



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION



Bureau of Clean Water

# Improving the Chapter 102 Permitting Process

## Agricultural Advisory Board

Harrisburg, PA

October 26, 2017

Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Acting Secretary

# Background

- Stakeholder Meetings
  - Seven Held Statewide in February/March 2017
  - Morning Session - Permittees, Consultants, Engineers, Developers, elected officials
    - Total Statewide Attendees - 70
  - Afternoon Session County Conservation Districts (CCDs)
    - Total Statewide Attendees - 112

# The Questions

- What is working well with the current process?
- What is **not** working well with the current process?
- What changes should be made ?
  - Process
  - Permits
  - Regulation

# What We Heard – Good Things

- Pre-application meeting are good
- Working with CCDs
- Willingness to find solutions/flexibility
- Responsiveness of CCDs
- CCD familiarity with local issues
- GP process through CCD – smooth, quick
- Good communication between DEP and CCDs

# What We Heard - The Bad

- Need a low impact/small project permit
- Takes too long to get a permit
- Inconsistency among Regions and CCDs
- BMP Manual needs updated
- Notice of Termination (NOT) process is confusing
- Co-Permittee Process is difficult

# The Challenge

- Over the past decade, DEP's operating budget and staffing have declined
- The number of Chapter 102 applications submitted has not declined
- Objective – seek ways to improve efficiency and make the permitting process less cumbersome without sacrificing environmental protection

# What We Will Do – Short Term

- Develop a low environmental impact small project general permit (PAG-01)
- Develop additional guidance and permitting tools
- Improve co-permittee, recording of instruments and NOT process
- Publish Final Act 162 Guidance

# What We Will Do – Medium Range

- Individual NPDES Permits – Process Changes
- SOPs - Review and Update All
- Training – Release of Training Modules for 102 permitting



# What We Will Do – Long Term

- Evaluate revisions to Chapter 102 Regulation
- Revise the BMP Manual
- Develop electronic permit application and notice of intent (NOI) submission capabilities



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