PA Environment Digest
An Update On Environmental Issues In Pennsylvania
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Former Secretary, PA Department of Environmental Protection

Issue #714 Crisci Associates, Harrisburg, PA March 5, 2018

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DEP Senate Budget Hearing: DEP Plans To Add Safe Drinking Water Program Staff Ahead Of Fee Revenue To Address Deficiencies



DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell told the Senate Appropriations Committee Thursday DEP is moving aggressively to correct the deficiencies EPA identified in the state Safe Drinking Water Program by hiring additional staff ahead of finalizing the drinking water permit fee increase.

McDonnell said the fee increase will fund about 33 new positions, including 17 more field inspectors. An analysis of the cash flow in the special fund supporting the program, he said, will allow them to get many of the new staff onboard now to begin their training.

This is a much more aggressive schedule than originally anticipated.

Here's a quick summary of the other issues addressed at the hearing that are different from the issues raised at the House Appropriations Committee hearing Monday--

-- Oil & Gas Well Permit Fee Increases: In response to a question from Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming), Majority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, McDonnell said a proposal, still being developed, to increase well permit fees for unconventional oil and gas well permits is needed because the Well Plugging Account used to fund the Oil and Gas Regulatory Program is losing $500,000 a month. The number of new permits received is down and along with it permit revenue. Sen. Yaw noted DEP at one point had 135 staff working on many more permit applications and now they have 190 staff, but review times were dropping. McDonnell said they have made changes like allocating workload between regions to drop review times from around 300 days in the DEP Southwest Office to the point now that new permits coming in the door are being completed within the 45 day mandated by law. He did say they still have a backlog they are working on.

-- **Proposed DRBC Fracking Moratorium:** In response to questions from Sen. Lisa Baker (R-Luzerne), McDonnell said DEP was involved with the Delaware River Basin Commission decision to propose the moratorium because they represent Pennsylvania on the Commission.

He explained DRBC has different authority for regulating water quality than the Susquehanna River Basin Commission which has handled water withdrawal requests from unconventional drilling operations largely without problems. McDonnell said he believes drilling operations can be regulated safely and that DEP's regulations are very good. Asked about possible property taking claims if the moratorium is put in place, McDonnell said that is an issue for the courts to decide.

-- **Abandoned Oil & Gas Wells:** In response to questions from Sen. Yudichak (D-Luzerne), Minority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, and Sen. Art Haywood (D-Philadelphia), McDonnell said there are as many as 200,000 abandoned conventional oil and gas wells across the state, but most of their locations have not been identified because many are over 100 years old. DEP has an inventory of about 8,000 abandoned conventional oil and gas wells that would cost over $350 million to properly plug. He said the unconventional drilling industry has been a partner in plugging many abandoned conventional wells and conventional oil and gas drillers have been plugging wells under a new Good Samaritan Outreach Program or voluntarily in other cases.

-- **Methane Emission Controls On Oil & Gas Operations:** Sen. Yaw asked about the status of DEP permits covering methane emissions from oil and gas operations. McDonnell said the final versions of General Permit-5 and a new GP-5A setting emission limits for unconventional oil and gas well operations should be finalized in the next month or two and become effective 60 days later. He said the timing should allow these permits to be included in the next phase of DEP's ePermitting program.

-- **Permit Review Reform:** Sen. John Yudichak (D-Luzerne) noted the Senate passed Senate Resolution 226 that requires the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a performance evaluation of DEP's Chapter 102 (Erosion and Sedimentation) and Chapter 105 (Stream Encroachments) permit programs to determine how they could be changed to speed up permit reviews and asked for an update on DEP permit reforms now underway. McDonnell said he welcomed the review called for in the Resolution because "you can't have enough eyes on this issue." He said there isn't one thing that caused permit review issues at DEP-- lack of staff, funding cuts were certainly part of the problem, but so was a lack of investments in information technology and training for DEP staff and consultants reviewing and submitting applications. He noted DEP has gone heavily into ePermitting in the mining program first because that was the most complicated, to be followed by higher volume programs like radiation protection x-ray machine licenses, some Air Quality permits and oil and gas well permits later this year. The recent announcement of changes to the Chapter 105 General Permit-5 will also simplify that permit process for applicants and DEP.

-- Proposed CAFO Permit Fee Increase: In response to a question by Sen. Elder Vogel (R-Beaver), Majority Chair of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, McDonnell said DEP was proposing an increase in the PAG-12 NPDES General Permit fee to better cover the cost of permit reviews. Currently, the program costs $600,000 and current fees amount to just $15,000. Even with fee increase, it would cover only about one-third the cost of permit reviews.

-- **Repealing Pittsburgh Low-RVP Gasoline:** In response to a question from Sen. Vogel, McDonnell said the Environmental Quality Board finalized the regulation to repeal the low-RVP summer gasoline requirement for the Pittsburgh region and he would work with EPA to see if it could become effective for this summer's ozone season starting May 1.

-- **Waste Tire Cleanup:** In response to a question from Sen. David Argall (R-Schuylkill),

McDonnell said DEP has cleaned up 40 million waste tires since 1996 and has two large waste tire piles remaining with about 700,000 tires that are going to prove challenging to cleanup.
-- **Special Funds:** Sen. Pat Browne (R-Lehigh), Majority Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, expressed concerns about the potential negative balances in some DEP special funds-- Radiation Protection, Well Plugging Account (Oil & Gas Regulation), Clean Air and Hazardous Sites Cleanup (which they know must be dealt with) and others. McDonnell said DEP has or will be proposing permit fee increases to deal with some of these potential deficits based on the 3-year review cycle of the adequacies of fee levels.

Click Here for Secretary McDonnell's budget testimony.

Click Here for video of Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearings and the complete hearing schedule.

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[Posted: March 1, 2018]

DEP House Budget Hearing Highlights Efficiencies, $2.5 Million Proposal To Improve Permit Review Times



DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell told the House Appropriations Committee Monday investments in program efficiency improvements, the proposed $2.5 million initiative to address permit review backlogs and finalizing permit fee increases for key programs will help DEP deal with

deficiencies in the state's environmental protection programs.

In written testimony and in response to questions by Committee members, McDonnell said efforts to replace paper inspection forms with iPad applications in the program to regulate oil and gas operations, moving to e-Permitting and modernizing the handling of the agency's 35 major grant programs will result in nearly $14.3 million in cost reductions over the next three years that can free up time for agency staff to do other tasks they could not before the efficiencies.

DEP will also soon finalize a fee increase in the Safe Drinking Water program that will fund an additional 33 staff-- 17 of those positions being drinking water system inspectors he said-- to address deficiencies in meeting minimum federal standards for the program.

In addition, there is a $2.5 million initiative in DEP's budget proposal to hire 33 new people to speed permit reviews and address staff shortages in the Air Quality and high hazard dam program that related to public health and safety.

Several members of the Committee noted DEP's budget has been cut significantly over the last 10 years resulting in the loss of over 608 positions, including Rep. Joe Markosek (D-Allegheny), Minority Chair of the Appropriations Committee, Rep. Mike Carroll (D-Lackawanna), Minority Chair of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, and Rep. Karen Boback (R-Lackawanna). The agency now has a complement of just over 2,400.

McDonnell also said there is a need to increase permit review fees for the Oil and Gas Program because a decrease in the number of permit applications received by DEP has resulted in the program losing about $500,000 a month in revenue and left the agency with 20 vacant staff positions.

On a related issue, McDonnell said between county conservation districts and DEP 67 inspectors were helping to oversee compliance with erosion and sedimentation and stream crossing permits for the cross-state Sunoco Mariner East II natural gas pipelines.

He also pointed out, the recent $12.6 million penalty assessed against the owners of the pipeline will not eliminate the need for Sunoco to pay to have any water supplies affected by past violations or environmental damage caused by the company corrected.

On issues related to the Susquehanna and Delaware River Basin Commission, McDonnell said the requested increases restores the funding cut last year to Pennsylvania's fair share funding amount for these interstate and federal commissions. He said the amount requested is about half of the state's fair share amount.

McDonnell also highlighted the fact there has been a 26 percent increase in jobs related to the solar energy industry in Pennsylvania and the agency's Finding Pennsylvania's Solar Future stakeholders project should provide recommendations on the feasibility of increasing the state's solar energy goal from .5 percent to 10 percent by 2030 later this year.

In his written testimony, McDonnell noted DEP would like to work with the General Assembly to update the Electronics Waste Recycling Program and provide a stable source of funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program.

Many of the specific issues raised by members of the Committee were the same ones raised at the budget hearing last year. Here are several that were more unique to this year.

-- Recycling Fund: Rep. Susan Helm (R-Dauphin) asked if DEP is evaluating the Recycling Fund to determine whether the Fund should be eliminated, since $9 million was recently transferred out of the Fund to help balance the state budget. McDonnell said the Solid Waste and Recycling Fund Advisory Committees are reviewing the Act 101 Recycling Programs to

determine what's working and what isn't and they expect to make recommendations on improvements later this year.

-- **Environmental Justice:** In response to a question from Rep. Donna Bullock (D-Philadelphia), McDonnell said DEP last year completed a series of listening sessions on the Environmental Justice Program and is now working on a revised draft of its Environmental Justice Policy for handling permits within environmental justice communities and on updated maps to show those communities in the state.

Rep. Brad Roae (R-Crawford) asked if there is any value to DEP's Environmental Justice Advisory Board and in filling the position of Director of the Office of Environmental Justice, if members of the Board do not regularly attend the meetings. McDonnell said the Office is based on the agency's obligations related to protecting civil rights. He noted the program dates back to when it was established by the Ridge Administration under DEP Secretary James Seif.

-- Volkswagen Settlement: Rep. Stan Saylor (R-York), Majority Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, said he would like to see a level playing field for rebates under the federal Volkswagen settlement. Under the settlement, he said states can pay rebates of up to 75 percent for electric vehicles and up to 25 percent for natural gas vehicles. Given Pennsylvania's natural gas resources and saying natural gas vehicles like buses are cheaper than electric, the rebates should be similar. McDonnell said at a hearing on January 25 there are restrictions in the federal settlement on the percentages and for who can get what and said there will be a request for information coming out shortly asking for ideas on projects to fund. [**Note:** DEP had a series of listening sessions and comment period on spending the funds starting in May of last year. *Click Here for more.*]

-- Lyme Disease, West Nile, Zika, Powassan Virus: In response to a question from Rep. Marcia Hahn (R-Northampton) asking for an update on these programs, McDonnell said DEP has been helping to collect some tick samples for the Department of Health related to its investigation of Powassan Virus, which, like Lyme Disease, is carried by ticks.

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[Posted: Feb. 26, 2018]

Budget Testimony By DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell, Improving Efficiency, Customer Service



Here is the written budget testimony submitted to the House and Senate Appropriations Committee by DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell--
Thank you for the opportunity to present Gov. Wolf's proposed Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).
I want to begin by acknowledging the more than 2,400 public servants who work every day to achieve the department's mission. Every one of us commits daily to "protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water from pollution, and to provide for the health and safety of our citizens."

This year, DEP's budget request includes $154.577 million from the General Fund and a total spending authorization of $722.466 million. The proposal includes $229.156 million of special fund authorizations as well as $219.625 million in Federal spending authority.

This represents an increase of $8.130 million in general funds, or a 5.6 percent increase over the current budget.

I do want to thank the House Appropriations Committee for the opportunity to meet with you last month to answer your questions about the uses, management, and balances of the special funds that support several of DEP's programs.

DEP depends on those restricted funding sources, along with the General Fund and federal dollars, for our day-to-day operations and to carry out our mission of protecting Pennsylvania's air, land, and water from pollution, and ensuring the health and safety of Pennsylvania's citizens through a cleaner environment.

The special funds are statutorily created and directed to provide important environmental and economic development benefits.

This year's General Fund budget reflects a request for $2.5 million to increase our overall staffing complement by 33 positions to 2,482 for FY 2018-19.

DEP's staffing levels have decreased by 40 percent over the past 15 years, and although we've worked hard to maintain our statutory obligations, the lack of staff has been felt, especially in the timely reviews of permits.

Last month, Gov. Wolf announced the results of our year-long effort to reduce permit backlogs, modernize permitting processes, and better utilize technology to improve permit review, oversight and efficiency.

DEP reviews more than 30,000 permit applications in a given year, and we are committed to ensuring that each application is reviewed promptly and thoroughly.

I'm proud that the governor highlighted our innovative new permit review approach to shrink review timelines of the Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit (ESCGP), a key development permit, to under 100 days while reducing backlogs for well permits in our southwest region.

Since implementing the new approach, DEP's Southwest District Office reduced its permit review timeline for the ESCGP by over 220 days, and has cut its permit backlog in half.

Our intention with the requested personnel increase is to assign the new positions across programs and regional offices to achieve DEP's overall mission to protect the environment and public health.

In addition to maintaining our commitment to timely and effective permit review, the positions are focused on overseeing high hazard dams, ensuring adequate air monitoring support exists for areas that are impacted by natural gas drilling, reviewing sewage expansion requests (critical to economic development), and ensuring facilities are meeting their regulatory obligations.

By meeting regulatory obligations more effectively and efficiently, DEP will strengthen our commitment to building a Government that Works for the residents of Pennsylvania.

When Gov. Wolf created the Office of Transformation, Innovation, Management and Efficiency (GO-TIME), he gave his Cabinet the charge to think creatively and effectively about modernizing operations not just to reduce costs, but to improve outcomes.

At DEP, we consider the collaboration essential; an agency as lean as ours must find efficiencies through partnering. Under Governor Wolf's leadership, we have greatly expanded our cross-agency collaborations, at the local, state, and federal levels.

A few examples:

-- DEP is working closely with the Department of Health to ensure prompt review of the necessary permits for 14 dispensaries to begin operations, to achieve Gov. Wolf's vision to provide medical marijuana to patients who need it.

-- DEP worked closely with the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation to remediate the former Jeannette Glass site. Those 13 acres of remnant manufacturing have been a challenge for the community, but with the help of DEP, local legislators, and the Department of Community and Economic Development, that site will once again be a regional economic driver. It is useful to note here that this is just one of 1,118 brownfield site cleanups that have been completed since the beginning of the Wolf Administration, with another 500 site clean-ups in progress.

-- The Department of Transportation (PennDOT) shared its award-winning mobile technology with DEP to help us replace paper forms with mobile applications and mobile field inspections. Our request to PennDOT was to help us continue to be efficient, diligent, and comprehensive in our review, by accessing current technology to help reduce the time it takes us to take final action on applications. E-permitting has already been shown to reduce staff time, and oil and gas staff anticipate a 30 percent decrease in permit review times once their permit applications are moved into an electronic format later this year.

We've also undertaken our own internal efforts to achieve GO-TIME efficiencies. A few highlights of our modernization include:

-- e-Inspections: Replacing paper inspections of oil and gas activity with electronic applications is expected to save DEP almost $12 million by 2020, as mining and drinking water inspections are converted to the new format.

-- e-Permitting: Providing permit applicants with an online form will reduce errors, speed up processing and review, and allow electronic payment of fees. After starting with the bituminous surface mining permit, DEP is moving to add e-permitting for applications submitting to oil and gas, air quality, waterways engineering and wetlands, radiation protection, and storage tank programs. The expected savings by next fiscal year should be more than $630,000 annually, through improvements in productivity, mailing, and document management.

-- e-Grants: Modernizing our separate 35 grant programs, and consolidating the system into a central office will allow DEP to reduce duplication, and add services to the stakeholders, and is anticipated to reduce annual costs by almost $150,000.

I'd like to highlight a few programmatic focus areas for DEP this year. One of our most important is to create momentum for Pennsylvania's Clean Energy Economy to reduce energy bills, create jobs and opportunities for businesses, and enhance public health through a cleaner environment.

First, as part of an update to Pennsylvania's Climate Change Action Plan, DEP is developing a Statewide Energy Resource Assessment to create a baseline that will help to identify greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies.

Additionally, DEP's "Finding Pennsylvania's Solar Future Project" will present a final plan this year which will outline a cost-effective path to achieving 10 percent solar electricity generation by 2030. Solar currently generates less than .5 percent of total generation in Pennsylvania, or 347 megawatts, and results in nearly 4,000 jobs.

More than 530 solar companies are located in Pennsylvania, including 114 manufacturers and 306 installers/developers.

The investment potential in solar is estimated to be at least $2.9 billion in significant economic benefits and additional jobs and last year the U.S. Labor Department found that the occupation predicted to grow the most in the entire country over the next decade is solar installer.

Our goal is to provide a plan that guides our commonwealth to capitalize on these benefits.

It's encouraging to note that DEP has the opportunity this year and in the coming years to improve air quality across the state, without costing taxpayers a dime.

Through a settlement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Justice, and Volkswagen, roughly $118 million has been set aside for projects in Pennsylvania that reduce vehicle emissions which contribute to the creation of smog, ground level ozone, and acid rain.

In 2017, DEP solicited feedback from the public regarding the allocation of the uses of the funds as proscribed by the settlement. This year, we will begin soliciting projects to send to the court- appointed Trustee for funding recommendation.

This presents a huge opportunity for partnerships with local governments, small businesses, fleet owners, and residents of Pennsylvania to have a meaningful impact on their local air quality while driving a market transformation.

I also want to provide an update on DEP's unprecedented level of partnership with the

Department of Agriculture and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in the effort to clean up local waters in Pennsylvania's 43 counties in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

In addition to combining technical expertise and funding opportunities, we're bringing together and leveraging the expertise of many stakeholder groups, including conservation districts, municipalities, community organizations, and federal agencies.

All of these partners are essential for us to meet the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan, as mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In Gov. Wolf's budget address, he spoke of protecting the investments that taxpayers have already made. We at DEP believe that protecting our environment is an investment in economic prosperity.

There are many challenges we collectively face. We seek to collaborate with the General Assembly on programs that have been important investments in the Commonwealth's future.

Legislatively, we hope to work with you to modernize and fix the Covered Device Recycling Act, and fund the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program.

We look forward to working with the legislature on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead this fiscal year. Thank you for your consideration.

Click Here for Secretary McDonnell's budget testimony.

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[Posted: Feb. 26, 2018]

DCNR Budget Hearing: Senators Recommend More Drilling In State Forests To Fund An

Expanded Growing Greener Program



Sen. Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming), Majority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, Wednesday suggested one funding source for an expanded Growing Greener Program could be allowing additional natural gas drilling on DCNR's state forest lands.

During questioning of DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn at the Senate's budget hearing, it was noted there are about 800,000 acres of state forest land in the Marcellus Shale natural gas play that have yet to be leased for drilling.

Leasing as few as 25,000 of those acres, Sen. Yaw said, could result in as much as $100 million in upfront payments, plus the payment of royalties over time for the Environmental Stewardship (Growing Greener) Fund.

The Growing Greener Program provides recreation, land conservation and environmental restoration grants to local governments, land trusts and watershed groups, as well has funding for on-farm conservation practices that help meet Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay cleanup commitments and implement TMDL nutrient reduction plans statewide.

Sen. Yaw said he is a big believer in using resources the state already owns for the public's benefit and referenced Senate Bill 104 (Bartolotta-R-Washington), reported out of his Committee in January, urging Gov. Wolf to lift his moratorium on state forest land leasing.

He pointed to provisions in the resolution supporting non-surface disturbance horizontal drilling, which he said means no cutting roads or trees to extract the natural gas.

Secretary Dunn said she does not believe additional drilling could be done without surface disturbance. She also cautioned the current natural gas market may not support the same level of upfront payments DCNR has received in the previous leases.

She said there has been a lot of development on state forest leases already and probably more leasing than should have been allowed.

John Norbeck, Deputy Secretary for Parks and Forestry, noted the existing drilling leases are only about 40 percent built out, with 60 percent to go.

In response to a question from Sen. John Yudichak (D-Luzerne), Minority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, Dunn said the agency will soon issue its second monitoring report documenting the impacts of drilling on state forests. Norbeck added the report should be available by May 30.

DCNR works with a Natural Gas Advisory Committee on the report and other issues related to drilling on state forest lands. For more information, visit DCNR's Natural Gas Management webpage.

[**Note:** In January of 2017, Sen. Yaw and other Pennsylvania members of the interstate Chesapeake Bay Commission wrote to members of the Senate and House pointing to the need for a dedicated Clean Water Fund for PA and a new water use fee as one way to fund the initiative.]

Lyme Timber Loan

In response to a question from Sen. Scott Wagner (R-York), Dunn provided background on a recent $25.4 million loan from the PA Infrastructure Investment Authority to Lyme Timber Company to put over 9,362 acres of private forest land into a working forest conservation

easement.

The funding will help create over 50 new forestry jobs and leverage over $91 million of private investment in 7 counties: Cameron, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter and Venango. Dunn said a total of $50 million has been loaned by PennVEST to Lyme Timber for the project.

The project will also serve to preserve, protect and improve water quality. The property includes an acid mine drainage restoration project within the Sterling Run tract.

Dunn noted that a conservation easement limits certain uses or prevents subdivision and fragmentation from taking place on the land, which still remains in private hands to continue to provide economic benefits in the form of jobs and property taxes.

The funding for this project came from a combination of state funds approved by voters, federal grants to PennVEST from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and recycled loan repayments from previous PennVEST funding awards.

ATV Use Expansion

In response to questions by Sen. Yaw and Sen. Elder Vogel (R-Beaver) about expanding ATV riding opportunities, John Norbeck, and Laura Imgrund, DCNR Deputy Secretary for Conservation and Technical Services, said the agency is completing a study looking at expanding ATV riding opportunities across the state, including locating sites for ATV parks and expanding ATV trails. The study should be available by mid-summer.

Sen. Pat Browne (R-Lehigh), Majority Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, expressed his concern about signs of "financial stress" in the Oil and Gas Lease and Environmental Stewardship (Growing Greener) funds because they have been used to keep the agency running. He said once you spend out these funds it is difficult for them to recover.

Sen. Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia), Minority Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, voiced a concern about additional drilling on DCNR lands saying "once you use it, you lose it" and the Commonwealth has to think carefully about how these valuable public resources are to be managed.

Click Here for a copy of Secretary Dunn's written testimony.

Click Here for video of Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearings and the complete hearing schedule.

The initial budget hearings for DCNR are now concluded.

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

*(**Photo:** Deputy Secretary for Administration Michael Walsh, Secretary Dunn, Deputy Secretary John Norbeck, and Deputy Secretary Lauren Imgrund.)*

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Senate Passes Bill To Finance More Initiatives Out Of The Growing Greener Fund Without Adding Any New Money

PA Environmental Council Calls Bill Empty Shell Without New Funding

PA Chesapeake Bay Commission Members Spotlight Need For Clean Water Fund In PA

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[Posted: Feb. 28, 2018]

CFA Accepting Applications For Act 13 Water-Related, Recreation Grants Until May 31



The Commonwealth Financing Authority is now accepting applications for grants funded by Act 13 for watershed restoration, abandoned mine drainage abatement, baseline water quality data, orphaned or abandoned well plugging, sewage facilities and flood mitigation programs. The deadline for applications is May 31.

Here's a quick summary of what's available and the links for more details--

-- Watershed Restoration: The overall goal of the Watershed Restoration and Protection Program is to restore, and maintain restored stream reaches impaired by the uncontrolled discharge of nonpoint source polluted runoff, and ultimately to remove these streams from the Department of Environmental Protection's Impaired Waters list.

-- Abandoned Mine Drainage Abatement and Treatment: Projects which involve the reclamation of Abandoned Mine Well(s), construction of a new AMD site, remediation and repair of existing AMD project sites, operation and maintenance maintaining current AMD remediation sites, establishment of trust fund to ensure ongoing maintenance is achieved, and monitoring of water quality to track or continue to trace nonpoint source load reductions resulting from AMD remediation projects.

-- Orphan or Abandoned Well Plugging Program: Projects which involve the cleaning out and plugging of abandoned and orphaned oil and gas wells; stray gas mitigation systems; and well venting projects.

-- Baseline Water Quality Data: Projects which involve practices for water sample collection and analysis to document existing groundwater quality conditions on private water supplies.

-- Sewage Facilities Program: Costs associated with the planning work required under Act 537 Sewage Facilities Act.

-- Flood Mitigation: Projects authorized by a flood protection authority, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or identified by a local government for flood mitigation are eligible for the program.

-- Greenways, Trails And Recreation Program: Projects which involve development, rehabilitation and improvements to public parks, recreation areas, greenways, trails and river conservation.

Applicants are strongly urged to contact their House and Senate member to make them

aware you intend to submit an application for funding under theses programs.

For more information and instructions on how to apply, visit the Commonwealth Financing Authority Act 13 Programs webpage. Questions should be directed to 717-787-6245. [Posted: Feb. 28, 2018]

PUC Offers Storm Safety Tips, Reminds Residents To Report Power Outages

The Public Utility Commission Friday offered safety tips to residents as Winter Storm Riley continues to move across the state. Should you lose power during a storm, consider the following:

-- Call your utility hotline to report outages - Do not assume that the utility already knows about your outage or that others have already called.
-- Do NOT touch or approach any fallen lines.
-- Stay away from objects or puddles in contact with downed power lines.
-- Do NOT try to remove trees or limbs from power lines.
-- Use a phone that does not require electricity, such as a cellular phone or corded phone. Cordless phones won't work without electricity.
-- Do NOT call 9-1-1 to report power outages. Those calls take dispatchers away from other emergencies and can also slow a storm response because you're not talking directly to the utility.
-- SPECIAL NOTE: If you have a downed power line or another hazardous situation, call 9-1-1 and then contact your utility.

The PUC offered additional tips to help stay safe until power is restored:

-- Use flashlights or battery-operated lanterns for emergency lighting. Do not use candles or other potential fire hazards.
-- If you use a generator, do NOT run it inside a home or garage. Also, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator, not your home's electrical system, which could shock or injure utility crews working on nearby power lines. Additional generator tips are available online.
-- Turn off lights and electrical appliances (except for the refrigerator and freezer). When power comes back on, it may come back with momentary "surges" or "spikes" that can damage equipment.
-- After you turn the lights off, turn one lamp on so you will know when power is restored. Wait at least 15 minutes after power is restored before turning on other appliances.
-- Check on elderly neighbors and those with special needs who might need additional assistance.

The PUC noted that consumers using natural gas appliances can also be impacted by storms:

-- Electric power outages can affect gas furnaces and other appliances. If they do not function properly when power is restored call a professional for service.
-- If you smell natural gas, get everyone out of the building immediately. Leave the door open and do NOT use phones, switch lights or turn appliances on or off, or take any other action while inside the building. After you are safely outside, call 9-1-1 from your cell phone or neighbor's home.

NewsClips:

Despite Recent Improvements, Are Utilities Prepared For More Storms?

2013 PA Climate Impacts Report
Center for Rural PA: 71% Increase In Very Heavy Precipitation Events In Last 54 Years
AP: Storm Cuts Power To Almost 600,000, Kills 1 In PA
More Than 135,000 Electricity Customers Still Without Power In PA
Nor'easter Could Leave Some In Northeast Without Power For Days
Nor'easter Tore Through PA Suburbs, Thousands Remain Without Power
Thousands Left Without Power As Damaging Winds Caused Chaos In Lancaster County
Why The Storm Stopped SEPTA In Its Tracks
Multiple State Agencies Offer Support In Response To Nor'easter
Bus Passenger Stranded In Storm On I-80 Describes Experience
I-80 Travelers Stranded Overnight As Gov. Wolf Sends National Guard Troops To Poconos
Storm Causes Freight Train To Derail On Bridge, Plummets Into Susquehanna River
Landslide Cleared, Route 51 Ramps To West End Reopen
AP: Wolf Activates National Guard For Eastern PA Storm
Hundreds Of Thousands Of PA Residents Remain Without Power As Storm Continues
Nor'easter Slams Northeastern Pennsylvania
Wind-Driven Winter Storm Knocks Out Power In PA, Closes Highways
High Winds, Wet Ground Expected to Wreak Havoc In Western PA
Storm Roars Into Lehigh Valley, 57,000 Without Power, Trees Down
Thousands Without Power As High Winds Whip Pittsburgh Region
Restoration Time For 6,654 Without Power In Erie Unknown
More Than 20,000 Erie County Penelec Customers Without Power
Thousands Without Power As High Winds Hit York County
Presque Isle State Park Closed Due To Snow, Downed Trees
AP: Landslide Destroys Pittsburgh House, Knocks Out Power Nearby
Kilbuck Landslide Destroys One Home, Threatens Second In Pittsburgh
Landslide In Pittsburgh's West End Could Disrupt Traffic Throughout Week
Landslide Leaves Pittsburgh Couple Homeless
Landslide Forces Closure Of Forward Avenue In Pittsburgh
Road In Allegheny County To Close Thru June To Allow For Landslide Fix
Insurance Policies Don't Cover Homes Damaged By Landslides
With More Rain Forecast, Pittsburgh Monitoring For More Landslides
Massive Mudslide Closes Road In Armstrong County
Detours Posted Around West End Route 51 Landslide
Parts Of PA Under A Flood Watch, More Rain Forecast
Pittsburgh On Brink Of February Rainfall Record
1 Year Later, Tornado Recovery Goes On At Lake Scranton
[Posted: March 2, 2018]

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

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

Bill Calendars

House (March 12): House Bill 1401 (DiGirolamo-R-Bucks) which amends Title 58 to impose a sliding scale natural gas severance tax, in addition to the Act 13 drilling impact fee, on natural gas production (NO money for environmental programs) and includes provisions related to minimum landowner oil and gas royalties; House Resolution 284 (Moul-R-Adams) urging Congress to repeal the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's MS4 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (sponsor summary). <> Click Here for full House Bill Calendar.

Senate (March 19): Senate Bill 792 (Alloway-R-Franklin) requiring law fertilizer applicators to be certified in application techniques and creates an education program; Senate Resolution 104 (Bartolotta-R-Washington) resolution urging the Governor to end the moratorium on new non-surface disturbance natural gas drilling on state forest land (sponsor summary); House Bill 913 providing for the adoption of stormwater fees by incorporated towns; House Bill 914 providing for the adoption of stormwater fees by boroughs; House Bill 915 providing for the adoption of stormwater fees by first class townships; and House Bill 916 providing for the adoption of stormwater fees by Cities of the Third Class; House Bill 1341 (Pyle-R-Armstrong) further providing for training and certification of emergency medical personnel responding to bituminous deep mine accidents (House Fiscal Note and summary); House Bill 1486 (Zimmerman-R-Lancaster) exempting agricultural high-tunnel structures from the Stormwater Management Act (House Fiscal Note and summary); House Bill 1550 (Klunk-R-York) changing restrictions on preserved land to allow for an additional residence (House Fiscal Note and summary). <> Click Here for full Senate Bill Calendar.

Committee Meeting Agendas This Week

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

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

Bills Pending In Key Committees

Check the PA Environmental Council Bill Tracker for the status and updates on pending state **legislation and regulations** that affect environmental and conservation efforts in Pennsylvania.

Session Schedule

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

Senate
Budget Hearings: Feb. 20 - March 8
March 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28
April 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 30
May 1, 2, 21, 22, 23
June 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

House
Budget Hearings: Feb. 20 to March 8
March 12, 13, 14
April 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 30
May 1, 2, 22, 23
June 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

Governor's Schedule

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

News From The Capitol

House Game & Fisheries Committee To Hold Info Meetings On Fish & Boat, Game Commissions Annual Reports In March




The House Game and Fisheries Committee is scheduled to hold informational meetings on the Fish and Boat Commission and Game Commission annual reports this month.

The Fish and Boat Commission report will be reviewed on March 27 and the Game Commission on March 28.

Both the meetings will be held in Room 60 of the East Wing of the Capitol in Harrisburg starting a 10:00.

Rep. Keith Gillespie (R-York) serves as Majority Chair of the Committee and can be contacted by sending email to: kgillesp@pahousegop.com. Rep. Bryan Barbin (D-Cambria) serves as Minority Chair and can be contacted by sending email to: bbarbin@pahouse.net.

NewsClips:
Schneck: Berks, Lancaster, Lebanon Counties In New Chronic Wasting Disease Zone
Crable: Chronic Wasting Disease Quarantine Zone Created In Berks, Lancaster, Lebanon Counties
Schneck: 4th Chronic Wasting Disease Zone Coming To PA
Schneck: Deer In Forests Travel More Than Those In Suburbia, Farmland
Taking Aim At The Game Commission
Why Are Frogs Crossing The Road? Well, Uh, The Answer Is...
Schneck: PA Trout Fishing 2018, Everything You Need To Know
Schneck: 18 Signs Spring Is Arriving In Pennsylvania
Sauro: Ticking Away: Bites Can Lead To Lyme Disease Which Can Be Difficult To Treat
Frye: Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation Focus Of The Outdoors World
Harmar Bald Eagles Have First Egg Of Season
Harmar Eagles Have Second Egg To Tend To
Schneck: Hanover Bald Eagles Have 2nd Egg In Nest

Schneck: Bald Eagles With Locked Talons Rescued From Susquehanna River
Crumbling Marianna Dam Appears To Be Breaching In Washington County
Outdoor Dreams Become Reality In PA For Those With Disabilities
Schneck: What Are Top Wildlife Crimes In PA?
[Posted: March 2, 2018]

The Feds

PA Receives $55.6 Million From Feds For Abandoned Mine Reclamation



The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Saturday announced it will provide $300.7 million to states and tribes to reclaim abandoned coal mines, including $55.6 million to Pennsylvania.

This represents the regular annual allocation Pennsylvania receives, the Congressionally- mandated sequestration amount of 6.6 percent that was applied across the board.

"Restoring the usability of abandoned mine lands is an example of the Department of the Interior's multiple-use mission of conservation in action. Interior will continue helping states and tribes responsibly develop America's energy resources and address legacy problems related to 200 years of mining," said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. "AML grants keep Americans working and making a difference in their communities. This money will be used to fix highwalls, stabilize land above underground mines, and repair impaired waters, among other things. AML reclamation makes life better in our Nation's coal communities."

Pennsylvania received $33.5 million in federal AML reclamation funding in FY 2017, down from $67 million and $61 million in FY 2012 and FY 2013.

These federal AML monies come from a per ton fee on coal production that is due to expire in 2021.

There was no information in the announcement about whether the Trump Administration supports the RECLAIM initiative that would provide additional funding for mine reclamation projects that have economic development potential.

Pennsylvania has received an additional $30 million from a similar Obama-era initiative in FY 2016, in addition to $42.9 million in the normal federal AML allocation totaling $72.9 million for that year, according to DEP.

***(Photo:** Ehrenfeld Mine Reclamation Project, Cambria County.)*

NewsClips:
PA Receives $55.6 Million From Feds For Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Frazier: Zinke Unveils $55 Million Toward State's Abandoned Mine Cleanup

Related Stories:
Op-Ed: Tap Federal AML Fund For Coal Country Land, Water Restoration, There Is No Excuse
EPCAMR Asking Enviro, Land Conservation, Watershed, Sportsmen's Groups, Local Govts To Adopt Resolution Urging Congress To Act NOW On Bill To Reclaim PA's Abandoned Mines
Reminder: PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference Request For Presentation Proposals

Eastern PA Coalition For Abandoned Mine Reclamation Paint Night! Fundraiser March 29 Using Pigments Made From Treated AML Drainage
[Posted: Feb. 25, 2018]

News From Around The State

Governor's Agency-By-Agency Regulatory Agenda Posted, 4 Major DEP Fee Increase Packages

The Governor's Office Regulatory Agenda was published in the March 3 PA Bulletin listing regulations in development by each agency under the Governor's jurisdiction starting on page 1368 of the Bulletin.

The Agenda includes permit review fee increases for DEP's Air Quality, Oil and Gas, Safe Drinking Water and Water Quality/NPDES programs.

Here are some highlights from several agencies--

Agriculture
-- Agriculture Conservation Easement Purchase Program - March 2018 Proposed
-- Rabies Prevention - May 2018 Final
-- Weights, Measures and Standards - April 2018 Final

DCNR
-- Conservation of PA Native Wild Plants - Summer 2018 Final
-- Snowmobile & ATV Grants - Summer 2018 Final

DEP
-- Noncoal Mining Permit Fee Increase - 1st Quarter 2018 Proposed
-- Mining Water Supply Replacement - 3rd Quarter 2018 Proposed to EQB
-- Oil and Gas Program Fee Increase - 2nd Quarter 2018 Proposed to EQB
-- Control Of Oil & Gas Air Emissions - 3rd Quarter Proposed to EQB
-- Environmental Protection Standards For Conventional Oil and Gas Wells - 3rd Quarter 2018 Proposed to EQB
-- Safe Drinking Water Fee Increase - 2nd Quarter 2018 Final to EQB
-- Water Quality/NPDES Fee Increase - 1st Quarter 2018 Proposed to EQB
-- Sewage Facilities Planning, Onlot Septic Systems - 4th Quarter 2018 Proposed to EQB
-- Radiological Health - 2nd Quarter 2018 Final to EQB
-- Pittsburgh Low-RVP Gasoline Repeal - 1st Quarter 2018 to IRRC
-- Additional RACT Requirements For Major Sources - 2nd Quarter 2018 Final to EQB
-- Air Quality Fee Increase - 3rd Quarter 2018 Proposed to EQB
-- Ultra Low Sulfur Limit For Fuel Oil - 3rd Quarter 2018 Proposed to EQB
-- Water Quality Standard For Manganese - 1st Quarter ANPR Publication
-- Land Recycling Program Administration - 4th Quarter 2018 Proposed to EQB

PennVEST
-- Assistance & Clean Water State Revolving Fund - Spring 2019 Proposed

DEP publishes its own updated Regulatory Agenda on its website and a Non-Regulatory Agenda showing technical guidance documents in development was just posted on February 16.

NewsClip:
Federal Court Tosses Challenge To Trump's 2-for-1 Regulatory Order

[Posted: March 2, 2018]

DCNR, PennVEST Announce $1.1 Million In Grants For Income-Producing Stream Buffer Projects



The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the PA Infrastructure Investment Authority Thursday announced a $1.1 million grant investment to eight recipients throughout Pennsylvania for planting trees and income-producing species along streams to help keep nutrients and sediments from the land from impacting water quality.

All projects include multi-functional buffers, which incorporate species such as nut trees, berries, and willows in buffer zones so that the landowner could potentially sell these products, and realize some income from land dedicated to buffers.

"Streamside buffers offer multiple benefits, including filtering pollutants and cooling water, and providing habitat for pollinators and wildlife," Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn said. "These grants are intended to encourage some really unique projects to explore an added financial benefit to the farmer or landowner by including plant species that have harvestable products that can be marketed."

The grants are administered through DCNR with funding provided by PennVEST.

"Partnering with our DCNR colleagues on this important multi-functional buffer venture increases the availability of funds being channeled through existing structures," said PennVEST Executive Director Brion Johnson. "It will help with our clean water efforts and provide important information regarding possible revenue generating opportunities that could be used to help provide a sustainable funding source for future efforts."

The grants by county are:

-- Bucks -- Snipes Farm and Education Center, $50,000, for approximately 2 acres of multi-functional riparian forest buffers along waterways in the Central Delaware River watershed, Bucks County. Located on a working farm, this education center will use the income-producing buffer as a demonstration site for visitors.

-- Centre, Clinton -- Native Creations Landscape Services, $94,750, for approximately 16 acres of multi-functional riparian forest buffers along waterways in the West Branch Susquehanna River watershed. Working with local watershed partners and using prioritization tools developed by Chesapeake Conservancy, this business will work with private landowners to install multi-functional buffers.

-- Chester, Dauphin, Lancaster -- Earthbound Artisan LLC, $100,000, for approximately 4 acres of multi-functional riparian forest buffers along waterways in the Lower Delaware and Lower Susquehanna River watersheds. Earthbound will primarily work with farmers to demonstrate the potential profits that could be made by installing and managing multi-functional buffers. The majority of buffers will be managed by Earthbound using organic techniques.

-- Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, and Union -- Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy, $353,000, for approximately 56 acres of multi-functional riparian forest buffers

along waterways in the West Branch and Central Susquehanna River watershed. This work will add buffers to sites that were already restored in partnership with the Fish and Boat Commission, primarily using DEP Growing Greener funding. The multi-functional aspect of these often narrow buffers will be in tree nuts and syrup.
-- Lancaster -- Lititz Run Watershed Alliance, $57,000, for approximately 3 acres of multi-functional riparian forest buffers along waterways in the Lower Susquehanna River watershed. One of the proposed buffers will be planted on a floodplain restoration site, with potential to contribute harvests to nearby gourmet restaurants.
-- Northampton -- Friends of Johnston Inc., $142,000, for approximately 15 acres of multi-functional riparian forest buffers along waterways in the Central Delaware River watershed. The Johnston Estate will offer public education and guided tours of the multi-functional buffer that will be planted on this site, using these grant funds.
-- Northampton -- Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley, $50,000, for approximately 2 acres of multi-functional riparian forest buffers along waterways in the Central Delaware River watershed. This project will support a partnership with Community Supported Agriculture that may include the buffer harvest as part of the CSA offerings in the future.
-- Statewide/Regional -- PA Association of Conservation Districts Inc., $250,000, support conservation districts in constructing approximately 45 acres of multi-functional riparian forest buffers along waterways throughout Pennsylvania. This sub-grant program will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to complete demonstration projects statewide, in partnership with local conservation districts.

Pennsylvania has a goal of planting 95,000 acres of stream buffers by 2025. Maintaining and restoring buffers along rivers and streams is a key strategy for improving water quality and aquatic habitat.

The 2-day Riparian Forest Buffer Summit sponsored by DCNR and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is intended to engage conservation professionals, officials and citizens and provide information and skills – from creating planting plans to working with contractors.

Grant Applications Being Accepted

Through two previous grant rounds, DCNR has provided nearly $1.4 million statewide for stream buffers. Buffer grants also are available in the current open grant round, which closes April 11.

Properly planted and maintained, streamside tree and shrub plantings filter the runoff of sediments and fertilizers that are applied to lawns and crops; control erosion; slow stormwater runoff; cool stream temperatures; and improve fish habitat.

For more information about stream buffers, visit the DCNR's Forest Buffers webpage.

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

Information on water infrastructure grants and loans is available at the PennVEST website.

NewsClips:
You May Receive A Stormwater Bill Soon (In The Northeast)
More Municipalities Issue Stormwater Fees To Meet EPA Regulations

AP: Groups Fear ORSANCO Proposal May Weaken Ohio River Water Protections
Crumbling Marianna Dam Appears To Be Breaching In Washington County
Trump's Budget Threatens Erie Environmental Groups
Delaware RiverKeeper March 2 RiverWatch Video Report
Editorial: Great Lakes Deserve Better From Trump
Trump EPA Moves To Roll Back More Clean Air, Water Rules
Under Pressure From U.S. Senate Democrats, EPA Restores Funding For Bay Journal
Latest From The Chesapeake Bay Journal
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[Posted: March 1, 2018]

Coldwater Heritage Partnership Announces $74,000 In Grant Awards



The Coldwater Heritage Partnership Tuesday announced the award of over $74,000 in grants have been awarded to local organizations to protect and conserve Pennsylvania's coldwater streams.
The Coldwater Heritage Partnership is a collaborative effort between the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds, Fish and Boat Commission and PA Council of Trout Unlimited.
The purpose of the CHP is to provide leadership, coordination, technical assistance, and funding support for the conservation and protection of Pennsylvania's coldwater streams. The program awards planning and implementation grants to conservation organizations in an effort to protect and conserve Pennsylvania's coldwater resources.

The planning grant is awarded to organizations to create a coldwater conservation plan that evaluates the biological, physical, and chemical features of the stream or watershed to identify potential threats, impacts, and opportunities and compile recommendations for future protection.

The implementation grant is awarded to organizations to complete projects listed as recommendations in Coldwater Conservation Plans or similar documents. Potential projects must conserve, protect, or enhance the resources.

Grants have been awarded to the following organizations:

-- Planning Grants

-- Berks County Conservation District will complete an assessment and coldwater Conservation Plan for the Cacoosing Creek.

-- The Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation will conduct as assessment of natural trout populations, aquatic connectivity, and AMD/AML impacts to Toby Creek in Luzerne County.

-- Elk County Conservation District will create a coldwater conservation plan for the Elk Creek Drainage by completing a comprehensive evaluation of Elk Creek habitat, biota, and water quality.

-- Penn Soil RC&D Council will complete as assessment of Pithole Creek in Forest and Venango

counties to document water quality issues and develop remediation and restoration options.
-- The Seneca Chapter of Trout Unlimited will coordinate efforts to assess Skinner Creek Watershed's current condition and write a comprehensive plan for the creek in McKean county.
-- The Western PA Conservancy will complete an assessment of the current conditions of the Middle Fork East Branch Clarion River Watershed to identify opportunities to improve this vital coldwater resource in Elk county.
-- Implementation Grants
-- The Central PA Conservancy will complete a 34-acre acquisition, including the LeTort's spring-fed wetland headwaters, for addition to the Spring Run and Rail Trail Greenway. The project will include opportunities for restoration, coldwater education, appreciation, and conservation training in Cumberland County.
-- The Cumberland Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter will complete instream habitat work to improve natural reproduction and survivability of coldwater aquatic species in Yellow Breeches Creek.
-- Mifflin County Conservation District will complete a comprehensive stream improvement project including fish habitat structures, bank stabilization, fishing access improvements, and riparian buffer plantings.
-- **Patriots Cove** will complete an instream habitat improvement effort on Beaver Run in Wyoming county.
-- The Western PA Conservancy will remove a dam on John's Run, an HQ tributary to Callen Run, to restore fish and aquatic organism passage to over 4 miles of wild trout habitat in this headwaters stream in Jefferson county.
-- The Western PA Conservancy will provide outreach to landowners about riparian buffers and other conservation practices, establish riparian buffers, and complete water quality monitoring on Plum Creek in Blair county.

Additional information about the grant opportunity as well as plans, reports, and photographs from previous grant awardees can be found at the Coldwater Heritage Partnership website. Questions should be directed to: info@coldwaterheritage.org or 814-359-5233.
*(**Photo:** Bushkill Creek riparian buffer, Northampton County.)*
NewsClips:
You May Receive A Stormwater Bill Soon (In The Northeast)
More Municipalities Issue Stormwater Fees To Meet EPA Regulations
AP: Groups Fear ORSANCO Proposal May Weaken Ohio River Water Protections
Crumbling Marianna Dam Appears To Be Breaching In Washington County
Trump's Budget Threatens Erie Environmental Groups
Delaware RiverKeeper March 2 RiverWatch Video Report
Editorial: Great Lakes Deserve Better From Trump
Trump EPA Moves To Roll Back More Clean Air, Water Rules
Under Pressure From U.S. Senate Democrats, EPA Restores Funding For Bay Journal
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[Posted: Feb. 27, 2018]

Reminder: PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference Request For Presentation Proposals



The organizers of the PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference are now accepting presentation proposals for the 2018 Conference to be held June 20-21 at the Ramada Inn & Conference Center in State College.

Conference provides a forum for the dissemination of information and encourages discussion between industry, watershed groups, and decision makers that can help to further innovations in public policy, abandoned mine reclamation and restoration of PA's watersheds and communities.

With a theme of "Reflections on 20 Years of Reclamation" the 20th Anniversary Conference will celebrate our community's success over the last two decades and develop a wish list of accomplishments for the future.

A wide range of topic submissions is encouraged--

-- New AMD treatment system technologies, tools, and products
-- Construction case studies and lessons learned
-- Land remediation, reforestation, reuse
-- Water quality monitoring and treatment system maintenance
-- Non-profit organization capacity issues
-- Community involvement, special events, education and outreach
-- Coal mining history and heritage preservation
-- Mapping, drones, equipment, and other helpful new technologies
-- Legislative updates and concerns at all levels of government
-- Economic redevelopment, health and safety, and quality of life topics

Submissions and questions should be emailed to Anne Daymut by sending email to: anne@wpcamr.org.

For more information, visit the PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference website.

NewsClips:

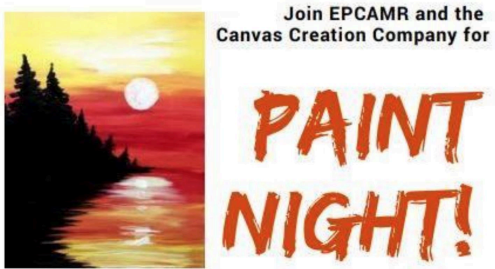
PA Receives $55.6 Million From Feds For Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Frazier: Zinke Unveils $55 Million Toward State's Abandoned Mine Cleanup

Related Stories:

Op-Ed: Tap Federal AML Fund For Coal Country Land, Water Restoration, There Is No Excuse
PA Receives $55.6 Million From Feds For Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Eastern PA Coalition For Abandoned Mine Reclamation Paint Night! Fundraiser March 29
Using Pigments Made From Treated AML Drainage

[Posted: Feb. 26, 2018]

Eastern PA Coalition For Abandoned Mine Reclamation Paint Night! Fundraiser March 29 Using Pigments Made From Treated AML Drainage



The Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation will hold a Paint Night! fundraiser on

March 29 at the EPCAMR Office, 101 South Main Street in Ashley, Luzerne County from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Join EPCAMR and The Canvas Creation Company for a fun canvas painting night. A 16x20 pre-drawn canvas, all painting supplies and step by step painting instructions will be provided.

The red-related paints used in Paint Night! use pigments from iron oxides removed from abandoned mine drainage treated in EPCAMR projects.

The donation is $35 per person with light refreshments

Click Here for all the details and to buy tickets online. Questions should be directed to 570-817-0911.

For more information on programs, initiatives and other upcoming events, visit the Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation website.

NewsClips:

PA Receives $55.6 Million From Feds For Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Frazier: Zinke Unveils $55 Million Toward State's Abandoned Mine Cleanup

Related Stories:

Op-Ed: Tap Federal AML Fund For Coal Country Land, Water Restoration, There Is No Excuse

PA Receives $55.6 Million From Feds For Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Reminder: PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference Request For Presentation Proposals

[Posted: Feb. 28, 2018]

NRCS-PA: 5 Conferences In March On Increasing Soil Health To Increase Farm Profits

The Natural Resource Conservation Service-PA is partnering on a series of five conferences in March on how farmers can increase their profits by increasing soil health. The conferences will be held--

-- March 8: Second Annual Western PA Regional Soil Health Conference

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: the Atrium banquet facility, 1031 New Castle Rd, Prospect, PA

Cost: $15/person (includes hot lunch)

Registration: Register by March 5th to Danielle Sheppard, Allegheny County Conservation District, 412-241-7645 or Click Here

Featured Speakers: Barry Fisher, NRCS; LeRoy Bupp, PA No-Till Alliance; Farmer Panel

-- March 13: Connecting Soils and Profits: Tools for Improving Soil Health

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Muncy United Methodist Church, 602 South Market Street, Muncy, PA

Cost: $25/person (includes morning snacks & hot lunch)

Registration: Register by March 5th to the Lycoming County Conservation District, 570-433-3003.

Featured Speakers: Ray Archuleta, Soil Health Consulting, LLC; Steve Groff, Cover Crop Coaching; Dr. John Tooker, PSU

-- March 14: Connect Soils to Profits: No-till, Cover Crops, Soil Health Grazing & Healthy Streams

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

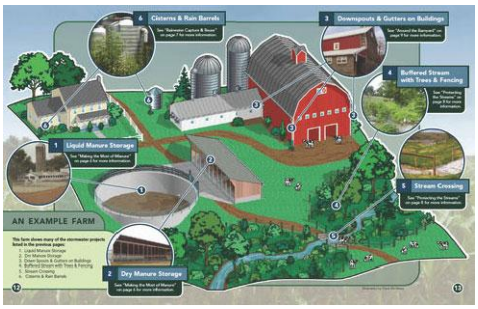
Location: Wysox Fire Hall, 111 Lake Road, Towanda, PA

Cost: $20/person (includes lunch)
Registration: Kevin.L.Brown@pa.nacdnet.net, 570-265-5539 x3105
Featured Speakers: Ray Archuleta, Soil Health Consulting, LLC; Steve Groff, Cover Crop Coaching
-- March 15: Connect Soils and Profits: No-till, Cover Crops, Soil Health & Grazing
Time: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Location: Pine Barn Inn, 1 Pine Barn Place, Danville, PA
Cost: $25/person (includes hot lunch), $30/person after March 2nd
Registration: tracey.oman@columbiaccd.org 702 Sawmill Road, Suite 204 Bloomsburg, PA 17815. Register by March 9th.
Featured Speakers: Ray Archuleta, Soil Health Consulting, LLC; Steve Groff, Cover Crop Coaching; Dr. John Tooker, PSU Slug & IPM Expert
-- March 21-22: 2018 Western PA Annual Spring Grazing Conference
Time: 8:40 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (evening session from 6:30-8:30 p.m. March 21)
Location: 180 W. Trinity Drive, Clarion, PA 16214
Cost: varies (includes continental breakfast and hot buffet lunch)
Registration: Register by March 7th for discounted rate. Deadline March 14th. Register Here.
Featured Speakers: Teddy Gentry, ALABAMA; Greg Judy, Author

For more information on technical and financial assistance and other upcoming events, visit the Natural Resource Conservation Service-PA webpage.

NewsClip:
Farmland Preservation Hits $1 Billion Mark In PA
Related Stories:
Berks County: Learn How To Improve Your Farming Operation While Protecting Clean Water March 8, 13, 21
New Rodale Institute, Stroud Water Research Center Partnership To Reduce Ag Runoff In Delaware Watershed
[Posted: March 2, 2018]

Berks County: Learn How To Improve Your Farming Operation While Protecting Clean Water March 8, 13, 21



The Berks County Conservation District and the Berks County Department of Agriculture and other partners will host three farm conservation workshops in March.

The topics covered include conservation practices, technical assistance and funding opportunities.

They will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on--
-- March 8: Fleetwood Grange, 2864 Moselem Spring Rd, Fleetwood 19522;
-- March 13: Bernville Grange, 37 Shartlesville Rd, Bernville 19506; and
-- March 21: Oley Fairgrounds Building, 26 Jefferson St, Oley 19547.

Other partners in these workshops are , Berks Nature, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Stroud Water Research Center, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service-PA

Click Here for more information and to register.

NewsClip:

Farmland Preservation Hits $1 Billion Mark In PA

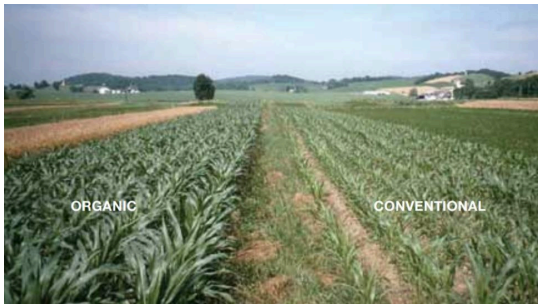
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New Rodale Institute, Stroud Water Research Center Partnership To Reduce Ag Runoff In Delaware Watershed

[Posted: Feb. 26, 2018]

New Rodale Institute, Stroud Water Research Center Partnership To Reduce Ag Runoff In Delaware Watershed



Rodale Institute, the global leader of regenerative organic agriculture, Thursday announced it has received a grant for $5,995,000 from the William Penn Foundation to partner with Stroud Water Research Center, the global leader in the advancement of knowledge and stewardship of freshwater systems, on a groundbreaking project to improve soil health and water quality.

The project will focus on improving farm productivity and profits while reducing water pollution associated with agricultural runoff.

The Delaware River Watershed covers 8.7 million acres across Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Delaware, and provides drinking water to 15 million people.

According to the USDA National Resources Conservation Service, cultivated cropland and other agriculture lands (pasture, hayland, and horticulture) make up 26 percent of this area. The 2007 Census of Agriculture reported about 15,000 farms in the Delaware River Basin.

Today, agricultural runoff from these farms—such as rain running off corn fields—carries fertilizers, pesticides, manure, and soil into our rivers, polluting the environment and contaminating drinking water.

“Agricultural runoff poses a significant threat to clean water in the Delaware River watershed,” said Andrew Johnson, Program Director for Watershed Protection at the William Penn Foundation. “Rodale Institute and Stroud Center are nationally recognized for their expertise in agricultural practice, and through this collaboration they expect to unearth new reasons and new ways to scale practices that farmers can embrace to minimize their impact on the environment here and around the country.”

The partnership between Rodale Institute and the Stroud Center will evaluate different types of agricultural management practices and how they improve soil health which, in turn, improves farm production and profitability while helping to mitigate agricultural runoff pollution.

Building on Rodale Institute’s Farming Systems Trial—the longest running side-by-side comparison of organic versus conventional farming practices in North America—new farming systems (including regenerative organic, “conservation,” and conventional) will be established at the Stroud Preserve in Chester County.

Here, the partners will collect new data on water infiltration, runoff, soil health, stream

water quality, and contaminants with the goal of ultimately changing management practices of 50,000 acres in the watershed.

Research from Rodale Institute's Farming Systems Trial, started in 1981, has already shown that organic farms increase groundwater recharge, reduce runoff, and reduce nitrate and herbicide leachates in groundwater.

Stroud Preserve is one of 44 nature preserves owned and managed by nonprofit Natural Lands, whose mission is to save open space, care for nature, and connect people to the outdoors.

"Rodale Institute is extremely excited about the opportunity to partner with another world-class organization, Stroud Water Research Center, to bring our two focus areas, soil health and freshwater, together for monumental impact," said Jeff Moyer, Rodale Institute executive director. "We have the ability to conduct cutting-edge research and outreach that will ultimately lead to improved farming practices that not only help farmers be successful, but will have true impact on the lives of families who interact with the watershed every day."

The partners will also conduct farmer training and education, a consumer awareness campaign, citizen science initiatives, and a plan for financial incentives for farmers to transition management practices.

"Stroud Water Research Center works with farmers and landowners to implement best management practices based on our decades of research on streams, rivers, and their ecosystems. Much of that research has underlined the important role streamside forests play in protecting streams and creating healthy stream ecosystems. With this exciting new partnership, we will build on that knowledge as we investigate the relationship between healthy soils and healthy streams," said David B. Arscott, Ph.D., Stroud Center executive director, president, and research scientist.

The funding comes from William Penn Foundation's Watershed Protection Program, which grants more than $30 million annually to ensure an adequate supply of clean drinking water to the 15 million people who rely on the Delaware River Watershed.

More information on sustainable agriculture is available by visiting the Rodale Institute website. Click Here to sign up for Rodale's newsletter (bottom of the page), Follow on Twitter, Like on Facebook and visit their YouTube Channel. Rodale is based in Lehigh County.

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the Stroud Water Research Center website, Click Here to subscribe to UpStream. Click Here to subscribe to Stroud's Educator newsletter. Click Here to become a Friend Of Stroud Research, Like them on Facebook, Follow on Twitter, include them in your Circle on Google+ and visit their YouTube Channel. Stroud is based in Chester County.

***(Photo:** Rodale Institute's Farming Systems Trial.)*

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Berks County: Learn How To Improve Your Farming Operation While Protecting Clean Water

March 8, 13, 21

[Posted: March 1, 2018]

Pike County Workshop For Contractors: Plan Your Project Proactively March 21



The Pike County Conservation District, in partnership with Wayne Pike Building Industry Association, will host a Contractors Workshop on March 21, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Pike County Training Center, 135 Pike County Blvd, Lords Valley to share resources on proactive project planning.

Hundreds of contractors work in Pike and Wayne counties each year: builders, tree cutters, landscapers, dock builders, surveyors, excavators, and more.

Topics covered during the workshop will include: impacts of erosion and sedimentation, how to complete an Erosion and Sedimentation Plan, wetlands and general permitting, and best management practices.

"This workshop provides a great opportunity for building professionals to gather helpful information on planning for their projects and to connect with the Conservation District early in the process," says Sally Corrigan, PCCD Executive Director.

"Keeping our building professionals up to date on useful information that helps them in their daily work is vital to our organization," says Cindy Cepko, President, Wayne Pike Building Industry Association. "We are so pleased this co-sponsorship opportunity allows us to offer such an advantageous service to our members and potential members."

PCCD also offers project planning resources online.

The Workshop will be held Pike County Training Center is located at 135 Pike County Boulevard, in Lords Valley.

The cost per person is $10, which covers lunch. The snow date for the workshop is March 22. In the event of inclement weather, an announcement will be posted on the PCCD website and Facebook page.

To register for the Contractors Workshop, send an email to: pikecd@pikepa.org or call 570-226-8220.

For more information on programs, technical assistance and other upcoming events, visit the Pike County Conservation District website.

*(**Photo:** Cindy Cepko, President, Wayne Pike Building Industry Association; and Scott Savini, Chairman, Pike County Conservation District Board of Directors.)*

[Posted: Feb. 26, 2018]

PennDOT Issues RFI On Wetlands Mitigation Banks For Public Private Partnerships Program

The Department of Transportation's Public Private Partnerships Office has issued a Request for Information of the development of wetland mitigation banks for transportation projects at the state or district level.

PennDOT is looking to gather feedback and information related to development, design, construction, implementation, maintenance, operation and commercialization of wetland mitigation banking for crediting against unavoidable aquatic resource impacts.

The deadline for responses is March 13.

Click Here for all the details and on how to submit a response.

(Courtesy of PA Association of Environmental Professionals.)

[Posted: Feb. 26, 2018]

Discovering Your Drinking Water Program March 26 In Pike County



The Pike County Conservation District, in cooperation with Penn State Extension and the Pocono Source Water Protection Collaborative, will host Discovering Your Drinking Water on March 26 at the District Office, 556 Route 402 in Hawley starting at 7:00 p.m.

Presenters will discuss the importance of groundwater and provide some useful tips on maintaining good drinking water quality.

Where does your drinking water come from? Groundwater, which is found in the cracks and spaces in underground soil, sand and rock.

Pike County is almost entirely dependent on groundwater to meet its drinking water needs. With the exception of bottled water, all water that is consumed at home, in school, and in the workplace originates as groundwater from private, community and municipal wells and springs.

This groundwater we all rely on can become polluted when substances that are harmful to human health get into our groundwater. Some of these pollutants can include road salt, cleaning supplies, home heating oil, medicines, weed killers, fertilizers and more.

Participants will learn the importance of groundwater, how groundwater reaches a well, and how easily it can be polluted. Participants will be provided a list of simple steps they can do around their home to prevent groundwater pollutants from entering drinking water.

The first 10 registered participants will receive a water test kit, at no charge, to take home and test their own drinking water. The water test will include coliform bacteria, nitrates, pH and Total Dissolved Solids. The water test results will be forwarded to homeowners along with any potential steps needed to improve drinking water in their home.

Financial and other support for this project is provided by the PA 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.

Registration is free. To register, please contact the Pike County Conservation District by sending email to: pikecd@pikepa.org or call 570-226-8220. Click Here for more.

For more information on programs, initiatives, educational and technical assistance opportunities, visit the Pike County Conservation District website.

NewsClips:

TCE Found In 6 Water Wells Near Rose Valley Lake In Lycoming County

Springdale Twp Officials Scramble To Fix 200 Falsified Water Meter Readings

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Pike County Workshop For Contractors: Plan Your Project Proactively March 21

Michele Long Named Executive Director Of Pike County Conservation District

[Posted: March 1, 2018]

Center For Watershed Protection To Hold National Conference April 10, Online, Or In Baltimore, Virginia

The Center for Watershed Protection will hold its 2018 National Watershed and Stormwater Conference on April 10 and will again offer both online and in-person attendance options.

This Conference will help practitioners, regulators, water and sewer authorities and stormwater managers overcome common hurdles-- from staff shortages and a lack of financial support to addressing multiple pollutant sources in mixed land use watersheds.

Click Here for all the details.

[Posted: March 2, 2018]

Call For Presentations: PA Water And Wastewater Technology Summit



The PA Section American Water Works Association, PA Water Environment Association, and the PA Municipal Authorities Association have issued a call for presentation proposals for the November 1-2 PA Water and Wastewater Technology Summit.

Proposals are due June 15.

There are many ways that the new technology can add value to the facilities, including faster efficiency of inspections, reduced cost, and increased safety of workers. These technologies are highlighted at this Summit.

To submit a proposal or for more information, visit the PA Water and Wastewater Technology Summit webpage.

The Summit will be held at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College.

NewsClips:

TCE Found In 6 Water Wells Near Rose Valley Lake In Lycoming County

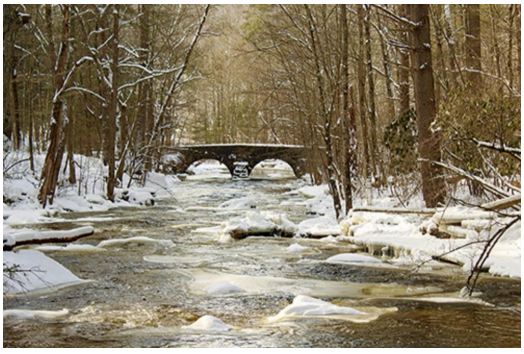
Springdale Twp Officials Scramble To Fix 200 Falsified Water Meter Readings

Related Story:

PA Section American Water Works Assn Annual Conference May 8-10

[Posted: Feb. 26, 2018]

Delaware River Basin Commission Announces Spring Photo Contest



The Delaware River Basin Commission Thursday announced that Martha Tully's Winter at the Stone Arch Bridge was chosen as the winner of the commission's Winter 2018 Photo Contest.

Twenty-three photographs were submitted by 14 individuals for the contest.

"The Stone Arch Bridge (near Narrowsburg, N.Y.) is a little gem hidden away and is one of my favorite places to visit at any time of the year," said Martha Tully of Glen Spey, N.Y. "It is a truly beautiful place and you may even spot an eagle or two down at the beach."

The winning image was chosen by a judging panel of six DRBC staff members and will be featured on the commission's website and on DRBC's Twitter and Flickr social media sites. The photo will also be published in the commission's 2018 annual report, and the winner will

receive a certificate of recognition.

"Each photograph submitted to DRBC's Winter Photo Contest showed that even when the leaves are down, the water resources of the Delaware River Basin continue to frame the beauty, power, and tranquility of the season," said DRBC Executive Director Steve Tambini. "We thank everyone who entered the contest. While there were many exceptional entries to choose from, Martha's photo stood out to the judging committee, capturing many beautiful elements of water and winter on the Ten Mile River, a Delaware River tributary."

The purpose of DRBC's seasonal photo contest is to highlight amateur and professional photography representing the beauty, diversity, function, and significance of the water resources of the Delaware River Basin, a 13,539 square mile watershed.

In legislation signed into law in December 2016, the U.S. Congress declared that "the Delaware River Basin is a national treasure of great cultural, environmental, ecological, and economic importance."

Approximately 15 million people (or about five percent of the nation's population) rely on the water resources of the Delaware River Basin to support a variety of significant uses including public drinking water, industry, agriculture, power generation, recreation, fisheries, and aquatic life.

Spring Photo Contest

The Spring Photo Contest will begin on March 20 and has a deadline of May 1. Complete contest details, including instructions on how to submit photographs.

For more information on programs, initiatives and upcoming events are available by visiting the Delaware River Basin Commission website. Follow DRBC on Twitter.

NewsClip:

Delaware RiverKeeper March 2 RiverWatch Video Report

[Posted: March 1, 2018]

EPA Exhibit At Philadelphia Flower Show Highlights Healthy Headwaters

This year's Philadelphia Flower Show showcases the Wonders of Water and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's exhibit is no exception on healthy headwaters.

By demonstrating the connection between headwater streams and wetlands, and the vital role they play in the overall health of downstream waters, the exhibit highlights the connection between healthy watersheds and healthy drinking water sources and shows how the integrity of our drinking water supply begins far away from the kitchen faucet.

"The beauty of the native plants displayed in the exhibit's headwater stream and bog wetland areas highlight the need to protect and enhance these aquatic resources," said EPA Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio. "Conserving and enhancing these aquatic ecosystems in our gardens promotes clean and healthy water, while serving as a sustainable landscaping practice in our own backyards."

The exhibit illustrates how clean drinking water begins at the very tops of watersheds in small streams and wetlands which capture and transport water through our environment to larger downstream resources; ultimately being withdrawn for drinking water.

Two-thirds of our drinking water comes from these downstream surface waters (rivers and streams) like the Delaware River, which supplies drinking water to the city of Philadelphia.

EPA's exhibit begins with a small headwater stream shaded with beautiful native trees

such as magnolia, fringe tree, flowering dogwood, and the sweet fragrance of azaleas. The exhibit also includes a bog that is teaming with wild and unique botanical beauty such as the carnivorous pitcher plant, exquisite swamp pinks, and magical fairy wands.

The native plants displayed in the exhibit will show how they grow in the wild and how to incorporate them in home gardens. The environmental benefits of these native plants include providing buffers for aquatic resources that help naturally manage stormwater, which can directly improve or maintain healthy water quality.

Exhibit volunteers will engage with the public on the connection between healthy aquatic resources and drinking water, as well as provide visitors with information on the benefits of using native plants, sustainable landscaping, and stormwater management practices to instill positive ways of protecting our water.

The objective of EPA's exhibit is to foster the continued appreciation of the multi-faceted benefits of these aquatic resources to help ensure the Wonders of Water for generations to come. EPA websites also include information on promoting healthy water through sustainable landscaping, and how to get started.

Photographs of sustainable landscaping practices used in residential settings are featured on the EPA Region webpage.

EPA's flower show team, along with all the other exhibitors, are setting up the exhibit at the Philadelphia Convention Center this week. The Philadelphia Flower Show opens to the public, on March 3, and will run through March 11.

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Philadelphia Flower Show Taking Deep Dive Into Water
DEP Blog: Energy Literacy Workshops Help Create A Smart Energy Future For PA
Carnegie Science Center's New Clubhouse Lets Young Scientists Play, Learn
Nature Programs And Hikes This March In Central PA

[Posted: Feb. 27, 2018]

Albert M. Greenfield School, Philadelphia, Named KAB Recycle-Bowl State School Division Winners



Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Thursday congratulated Albert M. Greenfield School in Philadelphia for being named State School Division Champion of the 2017 Recycle-Bowl by collecting 11,536 pounds of recyclables generated at the school, during this national competition.

"Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful congratulates the students and faculty of Albert M. Greenfield School for their recycling efforts. The Recycle-Bowl competition provides a means to introduce or expand recycling programs within our schools and encourages students to recycle right 365 days a year whether they are at school, home or out in their communities," said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "We are grateful to Keep America Beautiful for providing this resource to our local schools."

The Albert M. Greenfield School was also designed a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School in 2013. Click Here to watch a video of their greening efforts.

The 2017 Recycle-Bowl competition included 1,000 schools spanning 42 states and the District of Columbia. More than 550,000 students and teachers participated, striving to recycle as much as possible.

Recyclables recovered during the 2017 competition totaled 2 million pounds, which prevented the release of 2,800 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO2E). This reduction in greenhouse gases is equivalent to the annual emissions from 600 passenger cars.

The list of the 2017 Recycle-Bowl division and statewide winners are on the Recycle-Bowl website, as well as descriptions of the national competition categories.

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful website. Click Here to become a member. Click Here to sign up for regular updates from KPB, Like them on Facebook, Follow on Twitter, Discover them on Pinterest and visit their YouTube Channel.

Also visit the Illegal Dump Free PA website for more ideas on how to clean up communities and keep them clean and KPB's Electronics Waste website.

Sign up now for the 2018 Great American Cleanup of PA and set up your own cleanup and beautification event from March 1 to May 31.

*(**Photo:** Rain Garden, part of greening initiative at Albert M. Greenfield School.)*

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DEP Blog: Energy Literacy Workshops Help Create A Smart Energy Future For PA
Apply Now! Wildlife Leadership Academy Youth Conservation Ambassador Program

[Posted: March 1, 2018]

Penn State, CBF-PA Partnered To Provide Workshops For 170 Agriculture Teachers



Furthering agriculture teachers' knowledge about the value of hands-on watershed education was the focus of recent workshops hosted by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation-PA in partnership with Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences' Center for Professional Development, a program housed within the Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education.

Approximately 170 high school agriculture teachers from across the state attended the workshops, held the first three Saturdays in February in Harrisburg. The curriculum focused on Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences — investigative or experimental projects that educate students about the bay watershed.

Participants learned about Pennsylvania's relationship to the bay; the state's progress and

challenges in reducing pollution; and how agricultural education connects to and can include environmental education with field-based learning, student action and stewardship.

Kevin Curry, assistant professor of agricultural and extension education, noted that the workshops expanded the relevancy and contextual application of agriculture curriculum with STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) concepts.

"This type of teaching and learning is not new to agriculture teachers, but an intentional focus on watershed education engages future agriculturists with critical experiences to help foster positive environmental stewardship," he said.

Amy Green, director of teacher professional learning at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, said the organization was excited for the opportunity to share information and resources with the teachers, to support and enhance their approaches to teaching about sustainability and the impact of agriculture on water quality, particularly in their local communities.

"We also wanted to show them how the Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences model — which we often refer to as the MWEE model — can help advance environmental literacy and stewardship through field-based learning, in the context of agricultural sciences," she said.

The foundation and the Center for Professional Development collaborations on the workshops will have long-term benefits to both organizations and for the teachers attending, said John Ewing, associate professor of agricultural and extension education.

"The partnership enables Pennsylvania's agricultural education teachers to obtain the most current knowledge and skills related to protecting our water," he said. "We enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate, and believe the participants, and their students, will benefit from the resources shared. It's a natural partnership that's a win-win for all."

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Apply Now! Wildlife Leadership Academy Youth Conservation Ambassador Program

(Reprinted from Penn State News.)
[Posted: March 2, 2018]

Register Now: PA Environmental Educators Conference March 12-13 In State College



There is still time to register for the PA Association of Environmental Educators 2018 Conference to be held on March 12-13 in State College.

In addition, there will be a Pre-Conference Workshop -

Getting Little Feet Wet on March 11.

The theme of the Conference – Growing from Our Roots – explores how programs can include local lore and native cultures to increase people's attachment to the environment in their community.

Keynote speakers include Tchin, a national know artist and educator of Indian arts and culture; Cindy Adams Dunn, Secretary of DCNR; and Patrick McDonnell, Secretary of DEP.

For more information on programs, initiatives, resources and other upcoming events, visit the PA Association of Environmental Educators website. Click Here to sign up for the PAEE newsletter (bottom of page, left). Click Here to become a member. Click Here to support PAEE's work.

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[Posted: March 1, 2018]

Registration Now Open For GASP Air Adventures Summer Camp June 18-22 In Pittsburgh



The Group Against Smog And Pollution is now accepting registration for the Air Adventures Summer Camp for students age 9 to 11.

This June the Air Adventures STEAM-based camp will allow campers aged 9-11 to use their creative and logical sides as they learn about the history, health effects, and future of air pollution in our region.

The Camp includes field trips, use of the latest air quality tech, and guest speakers from a variety of professional backgrounds. To keep things fun and exciting, GASP teamed up with City of Play, to design activities specifically for this camp.

By the end of the week, campers will have completed various stewardship projects so they'll leave camp knowing that they've already done something to improve the air around them.

The Camp has 20 open spots, ensuring a high teacher-to-student ratio that will give your child a chance to thrive.

The Camp will be held at Environmental Charter School, 829 Milton Street in Pittsburgh

from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The $150 fee includes all camp activities and field trips. Scholarships are available to those in need of financial assistance.

Click Here for all the details.

For more information for programs, initiatives and other upcoming events, visit the Group Against Smog And Pollution website.

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[Posted: March 1, 2018]

DEP Blog: Energy Literacy Workshops Help Create A Smart Energy Future For PA

By: Heather Cowley, DEP Southeast Regional Office Energy Manager, Office of Pollution Prevention and Energy Assistance



Ah, middle school. A time not exactly known or remembered for its energy education. If I think back really hard, I recall learning the basics—potential energy versus kinetic, how energy is extracted and a little bit about generating electricity.

I certainly don't remember learning anything that would become applicable to my adult life, such as the difference between a furnace and an HVAC system, which is important if you own a home!

I'm not saying my middle school science education was subpar, it's just that no one was really talking about energy the way we do now. Students today are learning more than I ever did about sustainability, climate change, and being more energy efficient.

One of my favorite parts of my job in DEP's Office of Pollution Prevention and Energy Assistance (OPPEA) is working to help educate the public, local governments, schools, commercial businesses and more on real world energy topics.

OPPEA is working hard to improve the energy literacy of all Pennsylvanians.

For example, how many people are under the misperception that if you want to be warmer or cooler that you just turn the thermostat up really high or down really low? Heating systems are not like a gas pedal on the car - energy doesn't work that way!

Over the next few months, DEP will be providing six free workshops for teachers across the Commonwealth so that our children can learn the right way to manage their energy. By increasing students' energy literacy, we create smarter energy users for the future.

At these workshops, teachers will be led through the energy pathway of the Eco-Schools USA program. The Eco-Schools program provides a clear framework, including 12 health and environmental pathways and a recognition opportunity.

These free workshops provide teachers tools, tips, and techniques to assist students in understanding energy efficiency, alternative energy, and fuels, and how to work with students to do an energy audit at school.

Workshop participants will learn about and explore energy conservation, efficiency, energy basics, student energy teams, and benchmarking the school building using the free Energy Star Portfolio Manager program through presentations, tours, and hands-on activities.

If you are or know a teacher who is looking to create energy literate students, or a school that has a green or eco-team ready to tackle a school's (or community's or home's) energy use, let them know about our workshop!

Let's help make middle school a time remembered for its awesome energy and environmental education programs!

For registration and more information on the workshops, visit DEP's Ticketleap webpage.

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Apply Now! Wildlife Leadership Academy Youth Conservation Ambassador Program

(Reprinted from DEP's Blog.)
[Posted: March 1, 2018]

Apply Now! Wildlife Leadership Academy Youth Conservation Ambassador Program



The Wildlife Leadership Academy in Union County is seeking referrals of motivated students ages 14 to 17 to become Certified Conservation Ambassadors. The last call for nominations are being accepted online through March 5.

Letters will be sent to nominated students, with an invitation to apply to the 2018

program. The deadline for students to apply to the program is March 15th.

Nominated students should have demonstrated interest in wildlife and/or fisheries conservation. Accepted nominees will become certified Conservation Ambassadors through attending a 5-day residential summer field schools which focuses on a particular wildlife species, including white-tailed deer, bass, brook trout, ruffed grouse, and/or turkey.

Students in each field school will gain extensive knowledge about natural resource conservation, leadership experience, and communication skills.

Applicants may be nominated by an adult who knows them well but is not a relative (teacher, school counselor, Envirothon advisor, employer, youth group leader, etc.).

As Conservation Ambassadors, students can receive a letter of a recommendation for college applications; certification of community service work, and a certificate designating them as Conservation Ambassadors.

Students are also eligible to apply for three college credits through Cedar Crest College, return to the Academy tuition free the following year, compete for college scholarships, and join an Academy Alumni Network of 100+ wildlife, fisheries, and conservation professionals.

Academy Alumni and Conservation Ambassador Luke Benzinger of Westmoreland County describes his participation in the program as "life changing".

He shared, "My whole life changed since attending the Wildlife Leadership Academy where I talked to so many knowledgeable adults who wanted to spend time with other teenagers that were there with me. These adults opened my eyes to what I could do to teach everyone else in the world about the passion I have for the outdoors."

The mission of the Wildlife Leadership Academy is to engage and empower high school age youth to become Conservation Ambassadors to ensure a sustained wildlife, fisheries and natural resource legacy for future generations.

For more information, contact Program and Outreach Coordinator, Katie Cassidy by sending email to: kcassidy@wildlifeleadershipacademy.org or call 570-939-5109. You can also connect with the Academy online or Facebook.

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[Posted: March 1, 2018]

EPA Removes C&D Recycling Site In Luzerne County From Superfund List

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Tuesday removed the C&D Recycling Site in Foster Township, Luzerne County from the Superfund National Priorities List.

EPA removes sites from the list once all the remedies are successfully implemented and no further cleanup is required to protect human health or the environment.

"Superfund cleanup and safe reuse of the site continues to be a priority at EPA as we work to create a safer and healthier environment for all communities affected," said EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio. "Removing this site from the list represents an important step toward achieving this goal."

EPA did not receive any adverse comments during the 30-day public comment period on the proposal to delist.

EPA conducted oversight of the remediation work by Nassau Metals Corporation to clean up soil and sediment contamination, and has determined the site no longer poses a threat to human health or the environment.

The 110-acre site is located along Brickyard Road in Foster Township, about one mile south of Pond Creek. From 1963 until 1984, the site was used to reclaim metals, including copper and lead, from cable wires.

Cable burning and processing of materials at the site caused contamination of the surrounding soil and sediment that posed a risk to human health and the environment.

The cleanup included the stabilization and off-site disposal of contaminated soil and sediment. Approximately 80,000 tons (4,000 truckloads) of stabilized soil and sediment were removed from the site during the remediation.

Green Meadows Conservancy, placed land use restrictions on the original 46-acre tract that prohibit residential or commercial development. The Conservancy purchased the tract in 2006 as a wildlife preserve and plans to keep it in its natural state.

For more information about the site, visit EPA's C&D Recycling Site webpage.

NewsClips:

Luzerne County Site Off Superfund List

Chemical Release Sends 11 Offset Workers To Hospital In Luzerne

TCE Found In 6 Water Wells Near Rose Valley Lake In Lycoming County

[Posted: Feb. 27, 2018]

DEP Issues Permits For Construction Of Birdsboro Natural Gas Power Plant In Berks County

The Department of Environmental Protection Friday announced it has issued to Birdsboro Power LLC, DTE Midstream Appalachia, LLC, and the Reading Area Water Authority the permits necessary for the construction of a 450 megawatt natural gas fired Birdsboro Power electrical generation facility, on the site of the former Birdsboro Army Tank Foundry/Armorcast facility.

Those permits cover the construction of the main power generation facility, an electric transmission line to convey generated power, a pipeline to supply the facility with water and a pipeline to convey natural gas to the facility, which is also regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

"The permit applications for a project of this magnitude require the DEP staff and the Berks County Conservation District to dedicate a great amount of time and effort to the review process," said Joe Adams, DEP Southcentral Regional Director. "After a thorough and rigorous technical review, it has been determined that the applications meet the stringent regulatory requirements necessary to enable this project to move forward."

The permits and modification issued include:

-- Chapter 105 – Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permits: Required for proposed activities located in, along, across or projecting into a watercourse, floodway or body of water, including wetlands. For this project, the majority of the proposed activities are associated with crossings of wetlands, streams and floodways.

-- Chapter 102 – Erosion & Sediment Control General Permit (ESCGP-2): Required for earth disturbances associated with oil and gas exploration, production, processing or treatment operations or transmission facilities when earth disturbance is five acres or greater.

-- Chapter 102 – Modification to a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit (PAG-02): Required for construction-related earth disturbances of one acre or more.

-- Safe Drinking Water Permits – Required for the upgrades to the existing Reading Area Water Authority booster pumping station and construction of the transmission main to extend service to the facility.

DEP conducted a public hearing in November 2017 and considered all public comments during the review process.

DEP also issued state water quality certification to DTE for the proposed natural gas transmission pipeline as part of DTE's application to FERC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

DEP had previously issued an Air Quality Plan Approval for this facility in March 2016, and extended it in September 2017. The plan approval contains terms and conditions to ensure that the sources are constructed and operated in compliance with applicable requirements in the Air Pollution Control Act, the Federal Clean Air Act and regulations adopted under the Federal Clean Air Act.

The Berks County Conservation District had also previously issued a NPDES PAG-02 for the construction of the power plant in December 2015.

For more information, visit DEP's Southcentral Regional Office Birdsboro Power Plant webpage. Questions should be directed to John Repetz, 717-705-4904 or send email to: jrepetz@pa.gov.

NewsClip:

Berks County Natural Gas-Fired Power Plant Receives DEP Permits

[Posted: March 2, 2018]

New CNG Fueling Station On I-80 In Clarion County Will Cut Air Pollution

A compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station will help reduce air pollution from trucks traveling along Interstate 80, thanks to a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection.

The CNG Fuel LLC station in Shippenville, Clarion County, is the recipient of a $178,785 grant through the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant (AFIG) FAST Act program.

"This grant will promote more use of CNG tractor trailers along I-80, which will remove hundreds of thousands of pounds of air pollution," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell.

The project, once completed, will displace an estimated 116,650 gallons of diesel fuel per year, as more tractor trailers equipped to run on CNG will utilize the facility and travel on the I-80 corridor.

The reduction in diesel use will result in reductions of more than 86,000 pounds of

carbon dioxide and more than 322,000 pounds of nitrous oxide.

"With many of these clean fuel infrastructure projects, there is a chicken and egg problem – without the infrastructure to refuel these vehicles, will they be used?" said McDonnell. "With this project we're helping to solve that problem."

The funding is made possible through the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program in support of FAST (Fixing America's Surface Transportation) Act corridor designations in Pennsylvania.

The program provides up to a 50 percent reimbursement grant to install public re-fueling infrastructure along the highway corridors in Pennsylvania designated as alternative fuel corridors by the FAST Act as "Signage Ready" or "Signage Pending" by the Federal Highway Administration.

The designated corridors in Pennsylvania I-76, I-276, I-476, I-95, and I-80.

The next round of the AFIG Program supporting the FAST Act corridor designations is anticipated to open this spring, once additional corridors in Pennsylvania are announced by the Federal Highway Administration.

More information on AFIG programs, visit the DEP Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant webpage.

NewsClips:

Duquesne Light, Uber Team Up To Advance Electric Vehicles In Pittsburgh
Harley Buys Piece Of Electric Vehicle Company
[Posted: Feb. 27, 2018]

CFA Accepting Applications For Green Building, Renewable Energy Grants



The Commonwealth Financing Authority is now accepting applications for its High Performance Building and Renewable Energy Grant Programs throughout 2018. Here's a quick rundown on the programs--

-- Alternative & Clean Energy: funds grants and loans for construction of alternative and clean energy projects;

-- Renewable Energy-Geothermal and Wind: funds activities to assist with geothermal technologies and wind energy projects;

-- Solar Energy Program: provides financial assistance in the form of loan funds to promote the use of alternative solar energy in Pennsylvania; and

-- High Performance Building Program: funds activities to assist with the construction or renovation associated with a high performance building.

Applications for these programs are due at least 60 days prior to the scheduled meetings of the CFA board. The deadlines are: March 23, May 18, July 20 and September 15.

Applicants are strongly urged to contact their House and Senate member to make them aware you intend to submit an application for funding under theses programs.

For more information and instructions on how to apply, visit the Commonwealth Financing Authority Energy Programs webpage. Questions should be directed to 717-787-6245.

NewsClips:

Berks County Natural Gas-Fired Power Plant Receives DEP Permits
House Panel: Russia Aimed To Disrupt U.S. Energy Markets Using Social Media
Sisk: How StateImpact Reporter's Photo Wound Up In The Russia Investigation
Conneaut Twp Residents Worry About Lake Erie Power Line
Allegheny Front: Do We Even Need The EPA Clean Power Plan?
Duquesne Light, Uber Team Up To Advance Electric Vehicles In Pittsburgh
Power Line Company Sues 36 York County Landowners
Penelec Decreases Electric Rates
Muhlenberg College: Coal No Longer King In Public's Mind
PA Leads Nation In Power Grid Battery Storage
PECO CEO To Retire On March 30, Successor Named
PECO's New CEO Is A Utility Lifer With A Villanova MBA
Op-Ed: TMI Fuels Power Grid, Communities Across The Commonwealth, Rep. Mehaffie
6th Time Could Be The Charm For NJ Nuclear Power Subsidy Bill
Utilities Shaken Not Moved By Trump Energy Policies
PJM CEO Says Market Reforms Are No Bailout For Coal
PJM: Reliability Strong During January Cold Snap, But Pricing Reforms Needed
U.S. Solar Company To Lay Off Hundreds Of Workers After Trump Tariffs
U.S. Energy Industry Slams Trump's Job-Killing Steel Tariffs
[Posted: Feb. 28, 2018]

Environmental Groups Appeal DEP Agreement With Sunoco Allowing Restart Of Mariner East 2 Construction, Sue For Breach Of Contract



On Wednesday, Clean Air Council, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, and Mountain Watershed Association, Inc. filed two new lawsuits against the Department of Environmental Protection and Sunoco Pipeline L.P. for unlawful conduct related to Sunoco's Mariner East 2 pipelines.

On February 8, 2018, DEP and Sunoco entered into a Consent Order and Agreement that allowed Sunoco to resume construction activities that had been shut down by DEP on January 3, 2018 because of the mounting list of Sunoco's willful and egregious permit violations.

The Consent Order and Agreement walked back environmental protections that DEP and Sunoco had previously committed to in their August 2017 settlement with the groups, and in particular, weakened the protocols for preventing and responding to drilling fluid spills.

These spills, most frequently the result of Sunoco's poor horizontal directional drilling practices, have contaminated drinking water supplies and other natural resources across the state.

The groups appealed the February 8, 2018 Consent Order and Agreement with the Environmental Hearing Board and filed a separate breach of contract complaint in the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, including a request for an injunction.

"It is unacceptable that groups like ours had to force DEP and Sunoco to agree to these important environmental protections in the first place. To walk back legally-required protections now not only violates our agreement, it is an incredible breach of the public's trust by an agency

that is supposed to be serving them," said Joseph Otis Minott, Esq., Executive Director and Chief Counsel of Clean Air Council.

"When DEP halted construction of Mariner East 2, it seemed like they were finally listening to the concerns of impacted residents and communities. However, by allowing construction to resume and scaling back hard-fought environmental protections, DEP leaves us no other choice but to take legal action yet again to protect citizens' rights," said Melissa Marshall, an attorney with Mountain Watershed Association.

"DEP has demonstrated a tremendous bias in support of pipelines serving the fracking industry. As a result, communities are being consistently abused by the industry with the full support of the DEP. DEP entering into an agreement with Sunoco that ignores their obligations to our organizations and the communities we represent, is a sad testament to just how in bed with the industry DEP is," said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

For more information on DEP's actions, visit DEP's Mariner East II Pipeline webpage.

NewsClips:

Phillips: Environmental Groups Seek Injunction To Halt Mariner East 2 Pipeline Construction
Maykuth: Enviro Groups Sue Again To Block Mariner East 2 Pipeline
Hopey: More Lawsuits Flow Against Mariner East 2 Pipeline Construction
Environmental Groups Challenge Consent Order On Mariner East 2 Pipeline
Sunoco: Mariner East II Pipeline On Track For June Completion
House Panel: Russia Aimed To Disrupt U.S. Energy Markets Using Social Media
Sisk: How StateImpact Reporter's Photo Wound Up In The Russia Investigation
Pipeline Careers, Training Available In Northeast

Related Story:

Sunoco Mariner East II Pipeline Fined $12.6 Million, DEP Allows Construction To Resume
[Posted: Feb. 28, 2018]

DEP Invites Comments On Permits For Risberg Pipeline Project In Crawford, Erie Counties



The Department of Environmental Protection published notices inviting comments on the Section 401 Water Quality Certification and a Chapter 105 Joint Encroachments permit for the Risberg Pipeline Project in Erie County *(PA Bulletin, page 1343)*

The project involves construction a new 16.7 million 12-inch pipeline in Erie County to connect to an existing pipeline in Crawford County. The pipeline in Crawford County will also be converted to carry natural gas from Crawford through Erie and into Ohio.

The Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQ06-002) notice can be found on page 1312.

The Chapter 105 Joint Encroachments permit (E25-791) notice can be found on page 1312. For more detailed information regarding the Chapter 105 Permit related to this proposed project, which is available in the Department's regional office, contact Lori Boughton at

814-332-6879 to request a file review.

A General Permit-5 covering Erosion and Sedimentation (ESP062518001) is being required for a temporary equipment crossing of a wetland by the Crawford County Conservation District.

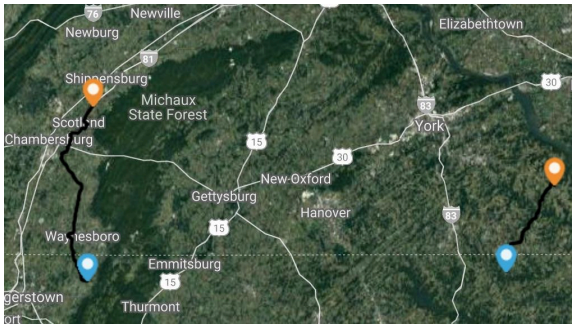
For more detailed information regarding the Erosion and Sediment Control Permit related to this proposed project, which is available in the Department's regional office, contact Lori Boughton at 814-332-6879 to request a file review.

NewsClips:

Phillips: Environmental Groups Seek Injunction To Halt Mariner East 2 Pipeline Construction
Maykuth: Enviro Groups Sue Again To Block Mariner East 2 Pipeline
Hopey: More Lawsuits Flow Against Mariner East 2 Pipeline Construction
Environmental Groups Challenge Consent Order On Mariner East 2 Pipeline
Sunoco: Mariner East II Pipeline On Track For June Completion
House Panel: Russia Aimed To Disrupt U.S. Energy Markets Using Social Media
Sisk: How StateImpact Reporter's Photo Wound Up In The Russia Investigation
Pipeline Careers, Training Available In Northeast

[Posted: March 2, 2018]

PUC: Procedures For March 13 Prehearing Conference On Proposed Transource Power Line Projects In Franklin, York Counties



The Public Utility Commission Office of Administrative Law Judge Friday issued an order detailing the procedures for a March 13 prehearing conference concerning electric transmission line applications submitted by Transource Pennsylvania LLC for power line projects in York and Franklin counties.

Numerous landowners and other concerned entities have filed comments, protests and petitions to intervene in the case.

As noted in the Prehearing Conference Order issued by Administrative Law Judges (ALJs) Elizabeth Barnes and Andrew Calvelli, the purpose of the March 13 conference is to discuss preliminary matters, including the scheduling of future public input hearings and other procedural matters.

Only attorneys and those individuals representing themselves as parties can actively participate in this conference. No testimony will be taken at this prehearing conference.

The full prehearing order is available on the PUC website.

The ALJs' order notes that there will be future opportunities for individuals to testify at public input hearings, which will be scheduled and held in York and Franklin counties.

Those hearings are expected to be held during May 2018, and will be publicized in advance, include official notices published in local newspapers two weeks prior to the hearing dates.

The prehearing conference will be held in Hearing Room 1, located in the Commonwealth Keystone Building, 400 North Street, in the PA State Capitol Complex, in

Harrisburg. The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. on March 13.

Seating capacity in the hearing room is 192, and priority will be given to parties to the case, including individuals who have filed protests or petitions to intervene in the proceedings.

If attendance exceeds the capacity of the hearing room, the presiding judges may divide the hearing into two conferences, held back-to-back – one for the York County project and another for the Franklin County project – to accommodate as many interested parties as possible.

For documents relevant to this issue, visit PUC Docket No.: A-2017-2640195 and A-2017-2640200.

NewsClip:

Power Line Company Sues 36 York County Landowners

[Posted: March 2, 2018]

PJM Report On Cold Weather Performance Shows Grid Performed Well, Need For Pricing Reform

PJM Interconnection Monday released a new report on grid performance during the winter's cold snap which shows that the grid and the generation fleet performed well during one of the coldest stretches since the 2014 Polar Vortex.

With coordination and cooperation with PJM members, the PJM grid remained reliable.

Though not as severe as the 2014 Polar Vortex, the cold snap demonstrated the robustness of the grid and the effectiveness of the changes implemented since the Polar Vortex.

Thanks to the reliable operations from PJM members and operators, the system performed well in the cold snap, evidence that the grid in the PJM region remains strong, diverse and reliable, according to the report, PJM Cold Snap Performance Dec. 28, 2017 to Jan. 7, 2018.

Between Dec. 28, 2017, and Jan. 7, 2018, PJM experienced one of its top 10 winter peak demand days. On Jan. 5, 2018, demand reached 137,522 megawatts, which is the sixth highest overall winter peak demand.

During the cold snap, the grid and the generation fleet performed well. Even during peak demand, PJM had excess reserves and capacity.

However, there was an 11-fold increase in uplift charges during the cold snap period. The report also says the spike in uplift charges during the cold snap shows the need to reform pricing for energy and reserves.

Uplift is paid to generators when locational marginal prices do not cover the costs of units needed to serve load. Over the last several years, uplift charges have been relatively low in PJM, averaging approximately $389,000 per day. By contrast, during the peak days of the cold snap, uplift charges averaged approximately $4.3 million per day.

"We must enhance market pricing so that prices accurately reflect the cost of serving load including the actions taken by dispatchers," said PJM President and CEO Andrew L. Ott. "The need for out- of-market uplift payments is a symptom that pricing for reserves and energy is incorrect.

"Uplift is not transparent, and that increases risk to suppliers and introduces a risk premium to their customers."

The report says PJM and stakeholders need to evaluate and implement reforms in a timely manner, including the manner in which reserves are procured and priced, enhancements to shortage pricing, and the calculation of locational marginal pricing.

PJM's current method of pricing energy was chosen because it was simple in both concept and implementation. There always have been circumstances under this method where prices could fail to reflect all elements relevant to sending the right market signals.

When an inflexible unit that is scheduled to serve demand is precluded from setting price, the price does not accurately reflect the true incremental cost to serve load.

According to the report, overall, there was a significant reduction of forced/unplanned generator outages compared to the winter of 2014 to 2015.

The reduction in forced outages is partially attributed to the wind chill impact being lower during the cold snap than it was in 2014 and 2015.

Despite stressed conditions and the situation not being 100 percent comparable to the Polar Vortex, forced outages, both at the plant level and in the area of gas supply, were all significantly reduced.

While the grid performed well, the report noted that there are always areas for additional improvement and indicated that fuel security and stressed operations should be areas of focus for PJM and its members.

Additional fuel security measures could include enhanced gas-electric coordination and fuel-oil supply and transportation tracking. The report also called for additional modeling and analysis of operations in extreme cold weather over an extended period.

Click Here for a copy of the report.

NewsClips:

PJM Board Sends Competing Capacity Market Reform To FERC
PJM CEO Says Market Reforms Are No Bailout For Coal
PJM: Reliability Strong During January Cold Snap, But Pricing Reforms Needed
[Posted: Feb. 26, 2018]

PA Environmental Council In Case You Missed It In February



The February issue of In Case You Missed It is now available from the PA Environmental Council featuring articles on--
-- Springtime Volunteer Cleanup Events
-- Circuit Trails Partners Reach Beyond Low-Hanging Fruit
-- PA Legacies Podcast Series: A River By Any Other Name, Building Nature-Rich Cities
-- Click Here to sign up for your own copy

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the PA Environmental Council website, visit the PEC Blog, follow PEC on Twitter or Like PEC on Facebook. Visit PEC's Audio Room for the latest podcasts.
[Posted: March 1, 2018]

A Berks County Stone Supplier Acts To Avoid Spreading Spotted Lanternfly



To mark National Invasive Species Week, the departments of Agriculture and Conservation and Natural Resources,

along with representatives of the Governor's Invasive Species Council, visited Rolling Rock Building Stone In Berks County Tuesday to demonstrate the crucial role businesses can play in stopping the spread of Spotted Lanternfly-- a destructive pest that threatens agricultural commodities and the export of all goods.

Rolling Rock Building Stone transports stone products nationwide, thus the Spotted Lanternfly threatens their ability to do business.

"Last fall, Berks County and 12 other southeastern Pennsylvania counties saw just how destructive Spotted Lanternfly could be as the pest multiplied exponentially in their yards, on trees, and on vines," said Agriculture Deputy Secretary Fred Strathmeyer. "That destructive potential is multiplied further by the ability of this invasive pest to lay eggs and hitchhike on vehicles and cargo, threatening commerce of agricultural and non-agricultural products alike.

"Businesses like Rolling Rock Building Stone are integral to helping stop the spread of this pest. By investing time and personnel to inspect vehicles and shipments for eggs and changing the way they do business to safeguard against transporting insects, businesses can do a great deal to ensure this pest does not reach further beyond those counties that are already quarantined, helping to protect commerce and our ability to access other markets," added Strathmeyer.

Spotted Lanternfly jeopardizes $18 billion worth of Pennsylvania agricultural products, such as apples, grapes and hardwoods. If the state cannot contain or eradicate the pest, it threatens exports to other states and countries that do not want the insect to cross their borders.

When this pest was discovered in South Korea-- a nation only slightly smaller than Pennsylvania-- it enveloped the entire country within three years.

In contrast, since it was first discovered in the U.S. in Berks County in 2014, it has spread only to 13 Pennsylvania counties covering approximately 3,000 square miles. Those counties have been placed under quarantine, restricting movement of materials to prevent transporting insects.

The Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Plant Industry has also engaged in extensive surveillance and eradication efforts, and it has worked with businesses and residents to ensure they are doing their part to prevent its spread.

Gov. Tom Wolf proposed nearly $1.6 million in dedicated state funding to combat the Spotted Lanternfly as part of his fiscal year 2018-19 budget plan. If approved, this funding will supplement $17.5 million in federal funding announced earlier this month by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"From the early onslaught of the gypsy moth in our oak stands, to the most recent emergence of the Spotted Lanternfly threatening our maples, invasive species have become one of the most significant threats to native ecosystems in our state parks and state forests," said DCNR District Forester Joe Frassetta. "We have established an agency-wide Invasive Species Team to meet this pervasive threat to our woods and waters, and we find desperately needed support in Gov. Wolf's declaration and support of National Invasive Species Week, and his proposed dedicated funding to combat the Spotted Lanternfly."

Gov. Wolf signed an executive order in December 2017, expanding the Governor's Invasive Species Council. The order brings new resources and expertise to bear on protecting Pennsylvania from invasive plants and insects such as the Spotted Lanternfly and Tree of Heaven, which the insect needs to complete its lifecycle.

Find out more about Spotted Lanternfly visit the Department of Agriculture website.

Here are other resources for better understanding invasive species in Pennsylvania: DCNR: Invasive Plants; Fish & Boat Commission: Aquatic Invasive Species; PA Sea Grant: Invasive Species; Invasive Species: Mammals; and other Invasive Species Resources.

NewsClips:

Spotted Lanternfly: Have You Seen This Band Bug?
Hopey: Tree Canopy Loss In Allegheny County Significant
Sauro: Ticking Away: Bites Can Lead To Lyme Disease Which Can Be Difficult To Treat
See Smoke In The Mountains In Lebanon County? Could Be Prescribed Burn

[Posted: Feb. 27, 2018]

New Book: Pennsylvania Farming: A History In Landscapes



Penn State Professor Emerita of History Dr. Sally A. McMurry in December published the first history of Pennsylvania agriculture in more than 60 years-- Pennsylvania Farming: A History In Landscapes.

The book goes beyond a strictly economic approach and considers the diverse forces that helped shape the farming landscape, from physical factors to cultural repertoires to labor systems. The people who created and worked on Pennsylvania's farms are placed at the center of attention.

Dividing the state into fifteen different regions, the author explores factors such as the cultural heritage of settlers, differences in farming practices, the advance of mechanization, and even the endurance of diversified farming, which often helped preserve traditional structures.

More than 150 photographs inform the interpretation, which offers a sweeping look at the evolution of Pennsylvania's agricultural landscapes right up to the present day.

Click Here to read the introduction to the book. Click Here for a description of the book from the University Of Pittsburgh Press. The book is also available on Amazon in hard copy and eBook form.

McMurry is the former president of the Agricultural History Society and is the author of several books on landscape and architectural history, including most recently *From Sugar Camps to Star Barns: Rural Life and Landscape* in a Western Pennsylvania Community.

*(**Photo:** Lancaster County farmland.)*

NewsClip:

Farmland Preservation Hits $1 Billion Mark In PA

Resource Link:

PHMC Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project

[Posted: Feb. 26, 2018]

Grow Pittsburgh Community Garden Sustainability Fund Now Accepting Applications For Grants



Grow Pittsburgh is now accepting applications for its

Community Garden Sustainability Fund grants. The deadline for applications is April 1.

Grants can be used for materials like compost, fencing and tools or technical assistance like consulting and educational programming.

The CGSF is a project of the Western PA Conservancy and Grow Pittsburgh that exists to provide material and technical assistance to established community food gardens in Allegheny County.

These include gardens managed by schools, community organizations, shelters, religious institutions and individuals. The Sustainability Fund supports projects that will improve or enhance gardens so that they may have a long-lasting positive impact as part of their communities.

The program has been active since 2013, having supported 80+ community gardens with over $77,000 of materials.

Click Here for all the details.

[Posted: March 2, 2018]

PA Wilds Center Awards, Conference Celebrating 15 Years Of The Wilds At Work April 26-27



The PA Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship, Inc. Wednesday announced registration is open for the 2018 PA Wilds Annual Dinner & Awards, to be held on April 26 at the Pajama Factory in Williamsport, Lycoming County.

This year also marks the launch of the new Creative Entrepreneur's Conference, taking place on April 27. These special events are the premier annual networking opportunity in the Pennsylvania Wilds.

The theme this year is "Celebrating 15 Years – The Wilds at Work," to commemorate 15 years of the Pennsylvania Wilds work, region, and mission.

Williamsport is the eastern gateway to the Pennsylvania Wilds, and the region's largest city. The Pajama Factory is a rejuvenated, historic factory complex with multiple uses, including a business incubator, space for large events, and work spaces for creative makers.

More than 250 businesses and community leaders from across the Pennsylvania Wilds, along with state partners and officials from Harrisburg, will gather for the dinner and conference to get an update on the state and local effort to grow the region's economy and recognize award winner Champions of the PA Wilds while celebrating the 15-year anniversary of the Pennsylvania Wilds.

PA Wilds Award Nominations

The 2018 PA Wilds Annual Dinner & Awards program will spotlight the Champion of the Pennsylvania Wild Awards.

The Awards are given out annually to individuals, groups, organizations, communities and businesses, that in the last year, have made significant contributions to help grow and sustainably develop the outdoor recreation economy and nature tourism in the Pennsylvania Wilds in a way that creates jobs, diversifies local economies, inspires stewardship and improves quality of life.

The region's 12 county governments, visitor bureaus and many local organizations

participate in the effort, along with the departments of Conservation & Natural Resources and Community & Economic Development.

All are encouraged to submit nominations for the PA Wilds Champion Awards; nominations are due March 23.

Dinner & Awards

The April 26 Annual Dinner & Awards will open at 3:00 p.m. with networking opportunities during a reception of the Creative Makers Exhibit, on display at Gallery Works.

Guest speakers for the dinner will include:

-- Eric Bridges, Executive Director, North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission, will share comments on the history and progress of the movement -- "The Wilds Are Working: a reflection on the PA Wilds, 15 years in the making."

-- Earl Gohl, Federal Co-Chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission, will deliver a keynote speech during the PA Wilds Annual Awards Dinner. Gohl, who was confirmed by the U.S. Senate for his role at ARC in March 2010, oversees hundreds of ARC investments in community-based projects contributing to the economic growth of the Region – including in the Pennsylvania Wilds.

Earl Gohl will be introduced by Sheri R. Collins, Deputy Secretary, Office of Technology & Innovation, Department of Community & Economic Development.

The PA Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship, Inc. received a three-year, $500,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission through the POWER Initiative to assist with nature tourism cluster development in the Pennsylvania Wilds. To date, ARC has invested $94 Million to help coal-impacted communities in 250 Appalachian counties to diversify and grow their economies.

Conference

The Creative Entrepreneurs Conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. the next day, April 27th. Guests attending both events are encouraged to spend the night in Williamsport. Group hotel rates have been negotiated.

The Creative Entrepreneur's Conference is a one-day educational conference for entrepreneurs and businesses of all sizes from the Pennsylvania Wilds. Hosted by the Wilds Cooperative and the PA Wilds Center.

The conference features guest speaker panel sessions on topic areas ranging from how to capitalize on Pennsylvania's booming outdoor recreation economy, to marketing, wholesaling, and utilizing the PA Wilds Design Guide in your business.

Attendees will also learn how to maximize membership in the Wilds Cooperative of Pennsylvania, and network with other regional creative entrepreneurs and business leaders. A luncheon keynote panel will focus on "Demystifying Entrepreneurship." Conference attendees will also receive a tour of the Pajama Factory.

Said Ta Enos, Executive Director of the PA Wilds Center, "We are really excited to celebrate 15 years of the Pennsylvania Wilds work with our partners. We have accomplished a tremendous amount together during this time, and we are primed to break new ground with growth goals spanning the next 15 years and beyond. The work has always been about unifying regional stakeholders, working together and partnership. The PA Wilds Annual Dinner & Awards gives us an opportunity to come together in one room to celebrate these achievements, be inspired for what is on the horizon, and to recognize the many diverse participants that help us lead the region's growth. We are also thrilled to host the first ever Creative Entrepreneur's

Conference; our businesses and creative makers are the backbone of our tourism economy. The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and growing in the region, impacting jobs and real economic growth in our communities. Sharing best practices, working together and learning from each other is what we do best in the Pennsylvania Wilds."

The Pennsylvania Wilds, one of the state's 11 official tourism regions, covers about a quarter of the Commonwealth and includes the counties of Warren, McKean, Potter, Tioga, Lycoming, Clinton, Cameron, Elk, Forest, Clarion, Jefferson, Clearfield and the northern part of Centre county.

The region is known for its more than 2 million acres of public land, and also boasts two National Wild & Scenic Rivers, some of the darkest skies in the country and the largest wild elk herd in the Northeast.

Visitors spend an estimated $1.7 billion in the region each year, according to the most recent statistics.

For more information, visit the 2018 PA Wilds Annual Dinner & Awards and Creative Entrepreneur's Conference webpages.

More information on initiatives, programs and resources is available at the PA Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship, Inc. website.

[Posted: Feb. 28, 2018]

DCNR Urges Caution To Prevent Wildfires



Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn Thursday called on Pennsylvania residents to exercise wildfire prevention vigilance throughout a three-month period when major fires are most likely across the state's forests and brush lands.

"Yes, we have had seemingly non-stop rains recently across much of the state, but past springs have shown it just takes a few days of sun and wind to allow brush and forest fire danger to develop quickly," Dunn said. "A mere spark by a careless person can touch off a devastating forest blaze during dry periods when conditions enable wildfires to spread quickly. Most of the reported fires year after year are linked to people; people cause 98 percent of wildfires."

DCNR statistics show nearly 85 percent of Pennsylvania's wildfires occur in March, April, and May, before the greening of state woodlands and brushy areas.

Named for rapid spread through dormant, dry vegetation, under windy conditions, wildfires often scorch 7,000 or more acres of state and private woodlands.

March marks the start of a "sometimes very dangerous three months," Dunn said. "That is why Gov. Tom Wolf this year has proclaimed March 4-10 as Wildfire Prevention Week.

In 2017, Pennsylvania experienced a relatively mild fire season, with 531 reported wildfires affecting 1,644 acres. In 2016, however, Bureau of Forestry personnel and volunteer firefighters battled more than 850 reported field, brush, and forest fires that scorched more than 12,000 acres across the state.

"When state residents and forest visitors are careless with burning trash, campfires, and

smoking, volunteer firefighters often pay the price, answering call after call in spring woodlands that are ripe for damaging, life-threatening wildfires," Dunn said. "Common sense limits the threat of wildfires."

Anglers, campers, and other state forest visitors are reminded open fires are prohibited on state forestland from March 1 to May 25, and when the fire danger is listed as high, very high, or extreme, unless authorized by district foresters.

Communities in heavily wooded areas are urged to follow wildfire prevention and suppression methods of the Pennsylvania Firewise Community Program to safeguard life and property.

DCNR's Bureau of Forestry is responsible for prevention and suppression of wildfires on the 17 million acres of state and private woodlands and brush lands. The bureau maintains a fire-detection system, and works with fire wardens and volunteer fire departments to ensure they are trained in the latest advances in fire prevention and suppression.

For more information on Wildfire Prevention Week activities, contact local district foresters; call the Bureau of Forestry at 717-787-2925; or visit DCNR's Wildfire webpage.

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

NewsClips:

See Smoke In The Mountains In Lebanon County? Could Be Prescribed Burn
Spotted Lanternfly: Have You Seen This Band Bug?
Hopey: Tree Canopy Loss In Allegheny County Significant
Sauro: Ticking Away: Bites Can Lead To Lyme Disease Which Can Be Difficult To Treat
[Posted: March 1, 2018]

Penn State Extension: PA TreeVitalize Program Update Webinar March 20



The Penn State Extension Community Forestry Management Program will host a March 20 webinar providing an update on Pennsylvania's TreeVitalize Program from Noon to 1:00.

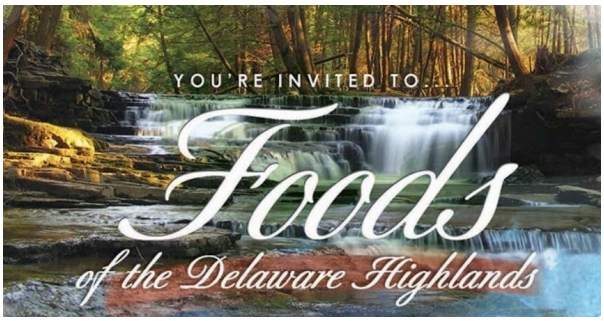
Shea Zwerver, DCNR TreeVitalize Community Engagement Coordinator, will introduce the program and the latest news of urban tree canopy restoration as well as creative ways TreeVitalize is reaching new advocates. One Continuing Education Credit for Landscape Architects; Society of American Foresters (CFEs); and PLNA Certified Horticulturist (PCH) will be offered to attendees. One CEU for International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborists will be awarded with 80 percent or higher score on webinar quiz. Certificates of attendance will be provided after the program.

Click Here to access the webinar as a guest by typing your name in the name box and click the Enter Room button. Questions should be directed to Scott Sjolander at 814-350-7749 or sas305@psu.edu.

Visit DCNR's TreeVitalize Program webpage for more information on this program,

including training and grant opportunities.
NewsClips:
[See Smoke In The Mountains In Lebanon County? Could Be Prescribed Burn]
[Spotted Lanternfly: Have You Seen This Band Bug?]
[Hopey: Tree Canopy Loss In Allegheny County Significant]
[Sauro: Ticking Away: Bites Can Lead To Lyme Disease Which Can Be Difficult To Treat]
[Posted: March 1, 2018]

Foods Of The Delaware Highlands Dinner April 28 Wayne County

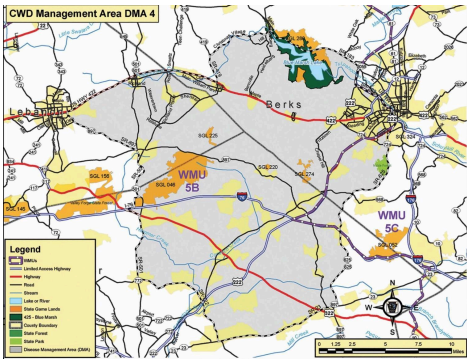


The [Delaware Highlands Conservancy] will hold its [Foods Of The Delaware Highlands Dinner] April 28 at the [Silver Birches Waterfront], 205 PA 507, Hawley, Wayne County.
The event will feature delicious farm-to-fork cuisine prepared with locally grown and produced organic ingredients, paired with appropriate fine wines.
Exciting live and silent auctions will feature private chef-prepared dinners, outdoor adventures, "glamping" experiences, and access to private clubs – a bevy of fun and exclusive activities highlighting the beauty and bounty of the Upper Delaware.

[Click Here] for more information on tickets and sponsorships.

For more information on programs, initiatives and special events, visit the [Delaware Highlands Conservancy] website or call 570-226-3164 or 845-583-1010. [Click Here] to sign up for regular updates from the Conservancy, [Like on Facebook] and [Follow on Twitter]. [Click Here] to support their work.
[Posted: Feb. 26, 2018]

Game Commission: Berks, Lancaster, Lebanon Counties In New Chronic Wasting Disease Zone



People who live and hunt deer within parts of Lancaster, Lebanon and Berks counties now need to comply with special rules intended to slow the spread of [chronic wasting disease] (CWD).
The Game Commission Wednesday established Disease Management Area 4 (DMA 4) in response to a CWD-positive deer recently detected at a captive deer farm in Lancaster County.
DMA 4 encompasses 346 square miles in northeastern Lancaster County, southeastern Lebanon County and western Berks County. The northern part of DMA 4 runs roughly between the cities of Lebanon and Reading.

The DMA includes the boroughs of Adamstown, Denver, Ephrata, Mohnton, Richland,

Womelsdorf and Wyomissing. State Game Lands 46, 220, 225, 274 and 425 are included in DMA 4.

Within DMAs, special rules apply. The intentional feeding of deer is prohibited. Hunters may not use urine-based deer attractants or possess them while afield.

And hunters who harvest deer within a DMA may not transport the carcass outside the DMA without first removing and properly disposing of all high-risk deer parts, including the head and backbone.

While the rules might pose an inconvenience, they are meant to slow the spread of CWD, which so far has been detected in only a few parts of the state.

"CWD is an increasing problem in Pennsylvania, and as the disease emerges in new areas, more Pennsylvanians are impacted," said Game Commission Executive Director Bryan Burhans. "To this point, however, CWD has been detected in captive or free-ranging deer only in a few, isolated areas of the state. That's good news for all Pennsylvanians who enjoy deer and deer hunting. And we continue to focus our resources on ways to minimize CWD's impacts statewide."

CWD, which is always fatal to deer, elk and other cervids, first was detected in Pennsylvania in 2012 at a captive deer farm in Adams County. CWD has been detected among free-ranging deer in two areas of the state.

In addition to establishing DMA 4, the Game Commission will increase its CWD sampling there.

Within DMA 4, the agency will begin testing all known road-killed deer for CWD. Come hunting season, bins for the collection of deer heads and other high-risk deer parts will be placed in areas for the public to use.

Hunters who deposit the heads of the deer they harvest in designated collection bins will be able to have their deer tested, free of charge. And DMAP permits for use within DMA 4 will be available for purchase.

Wayne Laroche, the Game Commission's special assistant for CWD response, said increased sampling within DMA 4 is necessary to find out whether CWD exists among free-ranging deer there, and adjust the response accordingly.

"We need to know the full extent of the CWD problem in any area where the disease exists," Laroche said. "We have not detected CWD among free-ranging deer in DMA 4, and maybe we won't. But if CWD is out there, we surely need to know about it to confront it head-on."

Click Here for the complete announcement.

For more information, visit the Game Commission Chronic Wasting Disease webpage.

NewsClips:

Schneck: Berks, Lancaster, Lebanon Counties In New Chronic Wasting Disease Zone
Crable: Chronic Wasting Disease Quarantine Zone Created In Berks, Lancaster, Lebanon Counties
Schneck: 4th Chronic Wasting Disease Zone Coming To PA
Schneck: Deer In Forests Travel More Than Those In Suburbia, Farmland
[Posted: Feb. 28, 2018]

Auditor General DePasquale Says Game Commission Operations Should Continue



Auditor General Eugene DePasquale Monday issued the following statement on his recently announced plans to audit the Game Commission:

"I want to make it abundantly clear that my audit of the Pennsylvania Game Commission will be conducted in a highly professional manner and as unobtrusively as possible. In all audits it is my goal to conduct our work without affecting the day-to-day operations of the agency or school district under review.

"I can assure the management of the Game Commission that my audit work will not preclude it from conducting normal operations, including construction of capital projects. For example, when my team audits PennDOT, it continues to issue driver's licenses and repair roads, and when we audit school districts, they continue to educate students."

Last week, Auditor General DePasquale announced he would begin an audit of the Game Commission, which was last audited 10 years ago. The audit is scheduled to begin Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018, is anticipated to be completed late this year.

NewsClip:
Taking Aim At The Game Commission
Related Story:
Auditor General DePasquale To Audit Game Commission
[Posted: Feb. 26, 2018]

Western PA Audubon Schedules 5 BackYard Habitat Workshops



The Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania Thursday announced it will host a series of five Backyard Habitat Workshop designed to teach residents how to transform their yards into an oasis for birds, pollinators, and wildlife.

The workshops will be held starting 10:00 a.m.--
-- **April 28:** Backyard Biodiversity
-- **May 26:** Organic Garden Solution
-- **June 23:** Flowers and Feathers – The Connection Between Plants and Birds
-- **July 28:** Gardening for Pollinators and Butterflies
-- **September 22:** Trees and Shrubs – Supporting Wildlife in Winter

All workshops will be held at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA, 15238.

The Workshops are free for ASWP members and Fox Chapel Garden Club members and $4 for non-members. Call 412-963-6100 or visit the ASWP Events Calendar to register online.. This workshop series has been generously underwritten by the Fox Chapel Garden.

For more information on programs, initiatives and other upcoming events, visit the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania website.
[Posted: March 1, 2018]

Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Updates Silhouette Trail With New Raptors

The international award-winning, ADA accessible Silhouette



Trail, which meanders through Hawk Mountain's ridge-top forest between the Trail Head and South Lookout, has undergone another display transformation.

The trail-side gallery now features 7 new raptor silhouettes, this time of a specific bird of prey.

The specially commissioned gallery features life-size, in-flight silhouettes of 7 species of endangered and Near Threatened eagles from around the world, including the Beaudouin's Snake-eagle, the Black-and-Chestnut Eagle, The Crowned Eagle, The Eastern Imperial Eagle, The Greater Spotted Eagle, the Madagascar Fish-eagle, and the Philippine Eagle.

Sixty of the world's 330 species of raptors belong to four decidedly different groups of birds of prey known as eagles.

Although many eagles are doing fine, twelve of them, including the seven species described here, are listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, or Near-threatened globally.

We display silhouettes of these endangered birds of prey on the Silhouette Trail to highlight their size and conservation status and to describe the factors that threaten them. Hawk Mountain works with conservationists globally, in an attempt to learn more about endangered raptors and how we can better protect them.

The one-of-a-kind silhouettes will remain on display through the summer, and a brochure describing the raptors and their current conservation status are available in the Visitor Center or by download from the Hawk Mountain website.

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

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

NewsClips:

Harmar Bald Eagles Have First Egg Of Season
Harmar Eagles Have Second Egg To Tend To
Schneck: Hanover Bald Eagles Have 2nd Egg In Nest
Schneck: Bald Eagles With Locked Talons Rescued From Susquehanna River

[Posted: March 1, 2018]

Michele Long Named Executive Director Of Pike County Conservation District



Michele Long has been named Executive Director of Pike County Conservation District on Wednesday. She will succeed current Executive Director Sally Corrigan, who will retire in April.

Long has been employed at PCCD for 14 years, and has represented the District locally and statewide in varying capacities.

She has worked closely with the past two PCCD Executive Directors, Corrigan and Susan Beecher, reviewing legislation and policy, developing conservation education and outreach programs, and

administering the financial and day-to-day aspects of District operations.

"Michele brings a wealth of experience and knowledge of the District's mission and services," says PCCD Board Chairman Scott Savini. "We are pleased to have her at the helm as we continue to support environmentally sound development and land use practices."

Statewide, Long volunteers on the Pennsylvania Conservation Partnership Leadership Development Committee, the PA Association for Conservation Districts Employee's Committee, and is on the National Geographic Scenic Wild Delaware River Council. She is also Chairperson of the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District.

Long was also recently accepted for a fellowship with the Environmental Leadership Program, Delaware River Watershed Network.

"I am looking forward to working with the District's talented team in this new capacity to ensure the long-term protection and sustainable use of Pike County's natural resources," says Long. "The District is fortunate to have great support from our Board of Directors and the Pike County Commissioners."

Long holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Shippensburg University. She lives in Tafton with her two children, Katie and Ben, and her husband Bill.

For more information on programs, initiatives and services, visit the Pike County Conservation District website.

Related Stories:

Discovering Your Drinking Water Program March 26 In Pike County

Pike County Workshop For Contractors: Plan Your Project Proactively March 21

[Posted: Feb. 28, 2018]

Help Wanted: Brandywine Conservancy Operations Manager

BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY

The Delaware County-based Brandywine Conservancy is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Operations Manager. Click Here for all the details.

NewsClip:

Farmland Preservation Hits $1 Billion Mark In PA

[Posted: March 1, 2018]

Public Participation Opportunities/Calendar Of Events

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

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

Note: DEP published the 2018 meeting schedules for its advisory committees and boards. Click Here for DEP Aggregate Advisory Board 2018 meeting schedule.

March 3-- Fish & Boat Commission. Sportsmen's Forum On Conserving Aquatic Resources, Creating Fishing, Boating Opportunities. Erie Sport & Travel Expo, Bayfront Convention

Center, Erie, Room 140 ABC. 10:00

March 3-- Dauphin County Master Gardeners. Stormwater Management & Native Plants. Dauphin County Agriculture & Natural Resources Center, 1451 Peters Mountain Road, Dauphin. 9:00 to 11:00.

March 3-- DCNR Bureau Of Forestry Make The Most Of Your Piece Of Nature: A Sustainable Backyard Workshop. Butler County Community College, Butler. 8:00 to 12:30.

March 3-- PA Wilds Buyer's Market. Clarion University, Clarion.

March 6-- CANCELED. DEP Storage Tank Advisory Committee meeting. Next scheduled meeting June 5. DEP Contact: Dawn Heimbach, 717-772-5556, daheimbach@pa.gov. *(formal notice)*

March 6-- Agenda Posted. DEP Board of Coal Mine Safety meeting. DEP Cambria Office, 286 Industrial Park Road, Ebensburg. 10:00. DEP Contact: Peggy Scheloske, 724-404-3143, mscheloske@pa.gov

March 6-- DEP Webinar On New Chapter 105 General Permit-5 Water Obstruction, Encroachment Form, Instructions. 1:30.

March 6-- Dept. of Labor & Industry Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council meeting. Room E-100, First Floor, Department of Labor of Industry Building, 651 Boas Street in Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Cindy Holtry, Department of Labor and Industry, 717-783-4560. *(formal notice)*

March 6-- Delaware River Basin Commission Moderated Hearing on Proposed Fracking Ban By Telephone. 1:30 to 3:30. Members of the public are encouraged to listen by calling 1-866-831-8713 and asking the operator to connect them to the DRBC call. Click Here to register to speak.

March 7-- PA Horticultural Society. The William Penn Foundation. Philadelphia Water Summit. Philadelphia Flower Show, PA Convention Center, 12th and Arch Streets. 8:30 to 5:30.

March 8-- Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearings: 1:00- Governor's Budget Secretary; 3:00- Governor's Budget Secretary Continued. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. *Click Here: Hearings are typically webcast on the Committee webpage.*

March 8-- House Appropriations Committee budget hearings: 10:00- Governor's Budget Secretary. Room 140 Main Capitol. *Click Here to watch the hearing online.*

March 8-- Agenda Posted. DEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee & Recycling Fund Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Laura Henry, 717-772-5713, lahenry@pa.gov.

-- Revisions To DEP Management of Fill Policy
-- Responsibilities of County Recycling Coordinators
-- Continued Discussion Of Act 101 Recycling Grant Programs
-- Clarification Of Priorities For Proposed Changes To Act 101 Recycling Law

March 8-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission holds a business meeting on proposed water withdrawals and other issues. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 9:00. *(formal notice) (formal notice - Agenda) Click Here for more.*

March 8-- NEW. NRCS-PA: Second Annual Western PA Regional Soil Health Conference. Atrium Banquet Facility, 1031 New Castle Rd, Prospect, Allegheny County. 9:30 - 3:00.

March 8-- PA Resources Council. Allegheny CleanWays. 2018 Wild & Scenic Film Festival. Chatham University's Eddy Theatre, Woodland Road, Pittsburgh. 6:00 p.m.

March 8-- Standup Sisters: Green Habits Program. St. Thomas More Church, 126 Fort Couch Road, Bethel Park, near Pittsburgh. 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

March 10-- Fish & Boat Commission. Sportsmen's Forum On Conserving Aquatic Resources, Creating Fishing, Boating Opportunities. Greater Philadelphia Boat Show, Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, Oaks. 10:00.

March 10-- York County Penn State Master Gardeners GardenWise Workshop. Central York Middle School, 1950 N. Hills Road, York. 7:30 to 4:00.

March 10-- Dauphin County Master Gardeners. Container Gardens. Dauphin County Agriculture & Natural Resources Center, 1451 Peters Mountain Road, Dauphin. 9:00 to 11:00.

March 10-- 2018 Schuylkill River Watershed Congress. Montgomery County Community College West Campus, Pottstown.

March 12-13-- Registration Open. PA Association of Environmental Educators. 2018 Annual Conference. State College, Centre County.

March 13-- NEW. Public Utility Commission Prehearing Conference On Proposed Transource Power Line Projects In Franklin, York Counties. Hearing Room 1, Keystone Building, 400 North Street, Harrisburg. 10:00.

March 13-- NEW. NRCS-PA: Connecting Soils And Profits: Tools For Improving Soil Health. Muncy United Methodist Church, 602 South Market Street, Muncy, Lycoming County. 8:30 - 4:00.

March 14-- DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30. DEP Contact: Diane Wilson, 717-787-3730, diawilson@pa.gov.

March 14-- Delaware River Basin Commission business meeting. Washington Crossing Historic Park Visitor Center, 1112 River Road, Washington Crossing in Bucks County starting at 1:30. *Click Here for updates on the agenda. (formal notice)*

March 14-- NEW. NRCS-PA: Connecting Soils And Profits: No-Till, Cover Crops, Soil Health Grazing & Healthy Streams. Wysox Fire Hall, 111 Lake Road, Towanda, Bradford County. 9:00 - 3:15.

March 15-- NEW. NRCS-PA: Connecting Soils And Profits: No-Till, Cover Crops, Soil Health Grazing. Pine Barn Inn, 1 Pine Barn Place, Danville, Montour County. 8:30 - 4:00.

March 15-- Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve. 18th Annual Land Ethics Symposium. Delaware Valley University, Doylestown, Bucks County.

March 16-- DEP PA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Plan Steering Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00 to Noon. Click Here to attend by WebEx. Participants will also need to call in 1-650-479-3208, PASSCODE 649 688 673.

March 17-- Fish & Boat Commission. Sportsmen's Forum On Conserving Aquatic Resources, Creating Fishing, Boating Opportunities. Lycoming College, Williamsport, Heim Building, Room G-11., 10:00.

March 17-- Dauphin County Woodland Owners Association. Backyard Forestry Seminar. Dauphin County Agricultural & Natural Resources Center, 1451 Peters Mountain Road, Dauphin. 8:30.

March 17-- Dauphin County Master Gardeners. Turf Management. Dauphin County Agriculture & Natural Resources Center, 1451 Peters Mountain Road, Dauphin. 9:00 to 11:00.

March 17-- Brodhead Watershed Association. Get Outdoors Poconos. Cherry Valley Ridge Trail Hike. Monroe County. 10:00.

March 18-- Butler County Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Waste Collection Event. 129 Ash Stop Road, Evans City, Butler County.

March 20-- CANCELED. Environmental Quality Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00. DEP Contact: Laura Edinger, Environmental Quality Board, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101, 717-772-3277, ledinger@pa.gov.

March 20-- DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. Contact: Executive Director Lee Ann Murray, 717-787-8171, leemurray@pa.gov.

March 20-- Dept. of Labor & Industry Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council meeting. Room E-100, First Floor, Department of Labor of Industry Building, 651 Boas Street in Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Cindy Holtry, Department of Labor and Industry,

717-783-4560. *(formal notice)*

March 20-- DEP Keystone Energy Education Workshop For Teachers. Tyler State Park, Newtown, Bucks County. 8:30 to 3:00. Click To Register.

March 20-- NEW. Penn State Extension Community Forestry Management Program. PA TreeVitalize Program Update Webinar. Noon to 1:00.

March 21-- DEP Keystone Energy Education Workshop For Teachers. Ridley Creek State Park, Media, Delaware County. 8:30 to 3:00. Click To Register.

March 21-- NEW. Pike County Workshop For Contractors: Plan Your Project Proactively. Pike County Training Center, 135 Pike County Blvd, Lords Valley. 8:00 to 1:00.

March 21-22-- NEW. NRCS-PA: 2018 Western PA Annual Spring Grazing Conference. 180 W. Trinity Drive, Clarion. 8:40 - 3:30.

March 22-- DEP Keystone Energy Education Workshop For Teachers. Jacobsburg Environmental Ed Center, Nazareth, Northampton County. 8:30 to 3:00. Click To Register.

March 22-- DEP Radiation Protection Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00. DEP Contact: Joseph Melnic, 717-783-9730, jmelnic@pa.gov.

March 24-- Dauphin County Master Gardeners. Attracting Bluebirds. Dauphin County Agriculture & Natural Resources Center, 1451 Peters Mountain Road, Dauphin. 9:00 to 11:00.

March 26-- DEP Public Meeting, Hearing On Rose Valley Lake TCE Contamination Site In Lycoming County. Gamble Township Community Hall, 17 Beech Valley Road, in Trout Run. Meeting- 6:00, Hearing- 7:00.

March 26-- NEW. Pike County Conservation District. Discovering Your Drinking Water Program. District Office, 556 Route 402, Hawley. 7:00 p.m.

March 27-- NEW. House Game and Fisheries Committee informational meeting on Fish and Boat Commission annual report. Room 60 East Wing. 10:00. *Click Here for more.*

March 27-- DCNR, Penn State Extension Forest Health & Disease Briefing. Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College, Centre County. 8:30 to 3:30.

March 27-30- PA Recreation & Park Society Annual Conference. Pocono Manor, Monroe County.

March 28-- NEW. House Game and Fisheries Committee informational meeting on Game Commission annual report. Room 60 East Wing. 10:00. *Click Here for more.*

March 29-- DEP Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00. DEP Contact: Dawn Hissner, 717-772-2189, dhissner@pa.gov.

April 3-- Dept. of Labor & Industry Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council meeting. Room E-100, First Floor, Department of Labor of Industry Building, 651 Boas Street in Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Cindy Holtry, Department of Labor and Industry, 717-783-4560. *(formal notice)*

April 3-6-- Carnegie Mellon University Wilton E. Scott Institute for Energy Innovation. 2018 Energy Week Program. Carnegie Mellon University.

April 3-- Northeast Recycling Council. Spring Workshop Markets Or Bust. Sheraton Baltimore Washington Airport Hotel in Maryland.

April 4-- DEP Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00. DEP Contact: Mike Maddigan, 717-772-3609, mmaddigan@pa.gov.

April 5-- PA Camber of Business & Industry Environmental Conference & Trade Show. Eden Resort Inn & Suites, Lancaster. 8:00 a.m. to 3:15.

April 7-- Penn State Extension, DCNR Woods In Your Backyard Workshop For Small Woodland Owners. Union County Government Center, 155 N. 15th Street, Lewisburg. 9:00 to 4:15.

April 10-- DEP Mine Families First Response & Communications Advisory Council meeting. DEP New Stanton Office, 131 Broadview Road, New Stanton. 10:00. DEP Contact: Peggy Scheloske, 724-404-3143, mscheloske@pa.gov.

April 10-- Center for Watershed Protection. 2018 National Watershed & Stormwater Conference. Maryland and Virginia In-person and online.

April 11-- DEP Technical Advisory Committee On Diesel Powered (Mining) Equipment. DEP New Stanton Office, 131 Broadview Road, New Stanton. 10:00. DEP Contact: Peggy Scheloski, 724-404-3143 or mscheloske@pa.gov.

April 11-- DEP State Board For Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators. 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Edgar Chescattie, 717-772-2814 or eschescattie@pa.gov.

April 12-- DEP Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee meeting. DEP Bureau of Laboratories building, 2575 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg. 9:00. DEP Contact: Aaren Alger, 717-346-7200, aaalger@pa.gov.

April 14-- PA Land Trust Association. 2018 Environmental Advisory Council Network Conference. In Conjunction with the PA Land Conservation Conference, Malvern, Chester County.

April 14-- Master Gardeners Of Lancaster County. 26th Annual Shirley R. Wagner Garden Symposium. Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster. 7:30 - 2:45.

April 17-- Environmental Quality Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00. DEP Contact: Laura Edinger, Environmental Quality Board, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101, 717-772-3277, ledinger@pa.gov.

April 17-- DEP Citizens Advisory Council meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. Contact: Executive Director Lee Ann Murray, 717-787-8171, leemurray@pa.gov.

April 17-- Dept. of Labor & Industry Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council meeting. Room E-100, First Floor, Department of Labor of Industry Building, 651 Boas Street in Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Cindy Holtry, Department of Labor and Industry, 717-783-4560. *(formal notice)*

April 17-19-- National Forum On Low-Zero Energy Buildings. Wyndam Grand Hotel, Pittsburgh.

April 20-- Berks County Conservation District. Tree Seedling Sale & Education Programs Event. Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport. 11:00 to 7:00.

April 22-- Earth Day. What Are You Doing?

April 22-- Butler County Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Waste Collection Event. 129 Ash Stop Road, Evans City, Butler County.

April 24-- DEP Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: John Krueger, 717-783-9264 or jkrueger@pa.gov.

April 24-- DEP Sewage Advisory Committee meeting. DEP Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. 10:30. DEP Contact: Janice Vollero, 717-772-5157, jvollero@pa.gov.

April 24-- Susquehanna River Basin Commission. Public Water Supply Assistance Program. Technical and Regulatory Considerations For Public Water Supply Managers and Consultants Workshop. SRBC Offices, 4423 North Front Street, Harrisburg. 8:00 to 3:00.

April 25-- DEP Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Nancy Herb, 717-783-9269 or nherb@pa.gov.

April 26-- DEP Agricultural Advisory Board meeting. DEP Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. 9:00. DEP Contact: Jay Braund, 717-772-5636, jbraund@pa.gov. *(formal notice)*

April 26-27-- NEW. PA Wilds Center Awards Dinner and Entrepreneur's Conference. Pajama Factory, Williamsport, Lycoming County.

April 28-- Stroud Water Research Center. Wildlands Conservancy. Citizen Science Volunteer Training. Emmaus, Lehigh County. 9:00 to 3:00.

April 28-- Manada Conservancy Native Plant Sale. Hummelstown Borough Park, Dauphin County. 10:00 to 3:00

April 28-- NEW. Delaware Highlands Conservancy. Foods Of The Delaware. Silver Birches Waterfront, 205 PA 507, Hawley, Wayne County.

April 28-- NEW. Audubon Society of Western PA. Backyard Habitat Biodiversity Workshop. Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh. 10:00.

May 2-4-- PA Association Of Environmental Professional. Annual Conference. State College.

May 8-- Registration Open. 2018 PA Groundwater Symposium. Ramada Inn in State College, Centre County.

May 8-- DEP Keystone Energy Education Workshop For Teachers. DEP Northwest Regional Office, Meadville, Crawford County. 8:30 to 3:00. Click To Register.

May 8-10-- PA Section American Water Works Association. 70th Annual Conference. Kalahari Resort and Convention Center at Pocono Manor, Monroe County.

May 9-- DEP Keystone Energy Education Workshop For Teachers. Westmoreland County Conservation District Office, Greensburg, Westmoreland County. 8:30 to 3:00. Click To Register.

May 17-- DEP Keystone Energy Education Workshop For Teachers. King's Gap Environmental Center, Carlisle, Cumberland County. 8:30 to 3:00. Click To Register.

May 22-23-- Choose Clean Water Coalition. 9th Annual Clean Water Conference. Lancaster Marriott.

May 26-- NEW. Audubon Society of Western PA. Backyard Habitat Organic Garden Solution Workshop. Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh. 10:00.

June 6-- DEP Storage Tank Advisory Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. DEP Contact: Dawn Heimbach, 717-772-5556, daheimbach@pa.gov. *(formal notice)*

June 12-- DEP Weathering The Storm Stormwater Education Workshop. Alumni Room of the Waldron Campus Center, Gannon University, 109 University Square, Erie. 8:30 to 3:30.

June 13-- DEP Weathering The Storm Stormwater Education Workshop. Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve, Saint Vincent College, 744 Walzer Way, Latrobe, Westmoreland County. 8:30 to 3:30.

June 20-21-- 20th Anniversary PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference. Ramada Conference Center, State College.

June 23-- NEW. Audubon Society of Western PA. Backyard Habitat Flowers And Feathers, The Connection Between Plants and Birds Workshop. Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh. 10:00.

July 25-27-- Registration Open. Professional Recyclers of PA. 28th Annual Recycling & Organics Conference. Best Western Premier Hotel, Harrisburg.

July 28-- NEW. Audubon Society of Western PA. Backyard Habitat Gardening for Pollinators and Butterflies Workshop. Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh. 10:00.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Visit DEP's Public Participation Center for public participation opportunities. Click Here to sign up for DEP News a biweekly newsletter from the Department.

Sign Up For DEP's eNotice: Did you know DEP can send you email notices of permit

applications submitted in your community? Notice of new technical guidance documents and regulations? All through its eNotice system. Click Here to sign up.

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DEP Regulatory Update - DEP webpage
August 2017 DEP Regulatory Agenda - PA Bulletin, Page 4922

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Other Proposals Recently Finalized - DEP webpage

DEP Facebook Page DEP Twitter Feed DEP YouTube Channel

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

DEP Calendar of Events DCNR Calendar of Events

Senate Committee Schedule House Committee Schedule

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

PA Environment Digest Blog Twitter Feed PaEnviroDigest Google+

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.

March 7-- PA Lake Management Society Photo Contest
March 9-- PennFuture Celebrating Women In Conservation Awards
March 9-- NOAA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education Grants
March 15-- Northeast PA Audubon Society Hog Island Family Camp, Maine Scholarship
March 15-- EPA Environmental Education Grants
March 16-- TreeVitalize Pittsburgh Free Trees For Fall Planting
March 22-- CFA Solar Energy Program Grants/Loans
March 23-- PA American Water Stream Of Learning College Scholarships
March 23-- NEW. PA Wilds Champion Of PA Wilds Awards
March 23-- NEW. CFA Alternative & Clean Energy Funding
March 23-- NEW. CFA Renewable Energy-Geothermal & Wind Funding
March 23-- NEW. CFA Solar Energy Funding
March 23-- NEW. CFA High Performance Building Funding
March 30-- President's Environmental Youth Award
March 30-- Game Commission Seedlings For Schools, Pre-K To 12
March 30-- PA Environmental Professionals Karl Mason, Walter Lyon Awards
March 30-- Delaware Highlands Conservancy College Scholarships
March 31-- DEP Municipal, Hazardous Waste Municipal Inspector Grants
April 1-- DEP Farm Conservation Plan Grant Chesapeake Bay Watershed
April 1-- NEW. Grow Pittsburgh Community Garden Sustainability Grants
April 6-- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program
April 7-- DEP Local Recycling Implementation Grants
April 11-- DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Grants
April 12-- NFWF Delaware River Restoration Fund Grants
April 13-- PA American Water Protect Our Watersheds Student Art Contest
April 15-- DCNR Environmental Careers Camp
April 27-- NRCS-PA Conservation Innovation Grants
April 30-- Northeast PA Audubon Society College Scholarship
May 1-- NEW. Delaware River Basin Commission Spring Photo Contest
May 15-- Manada Conservancy Short Story Writing Contest
May 18-- NEW. CFA Alternative & Clean Energy Funding
May 18-- NEW. CFA Renewable Energy-Geothermal & Wind Funding
May 18-- NEW. CFA Solar Energy Funding
May 18-- NEW. CFA High Performance Building Funding
May 23-- SBA Flood Assistance Clearfield, Washington, 8 Other Counties
May 31-- NEW. CFA Act 13 Watershed Restoration Grants
May 31-- NEW. CFA Act 13 Abandoned Mine Drainage Abatement, Treatment Grants
May 31-- NEW. CFA Act 13 Orphaned Or Abandoned Well Plugging Grants
May 31-- NEW. CFA Act 13 Baseline Water Quality Data Grants
May 31-- NEW. CFA Act 13 Sewage Facilities Program Grants
May 31-- NEW. CFA Act 13 Flood Mitigation Grants
May 31-- NEW. CFA Act 13 Greenways, Trails & Recreation Grants
June 30-- DEP Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebates (first come, first serve)
July 20-- NEW. CFA Alternative & Clean Energy Funding

July 20-- NEW. CFA Renewable Energy-Geothermal & Wind Funding
July 20-- NEW. CFA Solar Energy Funding
July 20-- NEW. CFA High Performance Building Funding
September 15-- NEW. CFA Alternative & Clean Energy Funding
September 15-- NEW. CFA Renewable Energy-Geothermal & Wind Funding
September 15-- NEW. CFA Solar Energy Funding
September 15-- NEW. CFA High Performance Building Funding
December 31-- DEP County Act 101 Waste Planning, HHW, Education Grants

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

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

PA Environment Digest Blog Twitter Feed PaEnviroDigest Google+

Environmental NewsClips - All Topics

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

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

Sunday NewsClips
Thompson: Cumberland County School District Seeks To Develop Farmland Protected By Conservation Easement
Op-Ed: Tap Federal AML Fund For Coal Country Land, Water Restoration, There Is No Excuse
Fish Commission: Fishing License Fee Increase Needed
Plans Debated For Forest Along The Susquehanna River
Green Building Standards Gaining Ground
Western PA Communities Prepare To Combat Litter In Great American Cleanup
Editorial: Keystone Landfill Gas Project Hits Sweet Spot
PSEG Canceling Nuclear Plant Spending Due To Stalled Bailout Bill
Despite Recent Improvements, Are Utilities Prepared For More Storms?
2013 PA Climate Impacts Report
Center for Rural PA: 71% Increase In Very Heavy Precipitation Events In Last 54 Years
AP: Storm Cuts Power To Almost 600,000, Kills 1 In PA
More Than 135,000 Electricity Customers Still Without Power In PA
Nor'easter Could Leave Some In Northeast Without Power For Days
Nor'easter Tore Through PA Suburbs, Thousands Remain Without Power
Thousands Left Without Power As Damaging Winds Caused Chaos In Lancaster County
Why The Storm Stopped SEPTA In Its Tracks
Multiple State Agencies Offer Support In Response To Nor'easter

Bus Passenger Stranded In Storm On I-80 Describes Experience
I-80 Travelers Stranded Overnight As Gov. Wolf Sends National Guard Troops To Poconos
Storm Causes Freight Train To Derail On Bridge, Plummets Into Susquehanna River
Landslide Cleared, Route 51 Ramps To West End Reopen
Water-Themed Philadelphia Flower Show Provides Escape From Winter
Webcam Helps Expose Secret Lives Of Harmar Eagles

Sunday - The Feds

WV Advances Bill Allowing Gas Drilling Where 75% Of Landowners Agree
Refinery Workers Push To Fix Broken Ethanol Mandate

Politics

AP: U.S. Supreme Court Justice Seeks Input For Monday Hearing On Stay
Wolf Moves To Dismiss Federal Lawsuit Over New Congressional Districts
Op-Ed: Supreme Court Blocking Congressional Map Is A Legal Long Shot
Editorial: Put Justices' Impeachment Idea To Rest
AP: Republicans Again Lose Bid To Get PA Supreme Court To Halt District Map
Micek: PA Supreme Court Justices Grilled On Redistricting Decision At Budget Hearing
Meyer: Republican Lawmakers Confront Justices On Redistricting At Budget Hearing
AP-Levy: Petition Day Arrives With Congressional Boundaries In Doubt
AP-Levy: Republican Congressmen Hit Ground Running In Districts They Hope To Block
AP-Levy: Impeachment Talk a Sign Of Republican's Long-Term Worry About PA Supreme Court
John Baer: The Gerrymander Mess Is Eating Your Tax Dollars $4 Million So Far

Air

Study: Pittsburgh Air Quality Remains Poor
Maykuth: Trump Tries To Broker Truce Between Oil Refiners, Ethanol Producers
Trump's Biofuel Summit With Senators Ended Without An Agreement
AP: White House Talks To Continue On Renewable Fuel Standard
Trump To Convene White House Summit In Search Of Biofuel Deal
Farm Groups Urge Trump To Keep Federal Biofuel Mandate
USDA Secretary Seeks To Calm Farmers After Trump Biofuel Talks
Trump EPA Moves To Roll Back More Clean Air, Water Rules

Alternative Fuels

Duquesne Light, Uber Team Up To Advance Electric Vehicles In Pittsburgh
Harley Buys Piece Of Electric Vehicle Company

Awards & Recognition

Column: It Takes A Team Effort To Eliminate Waste, PRC Zero Waste Awards
Pittsburgh-Based Firms Honored By State Engineering Council
Rettew Honored For Design Of $15M Lycoming County Natural Gas Terminal

Beautification

Philadelphia's Illegal Signs Initiative
Editorial: Filthadelphia No More, Everyone To Change our Dirty Reputation

Biodiversity/Invasive Species

Spotted Lanternfly: Have You Seen This Band Bug?
State Visits Berks Building Stone Company To Demonstrate Spotted Lanternfly Safeguards

Budget

DEP To Hire 33 Staff After EPA Slammed It For Escalating Drinking Water Violations
Op-Ed: Tap Federal AML Fund For Coal Country Land, Water Restoration, There Is No Excuse
You May Receive A Stormwater Bill Soon (In The Northeast)
Op-Ed: Cheap Natural Gas Will Fuel Growth In PA, Not A Severance Tax, Pam Witmer
PA Receives $55.6 Million From Feds For Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Frazier: Zinke Unveils $55 Million Toward State's Abandoned Mine Cleanup
Trump's Budget Threatens Erie Environmental Groups
Op-Ed: Trump Infrastructure Plan May Result In Biggest-Ever Gasoline Tax Hike
Under Pressure From U.S. Senate Democrats, EPA Restores Funding For Bay Journal
EPA Restores Funding To Chesapeake Bay Journal
February State Revenue 12.8% Above Estimates, But Due To $250M Tobacco Fund Loan, Non-Tax Revenue

Chesapeake Bay

You May Receive A Stormwater Bill Soon (In The Northeast)
Under Pressure From U.S. Senate Democrats, EPA Restores Funding For Bay Journal
EPA Restores Funding To Chesapeake Bay Journal
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Climate

Allegheny Front: Do We Even Need The EPA Clean Power Plan?
Sisk: Author Answers Hot-Button Questions On Fracking, Including Climate Impact
North Pole Surges Above Freezing In The Dead Of Winter Stunning Scientists
Harrisburg Area Scientist Fuels Buzz Behind News North Pole Temps Surged Past Freezing
A Federal Court Might Have Just Opened The Floodgates For Climate Litigation

Coal Mining

Muhlenberg College: Coal No Longer King In Public's Mind
Pennsylvania Coal Production Seesawing
Former Coal Towns Turn To Nature Tourism As A New Economic Driver
PJM CEO Says Market Reforms Are No Bailout For Coal
PJM: Reliability Strong During January Cold Snap, But Pricing Reforms Needed

Dams

Crumbling Marianna Dam Appears To Be Breaching In Washington County

Delaware River

Delaware RiverKeeper March 2 RiverWatch Video Report

Drinking Water

DEP To Hire 33 Staff After EPA Slammed It For Escalating Drinking Water Violations
TCE Found In 6 Water Wells Near Rose Valley Lake In Lycoming County
Springdale Twp Officials Scramble To Fix 200 Falsified Water Meter Readings

Economic Development

Former Coal Towns Turn To Nature Tourism As A New Economic Driver
Pipeline Careers, Training Available In Northeast

Education

DEP Blog: Energy Literacy Workshops Help Create A Smart Energy Future For PA
Carnegie Science Center's New Clubhouse Lets Young Scientists Play, Learn
Nature Programs And Hikes This March In Central PA
Philadelphia Flower Show Taking Deep Dive Into Water

Energy

Berks County Natural Gas-Fired Power Plant Receives DEP Permits
House Panel: Russia Aimed To Disrupt U.S. Energy Markets Using Social Media
Sisk: How StateImpact Reporter's Photo Wound Up In The Russia Investigation
Conneaut Twp Residents Worry About Lake Erie Power Line
Allegheny Front: Do We Even Need The EPA Clean Power Plan?
Duquesne Light, Uber Team Up To Advance Electric Vehicles In Pittsburgh
Power Line Company Sues 36 York County Landowners
Penelec Decreases Electric Rates
Muhlenberg College: Coal No Longer King In Public's Mind
PA Leads Nation In Power Grid Battery Storage
PECO CEO To Retire On March 30, Successor Named
PECO's New CEO Is A Utility Lifer With A Villanova MBA
Op-Ed: TMI Fuels Power Grid, Communities Across The Commonwealth, Rep. Mehaffie
6th Time Could Be The Charm For NJ Nuclear Power Subsidy Bill
Utilities Shaken Not Moved By Trump Energy Policies
PJM CEO Says Market Reforms Are No Bailout For Coal
PJM: Reliability Strong During January Cold Snap, But Pricing Reforms Needed
U.S. Solar Company To Lay Off Hundreds Of Workers After Trump Tariffs
U.S. Energy Industry Slams Trump's Job-Killing Steel Tariffs

Energy Conservation

Pittsburgh A National Leader In Passive House Movement

Farming

Farmland Preservation Hits $1 Billion Mark In PA

Flooding

AP: Wolf Activates National Guard For Eastern PA Storm
Hundreds Of Thousands Of PA Residents Remain Without Power As Storm Continues
Wind-Driven Winter Storm Knocks Out Power In PA, Closes Highways
Nor'easter Slams Northeastern Pennsylvania
High Winds, Wet Ground Expected to Wreak Havoc In Western PA
Storm Roars Into Lehigh Valley, 57,000 Without Power, Trees Down
Thousands Without Power As High Winds Whip Pittsburgh Region
Restoration Time For 6,654 Without Power In Erie Unknown
More Than 20,000 Erie County Penelec Customers Without Power
Thousands Without Power As High Winds Hit York County
Presque Isle State Park Closed Due To Snow, Downed Trees
AP: Landslide Destroys Pittsburgh House, Knocks Out Power Nearby
Kilbuck Landslide Destroys One Home, Threatens Second In Pittsburgh
Landslide In Pittsburgh's West End Could Disrupt Traffic Throughout Week
Landslide Leaves Pittsburgh Couple Homeless
Landslide Forces Closure Of Forward Avenue In Pittsburgh

Road In Allegheny County To Close Thru June To Allow For Landslide Fix
Insurance Policies Don't Cover Homes Damaged By Landslides
With More Rain Forecast, Pittsburgh Monitoring For More Landslides
Massive Mudslide Closes Road In Armstrong County
Detours Posted Around West End Route 51 Landslide
Parts Of PA Under A Flood Watch, More Rain Forecast
Pittsburgh On Brink Of February Rainfall Record
1 Year Later, Tornado Recovery Goes On At Lake Scranton

Forests

Spotted Lanternfly: Have You Seen This Band Bug?
Hopey: Tree Canopy Loss In Allegheny County Significant
Sauro: Ticking Away: Bites Can Lead To Lyme Disease Which Can Be Difficult To Treat
See Smoke In The Mountains In Lebanon County? Could Be Prescribed Burn

Green Infrastructure

You May Receive A Stormwater Bill Soon (In The Northeast)
More Municipalities Issue Stormwater Fees To Meet EPA Regulations
Pittsburgh-Based Firms Honored By State Engineering Council

Hazardous Sites Cleanup

TCE Found In 6 Water Wells Near Rose Valley Lake In Lycoming County
Luzerne County Site Off Superfund List
Chemical Release Sends 11 Offset Workers To Hospital In Luzerne

Lake Erie

Long Cold Stretch Ends, Ice Fades On Presque Isle Bay
Trump's Budget Threatens Erie Environmental Groups
Editorial: Great Lakes Deserve Better From Trump

Land Conservation

Farmland Preservation Hits $1 Billion Mark In PA

Littering/Illegal Dumping

Column: It Takes A Team Effort To Eliminate Waste, PRC Zero Waste Awards
Cleaning Vacant Lots Leads To Safer, Healthier Neighborhoods New Study Finds
Erie's Spring Cleanup Program Starts April 1
Lancaster Police Seek Suspect In Dumping Over 100 Tires
Excuse Me, I Think You Dropped This. Philly Residents Confront Litterers
A Litterer's Confession, Or The Time I Got Lowered Into A Sewer
Philadelphia's Illegal Signs Initiative
Op-Ed: Councilmembers For Dirty Districts? Philly Should Steal This Idea And Others To Stop Litter

Mine Reclamation

Op-Ed: Tap Federal AML Fund For Coal Country Land, Water Restoration, There Is No Excuse
PA Receives $55.6 Million From Feds For Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Frazier: Zinke Unveils $55 Million Toward State's Abandoned Mine Cleanup

Oil & Gas

House Panel: Russia Aimed To Disrupt U.S. Energy Markets Using Social Media
Sisk: How StateImpact Reporter's Photo Wound Up In The Russia Investigation
Op-Ed: Cheap Natural Gas Will Fuel Growth In PA, Not A Severance Tax, Pam Witmer

Cusick/Sisk: Natural Gas Royalties, Why Some Strike It Rich, Other Strike Out
Berks County Natural Gas-Fired Power Plant Receives DEP Permits
Shale Gas Output Ahead of Facilities
Sisk: Author Answers Hot-Button Questions On Fracking, Including Climate Impact
EQT Drilling Foundation Establishes New Record Of Charitable Giving In 2017
Allegheny Front: Do We Even Need The EPA Clean Power Plan?
Rettew Honored For Design Of $15M Lycoming County Natural Gas Terminal
XTO Exploded Gas Well In Ohio Still Venting, 2 Mile No Fly Zone Continues
Maykuth: Trump Tries To Broker Truce Between Oil Refiners, Ethanol Producers
Trump's Biofuel Summit With Senators Ended Without An Agreement
AP: White House Talks To Continue On Renewable Fuel Standard
Trump To Convene White House Summit In Search Of Biofuel Deal
Farm Groups Urge Trump To Keep Federal Biofuel Mandate
USDA Secretary Seeks To Calm Farmers After Trump Biofuel Talks
Editorial: Watch Out Offshore Drillers, New Jersey's No Longer A Pushover
Editorial: Get Full Value For Coastal Oil Leases
U.S. Energy Industry Slams Trump's Job-Killing Steel Tariffs

Pipelines

Phillips: Environmental Groups Seek Injunction To Halt Mariner East 2 Pipeline Construction
Maykuth: Enviro Groups Sue Again To Block Mariner East 2 Pipeline
Hopey: More Lawsuits Flow Against Mariner East 2 Pipeline Construction
Environmental Groups Challenge Consent Order On Mariner East 2 Pipeline
Sunoco: Mariner East II Pipeline On Track For June Completion
House Panel: Russia Aimed To Disrupt U.S. Energy Markets Using Social Media
Sisk: How StateImpact Reporter's Photo Wound Up In The Russia Investigation
Pipeline Careers, Training Available In Northeast

Radiation Protection

U.S. Supreme Court Ends Lawsuit Against Apollo Nuclear Fuels Plant Operator
Editorial: Lessons To Learn From Nuclear Fuels Plant Lawsuit
Op-Ed: TMI Fuels Power Grid, Communities Across The Commonwealth, Rep. Mehaffie
6th Time Could Be The Charm For NJ Nuclear Power Subsidy Bill
PJM CEO Says Market Reforms Are No Bailout For Coal
PJM: Reliability Strong During January Cold Snap, But Pricing Reforms Needed

Recreation

Sauro: Ticking Away: Bites Can Lead To Lyme Disease Which Can Be Difficult To Treat
March 2 Take Five Fridays With Pam, PA Parks & Forests Foundation
Wet Weather Spurs Request To Keep Horses Off Butler-Freeport Trail
Hopey: Historic Clarion County Baker Trail Hikes Into Court
Money Donated To Finish Bridge Along Schuylkill River Trail
Municipalities Seek Public Comment On Kingston/Forty Fort Trail
Recreation Opportunities Developing Along The Bennett Branch In Elk County
Mahanoy City Secures State Grant For Sidewalks, Signage Work Near Planned Park
Is It The End Of The Road For Manayunk Bike Race?
Op-Ed: Philly Council's Bike Lane Bill Won't Make Philly's Streets Safer
Proposed Ohiopyle Pedestrian Tunnel Draws Fire

Pittsburgh-Based Firms Honored By State Engineering Council

Recycling/Waste

Column: It Takes A Team Effort To Eliminate Waste, PRC Zero Waste Awards
Cleanways Withdraws Plan For Larger Recycling Center In Westmoreland
Intermunicipal Recycling Committee Not Happy With Tyrone's Plan
Editorial: Tyrone's Withdraw From Recycling Program A Concern
Class Action Lawsuit Filed Against Keystone Landfill
Armed With Data On Philly's Litter Problem, Mayor Prepares For Battle
Cleaning Vacant Lots Leads To Safer, Healthier Neighborhoods New Study Finds
Philly Restrictions On Collecting Garbage To Feed Pigs May Go Away
Philadelphia's Illegal Signs Initiative

Regulations

Federal Court Tosses Challenge To Trump's 2-for-1 Regulatory Order

Renewable Energy

Allegheny Front: Do We Even Need The EPA Clean Power Plan?
Pittsburgh A National Leader In Passive House Movement
PA Leads Nation In Power Grid Battery Storage
Trump Slammed By Industry For Embracing Solar Tariff Myth
U.S. Solar Company To Lay Off Hundreds Of Workers After Trump Tariffs

Stormwater

You May Receive A Stormwater Bill Soon (In The Northeast)
More Municipalities Issue Stormwater Fees To Meet EPA Regulations

Wastewater Facilities

Tyrone Consultant Says Sewage Digester Needs Support

Watershed Protection

You May Receive A Stormwater Bill Soon (In The Northeast)
More Municipalities Issue Stormwater Fees To Meet EPA Regulations
AP: Groups Fear ORSANCO Proposal May Weaken Ohio River Water Protections
Crumbling Marianna Dam Appears To Be Breaching In Washington County
Trump's Budget Threatens Erie Environmental Groups
Delaware RiverKeeper March 2 RiverWatch Video Report
Editorial: Great Lakes Deserve Better From Trump
Trump EPA Moves To Roll Back More Clean Air, Water Rules
Under Pressure From U.S. Senate Democrats, EPA Restores Funding For Bay Journal
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Wildlife

Schneck: Berks, Lancaster, Lebanon Counties In New Chronic Wasting Disease Zone
Crable: Chronic Wasting Disease Quarantine Zone Created In Berks, Lancaster, Lebanon Counties
Schneck: 4th Chronic Wasting Disease Zone Coming To PA
Schneck: Deer In Forests Travel More Than Those In Suburbia, Farmland
Taking Aim At The Game Commission

Why Are Frogs Crossing The Road? Well, Uh, The Answer Is...
Schneck: PA Trout Fishing 2018, Everything You Need To Know
State's Top Fishing Regulator to Meet With Anglers In Erie On Saturday
Schneck: 18 Signs Spring Is Arriving In Pennsylvania
Sauro: Ticking Away: Bites Can Lead To Lyme Disease Which Can Be Difficult To Treat
Frye: Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation Focus Of The Outdoors World
Harmar Bald Eagles Have First Egg Of Season
Harmar Eagles Have Second Egg To Tend To
Schneck: Hanover Bald Eagles Have 2nd Egg In Nest
Schneck: Bald Eagles With Locked Talons Rescued From Susquehanna River
Tundra Swans Are Latest Visitors To Erie Region
Crumbling Marianna Dam Appears To Be Breaching In Washington County
Outdoor Dreams Become Reality In PA For Those With Disabilities
Schneck: What Are Top Wildlife Crimes In PA?

Hurricanes

Blackout Hits Puerto Rico's Capital Areas After 2 Power Plants Shut Down
Contractors Are Leaving Puerto Rico Where Many Still Lack Power
PPL Crews Return From Mission To Restore Power In Puerto Rico
Editorial: How Hurricane Maria Is Stressing Philadelphia

Federal Policy

Op-Ed: Tap Federal AML Fund For Coal Country Land, Water Restoration, There Is No Excuse
EPA Plan To Reorganize Environmental Science Center Raises Questions
Math On Trump's Infrastructure Plan Off By 98%, UPenn Economists Say
Op-Ed: Trump Infrastructure Plan May Result In Biggest-Ever Gasoline Tax Hike
Trump's Budget Threatens Erie Environmental Groups
Editorial: Great Lakes Deserve Better From Trump
Under Pressure From U.S. Senate Democrats, EPA Restores Funding For Bay Journal
Trump EPA Moves To Roll Back More Clean Air, Water Rules
Trump Slammed By Industry For Embracing Solar Tariff Myth
Maykuth: Trump Tries To Broker Truce Between Oil Refiners, Ethanol Producers
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Utilities Shaken Not Moved By Trump Energy Policies
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PJM CEO Says Market Reforms Are No Bailout For Coal
PJM: Reliability Strong During January Cold Snap, But Pricing Reforms Needed
Editorial: Watch Out Offshore Drillers, New Jersey's No Longer A Pushover

Click Here For This Week's Allegheny Front Radio Program

Regulations, Technical Guidance & Permits

No new regulations were published this week.

The Governor's Office Regulatory Agenda was published in the March 3 PA Bulletin listing regulations in development by each agency under the Governor's jurisdiction starting on page 1368 of the Bulletin.

Pennsylvania Bulletin - March 3, 2018

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

Check the PA Environmental Council Bill Tracker for the status and updates on pending state **legislation and regulations** that affect environmental and conservation efforts in Pennsylvania.

DEP Regulations In Process
Proposed Regulations Open For Comment - DEP webpage
Submit Comments on Proposals Through DEP's eComment System
Proposed Regulations With Closed Comment Periods - DEP webpage
Recently Finalized Regulations - DEP webpage
DEP Regulatory Update - DEP webpage
March 3, 2018 DEP Regulatory Agenda - PA Bulletin, Page 1374

Technical Guidance & Permits

Note: The Department of Environmental Protection published 68 pages of public notices related to proposed and final permit and approval/ disapproval actions in the March 3 PA Bulletin - pages 1276 to 1344.

The Department of Environmental Protection published a notice of availability of the NPDES General Permit (PAG-11) for Aquatic Animal Production Facility in the March 3 PA Bulletin

DEP published notice in the March 3 PA Bulletin rescinding 3 technical guidance documents related to Small Operator Assistance Program and Remining Operator's Assistance Program

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission published notices in the March 3 PA Bulletin of projects approved and projects rescinded in December.

DEP Technical Guidance In Process
Draft Technical Guidance Documents - DEP webpage
Technical Guidance Comment Deadlines - DEP webpage
Submit Comments on Proposals Through DEP's eComment System
Recently Closed Comment Periods For Technical Guidance - DEP webpage
Technical Guidance Recently Finalized - DEP webpage
Copies of Final Technical Guidance - DEP webpage

DEP Non-Regulatory/Technical Guidance Documents Agenda (February 2018) - DEP webpage

Other DEP Proposals For Public Review
Other Proposals Open For Public Comment - DEP webpage
Submit Comments on Proposals Through DEP's eComment System
Recently Closed Comment Periods For Other Proposals - DEP webpage
Other Proposals Recently Finalized - DEP webpage

Visit DEP's Public Participation Center for public participation opportunities. Click Here to sign up for DEP News a biweekly newsletter from the Department.

DEP Facebook Page DEP Twitter Feed DEP YouTube Channel

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

DEP Calendar of Events DCNR Calendar of Events

PA Environment Digest Blog Twitter Feed PaEnviroDigest Google+

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CLICK HERE to Print The Entire PA Environment Digest. This Digest is 77 pages long.

Stories Invited

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

PA Environment Digest is edited by David E. Hess, former Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and is published as a service of Crisci Associates, a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and nonprofit organizations.

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

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

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Add PaEnviroDigest To Your Google+ Circle: Google+ now combines all the news you now get through the PA Environment Digest, Weekly, Blog and Twitter sites into one resource.

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

PA Environment - The Feds: site is intended to be a single point of reference for changing federal environmental policy and personnel that have an impact on Pennsylvania environmental issues and programs.

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

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

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