

# News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | Patrick McDonnell, Acting Secretary



## DEP Calendar of Events

### Dec. 6

Storage Tank Advisory Committee Meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Kris Shiffer, [kshiffer@pa.gov](mailto:kshiffer@pa.gov)

### Dec. 7

Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee meeting, 9 a.m., Bureau of Labs Building, 2575 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg. Contact: Aaren Alger, [aaalger@pa.gov](mailto:aaalger@pa.gov)

### Dec. 8

Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, 9:15 a.m. Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Nancy Herb, [nherb@pa.gov](mailto:nherb@pa.gov)

### Dec. 13

Board of Coal Mine Safety Quarterly Meeting, 10 a.m., DEP Cambria Office, 286 Industrial Park Rd., Ebensburg. Contact: Allison Gaida, [agaida@pa.gov](mailto:agaida@pa.gov)

### Dec. 14

Citizens Advisory Council / Environmental Justice Advisory Board meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Glenda Davidson, [gldavidson@pa.gov](mailto:gldavidson@pa.gov)

### Dec. 14

State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators meeting, 10 a.m., 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State

## Acting Secretary McDonnell Joins Governor Wolf, Environmental Defense Fund, Google and People's Natural Gas to Launch Methane Mapping in Pittsburgh



Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell with the Google Street View car.

PITTSBURGH -- Governor Tom Wolf today joined the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Google, People's Natural Gas and Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) to unveil their partnership to map methane leaks in Pittsburgh and highlight his administration's strategy to reduce emissions of the powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change and has been implicated in health risks.

"This partnership that will use Google's existing assets – their Street View cars - to identify hidden underground methane leaks from local natural gas systems is truly groundbreaking and so important," Governor Wolf said. "The results of this effort will help the utility and its regulators to efficiently target the largest repair needs to prevent further leaks and help us reach our goal of establishing a robust energy and protecting our public health in Pennsylvania."

EDF and Google have been working together to explore the

Office Building, 400  
Market St., Harrisburg.  
Contact: Cheri Sansoni,  
[csansoni@pa.gov](mailto:csansoni@pa.gov)

### Dec. 21

State Board for  
Certification of Sewage  
Enforcement Officers  
meeting, 10 a.m.,  
Conference Room B, 11th  
Floor, Rachel Carson  
State Office Building, 400  
Market St., Harrisburg.  
Contact: Kristen  
Szwajkowski,  
[kszwajkows@pa.gov](mailto:kszwajkows@pa.gov)



### Upcoming Webinars

### Nov. 30

PA State Clean Diesel  
Grant Program. 10:30  
a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
[Register here.](#)



### Speakers Bureau



### Public Input

### Nov. 28

Deadline to comment on  
Nutrient Credit Trading  
Program; Certification  
Request: EnergyWorks  
Group (Adams County)  
Gettysburg Energy and  
Nutrient Recovery Facility.  
Visit [eComment](#).

### Dec. 5

Deadline to comment on  
Federal Consistency  
under the Coastal Zone  
Management Act;  
Delaware River Pipeline  
Relocation Project. Visit  
[eComment](#).

### Dec. 7

Deadline to comment on  
Interim Final: Guidelines  
for Implementing Area of  
Review (AOR) Regulatory  
Requirement for  
Unconventional Wells.

Visit [eComment](#).

### Dec. 7

Deadline to comment on  
Interim Final: Policy for  
the Replacement or  
Restoration of Private  
Water Supplies Impacted  
by Unconventional  
Operations. Visit  
[eComment](#).



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potential of new technologies to measure key environmental data and make that data more widely available. The Methane Mapping project uses sensors attached to Google Street View cars to create detailed maps of places where natural gas is leaking from utility pipes under city streets.

[Read more.](#)

## DEP Finds Record Radon Level in Home, Encourages All Pennsylvania Residents to Test for This Radioactive Gas

### **RADON:** It's radioactive and it's real.

- ➔ Radon is an odorless underground radioactive gas that can enter your home through cracks in the foundation.
- ➔ Radon is a known human carcinogen and leading cause of lung cancer.
- ➔ Our state geology puts Pennsylvanians at risk of high radon levels.

**Protect yourself and your loved ones: Do a home radon test.**

DIY test kits are easy, inexpensive, and sold at hardware stores.

**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
[dep.pa.gov/radon](http://dep.pa.gov/radon)  
1-800-23RADON

WILKES-BARRE -- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has detected a new record-high level of radon and is once again encouraging state residents to test their homes for this radioactive gas, a leading cause of lung cancer.

In October, a home in southern Lehigh County showed a radon level of 6,176 picocuries per liter (pCi/L), the highest recorded in the state. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set an action level for radon concentration in homes at 4 pCi/L. Homes testing above this level should have a radon reduction system installed.

"We encourage people to buy a radon home test kit and take the steps necessary to protect themselves and their families," said DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "Fall and winter are an ideal time to test, because the gas becomes trapped inside when doors and windows are closed."

[Read more.](#)

## State DEP to Investigate PFC Contamination on Ridge Run Road, Bucks County

NORRISTOWN -- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is investigating perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) found in exceedance of the 2016 Health Advisory (HA) established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in parts of East Rockhill and West Rockhill townships, and Perkasio Borough.

DEP began its initial investigation after being notified that one public supply well was found to contain combined concentrations of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) that exceeded the HA established by EPA, and another public supply well that was found to contain combined concentrations slightly below the HA.



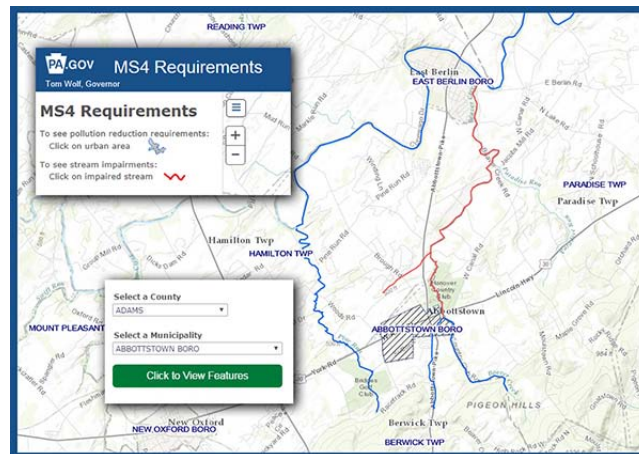
## DEP's Mission:

to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water from pollution and to provide for health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment.

Private well owners and community well owners serving highly sensitive populations, such as nursing homes and daycares, within approximately 1 mile of the impacted public wells will be contacted to schedule water sampling for PFCs. Bottled water will be immediately provided to any residence whose samples exceed the EPA's Health Advisory for these contaminants. Initial sampling results will form the foundation for further analysis of the extent of contamination in the area, potential remediation options and long-term solutions for residents. Activities pertaining to this investigation, including sampling and any necessary bottled water distribution, are fully funded by DEP's Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.

[Read more.](#)

## New Interactive Map Makes Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit Process Easier for Local Governments



HARRISBURG -- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has developed a new geospatial information system (GIS) mapping website to help local governments and other entities pursuing permits for municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) to obtain information for their permit applications more easily.

Municipalities in an urbanized area (as determined by the latest Decennial Census by the U.S. Census Bureau) must obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit coverage or a waiver for stormwater discharges from their MS4.

Small MS4s are required to develop and implement DEP-specified pollution reduction plans for most discharges to streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds that have been identified as impaired by the DEP Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report.

[Read more.](#)

## DEP Suspends Stage II Vapor Recovery Requirements for New and Modified Gasoline Dispensing Equipment

HARRISBURG -- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced that effective November 12, 2016, it will no longer enforce the Stage II vapor recovery requirement for new or modified gasoline dispensing equipment.

Stage II vapor recovery systems are required for approximately 1,600 gasoline dispensing facilities in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bucks, Butler, Chester, Delaware, Fayette, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Washington, and Westmoreland counties. However, diminishing emission reduction benefits of Stage II controls no longer justify the cost of installing these controls on new gasoline dispensers and dispenser replacements.

The Department has completed its analysis of the benefits associated with this program based on guidance issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which authorized states to remove the requirements if doing so will not interfere with attaining or maintaining ozone standards. DEP has determined that the emission reduction benefits of the program are gradually diminishing and will approach zero for all areas of the Commonwealth in 2018. Any emission increases that occur from this waiver are expected to be very minor with regard to ozone attainment in these areas.

[Read more.](#)

## **DEP Accepting Applications for Pennsylvania State Clean Diesel Grants**

HARRISBURG -- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced today that applications are now being accepted for the Pennsylvania State Clean Diesel Grant Program. More than \$500,000 will be made available to school districts, municipal authorities, political subdivisions, state agencies, nonprofit entities, corporations, and limited liability companies or partnerships incorporated or registered in Pennsylvania that operate diesel fleets.

The clean diesel program's goal is to improve air quality by decreasing emissions from diesel-powered motor vehicles. The program supports projects that re-power or retrofit fleet vehicles to curb emissions; purchase and install idle-reduction technology; or purchase clean alternative-fuel fleet vehicles.

The grant program is funded through an annual allocation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's State Clean Diesel Program. Since the program's inception in 2008, DEP has awarded more than \$1.7 million in grants.

[Read more.](#)

## **DEP to Host Public Hearing on Prompt Interim Response Actions in Montgomery County**

NORRISTOWN -- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will host a public hearing on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 regarding the prompt interim response actions taken by DEP at the Hoff VC HSCA Site (Site) in New Hanover Township, Montgomery County.

The hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Boyertown Junior High East School, located at 2020 Big Road, Gilbertsville, PA 19525. It is intended to allow residents the opportunity to comment on the prompt interim response that was initiated by DEP to address risks associated with hazardous waste from truck washing activities at 334 Layfield Road in New Hanover, PA. DEP discovered the hazardous solvent waste in a concrete pit that had not been remediated by prior owners of the property. DEP will record testimony and receive written comments throughout the hearing; DEP will also accept written comments until February 3, 2017.



Those wishing to testify in person should contact Community Relations Coordinator Virginia Cain at 484-250-5808. Written comments may be sent to Colin Wade, Project Officer at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 2 East Main Street, Norristown, PA 19401. Comments may also be emailed to [cowade@pa.gov](mailto:cowade@pa.gov), with the subject clearly stating that the email is intended for the administrative record.

To date, actions at the site include removal, offsite disposal of the waste and the in-situ treatment and/or disposal of contaminated soils adjacent to the concrete pit. DEP has determined that these actions are protective of human health and the environment, comply with Applicable, Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs), are feasible and cost-effective. Department activities are expected to be completed by January 2017.

[Read more.](#)

### **DEP to Host Public Meeting and Hearing on Shell Chemical Appalachia Petrochemicals Complex Air and Water Discharge Permit Amendments**

PITTSBURGH -- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will host a public meeting from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. followed by a public hearing from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2016 regarding both the Department's intent to issue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit amendment as well as its intent to authorize a modification to the existing Air Plan Approval for the Shell Chemical Appalachia Petrochemicals Complex located at 300 Frankfort Road in Monaca. DEP will record testimony and receive written comments throughout the hearing and will also accept written statements until December 26, 2016.

Those wishing to testify in person should contact Environmental Justice Coordinator Nora Alwine at 412-442-4137. Each individual will have up to 3 minutes to present testimony.

[Read more.](#)

### **PAEP Pollution Prevention and Energy Efficiency Roundtable**



COOPERSBURG -- The Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals (PAEP) Pollution Prevention and Energy Efficiency (P2E2) Roundtable held its quarterly meeting at the Lutron World Headquarters Experience Center, Coopersburg, Lehigh County.

Jan Warnick, NERO Regional OPPEA Manager was one of the panelists representing DEP. Lutron has been providing energy-saving light control solutions for more than fifty years and offers

solutions to reduce energy costs. In this photo, Lutron staffers demonstrate some of the energy-efficient ideas its Experience Center has to offer. The Experience Center allows visitors to see first-hand the demonstrated energy savings inherent with lighting control. Lutron offers dimmers, occupancy/vacancy sensors, light control systems, and shading solutions to reduce lighting energy use, optimize system performance, and enhance the visual environment.

Upper Saucon Township Wastewater Treatment Plant participated in the meeting and were encouraged to become energy ambassadors on their Pretreatment Information Exchange Group, a Lehigh Valley group of wastewater treatment plants that share experiences, successes and failures of pollution prevention initiatives in the industry.



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