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 **September 8, 2014**

PEC Policy Conference Features Senate, House Environmental Committee Chairs Sept. 17



The Pennsylvania Environmental Council will be hosting an Environmental Policy Conference on September 16th and 17th in Harrisburg that will feature, among other panelists, all four Chairs of the Senate and House Environmental Resources and Energy Committees.

Majority Chair Senator Gene Yaw (R-Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Union Counties); Minority Chair Senator John Yudichak (D-Carbon, Luzerne, and Monroe Counties); Majority Chair Representative Ron Miller (R-York County), and Minority Chair Representative Greg Vitali (D-Delaware County will be speaking on environmental legislative priorities for the remainder of the current session, as well as forecasting key issues for 2015 and beyond.

The Policy Conference also feature panels on Shale Gas Development in Pennsylvania; how Pennsylvania will adapt to pending federal rules on greenhouse gas emissions; and a review of the diverse water management issues facing our Commonwealth.

"This Conference will be a unique opportunity to hear from key environmental policy makers in the General Assembly and other environmental leaders on some of the most pressing issues facing Pennsylvania," said Davitt Woodwell, President and CEO of PEC. "Pennsylvania is at a critical crossroads in how we deal with future Marcellus Shale-related development, climate change and water resource issues. We hope the Conference discussion will help identify some of the policy choices we need to make to help ensure a more sustainable future in the Commonwealth."

Each panel will feature diverse interests and recognized experts in each area along with an opportunity for attendees to ask questions to promote an open dialog on these issues.

Click Here for the full agenda, list of speakers and registration information for the Conference.

PEC will be providing free access to media representatives on September 17th. Please contact Sue Gold at 412-481-9400 for more information.

Lycoming County Court Upholds Challenge To Local Permit For Gas Drilling Pad

On August 29, Judge Marc F. Lovecchio of the Court of Common Pleas of Lycoming County decided in favor of local residents in vacating and setting aside a conditional use permit that would have allowed Inflection Energy, LLC to build and operate a natural gas pad in the middle of a residential neighborhood in Fairfield Township.

The case was an early test of the Robinson Township decision, where the Supreme Court used Pennsylvania's Environmental Rights Amendment to strike down parts of Act 13 that sought to compel local government to allow gas operations across all zoned districts, including residential districts.

Dawn Gorsline, one of the local residents represented by PennFuture, expressed her joy at hearing of the decision.

"We prayed so hard and long. Like many persons, we purchased our home in a residential neighborhood with the expectation that we would raise our children in a healthy environment," said Mrs. Gorsline. "We are so grateful to PennFuture for their efforts to protect my family, home and neighborhood. The residents of Fairfield Township would, without a doubt, be in a 'much darker' place without them."

"We are pleased that the court supported the rights of citizens to rely on local zoning to protect their property values and way of life," said George Jugovic, Jr., chief counsel for PennFuture. "Robinson Township recognized that local governments have a constitutional obligation to protect the environment and quality of life of their citizens and this decision affirms that principle."

Mark Szybist, staff attorney and co-counsel for PennFuture, praised the work of the Court. "It is plain from the decision that Judge Lovecchio took extraordinary care to meticulously review the record. His decision is a wake-up call to all municipalities that after Robinson Township, local government cannot ignore their Article I, Section 27 responsibilities. Pennsylvania courts get it."

Judge Lovecchio ruled that Fairfield Township's zoning ordinance only permitted gas drilling as a conditional use in its Residential-Agriculture district if the proposed land use was "similar to and compatible with" the residential and other low-impact uses authorized as a right in the district.

In holding that the Township's findings were not supported by substantial evidence, the Court stated that the constitutional right of citizens to a healthy environment "cannot be ignored and must be protected."

The Court found that the company had failed to provide the township with any evidence to support the conclusion that the proposed use was similar and compatible, while the citizens had "presented substantial evidence that there is a high degree of probability that the use will adversely affect the health, welfare and safety of the neighborhood."

"There is a long-held tradition in Pennsylvania that citizens can, through their local governments, endeavor to maintain the character of their communities," said Cindy Dunn, president and CEO of PennFuture. "With this decision, the court affirmed citizen rights with respect to land use."

A copy of the court decision is available online.

NewsClips:

Judge Bars Natural Gas Well In Residential Area

Residents Beat Gas Company In Lycoming Zoning Case
Lycoming Neighborhood Becomes Shale Zoning Battleground
West Goshen Twp Tighten Zoning Laws On Pipelines
Butler Township Panel Won't Vote On Gas Well Pad Plan
DEP: Drillers Under-Report Waste By Nearly 95,000 Tons
Drillers' Waste Disposal Reports Don't Match Landfill Records
Editorial: Shale Waste Numbers Way Off
More Pipelines Proposed To Carry Marcellus Gas To SE Markets
2 Pipeline Projects Poised To Ship Gas To Southeast
PennEast Pipeline Nails Down Business Commitments
$1 Billion Gas Pipeline Moving Ahead In SE
DEP Aims To Map Abandoned Oil, Gas Wells
Senate Lumber Baron Part Of Loyalsock State Forest Heritage
Shale Gas Boom Sparks Mineral Rights Ownership Disputes
Shell Taps Utica Shale In NE PA
Editorial: DEP, Drillers Must Respond More Quickly

Auditor General Presents Marcellus Audit To DEP Citizens Advisory Council Sept. 16

Auditor General Eugene DePasquale will present the results of his recent audit of DEP's Marcellus Shale water quality regulatory program to DEP Citizens Advisory Council on September 16. DEP will present its response to the audit.

The Council will also recognize Pat Lupo for her 26 years of service as a member of the CAC.

Also on the agenda are--

-- Presentation by Randy Pomponio, U.S. EPA Region II on EPA proposed clarification of the waters of the U.S. Rule; and

-- Presentation by Dr. Irshad Shaikh, Director of the Department of Health's Bureau of Epidemiology, on how his Bureau works in cooperation with DEP on environmental health programs, including their efforts to collect and analyze epidemiological data and disseminate information to Commonwealth citizens.

DEP made available a copy of its 21-page September Monthly Report which features updates, on among other issues--

-- Chapter 78 Drilling Regulations;

-- Emergency Response Planning For High Hazard Rail Freight Spills;

-- Outreach related to updating DEP's regulations covering explosives; and

-- DEP received the final Act 54 Longwall Mining Impacts report on September 2 from its contractor and will proceed with its final review prior to submitting it to the General Assembly.

The Council meeting will be held in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg starting at 10:00.

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

Keep PA Beautiful Releases Recommendations To Reduce Illegal Dumping In PA

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Wednesday released its recommendations for reducing illegal

dumping in Pennsylvania at the 16th Annual Joint Fall Conference of the Keystone Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America, the PA Waste Industries' Association, the Department of Environmental Protection and the PA Association of Host Municipal Inspectors.

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.

"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," states Shannon Reiter, President of Keep PA 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."

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.

NewsClips:

Upper Tyrone Hopes To Mitigate Trash Dumping Problem
Easton Tables Metal Recycling Discussion
DEP: Sludge Spreading Complies With Rules In Cumberland

DEP: Type Of Salt Might Be Culprit In Scranton Fire
Groups Say Fly Ash Causes Health Problems In Fayette

Citizens Advisory Council Asks DEP Committees How To Improve Public Participation

DEP's Citizens Advisory Council recently sent letters to the chairs of each DEP advisory committee asking for their input into revising the agency's Advisory Committee Technical Guidance.

Last revised in 1998, the Technical Guidance outlines the procedures DEP uses to solicit advice from advisory committees, when public notice of their meetings are held and information about those meetings are posted on DEP's website.

The CAC is asking for their input by September 19. The text of the letter follows--
Dear DEP Advisory Committee Chairperson:

As the Chairperson of your respective advisory committee to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), I am contacting you to request your input and evaluation of DEP's use of your advisory committee to assist the agency in the development of regulations, policies, procedures and standards.

The Public Participation Committee of DEP's Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) is reviewing the agency's policy #012-1920-002: Advisory Committee Guidelines, which was finalized in 1998. As part of that review, the CAC would like to receive your comments on how the existing policy is working and how you would change the policy to make DEP advisory committees work better and more efficiently.

Specifically, the CAC would appreciate learning your responses to the following questions:
— How could DEP make better use of the expertise on your advisory committee?
— Does your advisory committee receive feedback from DEP when it provides comments to the agency?
— How well is your advisory committee being supported by DEP, including timely notice of meetings, distribution and posting of meeting handouts, reimbursement for expenses?
— What comments do you or your advisory committee have on DEP's Advisory Committee Guidelines policy (1998)?
— What does your advisory committee believe are its most significant accomplishments or where does your advisory committee believe it has made its most significant impact?

The CAC's Public Participation Committee would like to receive your responses by September 19, 2014. Please send your responses and other relevant comments concerning DEP's advisory committee and public participation process to Michele Tate, Executive Director of the CAC, at mtate@pa.gov. Michele can also be contacted at 717-787-8171.

After the responses are received and reviewed, the CAC's Public Participation Committee will invite advisory committee chairs to a roundtable discussion in October 2014 to discuss the responses and further develop recommendations with the goal of providing a report to the CAC in November 2014.

I thank you for your participation and leadership on one of DEP's advisory committees. Your participation serves a critical role in helping the agency develop effective and efficient policies and regulations.

I look forward to your comments and suggestions on how DEP's advisory committees

can be used more effectively and how the Advisory Committee Guidelines policy can be improved.
Sincerely,
Terry Dayton
Chair
DEP Citizens Advisory Council

Add Us To Your Google+ Circle

PA Environment Digest now has a Google+ Circle called Green Works In PA. Just go to your Google+ page and search for DHess@CrisciAssociates.com, the email for the Digest Editor David Hess, and let us join your Circle.

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.

Also take advantage of these related services from Crisci Associates--

PA Environment Digest Twitter Feed: On Twitter, sign up to receive instant updates from: PAEnviroDigest.

PA Environment Daily Blog: provides daily environmental NewsClips and significant stories and announcements on environmental topics in Pennsylvania of immediate value. Sign up and receive as they are posted updates through your favorite RSS reader. You can also sign up for a once daily email alerting you to new items posted on this blog.

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/Bills Introduced

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 (September 15): 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 2104 (Godshall-R-Montgomery) further providing for consumer protections in variable rate electric supplier contracts; 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 (September 15): All bills on the Senate Calendar were Tabled as per the Senate procedure for a summer break. <> Click Here for full Senate Bill Calendar.

Committee Meeting Agendas This Week

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

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

Bills Pending In Key Committees

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

Bills Introduced

The following bills of interest were introduced this week--

Farm Exemption For Stream Clearance: House Bill 2454 (Brooks-R-Crawford) exempting farmers from the need to get emergency permits to clear debris from streams-- sponsor summary.

Session Schedule

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

House
September 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24
October 6, 7, 8, 14, 15
November 12

Senate
September 15, 16, 22, 23, 24
October 6, 7, 8, 14, 15
November 12

News From The Capitol

August State Revenue Collections $17.8 Million Less Than Anticipated

Pennsylvania collected $1.8 billion in General Fund revenue in August, which was $17.8 million, or 1 percent, less than anticipated, Secretary of Revenue Daniel Meuser reported Tuesday.

Fiscal year-to-date General Fund collections total $4 billion, which is $10.7 million, or 0.3 percent, below estimate.

Total revenues in August were about the same as in 2013-- $1.8 billion, but there were more General Fund collections than last year-- $3.7 billion.

Sales tax receipts totaled $789.8 million for August, $5 million above estimate. Year-to-date sales tax collections total $1.7 billion, which is $5 million, or 0.3 percent, more than anticipated.

Personal income tax revenue in August was $711.2 million, $2 million below estimate. This brings year-to-date PIT collections to $1.5 billion, which is $2 million, or 0.1 percent, below estimate.

August corporation tax revenue of $45.8 million was $7.6 million below estimate. Year-to-date corporation tax collections total $126.6 million, which is $6.9 million, or 5.2 percent, below estimate.

Inheritance tax revenue for the month was $66.3 million, $300,000 below estimate, bringing the year-to-date total to $142.3 million, which is $300,000, or 0.2 percent, below estimate.

Realty transfer tax revenue was $36 million for August, $6.7 million below estimate, bringing the fiscal-year total to $77.5 million, which is $6.6 million, or 7.9 percent, less than

anticipated.

Other General Fund tax revenue, including cigarette, malt beverage, liquor and table games taxes, totaled $126.3 million for the month, $900,000 below estimate and bringing the year-to-date total to $224.9 million, which is $800,000, or 0.4 percent, below estimate.

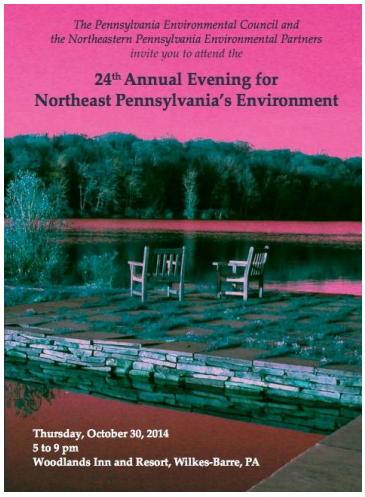
Non-tax revenue totaled $15.8 million for the month, $5.4 million below estimate, bringing the year-to-date total to $267.4 million, which is $1 million, or 0.4 percent, above estimate.

In addition to the General Fund collections, the Motor License Fund received $178.4 million for the month, $28.1 million above estimate. Fiscal year-to-date collections for the fund – which include the commonly known gas and diesel taxes, as well as other license, fine and fee revenues – total $422.1 million, which is $28.3 million, or 7.2 percent, above estimate.

NewsClip: August PA Revenues Fall Short Of Expectations

News From Around The State

Northeast PA Environmental Partners Announce 2014 Award Winners



The Northeast Environmental Partners Thursday announced this year's recipients of the 24th annual Environmental Partnership Awards and the winner of the 20th annual Thomas P. Shelburne Award.

Award recipients will be honored at a dinner on October 30 at the Woodlands Inn and Resort, Wilkes-Barre.

Shannon Reiter, President, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, will be this year's Keynote Speaker and Dr. David Coppola, President, Keystone College, will be the Master of Ceremonies.

Shelburne Award

The Twentieth Annual Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award will be presented to **Bernard J. McGurl of Lackawanna County**. Mr. McGurl is being honored for his dedication and commitment to the improving the health and quality of the Lackawanna River and its 350 square mile watershed.

For over 25 years Mr. McGurl has partnered with a wide range of individuals, non-profit organizations, businesses, local municipalities and state and federal agencies to improve the water quality and aquatic diversity in the Lackawanna River, create a network of rail-trails along the river, reclaim acres of abandoned mine land and engage and educate the public about the river and its environs.

Mr. McGurl was a founding member of the Lackawanna River Corridor Association and has been its Executive Director since 1991. As Executive Director of LRCA Mr. McGurl immediately began to implement the goals laid out in the Lackawanna River Citizens Master Plan including cleaning up the river, developing a greenway and trail, protecting the watershed and open space lands, educating the community and forming partnerships.

Through his efforts and the partnerships formed the water quality of the river has improved, residents and visitors can walk and bike along 15 miles of river trail, critical open space has been protected, the community now recognizes the river as a natural resource to be

protected and enjoyed and lasting partnerships have been formed that continue to work to improve the Lackawanna River and it tributaries.

Mr. McGurl is a proven leader in the environmental arena who understands that without partners none of this work would happen. Mr. McGurl's devotion to the Lackawanna River has inspired and encouraged others to action in order to bring about positive change. His legacy is one of leadership and partnership, encouraging others to do much more than one individual can ever hope to accomplish alone.

Environmental Partnership Awards

The recipients of the Environmental Partnership Awards for 2014 are:

-- Every Drop Counts ~ Use a Rain Barrel Project, Wayne & Pike Counties, for the Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership's implementation of the Every Drop Counts project.

Starting out as a simple partnership effort, Every Drop Counts! Use a Rain Barrel Project blossomed into a tremendous educational outreach opportunity expanding to include the entire community.

Every Drop Counts! Use a Rain Barrel Project brought together over twenty partners involved in the Pike/Wayne Conservation Partnership, four local School Districts including teachers, students and administration, the Downtown Hawley Partnership, and a large number of local businesses to draw attention to the importance of water conservation and stormwater management.

-- Lackawanna Valley Trout Unlimited, Lackawanna County, for their numerous conservation efforts over the years to restore and protect the Lackawanna River and its tributaries.

Lackawanna Valley Trout Unlimited has partnered with various organizations to conduct semi-annual River Clean-ups, install benches and habitat and restoration projects, pilot a Trout Unlimited Teens program in Lackawanna County, and conduct an all Women's Fly Fishing class.

Lackawanna Valley Trout Unlimited's most high profile accomplishment was to successfully get the Lackawanna Rivers Section 7 and 8 designations adjusted to Class A Wild Trout Exceptional Value Waters and now 21 miles of the river have special protection status and special designation.

-- Newport Township Community Organization, Luzerne County, for their Environmental Recycling Program. Over the past ten years the Newport Township Community Organization has taken the path of leadership in their community by establishing the Environmental Recycling program which not only improves but positively sustains the environment.

This program has become the financial backbone and leading fundraiser for the organization allowing them to continue this and many other projects throughout the community. NTCO has developed and maintained partnerships with local residents, businesses, volunteer organizations and public service entities in order to successfully conduct this program year after year.

-- Pocono Avian Research Center, Monroe County, for increasing awareness of our natural resources, especially the native birds and habitats of the Poconos through research, education and community involvement.

Pocono Avian Research Center formed partnerships with local civic associations, other non-profits, educational organizations, students and volunteers to conduct research studies, service learning projects and community education workshops. PARC believes that the most effective way for any organization to find solutions for complex environmental questions is

through partnerships.

-- Women & Their Woods ~ Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Wayne County, for the Women and their Woods program which is designed specifically for the needs of a growing number of women forest landowners.

Women and their Woods is a network of forest landowners and professionals who work together in order to cultivate women's connections to and care of healthy forests. Through quarterly newsletters, meetings and workshops forest landowners learn about forest management topics such as forest ecology, tree identification, forest hydrology, wildlife habitat, silvicultural as well as network and learn from professionals and forest landowner mentors.

-- The Emerging Environmental Leader Award will be presented this year to Emily Rinaldi, Lackawanna County, for demonstrating leadership, initiative and dedication to protecting and promoting a healthy environment.

Emily's interest in understanding and improving the environment lead her to explore and participate in numerous opportunities that would allow her to make a positive impact on the environment.

Emily participated in DCNR's Community Connections to Our Watershed Program where her passion for the environment was ignited. Emily has volunteered at the Lackawanna Riverfest, the Lackawanna/Wyoming County Envirothon and the Bluebird Monitoring Program at the Lackawanna State Park along with countless other environmental events and activities both in and out of the region.

Emily has three jobs all related to the environment. As a Keystone College intern Emily works on various environmental projects. She also works for Endless Mountain Outfitters helping to guide river kayaking excursions and assisting customers who are following their passion for the outdoors. She is also working at Second Chance Wildlife Center located in Tunkhannock, PA.

Emily has already completed five years of research in two foreign countries and the U.S. She has worked tirelessly whenever called upon to help, with enthusiasm and dedication. She is an exemplary role-model for both those that will enter the environmental field as well as, those following other paths.

Emily is currently a senior at Keystone College majoring in Environmental Science and hopes to stay in Northeastern Pennsylvania and work as an educator in the environmental field. Emily is a dedicated and accomplished young environmental leader.

Keynote Speakers

Shannon Reiter is President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. Prior to this role, she was President of PA CleanWays where she began in 2004. In 2010, Shannon led the merger of the two organizations.

Reiter has more than 15 years' experience in facilitating partnerships across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Shannon currently serves on the Westmoreland County Community Foundation Grants Committee and the Executive Committee for the State Leaders Council of Keep America Beautiful. Reiter obtained her Masters of Public Administration in Public/Nonprofit Management (2003) from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. David Coppola, became the tenth president for Keystone College on June 1, 2013. He came to Keystone with more than 25 years of experience at the secondary and postsecondary levels. Dr. Coppola obtained a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from Seton Hall

University, with a concentration and teaching certification in English and Music. He also earned a Bachelor's and Master's of Sacred Theology from St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore, and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Educational Administration from Fordham University.

NE Environmental Partners

The Northeast Environmental Partners include: Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Northeast Office, PPL Corporation, Procter & Gamble Paper Products Company, and Wilkes University.

For tickets or more information, download the dinner brochure, or call PEC at 570-718-6507.

Opinion: Science, Not Politics Should Guide Federal Clean Water Act Clarification

By Bernard W. Sweeney, Ph.D., Director, Stroud Water Research Center



Fresh water is our most precious natural resource, as essential to life as the air we breathe. Fortunately, most of us in the United States don't have to give it much thought. But news of several water emergencies this year should shake us out of complacency.

On August 2, nearly a half-million people in Toledo, Ohio woke up to learn their tap water was contaminated with microcystin, a neurotoxin produced by a massive bloom of the algae Cyanobacteria, in Lake Erie. It's thought that nutrient overload, from farm runoff and sewage treatment effluent, contributed to the algae bloom.

In January, the drinking water for more than 300,000 West Virginians was poisoned when a Freedom Industries storage tank leaked, spewing 7,500 gallons of 4-methylcyclohexane into the Elk River, just upstream from a water treatment plant.

On February 2, an estimated 140,000 tons of toxic waste polluted the Dan River when a stormwater pipe burst beneath a coal ash impoundment at Duke Energy's retired Dan River Power Station near Eden, North Carolina.

This year, more than half of California is suffering through a record-breaking drought. Soon, Californians may be forced to get over the yuck factor in "toilet to tap" technology and drink recycled waste water.

Why has this not evoked greater public concern about the vulnerability of our freshwater resources? Why hasn't this sparked a national outcry, urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to enforce the Clean Water Act more rigorously?

Why has the public not demanded that the federal agency be given the necessary authority to enforce appropriate safeguards, so that our freshwater resources will not be subject to the vagaries of state and local authorities, or to the whims of private landowners?

Instead, the EPA is being barraged by an army of opponents. Developers, property rights groups, the American Farm Bureau, the fertilizer industry and a number of politicians are attacking its proposed clarification — not an expansion—of which "waters of the United States" are covered by the Clean Water Act.

The need for clarification arose from two Supreme Court cases, in 2001 and in 2006. The clarification would enable the EPA to better protect our wetlands, small streams and other important watershed features without being dragged into court every time someone wanted to avoid compliance by exploiting an ambiguity.

But this July, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee passed two bills which could limit the EPA's authority. One of the bills would give states more authority over water pollution permits, while the other would block the agency's ability to redefine which waters fall under its jurisdiction.

These bills follow measures passed by the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies on July 9, which would significantly cut EPA funding and remove the agency's authority to implement the proposed "Waters of the U.S." rule.

Opponents are using inflammatory language like "overreach," and "land grab." Some are even telling farmers that the EPA would be regulating puddles, farm ponds and upland ditches that don't flow into a stream--none of which is true.

Their arguments seem to ignore that the EPA's proposed clarification is informed by decades of scientific research about freshwater ecosystems, such as the work our scientists have been doing since 1967.

The River Continuum Concept, published in 1980 by a team of scientists led by Stroud Water Research Center, is a foundational concept in freshwater ecology. It states that a river system represents a physical, chemical, and biological continuum from the smallest headwater streams to the main stem river at its confluence with the estuary.

Subsequent research around the world has not only supported this concept but demonstrated that, in fact, small headwater streams are the most critical and most vulnerable parts of a river.

Our scientists were part of the scientific advisory panel that helped the EPA's Office of Research and Development conduct a comprehensive review of more than 1,000 peer-reviewed publications in the scientific literature.

This report (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters: A Review and Synthesis of the Scientific Evidence, Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2013) concludes:

"The scientific literature clearly demonstrates that streams, regardless of their size or how frequently they flow, strongly influence how downstream waters function. Streams supply most of the water in rivers, transport sediment and organic matter, provide habitat for many species, and take up or change nutrients that could otherwise impair downstream waters."

Moreover, more than 85 percent of the nation's stream miles are small enough to jump across and many—if not most—of these flow through private property.

So, while opponents may object to the EPA having jurisdiction over streams on private land, landowners should not have the right to pollute streams running through their property as they please.

I'd like to point out that many farmers are responsible land stewards who want to do the right thing. Such landowners are currently working with the Stroud Center's Watershed Restoration Team, as well as other conservation groups, to reduce barnyard runoff, exclude livestock from streams and plant streamside forest buffers.

An important part of our watershed team's effort is to help these landowners obtain state and federal grant money to offset the costs of these voluntary improvements. Such incentive

programs should be continued and expanded so that implementing best management practices will not cause farmers to suffer a financial loss.

The science tells us that watersheds with protected wetlands, streamside forest buffers and other best management practices can support both humans and wildlife in a sustainable way. They trap and store sediments; filter out contaminants; reduce the frequency and severity of flooding by slowing the release of stormwater; mitigate thermal pollution caused by deforestation, industrial inputs and water diversions; and replenish underground aquifers.

For decades, science has demonstrated the necessity of a holistic approach to understanding, protecting and restoring freshwater ecosystems. This requires a nationwide effort. Water, like air, transcends state, legislative and private property boundaries. Whatever happens upstream affects us all.

What we need is the intestinal fortitude to enforce the legislation currently available to us, restore aspects that have been lost and resist diluting what remains.

The alarm has sounded. We hit the snooze button at our peril. If you care about having clean, safe fresh water, contact your U.S. congressman and tell him or her to support the EPA's waters of the United States clarification. The proposed rule is open for public comment until Oct. 20, 2014.

Bernard Sweeney, Ph.D., is director and president of Stroud Water Research Center, a nonprofit organization, based in Avondale, Pennsylvania, focused on freshwater research, environmental public education and watershed restoration.

Note: DEP Secretary Chris Abruzzo told DEP's Citizens Advisory Council in May the proposed change in the federal rule would not have an impact on Pennsylvania because the state's water quality programs already exceed minimum federal requirements.
NewsClip: Op-Ed: Support EPA Clean Water Rule For Sake Of PA's Businesses

Academy Of Natural Sciences Delaware River Watershed Initiative Seminar Sept. 9

The Delaware River Watershed Initiative at the Academy of Natural Sciences will hold its monthly happy hour seminar series on September 9 to announce "Delaware River, Inc."

What if the Delaware River was managed as a firm or a business? Dr. Gerald Kauffman of the University of Delaware will discuss the economic benefits and costs of clean water in the Delaware River Basin, a watershed that provides drinking water to five percent of the nation's population and the first and seventh largest metropolitan economies in the United States.

The talk will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the back reserved room at Cherry Street Tavern, 22nd and Cherry streets, Philadelphia.

Dr. Kauffman is Director of the University of Delaware Water Resources Agency, a program of the Institute for Public Administration. Professor Kauffman teaches graduate and undergraduate courses at the University of Delaware on topics including engineering and hydrology.

He has co-authored a book on water resources engineering with a colleague from the University of Wyoming and is presently writing a book about sustainable watershed management. Dr. Kauffman provides water science and policy assistance to governments in Delaware and the Delaware Valley through the land-grant public service, education, and research

role of the University of Delaware.

The event is free and open to the public, and more information can be found on our page on the social event site Meetup.com. Registration to this event via Meetup.com is requested, but not required! Food and drink will be available for purchase at the bar. All ages are welcome, but you must be 21 to drink.

We hope you can join us for a fun and informal evening of scientific discussion!

The Delaware River Watershed Initiative Seminar Series presents monthly "happy hour"-style lectures that aim to engage students, scientists and interested citizens in discussions about issues pertaining to the Delaware River watershed and other aquatic ecology topics.

For more information, visit the Delaware River Watershed Initiative webpage or on Twitter!: @ANSStreamTeam.

NewsClips:

DRBC Top Regulator Listening, Learning
Op-Ed: Support EPA Clean Water Rule For Sake Of PA's Businesses
Volunteers Needed To Plant Trees Along Perkiomen Sept. 17
$132M Awarded For Elk County Dam Rehab Project

ClearWater Conservancy Receives Mellon Grant To Restore Damaged Streams

ClearWater Conservancy has received a $250,000 grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation of Pittsburgh to restore damaged streams in Centre County and Central Pennsylvania.

Under the terms of the grant, ClearWater will use the funds to restore 20,000 linear feet of stream, install 10,000 feet of streambank fencing to limit livestock access, remove invasive plants and plant native trees in the stream side area called the 'riparian zone.'

"This private foundation grant is coming at a great time to add capacity to a program that is already accelerating in scope, complexity and on-the-ground accomplishments. There are plenty of damaged and degraded stream reaches in Central Pennsylvania and with these funds, we can work with interested landowners to put many more feet of it into the 'restored' category," said Katie Ombalski, conservation biologist and staff lead of the Riparian Conservation Program.

ClearWater Conservancy initiated its Riparian Conservation Program in 2004 to eliminate stream impairments caused by human impacts from agricultural, housing and industrial development and to prevent additional streams from becoming impaired.

When people live or farm close to streams, vegetation in riparian areas is commonly disturbed or removed. This disturbance quickly begins to unravel the delicate balance that once existed between soil, water, plants and animals. Stream banks quickly become destabilized, streams become silted and warm, invasive plant species begin to colonize, and riparian-dependent wildlife disappears.

The goal of ClearWater's Riparian Conservation Program is to improve stream quality in Central Pennsylvania through the program's four areas of focus: stream assessment, stewardship, restoration, and protection.

The program educates homeowners and farmers about the importance of vegetated stream side buffers and stream banks; conducts large and small scale restoration projects, installs agricultural best management practices and permanently protects riparian areas through conservation easements and direct purchase of ecologically important properties.

In 2004, the primary focus was to plant forested riparian buffers within the Spring Creek watershed. Over the years, the scope has expanded to include many central Pennsylvania watersheds.

The projects have increased in complexity, as well, and have included the development of conservation and forest stewardship plans, extensive stream channel stabilization, in-stream habitat improvements, dam removals, large riparian buffer plantings, and various agricultural best management practices and improvements including stream bank fencing, stabilized livestock crossings and watering systems, among others.

So far, ClearWater has restored about 73,000 linear feet of stream, removed three non-functioning dams, and installed 94 acres of streamside buffer, 168 fish enhancement structures and 16 stream crossings for livestock.

The conservancy is not geographically limited by the terms of the grant, but stream improvements will most likely take place in the Spring, Spruce, Little Fishing, Penns and Shaver's Creek watersheds.

"The Richard King Mellon Foundation's willingness to invest in our work in this significant way is a new testament to the effectiveness of our program and our demonstrated ability to work with landowners, contractors, funding partners, and volunteers to get restoration work done in our region," said ClearWater Executive Director Jennifer Shuey.

For more information, visit the ClearWater Conservancy website.

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DEP Continues Intensive Sampling Effort On Susquehanna River



Department of Environmental Protection staff Thursday demonstrated the sampling methodologies used in the ongoing study of the Susquehanna River.

This is the third year of the study in which DEP staff are collecting and analyzing data about the river to understand what's impacting the smallmouth bass population in portions of the river.

Photo: DEP Secretary Chris Abruzzo (left) talks with staff biologist Josh Lookenbill about the study.

DEP staff test for more than 200 different compounds that include PCBs, hormones, wastewater compounds, pesticides and emerging contaminants.

Many of the emerging contaminants being examined are so new that laboratory tests have only recently been developed to test for them in water and sediment. In addition, staff deploy continuous in-stream data monitors and sample benthic macro-invertebrates, fish, mollusks and algae.

Major sampling sites included the Susquehanna at Marietta, Harrisburg and Sunbury, and the Juniata at Lewistown Narrows and Newport. There were control sites on the Delaware at Trenton, the Allegheny at Franklin and the Youghiogheny at Sutersville to establish a baseline

for water quality.

Samples collected during the summer's aggressive sampling effort will be examined during the fall and winter months. Results will be published in spring 2015.

After nearly three years of study, the samples collected by DEP staff have not revealed a single definitive cause for the issues affecting the smallmouth bass population making it unlikely that there is any one cause or contaminate behind the abnormalities observed in recent years.

DEP regularly posts updates about the study on the Susquehanna River Study Updates webpage. In addition, a video about the study is available on DEP's YouTube channel.

(Reprinted from the September 4 edition of DEP News. Click Here to sign up to receive your own copy of DEP News and view back issues.)

SRBC OKs 16 Project Applications, Released Proposed Rules On Drilling Water Use

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission Thursday held its quarterly business meeting in Corning, N.Y. Among its actions, SRBC--

-- Authorized publication of proposed rulemaking to amend its regulations to clarify the water uses involved in hydrocarbon development that are subject to consumptive use regulations, as implemented by the Approval By Rule program; a public hearing and comment period will be scheduled to solicit input from interested members of the public;

-- Rescinded certain unneeded Commission policies;

-- Accepted settlement offers for compliance matters from Carrizo (Marcellus), LLC; JKT Golf LLC; and Southwestern Energy Production Company; and

-- Approved 16 applications, including 3 consumptive water use, 1 into-basin diversion and 1 out-of-basin diversion, and tabled 13 applications.

A list of projects approved and tabled is available online.

Capital Region MS4 Stormwater Planning Workshop Sept. 16 In Mechanicsburg

The Chesapeake Stormwater Training Partnership and the Capital Region Council of Governments are holding a daylong technical stormwater workshop from 9 a.m to 3:30 p.m., on September 16.

The workshop will be held at the Hampden Township Recreation Building, 5001 Hampden Park Dr., Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County.

Municipal employees, planners and private sector engineers who work in stormwater management will hear updated information on MS4 permits from DEP, EPA inspections and learn technical skills such as learn how to inspect and maintain existing stormwater facilities and how to identify cost-effective ways to add new practices.

Registration is $20, includes lunch. The workshop is free to municipal officials and NGOs. Registration will close September 12. Online registration is available.

For more information, contact Donna Morelli, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, by sending email to: dmorelli@allianceforthebay.org or call 717-737-8622.

More training opportunities are available through the Chesapeake Stormwater Training Partnership webpage.

DEP Webinar Sept. 9 On Erosion & Sedimentation Regulations, Permitting

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold a webinar September 9 at 10:30 a.m. on Chapter 102 Erosion and Sedimentation Control Regulations and filing and terminating permits.

The webinar will be of particular interest to consultants who file NPDES permits for discharges of stormwater associated with construction activities.

A question-and-answer period will be follow the presentation.

Preregistration is required to participate in the webinar. Online registration is available.

The webinar will be recorded and posted on DEP's website for on-demand viewing.

Reminder: Sept. 12 Deadline To Renew NRCS Conservation Program Contracts

Producers with expiring U.S. Department of Agriculture Conservation Stewardship Program contracts have until September 12 to renew and add conservation activities that will support their natural resource improvement activities and fine-tune their conservation plans.

"CSP farmers are conservation leaders and go the extra mile to conserve our nation's resources," said Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Jason Weller. "The 2014 Farm Bill continued that strong commitment and heightened the program's focus on generating conservation benefits. This program allows landowners to reach the next level of conservation and opens the door to trying new conservation activities."

About 20,000 CSP contracts are reaching the end of their initial five-year contract period and may be renewed for an additional five years when participants agree to take additional conservation actions.

The program provides opportunities for farmers who are already conservation stewards by helping them improve water quality and quantity, soil health and wildlife habitat. NRCS began accepting renewal applications on July 11, 2014, and farmers have until September 12, 2014 to renew. There will also be another signup in fiscal year 2015.

CSP participants boost their operations' conservation benefits by installing new conservation activities that make positive changes in soil, water, air quality and wildlife habitat. For example, the program has helped Pennsylvania farmers William and Joan Schumaker protect water quality while more efficiently applying herbicides by using the most current GPS technology to apply herbicides on over 700 acres of cropland. They also improved the effectiveness of their riparian buffer by widening the buffer area and planting pollinator plant species.

To learn about technical and financial assistance available through CSP, visit the Conservation Program Contracts webpage or local USDA service centers.

Westmoreland Conservation District Offers Tour Of Turtle Creek Watershed Sept. 26

We all live downstream … and upstream. By examining the different ways we use the land along our waterways (is it the site of a factory? a housing plan? a wood lot or an open field?), we can learn which choices are good for water quality and good for us and our neighbors.

The Westmoreland Conservation District is sponsoring a bus tour to portions of the Turtle Creek Watershed on September 26, to provide the public with a firsthand look at the ways that upstream land uses impact downstream neighbors.

Participants will see the impacts of drainage from an abandoned coal mine, stormwater management techniques, erosion and sediment controls, streambank stabilization, and recreational enhancements.

The Turtle Creek Watershed drains an area of 147 square miles that extends from western Westmoreland County to eastern Allegheny County. Turtle Creek flows west from its source in Delmont, Westmoreland County, to its mouth where it enters the Monongahela River in North Versailles Township, Allegheny County.

The creek and its tributaries have been impacted from pollution related to past coal-mining activities and development. Today, communities and organizations are working to repair past damage and implement innovative conservation projects.

The Westmoreland Conservation District bus tour will begin at 8:00 a.m. at The Lamplighter Restaurant in Delmont and conclude there at 1:30 p.m. after a buffet lunch and program.

The tour is open to the public. Cost is $20, and includes light refreshments in the morning, lunch, and bus transportation from and to the Lamplighter Restaurant.

Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Space is limited and registration and payment must be received by September 19.

For more information, Click Here for the Tour flyer. Click Here to register online. Questions can be directed to Jen at 724-837-5271 or send email to: jen@wcdpa.com.

StormwaterPA Video: Healthy Urban Waters: Empowering People, Creating Jobs

Green Infrastructure for stormwater management is catching on, because it not only helps reduce flooding, prevent erosion, and improve water quality in waterways, but because it improves livability, provides recreational opportunities, and is a positive influence on community health.

But barriers to its adoption still remain.

Green infrastructure is often perceived as costly and "job-killing", but the case for its cost effectiveness, multiple community benefits, and job creation potential is not mere wishful thinking.

All across the nation, cities are proving that green Infrastructure IS improving water quality cost effectively; IS making for communities healthier, safer, and more livable; and IS spurring economic development.

From design and installation to ongoing maintenance, there's a growing niche supporting green infrastructure: besides creating new opportunities within existing sectors like landscaping, paving, and building, entire new industries are emerging. And this is only the start…

StormwaterPA has partnered with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, U.S. Forest Service Philadelphia Field Station and the Philadelphia Dept of Parks and Recreation to develop a Training Curriculum that introduces key concepts in GSI to entry level workers interested in exploring green infrastructure careers.

Sustaining Green Infrastructure Through Proper Landscape Management has been piloted in the City of Philadelphia and we're proud to say that it's resulting in greener cityscapes,

healthier waterways, inspired job-seekers--and, yes, trainees with jobs!

Click Here to watch a new video from StormwaterPA.org about this new initiative.

RiverQuest Presents: Who Works The Rivers Student Education Program Oct. 14

The interactive environmental education organization RiverQuest presents a special Who Works the Rivers educational experience for students grades 9 to 12 on October 14 in Pittsburgh from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The program will feature an interactive full-group session, adapted from the National Energy Education Development project's Energy and Our Rivers curriculum, followed by a trip on one of the Gateway Clipper Fleet to meet representatives from a full range of river industries from nonprofit to military, from recreational to industrial, to learn about the many opportunities for jobs and careers in this sector.

Hands-on artifacts and activities, along with time to enjoy the ride on the river, help make the "job fair" atmosphere fun and memorable for students.

The event is sponsored by the Waterways Association of Pittsburgh, Ingram Barge Company, AEP River Operations, Campbell Transportation, Cummins Bridgeway, CONSOL River Operations, Port of Pittsburgh Commission, ELG Metals and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

For more information, download the event flyer, call Captain Michael Graham at 412-355-7929 or send email to mgraham@gatewayclipper.com.

NewsClip: $132M Awarded For Elk County Dam Rehab Project

DEP Completes 2014 Drinking Water Lead Ban Surveillance Program

The Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, Operations and Monitoring Division conducts a Lead Ban Surveillance Program each year to promote compliance with the Pennsylvania Plumbing System Lead Ban and Notification Act.

The act prohibits the sale or use of 50/50 or 85/15 tin-lead acid core or solid wire solders or any leaded solder that does not contain a warning statement on the label. The Lead Ban Act also restricts the sale and use of all other leaded solders to non-plumbing use only.

Lead is a toxic metal that can have serious health effects even at low doses. The regulation of lead in drinking water is intended to prevent lead containing materials from being used in the construction or modification of plumbing systems and to ensure the water delivered to consumers is non-corrosive to plumbing systems.

Each summer, DEP interns conduct surveillance activities and educate the plumbing supply industry about the requirements of the Lead Ban Act. Surveillance activities include visiting hardware stores, home centers, and other retail facilities that sell solder to gather data used to determine whether banned solder is sold and whether restricted solder is properly labeled and is not sold in the plumbing section.

This year, 354 stores were surveyed Of these, 252 stores sell solder. Most of the 252 stores were selling lead-free solder and 52 percent sell only lead-free solder.

Only 14 percent of the stores selling solder were in violation of the Lead Ban Act: 6 percent were selling banned solder and 7 percent were selling restricted solder in the plumbing section (the extra 1 percent is due to two stores that were selling both banned solder and

restricted solder in the plumbing section; these stores were counted in both groups).

A copy of the 2014 Surveillance Report is available online.

In June legislation was signed into law sponsored by Sen. John Yudichak (D-Luzerne), Minority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, updating the lead content standards under the Plumbing System Lead Ban and Notification Act.

For more information, contact Sabrina Haydt at 717-772 2190 or send email to: shaydt@pa.gov.

(Reprinted in part from the September 4 edition of DEP News. Click Here to sign up to receive your own copy of DEP News and view back issues.)

September Issue Of Chesapeake Currents Available From Chesapeake Bay Program

The September edition of Chesapeake Currents is now available from the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program featuring articles on--
-- Forests Clean Our Air, Save Our Lives
-- East Coast To Experience More Nuisance Floods
-- Bay 101: Wastewater Treatment Plants
-- Photo Essay: Finding The Chesapeake's Dead Zone
-- Eight Old Bay Recipes We Adore
-- Click Here to sign up for this and other Chesapeake Bay Program newsletters.

StormwaterPA September Newsletter Now Available

The September StormwaterPA newsletter is now available from StormwaterPA.org a GreenTreks Network educational resource featuring articles on--
-- Green Jobs
-- Featured Video: Healthy Urban Waters, Empowering People, Improving Communities
-- Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Helping To Adapt To A Changing Climate
-- Click Here to sign up for your own copy.

DEP Reminds Citizens Of Important Fall Advisories On Heating Oil Tanks, Pools

Autumn is less than a month away and the Department of Environmental Protection would like to remind citizens about important precautions to take as they are closing their pools and filling their home heating oil tanks.

Pool Wastewater

Pool wastewater, if not disposed of properly, can contaminate local waterways, while poorly maintained home heating oil tanks can leak.

When chlorinated water is drained from a swimming pool into a storm sewer, it can quickly make its way to a stream or other body of water, where aquatic life can be damaged or killed.

The discharge of swimming pool water to local waterways without a permit is a violation of the Clean Streams Law. Property owners and pool companies must obtain a permit from their local municipality before disposing of any pool wastewater. This includes pool backwash water,

neutralized pool cleaning wastewater and standing water.

Pool wastewater should be discharged into the local sanitary sewer system, if possible. If sanitary sewers are not available, the wastewater should be hauled off-site for disposal at an approved treatment facility or otherwise discharged according to the department's Swimming Pool Wastewater Discharge Guidelines.

Heating Oil Tanks

Owners of home heating oil tanks should consider inspecting indoor and outdoor home heating oil tanks for potential problems prior to refilling them. Preventing leaks will save owners energy and money, in addition to protecting owners' health.

Leaking heating oil can cause indoor air problems and potentially contaminate groundwater and private drinking water wells. A spill cleanup can cost up to $50,000 and may not be covered by homeowner's insurance. Residents who think their oil tank may have a problem should immediately contact their oil company for help.

A quarter of all Pennsylvania homes use heating oil to stay warm in the winter.

DEP encourages homeowners to consider these tips:

— For safety reasons, always assume the tank contains at least some oil;
— Routinely inspect the exterior of the tank and all attached equipment;
— Check for signs of rusting on the tank and its structural supports;
— Examine the tank's fill line and feed line to the furnace for leaks;
— Never tip over or empty a tank onto the ground;
— Enlist a professional to perform maintenance or alterations to a heating oil tank system; and
— Recognize that wet spots or odors near the tank may signal a problem.

When fuel is delivered, make certain that the home address is clearly visible and the tank's fill line clearly marked. If a resident cannot be home when fuel oil is delivered, mark the fill pipe with a red flag or marker and inform the oil company of the location. Ensure that any disconnected fill pipes that remain above the ground are permanently sealed and cannot be opened.

Click Here for a copy of DEP's Tips For Residential Heating Oil Tank Owners fact sheet. For more information about filling a home heating oil tank, call DEP's Division of Storage Tanks at 717-772-5599.

Brownfield Seminars For Local Officials Sept. 26 In Lewistown, Oct. 23 In Wilkes-Barre

The departments of Environmental Protection and Community and Economic Development will hold two seminars this fall on brownfield redevelopment--

-- September 26 at the Career Link Building in the Mifflin County IDC Industrial Plaza in Lewistown; (register here) and

-- October 23 at DEP's Regional Office in Wilkes-Barre (register here).

Both seminars run from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and lunch is provided.

The free, half-day seminars will feature regional success stories, an overview of the basics of brownfields, details on available public funding and how to apply for it. In addition, DEP and DCED representatives will be on hand to answer questions.

Representatives of local governments, municipalities and economic development and planning agencies are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Kim Hoover at 717-783-1566 or send email to:

khoover@pa.gov.

(Reprinted from the September 4 edition of DEP News. Click Here to sign up to receive your own copy of DEP News and view back issues.)

DEP: Public Meeting, Hearing On Blue Ridge Landfill Changes In Franklin Sept. 17

The Department of Environmental Protection will host a public meeting and hearing on September 17, to hear input about IESI PA Blue Ridge Landfill Corporation's proposal to increase waste intake at its municipal waste landfill operations in Greene Township, Franklin County.

A 6 p.m. public meeting will be followed by a 7:30 p.m. hearing at the Greene Township Municipal Building, 1145 Garver Lane, Scotland.

Under the company's proposed permit modification application, the landfill would increase its quarterly daily average tonnage acceptance from 1,700 tons per day to 2,500 tons per day and maximum daily tonnage acceptance from 2,000 tons per day to 3,000 tons per day.

"During the meeting portion of the evening, company officials will answer questions about the project and DEP staff will clarify the application review process," DEP Southcentral Regional Director Lynn Langer said. "Then, during the public hearing, people will have an opportunity to present testimony about the application."

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 will be given the opportunity to testify.

The public will have the opportunity to present up to ten minutes of oral testimony during the hearing. Organizations are encouraged to designate one witness to present testimony on behalf of the group, relinquishing of time to other speakers will not be permitted, and all presenters should bring two copies of their comments and exhibits.

A stenographer will record the hearing testimony and transcribe it into a written document. DEP will respond in writing to all relevant testimony provided during the public hearing and comment period and consider relevant comments in its review of the application.

Citizens who require an auxiliary aid, service or other accommodations should contact Eileen or the Pennsylvania AT&T relay service at 1-800-654-5984 (TDD) to discuss how the department may accommodate their needs.

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 John Oren, Permits Chief for the Waste Management Program, DEP Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17110.

The administrative record for the application will be open for review and comment until October 1. It can be reviewed, by appointment, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at DEP's Southcentral Regional Office at 909 Elmerton Ave. in Harrisburg. To make an appointment, contact Stacy Burns at 717-705-4732.

NewsClips:

Upper Tyrone Hopes To Mitigate Trash Dumping Problem
Easton Tables Metal Recycling Discussion

DEP: Sludge Spreading Complies With Rules In Cumberland

Save The Date: PA Resources Council 75th Anniversary Dinner Nov. 13

The PA Resources Council will hold a special 75th Anniversary Dinner and Awards Program on November 13 at the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum, 6825 Norwitch Dr., Philadelphia.

There is still time to be a sponsor of this unique event and become an advertiser in the dinner program. Contact Robert Jondreau, PRC Executive Director, at 610-353-1555 x 235 or send email to: rjondreau@comcast.net for more information.

Click Here for more details.

Recyclebank Celebrates 10 Years, 1.5 Billion Pounds Of Waste Recycled In 2013

2014 marks Recyclebank's 10th year of inspiring and rewarding smarter, everyday choices for a more sustainable future. Founded in 2004, the company set out with a simple idea: could education and incentives get people to recycle more?

After bringing millions of people together with more than 2,500 local and national businesses over the last ten years, Recyclebank knows the answer is a definitive yes.

Today, the company partners with more than 300 communities across the United States who recycled nearly 1.5 billion pounds of waste in 2013 alone. Recyclebank members also took more than 21.6 million green actions for a total of $60 million in rewards value earned in 2013, achieving real-world impact.

"Recyclebank was developed to change the way we think about sustainability and recycling. We believe that personal actions, can and do make a big difference; that people prefer the carrot over the stick when it comes sustainability. After ten years of rewarding people for recycling, I'm thrilled by the progress we have made!" said Javier Flaim, CEO of Recyclebank. "Our ten year anniversary is not just a celebration for Recyclebank, but a celebration for those communities, brands and partners who have worked tirelessly to truly make an impact on local recycling rates and ultimately, pave the way for a greener future."

Recyclebank's partnerships with communities have been the foundation of its business.

The City of Philadelphia was the company's first pilot program in 2004 and ten years later the relationship stands strong. The City's commitment to sustainability, innovation and community outreach has been the driving factors of success over the past ten years.

Philadelphia recently renewed its relationship with Recyclebank, continuing the award winning Philadelphia Recycling Rewards program.

Since expanding the program to all Philadelphia residents in 2010, combined with the City's recycling innovations including weekly single-stream collection and increased community outreach and education, the City has seen a 29 percent lift in diversion rate, which corresponds to over $11 million in avoided disposal costs and increased commodity revenue.

The Philadelphia Recycling Rewards program has steadily grown since launch with more than 36 percent of Philadelphia residents now participating.

Recyclebank is also excited to welcome Sharon Hill, Pa. Sharon Hill will be the first community in Delaware County, Pa. to partner with Recyclebank and will launch on September 15.

Not only has Recyclebank inspired millions of green actions resulting in billions of pounds recycled material, but it's also been at the forefront of recycling education.

Ensuring that youth are empowered and have the resources to become green superheroes, Recyclebank launched the Green Schools Program in 2007. Since inception, the program has granted close to $450,000 to more than 150 schools across the country.

Building on Recyclebank's expertise in sustainability and their members' increasing desire for products that are gentle on the planet, on Earth Day 2014, the company launched One Twine, an online shop to discover carefully vetted products that are better for your home, your wallet and the planet.

Since its debut, the shop has added over 1,000 additional products from companies like Bambeco, WeWOOD and West Paw Design. With so many labels, certifications and marketing messages, Recyclebank saw that people were becoming lost in a sea of products and knew there was a better way for people to source sustainable items.

With an exciting ten years completed, billions of pounds recycled and millions of green actions taken, Recyclebank is looking toward the next ten years of innovation to help even more people and communities create a more sustainable future.

For more information, visit the RecycleBank website.

DEP Launches New Electronic Informal File Review Request Form

The Department of Environmental Protection recently launched its new electronic informal file review request form that provides a guide to DEP Regional Offices to promote a department-wide uniform standard process for receiving, processing and coordinating Informal File Reviews.

The new form will assist department staff, preserve resources and remove ambiguity from the Informal File Review Process

DEP makes a wealth of information available through its website including information about program areas, applicable laws and regulations, as well as, DEP policies and reports.

Through the website's eFACTS system, a variety of information about regulated facilities is available. If the information required is not available on the DEP website, you can request public information by scheduling an informal file review or requesting specific documentation under the Pennsylvania Right to Know Law (RTKL).

DEP recommends doing an informal review first; it is the easiest and quickest way for the public to access DEP records.

Records available under an informal file review include notifications, inspection reports, notices of violations, enforcement orders, applications, permit review letters, sample results, remediation plans, approvals, denials, pollution prevention plans and external correspondence. Internal email correspondence and records considered privileged (attorney-client, attorney work product or other privilege) or records otherwise considered confidential are not available under an informal file review.

Informal file reviews are scheduled between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointments are scheduled in half-day and full-day sessions. Hours can vary depending on office location.

For more information, visit DEP's Informal File Review webpage.

(Reprinted from the September 4 edition of DEP News. Click Here to sign up to receive your own copy of DEP News and view back issues.)

33 Incentive Grants For Alternative Fuel Vehicles Awarded To Improve Air Quality

Gov. Tom Corbett Thursday announced nearly $4 million in Alternative Fuel Incentive Grants to 33 local governments, non-profit organizations and companies making the switch to compressed natural gas (CNG), propane, or electric, for medium to light-weight fleet vehicles.

"These important grants allow Pennsylvania to make the most of our abundant natural resources, edging us closer to energy independence while also helping to improve our air quality," Corbett said. "This funding makes it possible for many local governments, organizations and companies to convert their lighter-weight vehicles to natural gas or other alternative fuels."

The awarded AFIG grants will help pay for the conversion or purchase of 274 natural gas vehicles, 261 propane vehicles, and 23 plug-in hybrid or electric vehicles. An estimated 24 new fueling stations and 35 existing stations will be supported by these vehicles.

AFIG grants are an annual solicitation, providing financial incentive for a variety of transportation projects with the result of reducing air emissions in Pennsylvania. This year, AFIG grants focused on the conversion or purchase of natural gas vehicles weighing less than 26,000 pounds, as well as the conversion or purchase of electric, propane or other alternative fuel vehicles of any size.

Applications were also accepted for innovation technology projects that include research, training, development and demonstration of new applications or next phase technology related to alternative transportation fuels and alternative fuel vehicles. DEP awarded $1.8 million in AFIG funding to four innovative alternative fuel technology projects.

The AFIG fund was established under Act 166 of 1992, and is administered by the Department of Environmental Protection through its Office of Pollution Prevention and Energy Assistance.

A list of grants awarded is available online.

For more information, visit DEP's Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program webpage.

NewsClips:

Companies Get State Money For Cleaner Cars

Biodiesel Plant To Restart Amid Market Pessimism

Penn Power Offers Low-Income Customers Energy Conservation Program

Penn Power is offering low-income customers an opportunity to make their homes efficient and save money on their electric bills by enrolling in the WARM Energy Conservation Program.

The WARM program is available to both homeowners and renters and includes an in-home energy evaluation, a specialized energy savings plan, and energy-saving items installed in a customer's home.

In addition, depending on their electrical usage, customers also could be eligible to receive energy-saving home improvements, including:

— Attic and/or wall insulation;

— Caulking and weather stripping;

— Refrigerator/freezer testing and replacement;
— Electric water heater inspection and saving measures;
— Energy-saving light bulbs; and
— Replacement of inefficient window-unit air conditioners.

"The WARM program is designed to help Penn Power income-eligible customers make their homes more energy efficient," said Dave Karafa, FirstEnergy president of Pennsylvania Operations. "By taking advantage of some of the WARM program options, these customers can be more comfortable in their homes and lower their electric bills at the same time."

The WARM program is free to customers who meet income guidelines. To qualify, a homeowner or renter must have a gross income (before tax) at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines and use at least 600 kilowatt/hours of electricity per month.

A single homeowner or renter's income should not exceed $23,340 annually to qualify. For a family of four, income should not exceed $47,700 annually.

Customers interested in Penn Power's WARM program are encouraged to contact the company at 1-800-207-9276 or visit the WARM Energy Conservation Program webpage.

NewsClips:

New Energy Enlivens A Corner Lot In Pittsburgh
Carlow Eyes Energy Reductions In Renovation Project
Painting Room White Helps Reduce Energy Costs
UPMC Effort Includes Adding LED Lighting

Farm Bureau Asks For Changes In PUC Alternative Energy Rule

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has submitted written comments to the Public Utility Commission in response to a proposal to revise the regulatory standards for implementation of the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act of 2004.

Standards adopted by the PUC will impact the eligibility of on-farm electrical generating systems hooked to public supply lines to qualify for "net metering" treatment that provides farmers with greater economic return on surplus electrical supply.

In its comments, PFB expressed concern that PUC's proposed standard to distinguish "customers" eligible for net metering from utilities and other "commercial generators" of electricity is unworkable for families using on-farm generators of electricity to manage their farm business operations.

"Farmers are not commercial electric companies. Their primary focus is making their farm business profitable, not earning a living through supplying electricity," said PFB President Carl T. Shaffer. "Typically, farmers use alternative energy production to manage the high volume of energy needed to run their farming operations. Use of methane digesters, solar panels and wind farms, often play a critical role in proper environmental management of farms and farmers' ability to meet environmental regulations. For many farmers, management of environmental impacts of agricultural production is the most important reason why the farmer installs and operates the alternative energy system."

PFB specifically wants the PUC to reconsider its proposal that would prohibit farmers from being eligible for net metering if the generation capacity of the on-farm system exceeds 110 percent of the farmer's actual use of electricity.

"Given the high costs and debt that farmers must incur to develop these systems, the 110

percent limitation will act as a disincentive for farm families using Tier I generation to achieve the level of environmental control or economic efficiency that they will need to viably sustain their farms in agricultural production," concluded Shaffer.

Farm Bureau added that it is ready to work with the PUC to develop net metering regulations that encourage farmers to implement alternative energy projects that improve the environment and produce "clean electricity."

NewsClips:

Companies Get State Money For Cleaner Cars
Biodiesel Plant To Restart Amid Market Pessimism
New Energy Enlivens A Corner Lot In Pittsburgh
Carlow Eyes Energy Reductions In Renovation Project
Painting Room White Helps Reduce Energy Costs
UPMC Effort Includes Adding LED Lighting

DEP Hearing Canceled After Hilcorp Withdraws Application For Gas Pooling

The Department of Environmental Protection Wednesday formally announced that hearing officer Michael Bangs has canceled the October 27 and 28 public hearing sessions and formally closed the docket on Hilcorp Energy Co.'s Application for Gas Well Spacing Units.

The official order was received by the department late yesterday afternoon.

On Friday, August 29 Hilcorp withdrew its application for a well spacing order to establish four gas well drilling units on 3,267 acres to drill into the Utica Shale Formation in Pulaski Township, Lawrence County and Shenango Township, Mercer County. On the same day, DEP requested the hearing officer officially cancel the hearing and close the docket.

Under the Oil and Gas Conservation Law of 1961, when a spacing order application is submitted, an administrative hearing must be held prior to a final decision on the application.

For more information, visit DEP's Conservation Law webpage or call 717-772-2199.

NewsClips:

Judge Bars Natural Gas Well In Residential Area
Residents Beat Gas Company In Lycoming Zoning Case
Lycoming Neighborhood Becomes Shale Zoning Battleground
West Goshen Twp Tighten Zoning Laws On Pipelines
Butler Township Panel Won't Vote On Gas Well Pad Plan
DEP: Drillers Under-Report Waste By Nearly 95,000 Tons
Drillers' Waste Disposal Reports Don't Match Landfill Records
Editorial: Shale Waste Numbers Way Off
More Pipelines Proposed To Carry Marcellus Gas To SE Markets
2 Pipeline Projects Poised To Ship Gas To Southeast
PennEast Pipeline Nails Down Business Commitments
$1 Billion Gas Pipeline Moving Ahead In SE
DEP Aims To Map Abandoned Oil, Gas Wells
Senate Lumber Baron Part Of Loyalsock State Forest Heritage
Shale Gas Boom Sparks Mineral Rights Ownership Disputes
Shell Taps Utica Shale In NE PA
Editorial: DEP, Drillers Must Respond More Quickly

New Marcellus Shale Coalition Video: Shale Impact Fee Benefits All Of Pennsylvania

The Marcellus Shale Coalition Wednesday released a new online video highlighting the broad-based benefits being realized across Pennsylvania associated with shale impact fee tax revenues entitled "Shale Impact Fee Benefits all of Pennsylvania."

The video features facts, figures and examples of how the $630 million in impact fee tax revenue is boosting communities across the Commonwealth's sixty-seven counties.

Commenting on the video, MSC president Dave Spigelmyer said: "The safe development of job-creating shale gas continues to deliver positive benefits for the entire Commonwealth. Small business are growing, our region's manufacturing base is being revitalized, consumers are seeing more stable energy costs, and Pennsylvania's workforce – especially organized labor – is realizing huge opportunities. And we're ensuring that our environment is protected and enhanced."

Added Spigelmyer: "At the same time, our industry is contributing enormously to our economy, helping to drive Pennsylvania's unemployment rate down to its lowest level since the recession began, while also generating huge amounts of much-needed revenue for local, county and state government. In addition to the more than $2.1 in various taxes generated from shale production, our industry has paid $630 million through a special tax in just three years, making important community-focused investments possible."

Click Here to watch this video. Watch these other MSC videos:

-- Pa. Jobs | Pa. Energy Rally Recap
-- New Energy Taxes Threaten Pa. Jobs
-- Uses of Natural Gas
-- Year In Review: Then and Now

NewsClips:

Judge Bars Natural Gas Well In Residential Area
Residents Beat Gas Company In Lycoming Zoning Case
Lycoming Neighborhood Becomes Shale Zoning Battleground
West Goshen Twp Tighten Zoning Laws On Pipelines
Butler Township Panel Won't Vote On Gas Well Pad Plan
DEP: Drillers Under-Report Waste By Nearly 95,000 Tons
Drillers' Waste Disposal Reports Don't Match Landfill Records
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More Pipelines Proposed To Carry Marcellus Gas To SE Markets
2 Pipeline Projects Poised To Ship Gas To Southeast
PennEast Pipeline Nails Down Business Commitments
$1 Billion Gas Pipeline Moving Ahead In SE
DEP Aims To Map Abandoned Oil, Gas Wells
Senate Lumber Baron Part Of Loyalsock State Forest Heritage
Shale Gas Boom Sparks Mineral Rights Ownership Disputes
Shell Taps Utica Shale In NE PA
Editorial: DEP, Drillers Must Respond More Quickly

Political Express: Senate Lumber Baron Part Of Loyalsock State Forest Heritage

Several strands of Pennsylvania's environmental and economic history come together in the Loyalsock State Forest in Northeast Pennsylvania.

The exploitation of Penn's Woods for building material and fuel during the 19th century to the point where forests were clear-cut as far as the eye could see, the regeneration of those forests starting more than a century ago with modern conservation practices and lately the development of the Marcellus Shale gas reserves as a new energy source are part of Loyalsock's past and potential future.

Click Here to read the remainder of this article by Robert Swift in Political Express.

NewsClip: Senate Lumber Baron Part Of Loyalsock State Forest Heritage

September 4 DEP News Now Available From DEP

The September 4 edition of DEP News is now available from the Department of Environmental Protection featuring articles on--

-- 33 Incentive Grants For Alternative Fuel Vehicles To Improve Air Quality
-- Opening Of 3rd Round Of Act 13 Natural Gas Vehicle Grants
-- DEP Continues Intensive Sampling Effort On Susquehanna River
-- DEP Announces Consent Order & Agreement With Drilling Services Company
-- Hearing Canceled After Hilcorp Withdraws Gas Pooling Application
-- DEP Launches New Electronic Informal File Review Request Form
-- Local Government Officials Encouraged To Attend Brownfield Seminars
-- Keep PA Beautiful Releases Recommendations To Reduce Illegal Dumping
-- DEP Reminds Citizens Of Important Autumn Advisories On Pools, Heating Oil Tanks
-- DEP Completes 2014 Lead Ban Surveillance Program
-- Click Here to sign up to receive your own copy of DEP News and view back issues.

Fish Commission: Apply For State Wildlife Grants In Ohio River Watershed

The Fish and Boat Commission Tuesday announced an invitation for project applications to the State Wildlife Grant Program. These projects will help address high-priority conservation needs for the Timber Rattlesnake and freshwater mussels in the Ohio River.

Project applications must be received by 4 p.m. on October 8.

The Timber Rattlesnake is considered a "candidate" species in Pennsylvania and this project will build upon the long-term monitoring program initiated in earlier studies. Click Here to view the action plan for the Timber Rattlesnake.

Freshwater mussels are among the most imperiled aquatic animals in the United States. In recent years, the PFBC and partners have been actively surveying rivers and streams in the Commonwealth and this project in the Ohio River will help address a substantial data gap for these animals.

The PFBC anticipates final selection of projects by late October.

The federal dollars for this program are awarded to the PFBC from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the State Wildlife Grants Program. Awarding funds for any selected projects will be contingent upon availability of funds.

For more information and an application packet, visit the Fish & Boat Commission's

State Wildlife Grant Program webpage.

Spotlight - Overheard, Overhead Fall Migrants Pass In The Dark
By Patrick McShea, Carnegie Museum Of Natural History

Puppies aren't much appreciated for the consequences of poor body control. House training involves days of quick trips outside, often at inconvenient hours. When training occurs in the fall, excursions into pre-dawn darkness sometimes deliver unexpected rewards.

A dozen years ago, while obliging 5:00 a.m. got-to-go signals from a yellow lab puppy, I learned that our backyard rambles took place beneath legions of migrating songbirds. The discovery was far from an instant revelation.

"Tree frogs," I decided when I first heard unfamiliar sounds, one and two-syllable intermittent tweets, some faint and others remarkably distinct. Standing half-awake amid familiar territory transformed by darkness and fog, I didn't much wonder then about why I had never before noticed the neighborhood amphibian hoard.

Those very doubts led to more focused listening the next morning, an adjustment that revealed the source of the mysterious sounds to be both overhead and in rapid motion.

The Invisible flyers revealed their presence, numbers, and roughly north-to-south passage across the suburban Pittsburgh landscape through a cadence audible above the background buzz of crickets, but periodically drowned out by nearby road noise and the harmonica-like wail of a distant freight train.

The puppy, more interested in ground level scent than sound above the tree tops, investigated recent rabbit wanderings while I listened to the chorus. This practice has since become our September ritual, a fall activity different from its initial sessions by my growing understanding of the flight calls and the requirement that I now wake the dog.

Researchers who study the calls explain them as the way birds in low visibility conditions maintain contact during long flights. The abbreviated vocalizations are therefore related to covering territory, rather than claiming it.

On many mornings my ears are able to discern enough differences among the calls to know they represent several different bird species. Occasionally a tone or cluster of calls will make me guess "oriole," or "grosbeak," but otherwise the birds pass over my Plum Borough home in trickles and torrents, unseen and anonymous.

Some 40 miles southeast, on the western flank of Laurel Ridge, night flying birds receive a far more thorough notice when they cross Powdermill Nature Reserve.

Since 2003 this field research station of Carnegie Museum of Natural History has been part of a network of monitoring stations that utilize microphones, recording equipment, and a sophisticated computer program to determine the both the numbers and species of birds passing unseen in the darkness.

This ongoing scientific work contributes much to our understanding of the workings and health of the world we live in. Because the birds' seasonal journeys encompass thousands of miles, their calls create an audio pulse for the ecological health of both American continents.

In the Pittsburgh area, and in neighborhoods all across Pennsylvania, it's a pre-dawn signal that can be listened for every September, with or without canine company.

Patrick McShea is an educator at Carnegie Museum of Natural History and can be contacted by

sending email to: mcsheap@carnegiemnh.org.

More background information on bioacoustical research is available online from the Powdermill Avian Research Center as well as research articles and publications.

2014 PA Audubon's Healthy Forests For Birds, People Assembly Sept. 19 & 20

PA Audubon will hold its 2014 Assembly: Healthy Forests For Birds, People September 19-20 at the Deane Center for Performing Arts, 104 Main St. in Wellsboro.

The kickoff speaker Friday will be Dan Brauning with a presentation on the status of PA's forest birds.

On Saturday there will be breakout sessions on: Birds that depend on Pennsylvania forests; How to create bird-friendly yards and communities; Latest research on the value of Pennsylvania's urban forests for bird migration, and rural forests as bird nurseries; and Impacts on our forests from fracking operations.

Special field trips have been scheduled for both Friday and Sunday.

Click Here for more information and to register or contact Paul Zeph by sending email to: pzeph@audubon.org or call 717-574-6668.

Sept. 3 Issue Of Resource Newsletter Now Available From DCNR

The September 3 edition of the Resource newsletter is now available from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources featuring articles on--
-- DCNR, Partners Break Ground For Kinzua Bridge State Park Office/Visitors Center
-- Dam Control Towner Replace At Ricketts Glen State Park
-- James Kell Schoolhouse Clock On Display At Keystone State Park
-- Enhance Penn's Woods Enables Re-Opening Of Poe Paddy Tunnel On Mid-State Trail
-- Military & Families Appreciation Day Sept. 6 At Gifford Pinchot State Park
-- Click Here to sign up to receive your own copy by email (bottom of the page)

September Issue Of Water, Land, Life Now Available From Western PA Conservancy

The September Edition of Water, Land, Life newsletter is now available from the Western PA Conservancy featuring articles on--
-- Fallingwater Offers Tour of Wright Homes
-- PA Natural Heritage Program Newsletter now available
-- BirdSafe Pittsburgh Begins Fall Monitoring
-- WPC Volunteers Needed For Work Days

Quarterly PA Natural Heritage Program Newsletter Now Available

The April-June issue of the PA Natural Heritage Program newsletter is now available featuring articles on--
-- Tracking the West Virginia White Butterfly
-- Piping Plovers On Presque Isle: We Built It, Will They Come?
-- Notes From The Field- Short Note On Work Done Through PNHP

-- Measures Of Progress For PNHP

Opportunity To Bid On DCNR Projects In Bedford County

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources published notice of opportunity to bid on several projects at Shawnee State Park.

Help Wanted: Alliance For The Chesapeake Bay PA Program Assistant

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is seeking candidates for PA Program Assistant. The deadline for applications is September 25. Click Here for all the details.

Your 2 Cents: Issues On Advisory Committee Agendas

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. NEW means new from last week. Go to the online Calendar webpage for updates.

September 9-- Agenda Released. DEP Storage Tank Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
-- USTIF Insurance Fund Update
-- Federal UST Regulations Update
-- Alternative Fuel Storage Tank Installation/Conversion Form Update
-- Draft Guidelines for the Evaluation of UST Cathodic Protection Systems
-- Removal of Separate Phase Liquids at Storage Tank Corrective Action Sites Update
-- Land Recycling Program – Comments Received on Proposed Revisions to Chapter 250
<> Click Here for available handouts

September 9-- CANCELED. DEP Board Of Coal Mine Safety meeting. DEP Cambria Office, 286 Industrial Park Road, Ebensburg. 10:00. *(formal notice)*

September 9-10-- Delaware River Basin Commission hearing, meeting. Washington Crossing Park, 1112 River Road, Washington Crossing, PA. *(formal notice)*
— Directing the Executive Director to prepare Stage 2 total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for polychlorinated biphenyls for the Delaware River Estuary and Bay and to furnish these to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) so that the EPA may establish the Stage 2 TMDLs;
— Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with New York University Medical Center for studies on the effects of PCBs and dissolved oxygen on Atlantic Sturgeon;
— Water projects for DRBC approval.
<> Click Here for more details on the agenda and available handouts

September 10-- CANCELED. DEP Sewage Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:30. *(formal notice)*

September 10-- Agenda Released. DEP Mine Families First Response and Communications Advisory Council meeting. Marion Center Mine Rescue Station, 21 Griffith Dr., Home, PA 1:00. *(formal notice)*
-- Bureau of Mine Safety Report
-- Mental Health Issues in a Mine Disaster
-- How The Council Can Support The Family Liaisons
-- Election of Chair
<> Click Here for available handouts.

September 16-- CANCELED. Environmental Quality Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00. *(formal notice)*

September 16-- Agenda Released. DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
-- Auditor General Eugene DePasquale will present the results of his recent audit of DEP's Marcellus Shale water quality regulatory program to DEP Citizens Advisory Council on September 16. DEP will present its response to the audit.
-- Council will recognize Pat Lupo for her 26 years of service as a member of the CAC.
-- Presentation by Randy Pomponio, U.S. EPA Region II on EPA proposed clarification of the waters of the U.S. Rule.
-- Presentation by Dr. Irshad Shaikh, Director of the Department of Health's Bureau of Epidemiology, on how his Bureau works in cooperation with DEP on environmental health programs, including their efforts to collect and analyze epidemiological data and disseminate information to Commonwealth citizens.
-- September DEP Monthly Report
<> Click Here for available handouts.

September 16-- DEP Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. *(formal notice)*

September 17-- CANCELED. DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30. Rescheduled for September 26 same place and time. *(formal notice)*

September 17-- NEW. DEP meeting, hearing on Blue Ridge Landfill changes, Franklin County. Greene Township Municipal Building, 1145 Garver Lane, Scotland. 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

September 18-- DEP Recycling Fund Advisory and Solid Waste Advisory Committees joint meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

September 22—DEP, DCNR Meeting, Hearing On Gun Club Shooting Range In Centre County. Rush Township municipal building, 150 North Richard St. in Philipsburg. Meeting—6:30, Hearing – 7:30.

September 23-- DEP Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center Board meeting. Room

105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

September 24--DEP Board Of Coal Mine Safety meeting. DEP Cambria Office, 286 Industrial Park Road, Ebensburg. 10:00. *(formal notice)*

September 24-- DEP State Board for Certification of Sewage Enforcement Operators meeting. 11th Floor Conference Room B, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

September 25-- DEP Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

September 26-- NEW. DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30. *(formal notice)*

October 2-- DEP Low-Level Radioactive Waste Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

October 8-- CANCELED. DEP Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment for deep mining. Fayette County Health Center, Uniontown. 10:00. *(formal notice)*

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

October 15-- DEP Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board. 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.

October 15-- DEP Agricultural Advisory Board meeting. DEP Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. 10:00.

October 15-- DEP Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment for deep mining. DEP Office, 131 Broadview Rd, New Stanton. 10:00. *(formal notice)*

October 16-- DEP Radiation Protection Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.

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

October 21-- DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

October 22-- DEP Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

October 23-- DEP Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

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 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.

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 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.

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.

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

DEP Calendar of Events

Add Green Works In PA To Your Google+ Circle

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.

September 19-- Southeast PA TreeVitalize Watershed Grants
September 19-- FirstEnergy Science, Engineering Classroom Education Grants
September 22-- CFA Alternative and Clean Energy Program
September 22-- CFA Renewable Energy Program
September 22-- CFA High Performance Building Program
September 30-- DEP Recycling Performance Grants
October 3-- PECO Green Region Environmental Grants
October 8-- NEW. Fish Commission State Wildlife Grants Ohio River Basin
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
November 14-- DEP Natural Gas Vehicle Grants
December 31-- DEP Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebates (or until they last)

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

Add Green Works In PA To Your Google+ Circle

Budget/Quick NewsClips

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

September 4 DEP News
September 3 DCNR Resource Newsletter
Wolf Up 30 Points Over Corbett In New Poll
New Poll Shows Corbett Within Striking Distance

Budget

August PA Revenues Fall Short Of Expectations
Editorial: Low Gas Prices Vindicate Corbett's Transportation Strategy

Other

Upper Tyrone Hopes To Mitigate Trash Dumping Problem
Easton Tables Metal Recycling Discussion
DEP: Sludge Spreading Complies With Rules In Cumberland
DEP: Type Of Salt Might Be Culprit In Scranton Fire
Groups Say Fly Ash Causes Health Problems In Fayette
Companies Get State Money For Cleaner Cars
Biodiesel Plant To Restart Amid Market Pessimism
New Energy Enlivens A Corner Lot In Pittsburgh
Carlow Eyes Energy Reductions In Renovation Project
Painting Room White Helps Reduce Energy Costs
UPMC Effort Includes Adding LED Lighting
Activist Appeals State OK Of Peach Bottom Nuclear Plant License
PPL Berwick Nuclear Plant On Track To Shed Negative Designation
Op-Ed: Show Leaders People Care About Climate Change
Editorial: Chicken Littles Can't Cluck Away Climate Facts
Scientists Dismiss Dire Outlook For Western PA Winter Weather
PA Link To Federal Wilderness Act Goes Back 50 Years
Bike Lanes Coming To 3 Pittsburgh Bridges
Editorial: Pittsburgh Wins With Bike Lanes Downtown
Drownings Surge In PA Over Past 2 Years
If A Tree Falls In Pennypack Park…
New Ohiopyle Park Manager Ready For Challenge
Lackawanna State Park Pool Construction Moving Forward
Western PA Volunteers Battle Wildfires In West
Erie: Chimney Swifts Gathering In Huge Swarms
Editorial: 100 Years Ago The Last Passenger Pigeon Died

-- 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---

Judge Bars Natural Gas Well In Residential Area
Residents Beat Gas Company In Lycoming Zoning Case
Lycoming Neighborhood Becomes Shale Zoning Battleground
West Goshen Twp Tighten Zoning Laws On Pipelines
Butler Township Panel Won't Vote On Gas Well Pad Plan
DEP: Drillers Under-Report Waste By Nearly 95,000 Tons
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More Pipelines Proposed To Carry Marcellus Gas To SE Markets
2 Pipeline Projects Poised To Ship Gas To Southeast
PennEast Pipeline Nails Down Business Commitments
$1 Billion Gas Pipeline Moving Ahead In SE
DEP Aims To Map Abandoned Oil, Gas Wells
Senate Lumber Baron Part Of Loyalsock State Forest Heritage
Shale Gas Boom Sparks Mineral Rights Ownership Disputes
Shell Taps Utica Shale In NE PA
Editorial: DEP, Drillers Must Respond More Quickly
State Plans $150K Grant To Industry To Study Drilling Impacts
Shells Seeks To Build Docks Near Proposed Ethane Plant

Financial/Other States

Penn State Study To Look At Financial Impact Of Gas Boom
Giuliani: Natural Gas Key To Energy, Economy

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Flooding/Watershed NewsClips

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

Flooding

FEMA To Review Fayette's Floodplains

Other Watershed NewsClips

DRBC Top Regulator Listening, Learning
Op-Ed: Support EPA Clean Water Rule For Sake Of PA's Businesses
Volunteers Needed To Plant Trees Along Perkiomen Sept. 17
$132M Awarded For Elk County Dam Rehab Project

Latest From The Chesapeake Bay Journal

Add Green Works In PA To Your Google+ Circle

Regulations, Technical Guidance & Permits

The September 16 Environmental Quality Board meeting has been canceled. *(formal notice)*

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission notified the EQB this week final form Medical and Chemotherapeutic Waste regulations now under review contained two minor drafting errors. The IRRC requested DEP toll its review period and make the correction so it can be considered at the IRRC's September 18 meeting. DEP agreed to the request since the errors, it said, were not substantive.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources published notice of proposed changes to State Forest Picnic Areas for comment.

Pennsylvania Bulletin - September 6, 2014

Proposed Regulations Open For Comment - DEP webpage
Proposed Regulations With Closed Comment Periods - DEP webpage
DEP Regulatory Agenda - DEP webpage

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice of final technical guidance on Closure Requirements for Aboveground Storage Tank Systems.

DEP ID: 263-4200-001. Title: Closure Requirements for Aboveground Storage Tank Systems. Description: The purpose of this guidance is to establish minimum standards that must be met to comply with the closure requirements for regulated large aboveground storage tanks. These procedures include closure notification, tank handling, waste management and disposal, site assessment, sampling requirements, analytical requirements, release reporting and recordkeeping.

This Technical Guidance Document is being revised to correct the Short List of Petroleum Products presented in Appendix F, found on pages 49 and 50. The correction adds Methyl tert-Butyl ether to the parameters to be tested in soil and water when kerosene or fuel oil No. 1 is the product stored. This correction does not reflect new requirements. Rather, these analytical requirements have been utilized to guide closure site assessments since March 15, 2008. On March 15, 2008, notice of the analytical requirements was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin as a revision to the Department's Land Recycling Program Technical Guidance Manual.

Contact: Questions regarding this action should be directed to Chad Clancy at 717-772-5830 or cclancy@pa.gov.

Technical Guidance Comment Deadlines - DEP webpage
Recently Closed Comment Periods For Technical Guidance - DEP webpage
Technical Guidance Recently Finalized - DEP webpage
Copies of Final Technical Guidance - DEP webpage

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.

Add Green Works In PA To Your Google+ Circle

Calendar Of Events

Upcoming legislative meetings, conferences, workshops, plus links to other online calendars. Meetings are in Harrisburg unless otherwise noted. NEW means new from last week. Go to the online Calendar webpage for updates.

September 9-- CANCELED. House Consumer Affairs Committee holds a hearing on House Bill 2030 (Snyder-D-Fayette) establishing the Coal Fired Electric Generation Deactivation Commission to investigate the economic, electric reliability and environmental impacts associated with deactivating coal fired power plants- sponsor summary. Stover Building, Stover Lecture Room, 51 West College St., Waynesburg. 12:00.

September 9-- CANCELED. DEP Board Of Coal Mine Safety meeting. DEP Cambria Office, 286 Industrial Park Road, Ebensburg. 10:00. *(formal notice)*

September 9-- Agenda Released. DEP Storage Tank Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

September 9-10-- Delaware River Basin Commission hearing, meeting. Washington Crossing Park, 1112 River Road, Washington Crossing, PA. *(formal notice)*

September 10-- Agenda Released. DEP Mine Families First Response and Communications Advisory Council meeting. Marion Center Mine Rescue Station, 21 Griffith Dr., Home, PA 1:00. *(formal notice)*

September 10-- CANCELED. DEP Sewage Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:30. *(formal notice)*

September 10-- Agenda Released. DEP Mine Families First Response and Communications Advisory Council meeting. Marion Center Mine Rescue Station, 21 Griffith Dr., Home, PA 1:00.

September 11-- Senate Game and Fisheries Committee holds a public hearing on the elk herd in PA and the Elk Program. Keystone Elk County Alliance, 134 Homestead Rd., Benezette. 2:00.

September 16-- NEW. House State Government Committee hearing on House Bill 2408 (Christiana-R-Beaver) requiring state agencies to post notices of meetings and agendas-- sponsor summary. Room 205 Ryan Building. 8:00.

September 16-- CANCELED. Environmental Quality Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00. *(formal notice)*

September 16-- Agenda Released. DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

September 16-- DEP Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. *(formal notice)*

September 17-- CANCELED. DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30. Rescheduled for September 26 same place and time. *(formal notice)*

September 17-- NEW. DEP meeting, hearing on Blue Ridge Landfill changes, Franklin County. Greene Township Municipal Building, 1145 Garver Lane, Scotland. 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

September 17-- PA Environmental Council Environmental Policy Conference. Hilton Hotel, Harrisburg. 9:00.

September 18-- DEP Recycling Fund Advisory and Solid Waste Advisory Committees joint meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

September 22-- Environmental Issues Forum, Joint Conservation Committee. Pennsylvania's abandoned Turnpike, a 13-mile stretch of the original Turnpike in Bedford and Fulton counties and plans to turn it into a scenic, recreational biking trail. Room 8E-A East Wing. 11:00. (Note time.)

September 22-- DEP webinar on 3rd Round of Natural Gas Vehicle Grants. 2:00.

September 22—DEP, DCNR Meeting, Hearing On Gun Club Shooting Range In Centre County. Rush Township municipal building, 150 North Richard St. in Philipsburg. Meeting—6:30, Hearing – 7:30.

September 23-- DEP Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

September 24-- DEP State Board for Certification of Sewage Enforcement Operators meeting. 11th Floor Conference Room B, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

September 24--DEP Board Of Coal Mine Safety meeting. DEP Cambria Office, 286 Industrial Park Road, Ebensburg. 10:00. *(formal notice)*

September 25-- DEP Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

September 25-- Penn State Extension Youth Water Educator's Summit. The Central Hotel and Conference Center, Harrisburg.

September 26-- NEW. DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30. *(formal notice)*

October 2-- DEP Low-Level Radioactive Waste Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

October 6-- Environmental Issues Forum, Joint Conservation Committee. Keep PA Beautiful will present its recommendations for significantly reducing illegal dumping in Pennsylvania. Room 8E-A East Wing. Noon. (Note time.)

October 8-- CANCELED. DEP Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment for deep mining. Fayette County Health Center, Uniontown. 10:00. *(formal notice)*

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

October 15-- DEP Agricultural Advisory Board meeting. DEP Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. 10:00.

October 15-- DEP Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board. 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.

October 15-- DEP Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment for deep mining. DEP Office, 131 Broadview Rd, New Stanton. 10:00. *(formal notice)*

October 16-- DEP Radiation Protection Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.

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

October 21-- DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

October 22-- DEP Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

October 23-- DEP Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

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 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.

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 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.

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.

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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