

News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Acting Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

Jan. 28

Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Susan Foster, (717) 787-7019.

Jan. 29

Chesapeake Bay Management Team meeting, 9:30 a.m., Susquehanna Conference Rooms A & B, DEP Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. Contact: Rhonda Manning, (717) 772-4472.

Feb. 5

Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB) meeting, 8:30 a.m., 16th Floor Delaware Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg. Contact: Kim Morewood, (717) 783-9731.

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

Quigley Begins Tenure as DEP Acting Secretary



DEP Acting Secretary John Quigley

HARRISBURG -- Gov. Tom Wolf's appointee as secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection John Quigley began his tenure at the agency by greeting employees at the Rachel Carson State Office Building Wednesday morning as they arrived to work in Harrisburg. Quigley was joined by Cindy Dunn, who Gov. Wolf appointed as secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Among Quigley's first steps was to a meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Council where he outlined the Wolf Administration's environmental priorities and commitment to transparency and increased public participation.

In appointing Quigley to the post, Gov. Wolf said, "Pennsylvania must take better advantage of its energy resources, such as the Marcellus Shale, to jump-start the new energy economy, energize our manufacturing sector, and modernize our infrastructure.

"The natural gas industry must be a key component of any plan for Pennsylvania's future, but we also must ensure that we take advantage of this resource in a way that benefits all Pennsylvanians, safeguards the health of our citizens, and protects our water and environment.

"John Quigley has the experience to lead the Department of Environmental Protection, and working with him, I know we can develop this industry for the future while also protecting our environment and bringing greater oversight and transparency to the process."

From 2009 to 2011, Quigley served as secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. He was instrumental in creating a national model — an advanced, collaborative,

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: 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

Environmental Quality Board (EQB) meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St. Harrisburg. Contact: Jen Swan, (717) 783-8727.

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

interagency approach to recreation, conservation, and community enhancement around specific regional landscapes. He also led the efforts that re-engineered DCNR's grant program, creating a user-friendly, efficient online system that emphasizes green practices.

Quigley also oversaw the completion of the country's first high resolution digital statewide map (PAMAP) which is being used extensively by energy companies and other businesses, public safety agencies, planners, state agencies, and by the federal government in updating statewide floodplain maps.

He is a graduate of Bloomsburg University with a degree in economics, and holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Lehigh University.

Dozens Attend DEP Open House for Tenaska's Westmoreland Power Plant



Attendees were able to ask questions of DEP staff about Tenaska's plan to construct a natural gas fired power plant in South Huntington Twp., Westmoreland Co.

PITTSBURGH -- More than 300 people attended an open house and environmental justice listening session on Jan. 21 in West Newton, Westmoreland County, to learn about a proposal by Tenaska Pennsylvania Partners, LLC, to build a natural gas fired power station in South Huntington Township.

In order to begin construction, the company must obtain an air quality plan approval and a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from DEP.

In the air quality plan approval application, Tenaska requests permission to construct and temporarily operate the gas-fired facility. The company's NPDES application requests to discharge water used to cool the power generation equipment into the Youghiogheny River.

DEP has issued draft approvals for both requests which include conditions specifying how these air emissions and waste-water discharges must be controlled.

A separate formal public hearing will be held at 6 p.m., Feb. 11, where DEP will accept testimony on the draft approvals. Those wishing to make comments should register with DEP Community Relations Coordinator John Poister either by email or phone at jpoister@pa.gov or 412-442-4203. There will also be an opportunity to register on-site on the evening of the hearing.

Those unable to attend the hearing may submit written comments to the Department of Environmental Protection, 400 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Please note on the envelope that you are commenting on the Tenaska proposals. The public comment period will close on Feb. 23.

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

Jan. 30

DEP webinar for Pennsylvania Natural Gas Energy Development Program (NGEDP) Round 3 Grantees, 10 a.m. [Click here](#) to register.



Public Input

Jan. 26

Deadline to comment on the Use of Reclamation Fill at Active Noncoal Sites (DEP ID: 563-2000-301). Contact Sharon Hill, (717) 787-6842.

Jan. 26

Deadline to comment on Developing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits for Mining Activities (DEP ID: 563-2112-115). Contact Sharon Hill, (717) 787-6842.

Feb. 2

Deadline to comment on Designation Criteria for Regulated Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) (DEP ID: 385-0820-001). Ronald Furlan, (717) 787-8184.

Feb. 18

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

Feb. 18

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



Speakers Bureau

For more information, visit www.dep.state.pa.us

DEP to Hold Public Meeting, Hearing to Discuss Proposed Wellsboro Johnston Airport Project

WILLIAMSPORT -- DEP will hold a 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 expansion project in Tioga County.

The public meeting will be held at 6 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.

"The department has received a significant number of requests for a public discussion of Clean Earth Inc.'s plans related to operations at the Wellsboro Johnston Airport, and we are pleased to provide this opportunity for local elected officials and citizens," DEP North-central Regional Director Marcus Kohl said.

DEP's Waterways and Wetlands program, along with the Tioga County Conservation District, are currently reviewing an individual NPDES permit application for stormwater discharges associated with construction activities that was submitted by Clean Earth in November 2014.

[Read more.](#)

Best of Land Recycling Contest Nominations Due Jan. 30



HARRISBURG -- DEP and the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania (ESWP) are accepting nominations for outstanding land recycling projects to be showcased at this year's Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference to be held May 13-15 at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie.

This marks the 20th anniversary of Pennsylvania's historic Land Recycling Program and Act 2. This nationally recognized program has been successful in all areas of the Commonwealth, helping to restore environmentally-challenged properties back to useful life and economic prosperity.

Nominations of unique or impactful projects that were completed as a result of Act 2 are due by Jan. 31. Submittals may be considered for verbal presentations, poster display or recognition at the conference.

The nomination form is available on [ESWP's website](#).

DEP to Conduct Webinar for Pa. Natural Gas Energy Development Program Round 3 Grantees

HARRISBURG -- DEP will hold a webinar at 10 a.m., Friday, Jan. 30, for the companies, organizations and partnerships who received Act 13 funding for the conversion of their heavy-duty fleet vehicles to natural gas.

Act 13 authorized DEP to develop and implement the Natural Gas Energy Development program, funded by impact fees paid by natural gas operators. The program helps pay for the incremental purchase and conversion costs of heavy-duty natural gas fleet



Subscribe

vehicles.

During the webinar, DEP staff will review the steps for properly executing agreements and answer any questions.

Click [here](#) to register for the webinar.

German Filmmakers Visit Pennsylvania for Mine Fire Documentary



A crew from Berlin-based Story House Productions shoot video of a coal pile fire remediation project at the Pittsburgh International Airport.

PITTSBURGH -- A crew from a Berlin-based film production company visited the coal refuse pile fire abatement project at the Pittsburgh International Airport in Allegheny County last week. They are creating a prime-time documentary for German television to be aired in mid-February.

Staff from DEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation led the filmmakers on a tour of the site, where they were able to see evidence of the pile fire and learn more about how those types of fires are extinguished.

A producer, audio engineer and photographer from Story House Productions shot video of the huge earthmovers as it pushed almost 430,000 cubic yards of earth at the airport's coal pile fire remediation project site.

DEP Educates Farm Show Attendees about Pennsylvania's Energy Resources



DEP staff talk with visitors at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

HARRISBURG -- DEP'S exhibit for the 99th annual Pennsylvania Farm Show held Jan. 10-17 in Harrisburg focused on Pennsylvania's energy resources and featured a van fueled by compressed natural gas (CNG), an electric vehicle (EV), an all-new

animated unconventional drilling video and the garage from its award-winning DEP at Home exhibit.

The exhibit included a Ford E-350 that has been converted to run on CNG. Visitors were able to “fill up” the van by using a real CNG pump. The Nissan Leaf, an all-electric car, was also on display after making its debut during last year’s farm show. Farm Show visitors were able to use the EV charger to “power” the car.

Produced by Commonwealth Media Services, DEP also featured a new animated video that explains the complex unconventional drilling process in an easy-to-understand and visual format. The video details how DEP regulates the unconventional drilling process and ensures compliance with strict environmental standards. It is the latest in DEP’s series of educational videos that are available on DEP’s YouTube page.

The DEP at Home garage included flooring made from recycled tires, a green wall covered in living plants, information about proper disposal of household hazardous waste, as well as landscaping with native plants, and tips on proper pest management. Visitors were also able to see a working radon mitigation unit, in honor of Radon Action Month, which is held every January.

DEP created the exhibit through funds provided by the U.S. Department of Energy’s State Energy Program. The video was funded by the state’s well plugging fund, financed by oil and gas permit fees and penalties.

To learn more about rebates for alternative fuel vehicles, visit www.dep.state.pa.us, Keyword: Alternative Fuels. To view the latest educational video, visit www.youtube.com/PennsylvaniaDEP.

