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

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## Renew The State's Commitment To Keeping Pennsylvania Clean, Green And Growing

By Andy Loza, Executive Director, PA Land Trust Association



These written remarks were presented to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee Thursday.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today regarding Growing Greener. With over half the current members of the State House being elected since passage of the most recent Growing Greener legislation [2005], I appreciate the opportunity to provide a historical look at the program and the need to greatly boost Growing Greener investments to address Pennsylvania's environmental needs.

Article 1 is the Pennsylvania Constitution's bill of rights. Section 27 of Article 1 guarantees Pennsylvanians-- including future generations-- the right to clean air, pure water, and the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic values of the environment.

This Constitutional right stands equal and together with the rights of Pennsylvanians to freedom of speech and religion, the right to bear arms, and other core rights.

Recognizing that this environmental right couldn't be upheld through environmental regulation alone, in 1999 Governor Ridge and a bipartisan group of legislative leaders established Growing Greener.

Over the subsequent 19 years, Growing Greener investments have supported many hundreds of projects to ensure clean water and conserve the best of Pennsylvania. Steadily and incrementally, Growing Greener has made Pennsylvania a better place to live, work, and play.

Growing Greener grants have helped locally-based organizations help their communities.

Watershed associations, land trusts, conservation districts, and other groups have brought

hundreds of miles of stream back to life, made our water safer to drink, reduced the threat of flooding, and made fishing, swimming, and paddling possible where once there was only death.

These organizations have used proven, cost-effective methods to get results, including:

-- Passive and active treatment of abandoned-mine drainage.
-- Tree plantings along waterways.
-- Streambank stabilization and habitat structures.

Growing Greener investments have also:

-- Restored 1;600 acres of abandoned mine lands and 250 acres of brownfields to productive use.
-- Plugged more than 700 abandoned oil and gas wells.
-- Rebuilt water treatment infrastructure.
-- Conserved 80,000 acres of open space for outdoor recreation and wildlife.
-- Preserved more than 80,000 acres of productive farmland that preserve rural traditions and stabilize rural economies.
-- Improved hundreds of parks, planted tens of thousands of trees, rehabilitated dams, and fixed stormwater infrastructure.
-- Supported more than 130 infrastructure projects in state parks and forests, ensuring that they are sanitary, safe, and accessible for millions of visitors each year.

Growing Greener has built a tremendous record of success. But due to cumulative environmental damage dating back to the 1800s and the needs of today's population, there is much more to do:

-- There are still more than 19,000 miles of rivers and streams toxic to life—unsafe for drinking, swimming, fishing, and boating.
-- 200,000 acres of abandoned mine land and thousands of brownfield sites pollute our water and threaten human health and safety. What's more, these are wasted lands—lands that, if restored, could be contributing to local economies and jobs.
-- Hundreds of thousands of unplugged wells (8,000 documented by DEP so far) present local hazards and vent immense quantities of methane into the air.
-- The funding gap to fix aging water-treatment facilities is $18 billion.
-- Farmland is disappearing rapidly—since 1982, nearly a million acres have been permanently lost.
-- State parks and forests require nearly $1 billion in necessary repairs and improvements.

The list goes on.

We have almost two decades of evidence showing that Growing Greener investments provide effective solutions to these challenges.

The cost effectiveness of Growing Greener projects is particularly evident when we compare them to other taxpayer-funded projects. For example:

-- For the cost of building one mile of highway, you can restore vegetation along 2500 miles of streams or build 77 miles of multi-use trails.
-- For the cost to build one pro sports stadium, you can permanently preserve 600 family farms or build 6,400 new playgrounds or thoroughly rehabilitate a third of our state park and forest infrastructure.

Setting cost-effectiveness, community needs, and environmental rights aside, Growing Greener on economic considerations alone, is a good deal for Pennsylvania. For example:

-- Every dollar invested in conservation returns $7 in flood prevention and water treatment savings.

-- Every dollar spent on watershed restoration leverages $1.25 in local investments.
-- By stabilizing local farm economies, preserved farms preserve jobs and business tax receipts. These farms pay more in taxes than they receive in services.
-- The outdoor recreation industry, which depends on a natural resource base supported by Growing Greener investments, sustains 251,000 direct jobs (tens of thousands more than the entire energy sector).

But Growing Greener is underfunded relative to its much higher, past funding levels and it's underfunded relative to the tremendous backlog of environmental needs waiting to be addressed.

Quite simply there's a huge number of projects to complete and nowhere near enough money to complete them. Without a substantial injection of new funding:
-- 19,000 miles of unsafe stream will remain burdens on their communities-- useless for drinking, fishing, swimming, and boating—useless to the economy and useless for life.
-- Productive farms and the local economies they support will disappear.
-- Abandoned mine land and brownfields will continue to burden their communities-- wasting away when they should be sparking jobs and redevelopment.
-- Communities will lose open spaces crucial to their identities and recreational needs.
-- State parks and forests will become increasingly unpleasant, unsafe, and inaccessible-- or closed altogether.

Polling shows that 91 percent of Pennsylvanians support increasing state funding to protect water, conserve open space, and create opportunities for outdoor recreation. This overwhelming support cuts across party lines:
-- 75 percent of Republicans
-- 82 percent of Democrats
-- 87 percent of Independents

And, they are willing to pay more in taxes each year for these purposes. In fact, 8 out of 10 Pennsylvanians would support increasing taxes by $10-20 per year per household for these purposes

Given this strong bipartisan support, the pressing challenges our Commonwealth is facing, and the constitutional right of all Pennsylvanians to clean air, pure water, and open space, the time for greatly boosting investments in Growing Greener is now.

Click Here for a copy of the remarks.

*(**Photo:** Banta Property Floodplain Restoration, Flood Reduction, Warwick Township, Lancaster County.)*

***Andy Loza** is Executive Director of the PA Land Trust Association and a member of the Growing Greener Coalition Executive Committee. He can be contacted by sending email to: aloza@conserveland.org.*

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August Catalyst Newsletter Now Available From Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition
Help Wanted: PA Environmental Council Watershed Outreach Manager

[Posted: August 16, 2018]

**Want To Find A Watershed Group Near You? Try The PA Land Trust Assn. Watershed Association Finder**



The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association has launched the beta version of its "Find a Pennsylvania Watershed Association" tool. You can use it to identify watershed associations and the watersheds they serve by typing in an address or clicking on a map.

Type in your home address or city-- Erie, PA for example-- in the address box and a list of local watershed groups will appear that work in your area along with links to their website or social media addresses for more information.

PALTA defines a watershed association is a non-governmental organization whose mission focuses on protecting, restoring health to, or monitoring a specific body of water, or educating on how policies and actions in the watershed impact the water body; it advances its mission at least in part by performing on-the-ground or in-the-water projects such as streamside tree plantings, aquatic habitat improvements, stream cleanups, and water quality monitoring.

**Want To Add Your Group?**

If your group isn't yet included, please contact Josh VanBrakle at PALTA by sending an email to: jvanbrakle@conserveland.org or call 717-379-1758 or you have suggestions for improving the finder. Please note that an organization must have a web address or social media address to be included.

Click Here to try out the Find A PA Watershed Association near you!

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the PA Land Trust Association website, Click Here to sign up for regular updates from PLTA, Like them on Facebook, Follow them on Twitter, and Join them on Google+. Click Here to support their work.

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[Posted: August 17, 2018]

**Gov. Wolf Issues Disaster Proclamation Due To Recent Flooding, Will Seek Federal Aid**



Gov. Tom Wolf Friday signed a proclamation of disaster emergency for the Commonwealth in response to a series of severe rain storms over the past week that caused flash flooding and ensuing damage to homes and businesses throughout much of north and central portions of the state.

The public inquiry hotline-- 272-200-3211-- is also open for flood victims to request help from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. *Click Here for more.*

Gov. Wolf has personally toured communities hit hard by the storms in Schuylkill, Bradford and Delaware counties.

"Pennsylvanians in portions of the state hardest hit by heavy rains and subsequent flooding need to know that the state is doing all that it can to help and for that reason I am signing this disaster declaration," Gov. Wolf said. "This allows the state to seek federal funding for damages and frees up the red tape that can be associated with procuring necessary supplies and services during emergency clean-up.

"Touring these flooded areas and speaking with those affected only confirmed my decision that we need this declaration to enlist all possible help."

The proclamation is a necessary step in order to ask for a federal disaster declaration through the Federal Emergency Management Agency if damages meet the federal threshold criteria.

"Over the past few days, Gov. Wolf and I have heard firsthand the stories of these survivors and I am amazed by their resilience," said PEMA Director Rick Flinn. "At the same

time, I know that some people have been hit with flooding more than once this summer, and we're committed to doing everything we can to help them."

It is important to note that the proclamation does not restrict vehicular travel on commonwealth roads, but motorists in areas impacted by flooding are encouraged to allow extra time for travel if roads have not yet been opened.

The proclamation authorizes state agencies to use all available resources and personnel, as necessary, to cope with the magnitude and severity of this emergency situation. The time-consuming bidding and contract procedures, as well as other formalities normally prescribed by law, are waived for the duration of the proclamation.

In addition, the proclamation authorizes the Department of Transportation to waive regulations related to drivers of commercial vehicles in order to ensure the timely movement of commodities, particularly food.

It also provides consumer protections against price gouging by prohibiting companies from charging a price for consumer goods or services that exceeds 20 percent of the average price that the consumer goods or services were sold for in the seven days preceding the effective date of the governor's proclamation.

"As the clean-up continues, Pennsylvanians need to know that my Administration is doing everything it can to help those suffering from this devastating weather emergency," Gov. Wolf said.

Click Here for a copy of the disaster declaration.

**Help Hotline**

Anyone who would like to request help should call 272-200-3211 for assistance. The hotline will be staffed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., including weekends through August 31. Volunteers will provide physical labor, such as mucking out basements, removing damaged flooring and drywall, and removing debris. *Click Here for more.*

***(Photo:** New Albany, Bradford County.)*

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**NewsClips:**

Governor Declares Disaster After Recent Flooding

Gov. Wolf Declares Disaster Emergency After Touring Flood-Damaged Areas

Dept. Of Health Urges Residents To Take Safety Precautions As Flood Cleanup Continues

Flooding Expected As Susquehanna River Set To Crest At 29 Feet In Wilkes-Barre

Flooding Reported In Low-Lying Areas Around Wilkes-Barre

Flooding Impacting Low Lying Areas In Wilkes-Barre

Lycoming Residents Hit Hard By Flood Still Recovering, Seeking Aid

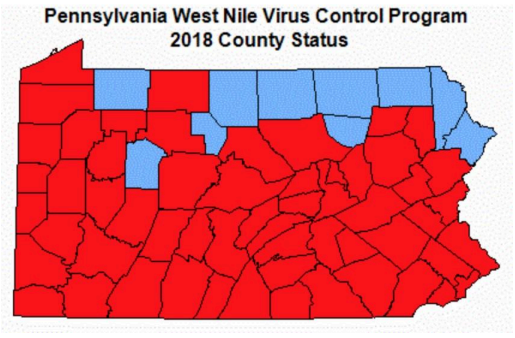
Lycoming County Declares Disaster Emergency After Flooding

Luzerne County Flood Buyouts Covers 150+ Properties

Flooding Leaves Some Parts Of PA Underwater With More Rain On The Way

As Flood Cleanup Continues In Southeast, Watching The Skies And Rising Rivers
PA National Guard Rescue A Civilian Stranded By Flooding In Southeast PA Aug. 13
AP: Drenching Rains Close Roads, Prompt Rescues In Pennsylvania
Schuylkill River In Philly A Trash Heap After Heavy Rain, Flash Floods
Schuylkill County Officials Push Green Infrastructure Flood Prevention Project
Widespread Flooding Reported Across Center, NE PA Monday
Flooding Inundates Farm As 29-Foot Susquehanna Crest Looms
Shelters Opened As Flooding Slams Schuylkill County
Delays Announced For Opening Schuylkill County Govt. Offices Tuesday
Mountain Energy Drilling Water Tanks Dislodged By Flooding, Washed Downstream To Threaten Park Bridge In Tunkhannock
Hughesville School District Talks Flood Damage
Flood Gates Going Up In Scranton As Rains Pound Region
Flood Waters Show Signs Of Receding After Heavy Rains In Lackawanna County
Duryea Flooding, Rising Rivers And More
Flooding Closes roads Around Lehigh Valley, Surrounding Areas
Lehigh River Rescuers Search For 145 Rafters; All Appear To Be OK
Bloomsburg Issues Flood Evacuation Order
Williamsport Area Flash Floods Threaten Boroughs
Sudden Downpour Causes Flooding In Altoona Area
Man With Pet Parrot On His Should Rescued From Waist-Deep Mud In Belleville Park
Drenching Rains Flood Highways, Trap Motorists In Philadelphia Area
Schuylkill River Expected To Exceed Flood Stage By Tuesday Morning
Parts Of Schuylkill County Being Evacuated Due To Flooding
Rains Came Hard, Fast Trapping Some Motorists In Philadelphia Area
AP: Heavy Rains Cause Flooding, Prompt Water Rescues
Residents Evacuated In Schuylkill County, Flash Flooding Reported In Lancaster County
Flash Flooding Closes Roads, Wreaks Havoc Around Lehigh Valley
Heavy Rain Causing Flash Floods In  Philadelphia Area Saturday
Flooding Irks Hollidaysburg Residents
Editorial: Grafius Run Flood Survey Meshes With Reality Of Summer Storms
Rainy Summer Shatters Records In PA
State College Broke A Weather Record, How Much Rain Made It Wettest Summer Ever?
[Posted: August 17, 2018]

**3 People Test Positive For West Nile Virus In Franklin, York Counties; Schuylkill County Spraying Aug. 20**




The Department of Environmental Protection's West Nile Virus Program Wednesday reported three more people have tested positive for West Nile Virus-- 2 in Franklin County and 1 in York County.

This brings to 4 the total number of human cases reported so far this season.  On July 31 the program reported one person in Allegheny County had tested

positive.

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

DEP reported West Nile Virus was found in one new county this week-- Clarion.

The other counties with positive mosquito or bird samples include-- Adams, Allegheny, Beaver, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Bucks, Cambria, Carbon, Centre, Chester, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lawrence, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Mifflin, Monroe, Montgomery, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, Snyder, Somerset, Union, Washington, Westmoreland, Wyoming and York.

**Schuylkill County Spraying Aug. 20**

The Department of Environmental Protection's West Nile Virus Program Friday announced it will conduct a mosquito control operation to reduce high populations of mosquitoes on Monday, August 20 in the City of Pottsville, Schuylkill County.

Residential and recreational areas in the city will be sprayed for adult mosquitoes.

Truck-mounted, Ultra Low Volume (ULV) spray equipment will be utilized to spray Duet at a rate of 1.0 oz/acre. This product is designed to provide quick, effective control of adult mosquito populations. The spraying will begin late in the evening.

Weather conditions and other unexpected events (such as lowered mosquito populations) could delay or cancel this spray operation. The rain date for this application is Tuesday, August 21, 2018.

**Other Spraying Events**

Other upcoming spraying events are listed on the West Nile Virus Program homepage (lower right) or Click Here to check on spraying in other parts of the state.

To learn about precautions you can take and for more on the state's surveillance and control program, please visit the West Nile Virus website.

**NewsClips:**

3 People Test Positive For West Nile Virus In Franklin, York Counties
First Human Case Of West Nile Reported In York County For 2018
Barcaskey: Pennsylvania In Midst Of Tick Infestation
Venesky: New Tick, New Threat?
Crable: New Asian Tick Shows Up In PA, Officials Worry About Livestock
Warming Climate Puts PA Summer Recreation At Risk
Mosquito Spraying Wednesday In Manchester, York County
Mosquito Spraying Planned In York County

[Posted: August 15, 2018]

**DEP Has Stream Work Permit Guide; Storm Recovery Information Available For Individuals, Flooded Communities**



The Department of Environmental Protection has available a resource for understanding the permit and notification

requirements affecting those working in or adjacent to streams impacted by flooding called Guidelines For Maintaining Streams In Your Community.

The guide is a first step in determining what regulatory requirements may apply before beginning a project.

It contains a "green, yellow, and red light" list of potential stream activities to indicate whether permits are likely to be required, and additional sections titled "Good Rules of Thumb" and "Myth vs. Reality."

Stream work that is not properly designed and permitted can inadvertently cause conditions to worsen in the next flood event, also impacting downstream neighbors.

The new guide is intended to proactively share information with the public so that stream work is done in an environmentally-sensitive manner, and in a way that reduces the likelihood of future problems.

Click Here to download a copy.

**Mosquito Precautions**

Be sure to take precautions from West Nile Virus carrying mosquitoes. All this rain and warm weather has provided near-perfect breeding conditions. Click Here for precautions, mosquito suppression events schedules and much more.

**Much More Info**

DEP has other information available in dealing with storm-related impacts to drinking water wells, water testing, flood recovery, managing debris, problems with flood-damaged storage tanks and much more.

Visit DEP's Storm-Related Information webpage.

**How You Can Help**

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Meeting The Challenge Of Keeping Pennsylvania Clean, Green And Growing

[Posted: August 14, 2018]

**Another Green Infrastructure Project Reduces Flooding In Manheim, Lancaster County**



Another round of significant stream flooding over the last few days again demonstrates the triple benefits of green infrastructure projects like Logan Park in Manheim Borough, Lancaster County.

Rife Run traverses a 20-acre area the Borough had developed previously into a

park with athletic fields, but those fields were frequently out of use because of seasonal flooding and wet conditions due to legacy sediments that built up in the stream's floodplain.

A floodplain restoration project completed in 2015 allowed the athletic fields to be re-established on the uplands created from excavated floodplain material.

The result is athletic fields that are higher, dryer, and more usable and a naturalized floodplain was established that adds beauty to the park and improves the function of the floodplain to mitigate stormwater runoff.

Wetlands were created and stormwater best management practices were introduced to improve water quality and meet regulatory mandates while providing an enhanced setting for trails and wildlife habitat.

During the rains this week, the restored floodplain and more natural realignment of the stream redirected stormwater and allowed it to spread out on the floodplain, not on the athletic fields or to damage nearby homes.

And once installed, green infrastructure like restored floodplains, forest buffers, infiltration areas and rain gardens become more effective because they are living things, growing practices, not cement and cinder block structures.

Click Here for more on the Logan Park Project.

**The Future Is Green… Infrastructure**

Communities and the state have started to rely more and more on green infrastructure for cheaper, more cost effective ways to deal with critical water pollution and flooding problems faced by the Commonwealth.

Philadelphia, Lancaster, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, as well as Lycoming, Monroe and York counties and groups of communities like in the Wyoming Valley have already turned to green infrastructure with its multiple benefits to meet water quality goals with a single investment.

Pennsylvania's initiative to develop the state's Phase III Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan covering half the state is focused on developing county by county list of green infrastructure policies and practices needed to fulfill the state's Chesapeake Bay obligations.

To learn more about green infrastructure, read Meeting The Challenge Of Keeping Pennsylvania Clean, Green And Growing.

For more information on the Logan Park green infrastructure project and others, visit the LandStudies website or contact Laurel Etter Longenecker, 717-726-4440 or send email to: laurel@landstudies.com. Click Here to sign up for green infrastructure updates.

LandStudies is certified as a Women's Business Enterprise (WBE), Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) based in Lititz, Lancaster County. Follow LandStudies on Twitter, Like them on Facebook.

*(**Photo:** The Logan Park green infrastructure project working as designed this week.)*

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Rock Lititz Project Reduces Sediment, Nutrient Runoff Without Taxpayer Money
Spotlight On Success: Brubaker Run-Lime Spring Square Green Infrastructure Project
Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority Leads MS4 Stormwater Effort To Safe Communities More Than 50% In Compliance Costs
Feature: Parks To The Rescue On Stormwater, Flooding
DCNR/PennVEST Accepting Applications For Multifunctional Riparian Stream Buffer Grants Starting Aug. 1
Start Submitting Applications For REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credits Beginning Aug. 6 For This First-Come, First-Served Program
Statewide Partnership Launches Major Effort To Plant 10 Million Trees To Cleanup Pennsylvania's Streams, Rivers

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Soil Health Movement Thrives In Pennsylvania Agriculture
Audubon Of Western PA Helps Residents Transform Backyards Into Healthy Habitats
Cherry Valley, Monroe County: Trout Need Clean Water, So Do We
Allegheny Front: Fly Fishing Is Big In Central PA, Can We Keep It That Way?
9 Million Gallons Of Raw Sewage Leaked Into Little Lehigh, There's A Plan To Fix That

[Posted: August 15, 2018]

**Emma Creek Restoration Project Reduced Flood Damage, Sediment & Nutrient Pollution In Huntingdon County**



The Emma Creek Restoration Project on Huntingdon Farm owned by John and Kathryn Dawes in Alexandria, Huntingdon County is another example where green infrastructure not only

reduced flood damage, but also the pollution that comes with stormwater.

After three straight days of rain this week, the Emma Creek Project successfully channeled stormwater to the middle of the stream and onto connected floodplain areas that were constructed as part of the project.

Reconnecting the creek to its floodplain involved removing legacy sediments on either side of the stream that had formed steep dirt banks. These banks were not only a tremendous source of sediment washing down stream, they prevented flood water from spreading out naturally.

The banks were regraded and planted with a stream buffer, natural structures were installed to redirect water flow to the center of the stream channel and to protect the new stream banks. Sharp bends in the stream were softened into curves to improve the flow of water.

Since Huntingdon Farm is a working cattle farm, cattle access to the stream was restricted to specific crossings and additional fencing was installed to keep livestock out of the stream.

In addition to the other environmental benefits of the project, the Emma Creek restoration is also improving water quality.

On Wednesday, students from Juniata College found young of the year fish in the stream despite the torrents of water. They were at the Farm assessing the quality of the water for the Fish and Boat Commission's Unassessed Waters Initiative.

As built, the project involved restoration at total of about 2,500 feet of stream on about 6 acres.

It was funded in part by the Growing Greener Program and developed with the help of several partners-- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Foundation for California University, The Trust For Tomorrow and Blue Acres, LLC.

The Emma Creek Project, installed in 2013, is only one of a series of best management practices on Huntingdon Farm over the last few years, which in 2016 was recognized with an Environmental Stewardship Award.

The award is sponsored by Dow AgroSciences, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the National Cattlemen's Foundation, and is presented to farmers and ranchers who demonstrate a commitment to protecting the farm and ranch land in their care.

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To learn more about green infrastructure, read Meeting The Challenge Of Keeping Pennsylvania Clean, Green And Growing.

*(**Photo:** Emma Creek during last week's rain. Restoration project on Emma Creek.)*

[**Note:** John Dawes serves as Executive Director of the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds.]

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Cherry Valley, Monroe County: Trout Need Clean Water, So Do We
Allegheny Front: Fly Fishing Is Big In Central PA, Can We Keep It That Way?
9 Million Gallons Of Raw Sewage Leaked Into Little Lehigh, There's A Plan To Fix That
[Posted: August 16, 2018]

**Brodhead Watershed Assn. Celebration Honors John J. Riley On Sept. 28 In Monroe County**



The Brodhead Watershed Association's Members & Friends Celebration, a popular annual gathering of local environment-minded people, will be held September 28 at Camelback Resort's Aquatopia in Tannersville, Monroe County.

This year, the event honors **John J. Riley** posthumously with the inaugural John Riley Friend of the Watershed Award.

Riley, formerly of Scotrun and a life-long defender of the local watershed and environment, and a past president and treasurer of the BWA, was a certified public accountant at Riley & Associates in Stroudsburg. He passed away in January 2018.

Over the years, Riley received numerous awards and recognitions including: 1990 PA Federation of Sportsmen Club Hall of Fame, 1991 Fish & Boat Commission Conservation Service Award, 1992 Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award, 2011 Boy Scouts of America Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2013 Salvation Army Others Award were just a few.

He was appointed to the Game Commission on Jan. 22, 2002, and served as secretary in 2004 and president in 2005.

The Members & Friends Celebration evening will carry the theme "A Warming Planet: What Can We Do?" featuring keynote speaker Jacqui Bonomo of PennFuture, who will address how grassroots efforts can make a difference in climate change.

"All great and worthy journeys start with that first step, and taking action here in our communities and in our lifestyles is the most important step that each of us can make in this cause," said BWA Executive Director Bob Heil.

Supporting the BWA's mission is celebration Vigon International, contributing $3,000 as a Watershed Sponsor to make the evening a success.

"We are extremely pleased to have Vigon International as our premier Watershed Sponsor," said event organizer Rob Sedwin. "We appreciate Vigon's commitment to clean water and support for BWA's mission of protecting local streams."

Joining Vigon in sponsoring the annual event are Stream Sponsors Camelback Mountain Resort, Pocono Cheesecake Factory, Riley & Company, Michael Baxter Commercial Real Estate, and the Ann & Joseph Farda Foundation.

The event will include a silent auction, buffet dinner, cheese display and dessert, and cash bar.

The public is invited to attend. Tickets cost $45 for BWA members, $60 for nonmembers (which includes new membership in BWA).

For information and to make your reservation, visit the BWA Celebration webpage or

send email to: info@brodheadwatershed.org or call 570-839-1120.

For more information on programs, initiatives and other upcoming events, visit the Brodhead Watershed Association website. Click Here to sign up for regular updates from the Association. Click Here to become a member.

**How You Can Help**

Want To Find A Watershed Group Near You? Try The PA Land Trust Assn. Watershed Association Finder

**Take Action:**

How Good Is The Water Quality In Streams In Your Community? Take A Look, Then Act

**Related Stories:**

Want To Find A Watershed Group Near You? Try The PA Land Trust Assn. Watershed Association Finder
Renew The State's Commitment To Keeping Pennsylvania Clean, Green And Growing
Meeting The Challenge Of Keeping Pennsylvania Clean, Green And Growing
Gov. Wolf Issues Disaster Proclamation Due To Recent Flooding, Will Seek Federal Aid
Emma Creek Restoration Project Reduced Flood Damage, Sediment & Nutrient Pollution In Huntingdon County
Another Green Infrastructure Project Reduces Flooding In Manheim, Lancaster County
Coalition Launches Effort To Protect Exceptional Value Waters In Poconos Region
Feature: Healing Waters: 6 Prison Inmates Learn To Look To The Natural World To Change Their Lives
Bucknell University's Susquehanna River Symposium Now Accepting Presentation Proposals
August Catalyst Newsletter Now Available From Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition
Help Wanted: PA Environmental Council Watershed Outreach Manager

[Posted: August 16, 2018]

**New Safe Drinking Water Fee Increases Now In Effect**



The Environmental Quality Board published notice of final Safe Drinking Water regulation changes and fee increases in the August 18 PA Bulletin *(page 4974)*.

The final fees will generate approximately $7.5 million annually and will account for nearly 50 percent of the program's state funding. The fees will augment the $7.7 million in funding currently coming from the state's General Fund.

The final fees use population served by water systems as basis for assessing the fees but will be phased in over the next year.

By increasing fees, DEP hopes to hire up to 33 additional staff in the Safe Drinking Water Program to address major deficiencies in the program identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in December of 2016.

EPA is monitoring DEP's progress closely in addressing the deficiencies in the program.

DEP had been giving EPA quarterly updates, and has now shifted to updates every 6 months starting in January of this year on its progress. DEP has not heard much at all back from EPA as a result of the updates. DEP believes they are making good progress.

DEP started hiring new staff in March and has 13 of the 17 field inspector positions filled in anticipation of the fee revenue.

The goal is for the new staff to significantly increase the number of water system inspections done by the agency, in response to the primary concern raised in EPA's December 2016 deficiency letter.

The final regulation also makes other changes to the Safe Drinking Water Program, including to provisions related to the lead and copper requirements for drinking water, provisions for general permits to simplify permitting and other changes.

The regulations were adopted as final by the Board in April. For more information and copies of additional background documents, visit the Environmental Quality Board webpage.

For more information on the program, visit DEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water webpage.

**NewsClips:**

Cusick: After EPA Warning, DEP Hikes Fees On Water Systems To Hire More Inspectors
York County Schools Might Test For Lead In Drinking Water
New Requirements For Testing Lead In Water May Burden School District
AP: Toxics From Manufacturing Turn In In Montgomery County Public Water Systems
When Will Rock Springs Boil Water Advisory Be Lifted? DEP Gives Update
Pittsburgh Water Authority Planning New Pipeline As Redundancy Measure
Letter: Pittsburgh Should Resist Pittsburgh Water Authority Partnership With Peoples Gas
Pittsburgh Water Authority: Demand For Union Labor Doesn't Hinge On Peoples Gas Proposal

**Related Story:**

Adequacy, Stability Of Funding For DEP Water Quality Protection Programs Again On Aug. 21 EQB Agenda

[Posted: August 17, 2018]

**DEP Allows Mariner East 2 Pipeline To Resume Construction In Chester Count; PUC OK Still Needed**




The Department of Environmental Protection Thursday announced it has completed its review of requests for modifications to Chapter 102 (Erosion and Sediment Control) and Chapter 105 (Water Obstructions and Encroachments) permits submitted by Sunoco Pipeline, LP (SPLP) for parts of the Mariner East 2 Pipeline. The requests are for two sites in West Whiteland Township, Chester County.

The pipeline still needs the go ahead from the Public Utility Commission to actually resume construction.

SPLP's proposed modifications are a result of its re-evaluation of the original plan to conduct Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD). SPLP has proposed to change methodology from HDD to conventional bore for one drill site, and from HDD to a combination of conventional bore, open trench and HDD for the other drill.

As a result of the changed methodology, potential impacts to a public water supply well,

other water resources and sensitive areas are expected to be avoided.

"These approvals have undergone substantial and thorough reviews by technical staff, with careful consideration given to the significant public input received during the extended comment period and public hearing held this past spring," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell.

More detailed information regarding these modifications, including the amended permits and comment response document, can be found on DEP's Mariner East 2 Pipeline webpage.

**NewsClips:**

DEP OKs Mariner East 2 Pipeline Modifications In Chester County, PUC OK Still Needed
Shell Falcon Pipeline Might Remediate Wetland In Mercer County
Hurdle: FERC Sued Over PennEast Pipeline Approval After Denying Rehearing
FERC Vote Moves PennEast Pipeline Project Forward
Judge Orders New Federal Review Of Keystone XL Pipeline

**Related Stories:**

DEP Assesses $148,000 Penalty Against Mariner East 2 Pipeline For Violations in Berks, Chester, Lebanon Counties
Public Utility Commission Partially Lifts Mariner East 2, 2x Pipeline Construction Shut Down In Chester County
Environmental Groups Reach Settlement With DEP On Mariner East 2 Pipeline Appeals

[Posted: August 16, 2018]

## Senate/House Agenda/Session Schedule/Gov's Schedule

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

**Bill Calendars**

**House (Sept. 12)**: House Bill 107 (Godshall-R- Montgomery) providing a mechanism to cover costs of extending natural gas distribution systems; House Bill 1401 (DiGirolamo-R-Bucks) which amends Title 58 to impose a sliding scale natural gas severance tax, in addition to the Act 13 drilling impact fee, on natural gas production (NO money for environmental programs) and includes provisions related to minimum landowner oil and gas royalties; House Bill 1446 (Quinn-R- Bucks) encouraging infrastructure for electric and natural gas fueled vehicles; House Resolution 284 (Moul-R-Adams) urging Congress to repeal the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's MS4 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (sponsor summary); Senate Bill 1172 (Vulakovich-R-Allegheny) further providing for enforcement of price gouging provisions during an emergency declaration (Senate Fiscal Note and summary). <> Click Here for full House Bill Calendar.

**Senate (Sept. 24):** Senate Bill 820 (Aument-R- Lancaster) providing liability protection for owners and operators of on-farm agritourism activities (sponsor summary); Senate Bill 917 (Dinniman-R-Chester) amends Act 101 Municipal Waste Planning and Recycling Act to include spent mushroom compost under the definition of "compost materials to encourage its reuse (sponsor summary); Senate Bill 930 (Dinniman-D- Chester) sets notification requirements

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

**Committee Meeting Agendas This Week**

**House:** <> 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**
*Recessed to the call of the President Pro Tempore*
September 24, 25, 26
October 1, 2, 3, 15, 16, 17
November 14

**House**
*Recessed to the call of the House Speaker*
September 12, 13, 24, 25, & 26.
October 1 (Non-Voting), 2 (Non-Voting), 9, 10, 15, 16, & 17.
November 13

**Governor's Schedule**

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

## News From The Capitol

### Environmental Groups Release 2017-18 PA Environmental Voting Scorecard




Conservation Voters of PA, PennEnvironment, Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter, and Clean Water Action Tuesday released their 2017-2018 Pennsylvania Environmental Voting Scorecard.

The Scorecard scores each member of the State Senate and House of Representatives based on their votes on the most crucial environmental legislation that came before the General Assembly this session, as selected by the groups.

"The goal of the scorecard is to inform the public about crucial legislative decisions that affect them, our environment, and our communities," said Josh McNeil, Executive Director of Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania (CVPA). "It also empowers members of the public by providing objective, impartial information they can use to engage with their elected representatives and hold them accountable."

The organizations reached out to other environmental advocates and non-profit leaders to make sure they were reviewing and scoring the most important and highly-watched environmental votes. More than a dozen of the votes scored represented attacks on the government's ability to protect people from pollution.

"Sadly far too many legislators continue to cast their vote on behalf of polluters and their well-heeled lobbyists," explained Steve Hvozdovich, Clean Water Action's Pennsylvania Campaigns Director. "A common thread of these attacks centered on the idea of 'regulatory reform,' an innocent-seeming phrase that can cover a multitude of bad actions."

The so-called regulatory reform legislative package of 2018 included several bills designed to completely disrupt the ability of the Department of Environmental Protection to do its job and protect the residents of the Commonwealth.

Only two pieces of legislation among all of the votes scored can be considered pro-environment: the creation of a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program to spur investment in clean energy and a bill to make it harder to seize conserved land by eminent domain.

The paucity of pro-environment legislation is due to the lack of legislative leadership, according to David Masur, Executive Director of PennEnvironment.

"What we should all remember about this session is the legislation that was left on the table and never brought up for a vote – bills that would've improved air and water quality, moved us towards clean energy, and protected public health," said Masur. "It might seem unimaginable, but among the bills leadership buried were efforts to put Pennsylvania on track to

getting 100%of its energy from renewable sources, to test schools for lead hazards, and to protect our children from lead poisoning."

Nevertheless, 81 lawmakers in total – 62 from the State House and 19 from the State Senate – earned the distinction of "Environmental Champion," that is, a perfect score of 100 percent.

Standing in stark contrast are the 18 members of the General Assembly – 11 from the State House and seven from the State Senate – who received 0 percent.

Environmental Champions make up less than one-third of the General Assembly, a sizable impediment to passing the laws and securing the resources needed to properly restore and safeguard the state's environment for generations to come.

"All Pennsylvanians should be grateful to the Environmental Champions in the General Assembly for refusing to capitulate to the powerful business interests that are preventing a pro-environment agenda in Harrisburg," said Joanne Kilgour, Director of the Sierra Club's Pennsylvania Chapter. "One can only hope that the voters of Pennsylvania will use the latest Environmental Scorecard to identify legislators who are truly looking out for the health and quality of life of all Pennsylvanians."

To provide the public with a more complete understanding of legislators' voting records on the environment, the 2017-2018 scorecard included a lifetime score for each legislator for the first time. This score is based on legislators' votes on previous environmental scorecards since the 2007-2008 legislative session.

While this may only reflect a portion of the careers of long-standing legislators and will be less relevant for recently elected lawmakers, the lifetime score will help give context to each legislator's views on environmental issues over time.

"Democracy works best when the public has the facts to make smart decisions," explained CVPA's McNeil. "This scorecard is meant to give the general public and constituents the facts they need in order to know how well their elected officials are representing them, as opposed to big polluters and their allies."

Click Here for a copy of the 2017-2018 Scorecard.

[Posted: August 14, 2018]

**August Environmental Synopsis Available From Joint Conservation Committee**



The August Environmental Synopsis newsletter is now available from the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee featuring articles on--

-- Pennsylvania Ranks First In Cases Of Lyme Disease
-- Pennsylvania Ranks 3rd In Deer-Vehicle Collisions
-- The Social-Cognitive Determinants Of Tick Checks *(photo)*
-- Plastic Intake In Human Diets
-- Ospreys Recover In Delaware River Basin
-- Impacts Of Modern Coal Mining

To learn more about ticks and mosquitoes and the diseases they spread, visit the West Nile Virus website and the Department of Health's Lyme Disease webpage.

**Upcoming Event**

Members of the Joint Conservation Committee will join the Delaware River Basin Commission for an educational program to discuss environmental issues facing the Delaware River on September 7.

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

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

**Related Story:**

Health, DEP, DCNR Highlight Tick, Mosquito Awareness, Opportunities To Spend Time Outdoors

[Posted: August 13, 2018]

## The Feds

### Op-Ed: Congress Needs To Permanently Reauthorize Land & Water Conservation Fund

By Ed Perry, National Wildlife Federation



I was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, in the 40's and 50's, overlooking the steel mills, about one quarter mile from where the Cuyahoga River caught on fire. There were no public parks nearby, no playgrounds, no neighborhood swimming pools. My ball-field was an abandoned old field next to a busy highway.

In short, my outdoor recreational opportunities were quite limited.

But the landscape for public outdoor recreation changed dramatically in 1964, when with bipartisan support, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The LWCF was established to "…preserve, create and ensure access to outdoor recreation facilities so as to strengthen the health of Americans." And it has fulfilled its mission admirably.

For the past 54 years, the fund has used a small portion of the federal offshore energy revenues to buy and preserve public lands, purchase angler and boater access, swimming pools, ballfields, local parks, national parks, and historic sites.

There are no tax dollars in the Fund.

After moving from Cleveland, my wife and two boys and I made up for lost time by fishing, camping, hiking, kayaking and enjoying nature all over our great country.

Our trips to iconic places like the Grand Canyon, Everglades National Park, Acadia National Park, and Grand Teton National Park, were some of our family's best outdoor experiences.

And we never knew those special places were created or heavily supported by the LWCF.

The LWCF was established to compensate for the damage that oil and gas drilling would do to the Gulf, which as we have seen, has been enormous.

Since there are no taxpayer dollars in the LWCF, it is puzzling why Congress refuses to spend these funds for the purposes the Fund was created when there are so many communities

that would benefit from a LWCF funded project.

Each year, over $900 million dollars has gone into the fund. Unfortunately, Congress has appropriated full funding to support conservation and recreation projects only once in the Fund's 54-year history – diverting the remainder of the money elsewhere.

As a result, over $20 billion, of the $48 billion that should have been used to build city and state parks, hiking and biking trails, or acquiring conservation easements to protect fish and wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities for all Americans, has gone into the black-hole of the Federal treasury.

And Congress has allowed this to happen.

The LWCF has indeed benefited communities in every state, with over 41,000 projects being funded. And Pennsylvania has been especially blessed.

The list includes the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area *(photo)*, the Flight 93 Memorial, Fort Hunter and Wildwood Park in Harrisburg as well as 26 other funded parks in the area, Allegheny Landing Park in Pittsburgh, boat ramps in Erie, 16 parks in the York city area and over 40 parks, pools and playgrounds in the Scranton/Wilkes Barre area.

In sum, virtually every part of the state has benefited from LWCF funding.

Outdoor recreation is big business, and the projects funded by the LWCF help drive the Nation's $887 billion recreation outdoor industry. Moreover, many of the 7.6 million jobs the Outdoor Recreation Association says are directly attributable to outdoor recreation are in rural communities and gateway areas to national parks, monuments, and forests.

Without congressional action, this wonderful program that has benefited so many communities around the country is set to expire on September 30.

Therefore, it's urgent we contact our federal representatives and demand they permanently reauthorize the LWCF with full funding so that we can create and protect those special places that are so important to all of us.

**Act NOW**

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

***(Photo:** Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, Lebanon County.)*

***Ed Perry*** is the PA Outreach Coordinator, National Wildlife Federation, and a former U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service aquatic biologist. He can be contacted by sending email to: paglobalwarmingoutreach@gmail.com.

**NewsClips:**

Op-Ed: Montco's Stoneleigh's Likely Safe From Eminent Domain, But Landmarks Still Under Siege

Op-Ed: Congress Needs To Permanently Reauthorize Land & Water Conservation Fund - Ed Perry

Berks County Municipalities Join Forces To Plan For The Future

**Related Story:**

Op-Ed: Time Is Running Out For Federal Land And Water Conservation Fund

[Posted: August 13, 2018]

## News From Around The State

### Coalition Launches Effort To Protect Exceptional Value Waters In Poconos Region



A coalition of environmental and watershed groups, community members, and businesses Tuesday launched Our Pocono Waters Campaign, a regional movement aimed at protecting Exceptional Value designated streams in Monroe, Pike, and Wayne counties.

The groups include Appalachian Mountain Club, Brodhead Chapter #289 Trout Unlimited, Brodhead Watershed Association, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, PennFuture, and the Pocono Heritage Land Trust.

The citizen engagement campaign highlights the many ways in which clean streams and economic development coexist in the Poconos region, one that is known for both its natural beauty and booming tourism industry.

"Our Poconos region is at a crossroads. Our most exceptional streams are now at risk as some would prefer to pollute Our Pocono Waters rather than invest in the engineering and technology needed to protect streams from stormwater runoff and industrial pollution," said Jacquelyn Bonomo, President and CEO, PennFuture. "We look forward to working with our neighbors and businesses in the Poconos to fight to protect our truly exceptional and pristine streams so that we can continue a legacy for the region in which businesses and nature go hand-in-hand."

**Petition**

Our Pocono Waters Campaign is calling on citizens to sign a petition that will be sent to elected officials, urging them to vocally support the Exceptional Value designation of local Pocono streams by using their influence to ensure the Department of Environmental Protection upholds them.

The website also offers several ways for citizens to get involved in the fight for protecting clean streams through attending local events, writing letters to the editor and more.

"For generations, the Poconos have been blessed with clean and abundant water that has supported every facet of our lives and livelihoods," said Bob Heil, executive director of Brodhead Watershed Association. "To maintain that quality of life now and for the future, it is imperative that we recognize the values of our Pocono waters and establish an ethic of preservation and stewardship of these waters."

The Delaware River's resources provide $22 billion in economic benefits including from hiking, hunting, fishing, boating and farming, all activities vitally important to the Middle and Upper portions of the watershed.

While only two percent of PA streams are classified as "Exceptional Value," 80 percent of the state's "EV" streams are in the Poconos, primarily located in Monroe, Pike, and Wayne counties.

"This economy only thrives if we have clean water and healthy habitats. By designating the Poconos' headwater streams with Exceptional Value status, we will ensure that future

development and business operations embrace the widely available innovative, adaptive and sustainable approaches that protect our environment. We can have it all – healthy development, healthy business, and a healthy environment, and exceptional value status will ensure we do," said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

"The place of water in our lives runs deep. Obviously, we are most dependent on water as a physical component of our bodies (adults are made up of 60 percent water). But, we also depend on water and its displays in nature for a sense of beauty, radical-amazement, awe, wonder and grandeur. Rivers, springs, lakes, and streams open us to a spiritual and emotional groundedness and homeostasis as we find our place within the world in which we live. We cannot survive without water, in our bodies, but in our hearts and minds and souls as well," said Tom Johnson-Medland, a local faith leader, clean streams advocate and Director of BAYADA Home Health and Hospice, who spoke at Tuesday's press conference.

Exceptional value streams represent the highest quality and most valuable of streams to Pennsylvanians and the environment, as the streams' protection receives the highest level of legal protection under state law.

After a stream is designated EV, its outstanding water quality must always be protected and no degradation of the waters is permitted under any circumstances.

"Without clean water we have nothing," said Kathleen Flynn, a local angler representing those who fish along the exceptional streams of the Poconos who spoke at today's press conference. "Water is the lifeblood of all living things. Both the smallest nymph that feeds the wild trout , and the largest mammal on land or sea, require clean water to exist."

For more information, visit the Our Pocono Waters Campaign website.

***(Photo:** Cherry Creek Loop Trail near Delaware Water Gap in Monroe County.)*

**How You Can Help**

Want To Find A Watershed Group Near You? Try The PA Land Trust Assn. Watershed Association Finder

**Take Action:**

How Good Is The Water Quality In Streams In Your Community? Take A Look, Then Act

**Related Stories:**

Want To Find A Watershed Group Near You? Try The PA Land Trust Assn. Watershed Association Finder
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Feature: Healing Waters: 6 Prison Inmates Learn To Look To The Natural World To Change Their Lives
Bucknell University's Susquehanna River Symposium Now Accepting Presentation Proposals
August Catalyst Newsletter Now Available From Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition
Help Wanted: PA Environmental Council Watershed Outreach Manager

[Posted: August 14, 2018]

**Feature: Healing Waters: 6 Prison Inmates Learn To Look To The Natural World To Change Their Lives**

By Carol Parenzan, Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper



The six prisoners stepped uncertainly out of the nondescript white van. They were young men, clad in brown-and-red work clothes and wearing freshly polished military-style boots.

They told me later they didn't know what to expect, and, to be honest, neither did I.

We were in the Pennsylvania Wilds, a sparsely populated part of the Susquehanna River watershed comprising two million acres of public forests, and home to some of the most spectacular wild lands east of the Mississippi.

They would be staying six months, as residents of the state Department of Correction's military-style Quehanna Boot Camp, [Clearfield County] where they would be subject to strict discipline and the shrill shouts of drill instructors.

It appears an unlikely place for rebirth, but Corrections' staff gamble that most boot-camp inmates have the capacity to change their behavior for the better.

At this isolated facility there are no fences, no barbed wire, and no guards with guns staged on high towers.

Instead, there are swaths of birch trees, abundant wildlife, a canopy of red pine, an understory of ferns and wildflowers, free-running streams, and large, domineering elk, brought here in an attempt to recover the species that was once native to the land. The recovery was succeeding.

They had been given a second chance.

"Good morning," I said, keenly aware that I was wearing badly scuffed hiking boots that were in need of a good polishing. "I am Carol Parenzan, your Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper. I don't expect you to know what that means just yet, but by the end of the week you'll have a better understanding of what I do and how each of you can help me and other Waterkeepers be protectors of our streams and rivers."

I was met with blank stares.

"You're not here with me to be my workhorses," I continued. "I won't ask you to do anything I wouldn't do, too. We are partners for the next five days. The only difference between you and me is that I haven't made that one bad decision – yet."

A smile. A grin. A nod of the head. Six bodies relaxed just a bit.

"Yes, ma'am," they replied in unison.

They had arrived here from various places. Two called the Philadelphia area home. Two were from Pittsburgh. One said he was headed to Arizona after his release, and the last was planning to return home to North Carolina.

Two of the six had never dipped their toes in freshwater. Not a stream, not a lake, not a river. Rivers and streams were not their friends. They were from the city; freely flowing water

was foreign to them.

They feared what they did not know.

It was time to put them at ease: “Our rivers can only be as healthy as the land that surrounds them,” I said. “Today, we’re going to start by discovering the meadows and forests around us.”

Their eyes seemed fearful as they swatted away pestering gnats that were drawn to their deep exhales. What about those elk? Bears? Coyotes? Poisonous snakes? Biting spiders? Ticks carrying disease?

We would have to help them find their comfort zones before we could begin to address concerns in the watershed.

As a group we walked briskly toward a shelter where we would set up a week-long class and begin our discovery.

Each prisoner was handed a blank journal and asked to write his initial thoughts about what he expected. That evening I and Tina Hayes, the young AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer who was working with me, would read their entries to better prepare us for the remainder of the week.

We began with an exercise called “one small square,” in which we would focus our observations on a one-squarefoot grassy area near the shelter. After about ten minutes, I asked, “What do you see?”

As I had expected, having conducted a similar exercise with other kinds of groups, their responses were sparse. It was time to nudge them a bit, give them permission to stretch.

“Let’s observe these same spots for another ten minutes,” I said. “This time, don’t be afraid to look a little closer, move grass blades out of the way, and place your face just inches from your square area. Get comfortable. Lie on your bellies. Really get in there and look.”

In just a few seconds, voices rose, reporting that an ant was carrying a chewed piece of leaf, that they noticed some scat (although the observer had another name for it), some dispersed seeds, a dropped berry, a footprint, and more.

They were taking baby steps in military boots.

“You’re becoming scientists!” I proclaimed. “We have a special term for individuals like you-- citizen scientists, and citizen scientists play a critical role in the work that Waterkeepers do.”

We headed back under the shelter. I distributed my nature guides-- small books and laminated foldouts that dealt with tracks, scat, birds, insects, wildflowers, trees, waterfowl, weeds, and more.

They enthusiastically explored the guides, attempting to identify what they had observed, and they recorded their findings with words and drawings in their journals.

We repeated this exercise in a nearby meadow, and again in the woods.

As they continued to record their observations, their confidence grew, their notes became more detailed, and their identifications more exact. They were indeed becoming citizen scientists.

It was time for lunch. “I’m going to slip away during the lunch break,” I announced, wondering where they thought I might be headed. “When I return, I’ll have a surprise with me. We need it for our afternoon session, which I think you’ll enjoy.”

I wound my way through the mountain terrain along ripples and rapids to the cottage we were calling home for the week.

When I returned by car to our worksite, I found six sets of guarded but curious eyes

watching me carefully as I opened the back passenger door. Out jumped a young Chesapeake-red, long-haired Nova Scotia Duck Toller.

"Meet Susquehanna," I said. Five of the six surrounded the dog, and with permission, affectionately scratched and pet this 35-pound ball of energy. I assured the one unengaged member of the group that he could simply observe.

Here, perhaps, was another fear to overcome.

Susquehanna, also known as Suss or Sussey, is the "conservation canine" for Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association.

He is being trained to detect sewage leaks throughout the watershed, working with me on a consulting team contracted to municipalities, engineering firms and even other Waterkeeper Organizations to investigate stormwater systems, runoff, septic fields, and manholes in search of that troubling scent of sewage.

Over the next two hours, the prisoners took part in Susquehanna's training by hiding scent-boxes and working with Susquehanna to find them.

I stepped back. They stepped in – all of them, including the hesitant one. They were functioning as a team.

All week long, after working mornings on the kinds of skills required of a Waterkeeper, we would take Sussey for long training walks in the afternoon and practice our observation skills.

And before we left each of the five worksites, we would conduct a garbage sweep and leave those spots cleaner than we'd found them.

As the week progressed, our observation squares became larger, closer to water, then in water, and these fledgling citizen scientists began to learn about tree-mapping and sizing, water chemistry and testing procedures, collecting and identifying macroinvertebrates, and much more.

They began to appreciate the deep connections between land and water and understand the human influence on both.

Having begun by examining a small square, they advanced to observing a small watershed, and spent their final day studying a creek that had been affected by a tributary tainted by drainage from an abandoned mine and a small wastewater-treatment plant.

The team's confidence grew.

Those members who had feared working in and around water now sat on rocks in the middle of the Susquehanna River, writing in their journals. They were proud of what they'd accomplished, and so were their mentors.

The seeds we had planted were yielding fruit. Before long, I hoped, they would return to their communities and become spokesmen and advocates for their home waters.

In August we will go back to the Pennsylvania Wilds to work with six new residents at Quehanna Boot Camp, and Sussey will find new hands to train him.

Our plans are someday to enhance this experiential learning program with a green-jobs fair for all the inmates at the correctional facility, and then to create an "ecopreneurship" program for inmates beyond Quehanna Boot Camp but within the Susquehanna watershed.

Finding a job after incarceration is a daunting challenge, and we hope to provide mentorships in which prisoners can explore and develop green-business ideas, focusing their minds during incarceration and offering hope for their lives afterward.

I extend my appreciation to several people and organizations that enabled us to launch the Quehanna Boot Camp Watershed Steward Prison Project.

Thank you to the staff at the camp and the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections – for your trust.

To Melinda Hughes and her organization, "Nature Abounds" for assisting with stream-assessment skills.

To Tina Hayes, our AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer for taking thousands of photos during the week for us to select from.

To the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Susquehanna Valley for financially supporting our week in the Wilds.

And, surely – to the six young-adult residents for having the courage to begin to change their lives, and mine as well.

For more information on programs, initiatives and how you can get involved, visit the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper website or contact Carol Parenzan at 570-768-6300 or send email to: midsusriver@gmail.com.

**How You Can Help**

Want To Find A Watershed Group Near You? Try The PA Land Trust Assn. Watershed Association Finder

**Take Action:**

How Good Is The Water Quality In Streams In Your Community? Take A Look, Then Act

**Related Story:**

Loyalsock Creek River Of The Year Celebration Continues Aug. 25 With Worlds End Day In Sullivan County

**Related Stories This Week:**

Want To Find A Watershed Group Near You? Try The PA Land Trust Assn. Watershed Association Finder
Renew The State's Commitment To Keeping Pennsylvania Clean, Green And Growing
Meeting The Challenge Of Keeping Pennsylvania Clean, Green And Growing
Gov. Wolf Issues Disaster Proclamation Due To Recent Flooding, Will Seek Federal Aid
Emma Creek Restoration Project Reduced Flood Damage, Sediment & Nutrient Pollution In Huntingdon County
Another Green Infrastructure Project Reduces Flooding In Manheim, Lancaster County
Coalition Launches Effort To Protect Exceptional Value Waters In Poconos Region
Brodhead Watershed Assn. Celebration Honors John J. Riley On Sept. 28 In Monroe County
Bucknell University's Susquehanna River Symposium Now Accepting Presentation Proposals
August Catalyst Newsletter Now Available From Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition
Help Wanted: PA Environmental Council Watershed Outreach Manager

*(Reprinted from the WaterKeeper Alliance Magazine, Summer 2018.)*
[Posted: August 13, 2018]

**Bucknell University's Susquehanna River Symposium Now Accepting Presentation Proposals**




The Susquehanna River Symposium at Bucknell University in the Elaine Langone Center in Lewisburg, Union County on October 26-27 is now

accepting abstracts for presentations. The deadline for submissions is September 30. This year's Symposium theme is Science, Conservation and Heritage.

Abstracts for both oral and poster presentations are being sought from all interested parties, including faculty, students, professionals, state and federal environmental agencies, conservancies, watershed groups, and regulators.

Example topics include, but are not limited to:

-- Cultural heritage and land use history; legacy alterations to the watershed
-- Indigenous wisdom and native approaches to sustainable watershed management
-- The hydrology, ecology, and natural history of lakes, marshes, and bogs
-- Headwater regions, small stream habitats, tributary-mainstem connections; spatial and temporal variability within and across watersheds
-- Hydroclimatology of extreme events; climate change in the mid-Atlantic region aquatic ecology, river or stream metabolism, and ecosystem process and function
-- Hydrogeology, karst, and groundwater resources and remediation
-- Terrestrial ecosystems, forests, meadows, and the riparian corridor
-- Urban hydrology and new approaches stormwater management
-- Economic and water policy factors to consider sustainable watershed management
-- Water quality, river chemistry and pollution; and emerging contaminants
-- Fluvial geomorphology and processes; stream restoration and river engineering
-- Oil and natural gas development
-- River-bay-estuary-ocean connections; deltaic and brackish environments; coastal flooding and/or erosion issues
-- River towns and communities
-- Ecosystem services and assessing the economic value of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems
-- Watershed planning and sustainability; community awareness and education

Click Here to submit an abstract. Questions should be directed to Benjamin Hayes by sending email to: benjamin.hayes@bucknell.edu or call 570-577-1830, or Sean Reese by sending email to: sean.reese@bucknell.edu or call 570-577-3699.

For more information, visit the Susquehanna River Symposium webpage.

**How You Can Help**

Want To Find A Watershed Group Near You? Try The PA Land Trust Assn. Watershed Association Finder

**Take Action:**

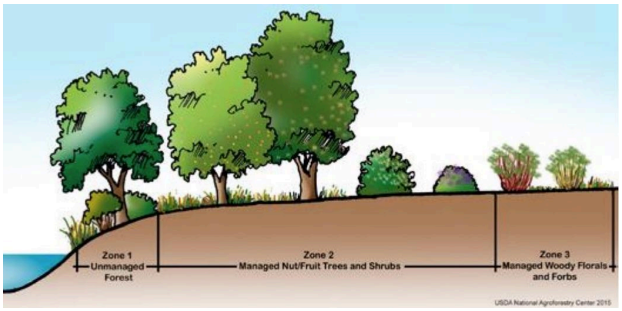
How Good Is The Water Quality In Streams In Your Community? Take A Look, Then Act

**Related Stories:**

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Renew The State's Commitment To Keeping Pennsylvania Clean, Green And Growing
Meeting The Challenge Of Keeping Pennsylvania Clean, Green And Growing
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Emma Creek Restoration Project Reduced Flood Damage, Sediment & Nutrient Pollution In Huntingdon County
Another Green Infrastructure Project Reduces Flooding In Manheim, Lancaster County
Coalition Launches Effort To Protect Exceptional Value Waters In Poconos Region
Brodhead Watershed Assn. Celebration Honors John J. Riley On Sept. 28 In Monroe County

Feature: Healing Waters: 6 Prison Inmates Learn To Look To The Natural World To Change Their Lives
August Catalyst Newsletter Now Available From Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition
Help Wanted: PA Environmental Council Watershed Outreach Manager
[Posted: August 15, 2018]

**August Catalyst Newsletter Now Available From Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition**




The August edition of the Catalyst newsletter is now available from the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition based in Butler County featuring articles on--
-- Multifunctional Riparian Forest Buffers, DCNR Grants Available *(photo)*
-- Algae Bloom Found In South Branch Of Slippery Rock Creek
-- KIDS Catalyst - Pennsylvania Puzzler
-- Click Here to sign up for your own copy.

The Catalyst newsletter is distributed to over 1,200 individuals in over a dozen countries including: Brazil, Peru, South Korea, Mexico, England, Wales, Venezuela, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and Germany.

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition website. Also visit Clean Creek Pottery to help mine reclamation efforts.

**How You Can Help**
Want To Find A Watershed Group Near You? Try The PA Land Trust Assn. Watershed Association Finder
**Take Action:**
How Good Is The Water Quality In Streams In Your Community? Take A Look, Then Act
**Related Stories:**
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Bucknell University's Susquehanna River Symposium Now Accepting Presentation Proposals
Help Wanted: PA Environmental Council Watershed Outreach Manager
[Posted: August 16, 2018]

**PA Resources Council ReuseFest Set For Sept. 8 In Pittsburgh**




The PA Resources Council and its partners will hold its Fall ReuseFest September 8 at the UPMC St. Margaret parking lot at 815 Freeport Road in Pittsburgh from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This one-day event will give individuals the opportunity to drop off items for reuse by local nonprofit groups. Gently used items like clothing, household goods, furniture, medical supplies, garden tools, books can be dropped off as well as wheelchairs, crutches, shower seats, gently used furniture, blankets, bath towels, garden tools/equipment, books, records, jewelry, antiques and much more.

All materials donated will be reused in some fashion, whether resold, repurposed or given to those in need in our region and around the world.

The collection event will support Book 'Em, Brother's Brother, Dress for Success, Free Ride, Free Store Wilkinsburg, Global Links, Goodwill of Southwestern PA, Grow Pittsburgh and Off the Floor.

ReuseFest is presented by the PA Resources Council in association with UPMC.

For a complete list of materials accepted, visit PRC's Fall ReuseFest webpage or call 412-773-7156.

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the PA Resources Council website. Click Here to sign up for regular updates, follow PRC on Twitter or Like them on Facebook. Click Here for PRC's Events Calendar. Click Here to support their work.

**NewsClips:**

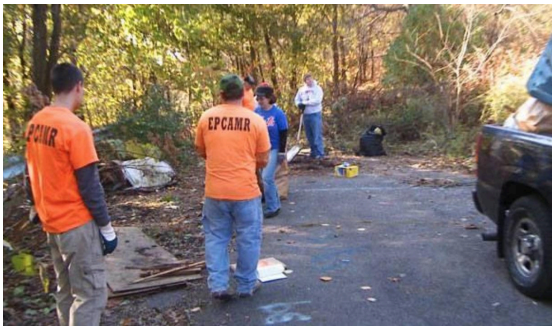
Centre County Forced To Make Changes To Plastic Recycling Program
Spotlight: 5 Questions About Recycling With Crawford County Waste Authority Director
Penn State, Recycling Authority Prepare For Tailgating Season
Company Says New Yukon Landfills Would Be Farther From Residents
Yukon Hazardous Waste Treatment/Landfill Expansion Meeting Wednesday In Westmoreland
Schuylkill River In Philly A Trash Heap After Heavy Rain, Flash Floods

**Related Stories:**

Save The Date: Fall Cleanup Set For Oct. 20 In Centralia, Columbia County
Public Meeting On Cumberland County Landfill Permit Modification Aug. 21

[Posted: August 17, 2018]

**Save The Date: Fall Cleanup Set For Oct. 20 In Centralia, Columbia County**




The Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation will hold its annual Fall Cleanup Event in Centralia, Columbia County on October 20. EPCAMR will once again bring together cleanup partners and volunteers, old and new, back to Centralia to pick up where the illegal dumpers have

left off.

Briefly, areas to be targeted in 2018 are:

-- Roads up the street and to the left from the Municipal Building;
-- Along RailRoad Street once again down to the boundary with Blaschak's Property (area will be flagged-near the dirt hump barricade cul-de-sac);
-- All along Big Mine Run Road down as far as we can get along the roadside and mine discharge from the Centralia Tunnel;
-- Around the Odd Fellows Cemetery and the old Caged vents; and
-- Graffiti Highway (from the top to the bottom and over the guardrails).

Cleanup organizers are seeking donations to use during the cleanup, including pickup trucks, JEEPS, and of course, any refreshments, water, chips, food donations for lunch to be sure to feed everyone.

EPCAMR has already secured $1,750 towards the cleanup through an Anthracite Region Independent Power Producers Association Grant that has been a long-term partner.

The group is also expecting to receive additional financial support from Joe Sapienza, Director of the recently released documentary and dumpster donations from Mostik's Disposal.

EPCAMR will also be sharing this event with the surrounding regional colleges who have partnered with them in the past.

EPCAMR would like to obtain t-shirts for cleanup volunteers in a safety orange/black color similar to those worn by EPCAMR staff. They will be looking for sponsors and logos for the shirt.

ALL volunteers and organizations interested in participating must sign a waiver to participate in the event for liability reasons. Signature pages will be available from EPCAMR.

Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult, be supervised at all times, and sign on their behalf.

Volunteers are required to attend a mandatory safety briefing before the event starts.

For more information, contact Robert Hughes, Executive Director of EPCAMR at 570-371-3523 or send email to: rhughes@epcamr.org.

More information on programs, initiatives, other upcoming events and how you can get involved, is available at the Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation website.

**NewsClips:**

Centre County Forced To Make Changes To Plastic Recycling Program
Spotlight: 5 Questions About Recycling With Crawford County Waste Authority Director
Penn State, Recycling Authority Prepare For Tailgating Season
Company Says New Yukon Landfills Would Be Farther From Residents
Yukon Hazardous Waste Treatment/Landfill Expansion Meeting Wednesday In Westmoreland
Schuylkill River In Philly A Trash Heap After Heavy Rain, Flash Floods

**Related Stories:**

PA Resources Council ReuseFest Set For Sept. 8 In Pittsburgh
Public Meeting On Cumberland County Landfill Permit Modification Aug. 21

[Posted: August 13, 2018]

**Public Meeting On Cumberland County Landfill Permit Modification Aug. 21**

The Department of Environmental Protection Thursday announced it will hold an informational

public meeting on August 21 to answer questions regarding the municipal waste application by Community Refuse Service, LLC to modify operations at the Cumberland County Landfill.

The meeting will be held at the North Newton Township Building, 528 Oakville Road in Shippensburg from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Representatives from Community Refuse Service and DEP will be available to answer questions from the public.

The application is for an increase in the average daily volume from the currently permitted 2,500 tons per day to 2,950 tons per day. The increase, if granted, would not add additional capacity to the landfill.

**NewsClips:**

Centre County Forced To Make Changes To Plastic Recycling Program
Spotlight: 5 Questions About Recycling With Crawford County Waste Authority Director
Penn State, Recycling Authority Prepare For Tailgating Season
Company Says New Yukon Landfills Would Be Farther From Residents
Yukon Hazardous Waste Treatment/Landfill Expansion Meeting Wednesday In Westmoreland
Schuylkill River In Philly A Trash Heap After Heavy Rain, Flash Floods

**Related Stories:**

PA Resources Council ReuseFest Set For Sept. 8 In Pittsburgh
Save The Date: Fall Cleanup Set For Oct. 20 In Centralia, Columbia County

[Posted: August 16, 2018]

**DEP Hearing Sept. 20 On Air Permit For Mineral Processing Plant At Hanson Quarry, Bucks County**

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold a hearing September 20 on the Air Quality Permit for construction of a mineral processing plant at the Hanson Quarry in East Rockhill Township, Bucks County.

The hearing will be held at the Pennridge High School Auditorium, 1228 North 5th Street, Perkasie from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Individuals who wish to provide testimony or have questions regarding the hearing, contact Virginia Cain, Environmental Community Relations Specialist at 484-250-5808.

The last day to pre-register to speak at the hearing will be at 3:00 p.m. on September 18, 2018. Registration will reopen at the hearing upon arrival.

Persons unable to attend the hearing, may submit a written statement and exhibits within 10 days thereafter to James Rebarchak, Environmental Program Manager, Department of Environmental Protection, Southeast Regional Office, 2 East Main Street, Norristown, PA 19401 or electronically to: ra-epseroaqpubcom@pa.gov.

For all the details, read the notice in the August 18 PA Bulletin, page 5090.

**NewsClips:**

Allegheny County Health Dept. Investigating Airborne Sand Near McKees Rocks
Op-Ed: Trump's Car Emissions Rollback Would Prevent States From Protecting Citizens

[Posted: August 17, 2018]

**Allegheny County Health Dept. Accepting Proposals For Air Pollution Education Projects**

The Allegheny County Health Department is accepting proposals from groups to support education activities to be funded by the County Clean Air Fund. The deadline for proposals is August 29.

Projects costing between $10,000 and $75,000 which have an implementation timeline of 2 years or less will be considered.

A similar request for proposals will be available in the upcoming weeks related to emission reduction projects.

Click Here for all the details.

**NewsClips:**

Allegheny Health Apologizes For Miscommunication Over U.S. Steel Meeting
Allegheny County Health Dept. Investigating Airborne Sand Near McKees Rocks
Op-Ed: Trump's Car Emissions Rollback Would Prevent States From Protecting Citizens
[Posted: August 15, 2018]

**Penn State Extension: Renewable & Alternative Energy Newsletter**




The latest edition of the Renewable and Alternative Energy newsletter from Penn State Extension is now available featuring stories on--

-- Ag Progress Days (Aug. 14-16) Features Energy Events, Displays
-- Biochar: What Flavor Would You Like?
-- Underutilized Wood: Harvest & Processing Opportunities
-- PA State Wood Energy Team Highlights, Next Steps
-- Biofuels Lab Opens At Penn State Behrend (Erie)
-- Click Here to sign up for this and other Penn State Extension Email Newsletters

For more information on programs, initiatives, training and education opportunities, visit the Penn State Extension website.

**NewsClips:**

Tyrone Council Hears Opposition To Wind Farm Expansion In Blair County
Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Lancaster Named On 40 Most Sustainably-Powered Cities List
Battery Firm Axion Files For Bankruptcy
Modernizing Renewables Mandates No Longer About The Megawatts
PJM Prepares New Capacity Repricing Rule In Response To FERC Order
PJM Asks FERC To Delay 2019 Capacity Market Auction
[Posted: August 13, 2018]

**PUC Extends Comment Deadline On Proposed Policy Statement On Alternative Ratemaking**

The Public Utility Commission Tuesday issued a Secretarial Letter extending the deadline to October 20 for commenting on its proposed policy statement inviting utilities to explore alternative ratemaking methodologies in distribution base rate proceedings.

The original deadline was August 22 as published in a notice in the June 23 PA Bulletin.

The goal of alternative ratemaking is to provide incentives to improve system efficiency through tools like performance-based incentives; various levels of decoupling; and variations of demand-based and time-of-use pricing options, such as critical peak pricing.

On May 4 the Commission voted 5-0 to adopt a motion by Vice Chairman Andrew G. Place to explore setting an alternative ratemaking based on the following first-order principles:
-- Policies must support the continued efficient use of all energy resources.
-- The evolution of a distributed energy environment requires substantial and well-targeted investment in distribution infrastructure.
-- Policies must encourage least-cost solutions, with cost recovery based on long-term cost causation.
-- Rate design should embrace, where feasible, the additional capabilities enabled by smart meter deployment.

In July, Gov. Wolf signed into law Act 58 which specifically authorizes the PUC to explore alternative ratemaking mechanisms for electric, natural gas, water and wastewater services.

The PA Environmental Council, Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance, Clean Air Council, PennFuture and other groups requested the extension of the comment deadline in order to fully consider the implications of Act 58 on alternative ratemaking and the proposed PUC policy.

Click Here for a copy of the Secretarial Letter for all the details.

Interested parties have until October 20 to file written comments referencing Docket No. M-2015-2518883 with the Public Utility Commission, Attn: Secretary Rosemary Chiavetta, Commonwealth Keystone Building, Second Floor 400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120. Comments may also be filed electronically through the Commission's e-File System.

**NewsClips:**

Crable: PUC Warns Extreme Weather May Be New Norm In PA
Op-Ed: Wait? Another Surcharge On Your Natural Gas Bill?
Op-Ed: Taking A Stand For Three Mile Island
Crable: Ephrata May Host Manure-To-Electricity Plant
Editorial: Trimming Trees Can Nip Electric Outages
Editorial: Staying Wary Of Cyber Attacks Shows Vision
Cusick: Lancaster Among First Cities In The World to Get LEED Certification
Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Lancaster Named On 40 Most Sustainably-Powered Cities List
Ecodistrict Forum Focuses On Energy Needs For Etna, Millvale, Sharpsburg
Nuclear Power Plant Owner Takes Next Steps In Plant Decommissioning Process
Modernizing Renewables Mandates No Longer About The Megawatts
PJM Prepares New Capacity Repricing Rule In Response To FERC Order
PJM Asks FERC To Delay 2019 Capacity Market Auction

**Related Stories:**

Alternative Utility Ratemaking Bill To Encourage Conservation, Infrastructure Investment Signed By Governor
PUC Invites Comments On Proposed Policy Statement On Alternative Ratemaking
[Posted: August 14, 2018]

**FirstEnergy Takes Next Step In Deactivation Of Its 3 Nuclear Power Plants**



FirstEnergy Solutions Inc. Wednesday announced it has taken its latest step in the regulatory process leading to the deactivation of its three nuclear power plants beginning in 2020.

FES submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission its Certified Fuel Handler Training and Retraining Program, as required under the NRC's decommissioning process. The filing details the training program for professionals who will supervise the removal and on-site storage of fuel from the nuclear plants.

FES announced on March 28, 2018, that it would deactivate the plants on the following schedule:

-- Beaver Valley Power Station, Shippingport, Pennsylvania, Unit 1 May 2021 and Unit 2 October 2021

-- Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, Oak Harbor, Ohio, May 2020;

-- Perry Nuclear Power Plant, Perry, Ohio, May 2021

"Today's NRC submission is a necessary milestone for us but not a welcome one," said Don Moul, FES President and Chief Nuclear Officer. "Our nuclear plants provide important environmental, economic and fuel-diversity benefits to our region, but we cannot continue to operate them without state-level policy relief in Ohio and Pennsylvania or immediate and significant market reforms that provide meaningful compensation for the unique attributes nuclear generation provides."

The total capacity of the nuclear plants to be deactivated is 4,048 megawatts (MW). In 2017, the nuclear units contributed approximately 65 percent of the electricity produced by the FES generating fleet.

The two Ohio plants represent 14 percent of Ohio's electric generation capacity and 90 percent of its carbon emissions-free capacity.

"We intend to work with Ohio and Pennsylvania officials towards a solution that will enable these plants to continue contributing to cleaner air and regional energy security," Moul said, adding, "In the meantime we will move forward with the required steps towards deactivation."

A solution must be reached by mid-2019, when FES must either purchase the fuel required for Davis-Besse's next refueling or proceed with the shutdown.

*(**Photo:** Beaver Valley.)*

**NewsClips:**

Nuclear Power Plant Owner Takes Next Steps In Plant Decommissioning Process

Op-Ed: Taking A Stand For Three Mile Island

PJM Prepares New Capacity Repricing Rule In Response To FERC Order

PJM Asks FERC To Delay 2019 Capacity Market Auction

**Related Stories:**

PA Environmental Council: Putting A Price On Carbon Would Spur Energy Competition, Help Nuclear Power Plants

Nuclear Energy Caucus: Testimony Highlights Environmental Impacts Of Premature Shutdown Of Nuclear Power Plants
[Posted: August 15, 2018]

**DCNR, Aging, Local Officials Dedicate South Williamsport Community Park Complex, STEP RiverWalk**



On August 10, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn and Department of Aging Secretary Teresa Osborne joined Lycoming County commissioners and other local officials in the dedication of wellness enhancements in the South Williamsport Community Park Complex and STEP RiverWalk Center.
Built next to South Williamsport's Riverwalk Trail, the RiverWalk Center now provides an expanded variety of recreational and wellness activities and services geared toward healthy aging.

STEP (Success Through Engagement and Partnership) partners with the borough and others to offer services benefiting individuals, families, and communities.

"Partnership is the watchword in today's celebration of wide-ranging improvements to a complex that benefits so many and has been supported by so many," said Dunn. "The combined efforts of South Williamsport, DCNR, the Department of Aging, and other agencies all have paved the way for unique community assets that benefit seniors, but are being enjoyed by all."

"Today's Pathways to Fitness dedication symbolizes the Wolf Administration's commitment to improving community health and enhancing Pennsylvania's trail system," said Osborne. "The success of this project emphasizes that regardless of age or stage of life, by working together, we can blaze a trail of wellness that connects neighborhoods and people to one another."

A Department of Aging investment of $90,000 benefitted the STEP Inc. Office of Aging, the local Community Action Agency, and the Area Agency on Aging for Lycoming and Clinton counties.

Funding enabled purchase and installation of fitness trail equipment, bicycles, walking poles, and implementation of a Pathways to Fitness Program.

The Borough of South Williamsport received a DCNR Keystone Community Grant of $75,000, earmarked for its RiverWalk and related parking lot improvements, walking path connectors, and the purchase and installation of playground equipment and signage.

"STEP, along with South Williamsport Borough, is greatly appreciative of the investment made by both DCNR and the Department of Aging to provide well-rounded recreational opportunities for the general public, including our seniors," said STEP President & CEO James D. Plankenhorn. "We look forward to future collaborations to continue to build the recreation network in the region."

Built on the site of former DCNR offices at the corner of Charles Street and East Central Avenue, the RiverWalk Center enables easy access to South Williamsport's Riverwalk trail. The building was renovated/constructed by STEP, which incorporated brick and wood materials in

the new building.

The RiverWalk Center is STEP's newest center for healthy aging. Activities focus on wellness, socialization, and nutrition. Social and recreational activities include card parties, art classes, crafts, holiday festivities, square dancing, wood carving, computer access, and picnics.

The Pathways to Fitness initiative was funded as a Health Pilot Project by DCNR and the Department of Aging, and made possible through partnerships with STEP and the Borough of South Williamsport.

Geared to benefit a community with many aging residents, and building upon existing DCNR investments in the area, the project seeks to increase connections to the Susquehanna Riverwalk Trail and provide community assets -- both indoor and outdoor -- for long-term, healthy lifestyles.

Step Inc. is a private, nonprofit community action agency, providing services to low-income and disadvantaged individuals and families.

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

**NewsClips:**

Susquehanna River Walk Designated Great Place In Pennsylvania
Editorial: Susquehanna River Walk Joins The State's Elite
Veterans On The Susquehanna Event Slated For Aug. 25
Kayak Outing Provides Independence For Visually Impaired (Video)
Montgomery County Approves Plan For 800 Miles Of Bike Paths
Goats, Sheep Maintain Land In Some Philly Suburbs, Yes You Herd Correctly
AP: Meadville Croquet Event Recalls A Bygone Era
Donations Sought For Play Train In Sutersville Park Expansion
DCNR, Local Officials Dedicate South Williamsport Community Park Complex, STEP RiverWalk
Aug. 17 Take Five Fridays With Pam, PA Parks & Forests Foundation
Click Here For Video Of Flooding At Worlds End State Park, Sullivan County
Smooth Surface Coming To Path Atop Wyoming Valley Levee
Philly To Block Access To Devil's Pool At Wissahickon For Safety Reasons
DCNR Giving Financial Boost To Private ATV Trails
5 Great Bicycle Rides To Try Around The Erie Region
Renovated Harrisburg Playgrounds To Open Soon
Camp Hill Playground Relocation Plans Spark Outcry Among Parents
Editorial: Start Over At Nay Aug Park In Scranton
PA Parks Join The Fight Against Opioids

[Posted: August 13, 2018]

**Manada Conservancy: Native Plant Sale Sept. 9, Music Over The Mountains Sept. 23 In Dauphin County**

The Manada Conservancy in Dauphin County has several conservation events planned in



September--
**-- September 9:** Fall Native Plant Sale & Garden Open House, 108 Banbury Circle, Hummelstown. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
**-- September 16**: Children's Program: Plants Of The Buffer. Hershey Public Library, 701 Coca Ave., Hershey. 2:00 to 3:00.
**-- September 23:** 3rd Annual Music Over The Mountains - A Celebration Of Land Preservation. Wind in the Willows, 35 Webster School Road, Grantville. 4:00 to 8:00.

Click Here for more on upcoming events. Questions should be directed to 717-566-4122 or send email to: office@manada.org.

For more information on programs, initiatives and how you can get involved, visit the Manada Conservancy website.
[Posted: August 16, 2018]

**Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Starts 2018 Autumn Lecture Series On Sept. 8**




The Hawk Mountain 2018 Autumn Lecture Series will kick off on September 8 with a free lecture by Director of the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation, Dr. Nina Schoch.
Lectures take place most Saturday evenings through the end of October in the Hawk Mountain Visitor Center Gallery in Berks County.
The theme for the 2018 series is "Year of the Bird," a celebration campaign initiated by National Geographic.

This year's impressive line-up features conservationists from around the world, who focus their life work on saving birds and educating the public regionally and globally.

The schedule is as follows:
**-- September 8: Conservation Through the Lives of Adirondack Loons**, 5:30. Presented by Dr. Nina Schoch, Director of the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation. Dr. Nina Scoch, will utilize captivating photos and videos to provide an intriguing overview of common loon natural history. Her interactive multimedia presentation also discusses the fascinating loon research and conservation efforts of the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation.
**-- September 15: Thirty Years of Raptor Education**, 5:30. Presented by Kate Davis. Author, long-time raptor educator, and founder of the Raptors of the Rockies non-profit organization Kate Davis will present a colorful presentation with highlights from her life with raptors and education programming. It will include over 100 inspirational photos of children and birds, as well as a discussion of Raptor Versus Rapture.
**-- September 22: Raptors of the Strait of Gibraltar**, 5:00. Presented by Sergio Seipke. Drawing from his world-wide raptor explorations, former Hawk Mountain international Conservation Science and Leadership Trainee Sergio Seipke takes us on a journey to one of the world's prime hawkwatching destinations: the Strait of Gibraltar. He will share with us insights into raptor migration and abundance, plumage variation, and conservation challenges faced by this charismatic group of birds in the Strait region.
**-- October 6: A Wing and a Care: Building a Future for Birds**, 5:30. Presented by Shawn

Carey. Snowy owls, Atlantic puffins, and American kestrels are connected by more than simply a resemblance of form or function; a crucial thread ties them together. Each one has an advocate committed to protecting it and educating others about its plight. Shawn Carey of Migration Productions will present their latest video, "A Wing and a Care," which opens a window into the lives of these three birds and introduces you to the men dedicated to their preservation and survival.

**-- October 27: Seeking the Gray Ghosts**, 5:30. Presented by Chelsea DeMarco. Join Chelsea DeMarco, the lead graduate student from Penn State working on the Pennsylvania Goshawk Project, to find out what the team has discovered after two seasons of studying goshawks in PA, including general information about the project and future plans.

After a Saturday of hawkwatching, hiking, and taking in scenic views, visitors are encouraged to stay for an entertaining and informative talk by Hawk Mountain staff or other wildlife experts. More information can be found online.

Visit the Hawk Mountain Events page for other fall events.

The 2,500-acre Hawk Mountain Sanctuary is the world's first refuge for birds of prey and is open to the public year-round by trail-fee or membership, which in turn supports the non-profit organization's raptor conservation mission and local-to-global research, training, and education programs.

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events, visit the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary website or call 610-756-6961. Click Here to sign up for regular updates from the Sanctuary, Like them on Facebook, Follow on Twitter, visit them on Flickr, be part of their Google+ Circle and visit their YouTube Channel. Click Here to support Hawk Mountain.

**NewsClips:**

Audubon Of Western PA Helps Residents Transform Backyards Into Healthy Habitats
Raccoons Imported For Hunting Likely Led To Rabid Beaver
Crable: What's Happened To All The Butterflies This Summer In Lancaster County?
Brown Pelican Makes Rare Appearance At Presque Isle
Birdwatching In Western PA
Cherry Valley, Monroe County: Trout Need Clean Water, So Do We
Allegheny Front: Fly Fishing Is Big In Central PA, Can We Keep It That Way?
Putting Some Mussels Into Pennsylvania Rivers
Op-Ed: Fishing Inflicts More Harm On Wildlife Than Straws Ever Will
Crable: Fishing Line Kills Another Bird of Prey In Lancaster County
Frye: Getting Permission For Private Land Hunting

[Posted: August 15, 2018]

**Help Wanted: PA Environmental Council Watershed Outreach Manager**

The PA Environmental Council is seeking qualified candidates to fill the position of Program Manager for Watershed Outreach who promotes and advocates for improved water quality across the Commonwealth in partnership with local watershed associations.

Click Here for all the details. The deadline for applications is September 7.

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the PA Environmental Council website, visit the PEC Blog, 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: August 17, 2018]

## Environmental NewsClips - All Topics

Here are NewsClips from around the state on all environmental topics, including General Environment, Budget, Marcellus Shale, Watershed Protection and much more.

The latest environmental NewsClips and news is available at the PA Environment Digest Daily Blog, Twitter Feed and add PaEnviroDigest Google+ to your Circle.

**Sunday NewsClips**
PA National Guard Responds To August Floods
With Reservoirs At Capacity, Will Delaware River Flood?
Binghamton, NY Released 35M Gallons Of Untreated Wastewater Into Susquehanna
NY Officials Issue Public Safety Alert After 35M Gallons Of Untreated Wastewater Discharged Into Susquehanna
Eliminate Mosquito Hangouts At Home
Cusick: After EPA Warning, DEP Hikes Fees On Water Systems To Hire More Inspectors
$12M Water Sewer Project In Pittsburgh To Be Done In January
Maykuth: Aqua PA Seeks 15.4% Water Rate Increase
PennEast Offers To Move Pipeline 100 Feet From Bethlehem Twp Development
Fracking On The Rise In PA, So Are Radon Levels, Are They Connected?
House Oil & Gas Caucus Urges DEP To Reconsider Steep Permit Fee Increase
Turnpike Learning Lessons About Controlling Runoff, Plugging Oil & Gas Wells
Lackawanna River Watchers Focus On Water Quality
Multi-Municipal Group In Blair Agree To Continue Joint Stormwater Action
Jaramillo: Swimming In Wissachicon Isn't So Idyllic: There's Poop In It
Devil's Pool Closed On Wissahickon, But That's Pretty Much Hackable
Recycling Fees Rise In Hazleton Area
Cumberland County To Collect Used Tires Sept. 29
The Economist Names Pittsburgh Most Livable City On U.S. Mainland ,Again
National Honey Bee Day Started In Harrisburg
AP: Philadelphia Area Millennials Are Buzzing About Beekeeping
Hopey: Financial Help Sought To Finish Indian Creek Valley Trail In Fayette County
Riverfront 47 Property Inching Closer To Start Of Park, Trail In Allegheny County
Frustrated By Philly Politicians' Failure to Upgrade Bike Lanes, Cyclists Turn To Courts
Skunk In Allentown Tests Positive For Rabies; Dogs May Be Quarantined
Schneck: Surprise Litteer Of Wolf Pups finds Home At Wolf Sanctuary Of PA
Stilt Sandpiper Spotted At Presque Isle
**Sunday - Wildfires**
Scientists Have Forecast for Rest Of California's Fire Season, It Isn't Pretty
**Sunday - Hurricanes**
FEMA Wants Puerto Rico To Start Paying For Part Of Its Recovery
**Sunday - The Feds**

Trump's Plan For Coal Emissions: Let Coal States Regulate Them
New Trump Power Plant Plan Could Release Hundreds Of Millions Of Tons Of CO2 Into Air
Was Smokey Bear Wrong? How He May Have Helped Fuel Catastrophic Wildfires
Trump Administration Keeps Losing Environmental Court Cases
Editorial: Save Federal Land, Water Conservation Fund

**Politics**

Wagner Makes Case On Climate Change

**Air**

Allegheny Health Apologizes For Miscommunication Over U.S. Steel Meeting
Allegheny County Health Dept. Investigating Airborne Sand Near McKees Rocks
Op-Ed: Trump's Car Emissions Rollback Would Prevent States From Protecting Citizens

**Awards & Recognition**

Susquehanna River Walk Designated Great Place In Pennsylvania
Editorial: Susquehanna River Walk Joins The State's Elite
Cusick: Lancaster Among First Cities In The World to Get LEED Certification
Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Lancaster Named On 40 Most Sustainably-Powered Cities List

**Biodiversity/Invasive Species**

Audubon Of Western PA Helps Residents Transform Backyards Into Healthy Habitats
Crable: What's Happened To All The Butterflies This Summer In Lancaster County?
Ag Progress Days Event Promotes Butterfly Conservation
Putting Some Mussels Into Pennsylvania Rivers

**Budget**

Legere: Shale Drilling Companies Say Proposed Permit Fee Hike Is Too High

**Chesapeake Bay**

Another Surge Of Stormwater, Pollution Flows Thru Conowingo Dam, Scientists Worry About Impact
Crable: Ephrata May Host Manure-To-Electricity Plant
Street 2 Creek Storm Drain Art Hopes To Raise Awareness Of Water Pollution Sources In York
Veterans On The Susquehanna Event Slated For Aug. 25
Bay Journal: Land, Water Trek Offers Insights To Lower Susquehanna River
Letter: Pennsylvanians Resent Post-Storm Comments From MD Governor
Ahead Of Climate Change Projections, Some PA Farmers Make Adaptations To New Weather Patterns
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**Climate**

Cusick: Study: Climate Change Hinders Summer Fun On Lake Erie
Ahead Of Climate Change Projections, Some PA Farmers Make Adaptations To New Weather Patterns
Warming Climate Puts PA Summer Recreation At Risk
Crable: PUC Warns Extreme Weather May Be New Norm In PA
Rainy Summer Shatters Records In PA

State College Broke A Weather Record, How Much Rain Made It Wettest Summer Ever?
Philadelphia: Building Heat Resilience Into Multifamily Housing
Editorial: This Year On Track To Be 4th Hottest On Record
Op-Ed: Trump's Car Emissions Rollback Would Prevent States From Protecting Citizens
Editorial: Evidence Of Climate Change All Around Us
Next 4 Years Will Be Anomalously Warm Scientists Predict
**Coal Mining**
Most Of Derailed Coal Cars Removed From Middle Of Windber, Somerset County
AP: Man Crafts Folks Opera Recounting 1963 Sheppton Mine Disaster
Technology The Answer For Coal Problems Says DOE's Winberg
**Coastal Zone**
DEP Accepting Coastal Zone Grant Applications
**Delaware River**
New Interactive Map Reveals Threats To Delaware River Watershed
Delaware RiverKeeper Aug. 17 RiverWatch Video Report
**Drinking Water**
York County Schools Might Test For Lead In Drinking Water
New Requirements For Testing Lead In Water May Burden School District
AP: Toxics From Manufacturing Turn In In Montgomery County Public Water Systems
When Will Rock Springs Boil Water Advisory Be Lifted? DEP Gives Update
Pittsburgh Water Authority Planning New Pipeline As Redundancy Measure
Letter: Pittsburgh Should Resist Pittsburgh Water Authority Partnership With Peoples Gas
Pittsburgh Water Authority: Demand For Union Labor Doesn't Hinge On Peoples Gas Proposal
**Education**
Crable: Sonia Wasco Taught Conservation To Lancaster Teens For 40 Years
Street 2 Creek Storm Drain Art Hopes To Raise Awareness Of Water Pollution Sources In York
**Emergency Response**
PA National Guard Rescue A Civilian Stranded By Flooding In Southeast PA Aug. 13
Most Of Derailed Coal Cars Removed From Middle Of Windber, Somerset County
**Energy**
Crable: PUC Warns Extreme Weather May Be New Norm In PA
Op-Ed: Wait? Another Surcharge On Your Natural Gas Bill?
Op-Ed: Taking A Stand For Three Mile Island
Crable: Ephrata May Host Manure-To-Electricity Plant
Editorial: Trimming Trees Can Nip Electric Outages
Editorial: Staying Wary Of Cyber Attacks Shows Vision
Cusick: Lancaster Among First Cities In The World to Get LEED Certification
Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Lancaster Named On 40 Most Sustainably-Powered Cities List
Ecodistrict Forum Focuses On Energy Needs For Etna, Millvale, Sharpsburg
Nuclear Power Plant Owner Takes Next Steps In Plant Decommissioning Process
Modernizing Renewables Mandates No Longer About The Megawatts
PJM Prepares New Capacity Repricing Rule In Response To FERC Order
PJM Asks FERC To Delay 2019 Capacity Market Auction
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Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Lancaster Named On 40 Most Sustainably-Powered Cities List
Ecodistrict Forum Focuses On Energy Needs For Etna, Millvale, Sharpsburg
Philadelphia: Building Heat Resilience Into Multifamily Housing
Op-Ed: Trump's Car Emissions Rollback Would Prevent States From Protecting Citizens

**Environmental Heritage**

AP: Man Crafts Folks Opera Recounting 1963 Sheppton Mine Disaster
Air Controller To Speak At 9/11 Memorial In Somerset Aug. 18

**Farming**

Soil Health Movement Thrives In Pennsylvania Agriculture
Crable: Ephrata May Host Manure-To-Electricity Plant
State Plan Seeks Ways To Bolster Dairy Farms, Including Stabilizing Prices
Ahead Of Climate Change Projections, Some PA Farmers Make Adaptations To New Weather Patterns
AP: Funding Awarded To Help Control Great Lakes Nutrient Runoff
Crable: Dairy Farming Boost? Holsteins Can Be Just As Tasty As Any Beef
AP: Erie's Mushroom Kingdom: Exotic Mushrooms Abound
100,000 Sunflowers Cover 10 Acres At York County Festival
Ag Progress Days Event Promotes Butterfly Conservation
Crable: New Asian Tick Shows Up In PA, Officials Worry About Livestock
Barcaskey: Pennsylvania In Midst Of Tick Infestation
Venesky: New Tick, New Threat?

**Flooding**

Governor Declares Disaster After Recent Flooding
Gov. Wolf Declares Disaster Emergency After Touring Flood-Damaged Areas
Dept. Of Health Urges Residents To Take Safety Precautions As Flood Cleanup Continues
Flooding Expected As Susquehanna River Set To Crest At 29 Feet In Wilkes-Barre
Flooding Reported In Low-Lying Areas Around Wilkes-Barre
Flooding Impacting Low Lying Areas In Wilkes-Barre
Lycoming Residents Hit Hard By Flood Still Recovering, Seeking Aid
Lycoming County Declares Disaster Emergency After Flooding
Luzerne County Flood Buyouts Covers 150+ Properties
Flooding Leaves Some Parts Of PA Underwater With More Rain On The Way
As Flood Cleanup Continues In Southeast, Watching The Skies And Rising Rivers
PA National Guard Rescue A Civilian Stranded By Flooding In Southeast PA Aug. 13
AP: Drenching Rains Close Roads, Prompt Rescues In Pennsylvania
Schuylkill River In Philly A Trash Heap After Heavy Rain, Flash Floods
Schuylkill County Officials Push Green Infrastructure Flood Prevention Project
Widespread Flooding Reported Across Center, NE PA Monday
Flooding Inundates Farm As 29-Foot Susquehanna Crest Looms
Shelters Opened As Flooding Slams Schuylkill County
Delays Announced For Opening Schuylkill County Govt. Offices Tuesday
Mountain Energy Drilling Water Tanks Dislodged By Flooding, Washed Downstream To Threaten Park Bridge In Tunkhannock
Hughesville School District Talks Flood Damage
Flood Gates Going Up In Scranton As Rains Pound Region

Flood Waters Show Signs Of Receding After Heavy Rains In Lackawanna County
Duryea Flooding, Rising Rivers And More
Flooding Closes roads Around Lehigh Valley, Surrounding Areas
Lehigh River Rescuers Search For 145 Rafters; All Appear To Be OK
Bloomsburg Issues Flood Evacuation Order
Williamsport Area Flash Floods Threaten Boroughs
Sudden Downpour Causes Flooding In Altoona Area
Man With Pet Parrot On His Should Rescued From Waist-Deep Mud In Belleville Park
Drenching Rains Flood Highways, Trap Motorists In Philadelphia Area
Schuylkill River Expected To Exceed Flood Stage By Tuesday Morning
Parts Of Schuylkill County Being Evacuated Due To Flooding
Rains Came Hard, Fast Trapping Some Motorists In Philadelphia Area
AP: Heavy Rains Cause Flooding, Prompt Water Rescues
Residents Evacuated In Schuylkill County, Flash Flooding Reported In Lancaster County
Flash Flooding Closes Roads, Wreaks Havoc Around Lehigh Valley
Heavy Rain Causing Flash Floods In  Philadelphia Area Saturday
Flooding Irks Hollidaysburg Residents
Editorial: Grafius Run Flood Survey Meshes With Reality Of Summer Storms
Rainy Summer Shatters Records In PA
State College Broke A Weather Record, How Much Rain Made It Wettest Summer Ever?

**Geologic Hazard**

Sinkholes, Sinkholes Everywhere, What Can We Do?
WITF Smart Talk: Science Behind Sinkholes, How They Form
Sinkhole At Lancaster Outlet Mall Parking Lot Growing
Officials Still Seeking Cause Of Giant Sinkhole In Tanger Parking Lot
Map: 159 Sinkholes Opened Up In Lancaster County
Portion Of Cumberland Parkway Closed Due To Sinkhole
Official: Sinkhole On Cumberland Parkway Is About 22 Feet Deep
Sinkhole On Cumberland Parkway Filled In

**Green Infrastructure**

Schuylkill County Officials Push Green Infrastructure Flood Prevention Project
AP: Funding Awarded To Help Control Great Lakes Nutrient Runoff
Soil Health Movement Thrives In Pennsylvania Agriculture
Audubon Of Western PA Helps Residents Transform Backyards Into Healthy Habitats
Cherry Valley, Monroe County: Trout Need Clean Water, So Do We
Allegheny Front: Fly Fishing Is Big In Central PA, Can We Keep It That Way?
9 Million Gallons Of Raw Sewage Leaked Into Little Lehigh, There's A Plan To Fix That

**Hazardous Sites Cleanup**

AP: Toxics From Manufacturing Turn In In Montgomery County Public Water Systems

**Lake Erie**

Cusick: Study: Climate Change Hinders Summer Fun On Lake Erie

**Land Conservation**

Op-Ed: Montco's Stoneleigh's Likely Safe From Eminent Domain, But Landmarks Still Under Siege
Op-Ed: Congress Needs To Permanently Reauthorize Land & Water Conservation Fund - Ed

Perry
Berks County Municipalities Join Forces To Plan For The Future
**Land Use Planning**
Berks County Municipalities Join Forces To Plan For The Future
**Mine Reclamation**
When  In Western PA, Red Dog Is Not Necessarily A Canine
**Oil & Gas**
Legere: Shale Drilling Companies Say Proposed Permit Fee Hike Is Too High
Mountain Energy Drilling Water Tanks Dislodged By Flooding, Washed Downstream To Threaten Park Bridge In Tunkhannock
Hurdle: Fracking Industry Water Use Rises As Drills Extend, Study Says
Letter: See What Conventional Oil & Gas Bill Does
Op-Ed: Wait? Another Surcharge On Your Natural Gas Bill?
Editorial: Drillers Must Do Right By Landowners On Gas Storage Fields
Editorial: Contain The Fracking Sand Blowing Around Stowe
Erie Gasoline Prices Among State's Highest
Gasoline Prices Could Fall Further As Summer Comes To A Close
Maykuth: Free From Bankruptcy, Philly Refiner Quietly Installs New Board, CEO
**Pipelines**
DEP OKs Mariner East 2 Pipeline Modifications In Chester County, PUC OK Still Needed
Shell Falcon Pipeline Might Remediate Wetland In Mercer County
Hurdle: FERC Sued Over PennEast Pipeline Approval After Denying Rehearing
FERC Vote Moves PennEast Pipeline Project Forward
Judge Orders New Federal Review Of Keystone XL Pipeline
**Radiation Protection**
Op-Ed: Taking A Stand For Three Mile Island
Nuclear Power Plant Owner Takes Next Steps In Plant Decommissioning Process
PJM Prepares New Capacity Repricing Rule In Response To FERC Order
PJM Asks FERC To Delay 2019 Capacity Market Auction
**Radon**
DEP, American Lung Association Offer Free Radon Test Kits In PA
**Recreation**
Susquehanna River Walk Designated Great Place In Pennsylvania
Editorial: Susquehanna River Walk Joins The State's Elite
Veterans On The Susquehanna Event Slated For Aug. 25
Kayak Outing Provides Independence For Visually Impaired (Video)
Montgomery County Approves Plan For 800 Miles Of Bike Paths
Goats, Sheep Maintain Land In Some Philly Suburbs, Yes You Herd Correctly
AP: Meadville Croquet Event Recalls A Bygone Era
Donations Sought For Play Train In Sutersville Park Expansion
DCNR, Local Officials Dedicate South Williamsport Community Park Complex, STEP RiverWalk
Aug. 17 Take Five Fridays With Pam, PA Parks & Forests Foundation
Click Here For Video Of Flooding At Worlds End State Park, Sullivan County
Smooth Surface Coming To Path Atop Wyoming Valley Levee

Philly To Block Access To Devil's Pool At Wissahickon For Safety Reasons
DCNR Giving Financial Boost To Private ATV Trails
5 Great Bicycle Rides To Try Around The Erie Region
Renovated Harrisburg Playgrounds To Open Soon
Camp Hill Playground Relocation Plans Spark Outcry Among Parents
Editorial: Start Over At Nay Aug Park In Scranton
PA Parks Join The Fight Against Opioids
100,000 Sunflowers Cover 10 Acres At York County Festival
AP: Man Critical After Being Struck By Lightning In Schenley Park, Pittsburgh
We All Know It's The Dock Street Dam After Family Saved In Harrisburg
Barcaskey: Pennsylvania In Midst Of Tick Infestation
How Philadelphia Inspired Flight 93 Chimes Memorial To Be Unveiled In Sept.
Amid Dangers, Philly Closes Some Roads To Let Kids Play Safely
Editorial: No-Brainer: Letting Neighbors Redo Run-Down Park In Philadelphia
Warming Climate Puts PA Summer Recreation At Risk

**Recycling/Waste**

Centre County Forced To Make Changes To Plastic Recycling Program
Spotlight: 5 Questions About Recycling With Crawford County Waste Authority Director
Penn State, Recycling Authority Prepare For Tailgating Season
Company Says New Yukon Landfills Would Be Farther From Residents
Yukon Hazardous Waste Treatment/Landfill Expansion Meeting Wednesday In Westmoreland
Schuylkill River In Philly A Trash Heap After Heavy Rain, Flash Floods

**Renewable Energy**

Tyrone Council Hears Opposition To Wind Farm Expansion In Blair County
Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Lancaster Named On 40 Most Sustainably-Powered Cities List
Battery Firm Axion Files For Bankruptcy
Modernizing Renewables Mandates No Longer About The Megawatts
PJM Prepares New Capacity Repricing Rule In Response To FERC Order
PJM Asks FERC To Delay 2019 Capacity Market Auction

**Schuylkill River**

Schuylkill River In Philly A Trash Heap After Heavy Rain, Flash Floods

**Stormwater**

Street 2 Creek Storm Drain Art Hopes To Raise Awareness Of Water Pollution Sources In York

**Susquehanna River**

Bay Journal: Land, Water Trek Offers Insights To Lower Susquehanna River

**Sustainability**

Cusick: Lancaster Among First Cities In The World to Get LEED Certification
Ecodistrict Forum Focuses On Energy Needs For Etna, Millvale, Sharpsburg

**Wastewater Facilities**

9 Million Gallons Of Raw Sewage Leaked Into Little Lehigh, There's A Plan To Fix That

**Watershed Protection**

Schuylkill County Officials Push Green Infrastructure Flood Prevention Project
Soil Health Movement Thrives In Pennsylvania Agriculture
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Cusick: Study: Climate Change Hinders Summer Fun On Lake Erie
Rainy Summer Shatters Records In PA
State College Broke A Weather Record, How Much Rain Made It Wettest Summer Ever?
Delaware RiverKeeper Aug. 17 RiverWatch Video Report
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**Wildlife**

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Brown Pelican Makes Rare Appearance At Presque Isle
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Allegheny Front: Fly Fishing Is Big In Central PA, Can We Keep It That Way?
Putting Some Mussels Into Pennsylvania Rivers
Op-Ed: Fishing Inflicts More Harm On Wildlife Than Straws Ever Will
Crable: Fishing Line Kills Another Bird of Prey In Lancaster County
Frye: Getting Permission For Private Land Hunting

**West Nile/Zika Virus/Ticks**

3 People Test Positive For West Nile Virus In Franklin, York Counties
First Human Case Of West Nile Reported In York County For 2018
Barcaskey: Pennsylvania In Midst Of Tick Infestation
Venesky: New Tick, New Threat?
Crable: New Asian Tick Shows Up In PA, Officials Worry About Livestock
Warming Climate Puts PA Summer Recreation At Risk
Mosquito Spraying Wednesday In Manchester, York County
Mosquito Spraying Planned In York County

**Hurricanes**

Texas Plants Spewed 8 Million Pounds Of Air Pollutants As Hurricane Harvey Hit

**Wildfires**

Editorial: Williamsport Firefighters Bring Western Blazes Much Close To Home
Glacier Latest Park To Be Scorched By Western Wildfires

Click Here For This Week's Allegheny Front Radio Program

## Public Participation Opportunities/Calendar Of Events

This section lists House and Senate Committee meetings, DEP and other public hearings and meetings and other interesting environmental events.

NEW means new from last week. [Agenda Not Posted] means not posted within 2 weeks of the advisory committee meeting. Go to the online Calendar webpage for updates.

**Note:** DEP published the 2018 meeting schedules for its advisory committees and boards.

**August 18--** PA Resources Council. Household Chemical Collection Event. Boyce Park, Allegheny County. 9:00 to 1:00.

**August 18-19--** Western PA Conservancy. 2018 Wild & Scenic Clarion River Sojourn. Elk and Clarion Counties.

**August 20-23--** U.S. Biochar Initiatives Conference. Chase Center on the Riverfront, Wilmington, Delaware.

**August 21--** Agenda Posted**.** Environmental Quality Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00. DEP Contact: Laura Edinger, 717-772-3277, ledinger@pa.gov.
-- Final Noncoal Mining Program Fee Increase
-- Final Storage Tank Regulations Update
-- Final-Omitted Electronic Submission Of Air Quality Permit Applications
-- Report On Adequacy of Water Quality Permit Fees

**August 21--** NEW. DEP Public Information Meeting On Cumberland County Landfill Permit Modification. North Newton Township Building, 528 Oakville Road, Shippensburg. 6:00 to 8:00.

**August 21--** Penn State Extension. Planning, Implementing A Municipal Leaf Compost Facility Webinar. Noon to 1:00.

**August 21--** Cumberland County Master Gardeners. Gardening With Nature: Butterfly Gardening. Cleve J. Fredricksen Library, 100 N. 19th Street, Camp Hill, Cumberland County. 7:00 to 8:30.

**August 22--** Location Added. DCNR Public Meeting On Forest District Plans: Forbes State Forest District. Loyalhanna Watershed Association Conference Room, 6 Old Lincoln Highway West, Ligonier, Westmoreland County. 6:30 to 8:30. *Click Here for more.*

**August 22--** Academy Of Natural Sciences Of Drexel University. Exploring Urban Ecology With The Academy. The Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway,

Philadelphia. 6:00 to 8:00

**August 23--** Penn State Extension. Marcellus Shale Landowner Coalitions - Form, Function, Impact Webinar. 1:00 to 2:00.

**August 23-26--** PA Assn. Of Hazardous Materials Technicians. 2018 PA Hazmat Training Education Conference. Seven Springs Resort, Somerset County.

**August 25--** PA Resources Council. Hard-To-Recycle Collection Event. Century III Mall, West Mifflin, Allegheny County. 9:00 to 1:00.

**August 25--** Registration Open. Chesapeake Bay Foundation-PA. Veterans On The River Kayak Fishing Event. Shank's Mare Outfitters in Wrightsville, York County.

**August 25--** Gifford Pinchot's Grey Towers. Climate Change & Conservation: Is It Getting Hot In Here? Milford, Pike County. 5:30.

**August 25--** Loyalsock Creek River Of The Year Celebration - Worlds End Day! Worlds End State Park, Sullivan County.

**August 27--** PA Resources Council. Watershed Awareness/Rain Barrel Workshop. Phipps Garden Center in Mellon Park, Allegheny County. 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**August 28--** CANCELED. DEP Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting. The next scheduled meeting is October 23. DEP Contact: John Krueger, 717-783-9264, jkrueger@pa.gov. *(formal notice)*

**August 28--** DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Board meeting. DEP Northcentral Regional Office, 208 West Third Street, Suite 101, Williamsport. 1:30. DEP Contact: John Brakeall, 717-783-9731 or send email to: jbrakeall@pa.gov. *(formal notice)*

**August 28--** DCNR Wild Resource Conservation Program FY 2018-19 Grant Applications meeting. Commissioner Conference Room, Game Commission, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. 10:00. DCNR Contact: Jennifer Girton, 717-787-3212 or send email to: jgirton@pa.gov or Greg Czarnecki, 717-783-1337 or send email to: gczarnecki@pa.gov. *(formal notice) Click Here for more.*

**September 4--** CANCELED. DEP Storage Tank Advisory Committee meeting. The next scheduled meeting is December 5. DEP Contact: Kris Shiffer 717-772-5809 or send email to: kshiffer@pa.gov. *(formal notice)*

**September 4--** DEP Board Of Coal Mine Safety meeting. DEP Cambria Office, 286 Industrial Park Road, Ebensburg. 10:00. DEP Contact: Peggy Scheloske 724-404-3143 or send email to: mscheloske@pa.gov.

**September 5--** PA Resources Council. Backyard Composting Workshop. North Park Rose Barn, Allegheny County. 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**September 6-9--** Registration Open. Delaware Highlands Conservancy. Educational Retreat For Women Forest Landowners. Highlights Workshop Facility in Boyd's Mill, Milanville, Wayne County.

**September 7--** Location Added. Susquehanna River Basin Commission business meeting. DoubleTree by Hilton Binghamton, North Riverside Room, 225 Water Street, Binghamton, New York. 9:00. *Click Here for more.*

**September 8--** NEW. PA Resources Council. ReuseFest For Gently Used Items. UPMC St. Margaret parking lot, 815 Freeport Road, Pittsburgh. 10:00 to 2:00.

**September 8--** French Creek Valley Conservancy. French Creek Watershed Cleanup. Cochranton County Fair Grounds, 125 Pearl Street, Cochranton, Crawford County.

**September 8-** PA Resources Council. Backyard Composting Workshop. Ross Township Community Center, Allegheny County. 12:30 to 2:00.

**September 11--** PA Resources Council. Backyard Composting Workshop. Phipps Garden Center in Mellon Park, Allegheny County. 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**September 12--** NEW. DEP Sewage Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:30. DEP Contact: Janice Vollero, 717-772-5157, jvollero@pa.gov.

**September 12--** DCNR Public Meeting On Forest District Plans: Tiadaghton State Forest District, Wheeland Center, 1201 Locust St., Jersey Shore, Lycoming County. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. *Click Here for more.*

**September 13--** Delaware River Basin Commission Meeting. RiverWinds Community Center, 1000 RiverWinds Drive, Thorofare, New Jersey. 10:30. *(formal notice)*

**September 13--** PA Resources Council. Backyard Composting Workshop. Sewickley Public Library, Allegheny County. 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**September 16--** Harrisburg Area Bicycle Club. Three Creek Century Ride To Benefit American Cancer Society. Starting at Penn Township Fire Department, 1750 Pine Road, Newville, Cumberland County.

**September 17--** PA Resources Council. Backyard Composting Workshop. Mt. Lebanon Public Library, Allegheny County. 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

**September 17-19--** 11th Eastern Native Grass Symposium. Erie Bayfront Convention Center.

**September 18--** Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee holds a hearing on Senate Bill 1131 (Costa-D-Allegheny) establishing the Landslide Insurance and Assistance Program (sponsor summary). Millvale Community Center, 416 Lincoln Avenue, Pittsburgh. 10:00.

**September 18--** Environmental Quality Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00. DEP Contact: Laura Edinger, 717-772-3277, ledinger@pa.gov. *(formal notice)*

**September 18--** DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Neil Bakshi, DEP Policy Office, nebakshi@pa.gov.

**September 18--** Public Utility Commission Transource Transmission Line Proposal Franklin County. New Franklin Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall, 3444 Wayne Road, Chambersburg. 1:00 and 6:00.

**September 18-19--** PA Association Of State Floodplain Managers Annual Conference. Central Hotel & Conference Center, Harrisburg.

**September 18-20--** Mid-Atlantic Chapter International Erosion Control Association. 25th Annual Conference, Workshop and Trade Show. Radisson Hotel, Camp Hill, Cumberland County.

**September 19-** DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30. DEP Contact: Diane Wilson, 717-787-3730, diawilson@pa.gov. *(formal notice)*

**September 19--** PA Resources Council. Backyard Composting Workshop. South Park Home Economics Building, Allegheny County. 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**September 20--** DEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee & Recycling Funding Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Laura Henry 717-772-5713 or send email to: lahenry@pa.gov.

**September 20--** Public Utility Commission Transource Transmission Line Proposal York County. Airville Volunteer Fire Department, 3576 Delta Road, Airville. 1:00 and 6:00.

**September 22--** Joint meeting of DEP Recycling Fund Advisory Committee and Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Laura Henry, 717-772-5713, lahenry@pa.gov.

**September 22--** PA Resources Council. Backyard Composting Workshop. Castle Shannon Library, Allegheny County. 10:30 to Noon.

**September 22--** PA Resources Council. Household Chemical Collection Event. South Park, Allegheny County. 9:00 to 1:00.

**September 23--** Audubon Society of Western PA. Backyard Habitat Trees and Shrubs, Supporting Wildlife In Winter Workshop. Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh. 10:00.

**September 25--** PA Resources Council. Recycling Awareness Workshop. Mt. Lebanon Public Library, Allegheny County. 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**September 25-26--** Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed. 2018 Delaware River Watershed Forum. Cape May, NJ.

**September 26--** DCNR Public Meeting On Forest District Plans: William Penn Forest District [ LTBD ] Southeast PA. *Click Here for more.*

**September 28--** DEP Low-Level Waste Advisory Committee meeting Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Rich Janati, 717-787-2147, rjanati@pa.gov.

**September 28--** NEW. Brodhead Watershed Association. Members & Friends Celebration, Awards Dinner. Camelback Resort's Aquatopia in Tannersville, Monroe County.

**September 29--** PA Resources Council. Backyard Composting Workshop. Construction Junction, Point Breeze, Allegheny County. 11:00 to 12:30.

**October 1-3--** Engineers' Society of Western PA. PA Brownfield Conference. Sands Bethlehem Casino, Bethlehem.

**October 3--** PA Chamber Fall Regional Environmental Conference In Harrisburg.

**October 6--** PA Resources Council. Hard-To-Recycle Collection Event. Settlers Cabin Park, Robinson Township, Allegheny County. 9:00 to 1:00.

**October 5--** PA Resources Council. Backyard Composting Workshop. Blueberry Hill Park, Franklin Park, Allegheny County. 10:30 to Noon.

**October 10--** DEP Technical Advisory Committee On Diesel Powered (Mining) Equipment. DEP New Stanton Office, 131 Broadview Road, New Stanton. 10:00. DEP Contact: Peggy Scheloski, 724-404-3143 or mscheloske@pa.gov.

**October 13--** PA Resources Council. Vermicomposting Workshop. Ross Township Community Center, Allegheny County. 12:30 to 2:00.

**October 13--** PA Resources Council. Household Chemical Collection Event. Bradys Run Park, Beaver County. 9:00 to 1:00.

**October 16--** NEW. Environmental Quality Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00. DEP Contact: Laura Edinger, 717-772-3277, ledinger@pa.gov. *(formal notice)*

**October 16--** NEW. DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Neil Bakshi, DEP Policy Office, nebakshi@pa.gov.

**October 17--** NEW. DEP State Board For Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators meeting. 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Edgar Chescattle, echescattie@pa.gov.

**October 17--** DCNR Public Meeting On Forest District Plans: Buchanan State Forest District, District Office, 25185 Great Cove Road, McConnellsburg, Fulton County. 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. *Click Here for more.*

**October 17--** PA Chamber Fall Regional Environmental Conference In Mars, Butler County.

**October 17-21--** Passive House Western PA. North American Passive House Network 2018 Conference. David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh.

**October 18--** CANCELED. DEP Radiation Protection Advisory Committee meeting rescheduled to November 15. DEP Contact: Joseph Melnic 717-783-9730 or send email to: jmelnic@pa.gov. *(formal notice)*

**October 18--** DEP Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center Board meeting. DEP Southcentral Regional Office, Susquehanna Room, 909 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg. 9:00. DEP Contact: Dawn Hissner 717-787-9633 or send email to dhissner@pa.gov. *(formal notice)*

**October 18--** PA State Assn. Of Township Supervisors. PA Stormwater Conference [Western]. Butler County.

**October 18--** PA Resources Council. Recycling Awareness Workshop. Sewickley Public Library, Allegheny County. 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**October 20--** NEW. Eastern PA Coalition For Abandoned Mine Reclamation. Fall Cleanup In Centralia, Columbia County.

**October 23--** NEW. DEP Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: John Krueger, 717-783-9264, jkrueger@pa.gov. *(formal notice)*

**October 24--** NEW. DEP Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Nancy Herb, 717-783-9269, nherb@pa.gov.

**October 24--** DCNR Public Meeting On Forest District Plans: Clear Creek State Forest District [LTBD ] Clarion, Forest, Jefferson, Mercer, Venango counties. *Click Here for more.*

**October 24-25--** Penn State Extension: Biochar & Torrefied Biomass Short Course. Penn State University Agricultural Engineering Building, Shortlidge Road, University Park.

**October 30--** PA Chamber Fall Regional Environmental Conference In King of Prussia.

**October 30-31--** Northeast Recycling Council Fall Conference. Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

**October 31--** NEW. DEP State Board for Certification of Sewage Enforcement Officers meeting. Conference Room 11B, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Kristen Szwajkowski, 717-772-2186, kszwajkows@pa.gov.

**November 1-2--** PA Water And Wastewater Technology Summit. Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College.

**November 3--** PA Resources Council. Vermicomposting Workshop. Construction Junction, Point Breeze, Allegheny County. 11:00 to 12:30.

**November 6--** PA Resources Council. Vermicomposting Workshop. North Park Rose Barn, Allegheny County. 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**November 7--** NEW. DEP Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Todd Wallace, 717-783-9438, twallace@pa.gov.

**November 8--** DCNR Public Meeting On Forest District Plans: Rothrock State Forest District, Shaver's Creek CFD Community Building, 8707 Firemans Park Ln, Petersburg, Huntingdon County. 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. *Click Here for more.*

**November 8--** DCNR Public Meeting On Forest District Plans: Weiser State Forest District, District Office, 16 Weiser Lane, Aristes, Columbia County. 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. *Click Here for more.*

**November 14--** PA Resources Council. Vermicomposting Workshop. South Park Buffalo Inn, Allegheny County. 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**November 15--** DEP Radiation Protection Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson. 9:00. DEP Contact: Joseph Melnic 717-783-9730 or send email to: jmelnic@pa.gov. *(formal notice)*

**November 16--** PA State Assn. Of township Supervisors. PA Stormwater Conference [Eastern]. Montgomery County.

**December 5--** NEW. DEP Storage Tank Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Kris Shiffer 717-772-5809 or send email to: kshiffer@pa.gov. *(formal notice)*

## Related Tools ----------

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

Click Here for links to DEP's Advisory Committee webpages.

Visit DEP Connects for opportunities to interact with DEP staff at field offices.

Click Here to sign up for DEP News a biweekly newsletter from the Department.

DEP Facebook Page  DEP Twitter Feed  DEP YouTube Channel

DEP Calendar of Events  DCNR Calendar of Events

Senate Committee Schedule  House Committee Schedule

You can watch the Senate Floor Session and House Floor Session live online.

## Grants & Awards

This section gives you a heads up on upcoming deadlines for awards and grants and other recognition programs. NEW means new from last week.

**August 20--** Foundation For PA Watersheds Grant Letters Of Intent
**August 29--** NEW. Allegheny Health Dept. Air Pollution Education Project Grants
**August 31--** Forests For The Bay Chesapeake Forest Champion Contest
**August 31--** OSMRE Not-For-Profit Acid Mine Drainage Watershed Grants
**August 31--** Partnership For Delaware Estuary Schuylkill Shots Photo Contest
**September 3--** American Chestnut Foundation Photo Contest
**September 5--** PA Parks & Forests Foundation Photo Contest
**September 7--** DCNR, PASA Recipes For Streams. Trees. Food. Conservation Cookbook
**September 15--** CFA Alternative & Clean Energy Funding
**September 15--** CFA Renewable Energy-Geothermal & Wind Funding
**September 15--** CFA Solar Energy Funding
**September 15--** CFA High Performance Building Funding
**September 27--** NFWF Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund
**September 28--** DCNR Multifunctional Riparian Forest Buffer Grants
**September 28--** DEP Calendar 2017 Recycling Performance Grants
**September 29--** Sinnemahoning Watershed Restoration Grants
**September 30--** Fish & Boat Commission Clean Vessel Act Grants
**September 30--** Duquesne Light, Nissan Electric Vehicle Rebate
**September 30--** Project Learning Tree Environmental Ed Grants
**September 30--** PPL Foundation STEM Educator Grants
**October 1--** DEP Small Business Advantage Grants-Water Quality Projects *(first-come)*

**October 15--** DEP Coastal Zone Grants
**October 31--** PA Resources Council Gene Capaldi Lens On Litter Photo Contest
**October 31--** Axalta, Philadelphia Eagles All-Pro Teachers Program
**December 1--** USDA Rural Community Water Infrastructure Funding (Rolling Deadline)
**December 14--** DEP Alternative Fuels Incentive Grants
**December 15--** Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grants
**December 31--** DEP County Act 101 Waste Planning, HHW, Education Grants

-- Visit the DEP Grant, Loan and Rebate Programs webpage for more ideas on how to get financial assistance for environmental projects.

-- Visit the DCNR Apply for Grants webpage for a listing of financial assistance available from DCNR.

## Regulations, Technical Guidance & Permits

Here are highlights of actions taken by agencies on environmental regulations, technical guidance and permits.

### Regulations ----------

The Environmental Quality Board published notice of final Safe Drinking Water regulation changes and fee increases in the August 18 PA Bulletin *(page 4974)*.

The Public Utility Commission formally published notice of reconsideration and clarification of certain community energy petitions under Act 40 of 2017 in the August 18 PA Bulletin *(page 5098)*.

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### Technical Guidance ----------

No new technical guidance was published this week.

### Permits ----------

**Note:** The Department of Environmental Protection published 55 pages of public notices related to proposed and final permit and approval/ disapproval actions in the August 18 PA Bulletin - pages 5035 to 5090.

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission published notice in the August 18 PA Bulletin of actions taken at its June meeting and notice of consumptive uses of water approved, minor modifications approved and consumptive water uses rescinded in June.

## Related Tools ----------

**Sign Up For DEP's eNotice:** Did you know DEP can send you email notices of permit applications submitted in your community? Notice of new technical guidance documents and regulations? All through its eNotice system. Click Here to sign up.

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

**DEP Proposals Out For Public Review**
Other Proposals Open For Public Comment - DEP webpage
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
August 4, 2018 DEP Regulatory Agenda - PA Bulletin, Page 4733

**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 (July 2018)- DEP webpage

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CLICK HERE to View or Print the entire PA Environment Digest. This Digest is 59 pages long.

## Stories Invited

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.

## About PA Environment Digest

**PA Environment Digest** is edited by David E. Hess, former Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. He can be contacted by sending email to:

PaEnviroDigest@gmail.com.

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

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

Also take advantage of these related publications--

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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.

PA Capitol Digest Daily Blog to get updates every day on Pennsylvania State Government, including NewsClips, coverage of key press conferences and more. 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.

PA Capitol Digest Twitter Feed: Don't forget to sign up to receive the **PA Capitol Digest Twitter** feed to get instant updates on other news from in and around the Pennsylvania State Capitol.

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