PA Environment Digest

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

Issue #980 Harrisburg, PA May 1, 2023

PA Environment Digest Blog Twitter Feed Facebook Page

Calendar Of Events Grants & Awards

LATEST NewsClips

92 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA



Here are 92 new stories in the ***PA Environment Digest*** about individuals, groups, local governments, farmers, businesses, watershed groups and many more working all across Pennsylvania to restore and protect the environment and show others the beauty that surrounds

us.

Thank you for your leadership!

-- DEP, DCNR, Guests Honored Franklin Kury, Author Of PA Environmental Rights Amendment, With Dedication In Rachel Carson Building [PaEN]

-- Dickinson College To Recognize Environmental & Indigenous Rights Advocate Tara Houska With Rose-Walters Prize For Environmental Activism [PaEN]

-- County Conservation District Week Observed April 23-29 [PaEN]

-- Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Plans To Plant 500,000 More Trees Across PA During 2023 [PaEN]

-- Coldwater Heritage Partnership Awards 11 Grants Totaling $120,000 [PaEN]

-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: Organizers Of Little Conestoga Creek Blue/Green Corridor Restoration Envision It As Model For Clean Water Projects

-- CBF Blog: Student In CBF's Student Leadership Program Worked To Rename Stream After Kitty Payne, An Emancipated Slave Who Lived Near Biglerville, Adams County - By B.J. Small, Chesapeake Bay Foundation [PaEN]

-- Western PA Conservancy To Hold Public Meetings, Invites Public Suggestions On Future Use, Improvements To Juniata River Watershed [PaEN]

-- Protecting Clean Water Together Series: Community Solar Saves Water - Keeps it Clean - Saves Money, Too! - By Carol Hillestad for Brodhead Watershed Association, Monroe County [PaEN]

-- CleanScapes: Volunteers Needed For Cleanups In Clinton County, Northcentral PA Starting April 29

-- WTAJ: ClearWater Conservancy Celebrates Earth Day With Annual Watershed Cleanup Day In Centre County

-- Julia Krall Named PA Executive Director Of Chesapeake Bay Foundation [PaEN]

-- TribLive: Monroeville Conservation Project Among Allegheny Land Trust's 30th Anniversary Efforts

-- Republican Herald Editorial: Implement Reforms For Natural Gas Drilling, Fracking [PaEN]

-- EDF: Pennsylvania Has 55,000 Oil/Gas Wells At High Risk Of Being Abandoned; 51,000 Wells At Risk Of Being Transferred To Low Solvency Owners; Current Conventional Well

Owners Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average [PaEN]

-- House Hearing: Let's Work Together To Make Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Practices Cleaner, Respect Property Rights, Protect Taxpayers And Prevent New Abandoned Wells [PaEN]

-- Guest Essay: Conventional vs Unconventional Oil & Gas Wells - Not As Different As You Might Think - By Laurie Barr, Save Our Streams PA [PaEN]

-- Bradford Era/The Center Square: Committee Warned Of Lurking Taxpayer Cost For Plugging Conventional Oil/Gas Wells

-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: House Committee Warned Of Lurking Taxpayer Cost For Plugging Conventional Oil & Gas Wells

-- House Committee Meets May 2 On Bill To Restore Authority To Review Conventional Oil/Gas Well Plugging Bonding Amounts; Help Prevent Routine Abandonment Of An Average Of 561 Wells A Year [PaEN]

-- Citizen Complaint Results In Finding 2 Abandoned Conventional Wells Owned By Prosperity Oil Co. Continuing To Vent Natural Gas In Washington County [PaEN]

-- Chesapeake Appalachia: DEP Inspections Find Violations For Spills, Releases, Continuing Defective Casing/Cementing At Shale Gas Well Pads In Bradford, Susquehanna Counties [PaEN]

-- DEP Tentatively Sets May 18 Online Public Conference On Proposed Roulette Oil & Gas Waste Injection Well In Clara Twp., Potter County; Opponents Again Call For Robust Public Participation Process [PaEN]

-- Delaware River Basin Commission Clarifies New Regulations On Oil/Gas Fracking Wastewater Ban Road Spreading, Disposal From Conventional Wells [PaEN]

-- Eyes On Shell Reports Shell Petrochemical Plant Fenceline Monitors Found Benzene Emissions Above Toxic Substances Limits; No Timeline For Restarting Plant; DEP Issued Another NOV For Air Violations [PaEN]

-- Beaver County Times Guest Essay: Community Matters: Shell Petrochemical Plant's Claim To Be A Good Neighbor Is Insulting To Beaver County Residents - By Daniel Rossi-Keen, Ph.D, RiverWise

-- WITF: Victims Of Berks County Chocolate Plant Natural Gas Explosion Seek Accountability

-- NRDC: U.S. Dept. Of Transportation Denies Special Permit For Shipping LNG Natural Gas By Rail From A Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant [PaEN]

-- Fox News: Federal PHMSA Decides Not To Grant Permit For Transporting LNG Natural Gas From A Proposed Wyalusing, Bradford County Plant Via Railroad

-- The Guardian: US DOT Denies 'Bomb Train' Permit To Ship LNG Gas Through Populated Areas In Pennsylvania

-- WHYY: Controversial Plan To Ship LNG Natural Gas By Rail From Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant Hits Another Roadblock

-- Utility Dive: State Regulators - Including PA - Urge PJM To Speed Interconnection For New Generation In Face Of Power Plant Retirements

-- House Environmental Committee Sets May 1 Hearing On Cryptocurrency And Climate Change; Background Brief [PaEN]

-- The Allegheny Front/WPSU: Violation At PA Natural Gas Drilling Site Raises Questions About Lack Of Cryptocurrency Regulation

-- Register Now! 9th Annual Renewables Summit Set For May 22-23 Harrisburg [PaEN]

-- UnionProgress.com: PA Turnpike Adding Solar Panels To New Stanton Office As Part Of Sustainability Effort

-- PennLive - Jan Murphy: Bill Would Replicate Steelton-Highspire Schools' Solar Energy Facility Across PA

-- EPA Names 2023 Top Cities For ENERGY STAR Certified Buildings, Including Philadelphia

-- MCall: Carbon Farming - What A Green Future Could Look Like For The Lehigh Valley

-- WHYY: My Climate Story: Philadelphia Students Present Environmental Problems And Solutions At WHYY

-- York Daily Record Guest Essay: Pennsylvania Must Join The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - By Rev. Michell C. Hescox, Evangelical Environmental Network

-- LancasterOnline Editorial: As Lancaster Climate Summit Demonstrated, We Still Have Chance To Save Our Planet

-- Scranton Times Editorial: Gov. Shapiro's Climate Panel Should Be Open

-- Group Against Smog & Pollution: Who Pays For Air Quality Regulatory Program In Allegheny County? Health Dept. Proposes Changes In Funding

-- DelcoTimes.com: Chester Residents, Activists Again March On Covanta Waste-To-Energy Facility

-- Inquirer Guest Essay: On 75th Anniversary Of Donora Smog Disaster, PA's Air Quality Is Still Terrible

-- Wilkes-Barre Times: EPA Announces Nationwide Funding For Electric School Buses In Nanticoke

-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Electric Shuttle Buses, EV Charging Infrastructure Bound For Pittsburgh Airport

-- Reimagine Appalachia: New Report Outlines Job Impacts Of Green Locomotives From The Wabtec Manufacturing Facility In Erie [PaEN]

-- DEP Posts Soil, Water Sampling Results Related To Monitoring PA For Impacts From Norfolk Southern Train Derailment [PaEN]

-- Inquirer: Hershey's Chocolate Comes Full Circle On PA Dairy Farm, The Cows Love It

-- TribLive: Mountain Climbers Rappel Down Mount Washington In Pittsburgh To Cleanup Litter

-- Post-Gazette: 'This Is Amazing,': Dozens Rappel Off Mount Washington For Annual Litter Clean Up

-- Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority Collects Over 73,000 Pounds Of Household Hazardous Waste At Collection Event April 28-29 [PaEN]

-- PA Resources Council: Registration Open For Weekday Electronics Waste Collection Events In Allegheny County During May [PaEN]

-- PA Resources Council Hosts 2 Household Chemical Collection Events In Allegheny, Cambria County During May [PaEN]

-- PA Resources Council Sets May Schedule For Traveling Glass Recycling Bin Program In Allegheny County [PaEN]

-- Republican Herald: 685 Pounds Of Prescription Drugs Collected During Take Back Day In Schuylkill County

-- Inquirer - Frank Kummer: Philly's Ban Has Prevented 200 Million Plastic Bags From Being Used

-- WHYY: Study Finds Philly's Plastic Bag Ban Is Working

-- WHYY: Cheltenham Twp. Passes Ban On Single-Use Plastic Bags; 16th Municipality In PA To Pass A Ban

-- TribLive: Aspinwall Cleans Up Through 'Green Streets' Program

-- TribLive: Leechburg Recycling Center Volunteers Carry Heavy Burden

-- Beaver County Times: Earth Day Celebrated At Sisters Of St. Joseph

-- Altoona Mirror: Putting Earth First: Portage Students Turn Out For Reboot Of School's Annual Earth Day Cleanup

-- Republican Herald: Schuylkill Haven Area Students Release Fingerling Trout, Enjoy Outdoor Fun At County Fairgrounds [Trout In The Classroom]

-- Post-Gazette: Shaler Students 'Love The Earth' And Show It In A New Book

-- Williamsport Sun: Lycoming College Students, Service Organizations Clean Up For Earth Day

-- Land Health Institute Accepting Applications For Philadelphia Program For Future Environmental Scientists And Stewards (ProFESS), May 15 Deadline

-- Asbury Woods Environmental Center In Erie Leads City Nature Challenge, 4-Day Bioblitz April 28 - May 1 [PaEN]

-- WHYY/BillyPenn: Bees Are Busy At Philly's Libraries, Making Honey Used For Education And Fun

-- Archinect News: PHMC Receives Grant To Start Process Of Renovating The Learning Center At The Eckley Miners' Village Museum In Carbon County

-- Guest Essay: DCNR's Conservation And Stewardship Of State's Natural Resources Is Vital To Pennsylvania's Booming Outdoor Recreation Industry - By **Cindy Adams Dunn**, Acting Secretary of DCNR, and **John Norbeck** Deputy Secretary for Parks & Forestry [PaEN]

-- NextPittsburgh: Altoona Is Boosting Its Economy With Outdoor Recreation

-- Scranton Times: Lackawanna River Conservation Assn. Launches Ambitious 15-Year North Scranton Riverfront Project

-- DCNR Highlights Importance Of Trees In Communities On National Arbor Day At Cumberland County Event [PaEN]

-- Republican Herald: Arbor Day Celebrated In Pottsville, Schuylkill Haven

-- Citizens Voice Blog: Celebrate Arbor Day In Pennsylvania

-- Warren Times: Allegheny National Forest Centennial, Tree City USA Celebrated

-- UnionProgress.com: New Designation Celebrates 8 Of Pittsburgh's 'Remarkable Trees'

-- WHYY: Philly's Commercial Corridors Are Blooming With Greenery Thanks To 117 New Trees

-- Centre Daily Times: Firefighters Who Battled Wildfire In Philipsburg Area Receive 'Overwhelming' Community Support

-- PennLive - Jan Murphy: Bill Establishes Protocol For Removal Of Ticks From Students In School

-- YourErie.com: French Creek Watershed Could Soon Become A National Wildlife Refuge

-- Fish & Boat Commission Board Awards Boating Facility, Erie Access Improvement Grants, Moves To Protect Wild Trout Populations

-- Reading Eagle: 1,300+ Feet Of Blue Marsh Lake Shoreline Restored, Fish Habitat Added

-- Williamsport Sun - Lycoming Audubon: A Look At Bringing Peregrine Falcons Back To PA After DDT Effects

-- LancasterOnline - Ad Crable: Will New, Glass-Sided Skyscraper In Lancaster Kill Migrating Birds? Here's What's Being Considered

-- Warren Times: Hellbender Makes Appearance At Cornplanter Council Trout Unlimited, Brokenstraw Fish & Game Club Spring Conservation Show

-- Penn State Extension: June 13 Webinar On Wildlife Adaptations - How Wildlife Endures Extreme Weather, Limited Resources, Predators To Stay Alive [PaEN]

-- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary: Registration Open For Unique Appalachian Ecology Course For Teens - June 16-26, Deadline May 14

-- Altoona Mirror: Area Bat Population Slowly But Steadily Rebounding [Lincoln Caverns, Frank Felbaum Bat Sanctuary]

-- TribLive: Western PA Scientists Research Evolutionary Path Of Ancient Mammal Ancestors: Eating Plants And Blinking

Visit the PA Environment Digest website to learn more.

Going The RIGHT WAY:
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-- 25 New Stories - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership In PA
-- 3,190 New Stories In 2022 - REAL Environmental & Conservation Leadership [PaEN]
Going The WRONG WAY:
-- This Week's Examples Of Going The WRONG WAY On Environmental, Energy Issues [PaEN]
[Posted: April 30, 2023]

This Week's Examples Of Going The WRONG WAY On Environmental, Energy Issues



Below are examples of going the WRONG WAY on environmental and energy issues from last week's articles and NewsClips--

-- Bradford Era: Rep. Causer Applauds Conventional Oil/Gas Well Owner Art Stewart For Testimony On Orphan Wells
[Actually They're Confused-- Current Conventional Operators Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average; 55,000 More At High Risk Of Abandonment]

-- Eyes On Shell Reports Shell Petrochemical Plant Fenceline Monitors Found Benzene Emissions Above Toxic Substances Limits; No Timeline For Restarting Plant; DEP Issued Another NOV For Air Violations [PaEN]

-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: Shell Addresses Bad Smell, Elevated Benzene Emissions At Beaver County Chemical Plant

-- Beaver County Times: Questions Remain After Shell Air Monitors Detect Benzene At

Petrochemical Plant

-- TribLive: Operations On Hold At Shell Petrochemical Plant In Beaver County

-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Shell Apologizes For Recent Odor At Petrochemical Plant, Promises To Do Better In The Future

-- Beaver County Times: Shell To Address Flaring, Odor At Petrochemical Plant Tuesday

-- WESA: Train Derailments Could Pose A Major Risk To Southwestern PA's Rivers, Pitt Researchers Say

-- WTAE: Rail Disaster Probability Discussed In Thursday Night Town Hall In Pittsburgh

-- PennLive: 100+ People To Be Laid Off Due To Homer City Coal-fired Power Plant Closure

-- Post-Gazette: WV Electricity Customers Would See Their Bills Increase $36 Million To Keep Coal-Fired Power Plant Open

-- Pittsburgh Business Times: California Shareholder Initiative On Climate Hotly Contested By CNX

-- Pittsburgh Business Times: CNX Natural Gas Calls Shareholder Climate Proposal 'Spamlike In Nature'

-- Erie Times: Feds Charge 6 NY Residents With Stealing Thousands Of Pounds Of Cooking Oil To Go To Make Biodiesel Fuel In Erie Refinery

Want to have a positive impact on issues like this? Tell your Senate and House members they need to act to protect and restore Pennsylvania's environment and support the tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians who do-- not slide backwards.

Click Here to find your member of the state General Assembly.

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

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

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

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

CLICK HERE to View or Print the May 1 PA Environment Digest.

[Posted: April 30, 2023] PA Environment Digest

Senate/House ----------

Gov. Shapiro
-- Post-Gazette - Ford Turner: Gov. Shapiro Gets A Thumbs-Up From Both Parties For His First 100 Days
-- PennLive - Jan Murphy: 100 Days In Office, Gov. Shapiro Describes The Experience As 'Humbling'
-- Post-Gazette Editorial: Shapiro's PUC Nominee Kimberly Barrow Is Right Pick, But Faces Challenges

Budget
-- House Committee Meets May 2 On Bill To Restore Authority To Review Conventional Oil/Gas Well Plugging Bonding Amounts; Help Prevent Routine Abandonment Of An Average Of 561 Wells A Year [PaEN]
-- EDF: Pennsylvania Has 55,000 Oil/Gas Wells At High Risk Of Being Abandoned; 51,000 Wells At Risk Of Being Transferred To Low Solvency Owners; Current Conventional Well Owners Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average [PaEN]
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-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: House Committee Warned Of Lurking Taxpayer Cost For Plugging Conventional Oil & Gas Wells
-- Bradford Era: Rep. Causer Applauds Conventional Oil/Gas Well Owner Art Stewart For Testimony On Orphan Wells [Actually They're Confused-- Current Conventional Operators

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-- DEP Posts Soil, Water Sampling Results Related To Monitoring PA For Impacts From Norfolk Southern Train Derailment [PaEN]
-- TribLive: DEP Says Soil, Water Samples Remain Safe After Norfolk Southern Train Derailment
-- TribLive Editorial: DEP Must Remain Vigilant With Norfolk Southern Train Derailment Testing
-- UnionProgress.com: Third Beaver County School District Sues Norfolk Southern Over Train Derailment
-- Altoona Mirror Editorial: Altoona Keeping Close Watch On Norfolk Southern Train Derailment Issues
-- WESA/The Allegheny Front - Reid Frazier: Incinerated Waste From Norfolk Southern Train Derailment Raises Concerns In Ohio Town
-- WESA: Could New Rail Safety Rules Prevent The Next Norfolk Southern Train Derailment? More Sensors Could Be Key, Experts Say
-- AP: Railroads Warned About Problems Long Trains Can Cause
-- WSJ: Norfolk Southern Says Ohio Train Derailment Has Cost $387 Million, Not Including Cost Recovery From Insurance

Environment/Energy Issues
-- DEP, DCNR, Guests Honored Franklin Kury, Author Of PA Environmental Rights Amendment, With Dedication In Rachel Carson Building [PaEN]
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-- Washington Examiner Guest Essay: EPA Slowing Down Process For Approving Waste Injection Wells
-- Sen. Yaw To Introduce Bill To Remove 'Protection' From The Name Of The Department Of Environmental Protection [PaEN]
-- Bloomberg: Climate Activists Urge US Officials To Drop The 'Natural' In Natural Gas - Fossil Gas One Alternative
-- Senate Environmental Committee Holds May 1 Hearing On Electric Grid Reliability Looking At Natural Gas, Other Generation Failures During Winter Storm Elliot In December [PaEN]
-- Marcellus Shale Coalition: Pro-Natural Gas Policies Necessary To Unlock Economic Growth, Environmental Gains In Northeast PA
-- DEP: New Webpage Outlines Plan To Streamline Permit Process Without Sacrificing Thorough Reviews, Public Participation
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: Natural Gas Prices Are Down, But The Industry's Spirits Are High
-- NRDC: U.S. Dept. Of Transportation Denies Special Permit For Shipping LNG Natural Gas By Rail From A Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant [PaEN]
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-- PennLive - Jan Murphy: Bill Establishes Protocol For Removal Of Ticks From Students In School
-- Scranton Times: What To Know About Tick, Lyme Disease Season Following A Mild Winter
-- WSJ: US Wants A Rare Earths Supply Chain, Why It Won't Come Easily [PA Cong. Reschenthaler Bill]

Top 10 Headlines From Harrisburg Last Week ----------

Because In Politics Everything Is Connected To Everything Else--

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

Articles & NewsClips By Topic ----------

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

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

-- This Week's Examples Of Going The WRONG WAY On Environmental, Energy Issues [PaEN]

Check Calendars For Events Near You!
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Air
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-- Utility Dive: State Regulators - Including PA - Urge PJM To Speed Interconnection For New Generation In Face Of Power Plant Retirements
-- WPost: New York Set To Pass First Statewide Ban On New Natural Gas Hookups In Residential, Commercial Buildings
-- Bloomberg: Oregon City Banned Natural Gas, The Gas Company Fought Back With $1 Million Counterattack
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Electric Shuttle Buses, EV Charging Infrastructure Bound For Pittsburgh Airport
-- EPA Announces $400 Million Grant Program To Fund Clean School Buses
-- Wilkes-Barre Times: EPA Announces Nationwide Funding For Electric School Buses In Nanticoke

Allegheny National Forest
-- Warren Times: Allegheny National Forest Centennial, Tree City USA Celebrated

Alternative Fuels
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-- Erie Times: Feds Charge 6 NY Residents With Stealing Thousands Of Pounds Of Cooking Oil To Go To Make Biodiesel Fuel In Erie Refinery
-- WSJ: US Wants A Rare Earths Supply Chain, Why It Won't Come Easily [PA Cong. Reschenthaler Bill]
-- WPost: On Frontier Of New 'Gold Rush,' Quest For Coveted EV Metals Yields Misery

Awards & Recognition
-- DEP, DCNR, Guests Honored Franklin Kury, Author Of PA Environmental Rights Amendment, With Dedication In Rachel Carson Building [PaEN]
-- Dickinson College To Recognize Environmental & Indigenous Rights Advocate Tara Houska With Rose-Walters Prize For Environmental Activism [PaEN]
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-- Republican Herald: Arbor Day Celebrated In Pottsville, Schuylkill Haven
-- Citizens Voice Blog: Celebrate Arbor Day In Pennsylvania
-- Warren Times: Allegheny National Forest Centennial, Tree City USA Celebrated
-- UnionProgress.com: New Designation Celebrates 8 Of Pittsburgh's 'Remarkable Trees'
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-- Scranton Times: Lackawanna River Conservation Assn. Launches Ambitious 15-Year North Scranton Riverfront Project
-- YourErie.com: French Creek Watershed Could Soon Become A National Wildlife Refuge
-- Warren Times: Time To Register For 65th Allegany Nature Pilgrimage June 2-4
-- EPA Names 2023 Top Cities For ENERGY STAR Certified Buildings, Including Philadelphia

Biodiversity/Invasive Species
-- Williamsport Sun - Lycoming Audubon: A Look At Bringing Peregrine Falcons Back To PA After DDT Effects
-- Warren Times: Hellbender Makes Appearance At Cornplanter Council Trout Unlimited, Brokenstraw Fish & Game Club Spring Conservation Show
-- YourErie.com: French Creek Watershed Could Soon Become A National Wildlife Refuge

-- Altoona Mirror: Area Bat Population Slowly But Steadily Rebounding [Lincoln Caverns, Frank Felbaum Bat Sanctuary]
-- KYW: Spotted Lanternflies Return To Delaware Valley
-- Public Opinion: Goats Will Do Yardwork In Chambersburg
-- Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy Native Plant Sale April 24 - May 5, Montgomery County
-- WESA: Find Seedlings, Local Growing Tips At One Of Penn State Extension's Many Plant Sales
-- Centre Daily Times: Central PA Native Plant Festival Coming Next Month To New Location
-- Penn State College Of Agricultural Sciences: May 17 Webinar On The Latest Buzz On Beekeeping & Pollinators. 1:00 p.m.
-- Nature At Risk Series: Why Backyard Pollinators Are All The Buzz - By Carol Hillestad for Brodhead Watershed Association, Monroe County [PaEN]
-- WHYY/BillyPenn: Bees Are Busy At Philly's Libraries, Making Honey Used For Education And Fun

Budget
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-- DelcoTimes.com: Chester Residents, Activists Again March On Covanta Waste-To-Energy Facility
-- CleanScapes: Volunteers Needed For Cleanups In Clinton County, Northcentral PA Starting April 29
-- Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority Collects Over 73,000 Pounds Of Household Hazardous Waste At Collection Event April 28-29 [PaEN]
-- TribLive: Mountain Climbers Rappel Down Mount Washington In Pittsburgh To Cleanup Litter
-- Post-Gazette: 'This Is Amazing,': Dozens Rappel Off Mount Washington For Annual Litter Clean Up
-- Republican Herald: 685 Pounds Of Prescription Drugs Collected During Take Back Day In Schuylkill County
-- Inquirer - Frank Kummer: Philly's Ban Has Prevented 200 Million Plastic Bags From Being Used
-- WHYY: Study Finds Philly's Plastic Bag Ban Is Working
-- WHYY: Cheltenham Twp. Passes Ban On Single-Use Plastic Bags; 16th Municipality In PA To Pass A Ban
-- PA Resources Council: Registration Open For Weekday Electronics Waste Collection Events In Allegheny County During May [PaEN]
-- PA Resources Council Hosts 2 Household Chemical Collection Events In Allegheny, Cambria County During May [PaEN]

-- PA Resources Council Sets May Schedule For Traveling Glass Recycling Bin Program In Allegheny County [PaEN]
-- TribLive: Aspinwall Cleans Up Through 'Green Streets' Program
-- TribLive: Leechburg Recycling Center Volunteers Carry Heavy Burden
-- Beaver County Times: Earth Day Celebrated At Sisters Of St. Joseph
-- Reading Eagle: 1,300+ Feet Of Blue Marsh Lake Shoreline Restored, Fish Habitat Added
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-- Scranton Times Editorial: Gov. Shapiro's Climate Panel Should Be Open
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: California Shareholder Initiative On Climate Hotly Contested By

CNX
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: CNX Natural Gas Calls Shareholder Climate Proposal 'Spamlike In Nature'
-- UnionProgress.com: PA Turnpike Adding Solar Panels To New Stanton Office As Part Of Sustainability Effort
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-- EPA Announces $400 Million Grant Program To Fund Clean School Buses
-- WPost: New York Set To Pass First Statewide Ban On New Natural Gas Hookups In Residential, Commercial Buildings
-- Bloomberg: Oregon City Banned Natural Gas, The Gas Company Fought Back With $1 Million Counterattack
-- Utility Dive: State Regulators - Including PA - Urge PJM To Speed Interconnection For New Generation In Face Of Power Plant Retirements
-- EPA Releases Report Showing Health Impacts Of Climate Change On Children In US
-- Bloomberg: How The World Is Spending $1.1 Trillion On Climate Technology
-- The Guardian: 'Like A Dam Breaking:' Experts Hail Decision To Let US Climate Lawsuits Advance
-- Inside Climate News: U.S. Supreme Court Declines To Hear Appeals From Fossil Fuel Companies In Local Climate Change Lawsuits
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Coal Mining
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-- PennLive: 100+ People To Be Laid Off Due To Homer City Coal-fired Power Plant Closure
-- Post-Gazette: WV Electricity Customers Would See Their Bills Increase $36 Million To Keep Coal-Fired Power Plant Open
-- Archinect News: PHMC Receives Grant To Start Process Of Renovating The Learning Center At The Eckley Miners' Village Museum In Carbon County

Compliance Action
-- Sen. Yaw To Introduce Bill To Remove 'Protection' From The Name Of The Department Of Environmental Protection [PaEN]
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-- Help Wanted: Armstrong Conservation District - Resource Conservationist [PaEN]

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-- DEP Posts 61 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In April 29 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

Delaware River
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Clarifies New Regulations On Oil/Gas Fracking Wastewater Ban Road Spreading, Disposal From Conventional Wells [PaEN]
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Hearing May 10 On Water Withdrawal Requests, June 7 Business Meeting [PaEN]
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Completes Water Storage Study To Support Resilience Planning; 12 Of 14 Final Projects In PA [PaEN]

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Earth Day
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-- Post-Gazette: Shaler Students 'Love The Earth' And Show It In A New Book
-- Beaver County Times: Earth Day Celebrated At Sisters Of St. Joseph
-- Williamsport Sun: Lycoming College Students, Service Organizations Clean Up For Earth Day
-- WTAJ: ClearWater Conservancy Celebrates Earth Day With Annual Watershed Cleanup Day In Centre County

Economic Development
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-- Beaver County Times: Shell To Address Flaring, Odor At Petrochemical Plant Tuesday
-- NRDC: U.S. Dept. Of Transportation Denies Special Permit For Shipping LNG Natural Gas By Rail From A Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant [PaEN]
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Areas In Pennsylvania
-- WHYY: Controversial Plan To Ship LNG Natural Gas By Rail From Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant Hits Another Roadblock
-- Marcellus Shale Coalition: Pro-Natural Gas Policies Necessary To Unlock Economic Growth, Environmental Gains In Northeast PA
-- Reimagine Appalachia: New Report Outlines Job Impacts Of Green Locomotives From The Wabtec Manufacturing Facility In Erie [PaEN]
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-- MCall: Carbon Farming - What A Green Future Could Look Like For The Lehigh Valley
-- NextPittsburgh: Altoona Is Boosting Its Economy With Outdoor Recreation
-- Post-Gazette Editorial: PA Youth Service Corps For Cleaning Up Environment Deserves Bipartisan Support
-- WSJ: US Wants A Rare Earths Supply Chain, Why It Won't Come Easily [PA Cong. Reschenthaler Bill]
-- Bloomberg: How The World Is Spending $1.1 Trillion On Climate Technology

Education
-- DEP, DCNR, Guests Honored Franklin Kury, Author Of PA Environmental Rights Amendment, With Dedication In Rachel Carson Building [PaEN]
-- Dickinson College To Recognize Environmental & Indigenous Rights Advocate Tara Houska With Rose-Walters Prize For Environmental Activism [PaEN]
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-- House Environmental Committee Reports Out Bipartisan Bills On School Solar Energy Grants For Rereferral, Local Notice Of Toxics Violations [PaEN]
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-- LancasterOnline Editorial: As Lancaster Climate Summit Demonstrated, We Still Have Chance To Save Our Planet
-- Scranton Times Editorial: Gov. Shapiro's Climate Panel Should Be Open
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-- TribLive: Monroeville Conservation Project Among Allegheny Land Trust's 30th Anniversary Efforts
-- Scranton Times: Lackawanna River Conservation Assn. Launches Ambitious 15-Year North Scranton Riverfront Project
-- Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Plans To Plant 500,000 More Trees Across PA During 2023 [PaEN]
-- DCNR Highlights Importance Of Trees In Communities On National Arbor Day At Cumberland County Event [PaEN]
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-- Bedford Gazette: Juniata Watershed Meetings Planned In May
-- Inquirer: Hershey's Chocolate Comes Full Circle On PA Dairy Farm, The Cows Love It
-- Penn State Extension Watersheds: How Land Use Impacts Groundwater [PaEN]
-- Republican Herald: Christmas Tree Farm In Schuylkill County Taking Part In International Research
-- Help Wanted: Armstrong Conservation District - Resource Conservationist [PaEN]
-- Asbury Woods Environmental Center In Erie Leads City Nature Challenge, 4-Day Bioblitz April 28 - May 1 [PaEN]

-- Altoona Mirror: Putting Earth First: Portage Students Turn Out For Reboot Of School's Annual Earth Day Cleanup
-- Post-Gazette: Shaler Students 'Love The Earth' And Show It In A New Book
-- Beaver County Times: Earth Day Celebrated At Sisters Of St. Joseph
-- Williamsport Sun: Lycoming College Students, Service Organizations Clean Up For Earth Day
-- WTAJ: ClearWater Conservancy Celebrates Earth Day With Annual Watershed Cleanup Day In Centre County
-- Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy Native Plant Sale April 24 - May 5, Montgomery County
-- WESA: Find Seedlings, Local Growing Tips At One Of Penn State Extension's Many Plant Sales
-- Centre Daily Times: Central PA Native Plant Festival Coming Next Month To New Location
-- Penn State College Of Agricultural Sciences: May 17 Webinar On The Latest Buzz On Beekeeping & Pollinators. 1:00 p.m.
-- Nature At Risk Series: Why Backyard Pollinators Are All The Buzz - By Carol Hillestad for Brodhead Watershed Association, Monroe County [PaEN]
-- WHYY/BillyPenn: Bees Are Busy At Philly's Libraries, Making Honey Used For Education And Fun
-- Warren Times: Hellbender Makes Appearance At Cornplanter Council Trout Unlimited, Brokenstraw Fish & Game Club Spring Conservation Show
-- Penn State Extension: June 13 Webinar On Wildlife Adaptations - How Wildlife Endures Extreme Weather, Limited Resources, Predators To Stay Alive [PaEN]
-- Centre Daily Times: Major Habitat Improvement Project Complete At Sayers Dam, See It Now Before It's Covered With Water: 'A Fisherman's Dream"
-- Republican Herald: Schuylkill Haven Area Students Release Fingerling Trout, Enjoy Outdoor Fun At County Fairgrounds [Trout In The Classroom]
-- Williamsport Sun - Lycoming Audubon: A Look At Bringing Peregrine Falcons Back To PA After DDT Effects
-- LancasterOnline - Ad Crable: Will New, Glass-Sided Skyscraper In Lancaster Kill Migrating Birds? Here's What's Being Considered
-- Warren Times: Audubon Nature Center First Sunday Story Time May 7
-- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary: Registration Open For Unique Appalachian Ecology Course For Teens - June 16-26, Deadline May 14
-- Altoona Mirror: Area Bat Population Slowly But Steadily Rebounding [Lincoln Caverns, Frank Felbaum Bat Sanctuary]
-- Republican Herald - Tyler Frantz: Spring Green-Up - Seasonal Transition Marks Time To Start Anew
-- Williamsport Sun - Bill Bower: Reflections In Nature: A Look At The Difference Between Altricial, Preconcial
-- PennLive - Jan Murphy: Bill Establishes Protocol For Removal Of Ticks From Students In School
-- TribLive: Western PA Scientists Research Evolutionary Path Of Ancient Mammal Ancestors: Eating Plants And Blinking
-- Erie Times: Bluffs Of Lake Erie Are Receding, Threatening Homes Along The Shore
-- EPA Releases Report Showing Health Impacts Of Climate Change On Children In US
-- EPA Announces $400 Million Grant Program To Fund Clean School Buses

-- Wilkes-Barre Times: EPA Announces Nationwide Funding For Electric School Buses In Nanticoke

Norfolk Southern Train Derailment
-- WESA: Train Derailments Could Pose A Major Risk To Southwestern PA's Rivers, Pitt Researchers Say
-- WTAE: Rail Disaster Probability Discussed In Thursday Night Town Hall In Pittsburgh
-- DEP Posts Soil, Water Sampling Results Related To Monitoring PA For Impacts From Norfolk Southern Train Derailment [PaEN]
-- TribLive: DEP Says Soil, Water Samples Remain Safe After Norfolk Southern Train Derailment
-- TribLive Editorial: DEP Must Remain Vigilant With Norfolk Southern Train Derailment Testing
-- UnionProgress.com: Third Beaver County School District Sues Norfolk Southern Over Train Derailment
-- Altoona Mirror Editorial: Altoona Keeping Close Watch On Norfolk Southern Train Derailment Issues
-- WESA/The Allegheny Front - Reid Frazier: Incinerated Waste From Norfolk Southern Train Derailment Raises Concerns In Ohio Town
-- WESA: Could New Rail Safety Rules Prevent The Next Norfolk Southern Train Derailment? More Sensors Could Be Key, Experts Say
-- AP: Railroads Warned About Problems Long Trains Can Cause
-- WSJ: Norfolk Southern Says Ohio Train Derailment Has Cost $387 Million, Not Including Cost Recovery From Insurance

Emergency Response
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6th Oil/Natural Gas Price Spike: True Energy Independence Means Renewables
[There Is No Limit To What Oil/Natural Gas Industry Can Make You Pay]

-- TribLive: Odds Of Gasoline Hitting $4/Gallon Decreasing, Analyst Says
-- MCall: Gasoline Prices On Rise In Lehigh Valley, What's Next?
-- AAA Gasoline Prices: PA Average $3.74, National Average $3.61
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: One-Stop-Shop For Low-Income Utility Customers? PUC Wants Your Thoughts
-- PUC Encourages Customers To Shop For Competitive Electric, Natural Gas Suppliers, Know Their 'End Of Contract' Details

-- National Fuel Gas To Adjust Gas Rate Down $4.52/Month Starting May 1
-- WHYY: Philadelphia Gas Works Must Justify Its 1,000% Rate Increase For Philly's Steam Loop, PUC Orders
-- Erie Times: Feds Charge 6 NY Residents With Stealing Thousands Of Pounds Of Cooking Oil To Go To Make Biodiesel Fuel In Erie Refinery
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-- Republican Herald Editorial: Implement Reforms For Natural Gas Drilling, Fracking [PaEN]
-- Baker Hughes: PA Natural Gas Drilling Rigs - Up 1 From Last Week To 26

National/International

-- Reuters: Renewable Energy's Share Of German Power Use Tops 50% In Q1
-- Reuters: EU Lawmakers Seek Methane Reductions On Europe's Fossil Fuel Imports
-- Bloomberg: Greenpeace Warns Europe's LNG Natural Gas Hunt Risks Locking In Pollution
-- Bloomberg: European Natural Gas Rebounds As Traders Weigh Elusive Demand Pickup
-- Bloomberg: EU Bid To Swap Russia Natural Gas For Offshore Wind Is Falling Short
-- Bloomberg: EU Opens Natural Gas Buyers' Club To Blunt Price Volatility Seen In Energy Crisis
-- WSJ: Exxon, Chevron Report $18 Billion In Profits Even As Oil, Natural Gas Prices Drop
-- Bloomberg Guest Essay: Exxon Has Way Too Much Cash Laying Around

Energy

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-- Utility Dive: State Regulators - Including PA - Urge PJM To Speed Interconnection For New Generation In Face Of Power Plant Retirements
-- Financial Times: US Renewables Industry Joins Big Oil To Fight Delays To Project Permits
-- WPost: New York Set To Pass First Statewide Ban On New Natural Gas Hookups In Residential, Commercial Buildings
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-- Chesapeake Appalachia: DEP Inspections Find Violations For Spills, Releases, Continuing Defective Casing/Cementing At Shale Gas Well Pads In Bradford, Susquehanna Counties [PaEN]

-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices/Opportunities To Comment - April 29 [PaEN]

-- Delaware River Basin Commission Clarifies New Regulations On Oil/Gas Fracking Wastewater Ban Road Spreading, Disposal From Conventional Wells [PaEN]

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-- Post-Gazette/Capitolwire.com - Robert Swift: PA Senate Panel OKs Bills To Change Vehicle Emission Inspection Program
-- DEP Tentatively Sets May 18 Online Public Conference On Proposed Roulette Oil & Gas Waste Injection Well In Clara Twp., Potter County; Opponents Again Call For Robust Public Participation Process [PaEN]
-- Washington Examiner Guest Essay: EPA Slowing Down Process For Approving Waste Injection Wells

Farming
-- Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Plans To Plant 500,000 More Trees Across PA During 2023 [PaEN]
-- York Daily Record: EPA Lawsuit On Chesapeake Bay Tentatively Settled, With Pennsylvania Taking Heat
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-- KYW: Spotted Lanternflies Return To Delaware Valley
-- WHYY: Philly's Commercial Corridors Are Blooming With Greenery Thanks To 117 New Trees

-- Republican Herald: Christmas Tree Farm In Schuylkill County Taking Part In International Research

Forests - Wildfires
-- Centre Daily Times: Firefighters Who Battled Wildfire In Philipsburg Area Receive 'Overwhelming' Community Support

Grants/Funding
-- Coldwater Heritage Partnership Awards 11 Grants Totaling $120,000 [PaEN]
-- Fish & Boat Commission Board Awards Boating Facility, Erie Access Improvement Grants, Moves To Protect Wild Trout Populations
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Awards $6 Million+ In Consumptive Water Use Mitigation Projects [PaEN]
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-- Penn State Extension Watersheds: How Land Use Impacts Groundwater [PaEN]
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-- Scranton Times: Lackawanna River Conservation Assn. Launches Ambitious 15-Year North Scranton Riverfront Project
-- YourErie.com: French Creek Watershed Could Soon Become A National Wildlife Refuge
-- MCall: Carbon Farming - What A Green Future Could Look Like For The Lehigh Valley
-- WHYY: Philly's Commercial Corridors Are Blooming With Greenery Thanks To 117 New Trees
-- Public Opinion: Goats Will Do Yardwork In Chambersburg
-- Post-Gazette Editorial: PA Youth Service Corps For Cleaning Up Environment Deserves Bipartisan Support
-- Reading Eagle: 1,300+ Feet Of Blue Marsh Lake Shoreline Restored, Fish Habitat Added
-- Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy Native Plant Sale April 24 - May 5, Montgomery County
-- WESA: Find Seedlings, Local Growing Tips At One Of Penn State Extension's Many Plant Sales
-- Centre Daily Times: Central PA Native Plant Festival Coming Next Month To New Location

Green Technology
-- Reimagine Appalachia: New Report Outlines Job Impacts Of Green Locomotives From The Wabtec Manufacturing Facility In Erie [PaEN]

Hazardous Substances
-- Republican Herald Editorial: Implement Reforms For Natural Gas Drilling, Fracking [PaEN]
-- House Committee Meets May 2 On Bill To Restore Authority To Review Conventional Oil/Gas Well Plugging Bonding Amounts; Help Prevent Routine Abandonment Of An Average Of 561 Wells A Year [PaEN]
-- EDF: Pennsylvania Has 55,000 Oil/Gas Wells At High Risk Of Being Abandoned; 51,000 Wells At Risk Of Being Transferred To Low Solvency Owners; Current Conventional Well Owners Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average [PaEN]
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-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: House Committee Warned Of Lurking Taxpayer Cost For Plugging Conventional Oil & Gas Wells
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-- Citizen Complaint Results In Finding 2 Abandoned Conventional Wells Owned By Prosperity

Oil Co. Continuing To Vent Natural Gas In Washington County [PaEN]
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-- Delaware River Basin Commission Clarifies New Regulations On Oil/Gas Fracking Wastewater Ban Road Spreading, Disposal From Conventional Wells [PaEN]
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-- WHYY: Controversial Plan To Ship LNG Natural Gas By Rail From Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant Hits Another Roadblock
-- Eyes On Shell Reports Shell Petrochemical Plant Fenceline Monitors Found Benzene Emissions Above Toxic Substances Limits; No Timeline For Restarting Plant; DEP Issued Another NOV For Air Violations [PaEN]
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-- Beaver County Times: Questions Remain After Shell Air Monitors Detect Benzene At Petrochemical Plant
-- Bloomberg: Orbiting Methane Cameras Are Catching Polluters In The Act
-- TribLive: Operations On Hold At Shell Petrochemical Plant In Beaver County
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Shell Apologizes For Recent Odor At Petrochemical Plant, Promises To Do Better In The Future
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-- WPost: New York Set To Pass First Statewide Ban On New Natural Gas Hookups In Residential, Commercial Buildings
-- Bloomberg: Oregon City Banned Natural Gas, The Gas Company Fought Back With $1 Million Counterattack
-- EPA Releases Report Showing Health Impacts Of Climate Change On Children In US

Help Wanted
-- Help Wanted: Armstrong Conservation District - Resource Conservationist [PaEN]

Land Conservation
-- Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Plans To Plant 500,000 More Trees Across PA During

2023 [PaEN]
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Land Use Planning
-- MCall: Carbon Farming - What A Green Future Could Look Like For The Lehigh Valley

Lake Erie
-- Erie Times: Bluffs Of Lake Erie Are Receding, Threatening Homes Along The Shore

Littering/Illegal Dumping
-- Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority Collects Over 73,000 Pounds Of Household Hazardous Waste At Collection Event April 28-29 [PaEN]
-- TribLive: Mountain Climbers Rappel Down Mount Washington In Pittsburgh To Cleanup Litter
-- Post-Gazette: 'This Is Amazing,': Dozens Rappel Off Mount Washington For Annual Litter Clean Up
-- Republican Herald: 685 Pounds Of Prescription Drugs Collected During Take Back Day In Schuylkill County
-- Inquirer - Frank Kummer: Philly's Ban Has Prevented 200 Million Plastic Bags From Being Used
-- WHYY: Study Finds Philly's Plastic Bag Ban Is Working
-- WHYY: Cheltenham Twp. Passes Ban On Single-Use Plastic Bags; 16th Municipality In PA To Pass A Ban
-- PA Resources Council: Registration Open For Weekday Electronics Waste Collection Events In Allegheny County During May [PaEN]
-- PA Resources Council Hosts 2 Household Chemical Collection Events In Allegheny, Cambria County During May [PaEN]
-- PA Resources Council Sets May Schedule For Traveling Glass Recycling Bin Program In Allegheny County [PaEN]
-- CleanScapes: Volunteers Needed For Cleanups In Clinton County, Northcentral PA Starting April 29
-- TribLive: Aspinwall Cleans Up Through 'Green Streets' Program
-- Williamsport Sun: Lycoming College Students, Service Organizations Clean Up For Earth Day
-- WTAJ: ClearWater Conservancy Celebrates Earth Day With Annual Watershed Cleanup Day In Centre County

Mine Reclamation
-- WSJ: US Wants A Rare Earths Supply Chain, Why It Won't Come Easily [PA Cong. Reschenthaler Bill]

Oil & Gas

-- Republican Herald Editorial: Implement Reforms For Natural Gas Drilling, Fracking [PaEN]
-- House Committee Meets May 2 On Bill To Restore Authority To Review Conventional Oil/Gas Well Plugging Bonding Amounts; Help Prevent Routine Abandonment Of An Average Of 561 Wells A Year [PaEN]
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-- Senate Environmental Committee Holds May 1 Hearing On Electric Grid Reliability Looking At Natural Gas, Other Generation Failures During Winter Storm Elliot In December [PaEN]
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: Natural Gas Prices Are Down, But The Industry's Spirits Are High
-- Scranton Times Editorial: State Should Account For Natural Gas Fracking Waste
-- DEP Tentatively Sets May 18 Online Public Conference On Proposed Roulette Oil & Gas Waste Injection Well In Clara Twp., Potter County; Opponents Again Call For Robust Public Participation Process [PaEN]
-- Washington Examiner Guest Essay: EPA Slowing Down Process For Approving Waste Injection Wells
-- Marcellus Shale Coalition: Pro-Natural Gas Policies Necessary To Unlock Economic Growth,

Environmental Gains In Northeast PA
-- Dickinson College To Recognize Environmental & Indigenous Rights Advocate Tara Houska With Rose-Walters Prize For Environmental Activism [PaEN]
-- NRDC: U.S. Dept. Of Transportation Denies Special Permit For Shipping LNG Natural Gas By Rail From A Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant [PaEN]
-- Fox News: Federal PHMSA Decides Not To Grant Permit For Transporting LNG Natural Gas From A Proposed Wyalusing, Bradford County Plant Via Railroad
-- The Guardian: US DOT Denies 'Bomb Train' Permit To Ship LNG Gas Through Populated Areas In Pennsylvania
-- WHYY: Controversial Plan To Ship LNG Natural Gas By Rail From Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant Hits Another Roadblock
-- Scranton Times: Summit Focuses On Natural Gas Opportunities, Challenges [Marcellus Shale Coalition]
-- House Environmental Committee Sets May 1 Hearing On Cryptocurrency And Climate Change; Background Brief [PaEN]
-- The Allegheny Front/WPSU: Violation At PA Natural Gas Drilling Site Raises Questions About Lack Of Cryptocurrency Regulation
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-- Bloomberg: Orbiting Methane Cameras Are Catching Polluters In The Act
-- WITF: Victims Of Berks County Chocolate Plant Natural Gas Explosion Seek Accountability
-- TribLive: Odds Of Gasoline Hitting $4/Gallon Decreasing, Analyst Says
-- MCall: Gasoline Prices On Rise In Lehigh Valley, What's Next?
-- AAA Gasoline Prices: PA Average $3.74, National Average $3.61
-- Erie Times: Feds Charge 6 NY Residents With Stealing Thousands Of Pounds Of Cooking Oil To Go To Make Biodiesel Fuel In Erie Refinery
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Range Resources CEOs: No Change In Strategy With New Leadership
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: California Shareholder Initiative On Climate Hotly Contested By CNX
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: CNX Natural Gas Calls Shareholder Climate Proposal 'Spamlike In Nature'
-- WPost: New York Set To Pass First Statewide Ban On New Natural Gas Hookups In Residential, Commercial Buildings

-- Bloomberg: Oregon City Banned Natural Gas, The Gas Company Fought Back With $1 Million Counterattack
-- Reuters: Renewable Energy's Share Of German Power Use Tops 50% In Q1
-- Reuters: EU Lawmakers Seek Methane Reductions On Europe's Fossil Fuel Imports
-- Bloomberg: Greenpeace Warns Europe's LNG Natural Gas Hunt Risks Locking In Pollution
-- Bloomberg: European Natural Gas Rebounds As Traders Weigh Elusive Demand Pickup
-- Bloomberg: EU Bid To Swap Russia Natural Gas For Offshore Wind Is Falling Short
-- Bloomberg: EU Opens Natural Gas Buyers' Club To Blunt Price Volatility Seen In Energy Crisis
-- WSJ: Exxon, Chevron Report $18 Billion In Profits Even As Oil, Natural Gas Prices Drop
-- Bloomberg Guest Essay: Exxon Has Way Too Much Cash Laying Around

Pipelines
-- Bloomberg: 546,000 Gallon Crude Oil Spill From Keystone Pipeline Caused By Fatigue Crack, TC Energy Says

Permitting
-- Republican Herald Editorial: Implement Reforms For Natural Gas Drilling, Fracking [PaEN]
-- Sen. Yaw To Introduce Bill To Remove 'Protection' From The Name Of The Department Of Environmental Protection [PaEN]
-- Bloomberg: Climate Activists Urge US Officials To Drop The 'Natural' In Natural Gas - Fossil Gas One Alternative
-- DEP: New Webpage Outlines Plan To Streamline Permit Process Without Sacrificing Thorough Reviews, Public Participation
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-- House Environmental Committee Sets May 1 Hearing On Cryptocurrency And Climate Change; Background Brief [PaEN]
-- The Allegheny Front/WPSU: Violation At PA Natural Gas Drilling Site Raises Questions About Lack Of Cryptocurrency Regulation

-- Financial Times: US Renewables Industry Joins Big Oil To Fight Delays To Project Permits
-- DEP Took Action On 664 Permits, 95% Within Permit Decision Guarantee Deadlines; Conducted 1,441 Inspections; Responded To 5 Environmental Emergencies Last Week

Public Participation
-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices/Opportunities To Comment - April 29 [PaEN]
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-- Bedford Gazette: Juniata Watershed Meetings Planned In May
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Hearing May 10 On Water Withdrawal Requests, June 7 Business Meeting [PaEN]
-- Scranton Times Editorial: Gov. Shapiro's Climate Panel Should Be Open
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: One-Stop-Shop For Low-Income Utility Customers? PUC Wants Your Thoughts
-- WHYY: Philadelphia Gas Works Must Justify Its 1,000% Rate Increase For Philly's Steam Loop, PUC Orders
-- DEP Posts 61 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In April 29 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

PUC
-- Senate Environmental Committee Holds May 1 Hearing On Electric Grid Reliability Looking At Natural Gas, Other Generation Failures During Winter Storm Elliot In December [PaEN]
-- Post-Gazette Editorial: Shapiro's PUC Nominee Kimberly Barrow Is Right Pick, But Faces Challenges
-- PUC Hosts April 28 Meeting Of PA Sustainable Energy Board
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: One-Stop-Shop For Low-Income Utility Customers? PUC Wants Your Thoughts
-- PUC Encourages Customers To Shop For Competitive Electric, Natural Gas Suppliers, Know Their 'End Of Contract' Details
-- National Fuel Gas To Adjust Gas Rate Down $4.52/Month Starting May 1
-- WHYY: Philadelphia Gas Works Must Justify Its 1,000% Rate Increase For Philly's Steam Loop, PUC Orders
-- PennLive: 100+ People To Be Laid Off Due To Homer City Coal-fired Power Plant Closure
-- Post-Gazette: WV Electricity Customers Would See Their Bills Increase $36 Million To Keep Coal-Fired Power Plant Open
-- WITF: Victims Of Berks County Chocolate Plant Natural Gas Explosion Seek Accountability
-- Utility Dive: State Regulators - Including PA - Urge PJM To Speed Interconnection For New Generation In Face Of Power Plant Retirements

Recreation

-- Guest Essay: DCNR's Conservation And Stewardship Of State's Natural Resources Is Vital To Pennsylvania's Booming Outdoor Recreation Industry - By **Cindy Adams Dunn**, Acting Secretary of DCNR, and **John Norbeck** Deputy Secretary for Parks & Forestry [PaEN]
-- NextPittsburgh: Altoona Is Boosting Its Economy With Outdoor Recreation
-- April 28 Take Five Fridays With Pam From PA Parks & Forests Foundation [PaEN]
-- Warren Times: Time To Register For 65th Allegany Nature Pilgrimage June 2-4
-- Wilkes-Barre Times: Off And Riding: Annual Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wyoming Counties Bike Ride Starts In Pittston For First Time
-- York Daily Record Guest Essay: Recreationalists Discovering Beauty On The Susquehanna And Along Its Banks
-- Western PA Conservancy To Hold Public Meetings, Invites Public Suggestions On Future Use, Improvements To Juniata River Watershed [PaEN]
-- Bedford Gazette: Juniata Watershed Meetings Planned In May
-- Scranton Times: Lackawanna River Conservation Assn. Launches Ambitious 15-Year North Scranton Riverfront Project
-- Republican Herald: Schuylkill River Trail To Connect Saint Clair With Frackville
-- Inquirer - Frank Kummer: FDR Park In Philly Floods During Construction Of Project Designed To Prevent Flooding
-- TribLive: New Trail To Blaze, Wynn & Clara Tredway River Trail In Of Allegheny Twp. Nears Completion
-- Williamsport Sun: Work Underway At Williamsport Parks
-- Post-Gazette Editorial: PA Youth Service Corps For Cleaning Up Environment Deserves Bipartisan Support
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-- Scranton Times: What To Know About Tick, Lyme Disease Season Following A Mild Winter
-- WPost: On Frontier Of New 'Gold Rush,' Quest For Coveted EV Metals Yields Misery

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-- DelcoTimes.com: Chester Residents, Activists Again March On Covanta Waste-To-Energy Facility
-- WHYY: Bill Aims To Increase Penalties For Illegal Dumping In Philadelphia
-- PennLive Guest Essay: We Can Do Better To Recycle More - Our Members Are Proving It - PA Chemical Industry Council
-- LancasterOnline: Lancaster Waste Authority CEO To Retire Next Year

Renewable Energy
-- Senate Environmental Committee Holds May 1 Hearing On Electric Grid Reliability Looking At Natural Gas, Other Generation Failures During Winter Storm Elliot In December [PaEN]
-- House Consumer Protection Committee Reports Out Solar Energy Decommissioning Bills For Rereferral To House Environmental Committee [PaEN]
-- House Environmental Committee Reports Out Bipartisan Bills On School Solar Energy Grants For Rereferral, Local Notice Of Toxics Violations [PaEN]
-- PennLive - Jan Murphy: Bill Would Replicate Steelton-Highspire Schools' Solar Energy Facility Across PA
-- UnionProgress.com: PA Turnpike Adding Solar Panels To New Stanton Office As Part Of Sustainability Effort
-- York Daily Record Guest Essay: Pennsylvania Must Join The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - By Rev. Michell C. Hescox, Evangelical Environmental Network
-- Register Now! 9th Annual Renewables Summit Set For May 22-23 Harrisburg [PaEN]
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Stormwater
-- Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Plans To Plant 500,000 More Trees Across PA During 2023 [PaEN]
-- York Daily Record: EPA Lawsuit On Chesapeake Bay Tentatively Settled, With Pennsylvania Taking Heat
-- Scranton Times Editorial: Did EPA Throw PA Under The Boat On Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Settlement?
-- TribLive: Pine Township OKs Stormwater Management Projects In Allegheny County

SRBC
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Sustainability
-- UnionProgress.com: PA Turnpike Adding Solar Panels To New Stanton Office As Part Of Sustainability Effort

Watershed Protection
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-- Scranton Times Editorial: Did EPA Throw PA Under The Boat On Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Settlement?
-- Julia Krall Named PA Executive Director Of Chesapeake Bay Foundation [PaEN]
-- Coldwater Heritage Partnership Awards 11 Grants Totaling $120,000 [PaEN]
-- County Conservation District Week Observed April 23-29 [PaEN]
-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: Organizers Of Little Conestoga Creek Blue/Green Corridor Restoration Envision It As Model For Clean Water Projects
-- CBF Blog: Student In CBF's Student Leadership Program Worked To Rename Stream After Kitty Payne, An Emancipated Slave Who Lived Near Biglerville, Adams County - By B.J. Small, Chesapeake Bay Foundation [PaEN]
-- DEP Update On Chesapeake Bay Healthy Waters: New Funding Available; Watershed

Forestry Summit; County Updates, More
-- Protecting Clean Water Together Series: Community Solar Saves Water - Keeps it Clean - Saves Money, Too! - By Carol Hillestad for Brodhead Watershed Association, Monroe County [PaEN]
-- WTAJ: ClearWater Conservancy Celebrates Earth Day With Annual Watershed Cleanup Day In Centre County
-- Scranton Times: Lackawanna River Conservation Assn. Launches Ambitious 15-Year North Scranton Riverfront Project
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Awards $6 Million+ In Consumptive Water Use Mitigation Projects [PaEN]
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Completes Water Storage Study To Support Resilience Planning; 12 Of 14 Final Projects In PA [PaEN]
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Clarifies New Regulations On Oil/Gas Fracking Wastewater Ban Road Spreading, Disposal From Conventional Wells [PaEN]
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-- Williamsport Sun - Lycoming Audubon: A Look At Bringing Peregrine Falcons Back To PA After DDT Effects
-- Penn State Extension: June 13 Webinar On Wildlife Adaptations - How Wildlife Endures Extreme Weather, Limited Resources, Predators To Stay Alive [PaEN]
-- Centre Daily Times: Major Habitat Improvement Project Complete At Sayers Dam, See It Now Before It's Covered With Water: 'A Fisherman's Dream"
-- Warren Times: Hellbender Makes Appearance At Cornplanter Council Trout Unlimited, Brokenstraw Fish & Game Club Spring Conservation Show
-- Republican Herald: Schuylkill Haven Area Students Release Fingerling Trout, Enjoy Outdoor Fun At County Fairgrounds [Trout In The Classroom]
-- YourErie.com: French Creek Watershed Could Soon Become A National Wildlife Refuge
-- LancasterOnline - Ad Crable: Will New, Glass-Sided Skyscraper In Lancaster Kill Migrating

Birds? Here's What's Being Considered
-- Warren Times: Audubon Nature Center First Sunday Story Time May 7
-- Altoona Mirror: Area Bat Population Slowly But Steadily Rebounding [Lincoln Caverns, Frank Felbaum Bat Sanctuary]
-- Reading Eagle: 1,300+ Feet Of Blue Marsh Lake Shoreline Restored, Fish Habitat Added
-- Williamsport Sun - Bill Bower: Reflections In Nature: A Look At The Difference Between Altricial, Preconcial
-- Republican Herald - Tyler Frantz: Spring Green-Up - Seasonal Transition Marks Time To Start Anew
-- TribLive: Western PA Scientists Research Evolutionary Path Of Ancient Mammal Ancestors: Eating Plants And Blinking

West Nile/Zika Virus
-- PennLive - Jan Murphy: Bill Establishes Protocol For Removal Of Ticks From Students In School
-- Scranton Times: What To Know About Tick, Lyme Disease Season Following A Mild Winter

Opportunities
-- Julia Krall Named PA Executive Director Of Chesapeake Bay Foundation [PaEN]
-- Help Wanted: Armstrong Conservation District - Resource Conservationist [PaEN]
-- LancasterOnline: Lancaster Waste Authority CEO To Retire Next Year

CLICK HERE to View or Print the May 1 PA Environment Digest.

[Posted: April 30, 2023]

DEP, DCNR, Guests Honored Franklin Kury, Author Of PA Environmental Rights Amendment, With Dedication In Rachel Carson Building



On April 12, DEP, DCNR and many guests dedicated the Law Library Conference Room in the Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg to Franklin Kury, the legislative author of Pennsylvania's Environmental Rights Amendment to the Constitution.
In addition to Franklin and Beth Kury, the event was attended by--
-- Acting DEP Secretary Richard Negrin
-- Acting DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn
-- John Dernbach, Widener Law Professor of Environmental Law & Sustainability
-- John Norbeck, DCNR Deputy for Parks & Forestry
-- Joe Powers, former DEP Executive Deputy
-- And many others.

Elected to the House of Representatives for three terms (1966–1972), Franklin Kury is a leader in the enactment of environmental laws, such as amendments to the Clean Streams Act, that are seen as the culmination of the environmental revolution that marked the end of the

exploitation of the state's natural resources by the coal, steel and railroad industries.

He was the author and lead advocate for the environmental amendment to the state constitution that declares a right to a clean environment by the people and makes the state government the trustee of the public natural resources.

On May 18, 1971, the people of Pennsylvania voted 1,021,342 to 259,979-- a 4 to 1 margin-- to add this right to the state constitution along side the rights to religious freedom, freedom of press and speech, political powers, right to elections, security from search and seizures, and the "inherent rights of mankind"--

"The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

Kury was proud of the fact the Women's Equal Rights Amendment on the same ballot passed by a 2 to 1 margin.

In 1972, he was elected to the first of two terms in the State Senate where he led a six-year struggle that resulted in the enactment of the state's floodplain and stormwater management laws.

In 2011, he authored *Clean Politics, Clean Streams: A Legislative Autobiography* published by the Lehigh University Press.

In 2021, he celebrated the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Environmental Rights Amendment in Pennsylvania by authorizing *In The Constitutional Question To Save The Planet: The Peoples' Right To A Healthy Environment* proposing a U.S. constitutional amendment on environmental rights.

Tom Ridge, Governor of Pennsylvania (1995-2001) said of the work-- "Franklin Kury has given us the intriguing inside story of an important Pennsylvania legal, policy, and social development—the "Environmental Amendment" to our Constitution. . . . It will give scholars, historians, policymakers, and citizens alike important insights and good guidance for the next 50 years. For this book, and for his decades of wise environmental leadership and respected political activism, Frank deserves our thanks."

Resource Links:

-- Feature: Environmental Heritage - The Environmental Amendment to the State Constitution – 37 Years Later - By Franklin Kury [PaEN]

-- PA Environmental Council: Securing Our Environmental Rights [PaEN]

-- Watch WITF StateImpactPA Generations Yet To Come Documentary On Environmental Rights Amendment

-- Now On Demand: StateImpactPA, WITF, PA Parks & Forests Foundation Panel Discussion On 50th Anniversary Of PA's Environmental Rights Amendment [PaEN]

Related Articles:

-- Patriot-News: Franklin Kury And The 40-Year Fight For Clean Air, Water In PA [PaEN]

-- Book: Clean Politics, Clean Streams By Franklin Kury [PaEN]

-- CBF Blog: Franklin Kury: Two Jars Of Water, And A Lasting Environmental Legacy For Pennsylvania [PaEN]

-- New Book By Franklin Kury Makes The Case For A Constitutional Right To A Healthy Environment [PaEN]

-- Franklin Kury Previews Upcoming Book Celebrating 50th Anniversary Of PA's Environmental Rights Amendment [PaEN]
-- PA Environmental Defense Foundation: A Review Of Where We Are Today On The 50th Anniversary Of PA's Environmental Rights Amendment [PaEN]
-- Straight Talk: Article I, Section 27 PA Environmental Rights Amendment Court Decision - By John Arway, Fish & Boat Commission [PaEN]
-- Op-Ed: Taking The Public Trust Seriously: The PA Supreme Court's Landmark Decision in PEDF v. Commonwealth [PaEN]
-- Op-Ed: The Impact Of The PA Supreme Court Environmental Rights Amendment Ruling On The Environment [PaEN]
-- DCNR Celebrates Grand Opening Of Kury Point, Recognizing The Legacy Of PA's Environmental Rights Amendment At Shikellamy State Park [PaEN]
-- Franklin Kury To Receive Ralph Abele Conservation Heritage Award [PaEN]
-- PA Environmental Council To Honor Franklin Kury, Andrew Johnson, Bartram's Garden In Philadelphia [PaEN]
[Posted: April 26, 2023]

County Conservation District Week Observed April 23-29



Recognized by both the Pennsylvania State House and Senate, April 23-29, 2023 has been declared "Conservation District Week." During this week, district offices across the state held events and met with legislators in their home county.

Each county has a conservation district office except Philadelphia. These volunteer directors and staff address conservation concerns in their community. These are your neighbors who are working to prevent pollution in your backyard. That deserves to be celebrated!

"Conservation District Week celebrates and highlights conservation district's stewardship of the Commonwealth's natural resources. Every day conservation district staff work to ensure there is enough clean water and healthy soil for future generations," said Brenda J. Shambaugh, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

Conservation districts thank members of the PA House and Senate for supporting the districts through the state budget.

In order for conservation districts to serve their county, they rely on state support, which is why PACD requests a budget increase in the PA Department of Agriculture budget for the Conservation District Fund line and a budget increase in the PA Department of Environmental Protection budget for the Conservation District Fund line to assist with conservation planning, project development and installation ensuring critical conservation practices are put in place enhancing and protecting PA's natural resources.

Conservation districts continue to review permits, provide assistance to farmers, assist municipalities in preparing to fix low volume roads and dirt and gravel roads throughout the state, and help control mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus and Zika Virus.

Click Here for a summary of 2022 activities by conservation districts.

Visit the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts website to learn more about county conservation districts, including yours.

NewsClip:

-- State Senate Adopts Resolution Recognizing April 23 - 29 As Conservation District Week

Related Articles:

-- Allegheny County Conservation District Now Accepting Applications For Agricultural Conservation Assistance Grants; Your County Is Too [PaEN]

-- Help Wanted: Armstrong Conservation District - Resource Conservationist [PaEN]

[Posted: April 27, 2023]

CBF Blog: Student In CBF's Student Leadership Program Worked To Rename Stream After Kitty Payne, An Emancipated Slave Who Lived Near Biglerville, Adams County

By B.J. Small, Chesapeake Bay Foundation



For Aidan Kissner, the little stream behind his house in Biglerville, Pennsylvania, was a playground on summer evenings, and a quiet, calming spot for a hyper kid growing up.

Now a senior in high school, Kissner has repaid the small watery respite, by naming it "Kitty Payne Creek" so that it can get the respect, attention, and protection it deserves.

"It's not been treated the best," the 18-year-old says of the stream that flows 2.8 miles, through Biglerville High School property and into the Conewago Creek north of Gettysburg. "It's mowed down to the banks and has erosion problems. Nobody really thinks about it."

Kissner thinks about when he and his mother looked for fish and crayfish, wading, and learning about water quality throughout his childhood.

In 9th grade, Kissner joined CBF's Student Leadership Program in Pennsylvania, at the urging of fellow student Hanna Ryon. She also went to Biglerville schools, was an outstanding CBF Student Leader, and now attends Messiah University.

This same student leadership program spearheaded a successful three-year campaign to pass legislation to have the Eastern hellbender designated as Pennsylvania's official state amphibian. The bill was signed by Governor Tom Wolf on April 23, 2019.

In 10th grade, Kissner enjoyed his first CBF Student Leadership summer experience on the Bay. When thinking about a Student Leadership Action Plan for water quality following the trip, his little backyard stream and a former slave immediately sprung to Kissner's mind.

"Typically, a lot of local history ends up being swallowed up by the Civil War, as we are so close to Gettysburg," Kissner says. "I wanted to try to bring to life this piece of local history that doesn't have to do with the war or the battle. Kitty Payne is such an interesting and inspirational story."

Catherine "Kitty" Payne was born in Rappahannock County, Virginia, and enslaved until Mary Maddox, widow of the plantation owner where Kitty lived, emancipated Kitty and her

family in 1843. They eventually moved to Menallen Township near Biglerville.

In 1845, after losing a court battle and feeling entitled to the freed slaves as his inheritance, the nephew of the deceased plantation owner had Kitty Payne and family kidnapped in the middle of the night and returned to Virginia.

According to the National Park Service website, "Local Quakers in Menallen Township rushed to Payne's defense when they learned of her plight." Payne filed complaints for illegal detainment, and after more prolonged court battles she persevered.

In 1846, she and her family traveled north again, this time to Gettysburg. Just a few years later, in 1850, Kitty died at the age of 33 or 34.

Kissner considered doing a tree planting as part of his Student Leadership project but says he decided on "something to have more of a social affect and change the behaviors and hopefully get more people to do more best management practices."

In January of 2021, when Kissner was still in 10th grade, he contacted the U.S. Board of Geographic Names and found that the stream did not officially have a name.

For two months, Kissner gathered the stream's GPS coordinates, background on Kitty Payne, and completed a 21-field application.

The Board of Geographic Names said that demonstrating community support for the naming project was important, and Kissner got it from the Adams County Historical Society. He also contacted the county commissioners and borough council for their support.

Kissner says Biglerville's council and others took neutral positions, as townsfolk had referred to the stream by unofficial names.

"At that point I kind of lost faith in the project," Kissner remembers.

Two years later, in early 2023, Kissner got a letter from the Board of Geographic Names, saying that the previously unnamed creek was now named Kitty Payne Creek. Kissner would like to have a sign, perhaps on school grounds, proclaiming the creek's name.

Meanwhile, he continues to run cross country and track, and he participates on student council and the Technology Student Association.

He plans to attend York College next year and major in civil engineering. He wants to become an environmental engineer and design and plan wetland restoration projects.

"Local clean water is very important," Kissner says. "I played in the creek when I was younger, and now I'm not sure I could. We are going to see a lot of things that we've known in childhood be gone by the time we reach middle age and older. If we don't take a stand now, we will see those things disappear."

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

Also visit the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership to learn how you can help clean water grow on trees.

CBF has over 275,000 members in Bay Watershed.

How Clean Is Your Stream?

Check DEP's 2022 Water Quality Report to find out how clean streams are near you.

(Reprinted from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Blog.)

Related Articles:

-- Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Plans To Plant 500,000 More Trees Across PA During

2023 [PaEN]
-- County Conservation District Week Observed April 23-29 [PaEN]
-- Coldwater Heritage Partnership Awards 11 Grants Totaling $120,000 [PaEN]
-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: Organizers Of Little Conestoga Creek Blue/Green Corridor Restoration Envision It As Model For Clean Water Projects
[Posted: April 27, 2023]

Dickinson College To Recognize Environmental & Indigenous Rights Advocate Tara Houska With Rose-Walters Prize For Environmental Activism



On April 26, Dickinson College announced Tara Houska, a citizen of Couchiching First Nation and a devoted environmental and Indigenous rights advocate, will be presented with The Sam Rose '58 and Julie Walters Prize for Global Environmental Activism at Dickinson College.

The $100,000 prize is awarded annually to an individual or organization making a defining difference and advancing responsible action on behalf of the planet, its resources, and people.

Houska, who actively resisted the Line 3 oil pipeline and the Dakota Access pipeline, is heavily involved in the movement to defund fossil fuels.

She will accept the recognition at Dickinson's Commencement on Sunday, May 21.

The Rose-Walters Prize honors Houska's work as a tribal attorney, land defender, and founder of the Giniw Collective, an Indigenous women and two-spirit-led resistance committed to defending the Sacred and advocating for systemic change that respects Indigenous sovereignty and natural law. Giniw prioritizes land defense, traditional knowledge, and divestment to protect the Earth.

Houska grew up in the small, rural border town of Ranier, Minnesota, where Rainy Lake spills into the Rainy River directly across the shore from the Couchiching First Nation reserve in Ontario.

After earning a B.A., a B.S., and a magna cum laude J.D. from the University of Minnesota, she began her work as a tribal attorney in Washington, D.C., clerking under the Obama administration and lawyering at a few firms.

During Senator Bernie Sanders 2016 presidential run, she stepped up as an advisor on Native affairs and was the lead author of his Native policy platform.

As calls went out from Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to stand against the Dakota Access pipeline, Houska moved into full-time advocacy under a nonprofit.

After moving home to protect her people's territory from Line 3 pipeline, she founded the Giniw Collective.

After spending years living off-grid in resistance camps fighting fossil fuel infrastructure, Houska sees a need for movement balance, and is currently working on a long-term Land Back project on Rainy Lake.

In January, she closed on Bald Rock Point, a nearly 100-year-old, 16-acre camp with cabins, docks, and a main lodge.

Houska and the Collective are restoring the camp to host folks seeking to learn advocacy and land defense skills, traditional and cultural knowledge, to foster healing and reconnection with nature — it is a reclamation of land, of a way of life and centers Indigenous leadership.

For Houska, the birth of her daughter crystallized her convictions about the urgency of protecting the planet.

Houska invests her hopes in the evolving movement she is helping to lead, which has involved thousands of people on the ground in the last few years, and inspired hundreds of thousands of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples across the world to follow Native leadership.

She believes in building a holistic and pragmatic movement, centering values that lead with natural law, humility and empathy, and carrying our words into action.

In addition to her environmental advocacy, Houska is the co-founder of Not Your Mascots, a nonprofit promoting positive representation for Native Americans in the public sphere.

She is a TED speaker and has written for the women's climate anthology "All We Can Save," the New York Times, CNN, Vogue, and Indian Country Today.

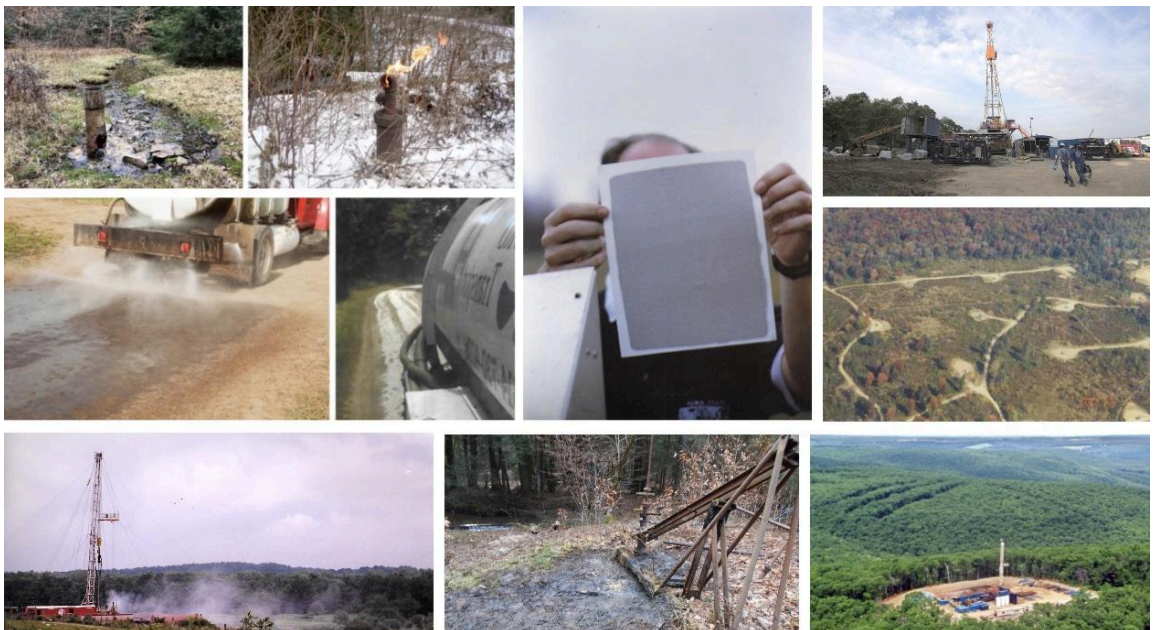
She is the recipient of the 2021 American Climate Leadership Award and the 2019 Rachel's Network Catalyst Award.

During the 2023-24 academic year, Houska will visit Dickinson for a residency, meet with students, participate in a public event, and visit classes.

The Rose-Walters Prize has been awarded to a cross-section of individuals and institutions engaged in climate advocacy, including Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Elizabeth Kolbert**, award-winning actor and activist **Mark Ruffalo**, author and journalist **Bill McKibben**, former EPA administrator **Lisa Jackson**, the UN's **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**, and **Our Children's Trust**, the organization that represented 21 young plaintiffs in the landmark federal climate change lawsuit Juliana v. United States.

For more information, visit Dickinson College's The Sam Rose '58 and Julie Walters Prize for Global Environmental Activism webpage. Questions should be directed to Craig Layne, Director of Media Relations, laynec@dickinson.edu.
[Posted: April 26, 2023]

House Hearing: Let's Work Together To Make Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Practices Cleaner, Respect Property Rights, Protect Taxpayers And Prevent New Abandoned Wells



The following testimony by David Hess, former Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, was delivered at the April 24 House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee hearing on abandoned conventional oil and gas wells.

It calls for industry, affected citizens, DEP, the General Assembly and the Governor to work together to make conventional oil and gas industry practices cleaner, respect private property rights and protect taxpayers.

The testimony addresses conventional industry practices that--

-- Abandon wells faster than federal/state programs can plug them
-- How abandoned wells are real health and safety threats to people
-- How conventional/unconventional drilling practices create new brownfields every day
-- How the practice of road-dumping wastewater impacts public health & the environment
-- How these practices do not respect the property rights of people next to or with the wells
-- How state taxpayers get stuck with the cost of cleaning up and plugging wells

DEP reported in December that between 2017 and 2021, current conventional oil/gas well operators were issued notices of violation for abandoning without plugging 2,246 wells--561 a year, on average. At least these were the wells DEP found doing inspections. Read more here.

The testimony suggests policymakers ask three questions about industry practices--

1. Are They Clean Or Dirty?
2. Do They Respect Property Rights?
3. Do They Protect State Taxpayers?

Other witness at the hearing included--

-- Kelsey Krepps, Sierra Club
-- Kurt Klapkowski, Acting DEP Deputy Secretary for Oil & Gas Management
-- Arthur Stewart, Cameron Energy
-- Adam Peltz, Environmental Defense Fund

Click Here to watch a video of the hearing.

Text Of Written Testimony

The text of the testimony follows--

Chairman Vitali, Chairman Causer and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer comments to you today on the impacts of conventional oil and gas drilling and well abandonment in Pennsylvania.

I've been dealing with environmental issues related to the conventional industry for over 40 years -- and so have you-- without much success, let's be honest.

But now, I think there is a real opportunity for leadership on the part of the industry,

affected citizens, DEP, the General Assembly and the Governor, if we work together.

For too long, I believe the conventional industry has been held back by their own fundamental belief they can only do things one way to survive.

That is simply not true.

Other industries have changed and prospered, and they can too.

To move to the next level, everyone has to work with the same goals in mind.

I suggest we ask three questions about the practices used by the industry--

1. Are They Clean Or Dirty?
2. Do They Respect Property Rights?
3. Do They Protect State Taxpayers?

New Abandoned Wells

A business practice based on abandoning hundreds of wells a year-- either by transferring them to financially impaired new owners or by just walking away-- is simply not sustainable.

It leaves taxpayers stuck with the bill for plugging and cleanup and no one responsible for operating the wells.

It is a financial problem, an environmental problem and the waste of a natural resource.

The Post-Gazette calculated DEP has about $15 per well on hand in well plugging bonds to plug all the active conventional wells-- somewhere over 90,545.

DEP reported in December that between 2017 and 2021, conventional operators abandoned without plugging 2,246 wells-- 561 a year, on average. Read more here.

Under the new federally-funded conventional well plugging program, Pennsylvania is set to receive nearly $400 million over the next 15 years. DEP said it would plug about 249 wells the first year. Read more here.

You can do the math, we'll never catch up.

By some calculations, state taxpayers are on the hook for over $5.1 billion in well plugging liabilities, between the fact pre-April 1985 wells are not required to have any plugging bonds and the inadequate bond amounts we have now. Read more here.

State taxpayers should simply not have to carry the financial burden created by these practices.

Not Just Numbers

Laurie Barr has been working on the abandoned well problem for more than 20 years. Read more here.

She told the conventional industry advisory group PA Grade Crude Development Advisory Council in February how residents in Bradford County have to live with the constant threat of leaking, abandoned natural gas wells located right next to their homes.

These wells are real threats to the real people who live near them. We should never forget that.

The practice of abandoning wells shows no respect for the private property rights of those that live next to them or for the owners of land on which the wells sit.

New Brownfields

Conventional-- and unconventional-- operators are creating new brownfields every day in Pennsylvania with the practices they use.

Spills, leaks and releases of wastewater, oil, fracking chemicals and other contaminants from active and abandoned wells pollute these sites.

[And conventional operators do routinely use fracking.]

Operators dispose of drill cuttings and wastewater right on their drill sites in ways that are contaminating soil and water.

The practice of "dusting" -- blowing drill cuttings into the air or along the ground around drill sites-- has been a common method of disposal for decades, particularly in the conventional industry.

But, plumes of dust drifting hundreds of feet away from drill sites can contaminate surrounding property.

All these practices create new brownfields which account for over half the contaminated sites now in DEP's Land Recycling Program. Read more here.

But most contaminated conventional drill sites never go through the Act 2 Program and meet those cleanup standards. They frequently use "alternative" methods. Read more here.

Farmers have been warned by conventional operators not to let their cattle graze on their drill sites after their rigs leave because of the waste contamination there.

These practices show no respect for the property rights of the landowners where these wells are located or their neighbors.

Landowners invite operators onto their land to extract a natural resource that is valuable to the operator and the landowner in a relationship that can last 60 years or more.

Landowners have the right to expect it to be done safely and without harm to their health, the environment and their livestock and property.

Road Dumping Wastewater

My Mom taught me clean is better than dirty. My Dad taught me to take responsibility for cleaning up my own messes and stick with a job until it's done.

Practices used by conventional operators haven't resulted in cleaning up their own messes. These practices let others be responsible for paying for cleanup and suffering the consequences for decades.

No where is that more evident than with production wastewater.

Conventional operators produce over 200 million gallons of wastewater from their wells every year-- more or less. We don't really know. Read more here.

Wastewater is produced from the time a well is drilled through its entire lifecycle, which can be decades. It can be a real problem with abandoned and orphan wells with no operator.

Because over half the conventional operators have a practice of failing to file production and waste generation reports-- 57% at last count covering 61,655 wells [Read more here]-- we can't really account for where as much as 118 million gallons goes for treatment, reuse or disposal. Read more here.

We do know that millions of gallons were reported by operators themselves as being spread on dirt and gravel roads since records have been kept. [Read more here]

That practice has not only been proven to break up dirt roads and cause more dust [Read more here], it affects the health of people who live along those dirt roads by spreading contaminated dust and running off the roads into gutters and streams after a rain.

Siri Lawson in Warren County knows this first-hand because she's been raising concerns about road dumping on the road going by her home and in her county and the impact of oil and gas operations for 40 years and suffered significant health impacts personally from these practices. Read more here.

A Penn State study-- one of several over the years-- released last May found the wastewater contains at least 32 chemicals and parameters which exceed health and

environmental standards. [Read more here]

The chemicals in the wastewater include lead, arsenic, barium, strontium, lithium, iron, manganese, radioactive radium and many more.

While this practice for the moment is illegal because it doesn't meet DEP's Residual Waste Regulations, it has not been banned.

There are continuing reports from the field that the practice is still going on.

In fact, DEP's oil and gas waste database continues to show reports from conventional operators who said they road-dumped their wastewater in 2022-- in spite of the fact it is illegal.

Unfortunately, we don't know the true scope of the problem because so many reports are missing and the waste reports filed by both conventional and unconventional operators have never been audited.

Wastewater from unconventional shale gas wells is prohibited from being dumped on roads. Conventional wastewater should be too, because it is essentially the same thing.

My Dad's admonition should apply to this practice-- take responsibility for your mess!

Where We Go From Here

The practices outlined here and others have real impacts on real people-- their health, the environment and their property. We need to remember that.

But these are just practices… practices that can change with the right leadership from industry, affected citizens, DEP, the General Assembly and the Governor all working together.

Making these changes isn't about putting anyone out of business or demonizing them, or whether we want plastic medical equipment when we're in the hospital.

It's about adopting practices that do things the right way and that are better for everyone.

We need to have a real conversation between industry, DEP and citizens to develop clean, safe alternatives.

But everyone needs to be at the table.

We just need the leadership to do it and ask the right questions about industry practices--

1. Are They Clean Or Dirty?
2. Do They Respect Property Rights?
3. Do They Protect State Taxpayers?

Personal Note

I grew up professionally at a time when there was more bipartisanship on environmental issues. I'd like to get back to that again.

I remember Maurice Goddard, who served five Governors, saying "sh__t" -- wastewater-- "isn't Republican or Democrat" (he was rather plain spoken).

You worked the problem until you found a solution.

I was blessed to work with people like Senators Mike Fisher, Ray Musto, Chip Brightbill and Mary Jo White; Reps. Art Hershey, Bob Reber and Bud George; and DER/DEP/DCNR Secretaries Cliff Jones, Nick DeBenedictis, Art Davis, Pete Duncan, Jim Seif, John Oliver and Governors Bob Casey, Tom Ridge, Mark Schweiker and many others at DEP and beyond who taught me how to find solutions by talking to people.

As a result, I was involved with the passage of every major piece of environmental legislation in Pennsylvania for 19 years (1983 through 2002).

As Secretary of DEP I visited every county in Pennsylvania nearly three times meeting hundreds of people-- businesses, farms, students, watershed groups, local governments all doing great things to restore and protect the environment.

People like Ed Wytovich-- a high school biology teacher-- and Margaret Dunn-- a professional geologist-- who taught me the power of building local partnerships to restore abandoned mine lands and treat mine drainage.

I met people who never thought they would be taking their grandchildren fishing in a stream that ran orange with mine drainage for 125 years-- cleaned up thanks to programs like Growing Greener.

During the Quecreek Mine Rescue in Somerset County, I experienced first-hand how drill rig operators, mine rescue teams, my colleagues at DEP and federal agencies, local first responders, the U.S. Navy, Gov. Schweiker and many others worked together to perform the miracle that rescued nine coal miners and gave them a second chance.

And, I saw the horror of the Flight 93 crash site the day after and how people pulled together to respond to that terrible tragedy.

I helped respond to the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant accident, to severe floods, the worst tornadoes Pennsylvania ever experienced and the million gallon Ashland Oil spill.

I spent a month in Erie working with a team cleaning out and plugging a circa 1910 conventional natural gas well on Beach 7 at Presque Isle State Park. Read more here.

When people tell me they can't do things differently or there is no other way, I remember the last 47 years and say-- why not?

We did it before.

Click Here for a PDF of this written testimony.

Click Here to watch a video of the hearing.

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

(Written by David Hess, former Secretary, PA Department of Environmental Protection. Send comments to: PaEnviroDigest@gmail.com.)

Resource Links:

-- Oil & Gas Industrial Facility Impacts

-- PA Environment Digest

NewsClips:

-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: House Committee Warned Of Lurking Taxpayer Cost For Plugging Conventional Oil & Gas Wells

-- Bradford Era/The Center Square: Committee Warned Of Lurking Taxpayer Cost For Plugging Conventional Oil/Gas Wells

-- Bradford Era: Rep. Causer Applauds Conventional Oil/Gas Well Owner Art Stewart For Testimony On Orphan Wells [Actually They're Confused-- Current Conventional Operators Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average; 55,000 More At High Risk Of Abandonment]

Related Articles - Hearing:

-- EDF: Pennsylvania Has 55,000 Oil/Gas Wells At High Risk Of Being Abandoned; 51,000 Wells At Risk Of Being Transferred To Low Solvency Owners; Current Conventional Well Owners Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average [PaEN]

-- Guest Essay: Conventional vs Unconventional Oil & Gas Wells - Not As Different As You Might Think - By Laurie Barr, Save Our Streams PA [PaEN]

-- House Committee Meets May 2 On Bill To Restore Authority To Review Conventional Oil/Gas Well Plugging Bonding Amounts; Help Prevent Routine Abandonment Of An Average Of 561 Wells A Year [PaEN]

PA Oil & Gas Public Notice Dashboards:

-- Pennsylvania Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - April 22 - 28; Conventional Wells Venting Gas; Shale Gas Well Pad Spills [PaEN]

-- Citizen Complaint Results In Finding 2 Abandoned Conventional Wells Owned By Prosperity Oil Co. Continuing To Vent Natural Gas In Washington County [PaEN]

-- Chesapeake Appalachia: DEP Inspections Find Violations For Spills, Releases, Continuing Defective Casing/Cementing At Shale Gas Well Pads In Bradford, Susquehanna Counties [PaEN]

-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices/Opportunities To Comment - April 29 [PaEN]

-- DEP Posts 61 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In April 29 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

PA Oil & Gas Compliance Reports

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

-- Conventional Oil & Gas Well Owners Failed To File Annual Production/Waste Generation Reports For **61,655 Wells**; Attorney General Continues Investigation Of Road Dumping Wastewater [PaEN]

-- DEP Issued 754 Notices Of Violation For Defective Oil & Gas Well Casing, Cementing, The Fundamental Protection Needed To Prevent Gas Migration, Groundwater & Air Contamination, Explosions [PaEN]

-- DEP Report Finds: Conventional Oil & Gas Drillers Routinely Abandon Wells; Fail To Report How Millions Of Gallons Of Waste Is Disposed; And Non-Compliance Is An 'Acceptable Norm' [PaEN]

-- DEP 2021 Oil & Gas Program Annual Report Shows Conventional Oil & Gas Operators Received A Record 610 Notices Of Violation For Abandoning Wells Without Plugging Them [PaEN]

-- PA Oil & Gas Industry Has Record Year: Cost, Criminal Convictions Up; $3.1 Million In Penalties Collected; Record Number Of Violations Issued; Major Compliance Issues Uncovered; Evidence Of Health Impacts Mounts [PaEN]

Related Articles This Week:

-- House Committee Meets May 2 On Bill To Restore Authority To Review Conventional Oil/Gas Well Plugging Bonding Amounts; Help Prevent Routine Abandonment Of An Average Of 561 Wells A Year [PaEN]

-- House Environmental Committee Sets May 1 Hearing On Cryptocurrency And Climate Change; Background Brief [PaEN]

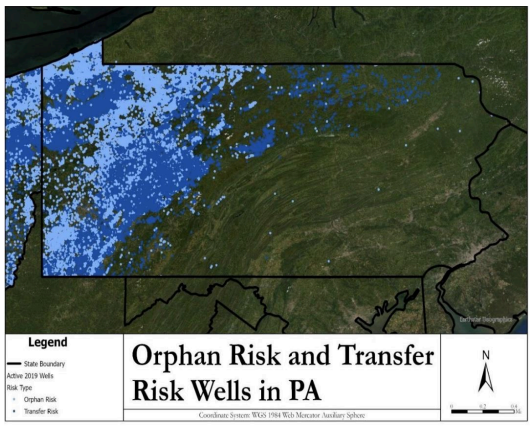
-- EDF: Pennsylvania Has 55,000 Oil/Gas Wells At High Risk Of Being Abandoned; 51,000 Wells At Risk Of Being Transferred To Low Solvency Owners; Current Conventional Well Owners Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average [PaEN]

-- House Hearing: Let's Work Together To Make Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Practices Cleaner, Respect Property Rights, Protect Taxpayers And Prevent New Abandoned Wells [PaEN]

-- Guest Essay: Conventional vs Unconventional Oil & Gas Wells - Not As Different As You

Might Think - By Laurie Barr, Save Our Streams PA [PaEN]
-- DEP Tentatively Sets May 18 Online Public Conference On Proposed Roulette Oil & Gas Waste Injection Well In Clara Twp., Potter County; Opponents Again Call For Robust Public Participation Process [PaEN]
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Clarifies New Regulations On Oil/Gas Fracking Wastewater Ban Road Spreading, Disposal From Conventional Wells [PaEN]
-- NRDC: U.S. Dept. Of Transportation Denies Special Permit For Shipping LNG Natural Gas By Rail From A Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant; Shipping By Truck Still Allowed [PaEN]
-- Eyes On Shell Reports Shell Petrochemical Plant Fenceline Monitors Found Benzene Emissions Above Toxic Substances Limits; No Timeline For Restarting Plant; DEP Issued Another NOV For Air Violations [PaEN]
-- Senate Environmental Committee Holds May 1 Hearing On Electric Grid Reliability Looking At Natural Gas, Other Generation Failures During Winter Storm Elliot In December [PaEN]
[Posted: April 24, 2023]

EDF: Pennsylvania Has 55,000 Oil/Gas Wells At High Risk Of Being Abandoned; 51,000 Wells At Risk Of Being Transferred To Low Solvency Owners; Current Conventional Well Owners Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average



On April 24, the Environmental Defense Fund announced the results of a new study that found 55,000 oil and gas wells owned by operators in Pennsylvania are at high risk of becoming abandoned leaving state taxpayers holding the bag for $3.7 billion in well plugging and cleanup costs.

The overwhelming majority of these wells are conventional oil and gas wells.

"There's all the incentive in the world for those operators to walk away," said Adam Peltz, EDF Senior Attorney for Energy Transition. "If they're bankruptcy-proof, then the state can't get them and they save all the money unplugging."

The study also found another 51,000 wells owned by solvent operators are at risk of being transferred to new financially unhealthy companies because the net present value of the wells is negative. The state taxpayer liability for these wells is an estimated $3.5 billion.

"Solvent operators are not going to orphan [abandon] the wells because they're solvent. And if you abandon a well and you're solvent, someone's going to come get you," said Peltz. "But what those operators are incentivized to do is transfer the wells down the value chain until they get to a low solvency entity that might then go bankrupt."

Only 11,500 wells were determined to be of no risk of being abandoned in Pennsylvania, according to the EDF study.

There are a total of 117,500 active or idle [inactive] conventional and unconventional oil and gas wells in the state, according to EDF.

The study was based on a review of the net present value of the wells and the relative

insolvency and fiscal health of the operators.

[Note: DEP reported in December that between 2017 and 2021, current conventional oil/gas well operators abandoned without plugging 2,246 wells-- 561 a year, on average. At least these were the wells DEP found doing inspections. Read more here.]

Peltz made these comments in testimony before the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee on April 24.

"Now, that's a worst case scenario. Not all of these wells are going to become orphaned [abandoned], of course," said Peltz. "[The] Industry's already plugging 500 wells a year in the state, which is good.

"But on the other hand, if you think about [taking] that through 2050, if the rate stays consistent, that's 13,500 wells. If there's 115,000 wells in the state, that's not very many wells that are going to be plugged by industry through 2050," said Peltz.

"And the likely thing to happen for a lot of the rest of them is to become orphaned [abandoned] and we all want to avoid that," said Peltz. "So what do we do?

"So the solution set is a combination of bonding, which we've been talking about, idle [inactive] well management, well transfer considerations, and state orphan well funds," said Peltz.

Bonding

"The primary mechanism for states to avoid future orphan well burden is adequate financial assurance, or bonding. Financial assurance takes the form of some amount of money that operators set aside for the benefit of the state in case no solvent responsible party is available to plug the well at the end of its useful life.

"Ideally, this amount of money is risk-targeted so as not to overspend or underspend the amount needed for well closure.

"Pennsylvania's current bonding framework is famously lax compared to its 30 oil and gas producing peer states, and likely has the lowest average bond amounts in the country, largely because wells drilled before 1985 are exempt from bonding entirely.

"As a general matter, no wells should be exempted from bonding, because future orphan risk only increases with older vintage wells. Single-well bonds, when applicable, should be based on actual plugging and remediation costs, using a combination of average industry plugging costs and average state orphan well plugging costs, and updated regularly.

"Blanket bonds, when applicable, should be based on risk, and eligibility should be predicated on the financial wherewithal of the operator, which can be determined a variety of ways.

"EDF recognizes that the sudden imposition of large bonds on marginal wells would likely induce an immediate wave of well orphaning, for which Pennsylvania is not prepared. Changes to the bonding framework, which are absolutely essential, must be developed in consultation with all stakeholders and phased in appropriately.

"Nevertheless, failing to reform Pennsylvania's financial assurance framework essentially guarantees high levels of well orphaning in the decades to come, a shameful legacy for a proud energy-producing state."

Idle [Inactive] Well Fees

"Idle, or non-producing wells, are required to be plugged in Pennsylvania after one year without production. However, operators are eligible for essentially indefinite extensions of inactive status, and unfortunately, this is a common way that operators avoid plugging

obligations around the country.

"While there are legitimate business reasons for temporarily idling a well, the vast majority of idle wells are never returned to service."

Peltz also suggested Pennsylvania adopt idle [inactive] well fees that escalate over time to encourage these wells to be plugged and raise monies for an orphan well fund. He also suggested the wells be regularly tested for mechanical integrity.

Idle wells are at the highest risk for becoming orphan wells and should be bonded appropriately, Peltz said.

Well Transfers

"Because well transfer is a gateway to orphaning without proper guardrails, EDF strongly recommends that the Pennsylvania DEP evaluate the financial wherewithal of transferees and use risk metrics to determine appropriate bonding amounts on well transfer.

"Alternatively, Pennsylvania can follow Arkansas' lead, which in 2018 adopted regulations requiring essentially full-cost bonding for marginal wells on transfer – this policy has led to a significant reduction in the rate of well orphaning in that state.

"Given that half of the expected future orphan well burden in Pennsylvania comes from "transfer risk" wells, Pennsylvania could obviate billions of dollars in future orphan well closure expenditures by adopting this straightforward risk-oriented rule with a track record in oil and gas producing states (Colorado adopted a similar rule just last year)."

Now Is The Time

"Given the intense attention being paid to the issue of orphan wells on the national and state level, Pennsylvania's unfortunate status as the locus of the orphan well problem in the United States, the funding opportunities presented by the new federal orphan well closure funding mechanism, and the desire of Pennsylvania policymakers to use the Commonwealth's geology for alternative purposes, now is the moment to adopt reforms needed to tackle the existing orphan [abandoned] well problem and to prevent today's active and idle [inactive] wells from becoming tomorrow's orphan wells," said Peltz.

Click Here for a copy of the written testimony by Peltz.

Other Testimony

Other comments presented at the April 24 House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee hearing included--

-- David Hess, former Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection
-- Kelsey Krepps, Sierra Club
-- Kurt Klapkowski, Acting DEP Deputy Secretary for Oil & Gas Management
-- Arthur Stewart, Cameron Energy

Click Here to watch a video of the hearing.

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

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[Posted: April 24, 2023]

Guest Essay: Conventional vs Unconventional Oil & Gas Wells - Not As Different As You Might Think

By Laurie Barr, Save Our Streams PA



Unfortunately during the recent House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee hearing on April 24, 2023, committee legislators appear to have been mis-informed when a conventional oil well operator testified.
During the hearing the operator from Warren County explained to the (EREC) Committee that conventional wells are shallow, low pressure vertical wells, characterizing unconventional wells as deep, high pressure, horizontal wells.

This isn't entirely accurate.

Similar mis-characterizations have become the norm among conventional oil and gas well operators while speaking with the public, regulators and legislators and unfortunately it's not accurate and has been used to influence regulations and policy.

Unconventional wells are wells that are drilled into hard shale formations. And the well

bore configuration of an unconventional well can be horizontal or vertical and often both.

Conventional wells may be both shallow or deep. In fact thousands of conventional wells are deeper than many unconventional wells. The well bore configuration of a conventional well could be vertical, horizontal or deviated.

Conventional wells have been and continue to be drilled to formations that were the usual target formations such as sandstone.

Deep wells, like Pennsylvania's Oriskany wells are also often high temperature and high pressure wells. Some of these very deep wells are also very old.

The first oil well drilled in Pennsylvania was only sixty nine feet deep, however within only a couple decades operators were able to drill wells over four thousand feet deep.

[DEP] Permits allow deep conventional wells to be drilled and also fracked. I think it's important to note that conventional wells may also have horizontal or even deviated wellbores.

Deep, high pressure, fracked vertical conventional wells cost the same to plug and re-plug as an unconventional horizontal or vertical well.

The reason is; there are no requirements to plug the horizontal bore of a horizontal/lateral well. And it may not even be possible.

Plugging is intended to stop the vertical flow of gas, oil and other fluids from traveling from deep formations to shallower formations, the aquifer and surface through the vertical well bores of both conventional and unconventional wells.

There really is no significant difference between plugging conventional wells and unconventional wells. Plugging techniques and requirements are similar.

To put it simply, both conventional and unconventional wells could be deep and also the configuration of the well bore of a conventional or unconventional well bore could be vertical, horizontal or even deviated.

In 2012 a friend told me about a well that was being plugged in Sabinsville, PA. I was interested in well plugging so I sat and watched the well being plugged.The plugger came over to me and explained the plugging operation. I asked him how much it cost to plug the well. And he said "one million."

The man plugging the well explained to me that this was a deep Oriskany well and it is now part of an underground gas storage field.

When it began leaking it needed to be replugged in order to keep the gas in the storage field.

He explained that the well was originally drilled in the 1930’s, plugged the first time in the 1970’s again in the 90’s. The 2012 plug was the third plug.

I asked him why it was so expensive and he said every oil, gas or water bearing zone that the well bore intersected needs to have cement 50’ above and 50’ below each of the zones.

Holding the cement in those zones required a steel plug.He explained the steel plug had to be drilled through for re-plugging. This was the reason for the high cost.

And this was the first time I heard the cost of plugging could be so high, it was also the first time I learned wells needed re-plugging. Cement cracks, shrinks and deteriorates over time and when it does, cement plugs need to be replaced.

Unfortunately members of the industry mischaracterized the differences between conventional wells and unconventional wells so many times, many (not all) believe the mis-charactorization themselves.

This has led to conventional and unconventional wells being looked at as two very

different industries.

I think it's important to point out the similarities among wells because many industry experts have been mis-characterizing these wells and continue to do so. And they have influenced regulation and policy.

Characterizing wells by bore length is very misleading at best.

There is no substantive evidence the industries are different. The only real distinction between the conventional and unconventional wells is that conventional operators want to be regulated differently and so far they have been successful.

House Bill 962

[House Bill 962] falls short of requiring operators to post bonds in the neighborhood of the actual cost of plugging and re-plugging their wells.

House Bill 962 caps bonding for 150 deep conventional wells at $600,000.00 while Pennsylvania is awarding contracts to plug single SHALLOW wells at $94,000.00. This seems really counterproductive.

House Bill 962 would require--

-- $35,000 bond for up to 50 wells (this is $700.00 per well @ 50 wells).

-- $60,000.00 for 150 wells (this is $400.00 per well at 150 wells). PA has never contracted to plug a well for $400.00.

Our legislators need to do better than House Bill 962. It continues to incentivize well abandonment.

Wells, especially deep, high pressure wells need re-plugging every 20 to 50 years or so, for the lifetime of the planet. We need a long term maintenance plan in place to cover plugging and re-plugging and this needs to be funded by the industry.

According to the American Petroleum Institute, in 2021 Pennsylvania's "the natural gas and oil industry, generating $78.4 billion toward the state's gross domestic product—including $40.5 billion added to total labor income."

Click Here for a copy of the complete Conventional vs. Unconventional Analysis by Laurie Barr.

*(**Photo:** Conventional natural gas well being plugged in Sabinsville, Tioga County on August 31, 2012 by Laurie Barr.)*

***Laurie Barr,** Save Our Streams PA, can be contacted by sending email to: lauriebarr59@yahoo.com.*

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[Posted: April 28, 2023]

House Committee Meets May 2 On Bill To Restore Authority To Review Conventional Oil/Gas Well Plugging Bonding Amounts; Help Prevent Routine Abandonment Of An Average Of 561 Wells A Year



The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is scheduled to meet May 2 on House Bill 962 (Vitali-D-Delaware), legislation that would restore DEP's authority to review conventional oil and gas well plugging bonding amounts every two years.

The bill, however, does not clearly repeal the provision in existing law that exempts wells drilled before April 1985 (which is most conventional wells) from having to submit any plugging bonds.

Bonding, along with aggressive use of administrative and enforcement tools, could help stem the tide of the now routine abandonment of an average of 561 conventional wells a year. Read more here.

In fact, a spokesperson for the conventional operators-- Arthur Stewart, head of Cameron Energy and representing the PA Grade Crude Oil Coalition-- told the House Environmental Committee at an April 24 hearing--

"If I were in the shoes of the head of the DEP, I would go after the scofflaws, and I would take their money." Read more here.

Background

As part of the July 2022 budget settlement, the General Assembly passed and Gov. Wolf

signed into law legislation that took away the authority of DEP to review the adequacy of conventional oil and gas well plugging bonding amounts for 10 years. Read more here.

The legislation was designed to head off a rulemaking petition from the Sierra Club, Clean Air Council and other groups accepted for study by the Environmental Quality Board in November 2021 to increase the well plugging bonding amounts for both conventional oil and gas and unconventional shale gas drillers to what it now costs taxpayers to plug a well when operators walk away from their obligations. Read more here.

The Post-Gazette calculated DEP has about $15 per well on hand in well plugging bonds to plug all the active conventional wells-- somewhere over 90,545.

DEP reported in December that between 2017 and 2021, conventional operators abandoned without plugging 2,246 wells-- 561 a year, on average. Read more here.

Under the new federally-funded conventional well plugging program, Pennsylvania is set to receive nearly $400 million over the next 15 years. DEP said it would plug about 249 wells the first year. Read more here.

You can do the math, we'll never catch up, unless changes are made in the practices used by conventional oil and gas operators.

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The meeting will be held in Room 60 East Wing starting at 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch live.

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

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[Posted: April 26, 2023]

Republican Herald Editorial: Implement Reforms For Natural Gas Drilling, Fracking

This editorial first appeared in the Republican Herald on April 30, 2023--



Lawmakers were so eager to accommodate the natural gas industry nearly two decades ago that they opened the rich Marcellus Shale gas field without an adequate regulatory regime.

Now, the state continues to play catch-up. It still does not require drillers to disclose all of the chemicals that they use to drill and hydraulically fracture gas wells, for example.

Now the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has raised the question of long-term fracking-waste disposal, three years after a statewide grand jury identified major regulatory failures and recommended significant reforms to better inform and protect the public.

That grand jury was convened by Attorney General Josh Shapiro. It followed up its findings of criminal wrongdoing against two drillers with a report on which the governor — the very same Josh Shapiro — and the Legislature now should act.

According to the EPA, the industry nationally produces about 1 trillion gallons of contaminated wastewater each year, about 2.6 billion gallons of which comes from deep wells in Pennsylvania.

To the industry's credit, it reuses most of the wastewater. But according to the state Department of Environmental Protection, the industry still permanently disposed about 234 million gallons of the wastewater in deep injection wells in 2022. The industry also holds about 90 million gallons above ground at any given time, pending its reuse.

Because Pennsylvania has just 12 deep disposal wells, drillers ship most of the contaminated water by truck to Ohio, which has more than 200 such wells.Those wells themselves are controversial, partly because earthquakes have been attributed to them, including in Ohio.

A consultant for a DEP advisory board recently told the agency that the state would need between 17 and 34 more injection wells to handle the current wastewater volume.

Democratic state Sen. Katie Muth of Montgomery County has introduced a bill to implement the grand jury's recommendations, including full disclosure of fracking chemicals individually and in combination and labeling fracking waste as what it is rather than "residual waste" for transport purposes.

Because of its massive environmental and potential health impacts, all aspects of drilling and fracking should be an open book. Shapiro should push for reforms and the Legislature should adopt them.

NewsClip:

-- Republican Herald Editorial: Implement Reforms For Natural Gas Drilling, Fracking

Related Article - Drilling Reforms:

-- Inside Climate News: Gov. Shapiro Provides Fresh Support To Key Changes Recommended In 2020 Grand Jury Report To Tighten Regulation Of The Natural Gas Drilling Industry To Better Protect Public Health, Environment [PaEN]

-- House Bill Would Expand Safety Zones Around Oil/Gas Wells, Infrastructure To Reduce Adverse Health, Environmental Impacts As Recommended By AG Shapiro's Grand Jury Report [PaEN]

PA Oil & Gas Public Notice Dashboards:

-- Pennsylvania Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - April 22 - 28; Conventional Wells Venting Gas; Shale Gas Well Pad Spills [PaEN]

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-- DEP Posts 61 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In April 29 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

PA Oil & Gas Compliance Reports

-- Feature: 60 Years Of Fracking, 20 Years Of Shale Gas: Pennsylvania's Oil & Gas Industrial

Infrastructure Is Hiding In Plain Sight [PaEN]
-- Conventional Oil & Gas Well Owners Failed To File Annual Production/Waste Generation Reports For **61,655 Wells**; Attorney General Continues Investigation Of Road Dumping Wastewater [PaEN]
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-- Senate Environmental Committee Holds May 1 Hearing On Electric Grid Reliability Looking At Natural Gas, Other Generation Failures During Winter Storm Elliot In December [PaEN]
[Posted: April 30, 2023]

Delaware River Basin Commission Clarifies New Regulations On Oil/Gas Fracking Wastewater Bans Road Spreading, Disposal From Conventional Wells



The Delaware River Basin Commission has clarified regulations it adopted in December to regulate wastewater to make clear they ban the road spreading and disposal of fracking wastewater from conventional as well as unconventional shale gas drilling operations.

Conventional well drillers use fracking extensively in new wells and often frack older wells to simulate production. Read more here.

The clarification was in response to a federal lawsuit filed by the Damascus Citizens for Sustainability claiming DRBC's wastewater regulations had a "loophole" that would have allowed wastewater from conventional drilling to be spread on roads or disposed of in the Delaware Basin.

In an updated Frequently Asked Questions about the rulemaking, it says this about conventional wastewater--

"The final rule prohibits the discharge of wastewater meeting the definition of "wastewater from HVHF and HVHF-related activities," as set forth in 18 C.F.R. 440.2, regardless of whether the well generating the wastewater, the formation targeted by the well, or the drilling activity is labeled "conventional" or "unconventional."

"The Commission's rule thus prohibits the discharge within the Basin of wastewater from a "conventional" well that is stimulated with HVHF techniques. Similarly, if a "conventional" well is stimulated using techniques other than HVHF, but with fracturing fluid comprised in part of treated or untreated wastewater from HVHF or HVHF-related activities, the prohibition applies to the entire discharge. As stated in FAQ 3 above, road spreading of HVHF wastewater is prohibited.

"The discharge of wastewater that is not generated in whole or in part from HVHF or HVHF-related activities falls outside the scope of the Commission's discharge prohibition. That is, the prohibition does not apply to the discharge of wastewater other than HVHF and HVHF-related wastewater."

All or part of 17 counties in Pennsylvania are included in the Delaware River Basin.

Click Here for a copy of the FAQ.

As a result of DRBC's clarification, the Damascus Citizens For Sustainability dropped its lawsuit.

While road spreading is technically illegal in Pennsylvania for the moment because no operator has been able to meet the requirements in DEP's Residual Waste Regulations, it has not been banned. Read more here.

The state Office of Attorney General is also investigating the practice. Read more here.

NewsClip:

-- WFMJ/AP: DRBC Clarifies Frack Waste Ban In Delaware Watershed Applies To Conventional Oil/Gas Wells

Related Articles - DRBC Wastewater:

-- Damascus Citizens For Sustainability Files Lawsuit Challenging The Delaware River Basin Commission Fracking Wastewater Rule Generally And For Allowing Road Dumping Of

Conventional Oil & Gas Wastewater Creating Widespread Pollution
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Adopts A Ban On Discharging Wastewater From Hydraulic Fracturing Drilling Operations, Strengthens Rules On Exporting, Importing Water To Support Fracking

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[Posted: April 28, 2023]

DEP Tentatively Sets May 18 Online Public Conference On Proposed Roulette Oil & Gas Waste Injection Well In Clara Twp., Potter County; Opponents Again Call For Robust Public Participation Process



On April 27, the Department of Environmental Protection announced it has tentatively scheduled an online "public conference" May 18 on the proposed Roulette Oil & Gas waste injection well in Clara Township, Potter County from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Barbara Hanes, DEP Oil and Gas Operations, asked opponents of the proposal to confirm their availability by the end of the day April 28 and to send questions or other items to be included on the agenda by May 10.

In the email, Hanes said a link will be made available to anyone who wants to attend, but it makes no mention of how many people will be allowed to speak.

Questions about the public conference should be sent to Hanes at: bhanes@pa.gov.

On April 18, residents of Clara Township in Potter County and environmental advocates called on DEP to provide them with an opportunity for public engagement in consideration of the proposal. Read more here.

On April 28, Laurie Barr, Save Our Streams PA, and Karen Feridun, Better Path Coalition, responded to DEP's April 27 email by saying--

"The Department describes the public participation process on its website. No mention is made of a conference as an alternative to providing the public an open, inclusive process for engagement.

"We have objected to the use of a conference in place of an appropriate process since it was first suggested by your office. Our objections only intensified when we were asked to submit questions in advance.

"Our position has not changed.

"Injection wells pose significant threats to communities in proximity of them. They are consequential projects that deserve a robust public participation process.

"A virtual conference is not a suitable substitute. Do not mistake our refusal to participate in one as acquiescence."

Background

The agency is currently reviewing an application submitted by Roulette Oil and Gas to convert the Clara 20 well, an active conventional gas well into a Class ll-D injection well in Clara Township.

Nearing the end of the process, a decision to approve or deny the request could be made soon, according to the DEP permitting geologist who is reviewing the application.

If approved, this Class ll-D injection well permit may be the first in the Commonwealth to be authorized in PA through a streamlined process with very limited public scrutiny.

Clara 20 is currently an active gas well with storage tanks nearby. The storage tanks, according to inspection reports, are not properly labeled. Trees are growing through the plastic liner of the containment surrounding the tanks.

Photos of the large trees are attached to Clara 20's most recent DEP inspection report.

For more information on the application, visit the Save The Allegheny River website.

Visit DEP's Underground Injection Control Wells webpage for more information on this program.

*(**Photos: Top-** Trees growing through liner around storage tanks, wellhead - DEP inspection photos; **Bottom-** Clara well site - DEP inspection photo; unlicensed and uninspected truck used to haul drilling wastewater. This is where hundreds of thousands of gallons of drilling wastewater would be deposed of.)*

Related Articles - Clara Twp. Injection Well:

-- Concerned Residents, Advocates Call On DEP For The Opportunity To Comment On Proposed Roulette Oil & Gas Waste Injection Well In Potter County [PaEN]

-- Local Officials, Residents, Advocacy Groups Call On DEP To Conduct A Robust Public Participation Process For Oil & Gas Waste Injection Well Applications [PaEN]

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Pennsylvania Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - April 22 - 28; Conventional Wells Venting Gas; Shale Gas Well Pad Spills



From April 22 to 28, DEP's Oil and Gas Compliance Database shows oil and gas inspectors filed 729 inspection entries that resulted in reporting 48 violations of environmental regulations-- 32 violations by the conventional oil and gas industry and 16 violations by the unconventional shale natural gas industry.

So far this year-- as of April 21-- DEP issued 1,519 formal notices of violation to conventional operators and 811 to unconventional shale gas operators based on 4,937 inspections of conventional facilities and 7,980 inspections of unconventional shale gas facilities.

Abandoned Wells

DEP issued five notices of violation for failure to plug a well upon abandoning it this week to **Pennfield Energy LLC** (3 in Venango County, company intends to plug the wells) and **Prosperity Oil Co. Inc.** (2 in Washington County - see below).

Prosperity Oil Co.

On April 24, DEP inspectors, responding to a citizen complaint, found two conventional wells owned by the **Prosperity Oil Co. Inc.** continuing to vent natural gas in Hanover Township, Washington County.

The wells are known as SB Donaldson 2 (see DEP inspection report) and SB Donaldson 3 (see DEP inspection report). Read more here about DEP followup.

Chesapeake Appalachia

Last week DEP inspectors again found continuing violations of spills and releases as well as defective well casing and cementing at three shale gas well pads in two counties by Chesapeake Appalachia.

At the **Grippo Well Pad** well 24HC in Terry Township, **Bradford County** DEP found continuing violations from a spill that was not reported to DEP by the company before an inspection in March.

At the **Kerr B Well Pad** in Lathrop Township, **Susquehanna County** DEP found petroleum contamination on the well pad the company said was the result of a mechanical malfunction of an onsite natural gas compressor.

At the **Delhagen Well Pad** and wells 2H and 5H in Rush Township, **Susquehanna County** DEP found continuing violations related to defective well casing and cementing that first began on June 16, 2016.

The good news is, on this April 24 inspection, no combustible gas was found but DEP did not clear the failed to notify DEP of defective well casing or cementing violations at this well pad. Read more here about these well pad violations.

Report Violations

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

Check These Resources

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

Sign up for DEP's eNOTICE service which sends you information on oil and gas and

other permits submitted to DEP for review in your community.

Violation Details

Violations Reported - Conventional
5 -- Failure To Plug The Well Upon Abandoning It
2-- Operator Vented Natural Gas Into The Atmosphere
1-- Drilling, altering or operating a well without a permit
2-- Failed to construct and operate the well in accordance with regulations
1-- Failed To Properly Dispose Of Fluids, Wastes, Drill Cuttings
1-- Operated A Residual Waste Processing Or Disposal Facility Without A Permit
1-- Failed To Collect Brine And Properly Manage Wastewater
1-- Failed to design, construct, operate facilities in a manner that did not adversely affect, endanger public
1-- Failed to remove production equipment
2-- Failed to design, implement, maintain erosion & sedimentation BMPs
1-- Failed to stabilize the site to protect it from accelerated erosion
2-- Failed To Submit Well Integrity Report
2 -- Failed To Submit Well Production & Waste Management Report

Company/Location/Violations - Conventional

Fayette County
-- The Production Co, LLC - Jefferson Twp. - F Nutt 1
-- Drilling, altering or operating a well without a permit (continuing)
-- Failed to design, implement, maintain erosion & sedimentation BMPs (continuing)
-- Failed to stabilize the site to protect it from accelerated erosion (continuing)
-- Failed to remove production equipment (continuing)
[Note: DEP issued an order for this well to be plugged and it was on October 7, 2021 and the site was to be restored by July 7, 2022. It was not. Read DEP inspection report]

Greene County
-- Diversified Prod LLC - Monongahela Twp. - CONSOL/USX 44
-- Failed To Properly Dispose Of Fluids, Wastes, Drill Cuttings
-- Operated A Residual Waste Processing Or Disposal Facility Without A Permit
-- Diversified Prod LLC - Cumberland Twp. - Headlee 2
-- Failed To Collect Brine And Properly Manage Wastewater
-- Failed to design, construct, operate facilities in a manner that did not adversely affect, endanger public

Jefferson County
-- Diversified Prod LLC - Young Twp. - Fetterman TWPG&O 1
-- Failed to design, implement, maintain erosion & sedimentation BMPs (continuing)

Venango County

-- Pennfield Energy LLC - Mineral Twp. - H.McDowell 742-8
-- Failure To Plug The Well Upon Abandoning It (continuing, intention to plug)
-- Pennfield Energy LLC - Mineral Twp. - H.McDowell 742-17
-- Failure To Plug The Well Upon Abandoning It (continuing, intention to plug)
-- Timberline Energy Inc. - Cranberry Twp. - Ostroske 7
-- Failure To Plug The Well Upon Abandoning It (continuing, intention to plug)

Washington County
-- Prosperity Oil Co. Inc. - Hanover Twp. - SB Donaldson 2
-- Failure To Plug The Well Upon Abandoning It
-- Operator Vented Natural Gas Into The Atmosphere
-- Failed to construct and operate the well in accordance with regulations
-- Failed To Submit Well Integrity Report
-- Failed To Submit Well Production & Waste Management Report
-- Prosperity Oil Co. Inc. - Hanover Twp. - SB Donaldson 3
-- Failure To Plug The Well Upon Abandoning It
-- Operator Vented Natural Gas Into The Atmosphere
-- Failed to construct and operate the well in accordance with regulations
-- Failed To Submit Well Integrity Report
-- Failed To Submit Well Production & Waste Management Report

Violations Reported - Unconventional Shale Gas
1 -- Discharged Waste Into Waters Of Commonwealth
1 -- Failure To Report A Release That Caused Or Threatens To Cause Pollution
2 -- Failure To Prevent Substances From Reaching Waters of Commonwealth
4 -- Operated A Residual Waste Processing Or Disposal Facility Without A Permit
3 -- Failed To Contain Wastes Or Regulated Substances In Tanks Or Other Storage Structures
1 -- Failed To Collect Brine And Properly Manage Wastewater
1 -- Failed to control, dispose of fluids, residual waste or drill cuttings properly
2 -- Failed to notify DEP of defective well casing or cementing

Company/Location/Violations - Unconventional Shale Gas

Bradford County
-- Blackhill Energy LLC - Springfield Twp. - Jackson 2H
-- Discharged Waste Into Waters Of Commonwealth (continuing)
-- Failed To Contain Wastes Or Regulated Substances In Tanks Or Other Storage Structures
-- Operated A Residual Waste Processing Or Disposal Facility Without A Permit
-- Chesapeake Appalachia - Terry Twp. - Grippo 24HC
-- Failure To Report A Release That Caused Or Threatens To Cause Pollution (continuing)
-- Failure To Prevent Substances From Reaching Waters of Commonwealth
-- Failed To Contain Wastes Or Regulated Substances In Tanks Or Other Storage Structures
-- Failed To Collect Brine And Properly Manage Wastewater
-- Operated A Residual Waste Processing Or Disposal Facility Without A Permit

-- Repsol Oil & Gas USA LLC - Columbia Twp. - Haralambous G 10H
-- Failed To Contain Wastes Or Regulated Substances In Tanks Or Other Storage Structures (continuing)
-- Operated A Residual Waste Processing Or Disposal Facility Without A Permit

Susquehanna County
-- Chesapeake Appalachia - Rush Twp. - Delhagen Wells 2H, 5H
-- Failed to notify DEP of defective well casing or cementing (continuing)
-- Chesapeake Appalachia - Lathrop Twp. - Kerr B Well Pad
-- Failure To Prevent Substances From Reaching Waters of Commonwealth
-- Failed to control, dispose of fluids, residual waste or drill cuttings properly
-- Operated A Residual Waste Processing Or Disposal Facility Without A Permit

[**Note:** If you believe your company was listed in error, contact DEP's Oil and Gas Program.]
[**Note:** These may not be all the NOVs issued to oil and gas companies during this time period. Additional inspection reports may be added to DEP's Oil and Gas Compliance Database.]
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The wells are owned by **Prosperity Oil Co., Inc.** and are known as SB Donaldson 2 (see DEP inspection report) and SB Donaldson 3 (see DEP inspection report).

The **SB Donaldson 2** well is located approximately 75 feet from the complainant's home and 120 feet from the complainant's water well.

The DEP inspector found significant natural gas readings around the well head of the water well which has been disconnected from the house and is no longer in use.

Pollution of a water well like this is presumed by law to be caused by a natural gas well located within 2,500 feet of the well.

DEP inspection records show a notice of violation was issued on March 2, 2012 to Prosperity Oil for failing to operate a well to ensure its integrity and on March 2, 2021 for venting gas in a manner which causes a hazard to the public. Both violations are still outstanding.

DEP also issued Prosperity Oil a notice of violation for failing to plug an abandoned well on March 2, 2021 as well as NOVs for failing to submit annual mechanical integrity and production and waste generation reports.

DEP requested Prosperity Oil to respond in writing to the continuing violations by May 15, 2023.

DEP's inspection of the **SB Donaldson 3** well found it was also venting natural gas to the atmosphere.

DEP inspection records show Prosperity Oil was issued a notice of violation on March 2, 2012 for failing to operate a well to ensure its integrity and on March 2, 2021 for venting gas in a manner which causes a hazard to the public. Both violations are still outstanding.

DEP also issued Prosperity Oil a notice of violation for failing to plug an abandoned well on March 2, 2021 as well as NOVs for failing to submit annual mechanical integrity and production and waste generation reports.

Neither well was hooked up to production equipment.

DEP requested Prosperity Oil to respond in writing to the continuing violations by May 15, 2023.

Report Violations

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Check These Resources

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

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*(**Photos:** SB Donaldson 2, SB Donaldson 3 from DEP inspection reports.)*

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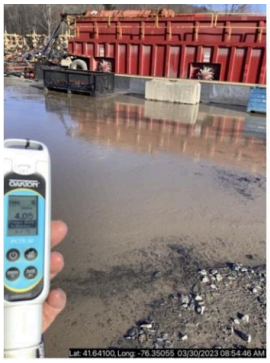
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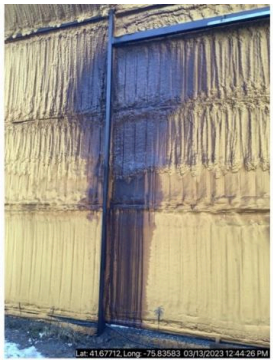
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[Posted: April 28, 2023]

Chesapeake Appalachia: DEP Inspections Find Violations For Spills, Releases, Continuing

Defective Casing/Cementing At Shale Gas Well Pads In Bradford, Susquehanna Counties





Last week DEP inspectors again found continuing violations of spills and releases creating new brownfield sites as well as defective well casing and cementing at three shale gas well pads in two counties.

At the **Grippo Well Pad** well 24HC in Terry Township, **Bradford County** DEP found continuing violations from a spill that was not reported to DEP by the company before an inspection in March.

DEP sample results from a March 30 inspection found elevated levels of barium, strontium, lithium and chloride in pooled water on the site indicating drilling wastewater. Again sample results did not show testing for PFAS 'forever chemicals' or radium 226 or 228. [Read inspection report, with photos]

DEP identified these violations at the site--

-- Failure To Report A Release That Caused Or Threatens To Cause Pollution
-- Failure To Prevent Substances From Reaching Waters of Commonwealth
-- Failed To Contain Wastes Or Regulated Substances In Tanks Or Other Storage Structures
-- Failed To Collect Brine And Properly Manage Wastewater
-- Operated A Residual Waste Processing Or Disposal Facility Without A Permit

Chesapeake is pursuing Act 2 Land Recycling cleanup for the contaminated areas.

At the **Kerr B Well Pad** in Lathrop Township, **Susquehanna County** DEP found petroleum contamination on the well pad the company said was the result of a mechanical malfunction of an onsite natural gas compressor.

DEP noted violations for--

-- Failure To Prevent Substances From Reaching Waters of Commonwealth
-- Failed to control, dispose of fluids, residual waste or drill cuttings properly
-- Operated A Residual Waste Processing Or Disposal Facility Without A Permit

Chesapeake said they removed contaminated soil from around the compressor site and disposed of it at a landfill. [Read inspection report with photos. Read inspection report with sample results]

DEP is not requiring any further action by the company.

At the **Delhagen Well Pad** and wells 2H and 5H in Rush Township, **Susquehanna County** DEP found continuing violations related to defective well casing and cementing that first began on June 16, 2016.

The good news is, on this April 24 inspection, no combustible gas was found but DEP did not clear the failed to notify DEP of defective well casing or cementing violations at this well pad. [Read inspection report]

DEP is not requiring the company to take any follow up action.

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*(**Photos:** Grippo Well Pad, Bradford County; Kerr B Well Pad, Susquehanna County from DEP inspection reports.)*

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PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices/Opportunities To Comment - April 29



The following DEP notices were published in the April 29 PA Bulletin related to oil and gas industry facilities. Many of the notices offer the opportunity for public comments.

Land Recycling/Brownfield Cleanups
-- UGI Utilities, Inc. - fmr Bellefonte Manufactured Gas Plant: DEP received Remedial Investigation Report concerning remediation of soil and groundwater contaminated with coal tar and other contaminants at the MGP in Spring Township, Centre County. (PA Bulletin, page 2376)
-- Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC - A&M Well Pad: DEP received a Final Report on remediation of soil contaminated with production wastewater at the well pad in Wilmot Township, Bradford County. (PA Bulletin, page 2376)
-- Coterra Energy, Inc. - W.Wright Well Pad: DEP received a Final Report on remediation of soil contaminated with hydraulic fracturing fluid for the well pad in Bridgewater Township, Susquehanna County. (PA Bulletin, page 2376)
-- American Refining Group, Inc. - American Refining Facility: DEP received a Risk Assessment on remediation of soil and groundwater contaminated with arsenic, iron and manganese for the facility located in Bradford Township, McKean County. (PA Bulletin, page 2377)

Water Quality Permit
-- Peoples Natural Gas Company - 12 Miles Gas Pipeline: DEP invites comments on NPDES

Stormwater permit application for the project disturbing 37 acres in Amwell, Washington and West Bethlehem townships in Washington County and Greene County. (PA Bulletin, page 2350)

Public Water Supply Permit
-- Eastern Gas Transmission & Storage, Inc. - Leidy Station Public Water Supply: DEP issued a Safe Drinking Water Supply Construction Permit for the facility in Leidy Township, Clinton County. (PA Bulletin, page 2375)

Chapter 105 Encroachment Permits
-- EQT ARO LLC - Temporary Natural Gas + Water Pipelines: DEP invites comments on Chapter 105 permit application for project with multiple stream crossings and wetland impacts related to Brown Run (High Quality) and McClure Run (High Quality) and wild trout streams in McHenry Township, Lycoming County. (PA Bulletin, page 2363)
-- Coterra Energy, LLC - Kielar D Well Pad: DEP issued Chapter 105 permit to construct well pad and fill .20 acres of wetlands "for the safe development of Marcellus Shale production and conveyance to markets" in Lathrop Township, Susquehanna County. (PA Bulletin, page 2384)

Erosion & Sedimentation Permits
-- Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC: DEP issued a Chapter 102 erosion and sedimentation permit for a project impacting the Susquehanna River in Asylum Township, Bradford County. (PA Bulletin, page 2386)
-- Coterra Energy, Inc.: DEP issued a Chapter 102 erosion and sedimentation permit for a project impacting East Branch Wyalusing Creek in Jessup Township, Susquehanna County. (PA Bulletin, page 2386)
-- EQM Gathering OPCO, LLC - Pipeline Project: DEP issued a Chapter 102 erosion and sedimentation permit for a pipeline project impacting Templeton Fork, Rocky Run, Robinson Fork, Enlow Fork, Dunkard Fork and Stone Coal Run in East Finley, West Finley and Richland Townships in Greene and Washington counties. (PA Bulletin, page 2386)
-- Range Resources-Appalachia, LLC: DEP issued a Chapter 102 erosion and sedimentation permit for a project in Hanover Township, Beaver County. (PA Bulletin, page 2386)

Air Quality Permits
-- Columbia Gas Transmission LLC - Compressor Station Engine Replacement: DEP invites comments on Air Quality Plan Approval for this project in Mann Township, Bedford County. (PA Bulletin, page 2353)
-- Halliburton Energy Services - Montgomery Field Camp Facility: DEP invites comments on proposed state-only Air Quality Permit for this natural gas drilling materials distribution facility in Clinton Township, Lycoming County. (PA Bulletin, page 2354)
-- CNX Gas Company, LLC. - Shale Gas Well Pad: DEP issued Air Quality Plan Approval for a shale gas well pad with seven wells in East Finley Township, Washington County. (PA **Bulletin, page 2380)**
-- MarkWest Liberty Midstream & Resources, LLC - Harmon Creek Gas Plant: DEP issued an Air Quality Plan Approval to install certain air pollution sources in Smith Township, Washington County. (PA Bulletin, page 2380)

Oil & Gas Well Drilling Permits [4.21.23]*
-- Last Week - Permits: DEP issued 17 conventional and 21 unconventional
-- Year To Date - Permits: DEP issued 37 conventional and 290 unconventional
-- Year To Date - Wells Drilled: 38 conventional and 150 unconventional
-- Year To Date - Inspections: 4,937 conventional and 7,980 unconventional
-- Year To Date - NOVs Issued: 1,519 conventional and 811 unconventional
*DEP's Weekly Oil & Gas Program Workload Report

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

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

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

You'll also get notice of new technical guidance documents and regulations.
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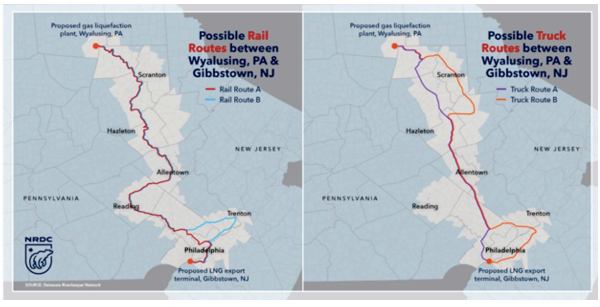
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NRDC: U.S. Dept. Of Transportation Denies Special Permit For Shipping LNG Natural Gas By Rail From A Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant; Shipping By Truck Still Allowed



On April 25, the Natural Resources Defense Council said a Federal Register notice from the U.S. Department of Transportation announced the agency has denied Energy Transfer Partners a special permit to transport liquefied natural gas (LNG) by rail from Wyalusing, PA to Gibbstown, NJ across the river from Philadelphia.

While NRCS said this is a victory for halting the Gibbstown project, Energy Transport Solutions could still use a Trump-era rule to move forward

with its project.

Kimberly Ong, Senior Attorney at NRDC said--

"The future of the Gibbstown liquefied natural gas terminal is looking bleaker by the day. The denial of the Energy Transfer Partners special permit is a huge victory for halting this planet-warming, water-polluting, community-endangering fossil fuel project.

"Now the DOT just needs to put the nail in the coffin and restore the ban on LNG by rail once and for all.

"Denial of the special permit is a necessary, but not sufficient, step to stop the construction of the Gibbstown LNG Terminal. Secretary Buttigieg must stand up for communities and the climate reinstating the ban on LNG by rail.

"Especially after the tragic disaster in East Palestine, Ohio, there is no excuse for Buttigieg to not suspend the federal LNG by rail rule immediately."

Click Here for a copy of the NRDC announcement.

Other Reactions

"I am extremely grateful that the PHMSA special permit # 20534-R permitting massive rail transportation of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) through the Lehigh Valley was denied on April 24, 2023. The initial permit approval was a flawed analysis on both an engineering and emergency response basis. This action is a step forward in protecting the lives of the citizens of Lehigh County and Northampton County from potential catastrophic and possibly deadly rail incidents as well as potentially creating an unsustainable disaster response scenario," said **Bob Elbich, Lehigh County PA Commissioner**, Former cryogenic engineer, Former volunteer first responder.

"PHMSA's denial of a continued Special Permit to transport liquefied natural gas (LNG) by rail from northcentral PA to South Jersey is a major win for the safety of almost 2 million people who live along the proposed rail route. This move protects the safety of hundreds of communities along the rail route, including many already overburdened by environmental racism, from the threat of catastrophic incidents from transporting dangerous LNG with rail cars that were not designed for that purpose," said **Joseph Minott**, Executive Director and Chief Counsel, Clean Air Council

"It's time for Energy Transport Solutions and New Fortress Energy to pack up and leave our watershed alone. The people have spoken and said no hazardous LNG on our River or through our communities. Now the federal government is lending its voice to say no hazardous LNG on our rail lines. New Jersey, the Delaware River Basin Commission and the Biden Administration now need to join the chorus and 'just say no' to LNG," proclaimed **Maya van Rossum**, the Delaware Riverkeeper.

"PHMSA heard the voices of the thousands who called for the special permit to be denied. The railroad tracks just miles from my home are safer tonight because of it. The number of people who can say the same is staggering. PHMSA did a good thing today, but now it needs to give us the full protection only an outright ban on LNG by rail can provide," said **Karen Feridun**, Founder of Berks Gas Truth.

"We are relieved that the permit has been denied because the potential morbidity and mortality that could result from an LNG by rail project is an outrageous risk. In accordance with the precautionary principle, LNG by rail should be prohibited," said Tammy Murphy, LL.M., Advocacy Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania.

LNG By Truck

Shipping LNG natural gas by truck from the Wyalusing facility would still be allowed.

Groups opposing the transportation of LNG by rail and truck noted New Fortress Energy has said "they will move LNG by truck if they must and project that 300-400 trucks each day, 365 days per year, would be needed to get the LNG from Wyalusing to Gibbstown.

"That's up to 800 LNG truck trips in and out, on top of all the other trucks going to the Gibbstown Logistics Center to store and export other cargoes such as propane, butane and other products.

"The increase in truck traffic is already opposed by municipalities and communities that would be in the path of these perpetual truck corridors.

"For instance, the resolutions passed by municipalities opposing LNG by rail are also opposed to the truck transport of LNG.

"Hundreds of communities, many with dense overburdened populations, would be impacted by the pollution, noise, and the unending threat of a traffic accident that would release LNG and potentially cause catastrophe with fire, bomb-like explosions, and suffocating vapor clouds.

"If the company plans to move LNG by tank truck, they will face an intense battle."

NewsClips:

-- Fox News: Federal PHMSA Decides Not To Grant Permit For Transporting LNG Natural Gas From A Proposed Wyalusing, Bradford County Plant Via Railroad

-- The Guardian: US DOT Denies 'Bomb Train' Permit To Ship LNG Gas Through Populated Areas In Pennsylvania

-- WHYY: Controversial Plan To Ship LNG Natural Gas By Rail From Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant Hits Another Roadblock

Related Articles:

-- Scranton Times Editorial: Local Leaders, DOT Must Stop Plant In Wyalusing, Bradford County From Shipping LNG Natural Gas By Rail Or Truck Or Both To Philadelphia

-- Marcellus Drilling News: New Fortress Energy Reapplying For Wyalusing LNG Natural Gas Plant Permits In Bradford County

-- A Voluntary Settlement Of An EHB Appeal By All Parties Requires Developers Of A Bradford County Liquified Natural Gas Facility To Apply For New Air Quality Permit

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Eyes On Shell Reports Shell Petrochemical Plant Fenceline Monitors Found Benzene Emissions Above Toxic Substances Limits; No Timeline For Restarting Plant; DEP Issued

Another NOV For Air Violations



On April 25, the Eyes On Shell citizens initiative reported fenceline air pollution monitoring data at Shell's Petrochemical Plant in Beaver County reported benzene levels of over 185 µg/m3 and 89 µg/m3 they said was above the 29 µg/m3 minimum risk level established by the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

Eyes on Shell said the plant's 110 µg/m3 two-week average concentration far exceeds the 29 ug/m3 minimal risk level for acute inhalation exposure.

They said around 9:00 p.m. on April 11, residents near the plant reported to Eyes On Shell strong smells described as a chemical fire, burning plastic and a strong chemical smell.

They said benzene has a sweet, aromatic, gasoline-like odor. People also complained about headaches, sore throat and coughing. Most individuals can begin to smell benzene in air at 4.96 µg/m3.

The odor threshold, they said, generally provides adequate warning for acutely hazardous exposure concentrations but is inadequate for more chronic exposures.

"This is not the first time that Shell has exceeded the benzene trigger of 9 µg/m3 [at which Shell is required to investigate]. They keep repeating the same mistake," said Dr. Clifford Lau of Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community's Eyes on Shell watchdog team. "Shell needs to get this problem resolved."

Shell Response - Air Emissions

At an online community meeting held by Shell on April 25, Dr. Chris Kuhlman from the Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health, said he reviewed air emissions data related to the biotreater odor incidents for Shell and found elevated levels of volatile organic compounds and benzene inside the fenceline, but said they were not above worker exposure limits.

Dr. Kuhlman acknowledged benzene was detected at two fenceline monitoring stations on April 11-- 58 ppb [185 µg/m3] at one station and 28 ppb [89 µg/m3] at the other. [Units conversion factor]

"At these concentrations if someone was standing at the fenceline at these locations and during this time, these parts per billion levels of benzene would not be expected to cause even transient discomfort or irritation after minutes to hours of exposure," said Dr. Kuhlman.

"Now around this time, air monitoring teams were deployed to conduct air monitoring rounds offsite past the fenceline in the community. Their monitoring teams performed between April 11th and April 13th [and] did not note ongoing offsite impacts."

"And if you look at the long-term air monitoring data, again, the passive air monitoring systems that are PAMs that's being collected at the downwind community adjacent fenceline, the average levels of benzene and other chemicals tested in this area are below levels that would suggest a long-term health concern," said Dr. Kuhlman.

"Keep in mind that evaluating exposure includes determining if inhaling a chemical may cause acute or immediate health effects from acute short-term exposure or long-term health effects from chronic exposures, which would be continuous and repeated exposures over a longer

period, like several months or years," said Dr. Kuhlman.

Kimberly Kaal, Environmental Manager at the Plant, noted air monitoring and other information is posted on the Shell Plant website.

William Watson, General Manager of the Shell plant, apologized for the odor incidents and said the company needs to communicate faster with the community when there is a problem.

Restart Of Plant

Watson gave no timeline for restarting the plant.

"We've shut down operations to really work on our flare system and on our wastewater treatment system. But during that time, we're also going to take advantage of the pause and do some other work on and test other parts of our plant," said Watson. And we call that really [an] opportunity scope that we've got. And we've often said, and we'll continue to say, "We move at the speed of safety." And that's the case regarding how long the shutdown is going to continue."

Emergency Flaring

"Now, when we restart the plant, there will be flaring, as I mentioned, when we restart the cracker. That's what happens," said Watson. "And when that occurs, we will post notices on our Facebook site before then, so the community is aware where it's going to take place."

With respect to the flaring incidents, Watson said there are "several factors that contribute to the additional flaring that cause the emissions exceeds.

"That includes the temporary initial startup activities, the equipment shakedown period. Again, unforeseen and unpredictable circumstances that arose just because of the complexity of this site and this project," said Watson.

"It's starting up the largest construction project in the State of Pennsylvania since World War II, and it's one of the largest construction projects in the nation in quite some time.

"There's been no reported injuries to workers or to the community because of these violations.

"But that being said, no violations [are] acceptable, so we're going to continue to be transparent, report out, comply with regulations, while also applying the learnings and best practices to ensure our operations, again, have no negative impact on people or the environment," said Watson.

"Again, as we learn, we look to improve. Just like with anything else, in this particular event that occurred, we are doing an after action review overall," said Watson. "And again, how we can do better, both from an onsite communication standpoint, but then off-site as well."

DEP Actions

On April 17, DEP issued another notice of violation for the odors and emissions associated with the bio treatment facility Dr. Kuhlman was discussing.

DEP has also issued multiple NOVs for air violations related to air pollution from flaring and other emissions at the plant.

DEP also received a Malfunction Report from Shell for the April 11 odor incident and has posted its inspection reports for April 10, 12 and 13.

Visit DEP's Shell Petrochemical Complex webpage for more information on reports and actions taken related to the plant.

Eyes On Shell

Eyes on Shell said since January 2022, Shell has submitted more than 39 "Malfunction Reports" to the DEP listing a multitude of problems at the plant.

Since April 2022, the state DEP has issued 14 "Notices of Violation," 11 of which were related to

air quality.

They noted these citations have not ended ongoing problems with the plant, and evidence of evasive behaviors towards the PA DEP's requests for root cause explanations are starting to emerge.

The Environmental Integrity Project and Clean Air Council sent a notice of intent to sue letter to Shell for repeatedly violating air pollution limits and releasing plumes of black smoke from flares in violation of the law. The notice is a legally required first step to sue a company under the Clean Air Act. Read more here.

"This is not a plant Pennsylvania taxpayers should be subsidizing for $1.65 billion," said Matt Mehalik, Breathe Project executive director. "Why should taxpayers be subsidizing a plant that continues to be out-of-control and that releases harmful chemicals to the community? EPA Region 3 should consider stepping in to put an end to ongoing, highly problematic malfunctions at this facility."

May 3 Eyes On Shell Meeting

Eyes on Shell will host a May 3 online community meeting to provide updates on Shell Plant monitoring activities.

Click Here to register.

Visit the Eyes On Shell, Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community and Breathe Project websites for more information.

Visit DEP's Shell Petrochemical Complex webpage for more information on reports and actions taken related to the plant.

NewsClips:

-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: Shell Addresses Bad Smell, Elevated Benzene Emissions At Beaver County Chemical Plant

-- Beaver County Times: Questions Remain After Shell Air Monitors Detect Benzene At Petrochemical Plant

-- TribLive: Operations On Hold At Shell Petrochemical Plant In Beaver County

-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Shell Apologizes For Recent Odor At Petrochemical Plant, Promises To Do Better In The Future

-- Beaver County Times Guest Essay: Community Matters: Shell Petrochemical Plant's Claim To Be A Good Neighbor Is Insulting To Beaver County Residents - By Daniel Rossi-Keen, Ph.D, RiverWise

Related Articles:

-- Groups Urge DEP To Temporarily Halt Operations At Shell Petrochemical Plant In Beaver County; File 2nd Notice Of Intent To Sue For Air Pollution Violations

-- Environmental Groups File Notice Of Intent To Sue Shell Chemical For Air Pollution Violations At Its Petrochemical Plant In Beaver County

-- DEP Issues Notice Of Violation To Shell Petrochemical Plant In Beaver County For Air Quality Violations In Sept. - Oct.

-- Dramatic Video From Carnegie Mellon's Project Breathe Shows Shell Ethane Plant In Beaver County Flaring Natural Gas Due To Malfunction

-- Shell Petrochemical Plant Had 3-Hour Emergency Flaring Event To Burn Off Flammable Gases In Beaver County

-- Beaver County Residents And Allies Launch New Shell Ethane Plant Accountability Campaign

-- Guest Essay: Shell Petrochemical Plant Off To A Bad- And Dangerous- Start In Beaver County
-- Intense, Bright White Light From The Shell Plastics Plant Turns Night Into Day For Many Neighbors Of The Beaver County Plant

Related Articles This Week:

-- House Committee Meets May 2 On Bill To Restore Authority To Review Conventional Oil/Gas Well Plugging Bonding Amounts; Help Prevent Routine Abandonment Of An Average Of 561 Wells A Year [PaEN]
-- House Environmental Committee Sets May 1 Hearing On Cryptocurrency And Climate Change; Background Brief [PaEN]
-- EDF: Pennsylvania Has 55,000 Oil/Gas Wells At High Risk Of Being Abandoned; 51,000 Wells At Risk Of Being Transferred To Low Solvency Owners; Current Conventional Well Owners Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average [PaEN]
-- House Hearing: Let's Work Together To Make Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Practices Cleaner, Respect Property Rights, Protect Taxpayers And Prevent New Abandoned Wells [PaEN]
-- Guest Essay: Conventional vs Unconventional Oil & Gas Wells - Not As Different As You Might Think - By Laurie Barr, Save Our Streams PA [PaEN]
-- DEP Tentatively Sets May 18 Online Public Conference On Proposed Roulette Oil & Gas Waste Injection Well In Clara Twp., Potter County; Opponents Again Call For Robust Public Participation Process [PaEN]
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-- NRDC: U.S. Dept. Of Transportation Denies Special Permit For Shipping LNG Natural Gas By Rail From A Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant; Shipping By Truck Still Allowed [PaEN]
-- Eyes On Shell Reports Shell Petrochemical Plant Fenceline Monitors Found Benzene Emissions Above Toxic Substances Limits; No Timeline For Restarting Plant; DEP Issued Another NOV For Air Violations [PaEN]
-- Senate Environmental Committee Holds May 1 Hearing On Electric Grid Reliability Looking At Natural Gas, Other Generation Failures During Winter Storm Elliot In December [PaEN]
[Posted: April 26, 2023]

Senate Environmental Committee Holds May 1 Hearing On Electric Grid Reliability Looking At Natural Gas, Other Generation Failures During Winter Storm Elliot In December



The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will hold its second hearing May 1 on electric grid reliability and the failure of natural gas and other generation to provide power when called on by PJM during Winter Storm Elliot in December.

Witnesses during this hearing represent generators and are expected to be--

-- Glen Thomas, President of PJM Power Providers

Group and former Chair of PA PUC
-- Jim Locher, Keystone-Conemaugh Project Office
-- Dr. Matt Barmack, Vice President of Market and Regulatory Policy At Calpine
-- Rob Dewechter, Regional Vice President Cogentrix

PJM Nonperformance Penalties

On or about the week of April 10, the PJM Interconnection began assessing up to $2 billion in penalties on about 200 electricity generators that failed to perform when called on by PJM during Winter Storm Elliot.

At the peak of Winter Storm Elliott, about 47,000 MW were unexpectedly offline in PJM's footprint. About 63% of all outages were natural gas-fired power plants, 28% was coal, 4% oil, 2% nuclear, 1% hydroelectric and about 1% "other," according to PJM. Read more here.

PJM did not release the names of the companies or the penalty amounts, saying that is for the individual companies to disclose to their shareholders and investors.

Click Here for a list of companies operating in Pennsylvania that could be affected.

At least one company has filed bankruptcy as a result of the penalties and six others have sought protection from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Read more here.

On April 7, FERC gave PJM some flexibility for handling member defaults under certain conditions while they continue to participate in PJM's grid markets. Read more here.

On April 14, PJM asked FERC for additional assistance in resolving nonperformance penalties to help avoid "market disruption, defaults, bankruptcies and the physical loss of assets." Read more here.

PJM operates the electricity grid and wholesale power markets in 13 states (including Pennsylvania) and the District of Columbia.

Click Here: PJM Frequently Asked Questions Winter Storm Elliot Issues [LOTS of info.]
Click Here for PJM's Winter Storm Elliott Information webpage.

Takeaways From First Hearing

The key takeaways during the first hearing on this issue February 27 were--

-- Natural Gas Continues To Have A Reliability Problem: 70% of the PJM electric generation that failed to perform during the December freeze were natural gas-fired power plants. Natural gas had the same problems during a cold weather event in 2014 and the polar vortex in 2018. That's problematic for Pennsylvania because the state depends on natural gas for 53% of our electric generation and the electric grid generally as it becomes more dependent on natural gas.

-- Renewable Energy Generation Isn't Coming Online Fast Enough: A study PJM released February 24 showed renewable energy generation sources were not coming online fast enough to replace fossil fuel plants that are retiring. PJM has started a critical path analysis to avoid this mismatch that could affect the ability of the grid to reliably supply electricity. Read more here.

-- 35,000 MW Of Renewable Generation Approved By PJM, But Not Connected: PJM said 35,000 MW of renewable resources are through the PJM approval process, but not commercially interconnected to the PJM grid due to issues like supply chains and siting.

-- 95% Of Proposed New Generation In PJM Is Renewable & Storage: 95% of the new energy generation seeking to connect to the PJM grid is solar, wind, and energy storage because renewable energy is cheaper than natural gas and nuclear.

-- Baseload-type Reliability Of Renewable Generation An Issue: While PJM said renewable energy performed "up to their capability," it does not have the same "essential reliability services," i.e. continuous baseload generation ability, as thermal generators. Renewables could,

if long duration battery storage or other technology is deployed at scale.
-- Independent Energy Office Proposal: Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming), Majority Chair of the Senate Environmental Committee, said he is working on legislation to create an Independent Energy Office for energy planning and related issues, along the lines of the Independent Fiscal Office established for budget issues. Read more here.
-- Not Addressed Was The Spike In Natural Gas Prices: The hearing did not address the natural gas price spikes caused by international market forces that resulted in natural gas costs going up by as much as 128% for Pennsylvania consumers and electricity costs by as much as 34%. [Read more here]

Click Here to read more from February hearing.

The hearing will be held in Room 8E-B East Wing Capitol Building starting at 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch live.

Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming) serves as Majority Chair of the Senate Environmental Committee and can be contacted by calling 717-787-3280 or sending email to: gyaw@pasen.gov. Sen. Carolyn Comitta (D-Chester) serves as Minority Chair and can be contacted by calling 717-787-5709 or sending email to: senatorcomitta@pasenate.com.

Resource Links:
-- PJM Frequently Asked Questions Winter Storm Elliot Issues [LOTS of info.]
-- PJM's Winter Storm Elliott Information webpage.

Related Articles - Winter Storm Elliot:
-- PJM This Week Sends Penalty Assessments Of Up To $2 Billion To Electric Generators That Failed To Perform During December's Winter Storm Elliot; Natural Gas Power Plants Had 63% Of Outages [PaEN]
-- Senate Hearing On Electric Grid Reliability: Natural Gas Continues To Have Reliability Problems; Renewables Aren't Coming Online Fast Enough; Energy Office To Be Proposed [PaEN]
-- PJM's Preliminary Review Of Christmas Storm Electric Generation Failures Shows Natural Gas Units Failed To Provide Power At Over Triple The Rate Of Other Generation [PaEN]
-- PJM Interconnection: PJM Operated Reliably Throughout Winter Storm Challenges, But 'Generator Forced Outages Were Unacceptable' [PaEN]
-- PA Capital-Star: After A Series Of Winter Storms, FERC Approves New Standards For Power Plants To Prevent Power Failures During Extreme Weather [PJM's December Freeze Included] [PaEN]
-- Guest Essay: Forestall Or Foresee - The Energy Transition And The Pennsylvania Legislature - By Ralph Kisberg, Responsible Drilling Alliance, Lycoming County [PaEN]

PA Oil & Gas Public Notice Dashboards:
-- Pennsylvania Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - April 22 - 28; Conventional Wells Venting Gas; Shale Gas Well Pad Spills [PaEN]
-- Citizen Complaint Results In Finding 2 Abandoned Conventional Wells Owned By Prosperity Oil Co. Continuing To Vent Natural Gas In Washington County [PaEN]
-- Chesapeake Appalachia: DEP Inspections Find Violations For Spills, Releases, Continuing Defective Casing/Cementing At Shale Gas Well Pads In Bradford, Susquehanna Counties [PaEN]
-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices/Opportunities To Comment - April 29 [PaEN]

-- DEP Posts 61 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In April 29 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

PA Oil & Gas Compliance Reports

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

-- Conventional Oil & Gas Well Owners Failed To File Annual Production/Waste Generation Reports For **61,655 Wells**; Attorney General Continues Investigation Of Road Dumping Wastewater [PaEN]

-- DEP Issued 754 Notices Of Violation For Defective Oil & Gas Well Casing, Cementing, The Fundamental Protection Needed To Prevent Gas Migration, Groundwater & Air Contamination, Explosions [PaEN]

-- DEP Report Finds: Conventional Oil & Gas Drillers Routinely Abandon Wells; Fail To Report How Millions Of Gallons Of Waste Is Disposed; And Non-Compliance Is An 'Acceptable Norm' [PaEN]

-- DEP 2021 Oil & Gas Program Annual Report Shows Conventional Oil & Gas Operators Received A Record 610 Notices Of Violation For Abandoning Wells Without Plugging Them [PaEN]

-- PA Oil & Gas Industry Has Record Year: Cost, Criminal Convictions Up; $3.1 Million In Penalties Collected; Record Number Of Violations Issued; Major Compliance Issues Uncovered; Evidence Of Health Impacts Mounts [PaEN]

Related Articles This Week:

-- House Committee Meets May 2 On Bill To Restore Authority To Review Conventional Oil/Gas Well Plugging Bonding Amounts; Help Prevent Routine Abandonment Of An Average Of 561 Wells A Year [PaEN]

-- House Environmental Committee Sets May 1 Hearing On Cryptocurrency And Climate Change; Background Brief [PaEN]

-- EDF: Pennsylvania Has 55,000 Oil/Gas Wells At High Risk Of Being Abandoned; 51,000 Wells At Risk Of Being Transferred To Low Solvency Owners; Current Conventional Well Owners Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average [PaEN]

-- House Hearing: Let's Work Together To Make Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Practices Cleaner, Respect Property Rights, Protect Taxpayers And Prevent New Abandoned Wells [PaEN]

-- Guest Essay: Conventional vs Unconventional Oil & Gas Wells - Not As Different As You Might Think - By Laurie Barr, Save Our Streams PA [PaEN]

-- DEP Tentatively Sets May 18 Online Public Conference On Proposed Roulette Oil & Gas Waste Injection Well In Clara Twp., Potter County; Opponents Again Call For Robust Public Participation Process [PaEN]

-- Delaware River Basin Commission Clarifies New Regulations On Oil/Gas Fracking Wastewater Ban Road Spreading, Disposal From Conventional Wells [PaEN]

-- NRDC: U.S. Dept. Of Transportation Denies Special Permit For Shipping LNG Natural Gas By Rail From A Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant; Shipping By Truck Still Allowed [PaEN]

-- Eyes On Shell Reports Shell Petrochemical Plant Fenceline Monitors Found Benzene Emissions Above Toxic Substances Limits; No Timeline For Restarting Plant; DEP Issued Another NOV For Air Violations [PaEN]

-- Senate Environmental Committee Holds May 1 Hearing On Electric Grid Reliability Looking

At Natural Gas, Other Generation Failures During Winter Storm Elliot In December [PaEN]
[Posted: April 27, 2023]

House Environmental Committee Sets May 1 Hearing On Cryptocurrency And Climate Change; Background Brief



The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is scheduled to hold a hearing May 1 on cryptocurrency and climate change.

The Committee is expected to hear from these witnesses--

-- Rob Altenburg, director, PennFuture Energy Center;

-- Dr. Anna R. Kelles, New York State Assembly District 125;

-- Charley McPhedran, senior attorney, EarthJustice;

-- Tom Schuster, PA Chapter Director, Sierra Club; and

-- Gregory A. Beard, Co-chairman and CEO, Stronghold Digital Mining.

PA Background

On March 7, the U.S. Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee held a hearing on proposed federal legislation cryptocurrency mining operations.

At the hearing, Robert Altenburg, PennFuture's Senior Director for Energy and Climate presented an overview of cryptocurrency mining in Pennsylvania and its environmental impacts.

Here are excerpts from that testimony--

With no specific reporting requirements and inconsistent permitting, we often rely on media reports, or reports from residents, to discover new Bitcoin mining operations. What we have seen, however, represents a disturbing trend.

Waste Coal

In July of 2021 a company by the name of Stronghold Digital Mining (Stronghold) filed an S-1 report with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) disclosing plans to purchase three waste coal fired power plants and install 57,000 Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs) dedicated to mining bitcoin.

To date, Stronghold has purchased the 94-megawatt (MW) circulating fluidized bed (CFB) **Scrubgrass power plant** in Venango County and the 94 MW **Panther Creek CFB facility** in Carbon County.

Stronghold's initial plans also contemplated the purchase a third facility bringing their total generating capacity to 300MW. As of March 24, 2022, the company operated approximately 20,500 pieces of mining hardware and purchase agreements in place for an additional 29,400 miners.

Waste coal is a low-energy-value product that, before environmental restrictions were passed, was often dumped in piles near mining sites.

Pennsylvania has approximately 840 such sites and operators such as Stronghold claim that burning it for energy is environmentally beneficial because it encourages the removal of these piles, and the waste ash can be used for fill and reclamation projects.

Despite these claims, burning waste coal is still just burning fossil fuel and results in the

emissions of significant amounts of air pollution including ozone precursors, fine particulates, acid gasses, heavy metals, and vast amounts of carbon pollution.

The impacts of increased air pollution should not be ignored—particularly at these sites, since the Scrubgrass plant is located within ten miles of a designated Environmental Justice area and the Panther Creek plant is within three miles of such an area.

Burning a low-energy-value fuel source also requires subsidies to be profitable and the Pennsylvania state legislature has provided significant incentives to burn polluting waste coal.

These incentives include $4/MWh from the Coal Refuse Reclamation tax credit and a claimed $16/MWh from the Tier II Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard Program.

Altogether, Stronghold has claimed 60 percent of their generation costs will be covered by subsidies from taxpayers and ratepayers.

Burning waste coal to generate electricity for bitcoin mining is one of the worst choices available.

According to EIA data, Pennsylvania's waste-coal fired power plants had average CO2 emissions of over 2,760 pounds per megawatt-hour making them the second most carbon-intensive fuel behind residual fuel oil.

This effect is compounded because facilities used to mine Bitcoin are operating at significantly higher capacity factors than plants supplying energy to the grid and Pennsylvania has nine other such facilities where mining could expand.

There are better, safer, and in many cases cheaper ways to clean up waste coal than burning it for Bitcoin mining.

For example, in some cases waste piles have been stabilized by planting American beachgrass. In other cases, it may be a better option to remove the material and dispose of it in an appropriately permitted facility.

Fracked gas

Pennsylvania is already seeing methane gas fired generators being installed directly at fracked gas well sites and, in certain market conditions these facilities could see significantly more revenue that would be obtained selling the gas on the wholesale market.

Assuming no action by regulators, this would be expected to raise wholesale prices for methane gas which we currently rely on for 53% of their electricity generation and a significant portion of home heating.

In addition to the consumer impacts, methane is 86 times more potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period, so any leakage from these operations would also be particularly dangerous for our climate.

In January of 2022, inspectors from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) found 30 methane-gas-fired generators with an estimated capacity of more than 10MW at the Hegarty A well operated by **Big Dog Energy, LLC** and located in Clearfield County, PA within two miles of a designated Environmental Justice area.

These generators were installed without authorization from the DEP in violation of Pennsylvania regulations and the resulting energy was being used to mine bitcoin.

While the DEP issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) for this operation10, it is unknown how many of Pennsylvania's many thousands of methane gas wells–many in rural and low-income areas– are hosting similar mining projects.

Big Dog Energy alone has 38 other active well permits across Pennsylvania.

In addition to Big Dog Energy, another company, **Pin Oak Energy**, has purchased a

midstream gathering system capable of 25,000 MMBtu/day.

Given available ASIC mining hardware, that could represent fifteen to twenty thousand miners, and again, there are questions as to whether the required air quality permits have been obtained.

Finally, in late 2022, **Diversified Production LLC** applied for an air quality plan approval to install five methane-gas fired generators to support bitcoin mining operation in Elk County, PA.

This site is particularly problematic as it is in a region known as the Pennsylvania Wilds— a rural area that heavily depends on nature tourism, and the impacts of the noise from this facility on wildlife has not, to our knowledge, been considered.

Nuclear

In August of 2021, **Talen Energy Corp**. announced a joint venture with **TeraWulf Inc**. that would result in the construction of the 180MW **Nautilus Cryptomine** bitcoin mining facility adjacent to the Susquehanna nuclear power generating station in Columbia County, Pennsylvania.

It has since been reported that this facility will benefit from significant state subsidies in the form of Pennsylvania's datacenter tax exemption.

While claims are made that this will use carbon-free nuclear generation, we reject any suggestion that this is environmentally neutral.

In 2020, nuclear generation was responsible for more than 33 percent of Pennsylvania's energy generation and represented more than 92 percent of the carbon free energy generated.

Diverting carbon free energy to wasteful Bitcoin mining virtually guarantees that demand will be backfilled with fossil resources.

Given Pennsylvania's grid mix, diverting 180MW of carbon free generation from the grid could result in over one million tons of additional carbon pollution per year, in addition to thousands of tons of NOx and other dangerous air pollutants.

Bitcoin mining operations are likely to raise wholesale electricity prices.

While most of the large Bitcoin mining operations in Pennsylvania are operating "behind the meter" and not drawing power from the wholesale power grid, there are still potential impacts for energy prices and reliability.

To the extent that miners are using electricity that would otherwise flow to the grid, that energy would, by definition, have been priced below PJM's market clearing price.

By diverting that energy into wasteful Bitcoin mining, the energy markets will clear at a higher price. These increases in wholesale prices may ultimately be absorbed by consumers.

The claim that miners could provide a service to the grid as a source of interruptible load is highly suspect.

Given current Bitcoin prices and network conditions, miners using competitive hardware can gross more than $100 per MWh.

According to PJM's Market Monitor, average monthly wholesale prices in 2021 never exceeded $92/MWh and averaged considerably less. That suggests that there are limited situations where miners would voluntarily curtail their demand because of price concerns.

On the contrary, this makes it very likely that Bitcoin mining operations could be the marginal demand that sets an elevated price for the rest of the grid.

Bitcoin mining does not help clean energy.

A similar strawman argument is to claim that mining Bitcoin could "absorb wasted clean

energy." Again, this assumes that the only option is waste and Bitcoin mining is a viable alternative—neither is likely true.

In certain scenarios, energy markets have shown a "duck curve" where high solar generation has driven prices very low—sometimes even negative—for short periods in the mid-day period before ramping up sharply later in the day.

This can be addressed in different ways, including increased investment in transmission allowing power to be wheeled to where there is demand, and increased storage allowing the excess energy to be used later.

It's unlikely Bitcoin will do anything to alleviate this issue.

First, one of the reasons Bitcoin miners gravitate to more expensive fossil fuels rather than clean renewable generation is because 24/7 operations at high-capacity factors is more profitable.

This is driven both by the nature of proof-of-work mining pools where increased hash rates directly translate to increased profits. (Other factors include the relatively short competitive life of ASIC hardware and the extreme market volatility.)

It is highly unlikely that miners will invest a significant amount of money in mining hardware and let it sit idle until the energy grid "needs" their load.

It's far more likely that these mining operations will burn fossil fuels for energy to support their 24/7 operations and only curtail that generation and buy from the grid when price signals favor doing so.

While there may be rare cases when this might keep grid prices from going negative, that will come at a significant cost.

In normal operation, the marginal cost of the Bitcoin miner's behind-the-meter generation will become a floor price for the market and have the effect of raising average wholesale prices for everyone while continuing polluting combustion.

Bitcoin mining isn't a solution to the problem of flared methane gas.

A recent claim noted that using methane gas for mining Bitcoin is a "better" choice than flaring it, but that is yet another strawman argument.

An even better choice is investing in energy efficiency, electrification, and clean renewable generation, so we avoid the emissions and risk associated with extracting the fossil fuels in the first place.

The next logical question is why is there such an excess of flared gas? The 2016 New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for oil and gas require that many wells utilize reduced emissions completions where gas is either captured and used for some productive purpose or reinjected.

Those same standards will also often require low-bleed pneumatic controllers or other technology that further reduces the amount of potentially vented gas. Where flaring is allowed, this tends to be for a limited time and only for a limited number of wells.

Before claiming proof-of-work mining is a solution, we should first be sure the problem is well understood.

Using flared methane gas for Bitcoin presupposes that capture of the gas be technically feasible and that enough gas is available that it is economical to use. Assuming that is the case, the question then is why is it not already being captured?

The implication is that regulators are allowing oil and gas operators to opt-out capturing the gas for financial reasons. Such exemption forces the citizens to absorb the risk and damage

from the polluting industry and acts as a subsidy encouraging pollution.

If polluting industries were, instead, required to internalize the costs of their waste, flaring would be less of a problem.

Proof-of-work cryptomining hardware is not energy efficient.

Bitcoin advocates have also attempted to distract from criticism of Bitcoin's enormous energy demand with red herring arguments.

One example raised at a 2022 Congressional hearing was the claim that because the ASICs used for mining are highly optimized for hashing blocks of data, they are more efficient—or less energy intensive—than general-purpose computers used in conventional datacenters.

While an ASIC may be the least energy intensive tool available to calculate more than 100 trillion hashes in one second, that cannot be considered an efficient process if an alternate methodology exists that avoids the need to calculate trillions of hashes in the first place.

In much the same way, using a single enormous mining truck may be the best way to move 400 tons of dirt, but if the desired results don't require moving dirt at all, the efficiency of the truck is irrelevant.

We also note that ASIC hardware has an extremely limited useful life before it becomes obsolete e-waste.

Hardware that was introduced just two or three years ago is often impossible to operate profitably and even newer hardware may be replaced and discarded in favor of the latest and most competitive equipment.

At a time when semiconductor shortages are contributing to higher consumer prices, this wasteful hardware cycle to proliferate is a particularly bad policy choice that disproportionately impacts low- and moderate-income families.

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

Reporting and quantifying the problem is essential.

In our discussions with regulators, we often find that they are unable to say with any degree of confidence where proof-of-work mining is happening.

Even where permit-applications or local media stories indicate a project is being developed, it may be reported as a "datacenter" or other generic term not associated with crypto-mining.

In this regard, the reporting provisions in [U.S.] Senator Markey's Crypto-Asset Environmental Transparency Act are an essential step.

We should use the best available technology to reduce pollution and protect public health.

State and federal laws to combat air pollution often incorporate the principle that, before an industrial source is allowed to dump its waste into our air, it first must ensure it's using the best technology available to reduce its emissions.

Blockchain technology and crypto-currencies should be no exception and cleaner alternatives than proof-of-work mining are available.

Noise pollution must be systematically addressed.

In establishing a federal noise abatement program in the early 1970's, the EPA stated that "Noise differs from most other environmental pollutants in one very important aspect—the knowledge and technology exists now to control almost every indoor and outdoor noise problem."

In spite of this, one of the chief areas of concern we hear regarding crypto-mining is the loud and ceaseless noise created by these operations.

Relying on local governments and public nuisance claims has not been effective to stop these operations—particularly in rural areas where the impact may be most acute on wildlife.

Click Here for a copy of Altenburg's complete testimony with footnotes.

Visit the U.S. Senate Committee hearing webpage for a video of the hearing and copies of all testimony submitted.

The House Environmental Committee hearing will be held in Room 523 Irvis Building starting at 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch online.

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

*(**Photo:** Proposed bitcoin mining facility at the Talen Energy nuclear power plant in Luzerne County. PAhomePage/WBRE.)*

NewsClips - Cryptocurrency:

-- The Allegheny Front/WPSU: Violation At PA Natural Gas Drilling Site Raises Questions About Lack Of Cryptocurrency Regulation

-- PA Capital-Star: U.S. Senate Panel Probes How Cryptocurrency Mining Increases Energy Consumption

-- Nebraska Examiner: U.S. Senate Panel Probes How Cryptocurrency Mining Increases Energy Consumption In Nebraska And PA

-- WPSU: EPA Asks Big Dog Energy Bitcoin Mining Operation In Clearfield County For Information [DEP Issued Company 9 NOVs For Attempting To Abandon Wells Without Plugging Them]

-- WPSU: For A Rural PA Area, A Cryptocurrency Mine Brought Noise Pollution

-- Ridgeway Record: What Exactly Is All The Noise About With Bitcoin Mining?

-- Explore Venango: Scrubgrass Generating Plant Parent Company Raises $105 Million To Power Bitcoin Mining

-- The Center Square: First U.S. Nuclear-Powered Data Center, Bitcoin Mining Operation Coming To PA Next To Susquehanna Nuclear Power Plant In Luzerne County

-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Why PA Is A Major Focus For This Australian Bitcoin Mining Company

-- Post-Gazette: Burning Coal Waste For Cryptocurrency Mining

Related Articles - Cryptocurrency:

-- DEP Invites Comments On Proposed Cryptocurrency Data Mining Operation On Shale Gas Well Pad In Elk County [PaEN]

DEP OKs Coal Ash Use For Structural Fill To Build Data Mining Operation At Coal Waste-Fired Scrubgrass Power Plant In Venango County [PaEN]

PA Oil & Gas Public Notice Dashboards:

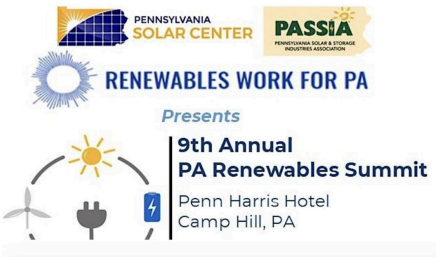
-- Pennsylvania Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - April 22 - 28; Conventional Wells Venting Gas; Shale Gas Well Pad Spills [PaEN]

-- Citizen Complaint Results In Finding 2 Abandoned Conventional Wells Owned By Prosperity Oil Co. Continuing To Vent Natural Gas In Washington County [PaEN]

-- Chesapeake Appalachia: DEP Inspections Find Violations For Spills, Releases, Continuing

Defective Casing/Cementing At Shale Gas Well Pads In Bradford, Susquehanna Counties [PaEN]
-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices/Opportunities To Comment - April 29 [PaEN]
-- DEP Posts 61 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In April 29 PA Bulletin [PaEN]
Related Articles This Week:
-- House Committee Meets May 2 On Bill To Restore Authority To Review Conventional Oil/Gas Well Plugging Bonding Amounts; Help Prevent Routine Abandonment Of An Average Of 561 Wells A Year [PaEN]
-- House Environmental Committee Sets May 1 Hearing On Cryptocurrency And Climate Change; Background Brief [PaEN]
-- EDF: Pennsylvania Has 55,000 Oil/Gas Wells At High Risk Of Being Abandoned; 51,000 Wells At Risk Of Being Transferred To Low Solvency Owners; Current Conventional Well Owners Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average [PaEN]
-- House Hearing: Let's Work Together To Make Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Practices Cleaner, Respect Property Rights, Protect Taxpayers And Prevent New Abandoned Wells [PaEN]
-- Guest Essay: Conventional vs Unconventional Oil & Gas Wells - Not As Different As You Might Think - By Laurie Barr, Save Our Streams PA [PaEN]
-- DEP Tentatively Sets May 18 Online Public Conference On Proposed Roulette Oil & Gas Waste Injection Well In Clara Twp., Potter County; Opponents Again Call For Robust Public Participation Process [PaEN]
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Clarifies New Regulations On Oil/Gas Fracking Wastewater Ban Road Spreading, Disposal From Conventional Wells [PaEN]
-- NRDC: U.S. Dept. Of Transportation Denies Special Permit For Shipping LNG Natural Gas By Rail From A Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant; Shipping By Truck Still Allowed [PaEN]
-- Eyes On Shell Reports Shell Petrochemical Plant Fenceline Monitors Found Benzene Emissions Above Toxic Substances Limits; No Timeline For Restarting Plant; DEP Issued Another NOV For Air Violations [PaEN]
-- Senate Environmental Committee Holds May 1 Hearing On Electric Grid Reliability Looking At Natural Gas, Other Generation Failures During Winter Storm Elliot In December [PaEN]
[Posted: April 25, 2023]

Register Now! 9th Annual Renewables Summit Set For May 22-23 Harrisburg



Join the Renewables Work for PA Coalition, PA Solar & Storage Industries Association and the PA Solar Center for the 9th Annual Renewables Summit on May 22-23 at the Penn Harris Hotel in Camp Hill, Cumberland County across the river from Harrisburg.
The summit brings together industry professionals, NGOs, and decision-makers to discuss important issues to the Pennsylvania renewables market. The event is also a great networking opportunity.

The agenda includes--
-- Legislative Update
-- Interconnection Topics - PJM Queue Updates
-- Aquavoltaics
-- Jobs, workforce training, increasing diversity
-- Renewable energy facilities on brownfields, abandoned mine lands, landfills
-- Building Code updates
-- Business case for energy storage

Click Here to register and for more information.

Related Articles:

-- House Consumer Protection Committee Reports Out Solar Energy Decommissioning Bills For Rereferral To House Environmental Committee [PaEN]
-- House Environmental Committee Reports Out Bipartisan Bills On School Solar Energy Grants For Rereferral, Local Notice Of Toxics Violations [PaEN]
[Posted: April 26, 2023]

Protecting Clean Water Together Series: Community Solar Saves Water - Keeps it Clean - Saves Money, Too!

By Carol Hillestad for Brodhead Watershed Association, Monroe County



Huh? What the heck does solar-generated electricity have to do with keeping drinking water clean and pure and abundant?

Other ways of generating electricity consume water in mind-boggling amounts.

Fracking for gas-powered electric plants takes millions of gallons of water for every gas well.

Coal mining uses tens of millions of gallons a day.

Even hydroelectric loses prodigious amounts of water to evaporation.

Using solar panels consumes no water, emits no pollution, and releases no greenhouse gases.

Manufacturing them, however, uses massive amounts of water and some pretty nasty chemicals.

So why is solar a better option?

In effect, electricity that comes from oil, gas, and coal uses water and spews pollution every time you turn on a light.

Solar has a one-time, upfront "pollution expense" when it's manufactured-- and then provides decades of pollution-free, water-friendly electricity.

Like a lot of people in the Brodhead watershed, though, you may live in the woods, with way too much shade to even think about solar, no matter how much it protects water and human life on earth.

A different way to go solar

What if shade-dwellers, renters, and anyone who can't afford the upfront cost of

installing solar could tap into a community array of solar panels?

Community solar may be coming to Pennsylvania, if the state legislature and governor okay an initiative by State Senator Rosemary Brown. [Read more here.]

Community solar customers can either buy or lease a share of the solar panels in an offsite solar array. They get a credit on their regular electric bill for electricity generated by their share of the community system. So community solar saves money, too.

If getting electricity from the sun appeals to you, find out more about community solar in Pennsylvania. It has bipartisan support-- tell your state representatives to get on board!

Click Here to learn more about community solar in Pennsylvania.

Visit Brodhead's Protecting Clean Water Together and Nature At Risk webpages for more stories in these series.

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

Related Articles:

-- Bipartisan House, Senate Members Introduce Legislation Establishing Real Community Solar Program To Help Address Home/Business Energy Spikes Caused By Volatile Natural Gas Prices [PaEN]

-- Brodhead Watershed Assn. StreamWatch Volunteer Training May 20 In Monroe County [PaEN]

-- Register Now! 9th Annual Renewables Summit Set For May 22-23 Harrisburg [PaEN]

[Posted: April 28, 2023]

Reimagine Appalachia: New Report Outlines Job Impacts Of Green Locomotives From The Wabtec Manufacturing Facility In Erie



On April 25, the Keystone Research Center, together with United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE), and U.S. Senator Bob Casey's office, released the findings of a new research report on the job-creation potential of green locomotive production in Erie Pennsylvania.

Written by the premier U.S. modeler of the jobs and economic impacts of investments that reduce carbon emissions, the PERI institute at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, the study calculates the employment impacts of expanding "green locomotive" manufacturing at the Lawrence Park plant of Wabtec (Westinghouse Air Brake Technology), in three geographies: Erie County, across Pennsylvania, and in the United States.

Green locomotive production is expected to increase in the United States because there are about 26,000 old, polluting locomotives in the United States that need to be replaced or remanufactured.

Upgrading and expanding U.S. rail networks could further increase demand for green locomotives further.

The new report estimates the employment impact of producing 500 and 1,000

locomotives at Lawrence Park and models how that impact varies based on the locomotives being clean ("tier 4") diesel-electric locomotives or battery-electric locomotives with the batteries manufactured onsite (creating more jobs) or sourced outside the plant.

The report finds that producing 1,000 green locomotives per year at the plant would create--

-- 3,400 to 5,100 jobs in Erie County;
-- a similar number (3,060 to 5,100) in the rest of Pennsylvania; and
-- 9,860 to 14,960 in the U.S. economy as a whole.

About 800 people currently produce locomotives at the plant. These 800 jobs would become more secure with a jump in production and between 2,600 and 4,300 new jobs would be created at the facility with production of 1,000 green locomotives annually.

Keystone Research Center executive director, and ReImagine Appalachia co-director Stephen Herzenberg said, "America needs to upgrade existing rail, lay new rail lines in Appalachia and across the country, and manufacture green locomotives in our state and region. This study shows that scaling up green locomotive production in Erie to feed a sustainable U.S. rail system could be a game-changer for economic opportunity in Northwest PA."

During the press conference, Carl Rosen, General President, United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE) said, "All across the country there are rail yard workers and rail yard communities who are suffering the adverse health effects of old, dirty diesel locomotives. We are bringing together a national coalition of labor, community and environmental groups to demand that the railroads upgrade their locomotives, and to demand that the government do its job to make sure the railroads are not making people sick. Green locomotives will clean up pollution, address the climate crisis, and bring thousands of good, union jobs to Western Pennsylvania."

Scott Slawson, President, UE Local 506 added, "The members of UE Local 506 are the most skilled locomotive-building workforce in America, and our facility in Erie has significant underutilized capacity. Our workforce and our facility are ready to build the green locomotives that our country needs, and this study shows that building those locomotives in Erie will ensure a bright future for our region. We hope that our employer, Wabtec, will work with us to build green locomotives in Erie and make that future a reality."

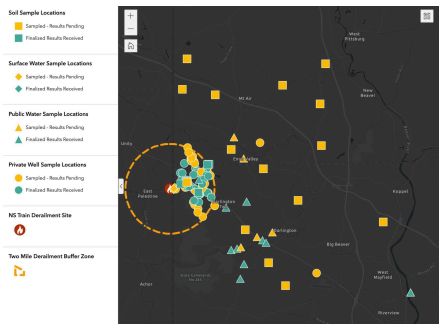
Click Here for a copy of the study.

Click Here for a video of the press conference.

Reimagine Appalachia is a coalition of labor, policy experts and community leaders who are making sure that everyone who lives here can have a good job and can put down roots for the future.

The coalition has been pushing Congress to pass major funding packages that create jobs, rebuild infrastructure, and address fires and floods caused by damage to the climate.
[Posted: April 25, 2023]

DEP Posts Soil, Water Sampling Results Related To Monitoring PA For Impacts From Norfolk Southern Train Derailment



On April 24, the Department of Environmental Protection released a new interactive mapping tool that shows final sample results from soil and water testing conducted by DEP

in the wake of the East Palestine train derailment on February 3, 2023.

Pennsylvanians can use this tool to review sampling results in the vicinity of the derailment.

"Results so far indicate that the chemicals from the derailment have not been detected in either soil or water, and we will continue to sample to ensure that there is not any contamination spreading from the derailment site," said Rich Negrin, Acting Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection. "This map is an excellent tool to show the scope of the sampling that we have done and to be able to reassure people that their water and their soil are safe. We are thrilled that the results so far do not show signs of contamination in Pennsylvania from this derailment, but we are going to remain vigilant and continue our monitoring to ensure that any contamination from the derailment site does not spread."

The map shows key details from the derailment including the derailment location and the 2-mile radius that had been evacuated. Final sample results from soil, surface water, private drinking water wells, and public water system wells are available.

"Farmers depend on healthy soil and water to produce food that is safe for their families and customers," said Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding. "We commend the Department Environmental Protection for working diligently and carefully to review and validate results of water and soil testing. The Department of Agriculture has been present, listening to area farmers so that we can take the critical step of validating their concerns. This interactive map will be valuable to all Pennsylvanians who depend on healthy soil and water for their lives and livelihoods."

"The Department has been on the scene since the first hours after the derailment, and we will continue to stay in affected communities as long as it takes to assure Pennsylvanians that their air, water and soil are safe. said Negrin. "We have been in touch with the landowners and residents that have had these tests conducted, and we will be continuing to take samples and update this map with final results as they are available."

Samples were tested for chemicals of concern identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Unified Command. Additional chemicals will be tested in future rounds of sampling.

The map also includes a time-lapse feature to show where and when samples were collected. Additional sample locations and dates will be added to the map as they are available.

Click Here to view the DEP interactive map.

More information on the Ohio Train Derailment response can be found on the DEP website and on the PEMA Dashboard.

NewsClips - Train Derailment:

-- WESA: Train Derailments Could Pose A Major Risk To Southwestern PA's Rivers, Pitt Researchers Say

-- WTAE: Rail Disaster Probability Discussed In Thursday Night Town Hall In Pittsburgh

-- TribLive: DEP Says Soil, Water Samples Remain Safe After Norfolk Southern Train Derailment

-- TribLive Editorial: DEP Must Remain Vigilant With Norfolk Southern Train Derailment Testing

-- UnionProgress.com: Third Beaver County School District Sues Norfolk Southern Over Train Derailment

-- Altoona Mirror Editorial: Altoona Keeping Close Watch On Norfolk Southern Train

Derailment Issues
-- WESA/The Allegheny Front - Reid Frazier: Incinerated Waste From Norfolk Southern Train Derailment Raises Concerns In Ohio Town
-- AP: Railroads Warned About Problems Long Trains Can Cause
-- WSJ: Norfolk Southern Says Ohio Train Derailment Has Cost $387 Million, Not Including Cost Recovery From Insurance
[Posted: April 24, 2023]

DEP To Hold May 17 Meeting/Hearing On Rausch Creek Mining Project In Schuylkill County

On April 25, the Department of Environmental Protection announced it will host a public meeting and hearing to answer questions and take testimony from residents regarding revisions to two active mining permits and the transfer of a third permit for work located in three Schuylkill County townships.

The meeting/hearing will take place on Wednesday, May 17th from 6-7:30 PM and the hearing will take place from 7:40-9:30 PM.

Both will be held at the Tremont Borough Municipal Building located at 139 Clay Street Tremont, 17981.

Representatives of the department and Rausch Creek will be in attendance.
Rausch Creek Land, L.P proposes to revise the final reclamation grades of the site, located near Interstate 81 and Route 125 in Hegins and Porter Townships and change the post mining land use to include agriculture.

Rausch Creek Generation, LLC proposes to revise the mining permit, located at another site in Frailey and Porter Townships to add strip mining activities with blasting, reconfigure the existing surface mining permit boundary, addition of a haul road, and a road variance to State Route 4011.

That site is located near Interstate 81 and State Route 209.

Rausch Creek Coal Mining Good Spring, LLC proposes to transfer the permit located in Hegins and Porter Townships, add strip mining activities with blasting, obtain a new National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permit and change the post mining land use to unmanaged natural habitat.

The site is located near State Road 125 and West Center Street.

The applications will also revise the maps, update the erosion and sedimentation control plan, and update the bond to the current rates.

According to DEP's currently adopted EJ Policy, this project area is considered an EJ area and will have enhanced public participation processes appropriate to the project scale.

The permit applications are available for public review at the Pottsville District Mining Office located at 5 West Laurel Boulevard, Pottsville, PA, 17901, during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

DEP requests that individuals wishing to testify at the upcoming public hearing submit a written notice of intent to Colleen Connolly, Community Relations Coordinator at: coconnolly@pa.gov.

Requests to testify will be accepted up to the day of the hearing.

Individuals that wish to testify are also requested to limit their testimony to 5 minutes so

that all individuals have the opportunity to testify and that the testimony is limited to the mining and NPDES permit application that is the subject of the hearing.

Written copies of oral testimony are requested. All comments, whether delivered orally during the hearing or submitted in writing will carry equal weight and consideration with DEP.

Individuals attending the hearing will have the opportunity to testify if they so desire; however, individuals who preregister to testify will be given priority on the agenda.

Persons with a disability who wish to testify and require an auxiliary aid, service or other accommodation should contact Colleen Connolly at: coconnolly@pa.gov or the Pennsylvania Hamilton Relay Service at (800) 654-5984 (TDD) to discuss how the Department can meet their needs.

For more information on environmental programs in Pennsylvania, visit DEP's website, Click Here to sign up for DEP's newsletter, sign up for DEP Connects events, sign up for DEP's eNotice, visit DEP's Blog, Like DEP on Facebook, Follow DEP on Twitter and visit DEP's YouTube Channel.

Related Articles This Week- Watersheds:

-- Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Plans To Plant 500,000 More Trees Across PA During 2023 [PaEN]
-- Coldwater Heritage Partnership Awards 11 Grants Totaling $120,000 [PaEN]
-- County Conservation District Week Observed April 23-29 [PaEN]
-- DEP Update On Chesapeake Bay Healthy Waters: New Funding Available; Watershed Forestry Summit; County Updates, More
-- Western PA Conservancy To Hold Public Meetings, Invites Public Suggestions On Future Use, Improvements To Juniata River Watershed [PaEN]
-- CBF Blog: Student In CBF's Student Leadership Program Worked To Rename Stream After Kitty Payne, An Emancipated Slave Who Lived Near Biglerville, Adams County - By B.J. Small, Chesapeake Bay Foundation [PaEN]
-- Protecting Clean Water Together Series: Community Solar Saves Water - Keeps it Clean - Saves Money, Too! - By Carol Hillestad for Brodhead Watershed Association, Monroe County [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Watersheds: How Land Use Impacts Groundwater [PaEN]
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Awards $6 Million+ In Consumptive Water Use Mitigation Projects [PaEN]
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Clarifies New Regulations On Oil/Gas Fracking Wastewater Ban Road Spreading, Disposal From Conventional Wells [PaEN]
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Completes Water Storage Study To Support Resilience Planning; 12 Of 14 Final Projects In PA [PaEN]
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Hearing May 10 On Water Withdrawal Requests, June 7 Business Meeting [PaEN]
-- Julia Krall Named PA Executive Director Of Chesapeake Bay Foundation [PaEN]
[Posted: April 25, 2023]

Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Plans To Plant 500,000 More Trees Across PA During 2023



The 2023 planting seasons will be the most ambitious yet for the

Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership, to directly fund and plant over 300,000 new trees for Pennsylvania this spring and add another 200,000 in the fall.

The effort reached its midpoint milestone last October when the 5 millionth tree was planted at Furnace Run Park in Franklin County.

Since it launched 2018, the partnership, coordinated by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, has grown to nearly 300 partners. New partnership manager Joe Hallinan is confident that reaching the 10-million tree goal by 2025 is achievable.

"With the commitment shown by our partners, both new and old, I'd like to believe we can exceed that," Hallinan said.

The 2023 campaign got into full swing in late March, with a massive delivery of trees and shrubs at Lancaster Farm and Home.

In mid-April, approximately 14,000 trees were planted at the former sand quarries at Furnace Run Park. Earth Day and Arbor Day observances in April are also prime times for tree plantings throughout the Commonwealth.

Roughly 28,000 miles of Pennsylvania's rivers and streams are damaged by polluted runoff and the legacy of coal mining. Trees are the most cost-effective tools for cleaning and protecting waterways.

Trees filter and absorb polluted runoff, stabilize streambanks, and improve soil quality. Trees also help address climate change by cooling the air and sequestering carbon.

"We often don't think about the positive effects that trees have on a community, local economies, and the physical and mental health of our residents," Hallinan said. "Students learn better, patients heal faster, and our minds are less anxious when we have access to outdoor green space."

The Commonwealth's Clean Water Blueprint calls for about 95,000 acres of forested buffers to be planted in Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

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

The partnership is placing special emphasis on plantings in Lancaster County and four other counties in southcentral Pennsylvania. Those counties are critical because of the amount of nitrogen pollution generated.

Those counties are also where the greatest need meets greatest opportunity, both to improve local stream health and reverse the overall loss of trees.

"The trees are one of the biggest bangs for the buck for cleaning water, but I think they are even bigger in a sense of how we can look at how we interact with our natural world," Hallinan said. "By planting trees today, we can leave our communities a better place for our children and grandchildren."

To learn more, visit the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership website.

How Clean Is Your Stream?

Check DEP's 2022 Water Quality Report to find out how clean streams are near you.

***(Photo:** Mercersburg Academy Community Engagement students plant trees at the Conococheague Institute in Franklin County, PA earlier this month. The Institute is a member of the partnership, which provided the trees.)*

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-- Julia Krall Named PA Executive Director Of Chesapeake Bay Foundation [PaEN]
[Posted: April 26, 2023]

Coldwater Heritage Partnership Awards 11 Grants Totaling $120,000

The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited is pleased to announce eleven grants totaling $120,000 have been awarded to conservation organizations across Pennsylvania through the Coldwater Heritage Partnership's Coldwater Conservation Grant Program.
These funds will be used to perform stream assessments and develop conservation plans in three watersheds and complete on-the-ground projects, such as construction of instream fish habitat structures and stabilization of eroding stream banks in eight additional watersheds.

These grants are made possible through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources through a Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) grant administered by the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, and through funding from the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds.

"In our twentieth year of grant making, we are pleased to be able to continue to increase the amount of funding that is available for coldwater conservation projects across the state," said Rachel Kester, Program Director for the Coldwater Heritage Partnership. "We congratulate the

grantees and thank them for their efforts to protect and restore watersheds and fish habitat throughout Pennsylvania."

The following organizations will receive funding support from the Coldwater Heritage Partnership this year--

-- **Clinton County Conservation District** - This project will stabilize and protect approximately 2600 linear feet of streambank on Fishing Creek in Mill Hall Borough, Clinton County, and will provide more suitable habitat for coldwater species of fish in a Class A wild trout stream.

-- **Elk County Conservation District** - This project is part of a collaborative, phased approach to reconnect and improve aquatic habitat in the Middle Fork East Branch Clarion River watershed by removing passage barriers (culverts), stabilizing eroding streambanks, and enhancing in-stream habitat structures. This phase of the project includes the installation of three fish habitat improvement structures to protect 120 feet of stream bank along Middle Fork and Briggs Hollow Roads, Jones Township, Elk County.

-- **Huntingdon County Conservation District** – This project will develop a coldwater conservation plan that will provide a foundation for the continued management and conservation of the coldwater stream ecosystem in the Shavers Creek watershed, Huntingdon County.

-- **Kettle Creek Watershed Association** – Through this project, the KCWA will complete strategic wood additions to enhance habitat on 6.93 miles of wild trout streams in the headwaters of Trout Run, a major tributary of Kettle Creek, Clinton County.

-- **Lehigh County Conservation District** - Partners will stabilize and install fish habitat structures in a 730-ft section of the Little Lehigh Creek in Lehigh Parkway, Lehigh County, to reduce erosion, mitigate flooding impacts, and improve aquatic habitat and recreational opportunities.

-- **Somerset Conservation District** – Funding will be used to install large wood habitat structures into Clear Shade Creek and Mile Run, Somerset County, to provide fish cover and stream channel stability.

-- **Tiadaghton Trout Unlimited** - This project will provide a thermal imaging map of Long Run and identify cold water influences in the Long Run watershed, Tioga County, to help prioritize conservation projects that will benefit the wild trout population.

-- **Tubmill Trout Club Unlimited** – This project will construct stream habitat and erosion correction devices along 2,500 feet of Hendricks Creek, Westmoreland County, for the benefit of wild trout.

-- **Western Pennsylvania Conservancy** - This project will replenish large woody material into the Farnsworth Branch of the West Branch Tionesta Creek watershed, Warren County, to enhance habitat for naturally reproducing wild brook trout populations, increase groundwater storage, decrease water temperatures, and reconnect historic floodplains.

-- **Western Pennsylvania Conservancy** - This project will remove eleven old, collapsed timber bridge structures in Seeley Hollow, improving fish passage to 2.84 miles of coldwater habitat in Elk County.

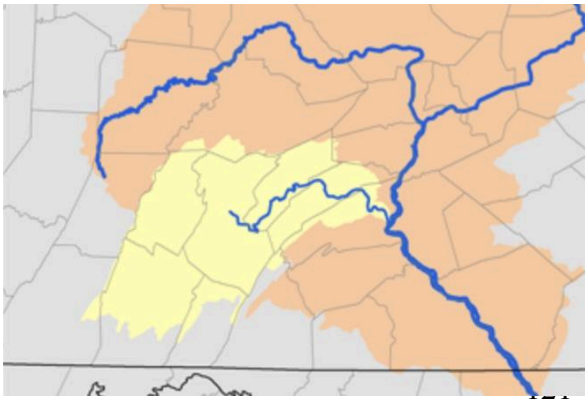
-- **Western Pennsylvania Conservancy** – Funding will be used to create a coldwater conservation plan for Shannon Run, a tributary to the Conemaugh River, Westmoreland County, to assess brook trout populations and identify restoration needs within the watershed.

The Coldwater Heritage Partnership is a collaboration between PATU, DCNR, the Fish and Boat Commission, and the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds.

Visit the Coldwater Heritage Partnership website to view plans and projects that have

been completed since the program began awarding grants in 2003.
NewsClips:
-- Reading Eagle: 1,300+ Feet Of Blue Marsh Lake Shoreline Restored, Fish Habitat Added
-- YourErie.com: French Creek Watershed Could Soon Become A National Wildlife Refuge
-- WTAJ: ClearWater Conservancy Celebrates Earth Day With Annual Watershed Cleanup Day In Centre County
Related Articles This Week- Watersheds:
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-- Julia Krall Named PA Executive Director Of Chesapeake Bay Foundation [PaEN]
[Posted: April 27, 2023]

Western PA Conservancy To Hold Public Meetings, Invites Public Suggestions On Future Use, Improvements To Juniata River Watershed



Residents of the Juniata River Watershed are invited to provide input and suggestions via public meetings and a community survey to help inform the Juniata Watershed Management Plan, a project of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy with multiple partners.

Encompassing 3,400 square miles and traveling through Dauphin, Perry, Juniata, Mifflin, Huntingdon, Bedford and Somerset

counties, the Juniata watershed's numerous tributaries provide habitat for numerous fish and aquatic species as well as recreational opportunities such as swimming, paddling and fly fishing.

Home to several state forests, state parks and state game lands, much of the land in the watershed is forested, providing abundant habitat for birds, wildlife and plants, including several rare and endangered plant species.

During the past 25 years, the Conservancy has partnered with conservation organizations, local government agencies and the public to improve water quality in the watershed.

Projects have included planting riparian trees along streams to prevent erosion and decrease pollutant runoff, working with farmers to implement agricultural best management practices to manage nutrients, and removing stream barriers to encourage aquatic organism passage and support trout populations.

"Juniata Forward: Building on 25 Years of Conservation" seeks to build on that work with input and suggestions from people who live and work in the watershed about recreation, development and other uses. Funding for the project is provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Public Meetings

Residents are invited to attend any of three public meetings, all from 7:00-8:30 p.m.--

-- **May 17** in Marzoni's Brick Oven and Brewing, 1830 East Pleasant Valley Blvd., Altoona, PA 16602

-- **May 18** in Friendship Fire Company, 212 4th St., Port Royal, PA 17082

-- **May 23** in Saxton Fire Hall, 504 8th St., Saxton, PA 16678

"We want to understand what residents of the communities within the Juniata watershed think of current conditions, and how they would like to see the watershed resources used in the future," says Jennifer Farabaugh, WPC's watershed manager. "Residents' input will guide our recommendations for the plan."

Participants are encouraged to share what they feel are the most important uses of the watershed, including recreational and educational activities, business or residential development, historic preservation and more.

They should also bring questions, concerns or suggestions for watershed improvements.

Online Survey

Residents can also provide input anonymously on a short online survey.

Anyone interested in attending one or more of the public meetings should register by contacting Jennifer Farabaugh at jfarabaugh@paconserve.org or 814-696-9356, or online.

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

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

Related Articles This Week- Watersheds:

-- Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Plans To Plant 500,000 More Trees Across PA During 2023 [PaEN]

-- Coldwater Heritage Partnership Awards 11 Grants Totaling $120,000 [PaEN]

-- County Conservation District Week Observed April 23-29 [PaEN]
-- DEP Update On Chesapeake Bay Healthy Waters: New Funding Available; Watershed Forestry Summit; County Updates, More
-- Western PA Conservancy To Hold Public Meetings, Invites Public Suggestions On Future Use, Improvements To Juniata River Watershed [PaEN]
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-- Protecting Clean Water Together Series: Community Solar Saves Water - Keeps it Clean - Saves Money, Too! - By Carol Hillestad for Brodhead Watershed Association, Monroe County [PaEN]
-- Penn State Extension Watersheds: How Land Use Impacts Groundwater [PaEN]
-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Awards $6 Million+ In Consumptive Water Use Mitigation Projects [PaEN]
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Clarifies New Regulations On Oil/Gas Fracking Wastewater Ban Road Spreading, Disposal From Conventional Wells [PaEN]
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Completes Water Storage Study To Support Resilience Planning; 12 Of 14 Final Projects In PA [PaEN]
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Hearing May 10 On Water Withdrawal Requests, June 7 Business Meeting [PaEN]
-- Julia Krall Named PA Executive Director Of Chesapeake Bay Foundation [PaEN]
[Posted: April 28, 2023]

Julia Krall Named PA Executive Director Of Chesapeake Bay Foundation



On April 25, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation announced Julia Krall was named the new Executive Director in Pennsylvania. She succeeds CBF Staff Attorney Trisha Salvia, who had been serving as Interim Director. Prior to taking the helm at CBF's Harrisburg office, Krall was Executive Director of the United Way of Lebanon County since 2021.

"As a native of Central Pennsylvania, the Chesapeake Bay watershed is my home," Krall said. "I am eager to join the CBF team in the Commonwealth, and work alongside our partners and stakeholders, to advocate for increased funding and conservation efforts. Together we can reduce pollution and restore water quality in our state's waterways, which will also improve the health of the Bay."

Krall joins CBF as a strategic and collaborative leader with more than 20 years of experience in the nonprofit sector. She developed a broad range of resources that produces strategies that effectively grow programs that make a difference.

"Julia brings considerable non-profit management skills to the Pennsylvania Executive Director position, along with a proven track record of amplifying and leveraging the work of team members to succeed," said Alison Prost, CBF's Vice President of Environmental Protection and Restoration.

"Julia joins CBF at a time when we are looking to accelerate progress throughout the watershed so that communities in Pennsylvania and beyond have cleaner streams and rivers,"

Prost added. “I look forward to Julia’s efforts to help improve local streams, rivers and ultimately the Bay.”

Under Krall’s leadership, the CBF staff in Pennsylvania will continue to work to improve water quality by collaborating with a broad range of stakeholders, and implementing projects, policies, and programs that address pollution.

“This is truly an exciting and transformational time to be joining the CBF team in Pennsylvania, where there is optimism and momentum at both the state and local levels,” Krall said.

She added that she believes her background as an executive director, combined with a deep passion for environmental protection, advocacy, and partnership building, will help to further advance CBF’s mission in Pennsylvania.

Krall lives in Enola and has a Master of Business Administration degree from Shepherd University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Politics from Juniata College.

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

Also visit the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership to learn how you can help clean water grow on trees.

CBF has over 275,000 members in Bay Watershed.

Visit DEP’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed webpage to learn more about cleaning up rivers and streams in Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Click Here to sign up for regular updates on Pennsylvania’s progress.

How Clean Is Your Stream?

Check DEP’s 2022 Water Quality Report to find out how clean streams are near you.

Related Article:

-- CBF: Proposed Settlement Of Lawsuit Against EPA For Failing To Hold Pennsylvania Accountable For Meeting Chesapeake Bay Water Pollution Reduction Goals Focuses On Actions In 7 PA Counties

Related Articles This Week- Watersheds:

-- Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Plans To Plant 500,000 More Trees Across PA During 2023 [PaEN]

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-- Penn State Extension Watersheds: How Land Use Impacts Groundwater [PaEN]

-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Awards $6 Million+ In Consumptive Water Use

Mitigation Projects [PaEN]
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Clarifies New Regulations On Oil/Gas Fracking Wastewater Ban Road Spreading, Disposal From Conventional Wells [PaEN]
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[Posted: April 25, 2023]

Susquehanna River Basin Commission Awards $6 Million+ For Consumptive Water Use Mitigation Projects



On April 27, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission announced more than $6 million in grant funding for 23 projects that will improve the sustainability of streamflows and groundwater during times of drought.

Projects include innovative activities from dam removals and riparian stream work that restores floodplains and ecosystems to leak-detecting satellite imagery and automated truck washing systems that conserve water.

"We were beyond thrilled with the wide array of cutting-edge projects that applied for funding this year," said Andrew Dehoff, SRBC Executive Director. "Faced with increasing extreme climate events, it's important to fund beneficial activities in our basin that will improve watershed resilience during the inevitable low flow periods of the future."

Consumptive use refers to water that is used but not returned to rivers and streams because it is evaporated, transpired, incorporated into products or otherwise lost.

The grants are funded by fees paid to SRBC through regulated projects as mitigation for their consumptive water use.

Awardees will use the money to enhance water supplies, reduce water demands, increase flow resilience, or improve environmental conditions and water quality. These substantial grants paid out an average award of $268,000.

Click Here for a list of projects awarded.

Visit the Consumptive Use Mitigation Grant Program webpage to learn more about this program.

Groundwater Monitoring Grants

SRBC is accepting applications for Groundwater Level Monitoring Grants through June 30. Click Here for more.

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

*(**Photo:** Billmeyer Quarry Consumptive Use Mitigation Project in Lancaster County.)*

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[Posted: April 28, 2023]

Delaware River Basin Commission Hearing May 10 On Water Withdrawal Requests, June 7 Business Meeting

The Delaware River Basin Commission is scheduled to hold a hearing May 10 on water withdrawal requests and a business meeting June 7. *(formal notice)*

The hearing will be held online. The business meeting will be held in-person and online.

Click Here for the agenda and how to submit comments and attend the hearing and meeting.

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

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-- Coldwater Heritage Partnership Awards 11 Grants Totaling $120,000 [PaEN]
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[Posted: April 28, 2023]

Delaware River Basin Commission Completes Water Storage Study To Support Resilience Planning; 12 Of 14 Final Projects In PA



On April 26, the Delaware River Basin Commission released a review of future water storage options for the Delaware River Basin, Evaluation of Additional Storage in the Delaware River Basin.
The study explores the feasibility of additional freshwater storage to meet future water availability, climate adaptation, drought management and flow management needs in the Delaware River Basin.

The study evaluated a total of 2,513 potential projects, including 22 new reservoirs, 1,041 existing reservoirs, 1,421 quarries and 29 abandoned mines.

The final recommended projects include two existing reservoirs and 12 quarries.

Of the 14 recommended projects,12 are located in Pennsylvania. [page 79] Project summaries are included in the study appendices.

"While there is no immediate need for additional water storage, the DRBC sought to create a planning-level inventory of potential options that would be available if the DRBC determines that additional storage is needed in the future," said Chad Pindar, P.E., DRBC's Manager of Water Resource Planning.

The study seeks to not only identify, but also evaluate the feasibility of, options that could provide additional freshwater storage across a range of volumes, from 1 billion gallons (BG) to upward of 20 BG.

In the Delaware River Basin, both the flood of record and the drought of record occurred more than 50 years ago, in 1955 and 1962-1967, respectively.

"Future climate change scenarios suggest we need to plan for more variable flows - including more frequent drought conditions - to increase the resilience of the Delaware River

Basin's water resources," said Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, P.E., the DRBC's Deputy Executive Director.

DRBC has noted several climate-related impacts in our Basin. Precipitation is predicted to occur in the form of fewer, but more intense storms, increasing the potential for flooding events.

Higher temperatures and evaporation may create a greater likelihood for rapid onset drought conditions during periods of low rainfall. The seasonality of flows may also change, for example, with less snowpack in the winter resulting in lower flows in the spring.

Sea level rise may also require increased releases from reservoir storage to augment freshwater flows in the Delaware River to impede the salt front and protect public water supply intakes.

Industrial and other water users south of Philadelphia would also be impacted if increased salinity makes river water unsuitable for conventional treatment.

"The DRBC works to ensure water security for over 13 million people in four states," DRBC Executive Director Steve Tambini said. "To better manage this shared resource into the future, the DRBC needed to understand baseline options for expanded storage."

Click Here for a copy of the report. Click Here to learn more about the study.

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

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[Posted: April 26, 2023]

PA Resources Council: Registration Open For Weekday Electronics Waste Collection Events In Allegheny County



Throughout May, the Pennsylvania Resources Council will collect electronics for recycling on designated weekdays in Allegheny County.

Through the generous support of the Allegheny County Health Department, PRC will conduct e-waste collection events on Mondays and Wednesdays in May in South Park.

"PRC helps residents conveniently and cost-effectively dispose of a wide variety of items not accepted in curbside pickup," according to PRC Executive Director Darren Spielman. "We need to divert these materials from landfills since many contain toxic elements that can leach into our waterways and our environment, while others contain valuable recyclables."

Registration currently is open for the four-week collection series taking place in South Park--

-- Mondays, May 1, 8, 15 & 22 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

-- Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17 & 24 from Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Participants must register in advance online at PRC's website or by calling 412-488-7490 ×1.

For a $5 participant fee*, individuals can drop off unlimited cell/home phones, computer towers and peripheral equipment (keyboards, laptops, mice, etc.) and video game consoles/DVD players.

For a FEE, individuals can drop off televisions, computer monitors and printers--

-- All Computer Monitors (flat screen & CRT) – $20 each

-- Televisions – $30 each

-- Console or Rear Projection TVs – $40 each

-- Printers – $5 each

*NOTE: $5 participant fee waived if individual pays for disposal of TV, tires or other materials listed in the FEE section above.

"If you are interested in disposing of e-waste, sign up soon," says Spielman. "With a growing number of people concerned about responsibly stewarding resources, these events fill up quickly. Last year they all sold out."

For weekday collection details, visit PRC's website.

This 2023 PRC weekday e-waste collection campaign is sponsored by Allegheny County Health Department and Allegheny County Parks Department.

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.

PRC is Pennsylvania's oldest grassroots environmental organization founded in 1939. PRC has worked to protect resources for future generations through environmental education,

recycling, waste diversion programs, anti-litter campaigns, watershed and other initiatives.
Related Articles:
-- PA Resources Council Hosts 2 Household Chemical Collection Events In Allegheny, Cambria County During May [PaEN]
-- PA Resources Council: Registration Open For Weekday Electronics Waste Collection Events In Allegheny County During May [PaEN]
-- PA Resources Council Sets May Schedule For Traveling Glass Recycling Bin Program In Allegheny County [PaEN]
-- Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority Collects Over 73,000 Pounds Of Household Hazardous Waste At Collection Event April 28-29 [PaEN]
[Posted: April 24, 2023]

PA Resources Council Hosts 2 Household Chemical Collection Events In Allegheny, Cambria County During May



In May, Pennsylvania Resources Council will host two household chemical collection events in western Pennsylvania to enable area residents to conveniently dispose of materials such as cleaners, paints, stains and varnishes, batteries, motor oil and pesticides.

The events will be held--

-- May 6: Allegheny County - North Park Swimming Pool parking lot from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

-- May 20: Cambria County - Concurrent Technologies Corp. ETF Facility, Johnstow from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

A $20 fee will cover the cost of disposing up to 10 gallons/50 pounds of aerosol cans, automotive fluids, chemistry sets, electronic cigarettes, gasoline and kerosene, household cleaners, mercury thermometers, paint products, pesticides/garden chemicals, photo chemicals and pool chemicals.

Loads exceeding 10 gallons/50 pounds will be subject to additional fees at discretion of on-site staff.

Participants will also pay $12 per fire extinguisher and $15 per pound of liquid mercury.

All participants must register in advance by visiting PRC's website or by calling 412-488-7490×1.

When preparing to attend events, participants should pack all materials in their car trunks or truck beds and then stay in their vehicles while the contractor unloads the materials. The certified contractor will process the hazardous wastes for proper disposal.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, an average home can easily accumulate 100 pounds or more of cleaners, automotive fluids, paints, pesticides and other chemical products.

More Events

Upcoming 2023 PRC household chemical collections will take place **June 17** in Fayette County; **June 24** in Washington County; **August 19** in Boyce Park, Allegheny County; **September 9** in South Park, Allegheny County; and **October 14** in Beaver County.

For event information – including a complete list of items accepted – visit PRC's website

or call PRC at 412-488-7490 x1.

The 2023 PRC household chemical collection campaign is sponsored by Allegheny County Health Department, Allegheny County Parks Department, Beaver County Commissioners, Cambria County Solid Waste Authority, Fayette County Commissioners, Fayette County Conservation District, Washington County Planning Commission, Colcom Foundation, LANXESS, Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania American Water, PPG and Pittsburgh Penguins, UPMC, Concurrent Technologies Corporation, Fayette County Recycling Convenience Center, PPG Paints Arena, Washington Wild Things, Washington County Family Entertainment, and 100.1 FM and AM 1020 KDKA.

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.

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[Posted: April 25, 2023]

PA Resources Council Sets May Schedule For Traveling Glass Recycling Bin Program In Allegheny County



The Pennsylvania Resources Council Traveling Glass Recycling Bin Program provides a free recycling service that rotates through a variety of locations in western Pennsylvania.

This innovative program provides residents with a higher quality glass recycling option than typical curbside programs, ensuring that glass deposited into the bin meets the highest standards and can be fully recycled.

PRC Traveling Glass Recycling Bin weeklong engagements in May include--

-- May 13-18 @ SOUTH FAYETTE MUNICIPAL BUILDING (Allegheny County), 515 Millers Run Rd, South Fayette, PA 15064 hosted by South Fayette Township

-- May 20-25 @ ROUND HILL PARK (Allegheny County), Main parking lot near duck pond, 651 Round Hill Rd, Elizabeth, PA 15037 hosted by Allegheny County

"The bin visits various locations on a weekly basis from Saturday through Thursday,

typically from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.," according to PRC Glass Program Simon Joseph. "A bottle, jar or jug dropped in the bin today could be recycled and back on a store shelf in less than 30 days."

Individuals can drop off glass bottles, jars and jugs of all colors (no color sorting required). Containers should be empty and rinsed, with lids and labels still on. Bags and boxes used to deliver glass must be discarded off-site.

Last year, PRC's glass recycling program enabled 45,000 households in western Pennsylvania to drop of nearly two million pounds of bottles, jars and jugs for recycling.

PRC's Traveling Glass Recycling Bin Program is sponsored by Owens-Illinois, Inc. and CAP Glass and is made possible through a partnership with Michael Brothers Hauling & Recycling.

Visit PRC's Traveling Glass Recycling Bin Program webpage for all the details.

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.

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[Posted: April 28, 2023]

Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority Collects Over 73,000 Pounds Of Household Hazardous Waste At Collection Event April 28-29



The Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority collected over 73,000 pounds of household hazardous waste and enough fluorescent light tubes to span 4.5 miles at a special collection event on April 28-29.

904 vehicles brought hazardous chemicals to the annual free drop off event. Residents from all 35 of the county's municipalities participated. We also had many travel in from surrounding counties.

Comments from residents were extremely positive and appreciated the quick and friendly service. They also valued staff standing out in the rain to greet them and were grateful for the opportunity to safely dispose of hazardous items from their homes.

"The constant rain didn't keep residents from attending our yearly event. Residents

thanked us throughout the weekend for offering such a helpful service. We are happy to continue to offer this event as a means for proper disposal or recycling of harmful products," said Joanne Shafer, the Authority's Deputy Executive Director/Recycling Coordinator.

The event was co-sponsored by Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture. MXI of Langhorne, PA was the successful contractor.

If you missed this collection, look for information early next year. The Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority will be holding another Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event in the spring of 2024.

For more information on recycling services, visit the Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority website or call 814-238-7005.

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[Posted: April 26, 2023]

Guest Essay: DCNR's Conservation And Stewardship Of State's Natural Resources Is Vital To Pennsylvania's Booming Outdoor Recreation Industry

By **Cindy Adams Dunn**, Acting Secretary of DCNR, and **John Norbeck** Deputy Secretary for Parks & Forestry

The following testimony was presented to the House Tourism And Economic And Recreation Development Committee on April 25, 2023.



By conserving and stewarding our Commonwealth's natural resources, DCNR is vital to Pennsylvania's booming outdoor recreation industry.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, this industry-which ranges from the design and manufacture of outdoor equipment to the professional services of fishing guides and construction workers- adds almost $14 billion of value to the Pennsylvania economy and supports 152,000 jobs.

Beyond these direct economic contributions, outdoor recreation opportunities drive tourism across the Commonwealth.

For example, the Great Allegheny Passage generates $800,000 a year in economic impact per mile of trail--a $121 million impact for the entire trail--revitalizing rural southwest Pennsylvania communities.

[Note: During her March 21 budget hearing Dunn noted, “The lottery ticket for us is the recreation economy-- it’s bigger than gas, it’s bigger than a lot of other industries combined and it helps attract young people to live, work and play in Pennsylvania and helps retain and bring people back.” Read more here.]

Outdoor recreation's effectiveness at attracting tourism revenue is complemented by its role in attracting new businesses and industries to Pennsylvania, for which it is just as important as market access, corporate tax rates, and energy costs.

A key element of Governor Shapiro's proposed budget is funding to create a Pennsylvania Office of Outdoor Recreation to unite, grow, and strengthen Pennsylvania's outdoor economy.

Last year, DCNR hired Nathan Reigner, Pennsylvania's first director of outdoor recreation.

By creating an office, Pennsylvania will join 18 other states that have recognized the power of outdoor recreation to empower economic growth; retain and attract new residents; drive tourism; expand access to the outdoors; and improve public health and community wellbeing.

Pennsylvania will be the largest state in both population and economy--to seize this transformative opportunity.

Recreation for All

Ensuring access to outdoor recreation for all Pennsylvanians is a central part of DCNR's mission.

One of DCNR's major goals is every Pennsylvanian living within 10 minutes of a park or trail.

In 2019, DCNR partnered with the Trust for Public Land and WeConservePA on a first-of-its-kind analysis to examine who in Pennsylvania has outdoor recreation access within 10 minutes of home- and more importantly, who does not.

We are now expanding that analysis to better account for diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities, examining the entire state at the census block group level and layering park and trail access with demographic, socioeconomic, health, and other key factors.

This improved analysis will allow us to measure progress toward our goal, better identify communities of need, and inform decisions about where to prioritize investment in recreational amenities.

The provided handout explains this work in greater depth, and our staff has created a website for you to explore the data.

DCNR has also installed "Nature for All-Everyone Is Welcome Here" trailhead welcome signs in state parks and forests to promote inclusive public lands.

And in 2022, thanks to money allocated in the budget, DCNR established three new state parks: Big Elk Creek, Susquehanna Riverlands, and Vosburg Neck.

Criteria for choosing the locations included proximity to population centers and unmet demand for outdoor recreation in the area.

Community Grants

Through the Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2), DCNR provides grants to nonprofits and local governments in every corner of the Commonwealth for parks, playgrounds, ballfields, trails, and land conservation.

2022 was a huge year for the C2P2 program: DCNR granted $92 million for 335 funded projects, the highest amount of grant funding available in a decade, and these grants leveraged

even more money from local matches.

This includes a special fall grant funded in part by $25 million in [federal] ARPA money allocated in the budget that awarded $41.6 million for 98 projects, many in small or distressed communities.

Overall, DCNR's 2022 C2P2 grant funding supported 43 trail projects, preservation of 7,100 acres of open space, and 162 community park projects.

DNCR also granted $11.8 million in tree planting grants for streamside buffers and street trees to prevent flooding, reduce urban heat, and protect clean water, $8.8 million of which came from ARPA money in last year's budget.

These local projects funded by DCNR grants attract tourists from near and far, while also improving quality of life in communities for the people who live there.

They would not be possible without funding from dedicated funding sources like the Keystone Fund and Environmental Stewardship Fund.

State Parks and Forests

During the pandemic, many people discovered or re-discovered the benefits of the outdoors by visiting state parks and forests, which remained open thanks to the hard work of our dedicated staff.

Though the pandemic is behind us, D C continues to welcome millions of annual visitors from across the state and country to our 124 state parks and 2.2 million acres of state forests.

In 2022, an estimated 37.9 million people visited state parks, which is a decline from the 42.2 million in 2021 but is still higher than the average of the three pre-COVID years.

And reservations for overnight facilities (such as campgrounds and cabins) remain much higher than before the pandemic.

However, there is a documented $1.4 billion maintenance backlog in state parks and forests that prevents Pennsylvania from fully capitalizing on the revenue generation and overall economic impact of outdoor recreation.

Many of the facilities were constructed decades ago, and essential infrastructure like dams, roads, and sewer systems require repairs to allow visitors to safely enjoy the parks and forests and continue coming back.

DCNR is using $75 million in [federal] ARPA money allocated in last year's budget to complete high-priority infrastructure projects, and Governor Shapiro's budget allocates $112 million--the largest investment in a generation-to allow DCR to complete even. More high-priority projects.

In addition to attracting more people to state parks and forests, these investments will save the Commonwealth money in the long run by fixing problems before they become even more dangerous and expensive.

They will also inject money into communities through the locally owned companies DCNR contracts to complete the work.

Thank you for giving us the chance to speak with you today. We look forward to partnering with you to further our mission and ensure that people, businesses and communities across our Commonwealth thrive.

Click Here to watch a video of the hearing.

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

For more information on state parks and forests and recreation in Pennsylvania, visit DCNR's website, Visit the Good Natured DCNR Blog, Click Here for upcoming events, Click

Here to hook up with DCNR on other social media-- Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.
Related Articles This Week:
-- DEP, DCNR, Guests Honored Franklin Kury, Author Of PA Environmental Rights Amendment, With Dedication In Rachel Carson Building [PaEN]
-- Guest Essay: DCNR's Conservation And Stewardship Of State's Natural Resources Is Vital To Pennsylvania's Booming Outdoor Recreation Industry - By **Cindy Adams Dunn**, Acting Secretary of DCNR, and **John Norbeck** Deputy Secretary for Parks & Forestry [PaEN]
-- DCNR Highlights Importance Of Trees In Communities On National Arbor Day At Cumberland County Event [PaEN]
-- April 28 Take Five Fridays With Pam From PA Parks & Forests Foundation [PaEN]
[Posted: April 28, 2023]

DCNR Highlights Importance Of Trees In Communities On National Arbor Day At Cumberland County Event



On April 28 Arbor Day, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Acting Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn and State Forester Ellen Shultzabarger planted trees in Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, to highlight the many benefits trees provide to communities.

Governor Shapiro's proposed budget includes resources for DCNR that will assist with providing technical assistance to communities and with forest conservation and restoration.

The Shapiro Administration has ambitious goals around trees and forests, including:
-- Reducing current rates of forest loss by 5,000 acres per year
-- Restoring 5,000 acres of non-forest to forest by planting trees
-- Permanently conserving 15,000 acres of forest land vulnerable to development

"Planting a tree is a simple act with a big impact," said Acting DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn. "Trees help with the solution to many of our environmental challenges, including addressing heat and stormwater from heavy rains that are resulting from a changing climate."

Pennsylvania learned this month it will be receiving $9.75 million from the U.S. Forest Service to support communities with equitable access to trees and the benefits they provide. The funding was made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act.

"National Arbor Day is annual observance when we celebrate trees, and all they do to help clean our air, protect our water quality, and make our landscapes and communities beautiful," State Forester Ellen Shultzabarger said.

The TreePennsylvania Bare-Root Tree Program provided 657 trees to 39 communities throughout the Commonwealth this spring for planting, including in Mechanicsburg.

"We all know that the Borough of Mechanicsburg is 'A Good Place to Live', but I also want to make sure it becomes and remains 'A Green Place to Live' for generations to come," Borough of Mechanicsburg Environmental Programs Coordinator Luke Arnold said. "Trees are a vital part of our community and our ecosystem, and they help our Shade Tree Commission to create an urban canopy for our borough."

Mechanicsburg Borough has a goal of planting 500 new trees between January 2023 and the celebration of its 200th year in January 2028.

TreeVitalize is a public-private partnership established by DCNR to help build capacity within communities to plan for, plant, and care for trees.

In 2021, DCNR added its first TreeVitalize Tree Equity Specialist to apply the principles of equity and environmental justice in urban and community forestry work across the Commonwealth.

Dunn noted that interested Pennsylvanians can help support efforts to plant urban trees by donating to the Keystone Tree Fund voluntary $3 check-off box on driver's license and vehicle registration online applications.

Trees and forests are critical in our efforts to address climate change, as they pull in and store carbon (a process that also helps with clean air). Other benefits are:

-- Reducing energy costs
-- Slowing runoff after storms
-- Increasing property values
-- Reducing noise
-- Attracting birds and wildlife

Find more information about trees in communities on the DCNR website.

Upcoming Events

Register now for the **Watershed Forestry Summit** in Altoona on June 14-15.
Click Here for more information.

Register now for the **TreeVitalize Conference** on May 31-June 1 in Philadelphia.
Click Here for more information.

Register now for the **Allegheny County Conifer Symposium** June 14.
Click Here for more information.

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

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

NewsClips:

-- Republican Herald: Arbor Day Celebrated In Pottsville, Schuylkill Haven
-- Warren Times: Allegheny National Forest Centennial, Tree City USA Celebrated

Related Articles - Forests:

-- Apply Now For A Scholarship To Attend The Watershed Forestry Summit In Altoona June 14-15 [PaEN]
-- TreeVitalize Conference To Focus On Urban Trees, Community Resilience May 31-June 1 In Philadelphia [PaEN]
-- Allegheny County Conifer Symposium June 14 To Explore Future Of Conifers In A Changing Climate In Western PA [PaEN]
-- Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Plans To Plant 500,000 More Trees Across PA During 2023 [PaEN]

Related Articles This Week:

-- DEP, DCNR, Guests Honored Franklin Kury, Author Of PA Environmental Rights Amendment, With Dedication In Rachel Carson Building [PaEN]
-- Guest Essay: DCNR's Conservation And Stewardship Of State's Natural Resources Is Vital To

Pennsylvania's Booming Outdoor Recreation Industry - By **Cindy Adams Dunn**, Acting Secretary of DCNR, and **John Norbeck** Deputy Secretary for Parks & Forestry [PaEN]
-- DCNR Highlights Importance Of Trees In Communities On National Arbor Day At Cumberland County Event [PaEN]
-- April 28 Take Five Fridays With Pam From PA Parks & Forests Foundation [PaEN]
[Posted: April 29, 2023]

April 28 Take Five Fridays With Pam From PA Parks & Forests Foundation



The April 28 Take Five Fridays With Pam is now available from the PA Parks and Forests Foundation featuring articles on--
-- See examples of State Park & Forest volunteers at work all over PA!
-- Reminder: May 16 Awards Banquet
Click Here to read the entire Take Five.
Visit the PA Parks & Forests Foundation's Events webpage and DCNR's Calendar of Events for activities happening near you.

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

The Foundation and their 48 chapters mobilize 65,000 volunteers annually to steward YOUR state parks and forests.
*(**Photo:** Bald Eagle State Forest, Centre County - Penn's View Aurora Borealis by Bill Sisson)*
NewsClips:
-- NextPittsburgh: Altoona Is Boosting Its Economy With Outdoor Recreation
-- Centre Daily Times: Firefighters Who Battled Wildfire In Philipsburg Area Receive 'Overwhelming' Community Support
-- Warren Times: Time To Register For 65th Allegany Nature Pilgrimage June 2-4
-- Wilkes-Barre Times: Off And Riding: Annual Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wyoming Counties Bike Ride Starts In Pittston For First Time
-- York Daily Record Guest Essay: Recreationalists Discovering Beauty On The Susquehanna And Along Its Banks
-- Republican Herald: Schuylkill River Trail To Connect Saint Clair With Frackville
-- Inquirer - Frank Kummer: FDR Park In Philly Floods During Construction Of Project Designed To Prevent Flooding
-- TribLive: New Trail To Blaze, Wynn & Clara Tredway River Trail In Of Allegheny Twp. Nears Completion
-- Williamsport Sun: Work Underway At Williamsport Parks
-- KYW: Spotted Lanternflies Return To Delaware Valley
-- WHYY: Philly's Commercial Corridors Are Blooming With Greenery Thanks To 117 New Trees
-- Republican Herald: Christmas Tree Farm In Schuylkill County Taking Part In International

Research
-- PennLive - Jan Murphy: Bill Establishes Protocol For Removal Of Ticks From Students In School
-- Scranton Times: What To Know About Tick, Lyme Disease Season Following A Mild Winter
-- Post-Gazette Editorial: PA Youth Service Corps For Cleaning Up Environment Deserves Bipartisan Support
Related Articles:
-- DEP, DCNR, Guests Honored Franklin Kury, Author Of PA Environmental Rights Amendment, With Dedication In Rachel Carson Building [PaEN]
-- Guest Essay: DCNR's Conservation And Stewardship Of State's Natural Resources Is Vital To Pennsylvania's Booming Outdoor Recreation Industry - By **Cindy Adams Dunn**, Acting Secretary of DCNR, and **John Norbeck** Deputy Secretary for Parks & Forestry [PaEN]
-- DCNR Highlights Importance Of Trees In Communities On National Arbor Day At Cumberland County Event [PaEN]
-- Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Plans To Plant 500,000 More Trees Across PA During 2023 [PaEN]
[Posted: April 28, 2023]

Help Wanted: Armstrong Conservation District - Resource Conservationist

The Armstrong Conservation District Board of Directors will be accepting applications for the full-time position of Resource Conservationist until May 31, 2023 or until the position is filled.

The Resource Conservationist will lead the Armstrong Conservation District's education and outreach efforts to further promote the organization to the residents of Armstrong County.

The primary responsibilities of this position include: providing educational programming in relation to natural resource management, assist other staff members in providing education for the District's delegated programs, applying for and administering grant funding, and assisting the District Manager in various administrative duties.

To be considered for this position, applicants must email Holly Laird at halaird@co.armstrong.pa.us to obtain an application and full job description. Please submit a cover letter and completed application to halaird@co.armstrong.pa.us.

Click Here for a full job description and how to apply.

For information on jobs available in other county conservation districts, visit the PACD Jobs webpage.
[Posted: April 26, 2023]

Environment & Energy Educational Opportunities For Students & Adults

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

-- DEP, DCNR, Guests Honored Franklin Kury, Author Of PA Environmental Rights Amendment, With Dedication In Rachel Carson Building [PaEN]
-- Dickinson College To Recognize Environmental & Indigenous Rights Advocate Tara Houska With Rose-Walters Prize For Environmental Activism [PaEN]

-- CBF Blog: Student In CBF's Student Leadership Program Worked To Rename Stream After Kitty Payne, An Emancipated Slave Who Lived Near Biglerville, Adams County - By B.J. Small, Chesapeake Bay Foundation [PaEN]
-- Guest Essay: DCNR's Conservation And Stewardship Of State's Natural Resources Is Vital To Pennsylvania's Booming Outdoor Recreation Industry - By **Cindy Adams Dunn**, Acting Secretary of DCNR, and **John Norbeck** Deputy Secretary for Parks & Forestry [PaEN]
-- Land Health Institute Accepting Applications For Philadelphia Program For Future Environmental Scientists And Stewards (ProFESS), May 15 Deadline
-- Senate Environmental Committee Holds May 1 Hearing On Electric Grid Reliability Looking At Natural Gas, Other Generation Failures During Winter Storm Elliot In December [PaEN]
-- House Committee Meets May 2 On Bill To Restore Authority To Review Conventional Oil/Gas Well Plugging Bonding Amounts; Help Prevent Routine Abandonment Of An Average Of 561 Wells A Year [PaEN]
-- EDF: Pennsylvania Has 55,000 Oil/Gas Wells At High Risk Of Being Abandoned; 51,000 Wells At Risk Of Being Transferred To Low Solvency Owners; Current Conventional Well Owners Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average [PaEN]
-- House Hearing: Let's Work Together To Make Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Practices Cleaner, Respect Property Rights, Protect Taxpayers And Prevent New Abandoned Wells [PaEN]
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: House Committee Warned Of Lurking Taxpayer Cost For Plugging Conventional Oil & Gas Wells
-- Bradford Era: Rep. Causer Applauds Conventional Oil/Gas Well Owner Art Stewart For Testimony On Orphan Wells [Actually They're Confused-- Current Conventional Operators Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average; 55,000 More At High Risk Of Abandonment]
-- Bradford Era/The Center Square: Committee Warned Of Lurking Taxpayer Cost For Plugging Conventional Oil/Gas Wells
-- Guest Essay: Conventional vs Unconventional Oil & Gas Wells - Not As Different As You Might Think - By Laurie Barr, Save Our Streams PA [PaEN]
-- Republican Herald Editorial: Implement Reforms For Natural Gas Drilling, Fracking [PaEN]
-- Pennsylvania Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - April 22 - 28; Conventional Wells Venting Gas; Shale Gas Well Pad Spills [PaEN]
-- Citizen Complaint Results In Finding 2 Abandoned Conventional Wells Owned By Prosperity Oil Co. Continuing To Vent Natural Gas In Washington County [PaEN]
-- Chesapeake Appalachia: DEP Inspections Find Violations For Spills, Releases, Continuing Defective Casing/Cementing At Shale Gas Well Pads In Bradford, Susquehanna Counties [PaEN]
-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices/Opportunities To Comment - April 29 [PaEN]
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Clarifies New Regulations On Oil/Gas Fracking Wastewater Ban Road Spreading, Disposal From Conventional Wells [PaEN]
-- House Consumer Protection Committee Reports Out Solar Energy Decommissioning Bills For Rereferral To House Environmental Committee [PaEN]
-- House Environmental Committee Reports Out Bipartisan Bills On School Solar Energy Grants For Rereferral, Local Notice Of Toxics Violations [PaEN]
-- PennLive - Jan Murphy: Bill Would Replicate Steelton-Highspire Schools' Solar Energy

Facility Across PA
-- NRDC: U.S. Dept. Of Transportation Denies Special Permit For Shipping LNG Natural Gas By Rail From A Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant [PaEN]
-- Fox News: Federal PHMSA Decides Not To Grant Permit For Transporting LNG Natural Gas From A Proposed Wyalusing, Bradford County Plant Via Railroad
-- The Guardian: US DOT Denies 'Bomb Train' Permit To Ship LNG Gas Through Populated Areas In Pennsylvania
-- WHYY: Controversial Plan To Ship LNG Natural Gas By Rail From Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant Hits Another Roadblock
-- Eyes On Shell Reports Shell Petrochemical Plant Fenceline Monitors Found Benzene Emissions Above Toxic Substances Limits; No Timeline For Restarting Plant; DEP Issued Another NOV For Air Violations [PaEN]
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: Shell Addresses Bad Smell, Elevated Benzene Emissions At Beaver County Chemical Plant
-- Beaver County Times: Questions Remain After Shell Air Monitors Detect Benzene At Petrochemical Plant
-- TribLive: Operations On Hold At Shell Petrochemical Plant In Beaver County
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Shell Apologizes For Recent Odor At Petrochemical Plant, Promises To Do Better In The Future
-- Beaver County Times Guest Essay: Community Matters: Shell Petrochemical Plant's Claim To Be A Good Neighbor Is Insulting To Beaver County Residents - By Daniel Rossi-Keen, Ph.D, RiverWise
-- Planet Philadelphia Radio Program: May 5 - Reducing Cancer Caused By Our Environment, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
-- PUC Encourages Customers To Shop For Competitive Electric, Natural Gas Suppliers, Know Their 'End Of Contract' Details
-- Register Now! 9th Annual Renewables Summit Set For May 22-23 Harrisburg [PaEN]
-- MCall: Carbon Farming - What A Green Future Could Look Like For The Lehigh Valley
-- York Daily Record Guest Essay: Pennsylvania Must Join The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - By Rev. Michell C. Hescox, Evangelical Environmental Network
-- PennLive: 100+ People To Be Laid Off Due To Homer City Coal-fired Power Plant Closure
-- Post-Gazette: WV Electricity Customers Would See Their Bills Increase $36 Million To Keep Coal-Fired Power Plant Open
-- WPost: New York Set To Pass First Statewide Ban On New Natural Gas Hookups In Residential, Commercial Buildings
-- Bloomberg: Oregon City Banned Natural Gas, The Gas Company Fought Back With $1 Million Counterattack
-- LancasterOnline Editorial: As Lancaster Climate Summit Demonstrated, We Still Have Chance To Save Our Planet
-- Scranton Times Editorial: Gov. Shapiro's Climate Panel Should Be Open
-- April 28 Take Five Fridays With Pam From PA Parks & Forests Foundation [PaEN]
-- YourErie.com: French Creek Watershed Could Soon Become A National Wildlife Refuge
-- TribLive: Monroeville Conservation Project Among Allegheny Land Trust's 30th Anniversary Efforts
-- Scranton Times: Lackawanna River Conservation Assn. Launches Ambitious 15-Year North

Scranton Riverfront Project
-- Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Plans To Plant 500,000 More Trees Across PA During 2023 [PaEN]
-- DCNR Highlights Importance Of Trees In Communities On National Arbor Day At Cumberland County Event [PaEN]
-- Republican Herald: Arbor Day Celebrated In Pottsville, Schuylkill Haven
-- Citizens Voice Blog: Celebrate Arbor Day In Pennsylvania
-- Warren Times: Allegheny National Forest Centennial, Tree City USA Celebrated
-- Western PA Conservancy To Hold Public Meetings, Invites Public Suggestions On Future Use, Improvements To Juniata River Watershed [PaEN]
-- Bedford Gazette: Juniata Watershed Meetings Planned In May
-- Inquirer: Hershey's Chocolate Comes Full Circle On PA Dairy Farm, The Cows Love It
-- Penn State Extension Watersheds: How Land Use Impacts Groundwater [PaEN]
-- Republican Herald: Christmas Tree Farm In Schuylkill County Taking Part In International Research
-- Help Wanted: Armstrong Conservation District - Resource Conservationist [PaEN]
-- Asbury Woods Environmental Center In Erie Leads City Nature Challenge, 4-Day Bioblitz April 28 - May 1 [PaEN]
-- Altoona Mirror: Putting Earth First: Portage Students Turn Out For Reboot Of School's Annual Earth Day Cleanup
-- Post-Gazette: Shaler Students 'Love The Earth' And Show It In A New Book
-- Beaver County Times: Earth Day Celebrated At Sisters Of St. Joseph
-- Williamsport Sun: Lycoming College Students, Service Organizations Clean Up For Earth Day
-- WTAJ: ClearWater Conservancy Celebrates Earth Day With Annual Watershed Cleanup Day In Centre County
-- Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy Native Plant Sale April 24 - May 5, Montgomery County
-- WESA: Find Seedlings, Local Growing Tips At One Of Penn State Extension's Many Plant Sales
-- Centre Daily Times: Central PA Native Plant Festival Coming Next Month To New Location
-- Penn State College Of Agricultural Sciences: May 17 Webinar On The Latest Buzz On Beekeeping & Pollinators. 1:00 p.m.
-- Nature At Risk Series: Why Backyard Pollinators Are All The Buzz - By Carol Hillestad for Brodhead Watershed Association, Monroe County [PaEN]
-- WHYY/BillyPenn: Bees Are Busy At Philly's Libraries, Making Honey Used For Education And Fun
-- Warren Times: Hellbender Makes Appearance At Cornplanter Council Trout Unlimited, Brokenstraw Fish & Game Club Spring Conservation Show
-- Penn State Extension: June 13 Webinar On Wildlife Adaptations - How Wildlife Endures Extreme Weather, Limited Resources, Predators To Stay Alive [PaEN]
-- Centre Daily Times: Major Habitat Improvement Project Complete At Sayers Dam, See It Now Before It's Covered With Water: 'A Fisherman's Dream"
-- Republican Herald: Schuylkill Haven Area Students Release Fingerling Trout, Enjoy Outdoor Fun At County Fairgrounds [Trout In The Classroom]
-- Williamsport Sun - Lycoming Audubon: A Look At Bringing Peregrine Falcons Back To PA After DDT Effects

-- LancasterOnline - Ad Crable: Will New, Glass-Sided Skyscraper In Lancaster Kill Migrating Birds? Here's What's Being Considered
-- Warren Times: Audubon Nature Center First Sunday Story Time May 7
-- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary: Registration Open For Unique Appalachian Ecology Course For Teens - June 16-26, Deadline May 14
-- Altoona Mirror: Area Bat Population Slowly But Steadily Rebounding [Lincoln Caverns, Frank Felbaum Bat Sanctuary]
-- Republican Herald - Tyler Frantz: Spring Green-Up - Seasonal Transition Marks Time To Start Anew
-- Williamsport Sun - Bill Bower: Reflections In Nature: A Look At The Difference Between Altricial, Preconcial
-- PennLive - Jan Murphy: Bill Establishes Protocol For Removal Of Ticks From Students In School
-- TribLive: Western PA Scientists Research Evolutionary Path Of Ancient Mammal Ancestors: Eating Plants And Blinking
-- Erie Times: Bluffs Of Lake Erie Are Receding, Threatening Homes Along The Shore
-- EPA Releases Report Showing Health Impacts Of Climate Change On Children In US
-- EPA Announces $400 Million Grant Program To Fund Clean School Buses
-- Wilkes-Barre Times: EPA Announces Nationwide Funding For Electric School Buses In Nanticoke

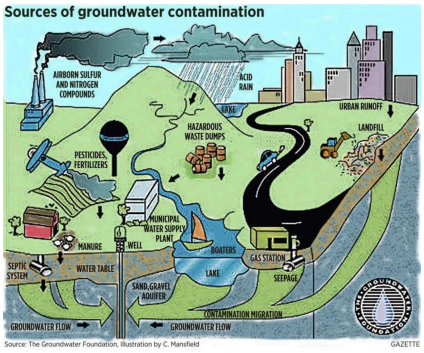
Visit the PA Parks & Forests Foundation's Events webpage and DCNR's Calendar of Events for activities happening near you.

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

Visit the PA Environment Digest Calendar Of Events for more opportunities.
[Posted: April 30, 2023] PA Environment Digest

Penn State Extension Watersheds: How Land Use Impacts Groundwater

By Peter Wulfhorst, AICP



Groundwater is an essential water source for many users in Pennsylvania, especially in rural areas of the state. More than one million private wells exist, and about 20,000 new wells are drilled annually in Pennsylvania.

Human activity and how we develop our land are large factors in the contamination of our groundwater.

Agricultural activities can contaminate our groundwater due to the over application of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. These fertilizers can contribute nitrogen to our groundwater, which has a health contaminant level of 10 mg/l.

Suburban sprawl development threatens our groundwater quality by contributing runoff from roads and parking lots which carry pollutants like oils and greases, nutrients from fertilizers, salts from winter road treatments, nutrients like nitrates from

failing on-lot septic systems, and illegal roadside dumps. Industrial activity contributes volatile organics, petroleum products, and organic pollutants such as PCBs.

Mining and gas drilling can impact groundwater quality by increasing levels of salt (sodium and chloride), metals (iron, manganese, barium, strontium, arsenic, lead, and other trace metals), and various organic materials (oil, grease, surfactants, benzene, etc.).

Increased land development also reduces the supply of our groundwater. As impervious surfaces that characterize development -- roads, parking lots, driveways, and roofs -- replace meadows and forests, rain can no longer seep into the ground to replenish our aquifers. Instead, it is swept away by gutters and sewer systems.

The sprawling of America has translated into a significant loss of valuable natural resources.

Undeveloped land is valuable not just for recreation and wildlife, but also because of its natural filtering function. Wetlands, for example, act like sponges, absorbing precipitation and runoff and slowly releasing it into the ground.

To ensure that your drinking water is healthy, have your water tested every year. Many tests can be done on your water; however, having all of them done is usually not necessary and can be expensive.

It is a good idea to have your water tested annually for Coliform bacteria and every three years for pH and total dissolved solids.

However, if you can determine what potential contaminants are threats to your water supply, you can more carefully select the type of tests and analysis that you will need to be done to ensure the safety of your water.

Have your water tested by a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) certified drinking water laboratory. The PA DEP certifies water testing laboratories to ensure they are using analytical procedures designed to provide accurate test results.

You can obtain a list of PA DEP certified labs online.

(Reprinted from Penn State Extension Watershed Winds newsletter. Click Here to sign up for your own copy (bottom of page).)

Upcoming Events:

-- April 26: Water Webinar Series: Hard Water Causes & Treatments
-- April 28: Uses And Benefits Of Rain Barrels
-- May 20: Water Webinar Series: Household Water System Maintenance
-- May 24: Water Webinar Series: Ask The Drinking Water Experts Panel
-- Private Water Supply Education & Testing - Multiple Dates, Times
-- Online Water Courses
-- Volunteer Riparian Buffer Planting Events

Related Articles:

-- Master Watershed Steward Jim Walter Inspires Environmental Action
-- Celebrate May 18 PA Native Species Day With Master Watershed Stewards
-- Become A Master Watershed Steward
-- Farmers: Share Your Thoughts In National Cover Crop Survey
-- Extension Seeking User Perspectives On Drinking Water Treatment Devices
-- Understanding Spring Pond Turnover

[Posted: April 25, 2023]

Asbury Woods Environmental Center In Erie Leads City Nature Challenge, 4-Day Bioblitz April 28 - May 1



The Greater Erie City Nature Challenge is back for its second year. This 4-day bioblitz takes place around the world from April 28 through May 1, 2023 and Asbury Woods in Erie is pleased to lead the way for the Greater Erie area.

The City Nature Challenge was started in 2016 by the California Academy of Sciences and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and has grown into a global event.

City Nature Challenge is an international community science effort to discover and document plants and wildlife in cities across the globe.

The goal is to document and identify as many species of plants and wildlife as possible during this 4-day period.

Scientists from around the world use the data collected during the City Nature Challenge for various research projects, such as, evaluating migration patterns, seasonal fluctuations in biodiversity and more.

Individuals can participate by downloading the free iNaturalist app on your phone or tablet, create an account, and start exploring!

"Asbury Woods is excited to organize our region's second year of participation in City Nature Challenge. We encourage residents across Erie County to get outside to observe nature during these four days and contribute to this massive scientific database. It can be as simple as documenting the plants and wildlife in your own backyard, visiting a local park or joining one of the organized walks. Our goal is to log 3,000 observations across Erie County," said Jennifer Farrar, Executive Director at Asbury Woods.

To learn more about the Greater Erie City Nature Challenge and the events happening in our community.

For more information on programs, initiatives, other upcoming events and more, visit the Asbury Woods website.

[Posted: April 24, 2023]

Nature At Risk Series: Why Backyard Pollinators Are All The Buzz

By Carol Hillestad for Brodhead Watershed Association, Monroe County



For all the people with backyard beehives these days, you'd think that bees were, well, rolling in clover.

But if you know someone who keeps bees, you've heard them bemoan the parasites, diseases, and just plain mysterious collapses that can affect honey bee colonies. Keeping hives healthy is time- and labor-intensive, and takes serious know-how.

Wild bees are more forgiving.

Most are solitary. Females make a single nest in rotting wood, a dead-tree snag, the ground, even leaf litter or another creature's abandoned nest. Because they don't have hives to protect, they aren't aggressive. (If you get stung, it's likely a yellowjacket or other wasp, not a solitary bee.)

Many have very limited foraging range — 300 to 3,000 feet from their nest. That means they need food — flowers — from the earliest warm spring mornings to the coldest fall afternoons.

They also need to be protected from pesticides, which kill everything in their path, including essential workers like wild bees.

Wild pollinators like solitary bees pollinate dozens of fruits and vegetables humans eat. They also pollinate wild plants like milkweed, huckleberries, crabapples, shadbush and redbuds — whose fruit other animals and birds eat.

It's easy to give wild bees a helping hand.

First, lay off the pesticides, or at least use them sparingly (and never broadcast them). It's better for the bees, and also healthier for you, your family, birds, and pets. Find ways to welcome bees to your yard.

Consider providing a "bee box" for bees that nest in wood. Offer birdbaths or puddles of water, and add a variety of flowering shrubs and plants that provide pollen and nectar all season long.

Need some ideas? A few plants to try are Canadian Columbine, Blue Spiderwort, Joe Pye weed, milkweed, Wild bergamot, Purple coneflower, and asters like Blue mistflower.

If you can't find native plants like these at local garden centers, Brodhead Watershed Association offers native plants for sale.

Your garden — and the bees — will thank you!

Visit Brodhead's Protecting Clean Water Together and Nature At Risk webpages for more stories in these series.

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

Related Articles - Brodhead Watershed:

-- Protecting Clean Water Together Series: Community Solar Saves Water - Keeps it Clean - Saves Money, Too! - By Carol Hillestad for Brodhead Watershed Association, Monroe County [PaEN]

-- Brodhead Watershed Assn. StreamWatch Volunteer Training May 20 In Monroe County [PaEN]

-- Register Now! 9th Annual Renewables Summit Set For May 22-23 Harrisburg [PaEN]

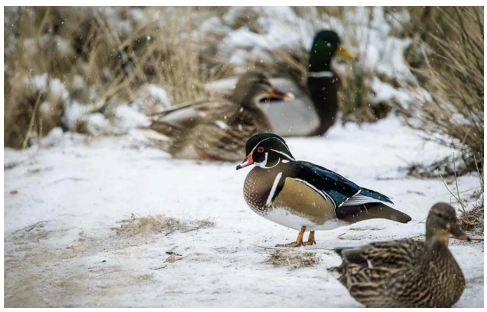
Related Articles - Pollinators:

-- Pollinator Gardens: Help Encourage Ecological Diversity In Your Own Backyard [PaEN]

-- Pollinator Vehicle License Plate Now Available From PennDOT To Support Pollinator Habitat Fund [PaEN]

[Posted: April 28, 2023]

Penn State Extension: June 13 Webinar On Wildlife Adaptations - How Wildlife Endures Extreme Weather, Limited Resources, Predators To Stay Alive



On June 13 Penn State Extension will host another in its series of Pennsylvania Forest Seminars on Wildlife Adaptations - How Wildlife Endures Extreme Weather, Limited Resources, Predators To Stay Alive at Noon and 7:00 p.m.

Participants will learn about the animals that face competition for resources, harsh climates, and predators. We will also discuss some species that have adapted in interesting or unusual ways to survive.

Forest landowners, forestry professionals and the interested public would benefit from attending this program.

Continuing Education Credits are available from several organizations for this program, however, there may be a fee for credits.

Click Here to register for this free program.

Upcoming Event

On May 8, Penn State Extension will host a Hunter Perceptions of Chronic Wasting Disease in Deer webinar at Noon and 7:00 p.m. Click Here to register.

Related Article:

-- Penn State Extension Watersheds: How Land Use Impacts Groundwater [PaEN]
[Posted: April 28, 2023]

News From PA House & Senate

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

Environment & Energy NewsClips--

Gov. Shapiro

-- Post-Gazette - Ford Turner: Gov. Shapiro Gets A Thumbs-Up From Both Parties For His First 100 Days
-- PennLive - Jan Murphy: 100 Days In Office, Gov. Shapiro Describes The Experience As 'Humbling'
-- Post-Gazette Editorial: Shapiro's PUC Nominee Kimberly Barrow Is Right Pick, But Faces Challenges

Budget

-- House Committee Meets May 2 On Bill To Restore Authority To Review Conventional Oil/Gas Well Plugging Bonding Amounts; Help Prevent Routine Abandonment Of An Average Of 561 Wells A Year [PaEN]
-- EDF: Pennsylvania Has 55,000 Oil/Gas Wells At High Risk Of Being Abandoned; 51,000 Wells At Risk Of Being Transferred To Low Solvency Owners; Current Conventional Well Owners Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average [PaEN]
-- House Hearing: Let's Work Together To Make Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Practices

Cleaner, Respect Property Rights, Protect Taxpayers And Prevent New Abandoned Wells [PaEN]
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: House Committee Warned Of Lurking Taxpayer Cost For Plugging Conventional Oil & Gas Wells
-- Bradford Era: Rep. Causer Applauds Conventional Oil/Gas Well Owner Art Stewart For Testimony On Orphan Wells [Actually They're Confused-- Current Conventional Operators Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average; 55,000 More At High Risk Of Abandonment]
-- Bradford Era/The Center Square: Committee Warned Of Lurking Taxpayer Cost For Plugging Conventional Oil/Gas Wells
-- Guest Essay: Conventional vs Unconventional Oil & Gas Wells - Not As Different As You Might Think - By Laurie Barr, Save Our Streams PA [PaEN]

Norfolk Southern Train Derailment
-- WESA: Train Derailments Could Pose A Major Risk To Southwestern PA's Rivers, Pitt Researchers Say
-- WTAE: Rail Disaster Probability Discussed In Thursday Night Town Hall In Pittsburgh
-- DEP Posts Soil, Water Sampling Results Related To Monitoring PA For Impacts From Norfolk Southern Train Derailment [PaEN]
-- TribLive: DEP Says Soil, Water Samples Remain Safe After Norfolk Southern Train Derailment
-- TribLive Editorial: DEP Must Remain Vigilant With Norfolk Southern Train Derailment Testing
-- UnionProgress.com: Third Beaver County School District Sues Norfolk Southern Over Train Derailment
-- Altoona Mirror Editorial: Altoona Keeping Close Watch On Norfolk Southern Train Derailment Issues
-- WESA/The Allegheny Front - Reid Frazier: Incinerated Waste From Norfolk Southern Train Derailment Raises Concerns In Ohio Town
-- WESA: Could New Rail Safety Rules Prevent The Next Norfolk Southern Train Derailment? More Sensors Could Be Key, Experts Say
-- AP: Railroads Warned About Problems Long Trains Can Cause
-- WSJ: Norfolk Southern Says Ohio Train Derailment Has Cost $387 Million, Not Including Cost Recovery From Insurance

Environment/Energy Issues
-- DEP, DCNR, Guests Honored Franklin Kury, Author Of PA Environmental Rights Amendment, With Dedication In Rachel Carson Building [PaEN]
-- House Committee Meets May 2 On Bill To Restore Authority To Review Conventional Oil/Gas Well Plugging Bonding Amounts; Help Prevent Routine Abandonment Of An Average Of 561 Wells A Year [PaEN]
-- EDF: Pennsylvania Has 55,000 Oil/Gas Wells At High Risk Of Being Abandoned; 51,000 Wells At Risk Of Being Transferred To Low Solvency Owners; Current Conventional Well Owners Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average [PaEN]
-- House Hearing: Let's Work Together To Make Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Practices Cleaner, Respect Property Rights, Protect Taxpayers And Prevent New Abandoned Wells

[PaEN]
-- The Center Square - Anthony Hennen: House Committee Warned Of Lurking Taxpayer Cost For Plugging Conventional Oil & Gas Wells
-- Bradford Era: Rep. Causer Applauds Conventional Oil/Gas Well Owner Art Stewart For Testimony On Orphan Wells [Actually They're Confused-- Current Conventional Operators Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average; 55,000 More At High Risk Of Abandonment]
-- Bradford Era/The Center Square: Committee Warned Of Lurking Taxpayer Cost For Plugging Conventional Oil/Gas Wells
-- Guest Essay: Conventional vs Unconventional Oil & Gas Wells - Not As Different As You Might Think - By Laurie Barr, Save Our Streams PA [PaEN]
-- Republican Herald Editorial: Implement Reforms For Natural Gas Drilling, Fracking [PaEN]
-- Pennsylvania Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - April 22 - 28; Conventional Wells Venting Gas; Shale Gas Well Pad Spills [PaEN]
-- Citizen Complaint Results In Finding 2 Abandoned Conventional Wells Owned By Prosperity Oil Co. Continuing To Vent Natural Gas In Washington County [PaEN]
-- Chesapeake Appalachia: DEP Inspections Find Violations For Spills, Releases, Continuing Defective Casing/Cementing At Shale Gas Well Pads In Bradford, Susquehanna Counties [PaEN]
-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices/Opportunities To Comment - April 29 [PaEN]
-- DEP Tentatively Sets May 18 Online Public Conference On Proposed Roulette Oil & Gas Waste Injection Well In Clara Twp., Potter County; Opponents Again Call For Robust Public Participation Process [PaEN]
-- Washington Examiner Guest Essay: EPA Slowing Down Process For Approving Waste Injection Wells
-- Sen. Yaw To Introduce Bill To Remove 'Protection' From The Name Of The Department Of Environmental Protection [PaEN]
-- Bloomberg: Climate Activists Urge US Officials To Drop The 'Natural' In Natural Gas - Fossil Gas One Alternative
-- Senate Environmental Committee Holds May 1 Hearing On Electric Grid Reliability Looking At Natural Gas, Other Generation Failures During Winter Storm Elliot In December [PaEN]
-- Marcellus Shale Coalition: Pro-Natural Gas Policies Necessary To Unlock Economic Growth, Environmental Gains In Northeast PA
-- DEP: New Webpage Outlines Plan To Streamline Permit Process Without Sacrificing Thorough Reviews, Public Participation
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: Natural Gas Prices Are Down, But The Industry's Spirits Are High
-- NRDC: U.S. Dept. Of Transportation Denies Special Permit For Shipping LNG Natural Gas By Rail From A Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant [PaEN]
-- Fox News: Federal PHMSA Decides Not To Grant Permit For Transporting LNG Natural Gas From A Proposed Wyalusing, Bradford County Plant Via Railroad
-- The Guardian: US DOT Denies 'Bomb Train' Permit To Ship LNG Gas Through Populated Areas In Pennsylvania
-- WHYY: Controversial Plan To Ship LNG Natural Gas By Rail From Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant Hits Another Roadblock

-- Eyes On Shell Reports Shell Petrochemical Plant Fenceline Monitors Found Benzene Emissions Above Toxic Substances Limits; No Timeline For Restarting Plant; DEP Issued Another NOV For Air Violations [PaEN]
-- Post-Gazette - Anya Litvak: Shell Addresses Bad Smell, Elevated Benzene Emissions At Beaver County Chemical Plant
-- Beaver County Times: Questions Remain After Shell Air Monitors Detect Benzene At Petrochemical Plant
-- TribLive: Operations On Hold At Shell Petrochemical Plant In Beaver County
-- Pittsburgh Business Times: Shell Apologizes For Recent Odor At Petrochemical Plant, Promises To Do Better In The Future
-- Beaver County Times: Shell To Address Flaring, Odor At Petrochemical Plant Tuesday
-- Beaver County Times Guest Essay: Community Matters: Shell Petrochemical Plant's Claim To Be A Good Neighbor Is Insulting To Beaver County Residents - By Daniel Rossi-Keen, Ph.D, RiverWise
-- House Consumer Protection Committee Reports Out Solar Energy Decommissioning Bills For Rereferral To House Environmental Committee [PaEN]
-- House Environmental Committee Reports Out Bipartisan Bills On School Solar Energy Grants For Rereferral, Local Notice Of Toxics Violations [PaEN]
-- PennLive - Jan Murphy: Bill Would Replicate Steelton-Highspire Schools' Solar Energy Facility Across PA
-- House Environmental Committee Sets May 1 Hearing On Cryptocurrency And Climate Change; Background Brief [PaEN]
-- The Allegheny Front/WPSU: Violation At PA Natural Gas Drilling Site Raises Questions About Lack Of Cryptocurrency Regulation
-- PennLive: 100+ People To Be Laid Off Due To Homer City Coal-fired Power Plant Closure
-- Post-Gazette: WV Electricity Customers Would See Their Bills Increase $36 Million To Keep Coal-Fired Power Plant Open
-- Post-Gazette/Capitolwire.com - Robert Swift: House Panel Passes Toxic Violations Notification Bill For Incidents Like Norfolk Southern Train Derailment
-- Post-Gazette/Capitolwire.com - Robert Swift: PA Senate Panel OKs Bills To Change Vehicle Emission Inspection Program
-- WHYY: Bill Aims To Increase Penalties For Illegal Dumping In Philadelphia
-- PennLive Guest Essay: Biden Administration Providing Bold Leadership To Combat Climate Change - By Sen. Sharif Street (D-Philadelphia)
-- Scranton Times Editorial: Gov. Shapiro's Climate Panel Should Be Open
-- PennLive - Jan Murphy: Bill Establishes Protocol For Removal Of Ticks From Students In School
-- Scranton Times: What To Know About Tick, Lyme Disease Season Following A Mild Winter
-- WSJ: US Wants A Rare Earths Supply Chain, Why It Won't Come Easily [PA Cong. Reschenthaler Bill]

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

Because In Politics Everything Is Connected To Everything Else--

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

Senate, House Bills Moving Last Week

The following environmental and energy bills saw movement last week--

House

School Solar Energy Grants: House Bill 137 (Fiedler-D-Philadelphia) establishing a grant program to support solar energy installations in schools was reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and rereferred to the House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee. Read more here. [Note: A new bill was introduced with the same program-- House Bill 1032 (Fiedler-D-Philadelphia)-- and is scheduled for a hearing by the House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee on May 2.]

Solar Energy Facility Decommissioning: House Bill 925 (Rapp-R-Warren) and Senate Bill 211 (Yaw-R-Lycoming) establishing standards for solar energy facility decommissioning were reported out of the House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee and rereferred to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Notice Of Toxic Substances Violations: House Bill 718 (Mako-R-Northampton) requiring DEP to notify a municipality when it receives notice from EPA of a violation of the federal Toxic Substances Control Act was reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and Tabled.

Flood Insurance Task Force: House Bill 735 (Warren-D-Bucks) establishing a Flood Insurance Premium Assistance Task Force was reported from the House Insurance Committee and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

Increasing Penalties For Dumping In Philadelphia: House Bill 95 (Bullock-D-Philadelphia) increasing penalties for illegal dumping in Philadelphia was reported out of the House Judiciary Committee and Tabled.

Native Vegetation Along Highways: House Bill 797 (B.Miller-R-Lancaster) providing for native vegetation along state highways was reported out of the House Transportation Committee and Tabled.

Senate

Cleanup Liability Protection For Land Banks: Senate Bill 466 (Brown-R-Lackawanna) providing for environmental cleanup liability protection for land banks was reported out of the Senate Appropriations Committee and passed by the Senate. It now goes to the House for action.

Lyme Disease/Tick Education: Senate Bill 232 (Brooks-R-Crawford) providing for Lyme Disease and Tick Bites in schools was reported out of the Senate Appropriations Committee and

passed by the Senate. It now goes to the House for action.

Killing Regulations By Doing Nothing: Senate Bill 188 (DiSanto-R-Dauphin) amending the Regulatory Review Act to authorize the General Assembly to kill "economically significant" regulations by doing nothing was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee

3-Year Reviews of Regulations: Senate Bill 190 (Brooks-R- Crawford) requiring an automatic three-year review of economically significant regulations in a process similar to what was called "sunset reviews" decades ago. That process was abandoned by the General Assembly because it became a costly, time-consuming exercise with little benefit was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee

Vehicle Emissions Inspection Changes: Senate Bill 561 (Langerholc-R-Cambria) and Senate Bill 562 (Langerholc-R-Cambria) exempting certain counties from vehicle emissions inspections and newer vehicles were reported out of the Senate Transportation Committee and are now on the Senate Calendar for action.

Train Derailment Impact: Senate Resolution 59 (Mastriano-R- Adams) recognizing the impact of the February Norfolk Southern train derailment on Pennsylvania residents adopted by the Senate.

Conservation District Week: Senate Resolution 84 (Vogel-R-Beaver) designating April 23 to 29 Conservation District Week [Read more here.]

Bill Calendars

Senate (May 1): Senate Bill 232 (Brooks-R- Crawford) providing for Lyme Disease and Tick Bites in schools; Senate Bill 466 (Brown-R-Lackawanna) providing for environmental cleanup liability protection for land banks; Senate Bill 508 (Mastriano-R-Adams) providing for a Train Derailment Emergency Grant Program to provide financial support for residents and small businesses impacted by the February Ohio/PA train derailment; Senate Bill 561 (Langerholc-R-Cambria) and Senate Bill 562 (Langerholc-R-Cambria) exempting certain counties from vehicle emissions inspections and newer vehicles; <> Click Here for full Senate Bill Calendar.

House (May 1): <> Click Here for full House Bill Calendar.

Committee Meetings

House
May 1-- House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee holds a hearing on cryptocurrency and climate change. Room 523 Irvis Building. 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch online. Read more here.
May 1-- House Transportation Committee holds a hearing on electric vehicle fees. Room 140 Main Capitol. 9:00 a.m. Click Here to watch online.
May 2-- House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider House Bill

962 (Vitali-D-Delaware), legislation that would restore DEP's authority to review conventional oil and gas well plugging bonding amounts every two years. Room 60 East Wing. 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch live. Read more here.
May 2-- House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee holds hearing on House Bill 1032 (Fiedler-D-Philadelphia) establishing a grant program to support solar energy installations in schools. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch live.
May 3-- House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee meets to consider House Bill 1028 (Matzie-D-Beaver) setting certain rail safety and oversight requirements, reporting system for hazardous materials and waste, restrict unsafe train length, prompted by Norfolk Southern train derailment.. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch live.
May 3-- House Local Government Committee meets to consider House Bill 246 (T.Davis-D-Bucks) requiring municipalities to notify property owners of changes to FEMA special flood hazard area maps. Room 515 Irvis Building. 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch live.
May 3-- House Tourism & Economic & Recreational Development Committee meets to consider House Bill 33 (Struzzi-R-Indiana) encouraging landowners to open their property to recreation. Room 515 Irvis Building. 9:00 a.m. Click Here to watch live.
<> Click Here for full House Committee Schedule.

Senate
May 1-- Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee informational briefing from energy industry operators to discuss grid reliability as well as PJM policies and procedures. Room 8E-B East Wing Capitol Building. 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch live.
May 1-- Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee hearing on reauthorization of Chapter 14 related to termination of utility customers. Room 8E-A East Wing. 10:00 a.m. Click Here to watch live.
May 19-- Senate Democratic Policy Committee hearing on unsafe practices in the railroad industry. Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, 10 S. 19th Street, Pittsburgh. 11:00 a.m.
<> Click Here for full Senate Committee Schedule.

Bills Introduced

Suspending Act 13 Impact Fee Revenue To Counties That Restrict Natural Gas Drilling On Land They Own: Senate Bill 617 (Yaw-R-Lycoming) prohibiting counties that ban natural gas drilling on land they own from receiving Act 13 impact fee revenue. [In response to Allegheny Council Council voting to ban shale gas drilling on land they own which is less than 1% of the land area of the county. 99% of the land in the county is open for leasing for gas drilling. Read more here.]

Creating A Permit 'Sandbox': Senate Bill 633 (Coleman-R-Bucks) establishing a Regulatory Relief Office in the Governor's Office with the authority to waive or replace any regulatory requirements proposed by permit applicants with minimal public review. Read more here about similar legislation last session..

Rail Safety Requirements: House Bill 1028 (Matzie-D-Beaver) setting certain rail safety and

oversight requirements, reporting system for hazardous materials and waste, restrict unsafe train length, prompted by Norfolk Southern train derailment. [Note: Scheduled to be considered by the House Consumer Protection, Technology and Utilities Committee May 3.]

School Solar Energy Grants: House Bill 1032 (Fiedler-D-Philadelphia) establishing a school solar energy grants program like in House Bill 137 (Fiedler-D-Philadelphia). [Note: The bill is scheduled to be considered by the House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee on May 2.]

Designation PA A Hydrogen Hub: House Resolution 79 (Pisciottano-D-Allegheny) urging Congress and the Biden Administration to designate Pennsylvania a hydrogen hub.

Wildlife Conservation Corridors: House Resolution 87 (Daley-D-Montgomery) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of wildlife conservation corridors. Read more here.

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

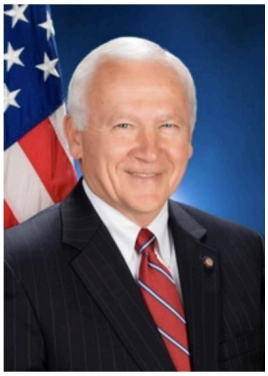
Here is the latest voting session schedule for the Senate and House--

House
May 1, 2, 3, 22, 23, 24
June 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

Senate
May 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10
June 5, 6, 7, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

[Posted: April 30, 2023]

Sen. Yaw To Introduce Bill To Remove 'Protection' From The Name Of The Department Of Environmental Protection



On April 27, Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming), Majority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, announced plans to introduce legislation to take the word "Protection" out of the name Department of Environmental Protection.
He proposes to replace it with the Department of Environmental Services. "The word "protection" carries a law enforcement or security connotation rather than that of an environmental resource and partner to the citizens of

Pennsylvania.

"Unfortunately, enforcer has become the prevalent view of the department, overshadowing other work which is detrimental to an open relationship between the citizenry and their government regarding environmental issues.

"Emphasizing that this department is focused on "services" will be a huge step forward in instituting a needed culture change.

"This name change will have no effect on the jurisdiction or enforcement obligations of the department.

"Please join me in establishing the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Services."

Click Here for a copy of the co-sponsor memo.

[Don't take the bait.]

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

Related Articles:

-- Bloomberg: Climate Activists Urge US Officials To Drop The 'Natural' In Natural Gas - Fossil Gas One Alternative

-- DEP Offers 10 Point Plan To Improve Permit Reviews; Climate/Energy Work Group Co-Chairs Announced; Work Group Formed To Prevent New Oil & Gas Well Abandonments [PaEN]

-- DEP: New Webpage Outlines Plan To Streamline Permit Process Without Sacrificing Thorough Reviews, Public Participation

-- DEP, DCNR, Guests Honored Franklin Kury, Author Of PA Environmental Rights Amendment, With Dedication In Rachel Carson Building [PaEN]

-- Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Plans To Plant 500,000 More Trees Across PA During 2023 [PaEN]

-- CBF Blog: Student In CBF's Student Leadership Program Worked To Rename Stream After Kitty Payne, An Emancipated Slave Who Lived Near Biglerville, Adams County - By B.J. Small, Chesapeake Bay Foundation [PaEN]

-- County Conservation District Week Observed April 23-29 [PaEN]

-- Lancaster Clean Water Partners: Organizers Of Little Conestoga Creek Blue/Green Corridor Restoration Envision It As Model For Clean Water Projects

[Posted: April 27, 2023]

House Consumer Protection Committee Reports Out Solar Energy Decommissioning Bills For Rereferral To House Environmental Committee

On April 25, the House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee reported out two bills setting standards for utility-scale solar energy facility decommissioning with a recommendation to re-refer them to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

The bills include House Bill 925 (Rapp-R-Warren) and Senate Bill 211 (Yaw-R-Lycoming).

The Senate passed Senate Bill 211 in March by a vote of 26 to 13. Read more here.

The bills now go to the House Floor for action.

Rep. Robert Matzie (D-Beaver) serves as Majority Chair of the House Consumer

Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee and can be contacted by calling 717-787-4444 or sending email to: rmatzie@pahouse.net. Rep. Jim Marshall (R-Beaver) serves as Minority Chair and can be contacted by calling 717-260-6432 or sending email to: jmarshal@pahousegop.com.
Related Articles:
-- House Environmental Committee Reports Out Bipartisan Bills On School Solar Energy Grants For Rereferral, Local Notice Of Toxics Violations [PaEN]
-- House Consumer Protection Committee Reports Out Solar Energy Decommissioning Bills For Rereferral To House Environmental Committee [PaEN]
-- House Committee Meets May 2 On Bill To Restore Authority To Review Conventional Oil/Gas Well Plugging Bonding Amounts; Help Prevent Routine Abandonment Of An Average Of 561 Wells A Year [PaEN]
-- EDF: Pennsylvania Has 55,000 Oil/Gas Wells At High Risk Of Being Abandoned; 51,000 Wells At Risk Of Being Transferred To Low Solvency Owners; Current Conventional Well Owners Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average [PaEN]
-- House Hearing: Let's Work Together To Make Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Practices Cleaner, Respect Property Rights, Protect Taxpayers And Prevent New Abandoned Wells [PaEN]
[Posted: April 25, 2023]

House Environmental Committee Reports Out Bipartisan Bills On School Solar Energy Grants For Rereferral, Local Notice Of Toxics Violations



On April 25, the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee reported out two bills--
-- School Solar Energy Grants: House Bill 137 (Fiedler-D-Philadelphia) establishing a grant program to support solar energy installations in schools for rereferral to the House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee. Read more here.

[Note: A new bill was introduced with the same program-- House Bill 1032 (Fiedler-D-Philadelphia)-- and is due to be considered by the House Consumer Protection, Technology & Utilities Committee on May 2.]
-- Local Notice Of Toxics Violations: House Bill 718 (Mako-R-Northampton) requiring DEP to notify a municipality when it receives notice from EPA of a violation of the federal Toxic Substances Control Act was reported out and tabled.

Rep. Greg Vitali (D-Delaware) serves as Majority Chair of the House Environmental Committee and can be contacted by calling 717-787-7647 or sending email to: gvitali@pahouse.net. Rep. Martin Causer (R-Cameron) serves as Minority Chair and can be contacted by calling 717-787-5075 or by sending email to: mcauser@pahousegop.com.
Related Articles:
-- House Consumer Protection Committee Reports Out Solar Energy Decommissioning Bills For Rereferral To House Environmental Committee [PaEN]

-- House Environmental Committee Reports Out Bipartisan Bills On School Solar Energy Grants For Rereferral, Local Notice Of Toxics Violations [PaEN]
-- House Committee Meets May 2 On Bill To Restore Authority To Review Conventional Oil/Gas Well Plugging Bonding Amounts; Help Prevent Routine Abandonment Of An Average Of 561 Wells A Year [PaEN]
-- EDF: Pennsylvania Has 55,000 Oil/Gas Wells At High Risk Of Being Abandoned; 51,000 Wells At Risk Of Being Transferred To Low Solvency Owners; Current Conventional Well Owners Abandon 561 Wells A Year, On Average [PaEN]
-- House Hearing: Let's Work Together To Make Conventional Oil & Gas Industry Practices Cleaner, Respect Property Rights, Protect Taxpayers And Prevent New Abandoned Wells [PaEN]
[Posted: April 25, 2023]

The Feds

Articles and NewsClips about federal actions impacting Pennsylvania--

-- NRDC: U.S. Dept. Of Transportation Denies Special Permit For Shipping LNG Natural Gas By Rail From A Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant [PaEN]
-- Fox News: Federal PHMSA Decides Not To Grant Permit For Transporting LNG Natural Gas From A Proposed Wyalusing, Bradford County Plant Via Railroad
-- WHYY: Controversial Plan To Ship LNG Natural Gas By Rail From Proposed Bradford County LNG Plant Hits Another Roadblock
-- Washington Examiner Guest Essay: EPA Slowing Down Process For Approving Waste Injection Wells
-- EPA Releases Report Showing Health Impacts Of Climate Change On Children In US
-- EPA Names 2023 Top Cities For ENERGY STAR Certified Buildings, Including Philadelphia
-- EPA Announces $400 Million Grant Program To Fund Clean School Buses
-- Wilkes-Barre Times: EPA Announces Nationwide Funding For Electric School Buses In Nanticoke
-- WSJ: US Wants A Rare Earths Supply Chain, Why It Won't Come Easily [PA Cong. Reschenthaler Bill]
-- AP: Railroads Warned About Problems Long Trains Can Cause
-- Warren Times: Allegheny National Forest Centennial, Tree City USA Celebrated

[Posted: April 30, 2023]

Public Participation Opportunities/Calendar Of Events

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

-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices/Opportunities To Comment - April 29 [PaEN]
-- DEP Tentatively Sets May 18 Online Public Conference On Proposed Roulette Oil & Gas Waste Injection Well In Clara Twp., Potter County; Opponents Again Call For Robust Public

Participation Process [PaEN]
-- DEP To Hold May 17 Meeting/Hearing On Rausch Creek Mining Project In Schuylkill County [PaEN]
-- Western PA Conservancy To Hold Public Meetings, Invites Public Suggestions On Future Use, Improvements To Juniata River Watershed [PaEN]
-- Bedford Gazette: Juniata Watershed Meetings Planned In May
-- Delaware River Basin Commission Hearing May 10 On Water Withdrawal Requests, June 7 Business Meeting [PaEN]
-- Scranton Times Editorial: Gov. Shapiro's Climate Panel Should Be Open
-- DEP Posts 61 Pages Of Permit-Related Notices In April 29 PA Bulletin [PaEN]

Grants & Awards

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

PA Bulletin Public Notices

Highlights of the environmental and energy notices in the April 29 PA Bulletin--

-- The Department of Environmental Protection published notice in the April 29 PA Bulletin of an NPDES Water Quality Permit appeal final settlement regarding the **U.S. Steel Corp's Mon Valley Works, Edgar Thomson Plant** in Braddock and North Braddock Boroughs, Allegheny County [Environmental Hearing Board Docket No. 2022- 003-R]. (PA Bulletin, page 2388)

-- Pennsylvania Oil & Gas Weekly Compliance Dashboard - April 22 - 28; Conventional Wells Venting Gas; Shale Gas Well Pad Spills [PaEN]

-- PA Oil & Gas Industrial Facilities: Permit Notices/Opportunities To Comment - April 29 [PaEN]

-- The Delaware River Basin Commission published notice in the April 29 PA Bulletin of a hearing May 10 on water withdrawal requests and a business meeting June 7.

-- The Susquehanna River Basin Commission published notice in the April 29 PA Bulletin of a May 4 public hearing and June 15 business meeting. Read more here.

-- The Dept. of Labor & Industry published these notices in the April 28 PA Bulletin--
-- Inviting Public Comments On 2021 International Building Code
-- Seeking members for the Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council to review the 2021 International Building Code

PA Bulletin - April 29, 2023

Note: The Department of Environmental Protection published 61 pages of public notices related

to proposed and final permit and approval/ disapproval actions in the April 29 PA Bulletin - pages 2327 to 2388.

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

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

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

-- Allegheny County Health Department Public Comment Notices

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

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

DEP Technical Guidance In Process
Draft Technical Guidance Documents - DEP webpage
Technical Guidance Comment Deadlines - DEP webpage
Submit Comments on Proposals Through DEP's eComment System
Recently Closed Comment Periods For Technical Guidance - DEP webpage
Technical Guidance Recently Finalized - DEP webpage
Copies of Final Technical Guidance - DEP webpage
DEP Non-Regulatory/Technical Guidance Documents Agenda [March 2023] - DEP webpage

[Posted: April 28, 2023]

Stories Invited - About PA Environment Digest

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

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

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

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

Also take advantage of these related publications--

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 Environment Digest Twitter Feed: Instant news updates.

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