

News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Acting Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

Feb. 6

Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m. Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Mark Brojakowski, 717-772-3429.

Feb. 10

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) workshop – Permit Compliance Session, 8:30 a.m., Best Western, The Central Hotel and Conference Center, 800 East Park Dr., Harrisburg. Contact: Joyce Rivers, 717-901-7055.

Feb. 11

DEP public hearing on the draft air quality plan and NPDES permit approvals for Tenaska's proposed natural gas fired power station in South Huntington Twp., Westmoreland County, 6 p.m., Turkeytown South Huntington Volunteer Fire Department Hall, 90 Supervisor Dr., West Newton. Contact: John Poister, 412-442-4203.

Feb. 11

State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators meeting, 10 a.m., 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Cheri Sansoni, 717-772-5158.

Feb. 12

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Workshop -- Permit Compliance Session, 8:30 a.m., The Woodlands Inn, 1073 Highway 315, Wilkes-Barre. Contact:

DEP Seeks Nominations for Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence



HARRISBURG -- DEP invites Pennsylvania individuals and organizations to apply for the 2015 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. The awards program is open to all Pennsylvania businesses, farms, government agencies, educational institutions, non-profit organizations and individuals who have created

or participated in the development of a project that promotes environmental stewardship and economic development in the state.

"We want to recognize and showcase the innovative ways these projects transformed environmental obstacles into opportunities," Quigley said. "Sharing the details of their success may spark change for other businesses and organizations struggling with the same challenges."

Eligible projects must have been completed between Aug. 1, 2013 and July 31, 2014. Projects should showcase technological advances, promote renewable energy solutions, reduce environmental threats, provide environmentally responsible economic opportunity, foster environmental education or restore watersheds.

[Read more.](#)

Acting Secretary Quigley Tours DEP Lab, Meets with Staff



DEP Chemist John Karol (left) demonstrates the filtration process used for measuring the amount of solids present in a water sample for DEP Acting Secretary John Quigley (center) and Director of Labs Martina McGarvey (right).

Joyce Rivers, 717-901-7055.

Feb. 12

Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee meeting, 9:15 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Nancy Herb, 717-783-9269.

Feb. 17

Citizens Advisory Council meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Jen Swan, 717-783-8727.

Feb. 17

DEP public hearing on an operating permit for a natural gas liquids pump station in West Cornwall Township, Lebanon County, 7 p.m., Quentin Volunteer Fire Company Hall, 20 South Lebanon St., Lebanon. Contact: Eileen Bitting, 717-705-4703.

Feb. 18

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Workshop -- Permit Compliance Session, 8:30 a.m., Holiday Inn, Morgantown/PA Turnpike, 6170 Morgantown Rd., Morgantown. Contact: Joyce Rivers, 717-901-7055.

Feb. 25

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) workshop -- Permit Compliance Session, 8:30 a.m., Pittsburgh Marriott North, 100 Cranberry Woods Dr., Cranberry Twp. Contact: Joyce Rivers, 717-901-7055.



Upcoming Webinars

March 10

DEP Webinar on Riparian Buffer Equivalency, 10 a.m. Click [here](#) to register.

March 10

DEP Webinar on Riparian Buffer Offsetting, 1 p.m. Click [here](#) to register.

March 11

DEP Webinar on Riparian Buffer Equivalency, 10 a.m. Click [here](#) to register.

March 11

DEP Webinar on Riparian Buffer Offsetting, 1 p.m.

HARRISBURG -- DEP Acting Secretary John Quigley toured the department's nationally accredited Bureau of Laboratories in Harrisburg on Jan. 28 and talked with staff about their analytical work that supports Pennsylvania's environmental programs.

Quigley toured the various sections of the lab that provide inorganic, organic, radiation and biological services, and got a look at DEP's four mobile labs that provide on-site environmental testing during environmental emergencies.

DEP's Bureau of Laboratories logs on average about 1 million tests per year. That's 4,000 tests per working day with about 50 analysts on the job. Their work is featured in one of DEP's educational videos posted on the department's [YouTube](#) channel.

DEP Denies Phase I Siting Application for Falls Township Hazardous Waste Facility

NORRISTOWN -- The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has denied Elcon Recycling Services' Phase I siting application for its proposed liquid hazardous waste treatment facility for a site in the Keystone Industrial Port Complex (KIPC) in Falls Township, Bucks County.

"After a complete review of the application and supplemental information from Elcon, and upon consideration of the public comments received, we concluded that the company has not demonstrated conformance with the exclusionary criteria for flood hazard areas," Southeast Regional Director and Siting Team Leader Cosmo Servidio said. "We therefore denied the application. Should Elcon choose to resubmit its application with additional information, the Phase I process would begin anew."

[Read more.](#)

DEP to Hold Public Hearing and Meeting to Discuss Cleanup of Berks County Battery Casing Site

HARRISBURG -- The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will hold a public meeting and hearing on Tuesday, Feb. 10, to outline its plan to clean up lead-contaminated battery casings and soil at residential properties on Noll Lane in Ruscombmanor Township, Berks County.

The 7 p.m. meeting and hearing will be at the Ruscombmanor Township Building, 204 Oak Lane, Fleetwood.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Clarifies Purpose of Public Meeting, Hearing to Discuss Proposed Wellsboro Johnston Airport Project

WILLIAMSPORT -- The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today clarified the purpose of a Feb. 25 public meeting and hearing to discuss an NPDES permit application and site-specific approval submitted by Clean Earth Inc. for the proposed Wellsboro Johnston Airport project in Tioga County.

The public meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m., followed by the public hearing at 7:30 p.m., on Wednesday, Feb. 25, at the Wellsboro Fire Department Annex, 21 East Ave., Wellsboro.

[Read more.](#)

DEP to Host Public Meeting on Keystone Landfill Permit Application to Expand

Click [here](#) to register.



Public Input

Feb. 18

Deadline to comment on the Implementation Plan for Act 162 of 2014 (DEP ID: 310-2135-001). Contact Jennifer Orr, 717-787-3411.

Feb. 18

Deadline to comment on the Management of Fill (DEP ID: 258-2182-773). Contact C. D. Vu, 717-787-7381.



Speakers Bureau



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WILKES-BARRE -- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced today it will host a public meeting regarding Keystone Sanitary Landfill's permit application to expand its facility located in Dunmore and Throop Boroughs in Lackawanna County. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 25 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Dunmore High School, 300 West Warren St., Dunmore.

Representatives from the DEP and Keystone will be available to answer questions from the public.

[Read more.](#)

DEP to Hold Public Hearing on Operating Permit for Sunoco Pump Station in Lebanon County

DEP will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, Feb. 17, to accept comments on an operating permit for a natural gas liquids pump station in West Cornwall Township, Lebanon County.

The 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. hearing will be at the Quentin Volunteer Fire Company Hall, 20 South Lebanon St., Lebanon.

[Read more.](#)

Coal Refuse Pile Fire Extinguished in Lackawanna County



It took nearly six weeks, more than a million gallons of water and 1.1 million gallons of foam to get the fire out.

ARCHBALD -- A coal refuse pile fire that began as burning garbage in a park in the Lackawanna County community of Archbald has been extinguished.

The fire was discovered in November by visitors to Ed Staback Park. The fire was too large for the local volunteer fire company to extinguish so they called DEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation for help. DEP assessed the extent of the fire to determine if it was also spreading underground.

DEP hired Leeward Construction of Honesdale, Wayne County, to dig out the area around the fire and extinguish it. The company also drilled boreholes nearly 100-feet deep and sprayed water and foam on the blaze. The fire was officially declared "extinguished" on Jan. 20.

Leeward was awarded a \$500,000 contract for the work, but total costs are still being determined. The construction company will

spend the next few weeks backfilling the area where the fire burned.

This is the second large coal refuse fire DEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation has successfully extinguished in Northeast Pennsylvania during the past year. Last winter, it took two months to put out a fire on more than 20 acres of old coal land in Simpson, Lackawanna County.

Norristown Plant Receives "Presidents Award" from the Partnership for Safe Water



NORRISTOWN -- The Norristown Water Treatment Plant in Montgomery County recently received the "Presidents Award" from the Partnership for Safe Water (PFSW), a voluntary effort to provide safe drinking water. The plant provides drinking water service to

approximately 93,000 people.

The Presidents Award recognizes achieving stringent individual filter performance goals for turbidity. Norristown is the sixth water treatment plant to receive this award from the partnership in Pennsylvania.

There are four phases for the program. The "Presidents Award" is an intermediate award between Phase III and Phase IV, the highest level of performance recognized. Only two plants in Pennsylvania have achieved Phase IV.

PFSW is made up of representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, DEP, the Pennsylvania Section American Water Works Association, and other drinking water organizations. Its goal is to implement preventative measures that are based on optimizing treatment plant performance and maximizing the protection of public health.

To date, only a few water treatment plants in the nation have received the Presidents Award from the PFSW. For more information, visit DEP's website (Keyword: "filtration").

Registration Now Open For the 2015 Great American Cleanup Of PA



Last year, volunteers collected more than 6 million pounds of trash.

HARRISBURG -- Registration is now open for the 2015 Great American Cleanup of PA that runs from March 1 to May 31. Events can be litter cleanups, illegal dump cleanups, beautification projects, special collections, and educational events and must be

registered through the Great American Cleanup of PA website to receive free cleanup supplies.

“We are so grateful to our volunteers and sponsors who help make the Great American Cleanup of PA possible.” said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep PA Beautiful. “We are hoping to get even more Pennsylvanians to make the Great American Cleanup of PA an annual event.”

“DEP is proud to sponsor this annual cleanup event that does so much good for Pennsylvania’s environment,” DEP Acting Secretary John Quigley said. “By getting involved in a local cleanup, volunteers help us protect our roadsides and waterways from pollution, and improve our quality of life.”

In 2014, more than 136,000 people participated in more than 5,000 cleanup events held around the state. They collected more than 6 million pounds of trash, cleaned 13,000 miles of roads, railroad tracks, trails, waterways, and shorelines, and 9,000 acres of park and/or wetlands.

Additionally, volunteers planted more than 31,000 trees, bulbs, and plants in an effort to keep Pennsylvania beautiful.

For more information or to register your events, visit the Great American Cleanup of PA website or contact Michelle Dunn, Great American Cleanup of PA Program Coordinator, at 1-877-772-3673 ext. 113 or send email to: mdunn@keepbeautiful.org.

