

News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

Oct. 30

Clean Power Plan Listening Session, 9 am to noon, Gemmell Student Center Multi-Purpose Room, 2nd Floor, Clarion University, corner of Payne St. and Wilson Ave., Clarion. Contact: Jennifer Swan, 717-783-8727.

Oct. 30

LED Street Lighting Workshop for municipal officials in the FirstEnergy electric utility territories of Penelec, West Penn Power, Penn Power, and Met-Ed., 9 am to noon, Celebration Hall, 2280 Commercial Blvd., State College. Contact: Geoff Bristow, 814-332-6681.

Oct. 30

Clean Power Plan Listening Session, 2 pm to 5 pm., 7 Hiller Building Auditorium, Penn State Dubois, 1 College Place, Dubois. Contact: Jennifer Swan, 717-783-8727.

Nov. 3

Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting, 10 am to 3 pm, Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Mark Brojakowski, 717-772-3429.

Nov. 4

Clean Power Plan Listening Session, 6 pm to 9 pm, Mountain Laurel Room, Penn College, 1 College Ave., Williamsport. Contact: Jennifer Swan, 717-783-8727.

Nov. 5

Environmental Justice Advisory Board meeting,

DEP: Protecting Pennsylvania's Air, Land, Water and Public Health

By John Quigley, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Following is an op-ed by DEP Secretary John Quigley in response to a series published last week in by PennLive/The Patriot News regarding the regulation of natural gas drilling in Pennsylvania.

When Patriot-News reporters started asking for data sets and requesting interviews with staff of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), we were proud to provide information about the work of our agency. Governor Wolf prioritized transparency and integrity in my January interview for the cabinet post, and it remains a hallmark of his administration.

Unconventional natural gas development presents both challenges and opportunities for Pennsylvania. It's our challenge to ensure that industry accesses this resource in ways that protect our citizens and our environment while feeding the energy needs of citizens and business in the Commonwealth and beyond. And it's our opportunity to take full economic advantage of this immense energy resource while ensuring that the extraction and transmission of it is done responsibly.

This past week, The Patriot-News/PennLive.com published a series of stories on the issues surrounding the development of Pennsylvania's Marcellus shale deposits. It's an important subject for every Pennsylvanian to understand because the technology only came of age a decade ago and has taken off. Since 2008, Pennsylvania's natural gas production has increased dramatically, and Pennsylvania has become the second-largest supplier of natural gas in the nation.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Secretary Quigley Convenes Fourth Meeting of Governor Wolf's Pipeline Infrastructure Taskforce



8:30 am to 2:30 pm, Delaware Conference Room, 16th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Carl Jones, 484-250-5818.

Nov. 5

Certification Program Advisory Committee meeting, 9 am, Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Cheryl Sansoni, 717-772-5158.

Nov. 5

DEP Southeast Regional Roundtable meeting, 10 am.- noon, DEP Southeast Regional Office, 2 E. Main St. Norristown. Contact: Virginia Cain, 484-250-5808.

Nov. 9

LED Street Lighting Workshop for municipal officials in the FirstEnergy electric utility territories of Penelec, West Penn Power, Penn Power, and Met-Ed, 10 am- 1 pm, Cabela's Conference Center, 100 Cabela Dr., Hamburg. Contact: Geoff Bristow, 814-332-6681.

Nov. 10

Aggregate Advisory Board meeting, 10 am- noon, Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Daniel E. Snowden, D.Ed., 717-783-8846.

Nov. 17

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

Nov. 17

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

Nov. 17

DEP public hearing on the proposed interim response for a HSCA site in Warwick and Northampton townships, Bucks County, 6:30- 9:30 pm, Warwick Township Building, 1775 Township Green Rd., Jamison. Contact: Ragesh Patel, 484-250-5719.

Nov. 18

Pennsylvania Pipeline

DEP Secretary John Quigley leads a discussion during the Oct. 28 taskforce meeting.

HARRISBURG -- More than two dozen commenters participated in the fourth meeting of Governor Tom Wolf's Pipeline Infrastructure Taskforce on Oct. 28 held at DEP's South-central Regional Office in Harrisburg. The meeting, chaired by DEP Secretary John Quigley, was the most well attended meeting of the task force to date.

In addition to hearing comments from the public, members heard presentations from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Recommendations by members of the 11 workgroups are due Nov. 2. A draft report will be available for public comment on Nov. 6. The group's final report is due to Governor Tom Wolf by February 2016.

Video of the meeting is available on [here](#).

Update on DEP Investigation into Scranton Sewer Malodor Event

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP has identified the chemicals within the malodorous substance discovered in the Scranton sewer system in the vicinity of the Greenridge section of the city on the night of Sept. 24, 2015. DEP is continuing to investigate the source of the substance.

After analysis, DEP has determined that the malodorous substance is a chemical mixture of a petroleum product, similar to diesel fuel or home heating oil and a number of other chemicals, such as, terpenes and methylated cyclosiloxanes, which are not typically associated with petroleum products.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Instructs Keystone Landfill to Answer Unresolved Issues in Permit Expansion Application

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP has issued its first Environmental Assessment review letter to Keystone Sanitary Landfill in Lackawanna County regarding the facility's permit application for expansion.

The letter is the first evaluation by the department of the potential environmental harms and benefits of the proposed expansion. This standard step is to ensure that all of the information in the application is complete and relevant. The environmental assessment process is the first step in the permit application review under the municipal waste landfill regulations. DEP identified several outstanding questions in the application that must be resolved, including details on long-term plans for the facility and odor mitigation.

[Read more.](#)

Good Samaritan Cleanups of Abandoned Mines Focus of Congressional Hearing



Infrastructure Task Force meeting, 1 pm to 4 pm, Susquehanna Conference Rooms A & B, DEP South-central Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. Contact: Karyn Yordy, 717-787-2815.



Public Input

Nov. 2

Deadline to comment on Proposed Rulemaking: Remining Requirements. Contact Thomas Callaghan 717-787-5015.

Nov. 4

Deadline to comment on the 2015 Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment Update. Contact: 717-783-8727.

Nov. 12

Deadline to comment on Pennsylvania's Path to Compliance with EPA's Final Rule for Carbon Pollution Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: EGUs (Clean Power Plan): ecomment@pa.gov.

Nov. 16

Deadline to comment on the Draft NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity (PAG-03). Contact Andrew Gaul, PE, 717-787-0129.

Nov. 17

Deadline to comment on the Draft Assessment and Listing Methodology: Nutrient Impact Assessment Protocol for Wadeable Streams: ecomment@pa.gov

Nov. 17

Deadline to comment on the Draft Assessment and Listing Methodology: Lake Assessment Protocol: ecomment@pa.gov

Nov. 17

Deadline to comment on the Draft Assessment and Listing Methodology: Aquatic Macrophyte Coverage Procedures for Lake Assessments Policy: ecomment@pa.gov

Nov. 17

Deadline to comment on the Draft Assessment and Listing Methodology: Quantitative Plankton Sampling Method for Lakes Policy:

DEP's Eric Cavazza testifies before the Congressional Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation Director Eric Cavazza testified before a Congressional Committee on Oct. 21 about opportunities for and impediments to Good Samaritan cleanups.

Cavazza testified on behalf of the Interstate Mining Compact Commission and the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs. He told members of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment that the enactment of Good Samaritan legislation would be immensely helpful to the States' and Tribes' ongoing efforts to remediate the vast quantities of AML sites remaining, and those continuing to manifest.

"We have seen the results from this type of approach in states such as Pennsylvania, which enacted its own Good Samaritan law to provide protections and immunities related to state clean water requirements for those groups and individuals who were not legally responsible but who voluntarily undertook the reclamation of abandoned mine lands or abatement of mine drainage," Cavazza said. "However, under the Pennsylvania Good Samaritan program, these groups are still exposed to potential liability under the federal Clean Water Act for their good deeds, which is having a chilling effect on watershed cleanup efforts."

To view the video of the hearing, [click here](#).

DEP's Stefanko Delivers Presentation on Pa.'s Successful Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program to Conference in Brazil

HARRISBURG -- DEP Executive Deputy Secretary John Stefanko gave a presentation via the web Oct. 12 to the annual IV Regional Seminary on Coal Mining Reclamation in Criciúma, Brazil.

Stefanko discussed the coal mining industry in Pennsylvania, its historic impact on the state's air, land and water, and projects that have successfully remediated damage done by past mining.

There are nearly 250,000 acres of land and more than 5,500 stream miles negatively impacted by pre-1977 mining in Pennsylvania. Fortunately, DEP has a robust abandoned mine reclamation program staffed with about 150 geologists, engineers, biologists, and others who work tirelessly to clean up degraded mine sites.

To view Stefanko's presentation and to learn more about abandoned mine reclamation in Pennsylvania, [click here](#).

DEP to Host Public Information Session on Jeanesville Mine Fire

HARRISBURG -- DEP will hold a public information session to update residents on the Jeanesville Mine Fire. Representatives from the department's mining program will be on hand to discuss the work completed to date, the planned work to address the fire, and to answer questions from the community. The session will be held at 6 pm Thursday, Nov. 5 at the Tresckow Volunteer Fire Company, 26 East Oak St., Tresckow.

"DEP has drilled 51 boreholes to assess the extent of the fire and formulate a plan to begin extinguishing the blaze," said DEP Deputy Secretary for Active and Abandoned Mine Operations Richard Morrison. "Now we want to update the public on what they can expect as we move into the next phase in fighting this fire."

ecomment@pa.gov

Nov. 17

Deadline to comment on the Draft Assessment and Listing Methodology: Chlorophyll A Sampling Method for Lakes Policy: ecomment@pa.gov

Nov. 17

Deadline to comment on the Draft Assessment and Listing Methodology: Recreational Use Assessment Methodology Bacteriological Sampling Protocol Policy: ecomment@pa.gov

Nov. 17

Deadline to comment on the Draft Assessment and Listing Methodology: Cause and Effect Survey Protocol Policy: ecomment@pa.gov

Dec. 1

Deadline to comment on Proposed Rulemaking: Revised Total Coliform Rule. Contact Lisa D. Daniels, 717-787-9633.



Speakers Bureau



Subscribe

[Read more.](#)

Streambank Fencing Installation Promotes Water Quality



DEP regional Waterways and Wetlands staff install stream bank fencing to keep livestock out of nearby waterways.

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP's Northeast Regional Waterways and Wetlands Program staff recently installed approximately 200 feet of stream bank fencing at the Hull Farm in Covington Township, Lackawanna County near Scranton.

The fourth generation farm provides shelter for horses, and at one time raised livestock for agricultural purposes.

Stream bank fencing involves installing fencing around a body of water (pond, lake or stream) to prevent livestock from entering and depositing contaminants such as fertilizer or fluids. The practice not only protects local waterways, but water that ultimately feeds into the Chesapeake Bay. Stream bank fencing also provides credits to the state for its Nutrient Credit Program.

Within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, stream bank fencing is funded through the Chesapeake Agricultural Abatement Grant.

DEP's Heidi Kunka Honored with "Greenest Apple" Award



DEP's Heidi Kunka receives her award from USGBC's William Sutton.

HARRISBURG -- The Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) honored DEP Energy Program Specialist Heidi Kunka with its "Greenest Apple" award at its Oct. 22 Forever Green Awards. The award honors a volunteer who has helped make great strides in promoting greener schools in the region.

Kunka has played an active role in promoting environmentally friendly, energy efficient practices in schools across the state. She is on the advisory council for the Pennsylvania Green and Healthy

Schools Partnership, where she is also chairperson for the School Engagement Task Force. Earlier this year, she led efforts to host Pennsylvania's first-ever statewide recognition ceremony for U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School honorees. She has also served as a reviewer for Green Ribbon Schools and Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance's Moving to the Head of the Class Award.

As an Energy Program Specialist in DEP's Office of Pollution Prevention and Energy Assistance, Kunka has played a key role in creating and implementing various workshops for educators and building managers to learn how to implement energy efficient practices in their buildings. Kunka has also helped organize and present green education sessions at the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials conferences.

Kunka is a LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Accredited Professional and devotes much of her free time volunteering for green initiatives. She helped organize the Oct. 3 Green Apple Day of Service at Infinity Charter School. She is also on the USGBC Central PA Board of Directors.

DEP and DCNR Hold High School Career Expo



DEP Secretary John Quigley talks to high school students from across central Pennsylvania who attended the Oct. 28 career fair.

HARRISBURG -- High school students from the Harrisburg area visited the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg on Oct. 28 to take part in DEP's and DCNR's High School Career Expo.

The students heard from professionals in both agencies about the numerous career opportunities – from air quality inspectors to foresters to water specialists – that they could pursue after graduation from college.

"We need smart, talented young people like you to continue the good work of the agency," Secretary Quigley told the nearly 50 students in attendance.



Follow DEP on Twitter! [@PennsylvaniaDEP](https://twitter.com/PennsylvaniaDEP)