

Earth Day 2012



Career Profile

Name: Christopher J Kriley, PE
Job Title: Section Chief
Location: Southwest Regional Office
Years with DEP: 18

What kinds of activities do you perform on a daily basis?

I oversee the work of the biologists and engineers in my program. The staff is responsible for reviewing Water and Obstruction Permits (105), NPDES permits associated with construction activities (102) and dam inspections.

What kind of educational background do you have?

I have a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Penn State.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Sometimes it is hard to explain to someone who wants to impact a stream or wetland, why the resource needs to be protected. They may see the wetland area as an area too wet to mow the grass or a stream channel that splits their yard in half.

What got you interested in working in an environmental field?

I started as a dam inspector, I liked watching the dams being built and liked being in the field. I do not go in the field much now, but I still like seeing things being built, knowing that we were part of the project.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

When helping citizens with their permit applications, we get a lot of people who will only need one permit from us and never see us again. We also get permits for people who are building their new home and need a permit to build their driveway across the stream; they have no idea what is involved in getting a permit. Assisting people like that is rewarding. It is also rewarding to see a permit being issued for a complicated site which took a lot of team work by the department, the applicant and the applicant's consultant.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about a career in environmental science?

Due to the plethora of oil and gas activities' going on in the state now is a good time to begin a career in environmental science.