PA Environment Digest

An Update On Environmental Issues In PA

Edited By: David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

Winner 2009 PAEE Business Partner Of The Year Award

Harrisburg, Pa **October 13, 2014**

Last 2 Days Of Voting Session Coming Up, Senate Not Interested In Lame Duck

Tuesday and Wednesday of next week will be the last two days of voting session for the year, if the Senate sticks by its opposition to a lame duck session after election day.

As of now, any bills not on the Governor's desk by the close of business on October 15 will have to start all over in the new session in January.

PA Legislative Services reported Thursday Senate Majority Leader Domini Pileggi (R-Delaware) told House Majority Leader Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny his members were not interested in a lame duck session after election day to vote on pension reform or anything else.

"Our caucus is not interested in a lame duck session," said Sen. Pileggi. "We haven't discussed it."

Environmental Bills That Could See Final Action

With just two voting days left this session for the House and Senate-- October 14, 15-- the General Assembly is poised to take final votes on these environmental bills--

-- Senate: Elimination Of Buffer Requirement: House Bill 1565 (Hahn-R-Northampton) eliminating the current requirement for stream buffers in High Quality and Exceptional Value streams. The Senate is to take a final vote on the bill Tuesday and must then send it back to the House for a concurrence vote. Click Here for background on the bill.

-- Senate: Legislative Approval Of DEP Climate Plan: House Bill 2354 (Snyder-D-Fayette) which requires Senate and House approval of any plan DEP submits to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants is also set for a final vote in the Senate Tuesday and must then send it back to the House for a concurrence vote. Click Here for background on the bill.

-- **Nuclear Reactor Fees:** Senate Bill 1355 (Yaw-R-Lycoming)-- is now on the House Calendar for action and could be passed in the final two days of session. It will have to return to the Senate for a concurrence vote.

Not Enough Time To Finalize These Bills, Probably

Here are bills on our watch list, but either not enough time remains for the Senate or House to take final action or no action has been scheduled yet on the bills.

Senate

-- Drinking Water Well Standards: House Bill 343 (Miller-R-York) setting standards for drinking water wells is still in the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

-- Green State Buildings: House Bill 34 (Harper-R-Montgomery) setting green building standards for state owned or leased buildings. A similar bill-- Senate Bill 1061 (Rafferty-R-Montgomery)-- was amended to include the provisions of House Bill 34 and then

referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee this week.
-- Eliminating Protections For Endangered Species: Senate Bill 1047 (Scarnati-R- Jefferson) would eliminate some protections for endangered species and set additional requirements for adopting Wild Trout Streams. It remains in the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee. Click Here for background on the bill.
-- **Conventional Well Regulation:** Senate Bill 1378 (Scarnati-R-Jefferson) regulating conventional oil and gas wells differently than unconventional, Marcellus Shale wells, is in the Senate Appropriations Committee. A provision similar to this was included in the Fiscal Code bill signed into law in July, but the House still moved its version of the bill recently. Click Here for background on the bill.
-- **Nutrient Reduction Watershed Scheme:** Senate Bill 994 (Vogel-R-Beaver) would construct an unaffordable scheme to fund one technology that claims to reduce nutrients from manure. The bill remains Tabled in the Senate. Click Here for background on the bill.
-- **Leasing DCNR Land For Alternative Energy Development:** Senate Bill 684 (Wozniak-D-Cambria) further providing for the leasing of DCNR lands for wind, solar and other energy projects is in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
-- **Backup Generators:** House Bill 1699 (Ross-R-Chester) setting air quality standards for backup generators is in the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

House

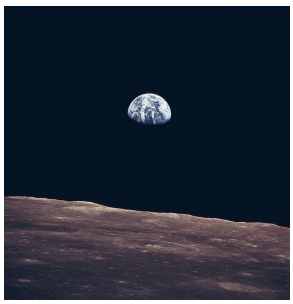
-- Eliminating Protections For Endangered Species: House Bill 1576 (Pyle-R-Armstrong) would eliminate some protections for endangered species and set additional requirements for adopting Wild Trout Streams remains on the House Calendar. Click Here for background on the bill.
-- **Conventional Well Regulation:** House Bill 2350 (Causer-R-Cameron) regulating conventional oil and gas wells differently than unconventional, Marcellus Shale wells. The bill remains Tabled in the House. A provision similar to this was included in the Fiscal Code bill signed into law in July. Click Here for background on the bill.
-- **Sewer/Water P2 Partnerships:** House Bill 2239 (Evankovich-R-Armstrong) authorizing public-private partnerships for sewer, water, school district projects remains Tabled in the House.
-- **PA Grade Crude Development Advisory Council:** Senate Bill 1310 (Hutchinson-R-Venango) creating the PA Grade Crude Development Advisory Council within DEP was passed by the Senate this week and now goes to the House for consideration.
-- **Leasing State Lands For Mineral Development:** Senate Bill 1443 (White-R-Indiana) amending the Indigenous Mineral Resources Development Act to authorized state agencies (other than DCNR) to release mineral rights whether they owned the surface rights or not is in the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.
-- **Natural Gas Royalties:** House Bill 1684 (Everett-R-Lycoming) which seeks to clarify a minimum royalty payment in state law has been on the House Calendar for action.
-- **Natural Gas Royalties:** Senate Bill 1236 would expand upon the Oil and Gas Lease Act by allowing royalty interest owners the opportunity to inspect records of natural gas companies to verify proper payments. In addition, the bill requires all royalty payments be made within 60 days of production unless otherwise stated in the contract. Any delinquent payments are to be paid with interest. The bill is in the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.
-- **Natural Gas Royalties:** Senate Bill 1237 would prohibit a gas company from retaliating against any royalty interest owner by terminating their lease agreement or ceasing development

on leased property because a royalty interest owner questions the accuracy of current royalty payments. Companies found to have violated the provisions of this act face civil penalties of up to $1,000 per day. The bill is in the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.
-- **Natural Gas Royalties:** Senate Bill 1238 would require a gas company to record a surrender document in the county Recorder of Deeds office where the oil and gas well is located within 30 days upon expiration, termination, or forfeiture of an oil and gas lease. The surrender document will release the gas company's interests in the oil and gas. This is similar to what a mortgage company would be required to do after a mortgage was paid in full. The bill is in the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.
-- **Variable Electric Rate Contracts:** House Bill 2104 (Godshall-R-Montgomery) further providing for consumer protections in variable rate electric supplier contracts is on the House Calendar for action.
-- **State Geospatial Coordinating Board:** Senate Bill 771 (Gordner-R-Columbia) establishing the State Geospatial Coordinating Board is on the House Calendar for action.
-- **North American Oil Reserves:** House Resolution 249 (Swanger-R-Lebanon) supporting increased development and delivery of oil from North American oil reserves- sponsor summary-- is on the House Calendar for action.

NewsClips:

PLS: Senate Not Interested In Lame Duck Session
PLS: Stream Buffer Bill Could See Final Passage
Stream Buffer Bill Clears Senate Hurdle
Putting A Price Tag On Clean Water In PA
Bill Would Have Lawmakers Approve Climate Plan
PA Industry Leaders Take Aim At EPA Climate Rule
Editorial: PA Senate Should Leave Carbon Plan To Experts

Sen. Rafferty Blunts Efforts To Have 1-House Veto Of PA Climate Plan, Not Over Yet



An amendment offered in the Senate Appropriations Committee by Sen. John Rafferty (R-Montgomery) Wednesday has blunted efforts to pass House Bill 2354 (Snyder-D-Fayette) which authorizes one-House of the General Assembly to veto any greenhouse gas emission reduction plan required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The amendment passed by a vote of 14 to 12. The bill now goes to the full Senate for a final vote where a floor fight is anticipated. If the bill is passed in its current form, it must return to the House for a concurrence vote.

Sen. Rafferty's amendment removes the one-House veto provision and instead provides for an "enhanced review" of any greenhouse gas emission reduction plan proposed by DEP and provide any comments on the plan to DEP.

Prior to submitting a final plan to EPA, DEP is required to send the plan to the General Assembly for review and DEP must respond to any comments before submitting the plan to EPA.

There is a specific provision authorizing DEP to submit a greenhouse gas emission reduction plan to EPA in compliance with federal requirements, notwithstanding any other

provision of the bill.

The Senate has adjourned for the week and returns Tuesday and Wednesday for the last scheduled voting session days of this year.

NewsClips:

Bill Would Have Lawmakers Approve Climate Plan
PA Industry Leaders Take Aim At EPA Climate Rule
Editorial: Natural Gas Boom, Methane Emissions Are Bane
Editorial: PA Senate Should Leave Carbon Plan To Experts
Report: Climate Change Will Worsen Flooding Along East Coast
Op-Ed: Drilling's Moment Of Truth On Methane Emissions

Senate Puts Anti-Stream Buffer Bill In Position For A Final Vote, Not Over Yet

The Senate Wednesday put House Bill 1565 (Hahn-R-Northampton), that environmental groups say weakens DEP requirements for stream buffers in Special Protection Watersheds, in position for a final vote next week, the final two days of session.

An amendment offered Monday in Committee by Sen. John Yudichak (D-Luzerne), Minority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, changed the provisions of the bill to give applicants the option to install practices other than a stream buffer, but only if they can prove other practices are "substantively equivalent to" a stream buffer.

The amendment also changes the provision allowing the installation of a buffer in other areas, but "as close as feasible to the area of disturbance" to limit the replacement buffer to areas within the same watershed. Click Here for the amendment language. Click Here for a summary.

If the bill is passed by the Senate in its current form, it must return to the House for a concurrence vote before the General Assembly adjourns.

"CBF is disappointed that House Bill 1565 has passed out of committee, and urges the full senate to reject this bill," said Harry Campbell, PA Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. "The bill will open up Pennsylvania's most pristine waterways to increased pollution threats from development.

"Pennsylvania has a commitment to clean up our waterways, and streamside forested buffers are one of the most cost-effective, common-sense solutions to reducing pollution, managing floods, and maintaining iconic and economically important fish, like the brook trout.

"A report released today (Monday) by CBF assessed natural values of forests, including forest riparian buffers, in Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed at being over $31 billion annually if the Clean Water Blueprint is implemented. Pennsylvania's Blueprint plan relies heavily on protecting and restoring forested buffers.

"It simply does not make sense to allow developers to cut down existing trees, especially along Pennsylvania's last remaining pristine streams.

"Thousands of farmers and hundreds of developers, local governments, and businesses throughout the state have already planted and preserved buffers. These investments have all been made with the goal of managing polluted runoff, reducing flooding, and enhancing property values in the Keystone State."

House Bill 1565 has been opposed by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation-PA, PA Environmental Council, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, the PA Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the Fish and Boat Commission, PA Chapter National Association of Water

Companies, Clean Water Action, PA Council of Trout Unlimited, PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, PA League of Women Voters, PA Land Trust Association, PA Landscape and Nursery Association and former DEP Secretary David E. Hess.

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Bill Would Have Lawmakers Approve Climate Plan

CBF-PA Urges Senators To Oppose Anti-Stream Buffer Bill Ahead Of Final Vote



Harry Campbell, Pennsylvania Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, sent a letter to all members of the Senate Wednesday urging them to oppose House Bill 1565 (Hahn-R-Northampton) they say weakens DEP requirements for stream buffers in Special Protection Watersheds. The bill is in position for a final vote during the final two days of voting session next week.

The text of the letter follows--

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation ("CBF"), I am writing to express our opposition to House Bill 1565 (P.N. 4258). This legislation would eliminate the existing requirement of a forested riparian buffer for new development requiring a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permit in a High Quality or Exceptional Value watershed.

The current Chapter 102 regulation helps to protect the Commonwealth's most pristine and ecologically sensitive streams and, as such, the current legislation threatens to degrade water quality in these important areas.

Pennsylvania has a commitment to clean up our waterways, and streamside forested buffers are one of the most cost-effective, common-sense solutions to reducing pollution, managing floods, and maintaining iconic and economically important fish, like the brook trout.

In fact, a peer-reviewed report released on Monday, October 6th, by CBF assessed the natural values of forests, including forest riparian buffers, in Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed at being over $31 billion annually if the Clean Water Blueprint is implemented.

Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Blueprint plan, which consists of the Total Maximum Daily Load and the State's Watershed Implementation Plan, relies heavily on protecting and restoring forested buffers.

Passage of this legislation could set the Commonwealth back with regards to the federal requirements for riparian buffers in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, as well as anti-degradation requirements in special protection waters.

According to a recent assessment of Pennsylvania's two-year milestones goals, it is estimated that the current rate of implementation of roughly six (6) acres of riparian buffers per day will need to be increased to approximately fifty (50) acres per day in order to meet the Commonwealth's 2017 target for forested riparian buffers.

This bill will make the 2017 goal of over 109,000 acres of new forested riparian buffers

more challenging since we could begin to lose existing forested buffers and forgo opportunities to create new forested buffers that are absent of federal and state subsidies.

Simply put, it does not make sense to allow developers to cut down existing trees, especially along Pennsylvania's last remaining pristine streams. Thousands of farmers and hundreds of developers, local governments, and businesses throughout the state have already planted and preserved buffers.

These investments have all been made with the goal of managing polluted runoff, reducing flooding, and enhancing property values in the Commonwealth.

While CBF recognizes the attempts that have been made to improve House Bill 1565 (P.N. 4258), the language is ambiguous while the science is clear—there is simply no scientifically equivalent practice equal to forested riparian buffers.

Forested riparian buffers have been shown in large and growing number of scientific studies to be the best means of protecting and enhancing the quality of the biological, chemical, and physical habitat in rivers and streams, including in Pennsylvania.

Given the innumerable societal and ecological benefits provided by forested riparian and riparian buffers, along with the existing opportunities for exemptions or waivers, CBF maintains that House Bill 1565 (P.N. 4258) is fundamentally flawed and could result in undesired consequences for Pennsylvania.

In fact, forested riparian buffers are so desirable that bills such as this should be set aside while we focus our efforts on legislation that supports clean water, such as Senator Rafferty's bill, Senate Bill 1465, (P.N. 2256).

We strongly urge you to support clean water and oppose this bill. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Harry Campbell
Pennsylvania Executive Director
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

House Bill 1565 has been opposed by the PA Environmental Council, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, the PA Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the Fish and Boat Commission, PA Chapter National Association of Water Companies, Clean Water Action, PA Council of Trout Unlimited, PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, PA League of Women Voters, PA Land Trust Association, PA Landscape and Nursery Association and former DEP Secretary David E. Hess.

NewsClips:

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Derry Twp OKs Act 13 Fees For Water Line Extension
South Whitehall Residents Clued In On Wehr's Dam Study
Op-Ed: Future Of Wehr's Dam Rests With South Whitehall
Editorial: EPA Perverts Meaning Of Navigable Waters

Report: PA Would See A $6.2 Billion Economic Benefit From Chesapeake Bay Cleanup



Implementing the Chesapeake Bay Blueprint will have a

significant, positive benefit for Pennsylvania's economy increasing the value of the natural services provided through the cleanup by $6.2 billion annually, from $32.6 to $38.8 billion, the second highest benefit to any Bay state, according to a new report issued by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation Monday.

The total economic benefits provided to the Chesapeake Bay watershed would be $130 billion annually when the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint is fully implemented, according to the study, "The Economic Benefits of Cleaning up the Chesapeake.

"This report clearly validates that there is a real and measurable return on the investment Pennsylvanian's have made in clean water for their local rivers and streams, and the Bay," said Harry Campbell, CBF's Pennsylvania Executive Director. "With this report, Pennsylvanian's can be assured that cleaning up our waterways will have direct and tangible benefits to the citizens of the Commonwealth."

According to the states most recent assessment, nearly one-quarter of the state's waterways are polluted – largely by agricultural and urban/suburban polluted runoff. In order to ensure clean, healthy water for future generations and meet our commitments, the state should focus its efforts in three key areas:

-- Through education, outreach, and technical assistance, the Department of Environmental Protection should accelerate efforts, programs, and funding to ensure that farmers are meeting Pennsylvania's water quality protection laws;

-- Accelerate the planting of streamside forested buffers which are the most cost-effective pollution reduction practice available; and

-- Assist local municipal officials with efforts to decrease polluted runoff from our urban and suburban areas.

"We all know that reducing pollution makes great sense for our health and our environment, and today we can confirm what we have long thought. It makes good economic sense as well," said William C. Baker, CBF President. "The benefits nature provides to us will increase in value by more than $22 billion, a 21 percent increase, as a result of fully implementing the Blueprint. And we reap those added benefits every year."

The Bay, its rivers, forests, farms, and wetlands provide multiple benefits to the region, and a restored Bay watershed will provide cleaner water, cleaner air, hurricane and flood protection, recreational opportunities, and fresh, healthy food and seafood. These benefits extend to everyone in the Bay's 64,000-sqare-mile drainage basin, from headwater streams to the Atlantic Ocean.

The peer-reviewed report, produced by economist Spencer Phillips and CBF Senior Scientist Dr. Beth McGee, compared the value of those benefits in 2009, the year before the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint began being implemented, to the benefits that can be expected as a result of fully implementing the Blueprint.

The report estimates the value of natural benefits from the pre-Blueprint Bay watershed, even in its polluted and degraded condition, at $107 billion. Once the Blueprint is fully implemented, that amount grows by 21 percent to $129.7 billion a year. Equally telling, if the region relaxes efforts and does little more to clean up the Bay than what has been done to date, pollution will worsen and the value of Bay benefits will decline by almost $6 billion.

"The conclusion is clear: The region's environmental and economic health will improve when we fully implement the Blueprint," said Co-author Spencer Phillips. "The cleanup plan was designed with the understanding that all people and communities in the watershed can

contribute to making our waterways cleaner, and that everyone will benefit when pollution is reduced. Our analysis confirms this."

Dr. James C. Finley, Ibberson Professor of Forest Resources and Director Center for Private Forests at Penn State University said of the report, "Forests, represent nearly two-thirds of the land cover in the watershed, and are critically important for sustaining and improving water quality locally and in the Bay. By calling attention to the role forests play; this report creates an argument for drawing communities into expanding conversations for retaining working forest landscapes.

"It is vital to the success of this effort to understand that forests have economic, social, and, now, documented ecological values. To retain and expand forests in the watershed, communities have to come together to support private forest landowners has they strive to retain and steward this landscapes."

Thomas Hylton, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of Save Our Land, Save Our Towns, said, "The Chesapeake Bay Foundation reminds us that for all our technological sophistication, nature remains the ultimate source of all economic value. No industry and commerce is possible without clean air and water, fertile topsoil, and the natural recycling of wastes from the millions of people and animals living in our watershed. Healthy forests and waters are crucial to abundant life, and protecting them is the most cost-effective investment we can make."

Duanping Liao, MD, PhD, Cardiovascular and Environmental Epidemiologist in the Department of Public Health Sciences, Penn State College of Medicine said, "We can improve the environment and reduce the adverse health impact of air and water pollution with things like planting and preserving trees."

Mark N. Platts, President, Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area said, "We envision the Susquehanna River as a world-class destination for outdoor learning, adventure and inspiration. If we treasure, protect and enhance the river's water quality and natural landscapes, we will reap the economic benefits of river-based tourism for generations to come.

"This report validates the value of these natural systems to our region's economic well-being – it makes the case that clean water and conserved natural lands mean prosperity. Beth K. Schwartz, MSN RN, Healthy Weight Management Coordinator for Lancaster General Health Wellness Center.

"Municipalities that support healthy community designs and principles help to minimize safety issues and health disparities within their communities while also creating more attractive spaces for people to live, work and play, and ultimately also contribute to a stronger local economy.

"Research shows that communities designed for walkability and bikability have healthier residents, and create vital and liveable environments for everyone. The Lighten up Lancaster County Coalition, in partnership with Lancaster General Health, have set a goal to increase the number of communities that support healthy community design, promote physical activity, and result in healthier environments."

The report also identified impressive annual gains in other Bay states from fully implementing the Blueprint. Virginia would see an increase of $8.3 billion, Maryland $4.5 billion, New York $1.9 billion, West Virginia $1.3 billion, and Delaware $205 million.

CBF's study addressed only benefits, not costs. While there are no recent estimates of the total costs of implementation, a 2004 estimate put costs in the range of roughly $6 billion per

year.

Considering federal, state and local investments in clean water in the 10 years since that time, we estimate the current number is closer to $5 billion annually. And once capital investments are made, the long-term annual operations and maintenance costs will be much lower.

The result--the Blueprint will return benefits to the region each year at a rate of more than four times the cost of the clean-up plan.

The complete report is available online.

NewsClips:

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South Whitehall Residents Clued In On Wehr's Dam Study
Op-Ed: Future Of Wehr's Dam Rests With South Whitehall
Editorial: EPA Perverts Meaning Of Navigable Waters

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Google+ now combines all the news you now get through the PA Environment Digest, Weekly, Blog, Twitter and Video sites into one resource.

You'll receive as-it-happens postings on Pennsylvania environmental news, daily NewsClips and links to the weekly Digest and videos.

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PA Capitol Digest Daily Blog to get updates every day on Pennsylvania State Government, including NewsClips, coverage of key press conferences and more. Sign up and receive as they are posted updates through your favorite RSS reader. You can also sign up for a once daily email alerting you to new items posted on this blog.

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

Senate/House Agenda/Session Schedule

Here are the Senate and House Calendars and Committee meetings showing bills of interest as well as a list of new environmental bills introduced--

Bill Calendars

House (October 14): House Bill 202 (Harper-R-Montgomery) prohibiting standby water service charges for fire companies; House Bill 1684 (Everett-R-Lycoming) which seeks to clarify a minimum royalty payment in state law; House Bill 1576 (Pyle-R-Armstrong) would eliminate some protections for endangered species and set additional requirements for adopting Wild Trout Streams; House Bill 1684 (Everett-R-Lycoming) which seeks to clarify a minimum royalty payment in state law; House Bill 2104 (Godshall-R-Montgomery) further providing for consumer protections in variable rate electric supplier contracts; House Bill 2393 (Kampf-R-Chester) providing a program to extend natural gas delivery to unserved or underserved areas- sponsor summary; House Bill 2419 (Turzai-R-Allegheny), reducing the spending cap for Capital Budget Projects by $4 billion; House Bill 2478 (Adolph-R-Delaware) itemized list of Capital Budget Projects for 2014-15; House Resolution 249 (Swanger-R-Lebanon) supporting increased development and delivery of oil from North American oil reserves- sponsor summary; Senate Bill 771 (Gordner-R-Columbia) establishing the State Geospatial Coordinating Board. <> Click Here for full House Bill Calendar.

Senate (October 14): House Bill 402 (Pickett-R-Bradford) further providing for the recording of oil and gas leases; House Bill 1565 (Hahn-R-Northampton) eliminating the nearly 4 year old requirement for stream buffers in High Quality and Exceptional Value streams; House Bill 2278 (Pickett-R-Bradford) requiring semi-annual reporting of oil and gas production; House Bill 2354 (Snyder-D-Fayette) which authorizes one House of the General Assembly to veto any greenhouse gas emission reduction plan required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. <> Click Here for full Senate Bill Calendar.

Committee Meeting Agendas This Week

Note: Committee meetings can happen at any time during the last two days of session.

House: the **Environmental Resources and Energy Committee** holds a hearing on House Resolution 426 (Miller-R-York) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of the sewage sludge land application program-- sponsor summary. <> Click Here for full House Committee Schedule.

Senate: <> Click Here for full Senate Committee Schedule.

Bills Pending In Key Committees

Here are links to key Standing Committees in the House and Senate and the bills pending in

each--

House
Appropriations
Education
Environmental Resources and Energy
Consumer Affairs
Gaming Oversight
Human Services
Judiciary
Liquor Control
Transportation
Links for all other Standing House Committees

Senate
Appropriations
Environmental Resources and Energy
Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure
Community, Economic and Recreational Development
Education
Judiciary
Law and Justice
Public Health and Welfare
Transportation
Links for all other Standing Senate Committees

Session Schedule

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

House
October 14, 15
November 12 (non-voting, reorganization session)

Senate
October 14, 15
November 12 (non-voting, reorganization session)

Bills On Governor's Desk

The following bills were given final approval by the Senate and House and are now on the Governor's desk for action--

Energy Efficiency Technology: House Bill 1672 (Miller-R-York) providing for testing of energy efficiency technologies. A summary and House Fiscal Note are available.

Senate/House Bills Moving

The following bills of interest saw action this week in the House and Senate--

House

Nuclear Reactor Fees: Senate Bill 1355 (Yaw-R-Lycoming) increasing nuclear reactor and nuclear fuel transportation fees was referred into and out of the House Appropriations Committee and is on the House Calendar for action.

Public Disaster Grants: Senate Bill 720 (Baker-R-Luzerne) establishing the Public Disaster Assistance Grant Program was amended and reported from the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee and is now on the House Calendar for action.

Water Testing Equipment: House Resolution 913 (Mustio-R-Allegheny) encouraging DEP to use the latest in water testing equipment in the Oil and Gas Program was passed by the House--sponsor summary.

Senate

Energy Efficiency Technology: House Bill 1672 (Miller-R-York) providing for testing of energy efficiency technologies was amended on the Senate Floor, passed by the Senate and the House concurred in Senate amendments. A summary and House Fiscal Note are available. The bill now goes to the Governor for his action.

Chapter 14 Rate Collections: House Bill 939 (Godshall-R-Montgomery) removing the sunset date on Chapter 14 rate collections provisions was amended and reported from the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee and was passed by the Senate. It returns to the House for a concurrence vote.

Landfill Leachate Transportation: Senate Bill 1481 (Erickson-R-Delaware) prohibiting DEP from prohibiting the vehicular transportation of leachate to an offsite facility for treatment was reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, was amended on the Senate Floor and was passed by the Senate. The bill now goes to the House for consideration.

PA Grade Crude Advisory Committee: Senate Bill 1310 (Hutchinson-R-Venango) creating the PA Grade Crude Development Advisory Council within DEP was reported from the Senate Appropriations Committee and passed by the Senate. A summary and Senate Fiscal Note are available. The bill now goes to the House for consideration.

Anti-Stream Buffer Bill: House Bill 1565 (Hahn-R-Northampton) eliminating the nearly 4 year old requirement for stream buffers in High Quality and Exceptional Value streams was amended and reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is now on the Senate Calendar for final action.

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PLS: Stream Buffer Bill Could See Final Passage
Stream Buffer Bill Clears Senate Hurdle
Putting A Price Tag On Clean Water In PA

Climate Plan Veto: House Bill 2354 (Snyder-D-Fayette) which authorizes one House of the General Assembly to veto any greenhouse gas emission reduction plan required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, referred into the Senate Appropriations Committee, amended and reported out and is now on the Senate Calendar for final action.
NewsClip: Bill Would Have Lawmakers Approve Climate Plan

Green State Buildings: Senate Bill 1061 (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) requiring state buildings to meet green building standards was amended to include the provisions of House Bill 34 (Harper-R-Montgomery) setting the same requirements and reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Green State Buildings: House Bill 34 (Harper-R-Montgomery) requiring state buildings to meet green building standards was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Oil & Gas Leases: House Bill 402 (Pickett-R-Bradford) further providing for the recording of oil and gas leases and House Bill 2278 (Pickett-R-Bradford) requiring semi-annual reporting of oil and gas production were reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

News From The Capitol

Senate Passes Bill Promoting Conventional Oil Production In PA

The Senate Wednesday passed Senate Bill 1310 (Hutchinson-R-Venango) that prime sponsor Sen. Scott Hutchinson said will protect and promote conventional oil production in Pennsylvania and protect the conventional oil production industry from state regulations designed to cover companies extracting Marcellus Shale gas

"The conventional oil industry is an important part of the regional economy in northwestern Pennsylvania – an economy that is already struggling. It cannot afford to be stymied by excessive and unnecessary regulatory burdens," said Sen. Hutchinson.

Senate Bill 1310, would establish the Penn Grade Crude Development Advisory Council, a panel empowered to study existing regulations and assist the Department of Environmental Protection in making changes that better address the differences between conventional and unconventional oil and gas production.

"Technological advances that have allowed for the development of previously inaccessible formations have necessitated updates and revisions to Pennsylvania's laws and regulations governing this new unconventional 'shale gas' industry. Unfortunately, many regulatory and legislative changes did not recognize the significant differences between

conventional and unconventional industries," Sen. Hutchinson said. "The council created under Senate Bill 1310 would work with the DEP to ensure that the differences between the operations are taken into account as these regulations and laws are developed and implemented."

The bill now goes to the House for consideration. A summary and Senate Fiscal Note are available.

NewsClips:

Crude Oil Train Disclosures To Be Made Public
Safety Focus As Millions Of Gallons Of Crude Move Thru PA
Americans Leery Of Exporting Crude Oil
As Price Of Oil Drops, So Could Drilling

Senate Passes Bill Providing Options To Customers Facing Utility Shut-Offs

The Senate Wednesday unanimously approved House Bill 939 (Godshall-R-Montgomery)that would give customers who have special needs more protections from utility shut-offs, according to Sen. Tommy Tomlinson (R-Bucks).

Sen. Tomlinson, Majority Chair of the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee said House Bill 939 would give families facing financial hardship more time, options and flexibility to make payments before their utilities are turned off.

The legislation would:

— ban Friday terminations so customers would not have to wait through the weekend to resolve billing issues;
— protect people who have serious medical conditions from shut-offs;
— protect victims of domestic violence from having their power terminated;
— shield tenants from termination when their landlord was the one responsible for utility payments;
— prevent utility companies from terminating an impoverished family's (below 250 percent of federal poverty limit) power during winter months; and
— eliminate mandatory cash deposits for customer assistance program (CAP)-eligible people.

The bill now returns to the House for a concurrence vote next week.

Senate Committee Reports Out Green State Building, Other Bills

In addition to reporting out House Bill 1565 (Hahn-R-Northampton) weakening DEP's stream buffer program and House Bill 2354 (Snyder-D-Fayette) which authorizes one House of the General Assembly to veto any greenhouse gas emission reduction plan, the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee Monday reported out legislation requiring state buildings to meet green standards, bills related to oil and gas royalty payments and landfill leachate collection.

The bills include--

-- Senate Bill 1061 (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) requiring state buildings to meet green building standards was also reported out of the Committee after being amended to include the provisions of House Bill 34 (Harper-R-Montgomery) setting the same requirements. The bill was later referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.
-- House Bill 402 (Pickett-R-Bradford) further providing for the recording of oil and gas leases.

The bill is on the Senate Calendar for consideration;
-- House Bill 2278 (Pickett-R-Bradford) requiring semi-annual reporting of oil and gas production. The bill is on the Senate Calendar for consideration; and
-- Senate Bill 1481 (Erickson-R-Delaware) prohibiting DEP from prohibiting the vehicular transportation of leachate to an offsite facility for treatment. The bill was amended and passed by the Senate and now goes to the House for consideration.

Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming) serves as Majority Chair of the Committee and Sen. John Yudichak (D-Luzerne) serves as Minority Chair.

Joint Conservation Committee Hears Recommendations On Reducing Rural Dumping

Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, Monday appeared before the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee to present recommendations on how to reduce illegal dumping in Pennsylvania.

In an effort to build a strong case for further action by state, county, and local government, and other stakeholders to reduce illegal dumping in Pennsylvania, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful performed a series of research initiatives that concluded in 2013-2014.

The resulting report, "Illegal Dumping in Pennsylvania: A Decade of Discovery," is the final stage of the ongoing efforts of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful to identify where and how illegal dumping occurs in Pennsylvania and provides practical, cost-effective solutions and accountability measures to address a statewide issue.

The report, prepared in cooperation with Nestor Resources, Inc., and funded in part by the Department of Environmental Protection and the Richard King Mellon Foundation, proposes to develop a framework to minimize, if not halt, illegal dumping in Pennsylvania.

The findings in the report point to a number of steps that could help Pennsylvania attain this objective including:
— Universal access to waste and recycling services including the establishment of permanent, gated convenient centers within close proximity to the population;
— Establishing measures such as building and demolition permitting and a registration network for small contractors and transporters to deter commercial dumping;
— Heightening awareness and understanding of waste management issues through a statewide multi-media campaign and an Environmental Law Training Program for Enforcement Officers and Justices;
— Expanding the use of electronic surveillance at active illegal dumpsites;
— Creating county level Joint Code Enforcement Officer Programs to support local governments; and
— Establishing fines that significantly outweigh the avoided cost of disposal and publishing the identities of those who continue to illegally dump.

"Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is so grateful for the opportunity to present our findings and recommendations to reduce illegal dumping in Pennsylvania to the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee," said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "By developing an infrastructure to provide affordable, convenient waste disposal and recycling options for all residents of the Commonwealth and a network of law enforcement officers and judicial officials who are knowledgeable about current laws and the cost to our community, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, along with its partners, supporters, and

stakeholders, hope to change the way waste is managed in Pennsylvania, thereby economically benefiting citizens, business owners, and local government."

"Pennsylvanians can no longer afford to continually clean up illegal dumps. Cleanups are costly, the remediation of illegal dumps costs $619 per ton for an average total of $2,947 per site, and do not stop the act of illegal dumping," said Reiter. "By developing an infrastructure to provide affordable, convenient waste disposal and recycling options for all residents of the Commonwealth and a network of law enforcement officers and judicial officials who are knowledgeable about current laws and the cost to our community, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, along with its partners, supporters, and stakeholders, hope to change the way waste is managed in Pennsylvania, thereby economically benefiting citizens, business owners, and local government."

A copy of the Discovery report is available online. Click Here for a copy of the Statewide Illegal Dumping Cost Research report. Click Here for a copy of the illegal dumping survey for your county.

For more information on how you and your community can cleanup and prevent illegal dumping, visit Keep PA Beautiful's website.

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

NewsClips:
Perry County Wins Keep PA Beautiful Tire Collection War
Lancaster Waste-To-Energy Facility Reduces Emissions
Editorial: State Should Study Landfill
Editorial: Alter Garbage Law To Trash Conflicts

Sept. Environmental Synopsis Now Available From Joint Conservation Committee

The September edition of the Environmental Synopsis newsletter is now available from the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee featuring articles on--
-- Summer Is Ending, Winter On The Say
-- Monarch Butterfly Populations Declining
-- Downsides Of Cash For Clunkers Program
-- Climate Change Increasing Presence Of Outdoor Pests
-- California Spends $428M A Year On Clean Waterways
-- Mercury Found In Game Fish From Remote Lakes
-- Summary Of Sept. 12 Environmental Forum On PA Abandoned Turnpike Trail
-- To receive your own copy, sending an email to Michael Nerozzi, Joint Conservation Committee: mnerozzi@jcc.legis.state.pa.us.

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

News From Around The State

Friends Of Tom Ridge Environmental Center Honor Naturalist Jerry McWilliams

The Erie Times-News reported Erie naturalist Jerry McWilliams was honored by the Friends of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center with the John C. Oliver Environmental Leadership Award on October 10 at a Sunset Celebration at the Presque Isle Lighthouse in Erie.

McWilliams is the volunteer curator of the Ridge Center's Natural History Museum and has written several books about birds.

Also being honored Friday is Austin Fiedler, chairman's award winner of a mixed media student art competition focused on Presque Isle.

The John C. Oliver Award is named for the first board chairman of the Friends of the Tom Ridge Environmental Center and the first secretary of the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Past recipients include Environment Erie, Pat Lupo, James Bissell, Jean Stull Cunningham, Robert Light and Ed Masteller.

Click Here for more information about the Tom Ridge Environmental Center.

NewsClips:

Friends Of Ridge Center To Honor Naturalist

Erie Teacher Wins Award For Environmental Efforts

DEP Seeks $4.5 Million Penalty From EQT For Drilling-Related Pollution In Tioga County

The Department of Environmental Protection Tuesday announced it has filed a complaint with the Environmental Hearing Board requesting a $4.5 million civil penalty from EQT Production Company of Washington, Pa., for a major pollution incident in 2012 at the company's Phoenix Pad S location in Duncan Township, Tioga County.

Two weeks ago, DEP fined Range Resources $4.15 million for violations at six of its impoundments in Washington County.

"EQT fails to recognize the ongoing environmental harm from the significant amount of waste released by its leaking six million gallon impoundment," Acting DEP Secretary Dana Aunkst said. "This action was necessary because the company has not been cooperative during our investigation. The department does not tolerate this unacceptable attitude toward compliance and proper protection of Pennsylvania's environment."

When EQT originally proposed the impoundment in its earth disturbance permit, the company stated it would be used to store fresh water only. However, after construction was complete in late 2011, the company decided to use the impoundment to store flowback water from Marcellus drilling operations to be used for fracking.

This unauthorized progression compromised environmental protection, as no monitoring wells or leak detection were required to be installed around the impoundment based on its initial stated intended use as a fresh water impoundment.

EQT ultimately proposed to construct a centralized waste impoundment adjacent to the Pad S impoundment and installed monitoring wells to establish baseline water quality in the area. A sampling event conducted on April 30, 2012 revealed elevated levels of chlorides and other parameters in two of the monitoring wells in the vicinity of the existing Pad S impoundment.

During the follow-up investigation of a reported flowback release from a transfer line on May 9, 2012, DEP staff identified two high conductivity seeps near the Pad S impoundment that were unrelated to the reported release. EQT continued to add fluid to the impoundment.

On May 30, 2012, after detecting high conductivity in a third monitoring well for the first time and in a nearby spring, EQT reported to the department that the impoundment was leaking. Impacts were ultimately documented in Rock Run, a high quality stream, an unnamed tributary to Rock Run, and various groundwater seeps and springs. Trees and shrubs along the discharge

flow path also were severely impacted.

EQT demonstrated a lack of cooperation by adding more flowback water to the impoundment even after becoming aware of the elevated chlorides in the nearby monitoring wells. A DEP inspection done in June 2012 after the impoundment was emptied verified 75 to 100 holes in the liner as estimated by EQT. EQT later revised this estimate to be over 200 holes.

An aerial inspection of the impoundment area conducted by DEP in August 2012 documented significant areas of stressed vegetation around the well pad in all directions.

EQT eventually removed the liner and excavated contaminated soil but did not conclude this work until July 1, 2013. The exact amount of flowback that leaked from the impoundment is unknown, but the department believes it was significant.

Monitoring of surface waters and the impacted spring by EQT's consultant has shown contamination is present at high enough levels that this water is still being collected and transported off-site for proper treatment and disposal.

Groundwater also continues to show contamination present above standards. This monitoring is being overseen by DEP's Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields Program.

The department incurred over $112,296 in costs and expenses as a result of its investigation, which is included as part of the proposed penalty.

A copy of the complaint is available online. A copy of the associated exhibits is also available.

For more information call 570-327-3636.

NewsClips:

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DEP Seeks Record $4.5M Fine Over Leaks At Drilling Operation
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Marcellus Boom Helps Keeps Natural Gas Bills Stable
Pink Drill Bits Promote Breast Cancer Awareness

EQT Drilling Company Files Counter-Complaint Challenging Clean Streams Law

EQT Corporation Tuesday announced it has filed a complaint in Commonwealth Court against the Department of Environmental Protection after unsuccessful attempts to resolve its liability for a 2012 accidental discharge from a well pad impoundment in Duncan Township, Tioga County.

EQT challenged the DEP's interpretation of the applicable provisions of the Clean Streams Law.

In its lawsuit, EQT notes that the DEP's challenged interpretation accounts for a penalty demand of $1.27 million for leaks caused by an EQT contractor, which resulted from damage to the bottom of an impoundment liner located on the drilling site.

"It is an utter waste of EQT and taxpayer resources for the parties to follow the usual administrative process while this fundamental legal issue is left unresolved by the courts"

The DEP subsequently filed its own complaint against EQT with the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board, seeking $4.53 million in fines.

"The DEP's insistence on a $1.27 million penalty during settlement negotiations, with no room for discussion or negotiation, followed by a $4.53 million demand in a lawsuit filed in response to EQT's attempt to clarify the law in Commonwealth Court, illustrates the problem with the agency's interpretation of the Clean Streams Law. It creates uncertainty and leads to the absurd result of never-ending and unquantifiable liability," said Lewis B. Gardner, EQT General Counsel and Vice President, External Affairs. Gardner continued, "The timing is suspect, and the exorbitant proposed penalty is inconsistent with both past and recent agency practice. The DEP's proposed penalty seems designed more for headlines than for the lawful enforcement of the Commonwealth's environmental statutes. In addition, based on a preliminary review of the complaint, the DEP is wholly ignoring EQT's remediation efforts and cooperation with the agency, as well as misstating many facts of the case."

In May 2012, EQT became aware that the impoundment was potentially leaking and notified the DEP. EQT discontinued using the impoundment and promptly removed all fluids and solids. At that time, EQT discovered damage to the bottom of the liner, which was caused by a third-party vendor conducting DEP-approved water treatment.

EQT then began remediation efforts, and by mid-September 2012, the contaminated soil beneath the liner had been removed. Subsequent sampling confirms the site meets statewide, health-based, soil cleanup standards; and a third-party consultant has concluded that a nearby High Quality stream is biologically healthy and sustaining a wild trout population.

Gardner noted that a reasonable penalty is appropriate to hold EQT accountable for the actions of its contractor. However, in EQT's view, the DEP is overreaching in its interpretation of the law in an attempt to justify an excessive demand. "It is an utter waste of EQT and taxpayer resources for the parties to follow the usual administrative process while this fundamental legal issue is left unresolved by the courts," said Gardner.

In addition, EQT's lawsuit identifies another challenge to the DEP's reading of the Clean Streams Law. That case involves Sunoco Logistics; and the significance of the legal issue at stake is reflected by the fact that the entire Environmental Hearing Board reviewed the DEP's legal argument at a hearing on August 28, 2014. A decision is pending.

Finally, Gardner added, "EQT has a great deal of respect for the DEP and its professionals. We have cooperated with the agency on this and many other projects and we will continue to do so. At present, we disagree on this basic legal issue, and while EQT acknowledges responsibility for its contractor's action, EQT will not agree to an excessive fine based on a faulty legal theory."

The 2012 accidental discharge incident that occurred in Tioga County is also the subject of a separate Fish and Boat Commission misdemeanor complaint against EQT filed by the Pennsylvania Attorney General on September 30, 2014.

EQT was discussing settlement with the Commission and remains ready and willing to continue such discussions with both the Commission and the Office of the Attorney General on that separate complaint.

NewsClips:

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Review: DEP Proposes Tough New Policy For Enforcing Oil & Gas Violations

by R. Timothy Weston and Tad J. Macfarlan, K&L Gates

On October 3, 2014, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection ("PADEP") unveiled a new draft policy that would strengthen its compliance and enforcement protocols for both unconventional and conventional oil and gas operators in the Commonwealth.

A 30-day public comment period was opened by a notice published in the October 4th Pennsylvania Bulletin.

The draft policy, entitled "Standards and Guidelines for Identifying, Tracking, and Resolving Oil and Gas Violations" (the "Draft Policy"), both modifies prior inspection and enforcement procedures and describes a new process for providing timely responses to water supply contamination complaints.

The Draft Policy would place renewed emphasis on issuing Notices of Violation ("NOVs") for any alleged violation that cannot be remedied during an inspection, and for fully resolving violation negotiations within 180 days of notice.

Further, the Draft Policy would affirm PADEP's commitment to inspecting every well in the Commonwealth at key operational stages, such as before and during drilling, during casing and cementing, following well stimulation and completion, after post-drilling restoration, during plugging, after post-plugging restoration, before financial security is released, and after any complaint or violation.

PADEP is accepting public comments on the Draft Policy through November 2, 2014. Together, this policy and other impending events portend a significant effect on oil and gas enforcement for years to come, and it will be important for the industry to review the policy carefully and offer appropriate comments on its compliance approaches and procedures.

Relationship to Currently Effective Oil and Gas Enforcement Policies

The Pennsylvania Bulletin notice announcing the release of the Draft Policy indicates that when finalized, the new policy will replace PADEP's 2005 guidance document entitled "Compliance Monitoring of Oil and Gas Wells and Related Facilities and Activities."

While not stated in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, the Draft Policy would also effectively supplant two additional PADEP policies, (1) "Enforcement Actions by DEP's Oil and Gas Management Program" and (2) "Inspection Policy Regarding Oil and Gas Well Activities," codified at 25 Pa. Code Ch. 78 Subch. X.

Parts I and II of the Draft Policy closely track the language from the "Enforcement Actions" policy, with only minor modifications. Similarly, Part III of the Draft Policy (regarding frequency of well inspections) parallels the "Inspection Policy" codified at 25 Pa. Code § 78.903, in that both establish a schedule for inspecting wells.

However, the inspection schedules called for in the Draft Policy are somewhat different than those in current § 78.903. [4] Thus, the Draft Policy, if finalized, would essentially merge three important oil and gas enforcement policies into one.

However, the Draft Policy would not directly affect or supersede PADEP's current guidance document entitled "Civil Penalty Assessments in the Oil and Gas Management Program," which provides a methodology for calculating an appropriate civil penalty in instances where PADEP determines a civil penalty is appropriate.

This important guidance is often used, for instance, to guide negotiations of consent assessments of civil penalty ("CACP") and consent orders and agreements ("CO&A"). Notably, however, the "Civil Penalty" guidance has not yet been updated to reflect changes (including statutorily increased penalty maximums) enacted as part of Act 13 [6] in 2012.

Water Supply Investigation Requests

One of the most notable aspects of the Draft Policy is the process it would establish for evaluating and responding to water supply contamination complaints. Part IV.B of the Draft Policy would set the following series of deadlines for actions by PADEP employees after receipt of a water supply investigation request:

District Office staff where the request is received should immediately collect and enter basic information regarding the request into PADEP's "water supply investigation request tracking system."

The same business day, a water quality specialist ("WQS") "should" attempt to contact the requestor, and "under no circumstances shall the WQS or the WQS's supervisor fail to attempt to contact the requestor within two business days" of receiving the request.

Within two business days of contacting the requestor, the WQS "should" conduct and document a site inspection and obtain water samples if warranted. A site inspection "shall be conducted within 10 calendar days of contacting the requestor" unless the landowner refuses to grant access to the site.

If the WQS observes a potential impact to the water supply ("e.g. effervescence, turbidity, or similar obvious contamination"), the process then diverges depending on if the water supply is within the "rebuttable presumption area."

In accordance with 58 Pa.C.S. § 3218(c), the "rebuttable presumption area" for conventional operators is within 1,000 feet of the well and six months of completion of drilling or alteration activities, and for unconventional operators is within 2,500 feet of the vertical well bore and 12 months of the later of completion, drilling, stimulation, or alteration activities.

If the potentially impacted water supply is outside the rebuttable presumption area, the WQS should refer the request to a "Program Geologist" to conduct a hydrologic investigation, who will determine whether pollution or diminution of the water supply has occurred and, if so, whether the pollution or diminution was caused by oil and gas activities.

PADEP's "goal" is to make this determination within 45 calendar days of receiving the complaint. If "extenuating circumstances" prevent PADEP from making a determination within 45 days, a letter "shall" be sent to the water supply user/owner summarizing the state of the investigation.

At the end of the investigation, if PADEP positively determines that oil and gas activities adversely impacted the water supply, PADEP will request that the responsible operator provide a temporary water supply, if necessary, within 24 hours.

If the potentially impacted water supply is within the rebuttable presumption area, PADEP "shall advise" the operator to provide a temporary water supply within 24 hours, regardless of whether the operator can establish one of the statutory defenses to liability (including, for instance, results of pre-drill sampling indicating that the water supply was already contaminated, or that the landowner refused access to the site to conduct such sampling).

Instead, PADEP is to request information from the operator supporting the statutory defenses at the same time the operator is advised to provide a temporary water supply.

If the operator fails or refuses to provide a temporary water supply within 24 hours and fails to rebut the presumption of liability, PADEP "shall" issue an administrative order directing the operator to provide a temporary water supply within 24 hours. Then PADEP will fully investigate whether pollution or diminution of the water supply has occurred and, if so, whether the pollution or diminution was caused by oil and gas activities, as above.

Within 30 calendar days of a final positive determination, PADEP "shall" issue an NOV to the responsible operator, directing the operator to respond in writing within 10 business days. Within 30 calendar days of the operators' written response, PADEP "shall" issue an administrative order to permanently restore or replace an adversely affected water supply, unless (1) the water has already been restored or replaced, (2) the water supply investigation request has been withdrawn, (3) the operator and water supply owner have come to an agreement, or (4) the water supply is no longer polluted or diminished.

While certain aspects of this process adhere to the language of Act 13, other elements go beyond Act 13, such as the suggestion that PADEP can and should "advise" an operator to provide a temporary water supply even if the operator can firmly rebut the presumption of liability.

Issuance and Negotiations of NOVs

The release of the Draft Policy may also signal the beginning of a more stringent enforcement stance regarding oil and gas well operations with respect to the issuance and expedited resolution of NOVs.

The Draft Policy provides that all oil and gas violations should trigger the issuance of an NOV within 14 days of discovery unless "the violation is corrected before the end of an inspection," in which case PADEP may exercise its discretion to merely record the violation in an inspection report.

Notably, this policy is more stringent than required by PADEP's generally applicable "Standards and Guidelines for Identifying, Tracking, And Resolving Violations" across all programs, which only requires the issuance of an NOV if an operator fails to resolve a violation "within the 14 calendar day period"—not before the end of an inspection, which is often impossible to do.

The Draft Policy also states that violation negotiations addressed through an enforcement document (such as a CACP or CO&A) "must be finalized within 180 calendar days" of notification to the alleged violator, "unless the Deputy Secretary or Bureau Director agrees that an extension of time is acceptable in the specific case. Otherwise, [PADEP] should take the applicable enforcement action that imposes the obligations necessary to resolve the violations."

Under current practice, violation negotiations often take more than 180 days to complete,

especially when there are novel or complex technical and legal issues involved. This policy, if strictly adhered to, could result in fewer negotiated settlements and more unilateral enforcement actions resulting in costly litigation before the Environmental Hearing Board.

It should be noted that most or all of the above-referenced language is already included almost verbatim in PADEP's "Enforcement Actions" policy, which was last updated in 2005. The restatement of this language in the Draft Policy may be an indication that PADEP plans to more literally adhere to these procedures in the future, and provides operators with a new opportunity to comment on its appropriateness.

Inspection Schedule

The Draft Policy also includes a rigorous inspection schedule, requiring district offices to ensure that all wells are inspected at least once at the following intervals:

a) Prior to the commencement of drilling on a new well pad.
b) During drilling, casing, and cementing operations.
c) Following well stimulation and completion activities.
d) Following the time period in which the owner or operator is required to restore a site after drilling a well.
e) While a well is being altered or repaired or when casing is being replaced.
f) Prior to a well being granted inactive status.
g) During the plugging of a well.
h) After the owner or operator restores a site following plugging or abandonment.
i) Before a bond or other financial security is released.
j) Annually for disposal wells.
k) Following a violation to determine whether the violation has been corrected.
l) Following a complaint.

This schedule is similar to the well inspection schedule already codified at 25 Pa. Code § 78.903 of the "Inspection Policy," but the two schedules are not the same. Most notably, the Draft Policy drops the blanket once-per-year inspection of operating wells—a change that PADEP oil and gas program leaders indicate is needed to focus available inspection resources on those activities that are most likely to present compliance issues.

It is unclear if and when PADEP plans to amend the "Inspection Policy" codified in the Pa. Code to conform to the Draft Policy.

Conclusion

The release of the Draft Policy provides an important opportunity for operators in the Commonwealth to provide input to the direction and procedures used in PADEP's enforcement of oil and gas regulations, both for conventional and unconventional operations.

Broader enforcement priorities will also be shaped by the outcome of the upcoming gubernatorial election and the selection of the next PADEP Secretary, among other developments. There is little doubt that in the current political setting, high public attention has been placed on compliance issues related to the industry, with significant implications as to the future for both public trust in regulatory regimes and the industry's reputation.

The industry must closely monitor and consider its options for participation in shaping these compliance policies and procedures, as they have a substantial potential to significantly affect operations in the years ahead.

NewsClips:

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DEP Citizens Advisory Council To Discuss Oil & Gas Enforcement Policy Changes

On October 21 DEP Citizens Advisory Council will hear a presentation on proposed changes to DEP's Oil and Gas Enforcement Policies published on October 4 for public comment.

Andy Zemba, Director of DEP's Office of Interstate Waters, will give Council an update on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan and EPA's evaluation of Pennsylvania's 2012-13 milestone commitments.

Also on the agenda is DEP's new Acting Secretary-- Dana Aunkst-- who will give Council and update on agency activities.

After the regular business meeting, the CAC's Public Participation Committee will hold a roundtable discussion with the Chairs of DEP's Advisory Committees on ways to improve the participation of the Committees in forming changes to DEP regulations and technical guidance.

DEP also submitted its regular monthly report to Council featuring a comprehensive update of activities in the Department over the past month, including--

-- Energy Funding: DEP anticipates announcing grants from the PA Energy Development Authority at its October 22 meeting; and

-- EPA Objects To Nutrient Credit Trades: DEP continues resolve issues with EPA over nutrient credit trades in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Since April EPA has objected to the issuance of NPDES permits in the watershed citing the need to resolve issues with the definition of the non-point source agricultural baseline.

The next and last meeting of the Council in 2014 is November 18.

For more information and available handouts, visit the DEP Citizens Advisory Council webpage.

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StateImpact, Post-Gazette: State Court Hears Arguments On State Forest Drilling



StateImpact and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Wednesday reported Commonwealth Court heard arguments in the case of PEDF v. Commonwealth challenging withdrawals from the DCNR Oil and Gas Fund to balance the state budget using revenues from State Forest Marcellus Shale drilling leases.

An agreement in July between the parties delayed any additional drilling under State Parks and Forests required by the Fiscal Code bill signed into law as part of the budget directing that $95 million from the Fund be used to balance the FY 2014-15 state budget until Commonwealth Court ruled on the issue.

Attorney John Childe argued Governors Rendell and Corbett violated the state's Environmental Rights Amendment to the constitution when they disregarded the environmental impacts of drilling on or under State Parks and Forests and then transferred monies resulting from the drilling leases out of the Oil and Gas Fund to balance the budget, not to pay for DCNR operations and programs.

Childe cited, in part, the ruling in December by the PA Supreme Court in Robinson Township v. Commonwealth that reinvigorated the application of the Environmental Rights Amendment to protecting the state's environment.

Gov. Rendell leased some 132,000 of State Forest land for Marcellus Shale drilling and Gov. Corbett called for additional no surface disturbance drilling leases in May when he issued Executive Order 2014-3.

Attorneys for the Commonwealth argued there is no provision in the constitution limiting the Governor's authority to lease State Park and Forest land.

The judges gave no indication when they would rule on the issue.

NewsClips:
Judges Seek Balance For Leasing State Parks, Forests To Drillers
Court Takes Up Issue Of Oil & Gas Fund Withdrawals
Court To Hear Challenge To Oil & Gas Fund Withdrawals
Is PA's Energy Industry Afraid Of Big, Bad Wolf?
Range Resources: Severance Tax Threatens PA's Edge
Op-Ed: Severance Tax Discourages Drilling, Threatens Local Jobs
Derry Twp OKs Act 13 Fees For Water Line Extension
Marcellus Boom Helps Keeps Natural Gas Bills Stable

Drilling Impact Fees Support $9.3 Million Effort To Improve Local Housing

Gov. Tom Corbett Thursday announced the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Authority approved $9.3 million for 45 housing programs and projects improve the availability and affordability of housing in 29 counties.

"By partnering with local groups, we are implementing local solutions to address housing

challenges," said Gov. Corbett. "This is part of a comprehensive approach critical to addressing local housing needs."

These projects are supported by the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) Fund, which is administered by the PFHA and funded by Act 13's impact fee on natural gas producers. Award recipients were chosen at PHFA's Board of Directors meeting earlier Thursday.

"We expect these projects to have a significant, positive impact helping counties address housing and community needs resulting from the development of gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale region," said Brian A. Hudson Sr., PHFA executive director and CEO.

In 2012, Pennsylvania became the first state in the nation to impose an impact fee on natural gas producers when Gov. Corbett signed Act 13. To date the natural gas impact fee has generated over $630 million in new revenues.

A list of grants awarded is available online.

For more information, visit the PA Housing Finance Authority's PHARE Fund webpage.

NewsClips:

Range Resources: Severance Tax Threatens PA's Edge
Op-Ed: Severance Tax Discourages Drilling, Threatens Local Jobs
Derry Twp OKs Act 13 Fees For Water Line Extension
Judges Seek Balance For Leasing State Parks, Forests To Drillers
Court Takes Up Issue Of Oil & Gas Fund Withdrawals
Court To Hear Challenge To Oil & Gas Fund Withdrawals
Is PA's Energy Industry Afraid Of Big, Bad Wolf?
Marcellus Boom Helps Keeps Natural Gas Bills Stable

Shale Drilling And Public Health: A Day Of Discovery Oct. 26-27

The PA League of Women Voters Pennsylvania Shale and Public Health Committee will hold its second annual Shale Drilling and Public Health: Days of Discovery Conference in Pittsburgh October 26-27.

Speakers for the event include--

-- Bernard Goldstein MD MPH Emeritus Dean & Professor University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health;
-- Reynold Panettieri MD University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, Director, Airways Biological Initiative, Deputy Director Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology;
-- Lenore Resick PhD FNP-BC Duquesne University School of Nursing;
-- Pennsylvania's "Environmental Rights Amendment" – featuring the Hon. Franklin Kury; and
-- John C. Dernbach, Esq. Widener Law School Co-Director Environmental Law Center.

The conference is free and open to the public, but space is limited so you must pre-register to attend.

NewsClips:

Mon Valley Hospital Panel Discusses Marcellus Shale Industry
Testimony: Obsolete Tests Tainted Shale Analysis
Not All Shale Drilling Wastewater Treated The Same

Mansfield Creates Environment Institute On Shale, Other Issues, Speaker Series Starts

Mansfield University President Fran Hendricks Wednesday announced the creation of The Institute of Science and the Environment at Mansfield University, Tioga County.

The new Institute will replace the Marcellus Institute, which was established in 2012, continuing its work with responsible industry representatives while broadening its focus to all aspects of land use and natural resources. The Institute of Science and the Environment at Mansfield University will be part of the Department of Geosciences.

"The Institute will coordinate non-credit and for-credit initiatives to provide community leadership on the natural environment," Hendricks said. "Through research programs in the sciences and humanities, internships, workforce training, and private/public partnerships, the Institute will provide resources for students, alumni, and neighboring communities, with a focus on Tioga and Bradford Counties."

In addition to supporting the degree programs in Safety Management and Natural Gas Production and Services, the Institute will help coordinate internships and trainings for the Watershed Management, Environmental Science, Environmental Biology, Fisheries and Outdoor Recreation Leadership programs. The Institute will also run non-credit certification programs for students and community members.

"We're excited to bring the Institute under the academic wing of the University, and to broaden the focus," Lilace Guignard, co-director of The Institute of Science and the Environment at Mansfield University, said. "We have many strong science programs with an environmental focus, and the Institute now will help connect those students and their research with our community and businesses. The University will soon have a one-stop resource online for area residents who want information on a variety of issues, from where can I recycle e-waste to what should I know about pipeline safety?"

Guignard, who is director of Education and Outreach, is Institute Co-directors Chris Kopf and Lilace Guignard co-directing The Institute with Chris Kopf, associate professor of Geosciences, who is director of Grants and Research.

Speakers For Tomorrow Series

The Institute will also host a speakers series on the third Thursday of most months when school is in session. "'Speakers for Tomorrow' is series of free presentations on issues that affect the decisions we make about how we live where we live," Guignard said.

The first will be October 16, 7 p.m. in Allen Hall, Room 104, when Emily Krafjack makes her presentation entitled "A COGENT Response to Natural Gas Development." Krafjack is the president of Connection for Oil, Gas, & Environment in the Northern Tier Inc. (COGENT).

She will speak about the organization's efforts to address regulatory and other gaps as the unconventional shale gas development moves forward in our region.

All "Speakers for Tomorrow" events are free and open to the public.

For more information, visit Mansfield University's Institute of Science and the Environment webpage.

NewsClips:

DEP Seeks $4.5M Record Fine Against EQT For Impoundment Leak
DEP Seeks $4.5 Million Penalty Against EQT
DEP Seeks Record $4.5M Fine Over Leaks At Drilling Operation

DEP Seeks Record Fine Against EQT, AG Files Criminal Charges
Record $4.5M Fine Pursued Against Gas Driller
Is PA's Energy Industry Afraid Of Big, Bad Wolf?
Range Resources: Severance Tax Threatens PA's Edge
Court To Hear Challenge To Oil & Gas Fund Withdrawals
DEP To DePasquale: Problems Are Already Addressed
EQT Faces Charges For Tioga County Spill From AG
Testimony: Obsolete Tests Tainted Shale Analysis
Not All Shale Drilling Wastewater Treated The Same
Editorial: Still Not State Database On Drilling, Health
Proposed 105-Mile PennEast Pipeline Rattles Residents
Williams Twp Residents: Don't Let Pipeline Ruin Scenery
West Goshen Officials Vow To Fight Pipeline
PennEast Pipeline Would Cross Susquehanna, Wyoming Valley
Editorial: Few Political Profiles In Courage On Lancaster Pipeline
Editorial: Natural Gas Boom, Methane Emissions Are Bane
Letter: Marcellus Industry Appreciates Look At Endangered Species Issue
Wyoming County Celebrates Marcellus Growth
Op-Ed: Responsible Gas Exploration Can Benefit Everyone
Op-Ed: Benefits Of Exporting PA Natural Gas Undeniable
COLTS Interested In PennDOT Natural Gas Fuel Initiative
UGI Launches System Expansion Initiative In Lancaster
Mon Valley Hospital Panel Discusses Marcellus Shale Industry
One Greene County Man's Encounter With A Drilling Landman
Drilling From Deer Lakes To Boost County Parks' Budget
Range Resources Signs Lease To Drill In Allegheny County Park
Pink Drill Bits Promote Breast Cancer Awareness

DEP Submits Comments On EPA's Waters Of The U.S. Rule

On Wednesday the Department of Environmental Protection submitted comments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on its proposed clarification of the Waters of the United States rule which determines when water quality permits are needed.

In its letter, DEP said, "The rule as drafted creates more confusion than it clarifies, and is already subject to differing interpretations of EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff. This confusion will delay permitting and could undermine strong state programs."

DEP recommended the proposed rule be withdrawn and substantially revised.

DEP said EPA failed to recognize Pennsylvania's Clean Streams Law already broadly protects all the waters of the Commonwealth without the confusion of the EPA rule.

Former DEP Secretary Chris Abruzzo told the Citizens Advisory Council in May the changes in the Waters of the United States definition will not have much impact on Pennsylvania programs because the state's water quality programs already exceed minimum federal requirements.

A copy of the comments is available online.

NewsClips:

Editorial: EPA Perverts Meaning Of Navigable Waters
Putting A Price Tag On Clean Water In PA
PLS: Stream Buffer Bill Could See Final Passage
Stream Buffer Bill Clears Senate Hurdle
Derry Twp OKs Act 13 Fees For Water Line Extension
South Whitehall Residents Clued In On Wehr's Dam Study
Op-Ed: Future Of Wehr's Dam Rests With South Whitehall

Brodhead Watershed Assn. Hosts Watershed Walk #8 Oct. 18

Join Brodhead Watershed Association and Pocono Heritage Land Trust members and friends on October 18 for the next "Where in the Watershed" Walks led by naturalist Don Miller and naturalist and wild plant and old growth forest enthusiast, Bill Sweeney in Monroe County.

This month's exploration will be on the Cherry Valley Ridge Trail system in the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge's newly acquired Sorrenti Tract. Bring your binoculars and enjoy prime fall foliage.

This moderate difficulty hike will be on and off trail on level and sloped terrain along the ridge overlooking the headwaters of Cherry Creek and Aquashicola Creek. Discover the Brodhead Creek, Delaware River and Lehigh River watershed divide, and learn some of the history of our National Wildlife Refuge System.

Enjoy being in the midst of the annual fall bird migration with views of migrating songbirds, raptors and the Appalachian Ridge in "full fall bloom."

Hike donation is $5.00 per person ($3.00 per BWA/PHLT member) to be collected at the start of the hike. Optional Wood Fired Brick Oven Pizza and Cherry Valley Wine is available after the hike at Pizzeria Mamma Lucia at Cherry Valley Vineyard.

Participants should meet at 1:00 in the CVNWR trailhead parking area adjacent to the Cherry Valley Vineyard on Lower Cherry Valley Road just off Rt. 115 South accessed via the Saylorsburg Exit off Rt. 33 South.

For additional Where in the Watershed Walk information and directions call PHLT at 570-424-1514 or BWA 570-839-1120. Pre- registration is requested. To register, please call the Pocono Heritage Land Trust office Monday to Friday at 570-424-1514.

To learn more about the locations on the Walk, visit the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge's and Friends of the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge websites.

Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Assn. Seeks Volunteers For October Tree Plantings

As part of its efforts to improve water and habitat quality, the Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds Association in Chester and Delaware counties is hosting three streamside tree planting events in October. Volunteers are needed to assist with each planting. No prior experience is necessary.

CRC will provide a tree planting demonstration at the beginning of each event. Gloves, hand tools, and water will be provided. Please wear long pants and sturdy shoes.

CRC and its partners will be restoring tree cover at:

-- **October 16:** Cheyney University, 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., With help from Cheyney University students, we will plant trees on campus along the East Branch of the Chester Creek.

-- **October 22**: Swarthmore College, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., CRC and the Scott Arboretum of

Swarthmore College will be adding to streamside plantings along the Crum Creek.
-- **October 25**: Darlington Trail, Middletown Township, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., In partnership with Middletown Township, we will add to the streamside forests at this popular hiking and recreation location on the East Branch of the Chester Creek.

For more information, visit the CRC Watershed Associations' Events webpage or call CRC at 610-359-1440.

NewsClips:
Saving The American Chestnut Tree
Despite Dry Weather, NE PA's Natural Fall Colors to Glisten
PA Fall Foliage Color Guide

StormwaterPA.org Premier Of Wissahickon Watershed Video Nov. 11

StormwaterPA.org Tuesday announced the November 11 premier of a new video, A Healthy Wissahickon: We All Have A Part To Play in its October newsletter.

The Wissahickon in Montgomery and Philadelphia counties has served historically as an important watershed for industry and clean waters. Throughout this history it has faced numerous changes, and now, with the development of suburban areas, stormwater runoff poses a significant threat to both residents and the environment.

These challenges are met by the resilience of residents determined to preserve the environment and their livelihood. Stormwater management policies and technology are implemented on a large scale by townships and local governments while residents help by installing rain barrels and rain gardens in their backyards. Once expansive lawns turn into a meadow oasis for native plants and animals all while providing an essential service to the community.

Through the development of combined techniques the Wissahickon watershed is making a comeback. Changes made by homeowners have a huge potential to make an impact. What initiative can you take to make a difference?

A premier of our feature video A Healthy Wissahickon: We All Have a Part to Play will be held at the Ambler Theater in Montgomery County on November 11th at 7:30 p.m.. Learn about what you can do to help preserve and create a healthier, safer Wissahickon.

Other newsletter articles include--
-- Video: Rethinking Basins: Putting Nature To Work
-- Interactive Stormwater Basin Retrofitting Module
-- Click Here to sign up to receive your own StormwaterPA newsletter

StormwaterPA.org is an initiative of the GreenTreks Network.

Local Colleges, Universities Compete In PA American Water's UTAP Challenge

Colleges and universities from across the Commonwealth hope people "Like" them on Facebook to win a new, convenient device for filling reusable bottles with cool refreshing water.

Eight schools in Pennsylvania American Water's service area are competing in the "UTap Challenge," a Facebook contest that will award the top vote-getter with an Elkay water fountain bottle filler to help cut down on plastic bottled water waste.

Facebook users can vote once each day between October 7 and October 31, for their

favorite college or university. From PA American Water's Facebook page, users can click "Vote" to see a list of participating schools and short descriptions of where on campus their bottle fillers will be installed, if awarded.

"Students are looking for an inexpensive and convenient way to fill water bottles on the go rather than generating waste and spending a lot of money on bottled water," said Pennsylvania American Water President Kathy L. Pape. "The UTap Challenge will offset the cost of installing a water fountain bottle filler on the winner's campus, which benefits students, faculty and staff as well as the environment."

Participating schools are:

-- California University - Washington County
-- Clarion University – Clarion County
-- Community College of Allegheny County
-- Lebanon Valley College – Lebanon County
-- Lackawanna College – Lackawanna County
-- Montgomery County Community College
-- University of Scranton – Lackawanna County
-- Washington & Jefferson College – Washington County

The top vote-getting grant winner will be announced in early November.

For more information, visit PA American Water's Facebook page.

EPA: 2,400 Urban Students To Get Unique Water Education Experience

As many as 2,400 urban students will paddle the Delaware River and other area waterways, test the quality of the waters and learn about key water issues over the next two weeks as the national "Canoemobile" program rolls into Delaware Basin cities.

U.S. EPA Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin and officials from federal, state and county agencies gathered in Camden's Wiggins Park Marina Tuesday to mark the start of the program for urban students in Camden, Philadelphia, Chester, Wilmington and Reading that runs through October 19.

The Canoemobile – one in a fleet of special vans that each travel the country with six hand-made 24-foot Voyageur canoes – brings environmental education and outdoor learning experiences to underserved, urban youth.

An initiative of the Delaware River Urban Waters Federal Partnership, the program in this area is funded through a $59,333 Urban Waters Small Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, coordinated by the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, hosted by local city agencies and parks departments, and implemented by Wilderness Inquiry and a number of community-based organizations.

The goal of the Urban Waters Partnership is to connect residents and communities with their local water resources so that they work hard to protect them.

"This program will help to enrich lives and enhance environmental stewardship in our urban students, many of whom are getting their first experience on the water," said EPA Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin. "These students will then bring back what they've learned to their families, friends and communities."

"The Park Service is a proud supporter of the Canoemobile project," shared Brian Strack, Associate Regional Director for the National Park Service Northeast Region. "We firmly believe

that when young people have fun in the outdoors through activities like this, it will help engage the next generation of stewards for our local, state and national parks."

"Canoemobile is a wonderful example of Federal agencies working with each other and with local stakeholders to provide an enriching experience for urban youth to explore the outdoors", says Sarah Low, Philadelphia Field Station Coordinator from the USDA Forest Service. "Canoeing on the river is an opportunity for youth to see their city from a new perspective, a greener and more natural perspective. Working together we can make our cities healthier, more resilient places to live and recreate."

Nearly 70 4th-8th grade students from Camden Forward School and 30 from Pennsauken Technical High School participated in the event along the Delaware today. They paddled in the large canoes around Wiggins Park Marina and the Delaware as a floating classroom, and rotated through a series of stations on land to learn about the ecology, cultural history and water quality of the river. Each canoe holds up to nine students and chaperones under the leadership of an environmental educator.

For a full schedule of Canoemobile activities is available online. Click Here for more information on the Canoemobile and visit EPA's Urban Waters Small Grant webpage.
NewsClip: Erie Teacher Wins Award For Environmental Efforts

Public Hearing Oct. 22 On Application For Manure Storage Facilities In Fulton County

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold a public hearing on October 22, to accept comments on a Water Quality Management permit application for manure storage facilities at a proposed swine farm in Ayr Township, Fulton County.

The 7 p.m. hearing will be at the McConnellsburg Fire Hall, 2nd floor meeting room, 112 East Maple St., McConnellsburg.

"This hearing will provide an opportunity for the public to make comments or voice concerns about the construction and design of manure storage facilities at the proposed swine farm," DEP Southcentral Regional Director Lynn Langer said. "All written and oral comments received will be considered with the final review of the application."

Country View Family Farms LLC is proposing to construct three barns on 224 acres to house 8,722 swine. To manage the manure, Country View would construct concrete deep pit manure storage under two of the barns, with a concrete temporary manure holding area under the third barn.

Country View submitted its WQM permit application on April 8; an update to the design plan was submitted on Aug. 13. WQM permits authorize the construction of manure storage facilities to prevent pollution from entering nearby waterways.

In accordance with state wastewater regulations, there will be a leak detection system encircling each barn, with observation wells at a corner of each building to monitor any manure leaks. The outlets of the leak detection system are 845 feet from the nearest surface water, an Unnamed Tributary to Big Cove Creek. No discharges to surface waters from the proposed farm are expected.

The public will have the opportunity to present up to five minutes of oral testimony during the hearing. To ensure that all speakers have a fair and equal opportunity to present their testimony, relinquishing of time to other speakers will be prohibited and groups are asked to designate one speaker.

All presenters should bring two copies of their comments and exhibits. Those who wish to present testimony during the hearing are asked to register in advance by contacting Eileen Bitting in DEP's Southcentral Regional Office at 717-705-4703.

Individuals who register in advance will be given priority on the agenda. If time permits at the hearing, those who did not register in advance will be given the opportunity to testify.

Individuals who are in need of an accommodation for the hearing as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact Bitting at the number provided above or make accommodations through the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service at 1-800-654-5984 (TDD).

Those who prefer to present their comments in writing or are unable to attend the hearing may submit written testimony by 4 p.m. on October 29 to Maria Bebenek, DEP Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110.

All testimony and written comments received during the hearing should pertain to the WQM permit application for manure storage facilities. Testimony and comments unrelated to the permit will not be accepted.

DEP will provide a written response to all relevant testimony and comments provided during the public hearing and public comment period, and will consider relevant comments in its review of the application.

The permit application is open for review until October 29.

To make an appointment to view the application at DEP's Southcentral Regional Office weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., contact Stacy Burns at 717-705-4732.

The permit application, including the blueprints, is also available for review at the Fulton County Public Library, 227 North First St., McConnellsburg, during business hours.

DEP To Hold Brownfields Redevelopment Seminar In Wilkes-Barre Oct. 23

The Department of Environmental Protection invites municipal, township and borough leaders, county and city planners, redevelopment authorities, community leaders, and economic and industrial development agencies to a seminar, What All Local Governments Need to Know about Brownfields, on October 23 in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County

The seminar is offered free of charge and will be from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the DEP Northeast Regional Office located at 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre. Lunch will be provided.

The half-day seminar will focus on how to breathe life into abandoned and vacant properties. Participants will learn about successful brownfield redevelopment projects in their area, learn the basics of brownfields, find out where public funding is available and how to apply for it, and network with other municipal organizations.

Brownfields are properties that are in need of expansion, redevelopment or reuse, but because of actual or anticipated hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants, that work is made more challenging.

Pennsylvania's approach to brownfields redevelopment has proven to be a national model for transforming abandoned, idle properties into places of environmental protection and economic opportunity.

This workshop is produced in partnership with the Department of Community and Economic Development. It is funded by a brownfield grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Space is limited, so registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please

register in advance. Online registration is available.

For more information, contact Kim Hoover at 717-783-1566 or send email to: khoover@pa.gov.

Public Meeting, Hearing Oct. 21 To Discuss Cleanup Of Berks County Battery Casing Site

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold a public meeting and hearing on October 21 to outline its plan to clean up lead-contaminated battery casings and soil at a residential property on Franklin Road in Hamburg Borough, Berks County.

The 7 p.m. meeting and hearing will be at the DEP Reading District Office, 1005 Cross Roads Blvd., Reading.

"This meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions and voice any concerns about our proposed cleanup plan," DEP Southcentral Regional Director Lynn Langer said. "The Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act (HSCA) authorizes DEP to take action and create a plan to return this site to a sound environmental state."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency collected soil samples at the 649 Franklin St. property in September 2011 as part of a larger investigation to identify properties in Hamburg Borough which may have been impacted by lead dust from the former Price Battery lead smelter.

The investigation revealed battery casings that appeared to have been used decades earlier as fill material, and the results of the soil samples indicated that lead was present at elevated levels.

In October 2011, DEP conducted further investigation to fully characterize the site and collected additional soil samples which confirmed the elevated levels of lead.

DEP is proposing to excavate and remove the battery casing material and contaminated soil. The area will be graded and grass will be planted to restore the affected areas.

Those who wish to present testimony during the hearing are asked to register in advance by contacting Lisa Kasianowitz in DEP's Southcentral Regional Office at 717-787-1323. Individuals who register in advance will be given priority on the agenda. If time permits at the hearing, those who did not register will be given the opportunity to testify.

The public will have the opportunity to present up to five minutes of oral testimony during the hearing. All presenters should bring two copies of their comments and exhibits.

Those who prefer to present their comments in writing or are unable to attend the hearing may submit written testimony by 4 p.m. on October 1 to Asuquo Effiong, DEP Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110.

DEP will provide a written response to all relevant testimony and written comments received during the hearing and public comment period, and will consider relevant comments in its review of the application.

As required under HSCA, the administrative record for the proposal will be open for review and comment until Dec. 5. It can be reviewed, by appointment, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at DEP's Southcentral Regional Office at the above address. To make an appointment, contact Stacy Burns at 717-705-4732.

Individuals in need of an accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact Lisa Kasianowitz at the number provided above or make accommodations through the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service at 1-800-654-5984 (TDD).

Keep PA Beautiful Announces 2014 Tire War Champion In Central Pennsylvania



Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful would like to congratulate their local affiliates-- Keep Huntingdon County Beautiful, Keep Juniata County Beautiful, PA CleanWays of Mifflin County, and Keep Perry County Beautiful-- on a successful ninth annual Tire War, a friendly competition to compete for the most tires collected at their perspective special collections.

(Photo: Perry County volunteers load tires for recycling at Mahantango Enterprises of Liverpool.)

This year's winner is Keep Perry County Beautiful with 1,613 tires collected, usurping the coveted 'Gold Rim' award from Keep Huntingdon County Beautiful.

"I think the most notable thing about our collection was the number of big tires we received. We would be unloading a truck and we would see two more with big tires coming down the road. The highest tonnage we ever had for this event was 22 tons and this year we had 32.3," noted Sally Tengeres, Keep Perry County Beautiful Affiliate Coordinator.

PA CleanWays of Mifflin County came in second place, collecting 1,163 tires, Keep Huntingdon County Beautiful collected 1,087 tires, and Keep Juniata County Beautiful earned the 'Flat Tire' award with 941 tires collected.

The collections, sponsored in part by the Department of Environmental Protection's Household Hazardous Waste/Small Business Hazardous Waste Collection Program, have gathered and recycled 25,600 tires from local County residents since 2006.

"These collections provide a convenient, low cost alternative to the community. The tires that are collected at these events won't end up over the hill where they would be difficult and costly to remove," said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania beautiful. "I really commend our affiliates for providing this service and for generating excitement and camaraderie within our network."

To learn more about other upcoming events, visit the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Calendar of Events webpage.

NewsClips:

Perry County Wins Keep PA Beautiful Tire Collection War
Lancaster Waste-To-Energy Facility Reduces Emissions
Editorial: State Should Study Landfill
Editorial: Alter Garbage Law To Trash Conflicts

October e-PRC Newsletter Now Available From PA Resources Council

The October issue of the e-PRC newsletter is now available from the PA Resources Council featuring articles on--

-- PRC Launches The Cans For Pets Program In Lancaster
-- Lens On Litter Contest Deadline Oct. 31
-- Newtown Square Farmers' Market Still Open
-- Electronic Waste Recycling Dates In The East
-- Last Household Hazardous Waste Collection Of 2014

-- PECO Smart Energy Ideas Events Coming Up
-- Click Here for information on receiving your own copy of e-PRC

Shooting Range At Little Pine State Park Reopens Following Cleanup, Improvements

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Ellen Ferretti Wednesday announced the shooting range at Little Pine State Park in Lycoming County will reopen on October 10.

The shooting range closed in June 2012 for a major rehabilitation project.

"This project aligns with a nationwide effort to address the impacts of lead bullets and their accumulation in concentrated areas at shooting ranges," Ferretti said. "We chose to be proactive by taking on this project in an effort to prevent lead from building up in the environment, and now have a much-improved range as a result of that process."

The remediation was completed in two phases. The first phase, cleanup and removal of spent lead shot from the rifles and handguns, was completed by MT2 of Arvada, Colorado, a contractor that specializes in lead remediation.

Phase two encompassed reconstruction of the range. Improvements include earthen embankments around the range; new backstops; new shooting benches partially covered by a pavilion; improved parking and restroom facilities.

"The newly redesigned range incorporates best management practices established by the shooting industry that are used in state of the art shooting ranges across the country. These practices allow for safe and environmentally sustainable shooting and range maintenance while allowing the user to fully enjoy the range experience," Ferretti said.

Beginning in January 2015, individuals and groups interested in using the new shooting range facilities must purchase an annual range permit.

Range permits will be issued to individuals 16 years of age or older for $15 per year. Family permits will be offered for $20 annually. Permits will be available at the park office and there also will be honor envelopes for self-registration at the shooting range starting in January of 2015.

The shooting range at Little Pine is located on a 6-acre site at the north end of the park. It was first opened to the public in the 1970s and has served as a popular location for sportsman to practice with rifles and pistols.

The 2,158-acre Little Pine State Park is in a rugged mountain section of Tiadaghton State Forest in the Pennsylvania Wilds. The 94-acre Little Pine Lake, hiking trails and a campground are prime attractions at the park.

Fall Issue Of Conserve Magazine Available From Western PA Conservancy

The Fall issue of Conserve magazine is now available from the Western PA Conservancy featuring articles on--
-- Changing Times, Changing Approaches
-- How Parcels Add Up To Exceptional Places
-- New Tools Help, Not Change Conservation Science
-- Comprehensive Approaches Restore Watersheds
-- Transforming The Visitor Experience At Fallingwater

-- Behind The Scenes: Preservation At Fallingwater
-- Addressing Regional Needs With Green Space
-- Field Notes: Days Of Pay Phones And Compasses
-- Then And Now: Nature's Lasting Legacy
-- Click Here for information on receiving your own copy of Conserve

October eConnections Available From Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

The October issue of the eConnections newsletter is available from the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership featuring articles on--
-- New River Access Coming To Jersey Shore
-- Susquehanna Greenway Featured On Greenlife PA
-- Revitalizing River Towns: Lewisburg, Lock Haven
-- Uncertain Future For Montour Preserve
-- Howland Preserve In Wyoming County Given Facelift
-- Creative Path To Cleaner Water For West Branch Susquehanna
-- New River Trail Campsite In Middle Susquehanna
-- Zimmerman Center For Heritage Now Open At Dritt Mansion
-- Free Seminar Explores Clean Water Issues
-- Learn How To Fund Your Greenway Project
-- How Rainbow Trout Beguiled America, Overran The World
-- Meet Our Staff: Michael Grasso, Kyle Postupack
-- Click Here to sign up to receive your own eConnections

2014 PA Botany Symposium Nov. 7-8 In State College

The 2014 PA Botany Symposium will be held at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College November 7-8. The Symposium is the premier gathering for botanists from across Pennsylvania to discuss the latest in research, species trends and issues related to botany in the Commonwealth. Click Here for more information and to register for workshops.

Public Participation Opportunities/Calendar Of Events

This section gives you a continuously updated thumbnail sketch of issues to be considered in upcoming advisory committee meetings where the agendas have been released. It also gives you a heads-up on House and Senate Committee meetings, conferences and other interesting events. Meetings are in Harrisburg unless otherwise noted.

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

Note: Senate and House Committee meetings can happen at any time during the last two days of session.

October 14-- NEW. DEP Natural Gas Vehicle Workshop. DEP's Northcentral Regional Office, 208 W. 3rd St., Williamsport. 11:30 to 2:00.

October 15-- CANCELED. DEP Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board. 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00. *(formal notice)*

October 15-- Agenda Released. DEP Agricultural Advisory Board meeting. DEP Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. 10:00.
-- Nonpoint Source Management Plan Update
-- NRCS Geospatical Data Collection Pilot Project
-- PA OneStop Use For E&S Control Planning
-- Regional Ag Watershed Assessment Program Initiative Update
<> Click Here for available handouts.

October 15-- Agenda Released. DEP Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment for deep mining. DEP Office, 131 Broadview Rd, New Stanton. 10:00. *(formal notice)*
-- Review of Chapter 4-TAC Interpretation Policy Manual
-- Review of specific equipment changes
<> Click Here for available handouts.

October 16-- Agenda Released. DEP Radiation Protection Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
-- Radiation Protection Program Update
-- Proposed Revisions To Fee Schedules In Chapters 218, 240
-- Proposed Revisions To Chapter 240 On Radon and Other Issues
-- Proposed Revisions To Chapter 215-221
<> Click Here for available handouts.

October 16-- Agenda Released. DEP State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators meeting 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

October 17-- PA Section of the American Water Resources Association Annual Conference. Susquehanna River Basin Commission Offices, 4423 N. Front St., Harrisburg 9:00.

October 21-- Agenda Released. Environmental Quality Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
-- Proposed Control of VOC Emissions From Metal Parts, Surface Coatings, Boats
-- Proposed Security Rule for Radioactive Material
-- Rulemaking Petition: Ban On Water Fluoridation and Bottled Water Fluoride Labeling
-- 3-Year Fee Report for Chapter 102 Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program
<> Click Here for available handouts

October 21-- Agenda Posted. DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
-- Presentation/Discussion Of Proposed Changes To DEP's Oil and Gas Enforcement Policies
-- Update On Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan, Milestones

-- First Presentation by Dana Aunkst, Acting DEP Secretary
-- After the regular business meeting, the CAC's Public Participation Committee will hold a roundtable discussion with the Chairs of DEP's Advisory Committees on ways to improve the participation of the Committees in forming changes to DEP regulations and technical guidance.
-- October monthly report to CAC from DEP.
<> Click Here for available handouts

October 21-- NEW. DEP Hearing On Cleanup Of Berks County Battery Casing Site. DEP Reading District Office, 1005 Cross Roads Blvd., Reading. 7:00.

October 22-- Agenda Released. DEP Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee meeting. Emerging Technology Applications Center, Northampton Community College, 511 East Third St., Bethlehem. 10:00. *(formal notice)*
-- Reports By Small Business Ombudsman, Environmental Management Assistance Program
-- Overview of Small Business Development Centers
-- Tour of Emerging Technology Applications Center
<> Click Here for available handouts

October 22-- NEW. [Agenda Not Posted] PA Energy Development Authority meeting. Location and Time to be announced.

October 22-- NEW. DEP Hearing On Country View Farms Manure Storage Facilities In Fulton County. McConnellsburg Fire Hall, 2nd floor meeting room, 112 East Maple St., McConnellsburg. 7:00.

October 23-- House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee holds a hearing on House Resolution 426 (Miller-R-York) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of the sewage sludge land application program-- sponsor summary. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 11:00.

October 23-- [Agenda Not Posted] DEP Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
--Regular Updates On: Permit Decision Guarantee, Guidance Documents, NPDES Permitting, ABS Legacy Trust Account, Reclamation Fee Operations & Maintenance, Reclamation Fees, Bond Rate Guidelines, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Abandoned Mine Land Grant Program
-- Revisions to the Remining Regulations
-- MRAB Annual Report 2012-13
<> Click Here for available handouts

October 23-- NEW. DEP Brownfields Redevelopment Seminar. DEP Northeast Regional Office located at 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre 10:00 to 1:30.

October 26-27-- NEW. The PA League of Women Voters PA Shale and Public Health Committee Shale Drilling and Public Health: Days of Discovery Conference. Pittsburgh.

October 27-- Senate Game and Fisheries Committee holds a public hearing on Lyme disease, Geisinger Medication Take Back Program, Great Lakes Fishery microbead ban, round goby impact on PA waterways. Tom Ridge Environmental Center, 301 Peninsula Dr., Erie. 9:00.

October 27-- CANCELED. DEP hearing on Hilcorp Energy gas pooling requests in Lawrence, Mercer counties. Albert P. Gettings Government Center Annex of the Lawrence County Government Center, Assembly Room, 349 Countyline St., New Castle. 10:00.

October 28-- DEP Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

October 28-- CANCELED. DEP hearing on Hilcorp Energy gas pooling requests in Lawrence, Mercer counties. Albert P. Gettings Government Center Annex of the Lawrence County Government Center, Assembly Room, 349 Countyline St., New Castle. 9:00.

November 5-- DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Board meeting. Delaware Room, 16th Floor, Rachel Carson Building. 8:30.

November 5--DEP Sewage Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:30.

November 5-- DEP hearing on proposed redesignation request for the Johnstown area as meeting the federal PM 2.5 standard. DEP Ebensburg District Mining Office, 286 Industrial Park Rd., Ebensburg. 11:00. *(formal notice)*

November 7-8-- NEW. 2014 PA Botany Symposium. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College.

November 12-- DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.

November 18-- Environmental Quality Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.

November 18-- DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

November 18-19-- NEW. PA Water Infrastructure Expo. Grantville.

December 2-- DEP Storage Tank Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

December 9-- DEP Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

December 9-- DEP Board Of Coal Mine Safety meeting. DEP Cambria Office, 286 Industrial Park Road, Ebensburg. 10:00.

December 10-- Agenda Released. DEP State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators meeting 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

December 11-- DEP Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:15.

December 17-- DEP Agricultural Advisory Board meeting. DEP Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. 10:00.

December 17-- NEW. DEP Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board. 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00. *(formal notice)*

December 18-- DEP Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

December 22-- DEP State Board for Certification of Sewage Enforcement Operators meeting. 11th Floor Conference Room B, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

May 6-8-- PA Association of Environmental Professionals Annual Conference. Toftrees Resort, State College.

May 13-15-- DEP and Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania 2015 Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference. Erie Bayfront Convention Center, Erie.

Visit DEP's new Public Participation Center for information on how you can Be Informed! and Get Involved! in DEP regulation and guidance development process.

DEP Regulations In Process
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DEP Technical Guidance In Process
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Other DEP Proposals For Public Review

Other Proposals Open For Public Comment - DEP webpage
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Other Proposals Recently Finalized - DEP webpage

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

DEP Calendar of Events

Note: The Environmental Education Workshop Calendar is no longer available from the PA Center for Environmental Education because funding for the Center was eliminated in the FY 2011-12 state budget. The PCEE website was also shutdown, but some content was moved to the PA Association of Environmental Educators' website.

Senate Committee Schedule House Committee Schedule

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

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Grants & Awards

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

October 20-- DEP Coastal Resources Grants
October 23-- PEMA Fire Company & Ambulance Services Grants
October 31-- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Digital Photo Contest
October 31-- PRC Lens On Litter Photo Contest
October 31-- National Student Radon Poster Contest
November 7-- DCNR 2015 Trail of the Year Nominations
November 14-- DEP Natural Gas Vehicle Grants
November 15-- Western PA Conservancy Canoe Access Grants
December 11-- EPA Clean Diesel Grants For Ports
December 19-- Coldwater Heritage Conservation Grants
December 19-- DEP Environmental Education Grants
December 31-- DEP Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebates (or until they last)
April 15-- DEP Small Business Advantage Grants (or until funds run out)

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

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General Environmental/Budget NewsClips

Here's a selection of NewsClips on environmental topics from around the state--

Hunting Restored Near Manhunt Search Zone

Budget

Judges Seek Balance For Leasing State Parks, Forests To Drillers
Court Takes Up Issue Of Oil & Gas Fund Withdrawals
Court To Hear Challenge To Oil & Gas Fund Withdrawals
Is PA's Energy Industry Afraid Of Big, Bad Wolf?
Range Resources: Severance Tax Threatens PA's Edge
Op-Ed: Severance Tax Discourages Drilling, Threatens Local Jobs
Derry Twp OKs Act 13 Fees For Water Line Extension

Other

Friends Of Ridge Environmental Center Honor Naturalist
Erie Teacher Wins Award For Environmental Efforts
Perry County Wins Keep PA Beautiful Tire Collection War
Lancaster Waste-To-Energy Facility Reduces Emissions
Editorial: State Should Study Landfill
Editorial: Alter Garbage Law To Trash Conflicts
Lower Heating Bills Forecast This Winter
Study: PA Struggles To Conserve Energy
Looking For Loans With An Energy Angle
Bill Would Have Lawmakers Approve Climate Plan
PA Industry Leaders Take Aim At EPA Climate Rule
Report: Climate Change Will Worsen Flooding Along East Coast
Op-Ed: Drilling's Moment Of Truth On Methane Emissions
Editorial: Natural Gas Boom, Methane Emissions Are Bane
Editorial: PA Senate Should Leave Carbon Plan To Experts
Asides: Wind Farms, Allegheny Burn Rules, Conservancy Plant Beds
2014 Difficult Year For Coal Companies
PA Needs To Encourage Cogeneration Energy Technology
Nuclear Plant Transfer Application Now In Comment Phase
Status Of PPL Storm Outage Records Mulled By Court
Proposed Limestone Mine In Armstrong, Butler Counties
Crude Oil Train Disclosures To Be Made Public
Samuel Adams Unlikely To Be Fined After Lye Spill
Melissa Lee, Founder Of the GREEN Technology Program
Enigmatic Frog Could Alter Jaindl Warehouse Plan
Gnats A Major Nuisance This Fall, DEP Conforms
Gypsy Moths Again A Concern For NE Region
Grant To Fund Final Upgrades To Girard Trail
Editorial: Presque Isle Improvements Overdue
9/11 Artifacts Lost In Flight 93 Memorial Fire
Saving The American Chestnut Tree
Despite Dry Weather, NE PA's Natural Fall Colors to Glisten

PA Fall Foliage Color Guide

-- DEP's NewsClips webpage - Click Here

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Marcellus Shale NewsClips

Here are NewsClips on topics related to Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling---

DEP Seeks $4.5M Record Fine Against EQT For Impoundment Leak
DEP Seeks $4.5 Million Penalty Against EQT
DEP Seeks Record $4.5M Fine Over Leaks At Drilling Operation
DEP Seeks Record Fine Against EQT, AG Files Criminal Charges
Record $4.5M Fine Pursued Against Gas Driller
Is PA's Energy Industry Afraid Of Big, Bad Wolf?
Range Resources: Severance Tax Threatens PA's Edge
Court To Hear Challenge To Oil & Gas Fund Withdrawals
DEP To DePasquale: Problems Are Already Addressed
EQT Faces Charges For Tioga County Spill From AG
Testimony: Obsolete Tests Tainted Shale Analysis
Not All Shale Drilling Wastewater Treated The Same
Editorial: Still Not State Database On Drilling, Health
Proposed 105-Mile PennEast Pipeline Rattles Residents
Williams Twp Residents: Don't Let Pipeline Ruin Scenery
PennEast Pipeline Would Cross Susquehanna, Wyoming Valley
West Goshen Officials Vow To Fight Pipeline
Editorial: Few Political Profiles In Courage On Lancaster Pipeline
Editorial: Natural Gas Boom, Methane Emissions Are Bane
Letter: Marcellus Industry Appreciates Look At Endangered Species Issue
Wyoming County Celebrates Marcellus Growth
Op-Ed: Responsible Gas Exploration Can Benefit Everyone
Op-Ed: Benefits Of Exporting PA Natural Gas Undeniable
COLTS Interested In PennDOT Natural Gas Fuel Initiative
UGI Launches System Expansion Initiative In Lancaster
Mon Valley Hospital Panel Discusses Marcellus Shale Industry
One Greene County Man's Encounter With A Drilling Landman
Drilling From Deer Lakes To Boost County Parks' Budget
Range Resources Signs Lease To Drill In Allegheny County Park
Allegheny County Airport Authority To Cut Rates
Crude Oil Train Disclosures To Be Made Public
Safety Focus As Millions Of Gallons Of Crude Move Thru PA
Americans Leery Of Exporting Crude Oil
As Price Of Oil Drops, So Could Drilling
Energy Industry Booms, So Do Related Law Practices

Rex Energy CEO Stresses His PA Roots
Report: Police Share Information On Anti-Drilling Activists
Marcellus Boom Helps Keeps Natural Gas Bills Stable

Financial/Other States

Op-Ed: Severance Tax Discourages Drilling, Threatens Local Jobs
Northeast Natural Gas Prices At Decade-High For Winter
U.S. LNG Supply Could Delay Other Export Projects
Op-Ed: Pittsburgh Should Divest Holdings In Fossil Fuel Industries
Economist: Price Of Oil Has Been Tumbling
Fracking Funny Reserves Numbers
Penn State Webinar Explores History, Challenges Of Bakken Oil Fields
Pink Drill Bits Promote Breast Cancer Awareness

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Watershed/Flooding NewsClips

Here are NewsClips on watershed topics from around the state--

Flooding

More Armstrong Properties Included On New Floodplain Maps
Wilkes-Barre To Practice Raising Flood Gates
Plan To Reduce Flood Insurance Costs A Good Start
Report: Climate Change Will Worsen Flooding Along East Coast

Other Watershed NewsClips

PLS: Stream Buffer Bill Could See Final Passage
Stream Buffer Bill Clears Senate Hurdle
Putting A Price Tag On Clean Water In PA
Derry Twp OKs Act 13 Fees For Water Line Extension
South Whitehall Residents Clued In On Wehr's Dam Study
Op-Ed: Future Of Wehr's Dam Rests With South Whitehall
Editorial: EPA Perverts Meaning Of Navigable Waters

Latest From The Chesapeake Bay Journal

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Regulations, Technical Guidance & Permits

No new regulations published this week. Pennsylvania Bulletin - October 11, 2014

DEP Regulations In Process

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Proposed Regulations With Closed Comment Periods - DEP webpage

Recently Finalized Regulations - DEP webpage
DEP Regulatory Update - DEP webpage

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice of changes to the list of certified radon service providers (PA Bulletin, page 6622).

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission published notice of actions taken at its September meeting.

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Stories Invited

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

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