-20090530.R3; Asylum Township, **Bradford County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 7.5000 mgd; Approval Date: June 5, 2024.

-- RENEWAL—**Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC**; Pad ID: John Barrett; ABR-20090529.R3; Asylum Township, **Bradford County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 7.5000 mgd; Approval Date: June 5, 2024.

-- RENEWAL—**Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC**; Pad ID: Judd; ABR-20090534.R3; Monroe Township, **Bradford County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 7.5000 mgd; Approval Date: June 5, 2024.

-- RENEWAL—**Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC**; Pad ID: May; ABR-20090528.R3; Granville Township, **Bradford County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 7.5000 mgd; Approval Date: June 5, 2024.

-- RENEWAL—**Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC**; Pad ID: Clapper; ABR-20090533.R3; Auburn Township, **Susquehanna County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 7.5000 mgd; Approval Date: June 6, 2024.

-- **Coterra Energy, Inc.**; Pad ID: DefargesJ P1; ABR-202406001; Auburn Township, **Susquehanna County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 5.0000 mgd; Approval Date: June 13, 2024.

-- RENEWAL—**SWN Production Company, LLC**; Pad ID: RU-55 CONKLIN; ABR-201204018.R2; New Milford Township, **Susquehanna County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 4.9990 mgd; Approval Date: June 13, 2024.

-- RENEWAL—**Seneca Resources Company, LLC**; Pad ID: Shughart 490; ABR-201403004.R2; Richmond Township, **Tioga County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 4.0000 mgd; Approval Date: June 21, 2024.

-- RENEWAL—**Seneca Resources Company, LLC**; Pad ID: Shughart 534; ABR-201403003.R2; Richmond Township, **Tioga County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 4.0000 mgd; Approval Date: June 21, 2024.

-- RENEWAL—**SWN Production Company, LLC**; Pad ID: O'Brien Pad; ABR-201205012.R2; Jackson Township, **Susquehanna County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 4.9990 mgd; Approval Date: June 21, 2024.

-- RENEWAL—**Repsol Oil & Gas USA, LLC**; Pad ID: ALEXANDER (01 124); ABR-201905003.R1; Armenia Township, **Bradford County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 6.0000 mgd; Approval Date: June 24, 2024.

-- RENEWAL—**Coterra Energy, Inc.**; Pad ID: GrasavageE P1; ABR-201403014.R2; Jessup Township, **Susquehanna County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 5.0000 mgd; Approval Date: June 25, 2024.

-- RENEWAL—**Coterra Energy, Inc**.; Pad ID: HawkJ P1; ABR-201403013.R2; Auburn and Springville Townships, **Susquehanna County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 5.0000 mgd;

Approval Date: June 25, 2024.
-- RENEWAL—**Repsol Oil & Gas USA, LLC**; Pad ID: HARRIS (01 004) M; ABR-20090508.R3; Armenia Township, **Bradford County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 6.0000 mgd; Approval Date: June 25, 2024.
-- RENEWAL—**Repsol Oil & Gas USA, LLC**; Pad ID: PHINNEY (01 006) J; ABR-20090510.R3; Troy Township, **Bradford County,** PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 6.0000 mgd; Approval Date: June 25, 2024.
-- RENEWAL—**Seneca Resources Company, LLC**; Pad ID: Tice 653; ABR-201403002.R2; Richmond Township, **Tioga County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 4.0000 mgd; Approval Date: June 25, 2024.
-- RENEWAL—**Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC**; Pad ID: Harris # 1H; ABR-20090556.R3; Burlington Township, **Bradford County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 7.5000 mgd; Approval Date: June 28, 2024.
-- RENEWAL—**Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC**; Pad ID: Iceman; ABR-201205016.R2; Wilmot Township, **Bradford County,** PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 7.5000 mgd; Approval Date: June 28, 2024.
-- RENEWAL—**SWN Production Company, LLC**; Pad ID: Lepley Pad—TI-04; ABR-201405006.R2; Liberty Township, **Tioga County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 4.9990 mgd; Approval Date: June 28, 2024.
-- RENEWAL—**SWN Production Company, LLC**; Pad ID: Powers Pad Site; ABR-20090511.R3; Forest Lake Township, **Susquehanna County**, PA; Consumptive Use of Up to 4.9990 mgd; Approval Date: June 28, 2024.

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.

*(**Photos:** SRBC-approved shale gas drilling water withdrawal point on the Loyalsock Creek in Lycoming County under construction.)*

PA Oil & Gas Industry Public Notice Dashboards:

-- PA Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - July 20 to 26 - Abandoned Well Violations To Owner Of 727 Conventional Wells 'Returned To Sender,' More Wastewater Pipeline Spills; 2nd Attempt To Plug Shale Gas Well [PaEN]
-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices, Opportunities To Comment - July 27 [PaEN]
-- DEP Posted 74 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In July 27 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

Related Articles This Week:

-- No One Warned A Cameron County Family Their Water Well Was Contaminated By A Seneca Resources Shale Gas Wastewater Pipeline Rupture [PaEN]
-- Shell Petrochemical Plant Asks DEP To Classify Chemical Makeup, Flow Rate Of Gases Going To Be Burned Off By Flares, Air Pollution Sources, Control Equipment Operating At The Plant Confidential Business Information [PaEN]
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Approved, Renewed 22 Shale Gas Well Pad Water Use General Permits In June; 155 General Permits In 2024 [PaEN]
-- DEP Requiring Any Facility Operating Under A Temporary Title V Air Plan Approval For More Than 12 Months To Submit a Title V Operating Permit On Or Before Nov. 25, 2024 [PaEN]

-- Penn State Extension Aug. 21 Webinar - Water Testing Through Penn State's Ag Analytical Lab [PaEN]
-- Learn How You Can Qualify For Free Well Water Testing During Aug. 22 Penn State Extension Webinar [PaEN]

NewsClips:

-- Grist - Jake Bolster: Road Dumping Returns: How Pennsylvania's Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Quietly Dumped Waste Across The State
-- Fast Company: It's Illegal For Oil & Gas Companies To Dump Wastewater On Pennsylvania Roads - They Do It Anyway
-- MotherJones.com: Frackers Are Spraying Toxic Wastewater On Pennsylvania Roads Despite Ban
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: Fight Over Road Dumping Oil & Gas Wastewater Is A Rural-Urban Tension [They Now Dump More On Paved Roads; Road Dumping Is Waste Disposal - This Is 2024, Not 1859 Learn The Real Facts]
-- NonProfitQuarterly.org - Justin Nobel: Is Radioactivity The Key To Holding The Fracking Industry Accountable? [Bryan Latkanich Case In Washington County]
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: Pennsylvania Could Be A Lithium Goldmine, If The Tech Catches Up [Oil & Gas Wastewater]
-- Environmental Defense Fund Blog: New Report Reveals The Need For Protective Standards For All Gas Well-Related Gathering Pipelines
-- Gov. Shapiro Signs Bipartisan Solar For Schools And Geologic Sequestration Of Carbon Bills Into Law [PaEN]
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA Hopes To Regulate Carbon Storage Wells With New Law
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: Pennsylvania Law Seeks To Make State A Geologic Carbon Storage Center
-- PA Capital-Star/Inside Climate News: National Spotlight Shines On Shapiro's Contested Environmental Record
-- Fortune: Harris Reverses Earlier Anti-Fracking Stance And No Longer Supports A Ban
-- Bloomberg: Harris Backs Off Fracking Ban As Republicans Campaign On Past Position
-- The Hill: Harris Does Not Support Fracking Ban - Campaign Official
-- WESA: VP Harris Has Said She Wants To Ban Fracking, PA Republicans Are Ready To Attack
-- Bloomberg: EQT Gas CEO Says Fracking Ban Would Be 'Constructive' For Prices
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: EQT Natural Gas' Toby Rice On Presidential Politics: 'Time To Hold Leaders Accountable' [EQT, PA Shale Gas Says We Have A 'Duty' To Sell More Gas To China Our Economic, Military Competitor]
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: EQT Gas Driller, Equitrans Together Again As $5.45 Billion Deal Closes
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: What EQT Gas Will Do With Its Newly Acquired Mountain Valley Pipeline
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA Hopes To Regulate Carbon Storage Wells With New Law
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: Pennsylvania Law Seeks To Make State A Geologic Carbon Storage Center

[Posted: July 26, 2024]

Shapiro Administration Secures $396.1 Million In Federal Funding To Cut Carbon Pollution From Industries, Create Jobs



On July 22, Gov. Josh Shapiro joined U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael S. Regan, Department of Environmental Protection Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley, President of the Allegheny-Fayette Labor Council Darrin Kelly and local elected leaders to celebrate the Shapiro Administration securing nearly $400 million to fund efforts to help Pennsylvania companies lower climate emissions while creating good-paying jobs and supporting Pennsylvania's economy.

EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan announced that the Department of Environmental Protection has been selected to receive a more than $396.1 million grant for the Reducing Industrial Sector Emissions in Pennsylvania (RISE PA) project – 10% of the federal funds available for this program nationwide, making Pennsylvania one of the largest grant winners in the country.

The RISE PA Program

The RISE PA program is a part of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's application to the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program, part of the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act.

The RISE PA Program will create a statewide industrial decarbonization incentive program and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) and other emissions from Pennsylvania's industrial sector, the highest-emitting sector in the Commonwealth.

Incentives and grants ranging from $25,000 to $300 million will be offered for small-, medium-, and large-scale decarbonization projects at industrial facilities.

The financial support of the grant will address current funding gaps for industrial decarbonization projects in Pennsylvania.

The project will deliver the following benefits to reduce GHGs and support communities--

-- Accelerate industrial decarbonization by funding shovel-ready projects at hundreds of facilities.

Reduce GHG emissions by at least 20% at each selected facility for the medium- and large-scale awards.

-- Leverage between $283 million and $973 million in additional private capital for industrial decarbonization projects.

-- Create high-quality jobs by ensuring prevailing wage requirements as established by the U.S. Department of Labor and apprenticeship requirements are met.

-- Improve air quality by reducing hazardous air pollutants, toxins, and other harmful substances.

-- Enhance the physical and economic wellbeing of low-income and disadvantaged communities.

-- Invest in equitable workforce development activities to meet increased job demands.

-- Provide replicable and scalable strategies to reduce GHG emissions in hard-to-abate sectors.

Click Here for more on Pennsylvania's RISE PA Plan.

Announcement

"My Administration is taking real action to address climate change while continuing to create energy jobs and grow the economy – and today, I'm proud to announce that thanks to our partnership with the Biden-Harris Administration, Pennsylvania has been awarded $396 million in federal funding to start a new initiative called RISE PA," **said Gov. Josh Shapiro.** "This is one of the largest federal grants Pennsylvania has ever received, and through RISE PA, we will offer grants for companies working to make their operations more efficient. This investment will help us reduce toxic air pollution, create thousands of jobs, invest in our energy sector, and continue Pennsylvania's legacy of energy leadership."

"President Biden believes in the power of community-driven solutions to fight climate change, protect public health, and grow our economy. Thanks to his leadership, the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program will deliver unprecedented resources to states, local governments, and Tribes to fund the solutions that work best in their communities," **said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**.

"Selected recipients have put forward ambitious plans to advance sustainable agriculture, deploy clean industrial technologies, cut emissions and energy costs in homes and commercial buildings, and provide cost- and energy-efficient heating and cooling to communities, creating economic and workforce development opportunities along the way."

According to the 2023 Pennsylvania Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report, the industrial sector is Pennsylvania's highest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitting sector, accounting for just over 30 percent of the Commonwealth's total GHG emissions.

Under RISE PA, Pennsylvania will establish a competitive grant program to reduce pollution from industrial sources.

RISE PA could reduce 5.2 million tons of carbon by 2050 – or about 10% of Pennsylvania's annual industrial emissions.

Examples of eligible initiatives could include installing energy-efficient heat recovery systems to reduce the energy required to heat or cool an industrial facility, electrifying an industrial plant by swapping out diesel-powered generators with equipment that runs on electricity, and capturing coal mine methane from mining operations.

All of these projects would cut pollution and address climate change while creating good jobs and helping companies cut costs.

The DEP applied for and received an initial $3 million from the EPA in January to develop a Priority Climate Action Plan focused on reducing emissions in the Commonwealth's industrial sector.

DEP worked with industry, labor, and environmental leaders to craft the application for RISE PA, which will provide funding for industries to reduce carbon and benefit the health and safety of Pennsylvania communities.

"Thanks to this grant from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Biden-Harris Administration, Pennsylvania will continue to be an industrial leader and a leader in environmental protection," **said Pennsylvania DEP Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley**. "My family has a long history of working blue-collar manufacturing jobs like millions of Pennsylvanians. The Reducing Industrial Sector Emissions in Pennsylvania (RISE PA) program that will be funded through this grant has the potential to create good paying union jobs, reduce millions of tons of greenhouse gases, and increase manufacturing competitiveness in

Pennsylvania."

Prospective projects will need to satisfy the following proposed criteria--
-- Benefit (and not negatively impact) low-income and disadvantaged communities
-- Achieve GHG emission reductions that are long-lasting and certain
-- Incorporate high labor standards, emphasize job quality, and support equitable workforce development

Pennsylvania has a long legacy as a national energy leader – for over one hundred years, the Commonwealth has been one of the nation's top energy producers, embracing innovation to create jobs, lower costs, and drive progress.

RISE PA and the $400 million secured by the Administration today builds on the energy plan that Governor Shapiro laid out earlier this year.

"By helping the industry decarbonize, reducing their emissions and reducing pollution and becoming more energy efficient, we are going to invest in businesses that are here, create good jobs and improve air quality. It's a win, win, win across the board," **said Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato.** "This investment, it's going to make sure that we are investing in the businesses and the people that are here so we can improve air quality. We can keep businesses here. We can create family sustaining jobs and invest in communities that had been left behind for too long to ensure that everyone can thrive."

Gov. Shapiro's energy plan will protect and create more than 14,500 energy jobs, lower utility bills for Pennsylvania households, and take real action to address climate change pollution.

If passed by the legislature, the Governor's initiatives would save Pennsylvania ratepayers $252 million in the first five years, while generating $5.1 billion in investment in clean, reliable energy sources.

The Governor looks forward to continuing to work with the General Assembly to secure Pennsylvania's energy future while ensuring the health and safety of our communities.

While we invest in energy and work to ensure affordable and reliable power for the long term, we also need to reduce pollution, address climate change, and protect Pennsylvanians' public health and safety.

Click Here for more on Pennsylvania's RISE PA Plan.

[Note: Section 1724-H of the Fiscal Code bill prohibits DEP from using federal money from the Inflation Reduction Act for the Solar for All program unless it is authorized by state law after the effective date of the act. It does not include the RISE PA Program. [Fiscal Code bill, page 76]]

Visit DEP's Federal Inflation Reduction Act webpage for more background.

Click Here for EPA's complete announcement.

Click Here for video and photos from the announcement

Reaction

John Walliser, Senior Vice President, Legal & Government Affairs for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, issued the following statement on the announcement--

"Today's announcement is a landmark moment for our state. The industrial sector accounts for the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions in our Commonwealth; but that in turn represents the greatest opportunity in the clean energy transition.

"PEC appreciates the tremendous work of the Shapiro Administration and Department of Environmental Protection in developing the RISE PA Program and pursuing this

ground-breaking investment – nearly $400 million – in Pennsylvania's environment and economy.

"We also thank the Biden-Harris Administration and Environmental Protection Agency for its stewardship of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program.

"Strong communities, a healthy environment, and a robust and innovative economy can work hand in hand in the clean energy transition; the Rise PA Program will be a cornerstone in making that happen."

Click Here for the complete PEC statement.

NewsClips:

-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: Pennsylvania Gets Nearly $400 Million For Industrial Decarbonization

-- The Allegheny Front - Reid Frazier: PA Gets $400 Million From EPA To Lower Carbon Emissions From Industries

-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Pennsylvania To Receive $396 Million For Industrial Decarbonization

Related Articles:

-- Shapiro Administration Secures $396.1 Million In Federal Funding To Cut Carbon Pollution From Industries, Create Jobs [PaEN]

-- Gov. Shapiro Signs Bipartisan Solar For Schools And Geologic Sequestration Of Carbon Bills Into Law [PaEN]

-- Green Building Alliance Thanks Sen. Fetterman For Seeking Critical Grant Support For Program To Expand Small Business Resilience In Erie, New Kensington, Westmoreland County [PaEN]

-- Penn State Study Finds Solar Farms With Stormwater Controls Mitigate Runoff, Erosion [PaEN]

[Posted: July 22, 2024]

EPA Announces $13.9 Million In Environmental, Climate Justice Community Change Grants In PA

On July 25, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced $13.9 million in funding coming to Pennsylvania to help disadvantaged communities tackle environmental and climate justice challenges through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity.

Made possible by the federal Inflation Reduction Act, the Community Change Grants Program is the single largest investment in environmental and climate justice in history.

The funding announcement today is the first tranche of nearly $2 billion from the program that was designed based on community input to award grants on a rolling basis.

In Pennsylvania, nearly $14 million is being awarded to the LandForce Pittsburgh Conservation Corps and PowerCorpsPHL to work in disadvantaged neighborhoods in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia to expand and create critical infrastructure for upcycling and commercializing materials from urban tree waste.

The project will offer workforce development and training for area residents to provide career pathways in land stewardship services and wood products.

These selected applications are the first to come under the Community Change Grants

Program's rolling application process.

Informed by robust stakeholder engagement and community feedback, the innovative rolling application process will ensure that applicants have ample time to prepare and take advantage of this historic resource.

Application Period Still Open

The Community Change Grants Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), administered through EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, is still accepting applications through November 21, 2024. EPA will continue to review applications and announce selections on a rolling basis.

"Our ability to deliver tangible results for communities depends on listening to them and developing innovative solutions through inclusive stakeholder engagement," **said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. "Today, thanks to President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, EPA has selected the first cohort of community partnerships to solve emerging and longstanding environmental and climate justice challenges."

"These organizations recognized a need and took the steps to make their communities stronger now and in the future. This funding is a boost towards a cleaner environment while also building community capacity and addressing environmental justice," **said EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz.** "We will continue to partner with these groups and look forward to watching the progress that will be made."

The Community Change Grants also deliver on President Biden's commitment to advance equity and justice throughout the United States through his Justice40 Initiative to ensure that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments go to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

Click Here to see the full listing of the initial 21 organizations receiving a CCGP grant.

Related Grant Programs

EPA also encourages interested applicants to apply for technical assistance as soon as possible, as the last day to request new technical assistance is August 16, 2024.

Visit the Community Change Grants and Technical Assistance webpage to learn more.

Visit EPA's Environmental Justice webpage for more on this topic.

For up-to-date information about the NOFO, including information on the webinars, subscribe to the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights' listserv by sending a blank email to: join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov.

Follow us on X (formerly Twitter): @EPAEnvJustice.

Related Articles:

-- House Committee To Hold 2nd Hearing July 29 On Governor's Energy Plan To Diversify Energy Generation, Improve Grid Reliability, Lower Consumer Energy Costs [PaEN]

-- Shapiro Administration Secures $396.1 Million In Federal Funding To Cut Carbon Pollution From Industries, Create Jobs [PaEN]

-- Gov. Shapiro Signs Bipartisan Solar For Schools And Geologic Sequestration Of Carbon Bills Into Law [PaEN]

-- With Support from Met-Ed/Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund, Green Building Alliance Launches Resilient Communities Initiative In Reading, Meadville [PaEN]

-- Green Building Alliance Thanks Sen. Fetterman For Seeking Critical Grant Support For Program To Expand Small Business Resilience In Erie, New Kensington, Westmoreland County [PaEN]

-- Penn State Study Finds Solar Farms With Stormwater Controls Mitigate Runoff, Erosion [PaEN]
-- PennEnvironment: New Interactive Map Spotlights State, National Parks With Access To Electric Vehicle Charging [PaEN]
[Posted: July 25, 2024]

House Committee To Hold 2nd Hearing July 29 On Governor's Energy Plan To Diversify Energy Generation, Improve Grid Reliability, Lower Consumer Energy Costs



The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will hold its second hearing July 29 on House Bill 2277 (Otten-D-Chester), the PA Reliable Energy Sustainability Standard (PRESS) is the Governor's Energy Plan that would diversify energy generation, improve grid reliability, lower consumer costs by avoiding energy price spikes and create energy-related jobs.

The agenda of witnesses includes--
-- Leah Meredith, Mid-Atlantic Region, Solar Energy Industries Assn.
-- Evan Vaughan, Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition
-- John Koteck, Nuclear Energy Institute
-- Julia Kortrey, Evergreen Action
-- Nick Bibby, Advance Energy United
-- Rod Williamson - Industrial Energy Consumers Of PA
-- Devi Ramkissoon, Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia

The hearing will be held on July 29 in Room G-50 of the Irvis Building in Harrisburg starting at 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch live online.

Two-Part PA Energy/Climate Plan

The PA Reliable Energy Sustainability Standard (PRESS) introduced in House Bill 2277 (Otten-D-Chester) and Senate Bill 1190 (Santarsiero-D-Bucks) is one part of a two-part PA Energy/Climate Plan announced by Gov. Shapiro in March with labor, business and environmental groups. Read more here.

The second part-- the PA Climate Emission Reduction Program (PACER)-- was introduced in House Bill 2275 (Abney-D-Allegheny) and Senate Bill 1191 (Comitta-D-Chester) PRESS continues all of the successful elements of the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS) while making it more inclusive—adding nuclear power, next generation technologies like fusion, and clean forms of natural gas for the first time.

This revitalized energy standard will deliver outsized economic value, improve the reliability of our electricity grid, and position Pennsylvania as a leader in the energy arena for the next twenty years.

PRESS raises the target for the cleanest and renewable energy projects in Tier I to 35% by 2035; it raises the target for Tier II to 10%; and it creates a new Tier III that includes important alternative sources or of power like co-blended or low emission natural gas and other step-stone resources with a 5% target by 2035.

In addition, PRESS ensures the continuity of our existing clean energy nuclear fleet by

creating a mechanism for those facilities to receive support in the event they are threatened with closure.

Under PACER, the Department of Environmental Protection will calculate a Pennsylvania-specific cap on carbon emissions and hold our own independent PACER credit auctions.

The proceeds will be invested as follows--

-- 70 percent returned directly to electricity consumers, including those in rural areas, as an across-the-board, on-bill rebate by the Public Utility Commission (PUC). This reflects the proceeds expected to come from Pennsylvania electricity customers.

-- 30 percent to support energy efficiency projects that reduce air pollution in Pennsylvania, invest in new job-creating clean energy projects, and support low-income energy consumers with their energy bills through a year-round LIHEAP program. Of that project funding, 40 percent will be dedicated to directly benefit Environmental Justice communities.

Click Here for a more detailed summary of the Governor's Energy/Climate Plans.

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.

*(**Photo:** Pittsburgh-based EOS Energy storage systems.)*

Resource Link:

-- House Committee Told Governor's Energy Plan Diversifies Energy Generation, Avoids One-Fuel Dependence, Improves Grid Reliability, Lowers Consumer Costs, Generates Jobs; Or Upends Competitive Markets And Is A 'Death Wish' For Our Economy [PaEN]

Related Articles This Week:

-- Shapiro Administration Secures $396.1 Million In Federal Funding To Cut Carbon Pollution From Industries, Create Jobs [PaEN]

-- Gov. Shapiro Signs Bipartisan Solar For Schools And Geologic Sequestration Of Carbon Bills Into Law [PaEN]

-- With Support from Met-Ed/Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund, Green Building Alliance Launches Resilient Communities Initiative In Reading, Meadville [PaEN]

-- Green Building Alliance Thanks Sen. Fetterman For Seeking Critical Grant Support For Program To Expand Small Business Resilience In Erie, New Kensington, Westmoreland County [PaEN]

-- Penn State Study Finds Solar Farms With Stormwater Controls Mitigate Runoff, Erosion [PaEN]

NewsClips:

-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: Pennsylvania Gets Nearly $400 Million For Industrial Decarbonization

-- The Allegheny Front - Reid Frazier: PA Gets $400 Million From EPA To Lower Carbon Emissions From Industries

-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Pennsylvania To Receive $396 Million For Industrial Decarbonization

-- Spotlight PA: Federal Dollars Driving Energy Policy In Pennsylvania Toward Solar, Hydrogen

-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA Hopes To Regulate Carbon Storage Wells With New Law

-- Post-Gazette Guest Essay: The Green Energy New Deal May Decide The Election - In The Republicans' Favor - By Fmr Republican Cong. Don Ritter
[Posted: July 25, 2024]

Gov. Shapiro Signs Bipartisan Solar For Schools And Geologic Sequestration Of Carbon Bills Into Law



On July 22, Gov. Josh Shapiro announced last week he signed House Bill 1032 (Fiedler-D- Philadelphia) and Senate Bill 831 (Yaw-R-Lycoming) into law, establishing the Solar for Schools program and creating a regulatory framework for carbon capture, utilization, and geologic sequestration (CCUS) in the Commonwealth.

CCUS will allow vital Pennsylvania industries to remove carbon dioxide from the impact on the planet and either recycle the carbon or store it underground to reduce its impact on the atmosphere.

In addition, energy is one of the highest expenses for school districts – that's why the bipartisan budget signed by Gov. Shapiro allocates $25 million for Solar for Schools grants, which can save our schools hundreds of thousands of dollars per year.

This initiative will create good-paying jobs and job training opportunities while protecting our environment, and most importantly, lowering energy costs for our schools, which will result in more resources for our teachers, students, and parents.

Solar for Schools, administered by the Department of Community and Economic Development, will also leverage available federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds to keep installation costs low for schools.

"When I laid out my energy plan, I promised we would take action to be more competitive, ensure Pennsylvanians pay less for electricity bills, and create more jobs and opportunities for our businesses to grow and our workers to get ahead," **said Gov. Shapiro**. "The bipartisan legislation I signed this week will do all three by lowering energy bills for our schools so that more resources can go to our students and set the stage for Pennsylvania to lead in a new industry that will reduce pollution while continuing to create good-paying jobs. As the only state in the nation to secure two regional clean hydrogen hubs, carbon capture will be a crucial element of our Western hub and continue Pennsylvania's legacy of innovation in the energy sector. My Administration looks forward to continuing to work with leaders in both parties to pass the rest of my energy plan and to secure Pennsylvania's energy future."

Pennsylvania has a long legacy as a national energy leader – for over one hundred years, the Commonwealth has been one of the nation's top energy producers, embracing innovation to create jobs, lower costs, and drive progress.

This legislation builds on the energy plan that Gov. Shapiro laid out earlier this year.

To cement Pennsylvania's place as one of the world's top energy producers, Governor Shapiro's energy plan will protect and create more than 14,500 energy jobs, lower utility bills for Pennsylvania households, and take real action to address climate change pollution.

If passed by the legislature, the Governor's initiatives would save Pennsylvania ratepayers $252 million in the first five years, while generating $5.1 billion in investment in

clean, reliable energy sources.

The Governor looks forward to continuing to work with the General Assembly to secure Pennsylvania's energy future while ensuring the health and safety of our communities.

While we invest in energy and work to ensure affordable and reliable power for the long term, we also need to reduce pollution, address climate change, and protect Pennsylvanians' public health and safety.

That's why in Gov. Shapiro's first year in office, his Administration worked to cap and plug over 200 orphaned and abandoned wells that leak methane and endanger our communities – more than the previous nine years combined.

The 2024-25 budget signed by the Governor(opens in a new tab) continues this progress by allocating an additional $11 million in state funds to continue to plug as many wells as possible.

The budget also includes $50 million to clean up waterways across Pennsylvania, including local streams that feed the Chesapeake Bay, and $10.5 million to speed up permitting processes at DEP and clear permit backlogs – building on the historic progress made by the Shapiro Administration on permitting reform, including reducing the backlog at DEP by 57%.

"The signing of House Bill 1032 means Pennsylvanians will soon have access to more well-paying jobs, better funded schools, and a cleaner environment," said **Rep. Elizabeth Fielder, prime sponsor of the Solar for Schools Act**. "After a long 18 months of visiting schools across the commonwealth and collaborating with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I am honored that Governor Shapiro has brought this bill across the finish line. Solar for Schools is a major victory, and I am humbled to share it with so many strong allies. I look forward to helping school districts across the commonwealth benefit from the program."

"This represents another important step in our long effort to transform our schools to meet the needs of 21st century students," said **Sen. Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia)**, co-prime sponsor of the Solar for Schools Act. "When we introduced companion legislation in the Senate, Senator Comitta and I knew that these incentives would save taxpayers money, make our schools safer and more sustainable, and tell students that we are committed to their future health and success."

"Schools are constantly looking for innovative ways to be responsible to their taxpayers, diversifying their funding and most importantly allowing their students to learn and grow," **said Sen. Camera Bartolotta (R-Washington)**, co-prime sponsor of the Solar for Schools Act. "This bipartisan legislation encourages our schools to include solar as an option for their energy source. This legislation combines two of my greatest passions, education and energy while also bolstering the economy. Our hard-working building trades will benefit by the thousands of jobs this funding creates."

"Many schools in Pennsylvania want to transition to more affordable and cleaner sources of energy, like solar, but the initial costs have been a barrier for some schools to make the transition," **said Sen. Carolyn Comitta (D-Chester),** co-prime sponsor of the Solar for Schools Act. "By creating a Solar for Schools Grant Program, we are helping our schools cut down on their overall electricity costs, working to meet our climate action goals, all while creating family-sustaining jobs. I was glad to lend my combined experience as a former public school educator and Education Committee member, as well as a long-time environmental champion and minority chair of the Environmental Resources & Energy Committee to this legislation to lead Pennsylvania schools toward a stronger and more sustainable future. Thank you to my friend and

colleague Rep. Fiedler, who championed this legislation in the house, and to all who worked to make this program a reality."

"This legislation is a proactive step to secure Pennsylvania's future as a hub for carbon capture and sequestration," **said Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming)**, prime sponsor of the Carbon Capture bill. "It's a pragmatic solution to a problem that we all want to solve – reducing our carbon emissions without crippling the reliability of our existing power grid. I'm grateful to my colleagues in the legislature and the governor for their support in getting this across the finish line."

"House Bill 1032 is not just a big win for our schools, it's a win for workers, taxpayers, and the environment. I was proud to support the bill in my committee, and to work with Rep. Fiedler on getting this important legislation successfully through the legislative process," **said Rep. Robert Matzie (D-Beaver)**, House Consumer Protection Committee Chair. "Senate Bill 831 was the result of well over a year of negotiation between the Senate, the House, and key stakeholders. It is a pragmatic approach to deal with carbon capture, on our own terms, as a Commonwealth. It was a pleasure to work with Sen. Yaw and his staff to add the necessary amendments in order to get this bill over the finish line and to the Governor."

"Just a few years ago, I wouldn't have thought this kind of collaboration would be possible. But the sun is shining on a new day for Pennsylvania," **said Robert S. Bair, president of the Pennsylvania Building Trades Council**. "No matter what party, no matter what part of the state, Pennsylvanians want good jobs and a healthy planet to leave for their kids. The bipartisan success of Solar for Schools proves that our commonwealth is committed to both our legacy of energy production and putting union members to work in the future."

NewsClips:

-- Sen. Yaw Measure Establishing Geologic Sequestration Framework Signed Into Law
-- PA Environmental Council: Carbon Sequestration Bill Signed Into Law
-- Clean Air Task Force: PA Passes Geologic Sequestration Bill In An Important Step For Industrial Decarbonization
-- Better Path Coalition: With Shapiro's Signature On Geologic Sequestration Bill, PA's Fate Is Cast As Part Of Climate Problem, Not Solution
-- Fayette County Republican Rep. Krupa Will Keep Fighting Carbon Capture, Other Environmental Injustices [PaEN]
-- Environmental Health News: 30 Environmental Advocacy Groups Ask PA Governor To Veto Geologic Sequestration Of Carbon Dioxide Bill
-- Williamsport Sun Editorial: Geologic Sequestration Bill Step In Right Direction

Related Articles:

-- Shapiro Administration Secures $396.1 Million In Federal Funding To Cut Carbon Pollution From Industries, Create Jobs [PaEN]
-- Gov. Shapiro Signs Bipartisan Solar For Schools And Geologic Sequestration Of Carbon Bills Into Law [PaEN]
-- Green Building Alliance Thanks Sen. Fetterman For Seeking Critical Grant Support For Program To Expand Small Business Resilience In Erie, New Kensington, Westmoreland County [PaEN]
-- Penn State Study Finds Solar Farms With Stormwater Controls Mitigate Runoff, Erosion [PaEN]

[Posted: July 22, 2024]

With Support from Met-Ed/Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund, Green Building Alliance Launches Resilient Communities Initiative In Reading, Meadville

On July 23, the Pittsburgh-based Green Building Alliance announced it will launch its newest program, Resilient Communities, in Meadville and Reading to provide both communities with a range of services to help reduce energy demand, cut utility costs, and increase energy efficiency and resiliency for the municipal buildings, commercial facilities, and nonprofit and educational institutions within each region.

The Resilient Communities program is made possible through support from the Met-Ed/Pennsylvania Electric Company Sustainable Energy Fund.

Offered at no cost to participating community partners, the three-year Resilient Communities program of services will augment larger community and economic goals by enabling buildings, infrastructure, and the entire communities of Meadville and Reading to be more resilient to the effects of extreme weather and emergency events; reduce energy and water utility costs; and facilitate making each community safer, more affordable, and attractive to residents, business owners, and prospective investment.

Working with Reading and Meadville project partners, GBA will:

-- Provide tailored technical support and guidance to assess opportunities for energy and water efficiency improvements in municipal buildings, saving on utility costs and freeing up dollars to be reinvested elsewhere;

-- Facilitate growth of quality jobs in fields that support resiliency and energy efficiency initiatives, such as operating engineers, facilities managers, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC/R) technicians, electricians, and renewable energy technicians;

-- Increase community vitality by reducing operational costs and improving the health and quality of small businesses, community anchor institutions, local government buildings, schools, and commercial facilities;

-- Open doors to new financial resources by providing grant writing assistance to pursue community resilience and energy-efficiency funding opportunities.

"We are grateful to the Met-Ed/Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund for making this expansion of GBA's work into the communities of Meadville and Reading possible," **says GBA COO Chris Cieslak**. "By investing in building infrastructure, this project will equip both communities for energy and resource stability in the face of unforeseen emergency events and market volatility. It will also facilitate modifications to reduce utility costs and make each community's buildings safer, more affordable and more attractive to residents, business owners, and to capital investment."

Assistance To Schools

GBA will work with community partners, including Generation180 who also was awarded 2024 support under this fund. Generation180 inspires and equips K-12 schools in PA communities to adopt clean, renewable energy and improve energy reliability.

With support from the Met-Ed/Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund, Generation180 offers free technical assistance to schools in Pennsylvania communities interested in exploring solar energy.

Schools can utilize solar energy systems with battery storage to create resilient campuses that can keep schools operating and support community needs during grid outages and extreme weather events.

“Generation180 is thrilled to work with GBA and Met-Ed/Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund to help K-12 schools in Reading, Meadville, and throughout Pennsylvania access the benefits of clean, affordable energy,” **said Shannon Crooker, Generation180 Pennsylvania Director**. “There’s never been a better time for schools to take advantage of the historic federal grants and incentives to install clean energy technologies that support healthy, resilient communities.”

The Resilient Communities program builds on GBA’s successful work in Erie, which has logged a shared utility savings of over $17 million across 20 public-private partners since partnering with GBA.

GBA provided technical guidance and support for the development of the City of Erie Central Fire Station’s solar grid and battery project, allowing the fire station to serve as a community resilience hub in the event of climate disaster or grid outages.

The fire station’s on-site solar array produces over 100% of the station's energy needs, while battery storage guarantees uninterrupted emergency management operations during an outage.

GBA has also partnered with Forest Hills Borough, which enacted a net-zero ordinance for their community.

Forest Hills is leading the way for other communities by conducting wide-scale energy retrofits in its eight-property portfolio and recently completed one of Southwestern Pennsylvania’s first net-zero buildings.

“We’re excited to support GBA and Generation180’s work to expand energy efficiency and renewable energy throughout Pennsylvania,” **says Davitt Woodwell, chair of the advisory committee for the Met-Ed/Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund** and former president of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. “The committee wanted to drive sustainable energy solutions that will leave a positive impact on our communities and saw no better way than to make grants to two organizations that are already making huge impacts across the state."

“I’m very excited to partner with the Green Building Alliance. This partnership will increase our capacity and provide critical technical assistance to our community partners, businesses, schools, and our staff as we are working towards our Reading for 100 goal of 100% clean, renewable energy by 2050,” **says Reading Mayor Eddie Morán**. “The City of Reading and many of our community partners have begun the transition process, and working with GBA will help facilitate and expedite a just transition. We are big fans of Erie’s success and are looking to duplicating it in Reading.”

“The City of Meadville is excited to be named a Resilient Community and for the good work that is sure to result from the partnership with GBA,” **says Autumn Vogel, City of Meadville Councilmember** and liaison to the City’s Environmental Advisory Committee. “This program will help us achieve goals set in our Climate Action Plan for a safer, healthier, more resilient Meadville. Through this partnership, we’ll get much needed support to make improvements to our aging building stock, making the people of Meadville safer and more comfortable in their homes and buildings, while helping residents, community partners, and local businesses save money. It’s a win-win-win. We’re eager to get started and grateful for the opportunity.”

For more information on programs, initiatives and other upcoming events, visit the Green Building Alliance website. Click Here to sign up for regular updates from the Alliance, Like them on Facebook, Follow them on Twitter and visit their YouTube Channel. Click Here to support their work.

Related Articles:

-- Shapiro Administration Secures $396.1 Million In Federal Funding To Cut Carbon Pollution From Industries, Create Jobs [PaEN]

-- Gov. Shapiro Signs Bipartisan Solar For Schools And Geologic Sequestration Of Carbon Bills Into Law [PaEN]

-- Green Building Alliance Thanks Sen. Fetterman For Seeking Critical Grant Support For Program To Expand Small Business Resilience In Erie, New Kensington, Westmoreland County [PaEN]

-- Penn State Study Finds Solar Farms With Stormwater Controls Mitigate Runoff, Erosion [PaEN]

[Posted: July 23, 2024]

Green Building Alliance Thanks Sen. Fetterman For Seeking Critical Grant Support For Program To Expand Small Business Resilience In Erie, New Kensington, Westmoreland County

On July 22, the Pittsburgh-based Green Building Alliance announced US Sen. John Fetterman said he will officially seek support for the expansion of GBA's Resilient Small Businesses Expansion Project programming to Erie, New Kensington, and Westmoreland County through a $250,000 Congressionally Directed Spending Grant (CDS).

The GBA Resilient Small Businesses Expansion Project, together with a list of projects selected for potential congressionally directed spending, can be found on Senator Fetterman's website.

The CDS process allows an organization that serves a public interest to communicate investment priorities to its elected representatives so they can ask appropriations committees to direct money to those projects.

Congress is taking up the FY2025 appropriations process beginning this summer.

GBA's proposed project will support the pursuit of capital funding for energy efficiency, renewable energy and building performance improvement projects that directly improve businesses, provide economic savings, and support job growth in the disadvantaged climate and economic justice areas in the City of Erie and City of New Kensington, with potential to expand within the counties.

Small businesses in Erie and New Kensington face high barriers to preparing for the growth in the green building and sustainability sectors – and their associated workforce opportunities – due to factors such as low median household incomes.

For example, in Erie City, the median household income is 41.4% less than the state median household income, and in New Kensington it is 35.7% less.

Founded in 1993, GBA helps small businesses, governments, institutions, nonprofits and

K12 schools improve the performance (energy use, indoor air quality, water use, reliability, sustainability) and economic operational costs of existing and new buildings through education and training, technical assistance, grant writing assistance, and shared practices between industry clusters and private/public sector building owners.

GBA has already convened community anchors in Erie and Westmoreland Counties to provide green building professional training, building performance data analysis, project technical assistance, and facilitated peer networks for businesses and building owners.

Past projects in that part of the Commonwealth have included the installation of solar and battery storage at the Erie Central Fire Station and energy improvement projects by the Benedictine Sisters, also in Erie.

"Since 1993, GBA has worked with small businesses, governments, institutions, nonprofits, and K12 schools in western PA to foster resilience, sustainability, and economic growth," says GBA CEO Jenna Cramer. "These reductions have resulted in $469 million in cumulative utility bill savings for businesses, organizations, schools, and governments – financial savings that can be reinvested into business, people, and communities. Together, these have led to an investment of over $2.3 billion in building renovations and healthy, sustainable new construction.

"These efforts have measurably transformed communities and the regional economy by generating private investment and supporting well-paying jobs, and we are grateful to Senator Fetterman for his support."

For more information on programs, initiatives and other upcoming events, visit the Green Building Alliance website. Click Here to sign up for regular updates from the Alliance, Like them on Facebook, Follow them on Twitter and visit their YouTube Channel. Click Here to support their work.

Related Articles:

-- Shapiro Administration Secures $396.1 Million In Federal Funding To Cut Carbon Pollution From Industries, Create Jobs [PaEN]

-- Gov. Shapiro Signs Bipartisan Solar For Schools And Geologic Sequestration Of Carbon Bills Into Law [PaEN]

-- Green Building Alliance Thanks Sen. Fetterman For Seeking Critical Grant Support For Program To Expand Small Business Resilience In Erie, New Kensington, Westmoreland County [PaEN]

-- Penn State Study Finds Solar Farms With Stormwater Controls Mitigate Runoff, Erosion [PaEN]

[Posted: July 22, 2024]

Penn State Study Finds Solar Farms With Stormwater Controls Mitigate Runoff, Erosion

By Jeff Mulhollem, Penn State News



As the number of major utility-scale ground solar panel installations grows, concerns about their impacts on natural hydrologic processes also have grown. However, a new study by Penn State researchers suggests that excess runoff or increased erosion can be easily mitigated

— if these “solar farms” are properly built.

Solar panels are impervious to water, and vast arrays of them, it was feared, could increase the volume and velocity of stormwater runoff similar to concrete and asphalt.

But after conducting a year-long field investigation of soil moisture patterns, solar radiation and vegetation at two solar farms in central Pennsylvania — built on slopes representative of the Northeast U.S. — the researchers concluded that such installations should not present negative implications for stormwater management.

In findings recently published in Journal of Hydrology, the team reported that healthy vegetation and well-draining soils can help manage runoff on solar farms, and where necessary on more challenging landscapes, engineered stormwater controls can manage any unmitigated runoff.

“We were especially interested in stormwater movement in solar farms on complex terrain and steep slopes,” said Lauren McPhillips, assistant professor in civil and environmental engineering, whose research group conducted the study. “There's a lot of concern that solar is eating up prime agricultural land with well-draining soils that are pretty flat. From those sites, you have minimal runoff concerns. We are interested in facilitating making use of more challenging marginal lands for solar farms.”

In the study, lead researcher Rouhangiz "Nasim" Yavari, doctoral degree candidate in the Water Resources Engineering Program in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, analyzed soil moisture patterns in the solar farms.

They revealed redistribution of water relative to solar panels, with soil moisture under driplines — ground directly beneath the lower edge of the panels from which precipitation falls — 19% higher than nearby land, and moisture in the soil under the panels 25% lower than nearby land, on average, at both solar farms over a year.

The researchers noted that there were periods of saturation and localized runoff generation at the panel drip lines during heavy precipitation events.

However, an open interspace between panel rows and existing infiltration basins and trenches at both solar farms managed the runoff.

Micrometeorological monitoring — assessing the small-scale weather and climate processes that affect things like agriculture, forestry and the natural environment — indicated reduced evapotranspiration, or the process by which water is transferred from the land to the atmosphere, under the panels.

They also found that the potential underpanel evapotranspiration was 37% to 67% lower in summer, with a minimal difference in winter.

A vegetation survey revealed that both solar farms in the study had almost complete ground coverage under panels, which is critical for supporting infiltration and reducing erosion, noted McPhillips, who also is a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

This research is the first assessment of structural stormwater management practices on solar farms, and it provides new insights on the hydrological phenomena of the installations through first-hand field measurements, McPhillips pointed out.

The study provides some of the first interpretation of saturation and runoff potential on solar farms, in particular on steep and complex landscapes.

“While our observations document clear alteration in natural hydrologic patterns, they also demonstrate that adequately sized vegetated spaces between solar panel rows, and in some

cases, structural stormwater management, can manage these changes," she said. "These types of insights, along with investigation of how land management on solar farms can affect other ecosystem services, can allow us to facilitate this critical transition to renewable energy with minimal ecosystem impact."

Ongoing research, McPhillips added, is focusing on computer modeling of these research sites to inform appropriate design of stormwater management practices on solar farms.

Cibin Raj, associate professor of agricultural and biological engineering; Jonathan Duncan, associate professor of hydrology; Margaret Hoffman, assistant professor of landscape contracting; and undergraduate researchers Demetrius Zaliwciw, Katherine Chu and Austin Gaydos contributed to the research

This research was supported by the U.S. Geological Survey via the Pennsylvania Water Resources Research Center and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Also, the research received special funding from the College of Agricultural Sciences' Strategic Networks and Initiatives Program and Science to Practice grants.

(Reprinted from Penn State News.)

Related Articles:

-- Shapiro Administration Secures $396.1 Million In Federal Funding To Cut Carbon Pollution From Industries, Create Jobs [PaEN]

-- Gov. Shapiro Signs Bipartisan Solar For Schools And Geologic Sequestration Of Carbon Bills Into Law [PaEN]

-- Green Building Alliance Thanks Sen. Fetterman For Seeking Critical Grant Support For Program To Expand Small Business Resilience In Erie, New Kensington, Westmoreland County [PaEN]

-- Penn State Study Finds Solar Farms With Stormwater Controls Mitigate Runoff, Erosion [PaEN]

[Posted: July 22, 2024]

State Conservation Commission Starts Accepting Resource Enhancement & Protection Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications Aug. 1

The State Conservation Commission will start accepting first-come, first-serve applications for the Resource Enhancement and Protection Farm Conservation Tax Credit Program August 1 through September 1.

REAP provides tax credits at levels of 50%, 75%, or 90% of costs incurred in the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), including planning and engineering, materials, labor, etc., depending on the practice.

Pennsylvania tax credits are issued after the installation of a practice or purchase of eligible equipment, and state or federal cost-share portions of a project are ineligible.

Applicants must have up-to-date Agricultural Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Plans or Conservation Plans and Manure/Nutrient Management Plans for all acres farmed, and credits are provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

There are a few updates and changes to the program to ensure opportunities for farms of all sizes and types, so be sure to check it out to determine eligibility!

Find more information, visit the Commission's Resource Enhancement and Protection Farm Conservation Tax Credit Program webpage.

Questions should be directed to Joel Semke, the REAP Program Administrator at 717-705-4032 or jsemke@pa.gov.

[Posted: July 24, 2024]

Registration Open! 2024 Delaware River Watershed Forum Sept. 26-27 In Bethlehem; Delaware Conservation Fund Symposium Sept. 25

The Coalition For The Delaware River Watershed is now accepting registrations for the 12th Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum to be held September 26-27 in Bethlehem, PA

The Forum serves as a fun and meaningful opportunity for Coalition members, legislators, watershed advocates, environmental and community organizations, agencies, foundations and charitable trusts, constituents and residents, businesses, and students to convene and collaborate on protecting the Delaware River Watershed.

Together, this working conference provides a platform to brainstorm solutions, identify gaps, improve skills, and build relationships to advance our shared goals.

Delaware Conservation Fund Symposium

On September 25, in conjunction with the Delaware River Watershed Forum, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will host a Delaware River Watershed Conservation Fund Symposium.

Any past or current DWCF grantee is invited to attend and the purpose of the Symposium is to maximize opportunities for networking, both formal and informal.

The Symposium will be structured for a day of community building, knowledge sharing, and envisioning a healthier future for the Delaware River watershed

Click Here for more information

Sponsorships

The Coalition invites you to consider our sponsorship opportunities. With over 300 attendees annually, including influential guests from diverse sectors, this event provides a unique platform to showcase your commitment to our watershed.

Click Here for more information.

Visit the Coalition's Delaware River Watershed Forum webpage to register and for all the details. Early-bird registration rates good now through August 16.

For more information on programs, initiatives, upcoming events and how you can become involved, visit the Coalition For The Delaware River Watershed website.

Related Article:

-- Delaware River Basin Commission Holds Aug. 7 Hearing; Sept. 5 Business Meeting [PaEN]

NewsClip:

-- Delaware RiverKeeper July 26 RiverWatch Video Report

[Posted: July 25, 2024]

Watershed Alliance Of York, Partners Host 22nd Annual Watershed Week Sept. 21 - 27



The Watershed Alliance of York and many partners will host the 22nd Annual Watershed Week September 21 to 27. Activities during Watershed Week are designed to increase

public awareness about the importance of local watersheds to community health, sustainable economies, and environmental quality of the Chesapeake Bay.

Participants can get to know their watershed and the folks and organizations who are working hard to enhance, restore, and protect them.

Visit the Watershed Week webpage for a continuously updated list of event during the week. Questions should be directed to (717) 840-7430 or send email to: watershedallianceyork@gmail.com.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available!

For more information on programs, initiatives and other upcoming events, visit the Watershed Alliance of York website or follow them on Facebook.

Related Articles - Watersheds:

-- State Conservation Commission Starts Accepting Resource Enhancement & Protection Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications Aug. 1 [PaEN]

-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]

-- Shade Creek Watershed Assn. Celebrates 25th Anniversary Sept. 21 In Somerset County [PaEN]

-- Penn State Extension Begins 10-Part Pennsylvania Forests Online Seminar Series Sept. 10 [PaEN]

-- Penn State Extension Aug. 21 Webinar - Water Testing Through Penn State's Ag Analytical Lab [PaEN]

-- Learn How You Can Qualify For Free Well Water Testing During Aug. 22 Penn State Extension Webinar [PaEN]

-- Delaware River Basin Commission Holds Aug. 7 Hearing; Sept. 5 Business Meeting [PaEN]

-- Registration Open! 2024 Delaware River Watershed Forum Sept. 26-27 In Bethlehem; Delaware Conservation Fund Symposium Sept. 25 [PaEN]

-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Newsletter Highlights Chesapeake Bay Report Card; Tioga River Mine Drainage Treatment Project; eDNA; New Cooling Tower Tech [PaEN]

NewsClips:

-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Karl Blankenship: Pennsylvania's Budget Pledges Ongoing Support For Chesapeake Bay Cleanup

-- Inside Climate News: Historic Investments, Accountability Push Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Efforts In Right Direction Says EPA Region III Administrator Adam Ortiz

-- Scranton Times Quills Blog: Plant Trees For Free In Pennsylvania

-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: A Collaborative Triumph In The Conestoga Watershed - Hammertown Tributary

-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: Restoring Streams, Cultivating Partnerships - Gordonville Farm Riparian Buffer

-- WESA/AP: Demand For Rare Elements Used In Clean Energy Could Help Clean Up Abandoned Coal Mines In Appalachia

-- Penn State Extension - Watershed Winds: Why Did My Streamside Tree Die? Monitoring Soil Moisture; Pond & Lake Wildlife; Private Wells & Water Systems; Water-Related Education Programs

-- Penn State Extension - Ag Conservation Currents: Ag Progress Days; Livestock Watering; Grass Riparian Buffers; REAP Application Period Opens; ABCs Of Agricultural Conservation

-- Penn State Extension - Woods & Wildlife News: Integrated Forest Management; Invasion

Ecology; Preventing Feral Hog Invasions; Woodland Steward Series; Forest Farming - Ginseng
-- Lehigh County-based Wildlands Conservancy Highlights Upcoming Programs: Stream Restoration; Volunteer Opportunities; Wine & Dine Dinner; Student American Chestnut Project
-- Delaware RiverKeeper July 26 RiverWatch Video Report
[Posted: July 26, 2024]

Student Interns Are Learning About The Water Industry With Trade College Summer Experiences At The Chester Water Authority



On July 22, for the first time, the Chester Water Authority in Delaware County announced it is providing five students and one recent graduate from Thaddeus Stevens College Of Technology and Williams College of the Trades with internship experiences.

The comprehensive internship program is designed to provide a perfect blend of training, hands-on experience, project work, specialized training, and evaluation in the water industry.

This program is not just about gaining work experience; it's about immersing students in the industry, understanding its intricacies, and making meaningful contributions.

"This is CWA's inaugural year for the summer internship program. The initial idea was born from a desire to engage with local trade colleges like Williamson Trade and Thaddeus Stevens. It's our ultimate hope to train the next generation of water works leaders," says Michael D'Agostino, Human Resources Director.

"I was told about the Chester Water Authority by my Water and Environmental Science professor, Mrs. Butler, at Thaddeus Stevens," explains Makayla Weathers, a student intern. "When I visited the CWA website to learn more about the organization, I excitedly applied for and secured this internship opportunity."

Interns receive training on water industry processes and systems and shadow experienced employees in the field to gain firsthand knowledge.

Hands-on experience is a key component of the internship. Interns engage in routine maintenance tasks, assist with water treatment processes and analysis, and participate in distribution system repairs and maintenance.

They work on meter operations, tank maintenance, pump stations, and right-of-way maintenance, honing their troubleshooting skills in real-world scenarios.

"CWA's internship has put into perspective what I learned at Thaddeus Stevens. I'm able to see how water is treated, how the distribution system works, and how it's maintained," says Troy Murray, summer intern. "I'm proud to have the opportunity to intern for CWA. The internship has helped me to realize that I want a career in the water industry."

As a culmination of the internship, students work on a small project—independently or as part of a team. Projects may involve process improvement, data analysis, or research.

As mentorship is a cornerstone of the program, senior staff are available to guide interns and address any questions or concerns.

As a grand finale, students have the opportunity to present their project findings and accomplishments to the CWA team, receive feedback, and discuss potential future opportunities in the water industry.

This 10-week summer internship program is an unparalleled opportunity to gain practical experience while developing invaluable skills.

This program offers a holistic view of the industry preparing the students for a successful career ahead.

CWA is proud of this summer's students and has loved to see them dive in and discover all the possibilities a career in the water industry can provide.

Visit the Chester Water Authority for more information.

Also visit the Thaddeus Stevens College Of Technology and Williams College of the Trades websites for more information on their educational programs.

***(Photo: Michael D'Agostino**, Human Resources Director at CWA; **Makayla Weathers** and **Troy Murray**, both students at Thaddeus Stevens College.)*

Related Articles - Watersheds:

-- State Conservation Commission Starts Accepting Resource Enhancement & Protection Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications Aug. 1 [PaEN]

-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]

-- Shade Creek Watershed Assn. Celebrates 25th Anniversary Sept. 21 In Somerset County [PaEN]

-- Penn State Extension Begins 10-Part Pennsylvania Forests Online Seminar Series Sept. 10 [PaEN]

-- Penn State Extension Aug. 21 Webinar - Water Testing Through Penn State's Ag Analytical Lab [PaEN]

-- Learn How You Can Qualify For Free Well Water Testing During Aug. 22 Penn State Extension Webinar [PaEN]

-- Delaware River Basin Commission Holds Aug. 7 Hearing; Sept. 5 Business Meeting [PaEN]

-- Registration Open! 2024 Delaware River Watershed Forum Sept. 26-27 In Bethlehem; Delaware Conservation Fund Symposium Sept. 25 [PaEN]

-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Newsletter Highlights Chesapeake Bay Report Card; Tioga River Mine Drainage Treatment Project; eDNA; New Cooling Tower Tech [PaEN]

NewsClips:

-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Karl Blankenship: Pennsylvania's Budget Pledges Ongoing Support For Chesapeake Bay Cleanup

-- Inside Climate News: Historic Investments, Accountability Push Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Efforts In Right Direction Says EPA Region III Administrator Adam Ortiz

-- Scranton Times Quills Blog: Plant Trees For Free In Pennsylvania

-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: A Collaborative Triumph In The Conestoga Watershed - Hammertown Tributary

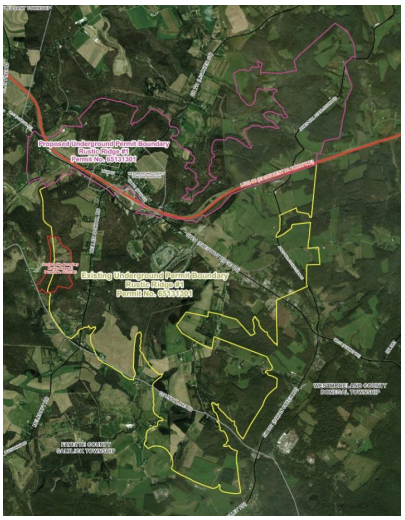
-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: Restoring Streams, Cultivating Partnerships - Gordonville Farm Riparian Buffer

-- WESA/AP: Demand For Rare Elements Used In Clean Energy Could Help Clean Up Abandoned Coal Mines In Appalachia

-- Penn State Extension - Watershed Winds: Why Did My Streamside Tree Die? Monitoring Soil Moisture; Pond & Lake Wildlife; Private Wells & Water Systems; Water-Related Education

Programs
-- Penn State Extension - Ag Conservation Currents: Ag Progress Days; Livestock Watering; Grass Riparian Buffers; REAP Application Period Opens; ABCs Of Agricultural Conservation
-- Penn State Extension - Woods & Wildlife News: Integrated Forest Management; Invasion Ecology; Preventing Feral Hog Invasions; Woodland Steward Series; Forest Farming - Ginseng
-- Lehigh County-based Wildlands Conservancy Highlights Upcoming Programs: Stream Restoration; Volunteer Opportunities; Wine & Dine Dinner; Student American Chestnut Project
-- Delaware RiverKeeper July 26 RiverWatch Video Report
[Posted: July 22, 2024]

DEP To Hold Aug. 28 Hearing On Water Quality Permit For Rustic Ridge Ridge #1 Coal Mine 1,452 Acre Expansion In Fayette, Westmoreland Counties



The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin announcing an August 28 hearing on the NPDES Water Quality permit application for the 1,452 acre expansion of the underground LCT Energy Rustic Ridge Ridge #1 Metallurgical Coal Mine in Donegal Township, Westmoreland County and Saltlick Township, Fayette County. (PA Bulletin, page 4401- 4402)

The hearing was requested by the Mountain Watershed Association.

DEP will hold the hearing at St. Raymond of the Mountains Parish, 170 School House Lane in Donegal, Westmoreland County starting at 6:00 p.m.

Individuals wishing to register to testify at the hearing must contact Lauren Camarda by email to: lcamarda@pa.gov or by calling 412-442-4203 at least 24 hours before the hearing.

Individuals providing testimony are re- quested to submit a written copy of their verbal testimony by e-mail to Lori Jenkins, lorjenkins@pa.gov, after providing testimony at the hearing.

Written comments will be accepted until close of business on September 2, 2024.

Read the entire PA Bulletin notice for instructions on how to review the permit application and submit comments. (PA Bulletin, page 4401- 4402)

Visit DEP's Rustic Ridge #1 Coal Mine webpage for more information on the proposal.

Unsuitable For Mining Petition

On January 22, 2024, the Mountain Watershed Association submitted a petition to declare almost 11,000 acres unsuitable for surface coal mining in Donegal Township, Westmoreland County. Read more here.

On February 23, 2024, DEP rejected the petition saying, "The Department has found that the MWA's petition lacks sufficient allegations of facts and supporting evidence to establish that the petition area is unsuitable for all or certain types of surface mining operations."

DEP declared the petition "frivolous." Read more here.

On March 22, the Association appealed DEP's rejection of the petition to the Environmental Hearing Board which is now considering the appeal. [Search EHB Docket #

2024077]

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.

Related Articles - Watersheds:

-- State Conservation Commission Starts Accepting Resource Enhancement & Protection Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications Aug. 1 [PaEN]

-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]

-- Shade Creek Watershed Assn. Celebrates 25th Anniversary Sept. 21 In Somerset County [PaEN]

-- Penn State Extension Begins 10-Part Pennsylvania Forests Online Seminar Series Sept. 10 [PaEN]

-- Penn State Extension Aug. 21 Webinar - Water Testing Through Penn State's Ag Analytical Lab [PaEN]

-- Learn How You Can Qualify For Free Well Water Testing During Aug. 22 Penn State Extension Webinar [PaEN]

-- Delaware River Basin Commission Holds Aug. 7 Hearing; Sept. 5 Business Meeting [PaEN]

-- Registration Open! 2024 Delaware River Watershed Forum Sept. 26-27 In Bethlehem; Delaware Conservation Fund Symposium Sept. 25 [PaEN]

-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Newsletter Highlights Chesapeake Bay Report Card; Tioga River Mine Drainage Treatment Project; eDNA; New Cooling Tower Tech [PaEN]

NewsClips:

-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Karl Blankenship: Pennsylvania's Budget Pledges Ongoing Support For Chesapeake Bay Cleanup

-- Inside Climate News: Historic Investments, Accountability Push Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Efforts In Right Direction Says EPA Region III Administrator Adam Ortiz

-- Scranton Times Quills Blog: Plant Trees For Free In Pennsylvania

-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: A Collaborative Triumph In The Conestoga Watershed - Hammertown Tributary

-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: Restoring Streams, Cultivating Partnerships - Gordonville Farm Riparian Buffer

-- WESA/AP: Demand For Rare Elements Used In Clean Energy Could Help Clean Up Abandoned Coal Mines In Appalachia

-- Penn State Extension - Watershed Winds: Why Did My Streamside Tree Die? Monitoring Soil Moisture; Pond & Lake Wildlife; Private Wells & Water Systems; Water-Related Education Programs

-- Penn State Extension - Ag Conservation Currents: Ag Progress Days; Livestock Watering; Grass Riparian Buffers; REAP Application Period Opens; ABCs Of Agricultural Conservation

-- Penn State Extension - Woods & Wildlife News: Integrated Forest Management; Invasion Ecology; Preventing Feral Hog Invasions; Woodland Steward Series; Forest Farming - Ginseng

-- Lehigh County-based Wildlands Conservancy Highlights Upcoming Programs: Stream Restoration; Volunteer Opportunities; Wine & Dine Dinner; Student American Chestnut Project

-- Delaware RiverKeeper July 26 RiverWatch Video Report

[Posted: July 26, 2024]

DEP Sets Aug. 29 Hearing On Stormwater Permit For Blue Ridge Real Estate's Proposed Truck Terminal, Warehouse In Kidder Twp., Carbon County

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin announcing an August 29 hearing on an Individual NPDES Stormwater permit for the Blue Ridge Real Estate's proposed 46+ acre truck terminal and warehouse in Kidder Township, Carbon County. (PA Bulletin, page 4401)

The permit-- PAD130044-- would cover the proposed development of a 420,000 square foot building, trailer parking areas, employee parking areas, stormwater management facilities, and two entrance drives adjoining SR 940.

The hearing will be held at the Jim Thorpe High School, 1 Olympian Way in Jim Thorpe from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Individuals wishing to testify at the hearing submit a written notice of intent to Colleen Connolly, Community Relations Coordinator at: coconnolly@pa.gov.

The Department will accept requests up to the day of the hearing.

Read the entire PA Bulletin notice for instructions on how to review the permit application and submit comments. (PA Bulletin, page 4401)

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.

Related Articles - Watersheds:

-- State Conservation Commission Starts Accepting Resource Enhancement & Protection Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications Aug. 1 [PaEN]

-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]

-- Shade Creek Watershed Assn. Celebrates 25th Anniversary Sept. 21 In Somerset County [PaEN]

-- Penn State Extension Begins 10-Part Pennsylvania Forests Online Seminar Series Sept. 10 [PaEN]

-- Penn State Extension Aug. 21 Webinar - Water Testing Through Penn State's Ag Analytical Lab [PaEN]

-- Learn How You Can Qualify For Free Well Water Testing During Aug. 22 Penn State Extension Webinar [PaEN]

-- Delaware River Basin Commission Holds Aug. 7 Hearing; Sept. 5 Business Meeting [PaEN]

-- Registration Open! 2024 Delaware River Watershed Forum Sept. 26-27 In Bethlehem; Delaware Conservation Fund Symposium Sept. 25 [PaEN]

-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Newsletter Highlights Chesapeake Bay Report Card; Tioga River Mine Drainage Treatment Project; eDNA; New Cooling Tower Tech [PaEN]

NewsClips:

-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Karl Blankenship: Pennsylvania's Budget Pledges Ongoing Support For Chesapeake Bay Cleanup

-- Inside Climate News: Historic Investments, Accountability Push Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Efforts In Right Direction Says EPA Region III Administrator Adam Ortiz

-- Scranton Times Quills Blog: Plant Trees For Free In Pennsylvania

-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: A Collaborative Triumph In The Conestoga Watershed - Hammertown Tributary
-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: Restoring Streams, Cultivating Partnerships - Gordonville Farm Riparian Buffer
-- WESA/AP: Demand For Rare Elements Used In Clean Energy Could Help Clean Up Abandoned Coal Mines In Appalachia
-- Penn State Extension - Watershed Winds: Why Did My Streamside Tree Die? Monitoring Soil Moisture; Pond & Lake Wildlife; Private Wells & Water Systems; Water-Related Education Programs
-- Penn State Extension - Ag Conservation Currents: Ag Progress Days; Livestock Watering; Grass Riparian Buffers; REAP Application Period Opens; ABCs Of Agricultural Conservation
-- Penn State Extension - Woods & Wildlife News: Integrated Forest Management; Invasion Ecology; Preventing Feral Hog Invasions; Woodland Steward Series; Forest Farming - Ginseng
-- Lehigh County-based Wildlands Conservancy Highlights Upcoming Programs: Stream Restoration; Volunteer Opportunities; Wine & Dine Dinner; Student American Chestnut Project
-- Delaware RiverKeeper July 26 RiverWatch Video Report
[Posted: July 26, 2024]

Delaware River Basin Commission Holds Aug. 7 Hearing; Sept. 5 Business Meeting

The Delaware River Basin Commission will hold a hearing on water withdrawals and discharges on August 7 and a business meeting on September 5.

Aug. 7 Hearing

The August 7 hearing will be held via Zoom starting at 1:30 p.m.

The agenda includes 33 draft dockets for withdrawals, discharges and other projects that could have a substantial effect on the Basin's water resources.

Click Here for instructions on how to register to present comments and view the public hearing.

September 5 Meeting

The business meeting will also be held via Zoom starting at 10:30 a.m.

Visit DRBC's Upcoming Meetings webpage for more information.

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 - Watersheds:
-- State Conservation Commission Starts Accepting Resource Enhancement & Protection Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications Aug. 1 [PaEN]
-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]
-- Shade Creek Watershed Assn. Celebrates 25th Anniversary Sept. 21 In Somerset County [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Begins 10-Part Pennsylvania Forests Online Seminar Series Sept. 10 [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Aug. 21 Webinar - Water Testing Through Penn State's Ag Analytical Lab [PaEN]
-- Learn How You Can Qualify For Free Well Water Testing During Aug. 22 Penn State

Extension Webinar [PaEN]
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Holds Aug. 7 Hearing; Sept. 5 Business Meeting [PaEN]
-- Registration Open! 2024 Delaware River Watershed Forum Sept. 26-27 In Bethlehem; Delaware Conservation Fund Symposium Sept. 25 [PaEN]
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Newsletter Highlights Chesapeake Bay Report Card; Tioga River Mine Drainage Treatment Project; eDNA; New Cooling Tower Tech [PaEN]
NewsClips:
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Karl Blankenship: Pennsylvania's Budget Pledges Ongoing Support For Chesapeake Bay Cleanup
-- Inside Climate News: Historic Investments, Accountability Push Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Efforts In Right Direction Says EPA Region III Administrator Adam Ortiz
-- Scranton Times Quills Blog: Plant Trees For Free In Pennsylvania
-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: A Collaborative Triumph In The Conestoga Watershed - Hammertown Tributary
-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: Restoring Streams, Cultivating Partnerships - Gordonville Farm Riparian Buffer
-- WESA/AP: Demand For Rare Elements Used In Clean Energy Could Help Clean Up Abandoned Coal Mines In Appalachia
-- Penn State Extension - Watershed Winds: Why Did My Streamside Tree Die? Monitoring Soil Moisture; Pond & Lake Wildlife; Private Wells & Water Systems; Water-Related Education Programs
-- Penn State Extension - Ag Conservation Currents: Ag Progress Days; Livestock Watering; Grass Riparian Buffers; REAP Application Period Opens; ABCs Of Agricultural Conservation
-- Penn State Extension - Woods & Wildlife News: Integrated Forest Management; Invasion Ecology; Preventing Feral Hog Invasions; Woodland Steward Series; Forest Farming - Ginseng
-- Lehigh County-based Wildlands Conservancy Highlights Upcoming Programs: Stream Restoration; Volunteer Opportunities; Wine & Dine Dinner; Student American Chestnut Project
-- Delaware RiverKeeper July 26 RiverWatch Video Report
[Posted: July 25, 2024]

Susquehanna River Basin Commission Newsletter Highlights Chesapeake Bay Report Card; Tioga River Mine Drainage Treatment Project; eDNA; New Cooling Tower Tech



The latest Guardian newsletter from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission includes articles on--
-- Chesapeake Bay And Watershed Report Card Results from the Executive Director
-- Progress on Tioga River Project to clean up 20 miles of acid mine drainage
-- Using eDNA to help track invasive fish species
-- New technology to reduce evaporative losses from water cooling towers
-- Helping to cleanup the Capital Area Greenbelt

Click Here to read the Guardian. Click Here to sign up for your own copy.

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.
Related Article:
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Holds Aug. 1 Hearing On Water Withdrawal Requests For Amazon Data Center, Luzerne County; 8 Shale Gas Development, Gas Power Plant Withdrawals [PaEN]
Related Articles - Watersheds:
-- State Conservation Commission Starts Accepting Resource Enhancement & Protection Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications Aug. 1 [PaEN]
-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]
-- Shade Creek Watershed Assn. Celebrates 25th Anniversary Sept. 21 In Somerset County [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Begins 10-Part Pennsylvania Forests Online Seminar Series Sept. 10 [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Aug. 21 Webinar - Water Testing Through Penn State's Ag Analytical Lab [PaEN]
-- Learn How You Can Qualify For Free Well Water Testing During Aug. 22 Penn State Extension Webinar [PaEN]
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Holds Aug. 7 Hearing; Sept. 5 Business Meeting [PaEN]
-- Registration Open! 2024 Delaware River Watershed Forum Sept. 26-27 In Bethlehem; Delaware Conservation Fund Symposium Sept. 25 [PaEN]
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Newsletter Highlights Chesapeake Bay Report Card; Tioga River Mine Drainage Treatment Project; eDNA; New Cooling Tower Tech [PaEN]
NewsClips:
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Karl Blankenship: Pennsylvania's Budget Pledges Ongoing Support For Chesapeake Bay Cleanup
-- Inside Climate News: Historic Investments, Accountability Push Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Efforts In Right Direction Says EPA Region III Administrator Adam Ortiz
-- Scranton Times Quills Blog: Plant Trees For Free In Pennsylvania
-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: A Collaborative Triumph In The Conestoga Watershed - Hammertown Tributary
-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: Restoring Streams, Cultivating Partnerships - Gordonville Farm Riparian Buffer
-- WESA/AP: Demand For Rare Elements Used In Clean Energy Could Help Clean Up Abandoned Coal Mines In Appalachia
-- Penn State Extension - Watershed Winds: Why Did My Streamside Tree Die? Monitoring Soil Moisture; Pond & Lake Wildlife; Private Wells & Water Systems; Water-Related Education Programs
-- Penn State Extension - Ag Conservation Currents: Ag Progress Days; Livestock Watering; Grass Riparian Buffers; REAP Application Period Opens; ABCs Of Agricultural Conservation
-- Penn State Extension - Woods & Wildlife News: Integrated Forest Management; Invasion Ecology; Preventing Feral Hog Invasions; Woodland Steward Series; Forest Farming - Ginseng
-- Lehigh County-based Wildlands Conservancy Highlights Upcoming Programs: Stream Restoration; Volunteer Opportunities; Wine & Dine Dinner; Student American Chestnut Project
-- Delaware RiverKeeper July 26 RiverWatch Video Report
[Posted: July 25, 2024]

Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority Will Be Accepting Applications For Recycling Mini Grants Starting Aug. 12

On July 23, the Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority announced it will be accepting applications for recycling mini-grants from Centre County municipalities, businesses, recycling collection haulers, schools, healthcare institutions and non-profits.

Grant applications will be accepted online from August 12 to October 4.

The CCRRA mini-grant program is intended to provide reimbursement grant funds for Centre County-based projects that improve recycling education and collection of materials to be processed by CCRRA.

Grant funds are made available based upon the market performance of recycling commodities processed by CCRRA for the prior calendar year with funding levels subject to change each year.

The total amount available for this mini-grant round is $91,000 and mini-grant awards can range from $1,000 - $15,000 depending on the project.

Check the Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority website beginning August 12 for additional details on the program and how to apply.

Questions regarding the Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority's mini-grant program should be directed to Mimi Cooper, CCRRA Recycling Coordinator at mcooper@centrecountyrecycles.org or by phone at 814-238-7005.
[Posted: July 24, 2024]

Natural Lands Partners With Landowner Michael Kaczenski To Protect 252 Acres Of Forest Land In Carbon County



On July 25, Natural Lands announced the permanent preservation of a 252-acre forested property in Penn Forest Township, Carbon County.

In addition to its scenic beauty, these woodlands help cool and clean the air, filter water supplies, store carbon, and offer habitat to songbirds and other wildlife.

Thanks to a voluntary, legally binding agreement known as a conservation easement, the property will remain this way forever.

Over the past half a decade, landowner Michael Kaczenski acquired two adjacent parcels of land with the intention of conserving this significant natural area, something he's dreamed of doing for many years.

In November 2021, Mr. Kaczenski purchased 192 acres, the bulk of the now 252-acre property, which was once slated for development. Instead, the conservation easement ensures it will remain a forest forever.

"Natural Lands has been working with Michael since 2018 to realize this dream," said Kate Raman, Natural Lands' conservation project manager. "It's been incredibly rewarding to expand and protect this beloved property."

About 7,380 feet of streams traverse the property, including Mud Run, Wolf Run, and

Dilldown Creek, all of which flow to the Lehigh River.

The waterways are shaded by trees, which keeps the water cold and clear. Native tree species, including Eastern hemlock and white pine, create a dense canopy overhead with understory trees like red maple, hawthorn, American beech, and black cherry reaching for the sunlight.

The shrub layer includes serviceberry, lowbush and highbush blueberry, rhododendron, and steeplebush. The forest floor is thick with ferns and other native perennials.

"The land is remarkably free of invasive plant species," added Ms. Raman. "It's rich habitat for wildlife, including fisher, mink, porcupine, river otter, and flying squirrel, not to mention the almost 100 species of birds that rely on the land for food, shelter, and breeding."

"My dream is that, 100 years from now, this forest is thick with centuries-old trees," said Mr. Kaczenski. "I hope that future generations will enjoy this place and appreciate its beauty and service to the natural world. That they'll see the wildlife and hear the myriad birds that frequent this special place and be reminded that someone just like them walked in this forest many years ago and dreamed a bold dream to make a difference that would last for all time."

The project was supported through the Open Space Institute's (OSI) Delaware River Watershed Protection Fund, which is made possible with funding from the William Penn Foundation for its Delaware River Watershed Initiative that seeks to protect water quality in the Delaware River Basin.

The Delaware River Watershed Protection Program seeks to ensure abundant, clean water within the 13,000 square mile drainage of the Delaware River.

"Helping to protect this exceptional property was interesting and rewarding," said OSI's Senior Mid Atlantic Program Manager Bill Rawlyk. "From a watershed perspective, streams on the property are clear and loaded with life, supporting native trout and a diverse community of sensitive stream insects and invertebrates that cannot tolerate even low levels of pollution. Projects like this validate the purpose of OSI's Delaware Watershed Fund, which seeks to protect forested headwaters that deliver clean drinking water to residents in the watershed downstream."

Mr. Kaczenski also contributed substantially by donating the majority of the value of the easement.

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 135,000 acres, including 42 nature preserves and one public garden totaling more than 23,000 acres.

Related Articles:

-- DCNR Designates New Umbrella Magnolia Groves Wild Plant Sanctuary In York County [PaEN]

-- Natural Lands Partners With Landowner Michael Kaczenski To Protect 252 Acres Of Forest Land In Carbon County [PaEN]

-- WeConservePA: Berks Nature Partnered With Fleetwood Borough To Increase Protection For Local Drinking Water Under New Fleetwood Reservoir Woodland Conservation Easement Covering 190 Acres [PaEN]

-- WeConservePA: Berks Nature Partners With Landowner Kevin Stein To Protect 139+ Acres In The Kittatinny Ridge Landscape [PaEN]

-- WeConservePA: ClearWater Conservancy Partners With Diane Albright To Protect 95-Acre

Woodland As Part Of Beaver Branch Gorge Biological Diversity Area In Centre County [PaEN]
-- WeConservePA: French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust Protects 4.6 More Acres In West vincent Twp., Chester County
-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]
-- DCNR: Aug. 14 Trails Advisory Committee Forum Mercer County; DCNR Seeks Survey Input From Trail Managers, Providers On Land/Water Trail Plan [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Begins 10-Part Pennsylvania Forests Online Seminar Series Sept. 10 [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension - Woods & Wildlife News: Integrated Forest Management; Invasion Ecology; Preventing Feral Hog Invasions; Woodland Steward Series; Forest Farming - Ginseng
NewsClips:
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: A New Plan For Pennsylvania Forests - New Uses, More Trails, Continued Logging
-- Scranton Times Quills Blog: Plant Trees For Free In Pennsylvania
-- Warren Times - Josh Cotton: Seldom Seen Mushroom Found Near Kinzua Dam
[Posted: July 25, 2024]

WeConservePA: Berks Nature Partnered With Fleetwood Borough To Increase Protection For Local Drinking Water Under New Fleetwood Reservoir Woodland Conservation Easement Covering 190 Acres



In June 2024, Berks Nature established a new conservation easement with the Fleetwood Borough to protect 190 acres of woodlands, adding yet another valuable safeguard to the Oley Hills' pristine waterways and the local community's drinking water.

The rough and rolling topography of the Oley Hills are an extraordinary regional treasure: recognized as a conservation focal area within the Pennsylvania Highlands Region for its exceptional natural, recreational, and cultural resources and warden to six Exceptional Value waterways: the region's most valuable watersheds.

Oley's forested wetlands too – a habitat in decline across the United States – play a valuable role as water purifiers, flood defenders, and as wildlife nurseries and homes.

The Fleetwood Borough's recent conservation easement – 190 acres of wooded wetlands and mixed hardwood forest – is the most recent addition to a growing network of protection across the Oley Hills.

From the woodland's natural springs and wetlands, the headwaters of the Willow Creek (a tributary to Maiden Creek) originate.

So clean and abundant are these springs that the property has supplied the Fleetwood Borough with drinking water since 1909, earning the property its name: the Fleetwood Reservoir Woodland.

The newly placed easement will preserve the integrity of this woodland, and its ability to support cool, clean drinking water to its downstream neighbors, in perpetuity.

The now protected Fleetwood Reservoir Woodlands are also a testament to the deeply rooted conservation ethic of the Oley Hills community and the power of a people united by

purpose.

Since 1989, Berks Nature has helped place nearly 3,400 acres of the Oley Hills under conservation easements, forever protecting the intrinsic natural value of this land.

Funds to purchase the Fleetwood Reservoir Woodlands easement were provided through the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2).

For more information on programs, initiatives, upcoming events and how you can get involved, visit the Berks Nature website. Follow them on Facebook and Twitter. Also follow the Berks Nature Ambassadors Facebook page.

Since 1974, Berks Nature has been involved in land preservation, water protection, trail management, community gardens, education programs, State of the Environment, Eco-Camp and our valued partnerships that help connect people to nature and maintain the natural beauty of Berks County.

(Reprinted from WeConservePA website.)

Related Articles:

-- DCNR Designates New Umbrella Magnolia Groves Wild Plant Sanctuary In York County [PaEN]

-- Natural Lands Partners With Landowner Michael Kaczenski To Protect 252 Acres Of Forest Land In Carbon County [PaEN]

-- WeConservePA: Berks Nature Partnered With Fleetwood Borough To Increase Protection For Local Drinking Water Under New Fleetwood Reservoir Woodland Conservation Easement Covering 190 Acres [PaEN]

-- WeConservePA: Berks Nature Partners With Landowner Kevin Stein To Protect 139+ Acres In The Kittatinny Ridge Landscape [PaEN]

-- WeConservePA: ClearWater Conservancy Partners With Diane Albright To Protect 95-Acre Woodland As Part Of Beaver Branch Gorge Biological Diversity Area In Centre County [PaEN]

-- WeConservePA: French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust Protects 4.6 More Acres In West vincent Twp., Chester County

-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]

-- DCNR: Aug. 14 Trails Advisory Committee Forum Mercer County; DCNR Seeks Survey Input From Trail Managers, Providers On Land/Water Trail Plan [PaEN]

-- Penn State Extension Begins 10-Part Pennsylvania Forests Online Seminar Series Sept. 10 [PaEN]

-- Penn State Extension - Woods & Wildlife News: Integrated Forest Management; Invasion Ecology; Preventing Feral Hog Invasions; Woodland Steward Series; Forest Farming - Ginseng

NewsClips:

-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: A New Plan For Pennsylvania Forests - New Uses, More Trails, Continued Logging

-- Scranton Times Quills Blog: Plant Trees For Free In Pennsylvania

-- Warren Times - Josh Cotton: Seldom Seen Mushroom Found Near Kinzua Dam

[Posted: July 25, 2024]

WeConservePA: Berks Nature Partners With Landowner Kevin Stein To Protect 139+ Acres In The Kittatinny Ridge Landscape



In May 2024, Berks Nature permanently protected 139.59 acres of forest with its accompanying streams and seasonal springs in Bethel Township, Berks County.

The freshly conserved property is located within a cluster of protected land with another Berks Nature conservation easement property and State Game Lands.

Most importantly, the new easement lies within the bounds of the Kittatinny Ridge Landscape, a nationally acknowledged important conservation landscape.

The Kittatinny Ridge is considered to be Pennsylvania's most climate resilient landscape and deemed a Global Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society.

The Ridge provides a greenway for migratory animals from the Mason-Dixon Line all the way to the Delaware Water Gap and offers clean drinking water to many communities.

Property owner, Kevin Stein, has spent years collecting individual parcels that add up to a combined 139.59-acres of now protected land.

Kevin also has two farm properties in the area that have been protected through the Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Program.

Despite the importance of the area, Kevin recognized that it is still posed by the threat of development.

With many areas along the Ridge maintaining growing populations due to the access of Route 78 and 61, conserving the wooded land in Bethel is helping to mitigate some of the threat.

The Stein Woodland gushes with spring water in the early months of the year with seeps and springs appearing anywhere you look, along with the occasional vernal pool.

Knowing that this woodland will never be developed, it is assured that the many springs and streams on the property will continue to provide quality water and habitat for humans and animals alike in the future.

Financial support was provided by The Nature Conservancy of Pennsylvania.

For more information on programs, initiatives, upcoming events and how you can get involved, visit the Berks Nature website. Follow them on Facebook and Twitter. Also follow the Berks Nature Ambassadors Facebook page.

Since 1974, Berks Nature has been involved in land preservation, water protection, trail management, community gardens, education programs, State of the Environment, Eco-Camp and our valued partnerships that help connect people to nature and maintain the natural beauty of Berks County.

(Reprinted from WeConservePA website.)

Related Articles:

-- DCNR Designates New Umbrella Magnolia Groves Wild Plant Sanctuary In York County [PaEN]

-- Natural Lands Partners With Landowner Michael Kaczenski To Protect 252 Acres Of Forest Land In Carbon County [PaEN]

-- WeConservePA: Berks Nature Partnered With Fleetwood Borough To Increase Protection For Local Drinking Water Under New Fleetwood Reservoir Woodland Conservation Easement

Covering 190 Acres [PaEN]
-- WeConservePA: Berks Nature Partners With Landowner Kevin Stein To Protect 139+ Acres In The Kittatinny Ridge Landscape [PaEN]
-- WeConservePA: ClearWater Conservancy Partners With Diane Albright To Protect 95-Acre Woodland As Part Of Beaver Branch Gorge Biological Diversity Area In Centre County [PaEN]
-- WeConservePA: French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust Protects 4.6 More Acres In West vincent Twp., Chester County
-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]
-- DCNR: Aug. 14 Trails Advisory Committee Forum Mercer County; DCNR Seeks Survey Input From Trail Managers, Providers On Land/Water Trail Plan [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Begins 10-Part Pennsylvania Forests Online Seminar Series Sept. 10 [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension - Woods & Wildlife News: Integrated Forest Management; Invasion Ecology; Preventing Feral Hog Invasions; Woodland Steward Series; Forest Farming - Ginseng
NewsClips:
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: A New Plan For Pennsylvania Forests - New Uses, More Trails, Continued Logging
-- Scranton Times Quills Blog: Plant Trees For Free In Pennsylvania
-- Warren Times - Josh Cotton: Seldom Seen Mushroom Found Near Kinzua Dam
[Posted: July 25, 2024]

WeConservePA: ClearWater Conservancy Partners With Diane Albright To Protect 95-Acre Woodland As Part Of Beaver Branch Gorge Biological Diversity Area In Centre County



On a sunny morning at her home in Pennsylvania Furnace, Diane Albright looks out her living room window.

In view is the farm field that was once a part of her late husband's family's farmland, and behind that is the line of woods that marks the beginning of the 95-acre woodland she owns and adores.

It is this view, and the life she and her husband lived in and around it, that sparked their interest in pursuing a conservation easement with ClearWater Conservancy.

"We just liked having woods and we didn't want to see it get developed," Diane said. "We started thinking about legacy options."

Over the years, Diane and Mike Albright had ongoing conversations with ClearWater Conservancy about implementing a conservation easement on their property and are now in the process of finalizing this permanent protection.

Conservation easements are voluntary agreements between landowners and conservation organizations, such as ClearWater Conservancy or governmental bodies, and are a powerful tool in the effort to protect and preserve our natural resources and cultural heritage for future generations.

These legal agreements play a crucial role in safeguarding landscapes, biodiversity, and

historical sites. Beyond their immediate environmental benefits, conservation easements also foster a lasting legacy of stewardship and sustainability.

Conservation easements are instrumental in protecting diverse ecosystems and habitats. They ensure that critical wildlife corridors remain intact, safeguarding biodiversity and mitigating the impacts of habitat fragmentation.

By preserving natural landscapes, these easements also contribute to maintaining healthy water quality.

Diane's home was built by Mike Albright's parents when he was 8 years old on the 360-acre family farm in Pennsylvania Furnace.

The farm, which had been in the family for over 80 years, was sold when Mike was 10, but the family kept a 95-acre parcel of woods along Beaver Branch Creek that was inherited by Mike and Diane when his parents passed away.

Throughout their time together, they went to the woods to cut firewood to heat their home, enjoy walks, and experience nature.

"It's a great piece of property. It's got a wetland on it. And we wanted to preserve it from a wildlife habitat standpoint. I'm okay with hunting on it, but I really don't want to see it be developed. And from a migratory standpoint, it's a big enough piece of property that birds can use the corridor for migration. My husband and I recognize the value of woods as woods. Not just for wildlife, but for the environment as well," Diane said.

The Albrights' parcel of land is part of the Beaver Branch Gorge Biological Diversity Area in Pennsylvania, recognized for its ecological significance.

Beaver Branch Creek, classified as a High-Quality Cold Water Fishery, flows through the property, supporting native trout and other important species.

The site serves as a crucial link between strategic ecological pathways identified in ClearWater's Scotia Barrens to Ridgeline Initiative (SBRI).

Additionally, its historical connections to regional railroad and mining activities add cultural value.

The property includes intact forest patches with core forest areas, wetlands, and floodplain habitats that potentially support or already host the threatened Eastern Spadefoot Toad and Marsh Bedstraw, a species of Special Concern.

Overall, it represents a significant opportunity for conservation, preserving vital natural systems and habitat for rare species.

Steps To Improve Forest Management

To learn more about how to improve forest management on her property for wildlife and ecosystem health, Diane completed Penn State University's James C. Finley Center for Private Forests' Forest Stewardship Program.

"I learned so much and learned a lot about legacy options. And that's kind of when we started talking more with ClearWater," Diane said.

Because 70 percent of Pennsylvania forests are privately held, according to PA DCNR, forest management education for landowners is crucial for the health of Pennsylvania forests.

"The Forest Steward Program really taught me a lot because it's focusing on private landowners in Pennsylvania. Educating them on forest management and what their options are as far as improving their forests."

As part of her stewardship efforts years later after completing the Forest Stewardship Program, Diane became involved with The Woodland Stewardship Network (WSN) Program,

administered by the Alliance for the Bay, which partnered with ClearWater to establish several networks within the Scotia Barrens region.

This program provided a free forest management plan to every member of the network and serves as an excellent outreach tool for the SBRI.

"I'm not sure I would have had a forest management plan had it not been for that program. I'm really glad that I did," Diane said. In addition to her involvement with WSN, Diane became the Keystone Landowner for the Tadpole-Marengo Woodland Stewardship Network.

"Where I learned the most was what I could do to improve the woods," Diane said. "We always kind of had the philosophy just let it be and do its own thing and not mess with it. And now I've learned that we can actively work toward improving it, which will make it last longer in the long run. If we're looking at it from a wildlife habitat standpoint, we're not seeing many grouse up there anymore because there's no understory. Lots and lots of turkeys. But because there's no understory it's restricted some of the wildlife."

Diane mentions possible cutting to create early successional habitat and plans for invasive species removal, but she knows it's a slow and steady type of process.

"ClearWater has my forest management plan and they know what the long-term goal is, so I'm trusting them to manage it the way we wanted it to be managed going forward. ClearWater was great about explaining the process," Diane said.

And the process to get to that plan was slow and steady as well.

"Filling out the easement questionnaire was probably the hardest part because it asked how you wanted the land to be preserved. Did you want it to be used for timbering? Do you want it to be used for recreation? Thinking through that and thinking about when we're not around anymore, what are we going to want to be able to preserve? But to really put that down in writing that this is what you want and this is what you want to allow. Do you want to allow hunting? Do you want to allow people hiking through?" said Diane.

In 2022, Michael Albright sadly passed away, creating even more need to honor him and continue the preservation of the land, creating a legacy of the land he and Diane nurtured together to grow strong and healthy throughout time.

When two people are in love with the land where they had so many memories and connection, that legacy can live on through the health of the forest, stories from neighbors, sustainability of the land, and vitality of the space.

Diane chose to continue the conservation easement process after the loss of her husband through the support of her family, friends, community, and ClearWater Conservancy team.

"He got sick and he passed away right in the middle of all of this. Now we're full steam ahead. It's been an interesting process that we've gone through. Ryan and Suzy have been wonderful," said Diane.

Finalizing a conservation easement marks a pivotal moment for landowners, instilling a profound sense of assurance in the future preservation of their land and its legacy.

"It gives me peace to know that the woods are going to stay there," Diane said, her beagles resting in their spots on an ottoman made from an antique crate with a pillow and on the hardwood floor of her living room. "And that somebody who knows what they're doing is going to be actively managing it to make sure that it reaches its full potential."

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the ClearWater Conservancy website. Click Here to sign up for their e-newsletter. Visit them on Facebook, follow them on Twitter and watch their YouTube Channel. Click Here to support their work.

Visit the Centred Outdoors website to learn more about enjoying the outdoors in and around Centre County.

(Reprinted from WeConservePA website.)

Related Articles:

-- DCNR Designates New Umbrella Magnolia Groves Wild Plant Sanctuary In York County [PaEN]

-- Natural Lands Partners With Landowner Michael Kaczenski To Protect 252 Acres Of Forest Land In Carbon County [PaEN]

-- WeConservePA: Berks Nature Partnered With Fleetwood Borough To Increase Protection For Local Drinking Water Under New Fleetwood Reservoir Woodland Conservation Easement Covering 190 Acres [PaEN]

-- WeConservePA: Berks Nature Partners With Landowner Kevin Stein To Protect 139+ Acres In The Kittatinny Ridge Landscape [PaEN]

-- WeConservePA: ClearWater Conservancy Partners With Diane Albright To Protect 95-Acre Woodland As Part Of Beaver Branch Gorge Biological Diversity Area In Centre County [PaEN]

-- WeConservePA: French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust Protects 4.6 More Acres In West vincent Twp., Chester County

-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]

-- DCNR: Aug. 14 Trails Advisory Committee Forum Mercer County; DCNR Seeks Survey Input From Trail Managers, Providers On Land/Water Trail Plan [PaEN]

-- Penn State Extension Begins 10-Part Pennsylvania Forests Online Seminar Series Sept. 10 [PaEN]

-- Penn State Extension - Woods & Wildlife News: Integrated Forest Management; Invasion Ecology; Preventing Feral Hog Invasions; Woodland Steward Series; Forest Farming - Ginseng

NewsClips:

-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: A New Plan For Pennsylvania Forests - New Uses, More Trails, Continued Logging

-- Scranton Times Quills Blog: Plant Trees For Free In Pennsylvania

-- Warren Times - Josh Cotton: Seldom Seen Mushroom Found Near Kinzua Dam

[Posted: July 25, 2024]

DCNR Designates New Umbrella Magnolia Groves Wild Plant Sanctuary In York County



On July 26, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced the designation of a new Wild Plant Sanctuary on private property in York County.

Magnolia Groves Wild Plant Sanctuary becomes the nineteenth private tract to be accepted into the Department's Wild Plant Sanctuary Program.

The distinction recognizes Terra Nova Capital, LLC, whose design of a proposed residential community will avoid impacts to umbrella magnolia (Magnolia tripetala), a Pennsylvania Threatened species.

The real estate development firm envisions that the sanctuary will provide refuge not only for the magnolia, but for future residents, too.

"Since its inception in 2009, the Wild Plant Sanctuary Program has promoted conservation of natural areas and native plants, while recognizing private landowners who serve as models of good conservation and stewardship of these special resources," said Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn. "These properties serve as models for other landowners, offering strategies to conserve rare plants as part of their management plans and enhancing the ecology and natural beauty for those who live and work near the sanctuaries."

The sanctuary encompasses most of the residual land adjacent to the residential development, including a steep forested ravine carved by a tributary winding its way to Ebaughs Creek, as well as wooded slopes along the creek.

A grove of umbrella magnolia towers overhead, filtering the light with parasol-like clusters of large oblong leaves.

Massive cream-colored flowers bloom from branch tips in the spring, developing into rosy-red fruit in the fall.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of umbrella magnolia is how the leaves glow in the sun, transforming them into stained glass and giving one the impression of walking through a cathedral or tropical conservatory.

A nature trail linking future residents with Magnolia Groves Wild Plant Sanctuary is planned for the future.

The sanctuary will provide benefits to the community, such as connecting residents to nature and increasing their wellbeing.

In return, it is hoped that the community will provide stewardship to the Sanctuary, including the removal of non-native invasive plants.

Nikolay Ratajczak, and his daughter Sofia Ratajczak, of Terra Nova Capital, are preparing a narrative to guide the future homeowners association in this endeavor.

The Wild Plant Sanctuary Program was established through the Wild Resource Conservation Act of 1982 to create a voluntary statewide network of native plant sanctuaries. Landowners agree to protect the sanctuary and educate others about the importance of native wild plants and their habitats.

In return, they receive access to technical assistance and ecological checkups.

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.

*(**Photo:** Umbrella magnolia leaf, Terra Nova Capital, LLC.)*

Related Articles:

-- DCNR Designates New Umbrella Magnolia Groves Wild Plant Sanctuary In York County [PaEN]

-- Natural Lands Partners With Landowner Michael Kaczenski To Protect 252 Acres Of Forest Land In Carbon County [PaEN]

-- WeConservePA: Berks Nature Partnered With Fleetwood Borough To Increase Protection For

Local Drinking Water Under New Fleetwood Reservoir Woodland Conservation Easement Covering 190 Acres [PaEN]
-- WeConservePA: Berks Nature Partners With Landowner Kevin Stein To Protect 139+ Acres In The Kittatinny Ridge Landscape [PaEN]
-- WeConservePA: ClearWater Conservancy Partners With Diane Albright To Protect 95-Acre Woodland As Part Of Beaver Branch Gorge Biological Diversity Area In Centre County [PaEN]
-- WeConservePA: French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust Protects 4.6 More Acres In West vincent Twp., Chester County
-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]
-- DCNR: Aug. 14 Trails Advisory Committee Forum Mercer County; DCNR Seeks Survey Input From Trail Managers, Providers On Land/Water Trail Plan [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Begins 10-Part Pennsylvania Forests Online Seminar Series Sept. 10 [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension - Woods & Wildlife News: Integrated Forest Management; Invasion Ecology; Preventing Feral Hog Invasions; Woodland Steward Series; Forest Farming - Ginseng
NewsClips:
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: A New Plan For Pennsylvania Forests - New Uses, More Trails, Continued Logging
-- Scranton Times Quills Blog: Plant Trees For Free In Pennsylvania
-- Warren Times - Josh Cotton: Seldom Seen Mushroom Found Near Kinzua Dam
[Posted: July 26, 2024]

DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7



DCNR will host a November 7 virtual grants workshop to help applicants develop project ideas in preparation for submitting a grant application to the 2025 Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2).
DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation staff will present about grant program selection criteria, review current program priorities, and discuss eligible project types.

2025 potential applicants are strongly encouraged to attend. The workshop is especially suited for municipal officials, consultants, board members, trail managers, land trust staff, and park and recreation professionals.

The workshop runs from 9:00 a.m. to noon. A general session for all applicants will begin at 9:00 a.m. Project type-specific breakout sessions will follow.

Applicants should plan on attending both the general session and the breakout session for the project type they plan on applying for.

There will be ample time for project-specific Q&A with DCNR's professional grant managers and regional advisors.

Click Here to register and for more information.

Next Grant Rounds Open
-- August 1: ATV/Snowmobile Projects, Programs Grants [Sept. 30 closes]

-- **January 21:** Community Recreation & Conservation Planning [April 2 closes]
-- **January 21:** Land Acquisition & Conservation [April 2 closes]
-- **January 21:** Community & Watershed Forestry Grant Round Opens [April 2 closes]
-- **January 21:** Motorized Trails [April 2 closes]
-- **January 21:** Nonmotorized Trails [April 2 closes]
-- **January 21:** Park Rehabilitation & Development [April 2 closes]
-- **January 21:** State & Regional Partnerships [April 2 closes]

Visit the DCNR Grants webpage for more information.

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.

(Reprinted from latest DCNR Grants newsletter. Click Here to sign up for your own copy.)

Related Articles:

-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]
-- DCNR: Aug. 14 Trails Advisory Committee Forum Mercer County; DCNR Seeks Survey Input From Trail Managers, Providers On Land/Water Trail Plan [PaEN]
-- DCNR State Parks July Environmental Education Newsletter: Summer Learning & Literacy Road Trip; Celebrating Park & Recreation Professionals; Literacy Survey, Professional Workshops [PaEN]
-- Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, 50+ Vendors To Host Susquehanna Greenway Expo Aug. 3 At Shikellamy State Park Marina, Sunbury [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Begins 10-Part Pennsylvania Forests Online Seminar Series Sept. 10 [PaEN]
-- PennEnvironment: New Interactive Map Spotlights State, National Parks With Access To Electric Vehicle Charging [PaEN]

NewsClips:

-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: A New Plan For Pennsylvania Forests - New Uses, More Trails, Continued Logging
-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: Hazelwood Summer Camp Teaches Life Lessons Along With Rowing On The Mon River
-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: A Summer Road Trip From Pittsburgh To Goddard State Park
-- Williamsport Sun - Bill Bower: Reflections In Nature - We All Need To Experience Nature
-- Tribune-Democrat: Community Members Hike Flood Path Trail In Cambria County, Bask In Local History
-- TribLive: Goats Get To Work Clearing Natrona Riverfront In Preparation For Work On Three Rivers Heritage Trail Connection

[Posted: July 25, 2024]

DCNR Starts Accepting Applications For ATV/Snowmobile Projects, Programs Aug. 1

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources begins accepting applications for ATV

or Snowmobile Projects and Programs Grants on August 1. The deadline to apply is September 30. *(formal notice)*

Eligible projects include land acquisition, planning, development, rehabilitation, maintenance, equipment purchase or educational programs for ATV or snowmobile trails and facilities.

Click Here for a video tutorial on applying for these grants.

Click Here for more information and to apply.

Visit the DCNR Grants webpage for more information.

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.

(Reprinted from latest DCNR Grants newsletter. Click Here to sign up for your own copy.)

Related Articles:

-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]

-- DCNR: Aug. 14 Trails Advisory Committee Forum Mercer County; DCNR Seeks Survey Input From Trail Managers, Providers On Land/Water Trail Plan [PaEN]

-- DCNR Designates New Umbrella Magnolia Groves Wild Plant Sanctuary In York County [PaEN]

-- DCNR State Parks July Environmental Education Newsletter: Summer Learning & Literacy Road Trip; Celebrating Park & Recreation Professionals; Literacy Survey, Professional Workshops [PaEN]

-- DCNR Good Natured Blog: I'm Having A Great Forestry Intern Experience! - By Connor Duncan, DCNR Forestry Intern [PaEN]

-- Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, 50+ Vendors To Host Susquehanna Greenway Expo Aug. 3 At Shikellamy State Park Marina, Sunbury [PaEN]

-- Penn State Extension Begins 10-Part Pennsylvania Forests Online Seminar Series Sept. 10 [PaEN]

-- PennEnvironment: New Interactive Map Spotlights State, National Parks With Access To Electric Vehicle Charging [PaEN]

NewsClips:

-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: A New Plan For Pennsylvania Forests - New Uses, More Trails, Continued Logging

-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: Hazelwood Summer Camp Teaches Life Lessons Along With Rowing On The Mon River

-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: A Summer Road Trip From Pittsburgh To Goddard State Park

-- Williamsport Sun - Bill Bower: Reflections In Nature - We All Need To Experience Nature

-- Tribune-Democrat: Community Members Hike Flood Path Trail In Cambria County, Bask In Local History

-- TribLive: Goats Get To Work Clearing Natrona Riverfront In Preparation For Work On Three Rivers Heritage Trail Connection

[Posted: July 26, 2024]

DCNR: Aug. 14 Trails Advisory Committee Forum Mercer County; DCNR Seeks Survey Input From Trail Managers, Providers On Land/Water Trail Plan



The latest DCNR Grants newsletter includes invitations to attend the August 14 Trails Advisory Committee public forum in Mercer County and to fill out a survey to provide input on the next Pennsylvania Land/Water Trail Network Strategic Plan

August 14 Forum

Do you enjoy walking, biking, and riding on trails? If so, the Pennsylvania Trails Advisory Committee wants your input.

The Trails Advisory Committee will host a public trails forum on Wednesday, August 14 from 5:30–7:00 p.m. at the eCenter@LindenPointe. The address is 3580 Innovation Way, Hermitage, PA 16148.

Attendees will learn about trails in Mercer County and northwest Pennsylvania and share feedback on the update to the 2020-2024 Pennsylvania Land and Water Trail Network Strategic Plan.

Those wishing to attend can register using the online registration form.

Trail Manager/Provider Survey

Calling all trail managers and providers! DCNR would like your input to help shape recommendations and action steps in the 2025-2029 Pennsylvania Land and Water Trail Network Strategic Plan.

The agency is seeking input through both a survey and trail gap data collection.

The survey is intended for trail managers and providers and should take about 15 minutes to complete.

The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, August 9.

DCNR is also asking trail managers to provide data on gaps in their trail systems. DCNR, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, is trying to establish a statewide spatial dataset for trail gaps.

This dataset will help measure the needs of trails in Pennsylvania while helping state agencies focus trail funding.

To advance this goal, DCNR is asking trail managers to use PEC's online Trail Implementation and Management tool to submit trail gap data.

Follow the instructions to complete the "intake form" for each of your trail gaps along the sections of trail your organization manages.

If you have questions about how to submit trail gaps, please contact Ryan Kurtz, PEC's Mapping and Program Coordinator, at rkurtz@pecpa.org.

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.

(Reprinted from latest DCNR Grants newsletter. Click Here to sign up for your own copy.)
Related Articles:
-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]
-- DCNR: Aug. 14 Trails Advisory Committee Forum Mercer County; DCNR Seeks Survey Input From Trail Managers, Providers On Land/Water Trail Plan [PaEN]
-- DCNR State Parks July Environmental Education Newsletter: Summer Learning & Literacy Road Trip; Celebrating Park & Recreation Professionals; Literacy Survey, Professional Workshops [PaEN]
-- Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, 50+ Vendors To Host Susquehanna Greenway Expo Aug. 3 At Shikellamy State Park Marina, Sunbury [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Begins 10-Part Pennsylvania Forests Online Seminar Series Sept. 10 [PaEN]
-- PennEnvironment: New Interactive Map Spotlights State, National Parks With Access To Electric Vehicle Charging [PaEN]
NewsClips:
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: A New Plan For Pennsylvania Forests - New Uses, More Trails, Continued Logging
-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: Hazelwood Summer Camp Teaches Life Lessons Along With Rowing On The Mon River
-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: A Summer Road Trip From Pittsburgh To Goddard State Park
-- Williamsport Sun - Bill Bower: Reflections In Nature - We All Need To Experience Nature
-- Tribune-Democrat: Community Members Hike Flood Path Trail In Cambria County, Bask In Local History
-- TribLive: Goats Get To Work Clearing Natrona Riverfront In Preparation For Work On Three Rivers Heritage Trail Connection
[Posted: July 25, 2024]

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, 50+ Vendors To Host Susquehanna Greenway Expo Aug. 3 At Shikellamy State Park Marina, Sunbury



The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership and more than 50 vendors will host the 3rd Annual Susquehanna Greenway Expo at Shikellamy State Park Marina in Sunbury, Northumberland County on August 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

There is no doubt about it, the Susquehanna River offers a world of beauty and opportunity for outdoor recreation. In recent years, more people than ever have shown an interest in activities on and along our backyard river.

Yet, it is not always apparent where to go or how to plan that next outdoor adventure.

One organization that is working to help fill this gap is the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership.

SGP works to connect people to this treasured corridor—the Susquehanna Greenway—to help provide the opportunity and resources for all to access hiking, biking, and paddling trails along our shared Susquehanna River.

The Susquehanna Greenway Expo, held at the Shikellamy State Park Marina in Sunbury,, where the North and West branches of the Susquehanna River meet, SGP is engaging the public, recreation industry experts, outdoor professionals, and nonprofit partners to share their tools, knowledge, gear, and resources with the recreating public.

The event will feature more than 50 vendors from across the state to engage with attendees and offer a full slate of activities, presentations, and music performances—all at no cost to the public.

It's a great way to discover new opportunities to engage with the outdoors in this region and beyond.

With programming that includes a live wildlife program, local canal history, kid-friendly activities, food trucks, a beer garden featuring Pennsylvania craft brews, and more, there is something for the whole family.

Program Highlights

Some of the highlights will include:

-- Rich Port Adventure Co: West Branch Outfitter offering kayak, paddle board, and bike rentals in the Williamsport Area.

-- Bald Eagle Mountain Bike Association (BEMBA): This non-profit club is dedicated to mountain bike advocacy, education, access, and trail building. Join them for events & monthly rides!

-- Dida's Incredible Edibles Ice Cream: Specializing in hand-dipped ice cream and other sweet treats. Dida's also features old-fashioned milkshakes and sundaes made with any flavor ice cream that they have available.

-- Faylor Lake Disc Golf: A championship level 18-hole disc golf course at Faylor Lake, in Beaver Springs PA. Ranked the #1 course in PA and 14th in the world in 2023 and 26th in 2024. Each year, they attract disc golfers from all over the US and Canada and our monthly course traffic remains high, averaging over 200 players from 25+ states monthly.

-- R. B. Winter Chapter of Trout Unlimited: The R.B. Winter Chapter of Trout Unlimited focuses on educational programming and activities within the Susquehanna Valley. Chapter members will provide fly-tying demonstrations throughout the day. Fly fishing equipment will be on display with anglers available to explain basic information about fly fishing.

-- DutchWare Gear: Discover top-quality camping hammocks, tarps, and kitchen gear from DutchWare Gear, your go-to for customizable solutions and print-to-fabric options, all proudly made in the USA. Enjoy the great outdoors with expertly designed durable products that enhance your camping experience. Benefit from our expert support to ensure you get the perfect gear tailored to your needs.

-- Crank Therapy: Unique wallets, bags, belts & dog collars made from up-cycled bicycle inner tubes and recycled materials. Everything is stitched on a bicycle powered sewing machine. See it in action at the event!

-- Pennsylvania WoodMobile (PA Department of Agriculture): An interactive museum on wheels about our forest, the sustainable forest products industry, how products are made, and threats to our forests like invasive insects and plants, diseases and white-tailed deer.

-- The Empanada Shack: Lycoming County's Favorite Empanada Truck! Featuring traditional and specialty Puerto Rican style empanadas.

-- Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association: Protects and promotes the Susquehanna River, its tributaries & the aquatic ecosystem that depends on it all across 11,000 square miles of

watershed in central, northcentral & northeast Pennsylvania, through environmental education as well as water monitoring & testing.
-- Link Cyclery LLC: A family owned and operated bicycle shop with a wide range of bikes in Road, Mountain, Gravel, Hybrid, Children, & E-Bikes, you can find your ride here. Providing bike repairs from flats to overhauls, they are known for quick turnaround time. They offer bike rentals suited for Rail Trails, do bike trade-ins, and sharpen ice skates.
-- **Milly's Breakfast Spot**: Run by two life-long best friends, they aim to serve our customers the best of breakfast classics and specialty drinks so that you can start your day right!
-- Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau: (SPONSOR) The SRVVB promotes the Susquehanna River Valley [comprised of Snyder, Northumberland and Union counties] and its outdoor recreation amenities to outdoor enthusiasts both within the region and nationally.
-- **Michael Kinney & Missy Gray**: In spring of 2024, Michael Kinney paddled the entire 228 miles of the Susquehanna River's West Branch, capturing some amazing photos along the way. For some sections, he was accompanied by his girlfriend, Missy Gray. Together, Michael and Missy will share photos, speak about their amazing experience and answer questions right at the event.
-- **'Gingersnap' the Mermaid**: Photo opportunity and fun for the kids!
-- And many more!!

The event will also feature opportunities to learn wilderness survival tips, how to build a tarp shelter, birdwatching equipment tutorials, a balance bike rodeo for the kids, learn how to disc golf, and other activities—plus, a chance to win a kayak and other great outdoor themed prizes!

A full event schedule, map, and list of exhibitors is available at the Susquehanna Greenway Expo webpage.

You may also follow the Facebook page for the latest announcements and updates.

The Susquehanna Greenway Outdoor Expo was made possible thanks to grants from the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources and the PPL Foundation, as well as large category sponsorships from the Susquehanna River Valley Visitors Bureau and M&T Bank.

Annual Photo Contest

The deadline for submissions to the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership Photo Contest is coming up fast-- July 31. Click Here for all the details.

Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership services and programs serve as a thread that links adventurers to everything they need to explore the outdoors along the Susquehanna Greenway including the area's outfitters, heritage areas, outdoor clubs, and so much more.

Learn more about SGP's offerings by visiting Susquehanna Greenway Partnership.

Here you will find information on SGP's latest news & stories, upcoming events, the various regions of the Susquehanna Greenway, paddling routes, and the parks, trails, and river towns that can be explored within the corridor.

The Susquehanna Greenway is a corridor of connected trails, parks, river access points, and communities, linking people to the natural and cultural treasures of the Susquehanna River within Pennsylvania.

The mission of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership is to continue to grow the Greenway by building connections along the Susquehanna River, inspiring people to engage with the outdoors, and transforming communities into places where people want to live, work, and

explore.
Resource Link:
-- Disc Golf Soars To New Heights In The Susquehanna Greenway; Susquehanna Greenway Outdoor Expo Aug. 3 [PaEN]
Related Articles:
-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]
-- DCNR: Aug. 14 Trails Advisory Committee Forum Mercer County; DCNR Seeks Survey Input From Trail Managers, Providers On Land/Water Trail Plan [PaEN]
-- DCNR State Parks July Environmental Education Newsletter: Summer Learning & Literacy Road Trip; Celebrating Park & Recreation Professionals; Literacy Survey, Professional Workshops [PaEN]
-- Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, 50+ Vendors To Host Susquehanna Greenway Expo Aug. 3 At Shikellamy State Park Marina, Sunbury [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Begins 10-Part Pennsylvania Forests Online Seminar Series Sept. 10 [PaEN]
-- PennEnvironment: New Interactive Map Spotlights State, National Parks With Access To Electric Vehicle Charging [PaEN]
NewsClips:
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: A New Plan For Pennsylvania Forests - New Uses, More Trails, Continued Logging
-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: Hazelwood Summer Camp Teaches Life Lessons Along With Rowing On The Mon River
-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: A Summer Road Trip From Pittsburgh To Goddard State Park
-- Williamsport Sun - Bill Bower: Reflections In Nature - We All Need To Experience Nature
-- Tribune-Democrat: Community Members Hike Flood Path Trail In Cambria County, Bask In Local History
-- TribLive: Goats Get To Work Clearing Natrona Riverfront In Preparation For Work On Three Rivers Heritage Trail Connection
[Posted: July 23, 2024]

DCNR Good Natured Blog: I'm Having A Great Forestry Intern Experience!

By Connor Duncan, DCNR Forestry Intern



Embarking on a journey into the heart of Pennsylvania's wilderness, I found myself strapped into the passenger seat of a Bureau of Forestry vehicle, eagerly anticipating the day's adventures.

As a photographer and communications intern for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the opportunity to shadow Tuscarora State Forest Ranger Steve Shaffer promised a firsthand glimpse into the vital work of those dedicated to protecting our natural landscapes.

Bear Traps and Lost Hikers

After getting some not so glamorous work out of the way, one of the first assignments on our agenda was to drive out into a remote area to check a bear trap.

Sadly, it had no bears, but Steve got to show me how the trap works.

The bear, attracted to the bait (a delicious pile of glazed donuts, believe it or not) -- wanders into the open trap to enjoy a sweat treat, but beneath the bait lies a pedal and when stepped on, it triggers the door to swing shut and lock in place.

On our way out, we bumped into a lost hiker and after helping him find his way, and we had a nice conversation about turtles and bear encounters before Steve gave him his card.

Checking on Rattlesnakes

Next, we opened the gate to a birding area on top of a hilly meadow before driving up a ridge to survey and photograph timber rattlesnakes.

If there are two things that Steve loves, they'd be reptiles and photography (check out the Tuscarora Facebook page to see some photos).

That makes two of us, so we were the perfect pairing!

After stopping on the ridge, Steve led me on a small trek through the mountain laurels to a small, open boulder field where the snakes like to sun and sure enough, we spotted our first rattler.

Then another one came out, and another, but before I could contain my excitement, I heard the unmistakable sound of a rattlesnake's rattle right beneath my feet.

The very rock I was crouching on, had one underneath. They were everywhere!

They came in many variations of colors from black to yellow, and the largest had a whopping fifteen buds on its rattle.

For lunch, we stopped at a nice Amish market in the quaint little town of Blain, where Ranger Shaffer was a bit of a local celebrity.

He seemed to know everyone we passed -- it was difficult to get around anywhere without someone wanting to talk.

After filling our tummies by a peaceful, trout-filled creek, we continued our adventure to Bowers Mountain.

On our way up, we helped two black rat snakes cross the road. Steve handled the first one whose face was scarred from snake fungal disease and let me take care of the second.

Both were very friendly and cooperative as we carried them off the road.

We then stopped at another one of Steve's rattlesnake hotspots.

We only found one large, dark brown rattler there, sunning on the rock. I got down next to it to take some shots and that's when he poked his head up and we went into a bit of a standoff, which resulted in my favorite shot of the day.

After locking eyes for a few minutes, he ducked back down into the rock crevice and I noticed a shed on the rock. I went to pick it up and found a copperhead in the same crack the rattlesnake disappeared into.

Exploring Tuscarora State Forest

Afterwards, we went up to Doubling Gap overlook and Three Square Hollow Vista to take some photography and found two Eastern fence lizards. Some grouse flew into the woods before I could nab a photo.

We also followed some bear tracks into a wetland and found a half-eaten water snake on its trail. Do bears eat snakes?

On my way home, I also made some pretty cool pitstop discoveries. The big radio tower

at the Cliff Jones Field Station caught my attention -- so I got out, walked around, and found a secluded trail out back, down the ridgeline.

I followed it to see if there were any good lookouts and about a mile in, just when I was about to turn around -- I found an awesome shelter with a beautiful balcony over the view. I also visited Cave Hill Nature Center just because it was along the way.

Inspiring Experience with a State Forest Ranger

This journey into the heart of Pennsylvania's wilderness with Tuscarora State Forest Ranger Steve Shaffer was nothing short of exhilarating and enlightening.

Every moment offered a deeper understanding of the delicate balance of nature, as we traversed through picturesque landscapes and engaged with local communities.

It is evident that Ranger Shaffer is very passionate and dedicated to his work and enjoys what he does.

On our drive back to the station, he described it as his whole persona. I want to thank him for inviting me out and can't wait to tag along again someday.

Find more information about internships on the Department's website.

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.

Connor Duncan is a student at Messiah University and a summer intern with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry.

(Reprinted from DCNR's Good Natured Blog -- See more photos!)

Related Articles:

-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]

-- DCNR: Aug. 14 Trails Advisory Committee Forum Mercer County; DCNR Seeks Survey Input From Trail Managers, Providers On Land/Water Trail Plan [PaEN]

-- DCNR Designates New Umbrella Magnolia Groves Wild Plant Sanctuary In York County [PaEN]

-- DCNR State Parks July Environmental Education Newsletter: Summer Learning & Literacy Road Trip; Celebrating Park & Recreation Professionals; Literacy Survey, Professional Workshops [PaEN]

-- PennEnvironment: New Interactive Map Spotlights State, National Parks With Access To Electric Vehicle Charging [PaEN]

NewsClips:

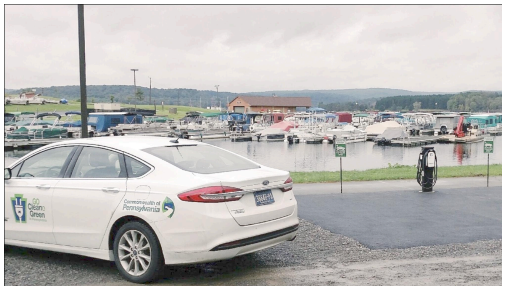
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: A New Plan For Pennsylvania Forests - New Uses, More Trails, Continued Logging

-- The Allegheny Front: Section Of Clear Creek State Forest Recognized By Old-Growth Forest Network In Mercer County

-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: Active or Passive? Plans For Big Elk Creek State Park

In Chester County Spark Controversy
[Posted: July 26, 2024]

PennEnvironment: New Interactive Map Spotlights State, National Parks With Access To Electric Vehicle Charging



Tens of millions of Americans are expected to hit the highways this summer for road trips, often to state or national parks.

For many drivers, 2024 marks their first year behind the wheel of an electric vehicle.

A new interactive map from PennEnvironment Research and Policy Center, Environment America Research and Policy Center, U.S. PIRG Education Fund, and Frontier Group helps those newbies, as well as early adopters of EVs, find state and national parks where they can plug in their electric vehicles while enjoying nature.

"Park systems across the country and Commonwealth are making it easier for EV owners to 'recharge where you recharge,'" said PennEnvironment Research and Policy Center's Deputy Director, Flora Cardoni. "That means we can all leave air pollution behind when we go to enjoy the wonders of the great outdoors. That's a win-win-win for our health and the health of the wildlife and landscapes that draw us to parks in the first place."

The interactive map highlights more than 260 large state and national parks across the country with EV chargers either in them or nearby.

It also shows the progress made by several states in making the great outdoors accessible to people driving electric vehicles.

Pennsylvania

In Pennsylvania, DCNR has worked to install electric vehicle chargers at roughly three dozen state parks and forests.

Transportation is the United States' No. 1 source of the climate pollution that is causing the world to warm, and shifting to electric vehicles can dramatically reduce that pollution.

Climate change threatens the health of our forests and ecosystems, and is irrevocably changing the character of America's most beloved natural places.

"The premise of the National Park system was to preserve everything from purple mountains' majesty to fruited plains. Climate change is threatening that. Glacier National Park, for example, has one-sixth as many glaciers as it did in 1850 and the last glaciers may be gone by 2030," said Cardoni. "Visiting these parks by EV is one way we can help preserve them for future generations, and EV chargers in parks and gateway towns make it possible."

The number of charging stations around the country is ramping up. Nearly one out of every five EV charging ports available nationwide at the end of 2023 had been installed in the previous year.

"Thanks to private and public investments -- often supported by the Inflation Reduction Act -- we can count on new EV chargers en route to and within our destinations, making summer road trips, and every trip we take, that much easier," said Cardoni. "Going for a walk in the woods is a great way to let go of the anxieties of daily life. With more places to recharge EVs,

range anxiety is one more worry that EV drivers can leave behind."

Click Here to visit the interactive map.

Related Articles:

-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]

-- DCNR: Aug. 14 Trails Advisory Committee Forum Mercer County; DCNR Seeks Survey Input From Trail Managers, Providers On Land/Water Trail Plan [PaEN]

-- DCNR State Parks July Environmental Education Newsletter: Summer Learning & Literacy Road Trip; Celebrating Park & Recreation Professionals; Literacy Survey, Professional Workshops [PaEN]

-- Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, 50+ Vendors To Host Susquehanna Greenway Expo Aug. 3 At Shikellamy State Park Marina, Sunbury [PaEN]

-- Penn State Extension Begins 10-Part Pennsylvania Forests Online Seminar Series Sept. 10 [PaEN]

-- PennEnvironment: New Interactive Map Spotlights State, National Parks With Access To Electric Vehicle Charging [PaEN]

NewsClips:

-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: A New Plan For Pennsylvania Forests - New Uses, More Trails, Continued Logging

-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: Hazelwood Summer Camp Teaches Life Lessons Along With Rowing On The Mon River

-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: A Summer Road Trip From Pittsburgh To Goddard State Park

-- Williamsport Sun - Bill Bower: Reflections In Nature - We All Need To Experience Nature

-- Tribune-Democrat: Community Members Hike Flood Path Trail In Cambria County, Bask In Local History

-- TribLive: Goats Get To Work Clearing Natrona Riverfront In Preparation For Work On Three Rivers Heritage Trail Connection

[Posted: July 24, 2024]

Penn State Extension Begins 10-Part Pennsylvania Forests Online Seminar Series Sept. 10

A ten-part online Pennsylvania Forest Seminar Series hosted by Penn State Extension will begin its 17th season on September 10 with a program on using geographic information systems to track forest management at Noon and 7:00 p.m.

Pennsylvania Forest Online Web Seminar series will be held once a month from September through June on the second Tuesday of each month. Participants have the option to view live webinars at Noon or 7:00 p.m..

Since the online seminar series began in 2008, over 22,000 forest landowners and forestry professionals have attended the webinars live with several thousand more viewing recordings of the presentations.

The online seminar series is geared toward private forest landowners as well as the general public and covers a variety of topics throughout the year related not only to forest and wildlife management but also water, wood products, and more.

Receive An Invite By Email

Registration is not open yet for these webinars, but if you would like to receive an email invitation to the webinars go online and sign up to receive the Woods and Wildlife News which

comes out every two months.

Notifications for the online seminar series will be received by everyone who gets the Woods & Wildlife News and Notes newsletter from Penn State Extension.

Each online seminar will show up on Penn State Extension's website as well.

If you are new to watching online seminars, go to Penn State Extension's website and create an account with Penn State Extension.

Once you create an account you can choose from a wide variety of topic areas that you would like to receive information about.

Below is the list of webinars that are scheduled for the 24-25 series year. The webinars are free to watch but registration is required. Some of the topics are confirmed and a few are still waiting for final details.

-- September 10: Using Geographic Information Systems to Track Management and Assess Attributes of Forested Property
-- October 8: Basic Wood ID for Common Hardwoods Using a Hand Lens
-- November 12: Update on Carbon Credit Programs for PA
-- December 10: Invasive Toolkit for Landowners
-- January 14: Our Unique Native Populations of Brook Trout
-- February 11: Tree Communication
-- March 11: Hazard Tree Analysis
-- April 8: Forest Resilience Scorecard for PA
-- May 13: Tree Nuts in Pennsylvania
-- June 10: The Use of Slash Walls to Exclude Deer and Regenerate Native Forest Tree Species

Click Here for more information.

Visit the Penn State Extension website to learn about many other educational opportunities.

[Posted: July 24, 2024]

Environment & Energy Educational Opportunities For Students & Adults

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

Awards/Recognition

-- DCNR Good Natured Blog: I'm Having A Great Forestry Intern Experience! - By Connor Duncan, DCNR Forestry Intern [PaEN]

-- Student Interns Are Learning About The Water Industry With Trade College Summer Experiences At The Chester Water Authority [PaEN]

Grants

-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA Schools Can Soon Apply For Grants To Offset Cost Of Solar Projects

-- PA Environmental Council Podcast: New Solar For Schools Program

-- Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority Will Be Accepting Applications For Recycling Mini Grants Starting Aug. 12

Help Wanted/Jobs

-- Student Interns Are Learning About The Water Industry With Trade College Summer

Experiences At The Chester Water Authority [PaEN]

Upcoming Events

-- House Committee To Hold 2nd Hearing July 29 On Governor's Energy Plan To Diversify Energy Generation, Improve Grid Reliability, Lower Consumer Energy Costs [PaEN]

-- TribLive: 'Frog Week' Part Of PA Woods & Forests Goal To Draw Attention To Backyard Creatures In Westmoreland

-- Western PA Conservancy Hosts July 31 School Grounds Greening - Helping Children Learn In And From Nature Webinar [PaEN]

-- Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, 50+ Vendors To Host Susquehanna Greenway Expo Aug. 3 At Shikellamy State Park Marina, Sunbury [PaEN]

-- Beaver County Times: Electronics Recycling Event At Riverside H.S. Aug. 6 In Beaver County

-- Penn State Extension Aug. 21 Webinar - Water Testing Through Penn State's Ag Analytical Lab [PaEN]

-- Learn How You Can Qualify For Free Well Water Testing During Aug. 22 Penn State Extension Webinar [PaEN]

-- Penn State Extension Begins 10-Part Pennsylvania Forests Online Seminar Series Sept. 10 [PaEN]

-- Watershed Alliance Of York, Partners Host 22nd Annual Watershed Week Sept. 21 - 27 [PaEN]

-- Registration Open! 2024 Delaware River Watershed Forum Sept. 26-27 In Bethlehem; Delaware Conservation Fund Symposium Sept. 25 [PaEN]

-- Lehigh County-based Wildlands Conservancy Highlights Upcoming Programs: Stream Restoration; Volunteer Opportunities; Wine & Dine Dinner; Student American Chestnut Project

-- DCNR Virtual Webinar For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]

Programs/Information

-- DCNR State Parks July Environmental Education Newsletter: Summer Learning & Literacy Road Trip; Celebrating Park & Recreation Professionals; Literacy Survey, Professional Workshops [PaEN]

-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: Hazelwood Summer Camp Teaches Life Lessons Along With Rowing On The Mon River

-- Warren Times: Audubon Community Nature Center Nature's Garden A Learning Experience

-- The Allegheny Front: A Rare Prairie In Pennsylvania Is In Full Bloom Right Now At DCNR Jennings Environmental Center, Butler County

-- Scranton Times Quills Blog: Plant Trees For Free In Pennsylvania

-- Patch.com: Students Team Up With Bucks Beautiful To Enhance Buckingham Wetlands

-- Erie Times: Old Farmer's Almanac Fall Forecast: What It Says For Pennsylvania

Public Participation

-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices, Opportunities To Comment - July 27 [PaEN]

-- DEP Posted 74 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In July 27 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

-- Delaware River Basin Commission Holds Aug. 7 Hearing; Sept. 5 Business Meeting [PaEN]

-- DCNR: Aug. 14 Trails Advisory Committee Forum Mercer County; DCNR Seeks Survey Input From Trail Managers, Providers On Land/Water Trail Plan [PaEN]

-- DEP To Hold Aug. 28 Hearing On Water Quality Permit For Rustic Ridge Ridge #1 Coal

Mine 1,452 Acre Expansion In Fayette, Westmoreland Counties [PaEN]
-- DEP Sets Aug. 29 Hearing On Stormwater Permit For Blue Ridge Real Estate's Proposed Truck Terminal, Warehouse In Kidder Twp., Carbon County [PaEN]

Background On Issues

-- No One Warned A Cameron County Family Their Water Well Was Contaminated By A Seneca Resources Shale Gas Wastewater Pipeline Rupture [PaEN]
-- PA Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - July 20 to 26 - Abandoned Well Violations To Owner Of 727 Conventional Wells 'Returned To Sender,' More Wastewater Pipeline Spills; 2nd Attempt To Plug Shale Gas Well [PaEN]
-- Grist - Jake Bolster: Road Dumping Returns: How Pennsylvania's Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Quietly Dumped Waste Across The State
-- Fast Company: It's Illegal For Oil & Gas Companies To Dump Wastewater On Pennsylvania Roads - They Do It Anyway
-- MotherJones.com: Frackers Are Spraying Toxic Wastewater On Pennsylvania Roads Despite Ban
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: Fight Over Road Dumping Oil & Gas Wastewater Is A Rural-Urban Tension [They Now Dump More On Paved Roads; Road Dumping Is Waste Disposal - This Is 2024, Not 1859 Learn The Real Facts]
-- NonProfitQuarterly.org - Justin Nobel: Is Radioactivity The Key To Holding The Fracking Industry Accountable? [Bryan Latkanich Case In Washington County]
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Approved, Renewed 22 Shale Gas Well Pad Water Use General Permits In June; 155 General Permits In 2024 [PaEN]
-- Shell Petrochemical Plant Asks DEP To Classify Chemical Makeup, Flow Rate Of Gases Going To Be Burned Off By Flares, Air Pollution Sources, Control Equipment Operating At The Plant Confidential Business Information [PaEN]
-- WESA/The Allegheny Front: Report: Chemical Recycling Of Plastic Won't Benefit The Ohio Valley
-- Bloomberg: EQT Gas CEO Says Fracking Ban Would Be 'Constructive' For Prices
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: EQT Natural Gas' Toby Rice On Presidential Politics: 'Time To Hold Leaders Accountable' [EQT, PA Shale Gas Says We Have A 'Duty' To Sell More Gas To China Our Economic, Military Competitor]
-- Shapiro Administration Secures $396.1 Million In Federal Funding To Cut Carbon Pollution From Industries, Create Jobs [PaEN]
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: How Western PA's Industrial Sector Can Tap Into $396 Million In Federal Climate Funding Received By DEP
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: Pennsylvania Gets Nearly $400 Million For Industrial Decarbonization
-- The Allegheny Front - Reid Frazier: PA Gets $400 Million From EPA To Lower Carbon Emissions From Industries
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Pennsylvania To Receive $396 Million For Industrial Decarbonization
-- Spotlight PA: Federal Dollars Driving Energy Policy In Pennsylvania Toward Solar, Hydrogen
-- WTAE: Nuclear Energy Leader Discusses Industry Future: 'It's A Community Of Women'
-- The Allegheny Front - Kara Holsopple: New Book By Rob Jackson Provides Hope For Restoring The Atmosphere From Climate Pollution

-- TribLive Guest Essay: Climate Action Is A Moral Imperative - By Rev. Erik Hoeke, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
-- Gov. Shapiro Signs Bipartisan Solar For Schools And Geologic Sequestration Of Carbon Bills Into Law [PaEN]
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA Hopes To Regulate Carbon Storage Wells With New Law
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: Pennsylvania Law Seeks To Make State A Geologic Carbon Storage Center
-- Penn State Study Finds Solar Farms With Stormwater Controls Mitigate Runoff, Erosion [PaEN]
-- Williamsport Sun - Bill Bower: Reflections In Nature - We All Need To Experience Nature
-- DCNR Designates New Umbrella Magnolia Groves Wild Plant Sanctuary In York County [PaEN]
-- Natural Lands Partners With Landowner Michael Kaczenski To Protect 252 Acres Of Forest Land In Carbon County [PaEN]
-- WeConservePA: Berks Nature Partnered With Fleetwood Borough To Increase Protection For Local Drinking Water Under New Fleetwood Reservoir Woodland Conservation Easement Covering 190 Acres [PaEN]
-- WeConservePA: Berks Nature Partners With Landowner Kevin Stein To Protect 139+ Acres In The Kittatinny Ridge Landscape [PaEN]
-- WeConservePA: ClearWater Conservancy Partners With Diane Albright To Protect 95-Acre Woodland As Part Of Beaver Branch Gorge Biological Diversity Area In Centre County [PaEN]
-- WeConservePA: French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust Protects 4.6 More Acres In West Vincent Twp., Chester County
-- Lancaster Farming: USDA Secretary Calls For Systemic Changes In Agriculture At Rodale Organic Farming Field Day
-- Center For Biological Diversity: EPA Releases New Strategy To Protect Endangered Plants, Animals From Insecticides
-- EPA Releases Draft Strategy To Better Protect Endangered Species From Insecticides
-- MCall Guest Essay: We Need Detailed Soil Maps Of Our Cities So We Know Where It's Safe To Work, Live, Play And Grow Food - By Nora Vaughn, Lehigh University Student
-- Delaware RiverKeeper July 26 RiverWatch Video Report
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Newsletter Highlights Chesapeake Bay Report Card; Tioga River Mine Drainage Treatment Project; eDNA; New Cooling Tower Tech [PaEN]
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Karl Blankenship: Pennsylvania's Budget Pledges Ongoing Support For Chesapeake Bay Cleanup
-- Inside Climate News: Historic Investments, Accountability Push Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Efforts In Right Direction Says EPA Region III Administrator Adam Ortiz
-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: A Collaborative Triumph In The Conestoga Watershed - Hammertown Tributary
-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: Restoring Streams, Cultivating Partnerships - Gordonville Farm Riparian Buffer
-- WESA/AP: Demand For Rare Elements Used In Clean Energy Could Help Clean Up Abandoned Coal Mines In Appalachia
-- Chesapeake Bay Journal - Ad Crable: A New Plan For Pennsylvania Forests - New Uses,

More Trails, Continued Logging
-- TribLive: Goats Get To Work Clearing Natrona Riverfront In Preparation For Work On Three Rivers Heritage Trail Connection
-- Inquirer: It's Been 10 Years Since The Spotted Lanternfly Landed In PA, Is It As Bad As We Feared?
-- Inquirer: Spotting And Stopping The Spotted Lanternfly
-- Penn State Extension - Watershed Winds: Why Did My Streamside Tree Die? Monitoring Soil Moisture; Pond & Lake Wildlife; Private Wells & Water Systems; Water-Related Education Programs
-- Penn State Extension - Ag Conservation Currents: Ag Progress Days; Livestock Watering; Grass Riparian Buffers; REAP Application Period Opens; ABCs Of Agricultural Conservation
-- Penn State Extension - Woods & Wildlife News: Integrated Forest Management; Invasion Ecology; Preventing Feral Hog Invasions; Woodland Steward Series; Forest Farming - Ginseng
-- Erie Times: Cocaine Trade Threatens Winter Habitat Of PA's Warblers, Orioles And More In Central America
-- Williamsport Sun - Dan Brauning, Lycoming Audubon: Migration Marvels - A Look At How Birds Exemplify The Cycle Of Life

Visit the DEP Calendar of Events; 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: July 28, 2024]

DCNR State Parks July Environmental Education Newsletter: Summer Learning & Literacy Road Trip; Celebrating Park & Recreation Professionals; Literacy Survey, Professional Workshops

DCNR State Parks Environmental Education July newsletter is hot off the press with ways to celebrate Park and Recreation Month, Professional Workshops, Chesapeake Bay Environmental Literacy Survey and much more.
-- PA 2024 Summer Learning & Literacy Road Trip Featuring State Parks, Libraries
-- Celebrate Park & Recreational Professionals!
-- PA Lake Management Society Lake Appreciation Month
-- Chesapeake Bay Environmental Literacy Goal Survey
-- Upcoming Environmental Educator Workshops
-- Explore The Outdoors Activities

Click Here to read their entire newsletter. Click Here to sign up for your own copy.

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: July 25, 2024]

Western PA Conservancy Hosts July 31 School Grounds Greening - Helping Children Learn In And From Nature Webinar



The Western PA Conservancy will host a July 31 webinar on School Grounds Greening - Helping Children Learn In And From Nature starting at Noon. The Conservancy's School Grounds Greening Program has transformed concrete or grass-only areas into engaging, nature-focused outdoor play and greenspaces at nearly 80 schools in Pittsburgh and across the region since 2007.

These spaces provide ecological benefits to support nature and also encourage early childhood development in several ways, including enhancing physical skills and inspiring opportunities for creativity, imagination, problem-solving, discovery, observation, experimentation and social interaction.

Join Conservancy staff for a free webinar and an engaging discussion that explores the benefits of these greenspaces and how teachers use these spaces to include hands-on, nature-based learning in their curriculum.

You'll also learn how you can continue to make these spaces bloom and flourish to help young learners thrive!

Click Here to register and for more information.

Visit the Conservancy's School Grounds Greening Program webpage. Click Here to watch a video about the program.

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.

Related Article:

-- DCNR State Parks July Environmental Education Newsletter: Summer Learning & Literacy Road Trip; Celebrating Park & Recreation Professionals; Literacy Survey, Professional Workshops [PaEN]
[Posted: July 25, 2024]

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--

House/Senate Bills Moving

House

Conventional Oil & Gas Well Bonding: House Bill 962 (Vitali-D-Delaware) restoring authority to increase conventional oil and gas well bonding amounts was Tabled. Read more here about the bill.

Hydrogen Hub: House Resolution 79 (Pisciottano-D-Allegheny) urging the Biden Administration to designate Pennsylvania a hydrogen hub was Tabled. [Housecleaning]

Rail Safety Week 2023: House Resolution 196 (Matzie-D-Beaver) designating the week of September 18-24, 2023 Rail Safety Week was Tabled. [Housecleaning]

Climate Week 2023: House Resolution 228 (Otten-D-Chester) designating the week of October 1 through 7, 2023, as "Climate Week" in Pennsylvania was Tabled. [Housecleaning]

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

Senate (September 16): Senate Bill 1058 (Yaw-R-Lycoming) abrogating the final regulation reducing carbon pollution from power plants [RGGI]. <> Click Here for full Senate Bill Calendar.

House (September 23): House Bill 1862, House Bill 1863 and House Bill 1864 sponsored by Matzie (D-Beaver) further providing for the acquisition of municipal water and wastewater systems. <> Click Here for full House Bill Calendar.

Committee Meetings

House
July 29-- House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee holds hearing on House Bill 2277 (Otten-D-Chester), the PA Reliable Energy Sustainability Standard (PRESS) is the Governor's Energy Plan that would diversify energy generation, improve grid reliability, lower consumer costs by avoiding energy price spikes and create energy-related jobs. Room G-50 of the Irvis Building. 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch live online. Read more here.
August 13-- House/Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee informational meeting on Partnerships in Agriculture - A Sweet Investment In On-Farm Conservation. Ag Progress Days - Red Barn Annex, Pennsylvania Furnace, Centre County.. 10:00 a.m.
<> Click Here for full House Committee Schedule.

Senate
<> 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
September 16, 17, 18, 30
October 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 21, 22, 23
November 13, 14

House
September 23, 24, 25, 30
October 1, 2, 21, 22, 23
November 12, 13

[Posted: July 28, 2024]

The Feds

Articles and NewsClips about federal actions impacting Pennsylvania--

-- PA Capital-Star/Inside Climate News: National Spotlight Shines On Shapiro's Contested Environmental Record
-- Fortune: Harris Reverses Earlier Anti-Fracking Stance And No Longer Supports A Ban
-- Bloomberg: Harris Backs Off Fracking Ban As Republicans Campaign On Past Position
-- The Hill: Harris Does Not Support Fracking Ban - Campaign Official
-- Utility Dive: Bipartisan Energy Facility Permitting Bill Ups FERC Transmission Siting Authority, Requires Interregional Planning
-- Inside Climate News: Historic Investments, Accountability Push Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Efforts In Right Direction Says EPA Region III Administrator Adam Ortiz
-- WESA/AP: Demand For Rare Elements Used In Clean Energy Could Help Clean Up Abandoned Coal Mines In Appalachia
-- Post-Gazette: Lawmakers Introduce New Bipartisan Bill In Congress To Push Rail Safety After Norfolk Southern Train Derailment
-- PittsburghUnionProgress.com: Rail Safety Measure Needed To Prevent 'Ticking Time Bombs' In Rail Yards, US House Committee Told
-- AP: Rushed Railcar Inspections And 'Stagnated' Safety Record Reinforce Concerns After Fiery Norfolk Southern Train Derailment
-- Environmental Defense Fund Blog: New Report Reveals The Need For Protective Standards For All Gas Well-Related Gathering Pipelines

-- Shapiro Administration Secures $396.1 Million In Federal Funding To Cut Carbon Pollution From Industries, Create Jobs [PaEN]
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: How Western PA's Industrial Sector Can Tap Into $396 Million In Federal Climate Funding Received By DEP
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: Pennsylvania Gets Nearly $400 Million For Industrial Decarbonization
-- The Allegheny Front - Reid Frazier: PA Gets $400 Million From EPA To Lower Carbon Emissions From Industries
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Pennsylvania To Receive $396 Million For Industrial Decarbonization
-- Spotlight PA: Federal Dollars Driving Energy Policy In Pennsylvania Toward Solar, Hydrogen
-- EPA Announces $13.9 Million In Environmental, Climate Justice Community Change Grants In PA [PaEN]
-- WHYY: Flurry Of Grant Money Flowing To Philly Region For Environmental Projects
-- StateImpactPA: Harley-Davidson In York Gets $89 Million In Federal Funding To Boost E-Motorcycle Production
-- DEP Requiring Any Facility Operating Under A Temporary Title V Air Plan Approval For More Than 12 Months To Submit a Title V Operating Permit On Or Before Nov. 25, 2024 [PaEN]
-- Warren Times: Allegheny National Forest Chapter Of The North Country Trail Assn. Wraps Up Trail Shelter Project
-- TribLive: $1.2 Million Federal Grant To Help PA Expand Eastern Massasauga Rattler's Habitat
-- Center For Biological Diversity: EPA Releases New Strategy To Protect Endangered Plants, Animals From Insecticides
-- EPA Releases Draft Strategy To Better Protect Endangered Species From Insecticides

[Posted: July 28, 2024]

Public Participation Opportunities/Calendar Of Events

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

-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices, Opportunities To Comment - July 27 [PaEN]
-- DEP Posted 74 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In July 27 PA Bulletin [PaEN]
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Holds Aug. 7 Hearing; Sept. 5 Business Meeting [PaEN]
-- DEP To Hold Aug. 28 Hearing On Water Quality Permit For Rustic Ridge Ridge #1 Coal Mine 1,452 Acre Expansion In Fayette, Westmoreland Counties [PaEN]
-- DEP Sets Aug. 29 Hearing On Stormwater Permit For Blue Ridge Real Estate's Proposed Truck Terminal, Warehouse In Kidder Twp., Carbon County [PaEN]
-- DCNR: Aug. 14 Trails Advisory Committee Forum Mercer County; DCNR Seeks Survey Input From Trail Managers, Providers On Land/Water Trail Plan [PaEN]
-- Patch.com: New Hope Boro, Bucks County Creates Environmental Advisory Council; Looking For Members

[Posted: July 28, 2024]

Grants & Awards

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

-- DCNR Virtual Grant Workshop For Recreation, Conservation Projects Set For Nov. 7 [PaEN]
-- DCNR Starts Accepting Applications For ATV/Snowmobile Projects, Programs Aug. 1 [PaEN]
-- StateImpactPA - Rachel McDevitt: PA Schools Can Soon Apply For Grants To Offset Cost Of Solar Projects

[Posted: July 28, 2024]

PA Bulletin Public Notices

Highlights of the environmental and energy notices in the July 27 PA Bulletin--

-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices, Opportunities To Comment - July 27 [PaEN]

--The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin that it is requiring any facility operating under a temporary Title V Air Quality Plan Approval for more than 12 months to submit an application for a Title V Air Quality permit on or before November 25, 2024.

The requirement to submit a Title V Operating Permit application within 12 months of beginning operation will also apply to the owners or operators of new or modified Title V facilities authorized and operating under a plan approval after July 27, 2024. Read more here.

-- The Susquehanna River Basin Commission published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin the Executive Director gave his approval to or renewed 22 general water use permits in June for individual shale gas well drilling pads in Bradford, Susquehanna and Tioga counties. This brings the total general water permits approved by the SRBC in 2024 to 155. Read more here.

-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin of its intention to rescind DEP ID: 294-2309-001 - Radon Certification Policy Technical Guidance because the contents were included in Chapter 240 regulations.

-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin announcing changes in the list of companies certified to perform radon-related activities in Pennsylvania. (PA Bulletin, page 4402)

-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin announcing the approval of the Monroe County Municipal Waste Management Plan. (PA

Bulletin, page 4403)

Permit Hearings
-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin announcing an August 28 hearing on the NPDES Water Quality permit application for the 1,452 acre expansion of the underground **LCT Energy Rustic Ridge Ridge #1 Metallurgical Coal Mine** in Donegal Township, **Westmoreland County** and Saltlick Township, **Fayette County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4401- 4402) Read more here.
-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin announcing an August 29 hearing on an Individual NPDES Stormwater permit for the **Blue Ridge Real Estate's** proposed 46+ acre truck terminal and warehouse in Kidder Township, **Carbon County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4401) Read more here.

Permits
-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin inviting comments on an Individual NPDES Stormwater Permit for the 43.77 acre **Suncap Property Group Bellefonte Warehouse Project** impacting Logan Branch Creek (High Quality) in Benner Township, **Centre County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4352)
-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin issuing a major Waste Permit Modification to the **Alliance Sanitary Landfill, Inc.** to allow the disposal of waste containing PCBs at the facility located in Taylor and Old Forge Boroughs and Ransom Twp., **Lackawanna County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4390)
-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin announcing it had issued a modification to the Title V Air Quality Permit for the **Interpower Alcon Partners, LP** waste coal-fired power plant in Cambria Twp., **Cambria County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4393)
-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin announcing it had issued a Chapter 105/Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the **Crossroad XOX, LLC** warehouse project impacting Black Creek located in Sugarloaf Twp., **Luzerne County**. (PA Bulletin, page 4396)
-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin announcing it had issued a Chapter 105/Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the **Sunnyside Road Associates, LLC** warehouse project in Jessup Boro, **Lackawanna County.** (PA Bulletin, page 4396)
-- The Susquehanna River Basin Commission published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin the Executive Director approved a General Permit for water use by the Lear Corporation Pine Grove - Penn Dye and Finishing Plant in Pine Grove Borough, Schuylkill County.

Grants
-- The **Department of Conservation and Natural Resources** published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin it will begin accepting applications for ATV or Snowmobile Projects and Programs Grants on August 1. The deadline to apply is September 30. Read more here.
-- The **Department of Environmental Protection** published notice in the July 27 PA Bulletin announcing the award of a $56,611 Act 101 Section 901 Waste Planning Grant to Lycoming County.

Meetings/Hearings
July 29-- Governor's Advisory Council For Hunting, Fishing & Conservation To DCNR meeting. Attend remotely via Microsoft Teams. Get link by sending email to Derek Eberly at: deeberly@pa.gov. *(formal notice)*
August 7/ September 5-- Delaware River Basin Commission will hold a hearing on water withdrawals and discharges on August 7 and a business meeting on September 5. Read more here.
August 13-- CANCELED. DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Board meeting. Next scheduled meeting Nov. 12. Contact: Jennifer McLuckie at RA-EPOEJ@pa.gov or (717) 772-5633. *(formal notice)*

PA Bulletin - July 27, 2024

Note: The Department of Environmental Protection published 74 pages of public notices related to proposed and final permit and approval/ disapproval actions in the July 27 PA Bulletin - pages 4331 to 4405.

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 [February 2024] - DEP webpage

[Posted: July 26, 2024]

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--

PA Environment Daily Blog: provides daily environmental NewsClips and significant stories and announcements on environmental topics in Pennsylvania of immediate value. Sign up and receive as they are posted updates through your favorite RSS reader. You can also sign up for a once daily email alerting you to new items posted on this blog. Add your constructive comment to any blog posting.

Twitter PA Environment Digest Feed: Instant news updates.

PA Environment Digest Facebook Page: Instant news updates

©2024 PA Environment News LLC, All Rights Reserved

Note: Content is gladly shared. For permission, send email to: DHess@PaEnvironmentNews.com.

Supporting Member PA Organization For Watersheds & Rivers; PA Outdoor Writers Assn.; PA Trout Unlimited

PA Environment Digest is a supporting member of the PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers, PA Outdoor Writers Association, PA Council Trout Unlimited and the Doc Fritchey

Chapter Trout Unlimited.