



Citizens Advisory Council

to the Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 8459 • Rachel Carson State Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8459 • 717-787-4527 • Fax 717-787-2878

April 8, 2013

Allegheny County
Cynthia Carrow
Nancy D. Perkins
John J. Walliser, Esquire

Bedford County
William C. Fink

Bucks County
Richard J. Manfredi

Carbon County
James J. Clauser

Crawford County
Burt A. Waite

Cumberland County
Walter N. Heine

Dauphin County
David E. Hess

Delaware County
Gail M. Conner, Esquire

Erie County
Pat Lupo, O.S.B.

Greene County
Terry L. Dayton

Lancaster County
Jolene E. Chinchilli

Lehigh County
Janet B. Keim

Pfizer County
Thaddeus K. Stevens

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Room 225, Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Corbett:

The Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is pleased to submit its *2012 Annual Report* for your information. Act 275 of 1970 established the CAC and mandated that it perform non-partisan, independent oversight of the operations, management and policies of DEP. In addition, CAC provides advice concerning environmental matters to you, DEP, the General Assembly and the Commonwealth's federal representatives.

Since June 1971, DEP and CAC have benefited from the commitment of the many citizens who have served as members. Appointments are made by your office, the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. CAC notes that in January 2013 the terms for all of the six CAC members appointed by your office have expired, and I extend an offer to assist you in locating citizens eager to serve.

CAC members are a diverse group of citizen appointees from across Pennsylvania, who spend a substantial amount of their time assisting and advising DEP. In addition to attending monthly CAC meetings and actively participating in committee-related responsibilities, many members also serve on program specific advisory committees and boards. CAC annually elects five voting members on the Environmental Quality Board and four members to the Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board.

This report gives a glimpse of CAC's extraordinary record of volunteer service. Their actions represent an increasing commitment because of the reduced level of professional staff resources available to CAC. The reduction of staff resources and the continuing pressure to reduce expenses further negatively impacts CAC and CAC's ability to meet its mandates. As a result, CAC is investigating the availability of pro bono services, and DEP has committed to including CAC in the development of CAC's budget next year.



In 2012, CAC continued to follow issues related to development of the Pennsylvania oil and gas industry, and completed review of the latest Bituminous Mine Subsidence and Land Conservation Act (Act 54) report. Section 18.1 of Act 54 requires DEP to report its findings regarding the effects of underground mining on overlying land, structures and water resources to the Governor, General Assembly and CAC at five-year intervals. The latest report, prepared by the University of Pittsburgh, addresses underground mining impacts for the period August 2003 to August 2008.

CAC provided extensive comments to DEP and the Legislature on June 13, 2012. Significant among the recommendations from CAC was the conclusion that it is time to revisit the Act. CAC continues to hear from the public regarding the issues raised in its recommendations.

These activities, in addition to many others, are summarized in the enclosed DEP CAC Annual Report. Many times the advisory role CAC fills often does not result in a written position or report, but rather brings citizen discussion and opinions to DEP staff at critical times of decision-making. Our advice frequently covers the spectrum of opinions, for CAC membership is truly diverse. What we do best is bring informed, dedicated and focused citizen participation to bear on the processes of government.

CAC continues to welcome open communication with you, the General Assembly and the citizens of the Commonwealth with regard to issues of environmental concern to Pennsylvania. CAC takes its mandate very seriously, strives to provide a collective and balanced view of the public interest and encourages the citizens of the Commonwealth to be actively engaged in the protection of their air, soil and water.

In 2013 CAC will be reaching out in new ways to you and the General Assembly and will seek out new opportunities to build a stronger working relationship with DEP. Specifically, in our 2013 Strategic Work Plan we have created a new Legislative Committee who are tasked with the responsibility of *"identifying and implementing actions to fully inform the General Assembly of Council and to build a closer working relationship with legislators with the goal of moving CAC initiatives forward."* This committee will also be interested in hearing legislators' environmental concerns and priorities.

CAC members appreciate the opportunity to serve the Commonwealth and look forward to an active and challenging year ahead.

Sincerely,



John J. Walliser
Chair
Citizens Advisory Committee

Enclosure

cc: Secretary Krancer
House of Representatives
Senate