

July 2024 Report to the Citizens Advisory Council
(New and updated information in italics)

Regulatory Update (Detailed summaries included in respective program sections)

- Please refer to the [DEP Rolling Regulatory Agenda](#) for the full Regulatory Update.
- Proposed Rulemaking – Administration of the Land Recycling Program (#7-575): The draft proposed regulation was discussed with the Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board on October 10, 2022, January 23, 2023, and May 31, 2023. The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) adopted the proposed regulation on March 12, 2024.
- Draft Final Rulemaking – Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards (#7-577): The draft proposed regulation was discussed with the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) on May 19 and November 17, 2022, and the Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) on December 8, 2022. The EQB adopted the proposed regulation on July 11, 2023. The proposed regulation was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on October 7, 2023, for a 45-day public comment period that closed on November 21, 2023. A virtual public hearing was held on November 14, 2023. The draft final annex was presented to AAB on April 17, 2024, and WRAC on May 16, 2024.
- Draft Final Rulemaking – Water Quality Standards – Site-Specific Water Quality Criteria (#7-571): The draft proposed regulation was discussed with the AAB on March 15, 2023, and WRAC on March 16, 2023. The EQB adopted the proposed regulation on July 11, 2023. The proposed regulation is scheduled to be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on November 4, 2023, for a 45-day public comment period that closed on December 19, 2023. A virtual public hearing was held on December 5, 2023. The draft final annex was presented to WRAC on May 16, 2024 *and discussed with the AAB on June 18, 2024.*

Public Comment Periods

To see the latest DEP and EQB public comment periods, visit DEP's [eComment website](#).

Proposals Open for Public Comment

- *Proposed SIP Revision for a Noninterference Demonstration under section 110(1) of the Clean Air Act to Support Decommissioning State II Gasoline Vapor Recovery Requirements and Add Requirements (opened 6/15/2024, closes 7/16/2024)*
- *Environmental Assessment Approvals for PENNVEST Funding Consideration (July 2024) (opened 6/15/2024, closes 7/15/2024)*

Recently Closed Comment Periods

- Revised Interim-Final Technical Guidance: Guidelines for the Uniform Environmental Review Process in Pennsylvania (opened 4/20/2024, closed 5/20/2024)

- Draft Safe Drinking Water General Permit 01 (SDWGP-01) – Community Water System Finished Water Storage Tank Painting (opened 4/27/2024, closed 5/28/2024)
- Pennsylvania's Ozone Exceptional Event Analyses for June 1, 2023, through June 2, 2023, and June 29, 2023, through June 30, 2023 (opened 4/27/2024, closed 5/28/2024)
- Draft Stream Evaluation Reports: Chester Creek (Chester County), Reynolds Run (Lancaster County), Unnamed Tributary to North Fork Dunkard Fork (Greene County), Loyalsock Creek (Lycoming and Sullivan) (opened 4/20/2024, closed 6/4/2024)
- Proposed General Plan Approval and/or General Operating Permit for Human or Animal Crematory Incinerators (opened 5/4/2024, closed 6/17/2024)
- Stream Redesignation Evaluations of Beaver Run, Bald Eagle Creek, Raystown Branch Juniata River, Sibbald Run, Stony Creek, Kettle Run, Haycock Creek, Fletcher Run; Water Quality Standards Review (opened 5/18/2024, closed 6/17/2024)
- Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs; Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Intended Use Plans (opened 5/18/2024, closed 6/17/2024)
- Proposed State Implementation Plan Revision; Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for the Beaver, PA Nonattainment Area for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard (opened 5/18/2024, closed 6/21/2024)

Communications Monthly Press Releases

To see the latest DEP press releases, visit DEP's [news releases webpage](#).

Press Releases Issued

May 22 – Shapiro Administration Awards over \$980,000 to Environmental Education Projects that Engage Youth and Adults

May 23 – DEP and PGC Host Falcon Banding Livestream Event

May 24 – DEP Issues Code Orange Air Quality Action Day Forecast for Ozone for Saturday, May 25, 2024 for the Southeastern Pennsylvania area

June 4 – DEP Issues Code Orange Air Quality Action Day Forecast for Ozone for Tuesday, June 4, 2024, for the Lehigh-Berks and Susquehanna Valley areas in Pennsylvania

June 5 – DEP To Host Public Hearing for Proposed Monroe County Warehouse Project

June 11 – Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority Launches Financing Program to Help Local Governments Make Energy Efficiency Upgrades

June 12 – DEP Establishes a Customer Experience Management Advisory Council to Put Customer Service Front and Center for Agency Leadership

June 13 – DEP Issues Code Orange Air Quality Action Day Forecast for Ozone for Friday, June 14, 2024, for the Southeastern Pennsylvania area

Active and Abandoned Mine Operations

Act 54 Effects of Underground Mining 6th Report

DEP has designated calendar years 2018-2022 to be the 5-year period for the 6th “Act 54” report. Through January 2023, DEP’s Bureau of Mining Programs (BMP) and California District Mining Office completed an update to the data records of claims, compliance actions, stream effects and wetland effects related to underground bituminous mining. BMP and California District Mining Office then arranged and packaged the data for submittal to the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) for peer review. The final report was completed and is being routed for public release. After the 6th report is released, the online data will be updated to include 2023 information to the present.

Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding

On April 5, the first of three rounds of the 2024 AML/AMD Grant Program ([AML/AMD Grant Program \(pa.gov\)](#)) closed in which 10 applications are under review. *The second opened on June 3. The summary application of all three rounds of the 2024 AML/AMD Grant Program are:*

- 2024 Application Round 1 – February 19, 2024 through 11:59 p.m. April 5, 2024
- 2024 Application Round 2 – June 3, 2024 through 11.59 p.m. July 19, 2024
- 2024 Application Round 3 – September 23, 2024 through 11:59 p.m. November 8, 2024

On June 5 the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) announced at: [Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$725 Million from President Biden’s Investing in America Agenda to Clean Up Legacy Pollution | U.S. Department of the Interior \(doi.gov\)](#) that funding of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 BIL Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is now available. Pennsylvania will be able to apply for up to \$244,786,476. Pennsylvania has already applied for and received the FY 2022 and FY 2023 BIL grants that total \$489.6 million combined. Additional information is available at: <https://www.osmre.gov/bil> to announce the FY 2024 BIL guidance document, and other update BIL information.

Additionally, on June 3, the DOI announced funding of the FY 2024 Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Program at: [Interior Department Announces \\$130 Million to Help Create Jobs and Revitalize Land in Coal Communities | U.S. Department of the Interior \(doi.gov\)](#). Pennsylvania received \$28,666,666 as a direct payment of FY 2024 AMLER funding on June 3 from the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). OSMRE used the Department of the Interior's Financial & Business Management System (FBMS) standard Treasury for payment allocation. Additional information is available at: [Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization \(AMLER\) Program | Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement \(osmre.gov\)](#) and <https://www.osmre.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/AMLER-FY-2024-Comparison-06-01-24.pdf>

Air Quality

Regulatory State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revisions

Control of Existing Sources of VOC Emissions from the Oil and Natural Gas Industry

The final-form rulemaking for the control of VOC emissions from unconventional oil and natural gas sources and the final-omit rulemaking for the control of VOC emissions from conventional oil and natural gas sources were both published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on December 10, 2022.

BAQ submitted the SIP revision to EPA on December 12, 2022. The EPA found the submittal administratively complete on December 14, 2022. This completeness determination rescinded the offset sanctions which took effect on June 16, 2022 and halted the imposition of Federal highway funding sanctions that were set to take

effect in Pennsylvania on December 16, 2022. EPA is evaluating the approvability of this SIP submission in accordance with the applicable technical and RACT requirements of the CAA.

On January 27, 2024, the Department published a notice suspending the enforcement of the initial annual report submission for Unconventional and Conventional Oil and Gas Sources until June 1, 2024, the date the second report is due. This suspension was in response to concerns expressed regarding the ability of some owners and operators to complete the first annual report on time based on understanding the technical aspects of the regulation and the reporting requirements.

On February 13, 2024, the Department posted model Annual Compliance Reporting Templates on the public Air Quality website along with specific instructions on how to electronically upload reports to DEP. These templates are not required to be used but will assist affected parties with compliance with the reporting requirements in the regulations. These templates and other information can be found at [Annual Reporting for the VOC Rules for Oil & Natural Gas Sources \(pa.gov\)](#).

Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT II)

On March 14, 2024 the Department issued Title V Permits for Conemaugh, Keystone, and Montour Stations incorporating EPA's FIP limits. SIP revisions incorporating these permits were submitted to EPA on April 10, 2024. The facilities have appealed the permits to the EHB but have been stayed. Air Quality Permit NO_x and VOC offset sanctions for areas of Pennsylvania not designated as attainment for Ozone went into effect on March 15, 2024.

Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT III)

The rulemaking was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on November 12, 2022. The Federally mandated deadline for compliance by regulated facilities was January 1, 2023. A SIP revision was submitted to EPA on January 13, 2023, for their review and action. *However, 25 Pa. Code §129.115(c) (relating to written notification, compliance demonstration and recordkeeping and reporting requirements), was not included in the SIP revision due to administrative and mathematical errors in the mass-equivalent basis factors. To correct these errors and a cross reference error in 129.115(d), the Department has drafted revised language which it presented to AQTAC and the CAC on April 4 and May 14, 2024, respectively. The Department anticipates presenting the proposed rulemaking to the EQB in the 4th quarter of 2024.*

Air Quality regional staff have reviewed 60 of 61 RACT II equals RACT III determinations and 14 of 94 case-by-case RACT determinations received from major sources of NO_x and VOC. A public comment period and hearing is being offered for each of these permitting actions.

State Plans and Delegation of Federal Plans

Historically, the Department has submitted State Plans and requests for delegation of Federal Plans to the EPA citing 25 Pa. Code §122.3 (relating to adoption of standards). These State Plans and requests for delegation were approved by the EPA and codified in 40 CFR Part 62, Subpart NN. However, EPA recently indicated that the Department's request submitted on February 3, 2022, for delegation of the Federal Plan established in 40 CFR Part 62, Subpart OOO, for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills cannot be approved because §122.3 does not explicitly include the adoption and incorporation by reference of Federal Plans established in 40 CFR Part 62. To correct this the Department has drafted revised language which it presented to AQTAC and the CAC on April 4 and May 14, 2024, respectively. The Department anticipates presenting the proposed rulemaking to the EQB in the 4th quarter of 2024.

Non-Regulatory SIP Revisions

2010 Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) NAAQS Attainment Demonstration SIP Revisions

On August 18, 2022, EPA published a Final Partial Approval/Partial Disapproval of the Department's SIP revision for Indiana and Armstrong Counties. DEP submitted its SIP revision to EPA on October 12, 2023. Air Quality Permit SO₂ offset sanctions for Indiana and parts of Armstrong Counties went into effect on March 19, 2024. *On June 7, 2024 proposed approval of the SIP and the public comment period closes on July 8, 2024. The Federal Register notice can be found here: [2024-11175.pdf \(govinfo.gov\)](#)*

On February 22, 2023, the EPA Region III Administrator sent Governor Shapiro a "120-Day Letter" proposing to reclassify several townships in Westmoreland County and Cambria County from "attainment" to "nonattainment" for the 2010 sulfur dioxide (SO₂) NAAQS. The area lies immediately outside of the current Indiana/Armstrong County SO₂ nonattainment area. The Department reviewed the technical support document accompanying the 120-Day Letter and responded with comments on June 22, 2023.

On February 7, 2024, EPA proposed creating a new 2010 SO₂ NAAQS non-attainment areas, specifically Lower Yoder Township (Cambria County); St Clair Township, Seward Borough (Westmoreland County), and New Florence Borough (Westmoreland County). The official notice was published on February 12, 2024, announcing a 45-day comment period. If a new designation is finalized, DEP is required within 18 months to submit a SIP revision demonstrating how the 2010 SO₂ NAAQS will be attained in these partial counties.

2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards

On October 7, 2022, EPA published a final rule: Determinations of Attainment by the Attainment Date, Extensions of the Attainment Date, and Reclassification of Areas Classified as Marginal for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). Of the 28 nonattainment areas nationwide, five areas attained the standard, 22 failed to attain it, and one area received an extension. Areas were required to attain the standards by August 3, 2021. The Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City (PA-NJ-MD-DE) Area was reclassified to moderate nonattainment. The "bumped up" area includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties and is now required to attain the standards by August 3, 2024.

The Department worked with EPA, NJ, MD and DE on the needed modeling and published the proposed SIP revision in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on August 5, 2023. A public hearing was held on September 6, and the comment period closed on September 7, 2023. The Department submitted the SIP revision on Sept 28, 2023, and EPA issued a completeness letter on October 5, 2023.

The Department evaluated the impact of wildfire smoke on the 2023 ozone season (March - October) for the PA-NJ-MD-DE Non-Attainment Area and submitted an exceptional event Initial Notification to EPA on March 4, 2023. DEP published its Exceptional Event analyses on April 27, 2024 for public comment. The public comment period ended on May 28, 2024 *and the Department submitted its Exceptional Event analysis to EPA on June 12, 2024.*

Beaver SO₂ Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan

On May 18, 2024, DEP opened the public comment period for the Beaver Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for the 2010 SO₂ NAAQS. The Notice was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Beaver County Times, and on the DEP Air Quality public webpage [Bureau of Air Quality \(pa.gov\)](#). The public comment period closed on June 21, 2024. A public hearing to receive comments on the proposal was held on June 18, 2024, 9 a.m. at the DEP Southwest Regional Office.

PM2.5 NAAQS

On February 7, 2024, EPA lowered the annual National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5 NAAQS) from 12.0 to 9.0 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³). EPA has identified seven Pennsylvania counties in non-attainment based on 2020-2022 air quality monitoring data. DEP will evaluate this and more recent data and will be submitting its designation recommendations no later than February 7, 2025.

Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee

The next scheduled meeting is *October 10, 2024*.

Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee

The next scheduled meeting is *October 23, 2024*

Energy Programs Office

Transportation

Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant (AFIG)

The AFIG Program offers grant funding for clean, alternative fuel projects in Pennsylvania and investment in Pennsylvania's energy sector. Approximately \$5 million in grants is available for school districts, municipal authorities, political subdivisions, nonprofit entities, corporations, limited liability companies or partnerships incorporated or registered in the commonwealth.

Awards for the second round of the 2023 AFIG program will be announced shortly. The 2024 Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program (AFIG) opened on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. \$5 million in grant funding is available to school districts, municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and businesses in Pennsylvania that want to transition to cleaner fuel transportation. AFIG is accepting applications on the Electronic Single Application (ESA) system. The program will review all applications submitted by 11:59 PM on June 28, 2024, and again upon the program's closure at 11:59 PM on December 20, 2024.

The Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate program is going strong as expected. DEP currently offers a \$2,000 rebate on battery-electric vehicles and a \$1,500 rebate on plug-in hybrid electric vehicles for Pennsylvania residents for qualifying new and one-time pre-owned (used) Electric Vehicles. The program also offers an additional \$1,000 on top of the base rebate for qualifying low-income residents.

Starting July 1, 2023, 500 Rebates were made available. As of June 10, 2024, the program has surpassed that amount and has provided 670 rebates to totaling \$1,500,500 to Pennsylvania moderate and low-income residents (no more than 400 percent above the federal income poverty level). 196 of the 670 rebates were claimed by qualifying low-income residents. Qualifying low-income residents (no more than 200 percent above the federal income poverty level) received an additional \$1,000. Additional funding has been added to the program from the AFIG fund to finish out the 2023-2024 Program Year. The rebate program will be renewed for the 2024-2025 Program Year beginning July 1, 2024 with some changes to the program. Approximately \$1.5 Million is planned to be programmatically dedicated.

Electric School Bus Technical Assistance

EPO, via contracting with ERG Inc., initiated an Electric School Bus Technical assistance project to educate school districts and transportation companies about the benefits of electric school buses and the funding sources

available for electrification. The project began by hosting in-person and virtual workshops on bus and charging technologies and the necessary infrastructure planning and utility engagement needed to enable operations. Several school districts were chosen from the workshop participants to receive one on one technical assistance to help them plan for electrification of their specific fleet. Technical assistance offerings included: bus route analysis, bus type selection, electric vehicle charging infrastructure needs analysis, total cost of ownership calculations and guidance on workforce training.

ERG continued to provide technical assistance this month to three school districts interested in electrifying their fleets. Technical assistance included electric school bus model comparisons, battery size recommendations based on bus route analysis, battery replacement information and research into lead times for various electric school bus parts, information on federal tax credits and tactics for successful implementation in challenging weather conditions.

ZEV Roadmap

DEP is developing a new, updated Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Roadmap which will build upon the successes of the original Roadmap, created in 2019 and updated in 2021. DEP's contractor, ICF, Inc., and the Drive Electric PA (DEPA) Coalition are assisting with development. The new roadmap will go beyond light-duty electric vehicles and will model medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicle adoption and also explore hydrogen fuel cell vehicle adoption. The final ZEV Roadmap 2.0 will map out specific, implementable strategies aimed to maximize the economic and environmental benefits of zero tailpipe emission transportation in Pennsylvania in the light, medium and heavy-duty spaces.

ICF submitted the Draft ZEV Roadmap 2.0 and technical appendices to EPO. The barriers and strategies from the roadmap were presented to the Drive Electric PA Coalition on June 6, 2024. EPO leadership and staff reviewed and provided comments to ICF on the draft. ICF is addressing the comments and will submit a final draft at the end of the month.

Energy Security

State Energy Security Plan Updates/Supply and Price Monitoring.

EPO has received comments from the PA PUC and PEMA on minor updates to the State Energy Security Plan. The minor comments will be incorporated into the plan as part of the annual updates. The plan will be routing for the governor's signature in July per the IIJA requirements.

Energy Storage Consortium

Energy storage is a complex and important technology needed to enhance resiliency and reliability of our electricity grid and to maximize the benefits of the growing renewable energy sector. The Pennsylvania Energy Storage Consortium serves as an opportunity for engagement of key stakeholders on a wide range of topics that can lead to an advancement of storage capacity in Pennsylvania. The Consortium has been meeting quarterly since 2021 and registered stakeholders represent organizations that include government, developers, utilities, EJ and environmental consultants, trade associations, manufacturers and more.

EPO wrapped up Strategen Consulting's contract for hosting our Energy Storage Consortium meetings. EPO will take over hosting these meetings for the upcoming year and will find topics and speakers to engage the Consortium with the intent of leading to an advancement of storage capacity in Pennsylvania. The next Energy Storage Consortium meeting will be in September and will include an update on DEP's microgrid project.

Climate Change

Shared Energy Manager

The Shared Energy Manager (SEM) program was designed to assist local governments in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with on-the-ground, practical support from a professional energy manager contracted by the DEP Energy Programs Office to conduct energy assessments, renewable energy studies, and other services to implement elements of their climate action plans.

A contract has been awarded to Wilson Engineering Services, which will serve as the Shared Energy Manager for the DEP Energy Programs Office's local government participants. The programs will run from 2024-2027, with 20 participants per cohort for a total of 80 participants over 4 years.

Wilson Engineering has been working with the City of Meadville to explore the feasibility of installing a solar PV array on the roof of the city-owned DEP Northwestern Regional Office as a part of their participation in the Shared Energy Manager program. Meadville City Council voted on Tuesday June 11th to proceed with the Solar project. Wilson met with Sharpsburg Borough and Protogen on Monday June 10th to advance their project to establish a solar and battery-based microgrid to improve the resiliency of the borough. Sharpsburg Borough is planning to proceed with establishing the Protogen-proposed microgrid. Wilson Engineering and EPO staff met with the Camp Hill Borough Climate Action Task Force to advance plans to apply for a grant and loan from the DEP Municipal Opportunities for Retrofits and Energy Efficiency program to install a solar array on Borough-owned buildings on June 13th. Several other program participants are currently working to advance similar energy savings and renewable energy generation plans as well.

Local Climate Action Program

State and local governments leading by example on climate action is a key component of mitigating climate change in Pennsylvania and one of the strategies recommended in the Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan (PCAP). The Local Climate Action Program (LCAP) provides free technical and personnel assistance to local governments that want to create their own greenhouse gas inventories and climate action plans with the goals of reducing emissions and combatting climate change. This includes engaging the community in the planning process, via in-person workshops, virtual meetings, and online surveys. The technical and personnel assistance is provided by EPO staff and university partners, specifically professors and students from Penn State University, Sustainability Institute.

The local government cohort for the 24-25 program year has been set by Penn State Sustainability and it includes the following local governments as well as the PA Game Commission: City of Allentown, Buckingham Township, Centre Region Council of Governments, Easttown Township, Haverford Township, Kennett Township, Nockamixon Township, City of Pittston, Selinsgrove Borough, and Tinicum. The City of Harrisburg may also work with Penn State to complete the Local Climate Action Plan started with John's Hopkins University, and the Borough of Kulpmont will be working with Bucknell University to complete their Greenhouse Gas Inventory and draft Climate Action Plan. The 24-25 cohort will begin in August 2024.

Climate Change Advisory Committee

The latest CCAC meeting was held Tuesday, June 25, 2024, in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, and via Microsoft Teams. The meeting featured a presentation by EPO and their contractor, ICF, on progress on the 2024 Climate Impacts Assessment and Climate Action Plan and solicited input from the committee. Additionally, DEP provided a brief presentation on the updated 2024 GHG Inventory (2021 Data Year) and provided updates on climate outreach. Public meeting links and meeting materials are available on the [CCAC webpage](#). The next meeting will be held on August 20, 2024.

Renewable Energy

Assessment of Solar Development on Previously Impacted Mine Lands in Pennsylvania:

*On May 30th, Lieutenant Governor Davis and Acting DEP Secretary Shirley announced the release of the **Assessment of Solar Development on Previously Impacted Mine Lands in Pennsylvania** at a press event in Beaver County. This assessment was developed by the Energy Programs Office (EPO) in order to gain a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with solar development on active, abandoned, or reclaimed mine sites. The assessment provides information on the current state of previously mined lands as well as solar development initiatives in Pennsylvania, different factors that affect solar development on previously mined sites compared to non-impacted sites, and recommendations that could lead to the further deployment of solar facilities on previously mined lands. In general, the assessment has found that solar development on these sites may be more difficult compared to development on other non-impacted sites, but there are no technical or regulatory issues preventing these types of installations. It is possible to combine different sources of federal Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funding to get a reclaimed site “solar ready”. However, even with the availability of these funding sources for site reclamation, there are additional costs. Deploying solar projects on just 5% of the 169,000 acres of previously impacted mine lands potentially suitable for hosting solar installations would provide enough power for a city the size of Pittsburgh, while avoiding the development of high value agricultural land, open space, or forested land. A final key take-away is the need for additional pathways (such as community solar) for medium sized solar installations to be economically viable in order to unlock previously mined sites for solar development. Previously mined land sites are generally smaller and fragmented, with multiple landowners, and are not ideal for 100 acres plus grid-scale projects. The assessment report is available on the DEP Solar Energy Resource Hub (<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/solar/Pages/Assessment-of-Solar-Development-on-Previously-Impacted-Mine-Lands-in-Pennsylvania.aspx>). This project was funded through DEP’s State Energy Program funds from DOE and was developed in partnership a project team from the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (ECAMR) and LaBella Associates.*

Grid-Scale Solar Development Outreach and Technical Assistance for Local Government Officials: The Energy Programs Office (EPO) in partnership with the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) has completed Phase III of outreach and technical assistance support to local government officials regarding grid-scale solar development across the Commonwealth. Since January 2024, six in-person technical assistance sessions have been conducted in Susquehanna/Wayne, Blair, Clearfield, Greene, Mercer, and Armstrong Counties. Each session provided an opportunity for local government practitioners to ask questions about how grid-scale solar projects are being developed and what steps they need to take to ensure development occurs in a responsible and sustainable fashion, balancing the concerns of landowners, neighboring property owners, and developers. Topics addressed included considerations for ordinances to govern land use and zoning, property tax implications, and decommissioning requirements. The Municipal Officials’ Guide to Grid-Scale Solar Development in Pennsylvania, created through a previous EPO project with Penn State Extension, provided the foundational information for the meetings. Each session attracted between 25 to 35 local government officials representing roles such as township supervisors, land use planners, consulting engineers, and solicitors. In addition to conducting these sessions, the PSATS team has provided follow-up one-on-one technical assistance to over 140 local government officials since the project started in January 2023. PSATS also hosted a webinar providing an overview of the solar development process to newly elected officials in February, as well as a webinar open to statewide local officials in April. Phase IV of this initiative is funded and will run between July and December 2024 with a similar scope and outcomes. PSATS’ outreach is being funded through DEP’s State Energy Program funds from DOE.

Energy Efficiency

Building Energy Code Trainings

Using funding through the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) State Energy Program, DEP has sponsored energy code trainings for building code officials, contractors, design professionals and builders for over 10 years. On February 14, 2022, the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) went into effect for all new construction and major renovations for residential and commercial buildings. EPO has selected a contractor and 2023-24 trainings on IECC residential and commercial energy building code and duct and envelope testing sessions *have been completed by June*. The scope includes eight in-person trainings, five three-hour and two one-hour virtual workshops, targeted to code officials and third-party code inspectors, but available to designers, builders, and contractors. *All of the courses have been held with good attendance. In addition, the contractor conducted a survey of prior course attendees and will be providing EPO with a report on areas for future training focus, overall success of the training and areas to improve.*

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Energy Update and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

- **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)-Home Energy Rebates** EPO is developing two programs within the Inflation Reduction Act Home Energy Rebates, Home Efficiency Rebate Program (HOMES) and Home Electrification Rebates Program (HEAR) The HEAR Program will provide point-of-sale consumer discounts to enable low- and moderate-income households across America to electrify their homes. These point-of-sale rebates are an immediate, off-the-top discount when making qualifying electrification purchases. The HOMES Rebate program is meant to encourage performance-based residential energy efficiency retrofits. This will ensure that Pennsylvanians with the highest energy burdens can better-afford upgrades. The RFP for the HEAR designer/implementer was issued on March 25th and closed on May 9th. *EPO has completed technical evaluations of submitted proposals and expects final approval from DEP procurement and legal offices followed by contract execution to occur within the next two weeks.* The HOMES RFP is currently being developed by EPO and will solicit proposals for the design of that rebate program. In the coming month, EPO will push the RFP through the state procurement process to solicit bids for the design of the rebate program.
- **Training for Residential Energy Contractors (TREC)** PA will be awarded \$4,960,910 over four years to implement a heat pump training program for HVAC contractors in PA in order to prepare them for successfully delivering Home Energy Rebates. The ALRD released by DOE on July 17, 2023. EPO submitted its application several days in advance of the original DOE deadline of January 31, 2024. DOE informed PA in May 2024 that the award of program funds has been delayed to from April 2024 to "fall/winter 2024." Questions and comments on PA's application were received from DOE in *May and again in June* and EPO responded within a week. DOE is currently reviewing responses and informed PA that it will be included in the earliest group of TREC awards. In order to be prepared when EPO is awarded its program funds by DOE, EPO intends to issue an RFP in the next few months for a contractor to lead and manage the PA TREC program.
- **Solar for All:** The Solar for All program is providing grants to States, Tribal governments, municipalities, and nonprofits to expand the number of low-income and disadvantaged communities that are primed for residential and community solar investment (\$7 billion nationally). EPA announced the release of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund's Solar for All Notice of Funding Opportunity on June 28, 2023, and DEP/PEDA applied October 6, 2023. DEP/PEDA was among the 60 awardees announced on April 22, 2024, receiving \$156,120,000 to develop a low-income solar program across PA. PEDA's Solar for All application was submitted in coalition with the Philadelphia Green Capital Corporation (PGCC), the non-profit green bank affiliate of the Philadelphia Energy Authority. The program aims to take the experience and success of the Solarize Philly program and expand that across the state. The PA Solar for All program seeks to enable solar installations for 14,000 homeowners over a 5-year program period.

PEDA is working with PGCC and PFM consultants to plan the initial phase of the PA Solar for All program which will focus on single family homes in low income and disadvantaged communities. To enable installations in these areas, PEDA envisions launching a subsidized solar lease product across the state so homeowners can have access to an affordable monthly payment without upfront installation costs. PEDA is monitoring developments in community solar and intends to support pilot low-income focused community solar projects should these projects receive legislative authorization.

PEDA is working with the EPA to finalize the grant by September 2024 and adjust the program budget and workplan to fit the award amount. Program design work is ongoing to identify technology and financial partner needs to support an early 2025 program launch.

- **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program** (\$3.0 million) and **Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund** (\$3.3 million) – EPO has been working on blending these programs together to create a municipal financing program entitled the Municipal Opportunities for Retrofits and Energy Efficiency (MORE) Program. *EPO was awarded both the EECBG and RLF programs in May 2024 resulting in the MORE Program. The MORE Program consists of two parts: the MORE Grant and the MORE Loan. The MORE Grant covers costs that are often barriers for municipal governments energy efficiency upgrade financing, and the MORE Loan offers low to zero interest financing for eligible municipalities and municipal authorities to perform retrofits, energy efficiency upgrades, and renewable energy generation (when paired with energy efficiency measures). The MORE Program launched June 3, 2024, as a product of the Energy Accelerator Program (EAP). EPO has been doing outreach to local governments to make them aware of this exciting opportunity.*
- **Building Codes for Efficiency and Resilience** In 2023 US DOE notified EPO that the application for “Maximizing Workforce for Energy Efficient Buildings and Building Construction in Pennsylvania” was selected for \$3 million in funding. The project is designed to provide professional development, lesson plans and curriculum and energy code compliance tools such as blower door tests to instructors at career and technical high schools across the state, sponsor certification tests for students in appropriate programs over the next three years. In addition, the project will fund program mapping for career and technical high schools and colleges to assist students in identifying clean energy career pathways that may lead to building code careers and the project will conduct a business case analysis for a building code official associate degree program. DOE also notified Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership (NEEP) that the joint project in Pennsylvania and Delaware to conduct an energy code compliance study will be funded \$2 million to conduct the study and provide any needed professional development as determined by the study. Both projects began work in January 2024. *EPO’s partner on the workforce project, the Clean Energy Center, has a parallel Weatherization Assistance Program project underway, so pilot school training began in June with instructors across both projects. Additional pilot school trainings will be held later in 2024 to reach the full number of schools anticipated. RFPs for technical college work and career mapping will be drafted for work to begin in fall 2024.*

Environmental Education

DEP Environmental Education Grants Program

The DEP 2023 Environmental Education Grants program will conclude June 30, 2024. 66 projects remain active. Midterm Progress reports and requests for reimbursement have been processed.

Awardees are required to develop and submit for review and feedback an appropriate assessment/evaluation tool, designed to measure the audience’s behavior change(s) as a result of participating in the funded environmental education project. The behavior change goals are unique to each project and may reflect

increased awareness and/or knowledge, adoption an attitudinal change, and/or taking an action, either individually or collectively on behalf of the environment.

The 2024 Environmental Education Grants program application deadline was November 15, 2023. 107 applications reflecting 96 unique applicants were received. Projects requests reflect funding for Mini-Grants (up to \$5,000), General Grant Level I (up to \$30,000) and General Grants Level II (up to \$65,000).

105 eligible applications and required materials have been independently evaluated by 3 reviewers. A meeting with the Secretary has been scheduled for April 2 to discuss the evaluation results and a list of recommended and not recommended projects. Final recommendations will be forwarded to the Governor's Office for approval. Barring unforeseen circumstances, the 2024 EE Grant Program awards will be announced in Spring 2024.

Information about the DEP Environmental Education Grants Program, including the current EE Grants Program manual, is available at: [Environmental Education Grants Program](#). Questions should be directed to the DEP Environmental Education & Information Center (EEIC) at RA-epEEgrants@pa.gov.

RCSOB Peregrine Falcons

DEP is preparing for the 2024 Falcon season. Falcon activity can be observed by visiting the PA Falcon Cam at: <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/EnvironmentalEducation/PAFalcon/Pages/default.aspx>

Falcon Wire News posts provide general falcon information and reports on recent Falcon observations: <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/EnvironmentalEducation/PAFalcon/Pages/falconwire.aspx>

2024 Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators (PAEE) Annual Conference

The EEIC staff will attend the PAEE annual conference slated for March 17-19, 2024. The event will take place at the Pocono Environmental Education Center in Dingman's Ferry, PA. Many current Environmental Education awardees will be in attendance, sharing information about their DEP EE Grants funded projects.

2024 Ag Progress Days

The DEP has reserved its booth space in the Harrington Building for the 2024 Ag Progress Days slated August 13-15, 2024. The event will be held at PSU's Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center located in Pennsylvania Furnace.

Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice Executive Order

Former Governor Wolf signed an Environmental Justice Executive Order 2021-07 in October 2021 making permanent the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ), Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB) and creating the Environmental Justice Interagency Council (EJIC). DEP currently holds EJIC meetings on the last Thursday, of every other month. Under the terms of the Executive Order, DEP will develop an agency EJ Strategic Plan and may also revise the EJ Policy and create EJ mapping tools.

Environmental Justice Planning

DEP has adopted the Interim-Final Policy, built from years of public engagement on this topic. DEP's OEJ has taken comments and concerns about the current Environmental Justice Public Participation Policy, which DEP has had in place since 2004. The updated policy will include comments of a previous revision effort from 2017, and an extensive outreach on the draft policy received in 2022. The OEJ hosted 12 public meetings between September and November of 2023 and received over 740 public comments over the course of the process. DEP Staff are currently reviewing and drafting a comment response document.

DEP is also updating where the policy applies. The PennEnviroScreen tool is a publicly available, state of the art mapping tool, built on proven national models, that will allow DEP to more accurately identify communities facing environmental justice issues. DEP is engaged in a department-wide effort to improve the efficiency and quality of our permitting process. This new approach, in the environmental justice context, will not add a single delay to DEP's permitting process.

OEJ continues to convene the Environmental Justice Internal Work Group to inform and educate DEP staff and solicit feedback on critical environmental justice initiatives within DEP, such as the EJ Policy.

Environmental Justice Advisory Board

EJAB convened on Tuesday, May 14. The meeting included DEP updates on the Office of Environmental Justice, Federal Funding updates, as well as numerous presentations. Those included an update from Marcus Hook Neighbors for Public Health/Clean Air Council from Echo Alford, a presentation from Felicia Fred on the Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers or EJ TCTAC. There was a presentation on funding opportunities for local CBO's from Stuart Clarke, from the William Penn Foundation and finally a presentation from Mathy Stanislaus, Esq., on a regional emergency preparedness initiative. The next EJAB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 13. This meeting will be hybrid, with both a virtual and an in-person option and will be held at the RCSOB in Harrisburg.

OEJ Initiatives

OEJ assisted the Office of Administration, DEP, other agencies, and federal agencies on identifying vendors who provide language services for PA Dutch. OEJ also shared best practices of using Microsoft Teams functions on having multiple interpreters, including American Sign Language (ASL) for virtual presentations. DEP is in the midst of updating its Language Access Plan and the Policy shop has identified a temporary/interim language coordinator to coordinate.

Spearheaded by OEJ's Special Deputy Secretary Fernando Treviño, the Beaver County Environmental Mitigation Community Fund (BCEMCF) has been finalized. BCEMCF Advisory Board reviewed 93 applications (totaling \$20,362,948.03) and recommended 21 projects, totaling \$4,755,353.60 for funding.

Brownfields Technical Assistance Grant

EPA has awarded DEP a Small Communities Assistance pilot grant for the past three years to assist a small, disadvantaged community on providing training, research and technical assistance for addressing brownfields redevelopment. DEP was awarded the Small Communities Assistance grant again for the 2022 fiscal year and is working with Oil City in Northwest Pennsylvania. The Oil City report was finalized, and the project concluded in June 2022. OEJ assisted in getting application support materials for the 2023 fiscal year applicant, Mahanoy City Borough in Schuylkill County. This program is set to receive an infusion of funding that may allow it to work with more and different types of communities but will keep a focus on communities facing EJ issues. OEJ has joined DEP's Brownfields staff to help introduce this project to municipalities facing EJ issues.

Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate Information Sheet

OEJ worked with the Energy Programs Office (EPO) and Office of Communications to develop a sheet that highlights the available resources that can make an electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle purchase more affordable. In particular, the sheet was developed to address the lack of awareness around the rebate's applicability to the purchase of a one-time pre-owned vehicles, and the availability of additional funds for low-income households. In addition, the sheet describes available federal and electric distribution company incentives. The Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate guidelines have been recently revamped to add income caps to aid low to moderate income families in purchasing alternative fuel vehicles. OEJ is working with EPO on a revamp of the sheet, it will soon be found on the EPO webpage.

Grants

OEJ is working with DEP's Grants Center and individual programs to track grant participation in EJ Areas and incorporate EJ consideration into program area grants. OEJ is supporting the Grants Office and other offices in developing outreach materials about the DEP grantmaking process. OEJ is also participating in an interagency group assessing overarching principles for advancing equity in Commonwealth grantmaking. OEJ assisted the 902 Recycling Grant Program made available for municipalities by adding instructions on how to use the PennEnviroScreen tool to identify EJ areas as potential applicants answer EJ related questions.

Outreach on Key DEP Initiatives

OEJ is working with the Policy Office regarding inclusion and evaluation of equity and EJ considerations in the development of the 2021 Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan. OEJ is working with EPO and community partners on outreach and engagement for the Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan 2024, through the Climate Action for Environmental Justice Communities Program and events.

Oil and Gas

Oil and Gas Rulemakings

Proposed Environmental Protection Performance Standards for Conventional Oil and Gas Operators Rulemaking

In 2016, the General Assembly passed Act 52, which abrogated the ongoing rulemaking process regarding conventional oil and gas wells and established the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Oil Development Advisory Council (CDAC). Act 52 directed DEP to work with CDAC to “examine and make recommendations regarding existing technical regulations promulgated under 58 Pa.C.S. (relating to oil and gas) ... that impact the conventional oil and gas industry of this Commonwealth and explore the development of a regulatory scheme that provides for environmental oversight and enforcement specifically applicable to the conventional oil and gas industry.” From 2016 to the present, the Office of Oil and Gas Management (OOGM) has worked with CDAC to develop potential legislation and proposed regulations relating to conventional oil and gas wells.

Because discussions did not result in viable legislation, DEP proceeded with the development of a draft proposed conventional oil and gas rulemaking and advanced the regulatory concepts via two rulemaking packages during 2020. The first rulemaking relates primarily to the proper management of waste generated at conventional oil and gas well sites; the second rulemaking addresses other critical environmental protection performance standards at such sites.

On August 6, 2020, the OOGM first presented these two draft proposed rulemakings to CDAC. On September 17, 2020, DEP also informed the Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board (TAB) of discussions with CDAC regarding the draft proposed rulemakings and shared copies of both draft proposed rulemakings. During a series of meetings from December 3, 2020, through September 9, 2021, OOGM staff, CDAC, and TAB continued to discuss and review the draft proposed rulemakings. At its regularly scheduled meeting on December 16, 2021, OOGM staff shared the final version of the Environmental Protection Performance Standards for Conventional Oil and Gas Operators draft proposed Annex with CDAC members. This provided CDAC with an opportunity to adopt written comments to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) in accordance with section 5 of Act 52 of 2016 (58 P.S. § 1205). The CDAC Regulatory Subcommittee prepared formal comments in February 2022 and March 2022 and presented them to the full council on April 21, 2022. CDAC voted to accept the comments and will submit them to DEP to accompany the rulemaking when it is submitted to the EQB.

The Department discussed the Chapter 78 proposed Waste Management rulemaking with CDAC at the first meeting of 2023 on February 16 that was conducted at Pennsylvania Western University, Clarion. The Chapter

78 proposed Waste Management rulemaking was also discussed at the CDAC meeting on Thursday, May 25, 2023. This rulemaking package will be a priority action of the Department in 2024 to advance it through the CDAC and the remaining steps of the regulatory development process.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Initial Grant

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) approved the application as submitted for the full \$25 million Initial Grant on August 25, 2022, with an effective “date of receipt” of October 1, 2022. The award allowed for up to \$2.5 million to be allocated to DEP to cover administrative costs associated with administering the Initial Grant. Based on DEP’s application, all Initial Grant funding will be used for well plugging contracts or administrative costs.

DEP expects to plug a total of 226 orphan and abandoned wells using \$22.5 million of the Initial Grant funding via two grant rounds. During the first round, DEP published five separate Invitations to Bid in the commonwealth’s electronic bid solicitation tool called “Bid Express” (www.bidexpress.com). The second round included eight additional Invitation to Bid Packages.

As of *June 17, 2024*, the Department has plugged 72 of 80 orphan and abandoned wells in Round 1 and 115 of 146 orphan and abandoned wells in Round 2. The Department has plugged a total of 187 wells thus far using the IIJA Initial Grant funding and is expected to plug the remaining wells by the end of this calendar year.

DEP allocated 10 percent (\$2.5 million) of the Initial Grant funding toward administrative costs to implement the program as authorized in the federal grant agreement.

Draft Formula Grant Guidance Published by U.S. Department of the Interior

On July 10, the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) issued a press release that announced the availability of nearly \$660 million to 26 states for the plugging of orphan and abandoned wells.

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-invests-660-million-states-plug-orphaned-oil-and-gas-wells> Pennsylvania will be awarded \$76,406,474 in this first phase and will receive a total of \$305,625,896 over the remaining phases of the Formula Grant. Eligible states were required to submit their applications by December 31, 2023 and DEP met this milestone by submitting its application for Phase 1 of the Formula Grant on December 18, 2023.

The DOI is conducting a technical review of the IIJA Formula Grant application that will result in an award of \$76,406,474 in this first phase of this grant. The DOI requested additional clarification about the Orphan Well Plugging Grant Program, the Commonwealth Workforce Transformation Program and the applicability of Administrative costs outlined in the grant application. The Office of Oil and Gas Management prepared revisions to the Phase 1 Formula Grant application and submitted it to DOI on May 11.

The DOI has informed the Department that Pennsylvania’s application is a high priority and DOI is committed to completing their review of the application as quickly as possible, however, as of *June 18th* no such grant award has been announced.

The Orphan Well Plugging Grant Program has been developed in advance of receipt of the federal grant and will be launched following receipt of the Formula Grant award. DEP posted an online virtual training about the electronic application on the DEP Orphan Well webpage on May 6.

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) - Methane Emissions Reduction Program (MERP)

On May 14, the U.S. Department of Energy issued an Assistance Agreement awarding a \$44,457,220 MERP grant to the Department of Environmental Protection. This project will reduce methane emissions from marginal conventional wells (MCWs) by assisting well owners to voluntarily and permanently plug these wells

and measure methane emissions from MCWs both pre- and post-plugging operations. The period of performance is December 1, 2023 through September 30, 2028. This award must be reviewed by the Office of Attorney General and the Office of General Counsel which can take up to 60 days. The Office of Oil and Gas Management is coordinating with the DEP Communications Office regarding a formal announcement.

DEP estimates the plugging of 1,500 MCWs, at an average of 300 MCWs per year may be achieved through a well plugging grant program that will be developed for MCW Owner/Operators. DEP anticipates completing the prioritization process for at least 100 MCWs by end of the first year. As awareness of the MERP program increases, DEP expects more MCW plugging applications each year. With this expectation, DEP proposes an ambitious goal of plugging an additional 100 MCWs in each year of the program with 500 MCWs plugged in 2028.

The DOE is hosting a “Marginal Conventional Well Kickoff Workshop” from June 25-27 in Pittsburgh. Representatives from states that are awarded a MERP grant, including Pennsylvania, are required to attend this workshop. The primary objectives of the meeting are to share information, plans, practices, experience, and expertise in hopes of fostering engagement to benefit all States and create an opportunity for States to share, with the Federal agencies and other award recipients, key considerations, challenges, concerns, or issues they anticipate in designing or implementing their programs. DEP’s Office of Oil and Gas Management will attend workshop and will provide an hour-long presentation on DEP’s plans to utilize the MERP funding.

At the recent Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission meeting, the DOE stated that the competitive MERP Grant round is expected to be announced and open for applications sometime in June 2024. They did not state how much total funding would be in that Grant round or individual application limits but it is expected to be as much as \$1.2 billion.

Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit (ESCGP-3) Prioritized Review Workgroup

Innovative approaches through design and implementation of environmentally enhanced Best Management Practices (BMPs) and superior construction practices reduce environmental impacts from oil and gas operations. To incentivize these technologies and practices, DEP intends to replace the Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit (ESCGP) Expedited Review process with a Prioritized Review process that will allow for voluntary participation by industry. Permit applications submitted as Prioritized Review will be given a score based on proposed BMPs and environmentally superior construction practices. High-scoring projects will be given priority and will be reviewed before projects that are not submitted as Prioritized Review.

DEP presented revised documents to TAB at its December 16, 2020, meeting. This technical guidance document (TGD) was published as draft for public comment in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on August 28, 2021, initiating a 30-day public comment period that closed on September 27, 2021. DEP received 194 comments and is continuing to review the comments and prepare responses.

Radiation Protection

The Bureau of Radiation Protection plans to rescind the technical guidance document #294-2309-001 Radon Certification Policy. The content and scope of this document are no longer relevant due to it being incorporated into 25 Pa. Code Chapter 240, Pennsylvania Radon Certification Regulations. These became effective in January 2019. The application booklet “Pennsylvania Radon Certification Forms and Information” included all the changes that have been made since 2009. The proposed revision is going through the approval process and will be published in the *PA Bulletin* once final.

Waste Management

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

The regular SWAC meeting *was* held on June 26th. The agenda and meeting materials *are* available on the [SWAC website](#).

Recycling Fund Advisory Committee (RFAC)

The 2024 RFAC meeting will be held on October 9th (jointly with SWAC). Additional information is available on the [SWAC website](#).

Water Programs

Water Programs Rulemakings

Methylmercury Site-Specific Water Quality Criteria Rulemaking

This proposed rulemaking will recommend updates and revisions to § 93.8d which outlines the site-specific water quality criteria process. The proposed amendments include the addition of language that clarifies when site-specific water quality criteria may be requested and specifies the conditions under which site-specific water quality criteria may not be requested. The proposed amendments will update language throughout § 93.8d to identify the data and information that must be submitted with each request for a site-specific water quality criterion and the actions to be taken by the Department as part of the site-specific water quality criterion development and regulatory processes. These proposed amendments are consistent with federal regulations and requirements.

In addition, this proposed rulemaking proposes to delete the statewide total mercury water quality criterion of 0.05 µg/L for Ebaughs Creek located in York County; and to add a site-specific methylmercury water quality criterion of 0.00004 µg/L for Ebaughs Creek in § 93.9o (relating to Drainage List O). The York County Solid Waste Regional Authority (YCSWRA) owns and operates the York County Sanitary Landfill, which is a 306-acre site located in Hopewell Township, York County. Between 1974 and 1997, the landfill received municipal and industrial waste, which was placed into lined and unlined cells. The site contains approximately 135 acres of unlined landfill. Detection of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in several groundwater wells was discovered in 1983 and was associated with the unlined cells. A treatment system was installed to remove the VOCs and began operation in 1985. The system consisted of 17 extraction wells and air stripping towers. The air stripping towers discharge the treated groundwater under NPDES permit number PA0081744. Mercury was later identified through the Department's permit application review process as a potential pollutant of concern. YCSWRA has requested the Department delete the statewide total mercury water quality criterion of 0.05 µg/L for Ebaughs Creek and develop a site-specific methylmercury water quality criterion for Ebaughs Creek to inform their NPDES permit effluent limitations for Outfall 002. Since the Department does not currently have statewide numeric water quality criteria for methylmercury, YCSWRA's request satisfies § 93.8d(a)(3).

DEP presented the proposed rulemaking to the Agricultural Advisory Board and the Water Resources Advisory Committee on March 15, 2023, and March 16, 2023, respectively. The proposed rulemaking was presented to and approved by Environmental Quality Board on July 11, 2023. On August 21, 2023, a tolling memo was received from the Office of Attorney General. On September 13, 2023, DEP staff and counsel submitted a response to the Office of Attorney General's tolling memo. The proposed rulemaking was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on November 4, 2023, which initiated a 45-day public comment period that closed on December 19, 2023. A public hearing was held on December 5, 2023. Public comments on the proposed rulemaking can be found on DEP's eComment website. A final rulemaking is anticipated in *late 2024*.

Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards

Water quality standards are in-stream water quality goals that are implemented by imposing specific regulatory requirements and permit conditions (such as treatment requirements, effluent limits, and best management practices) on individual sources of pollution. This proposed rulemaking fulfills the Commonwealth's obligation to periodically review and revise its water quality standards and updates Pennsylvania's water quality standards such that the surface waters of this Commonwealth are afforded the appropriate level of protection.

This rulemaking proposes to:

- Add or revise aquatic life and human health water quality criteria for 17 substances,
- Clarify duration periods for aquatic life criteria, and
- Reaffirm the removal of Water Contact Sports use from the Outer Erie Harbor/Presque Isle Bay and portions of the Delaware Estuary and removal of portions of the Warm Water Fishes (WWF) and Migratory Fishes (MF) aquatic life uses for portions of the Delaware Estuary.

DEP presented the proposed rulemaking to the Water Resources Advisory Committee and Agricultural Advisory Board on November 17, 2022, and December 8, 2022, respectively. The proposed rulemaking was presented to and approved by Environmental Quality Board on July 11, 2023. The proposed rulemaking was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on October 7, 2023, opening the 45-day public comment period, which ended on November 21, 2023. A public hearing was held on November 14, 2023. The final rulemaking was presented to the Agricultural Advisory Board on April 17, 2024. A presentation is tentatively planned to the Water Resources Advisory Committee in the coming months. A final rulemaking is anticipated for *late 2024*.

Class A Stream Redesignations

Section 303(c)(1) of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C.A. § 1313(c)) requires states to periodically review and revise, as necessary, water quality standards. The water quality standards evaluated in this rulemaking are the designated uses of surface waters. The regulatory changes in this proposed rulemaking are the result of stream evaluations conducted by DEP. The proposed rulemaking includes redesignation recommendations for 96 streams in response to stream evaluations conducted by DEP. Stream evaluations were conducted in response to a submittal of data from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) under § 93.4c (relating to implementation of antidegradation requirements). In this proposed rulemaking, the stream redesignations rely on § 93.4b(a)(2)(ii) to qualify streams for High Quality Waters (HQ) designation based upon their classifications by PFBC as Class A wild trout streams. A surface water that has been classified a Class A wild trout stream by PFBC, based on species-specific biomass standards in 58 Pa. Code § 57.8a (relating to Class A wild trout streams), and following public notice and comment, qualifies for DEP evaluation of the stream for HQ designation. The PFBC published notice and requested comments on the Class A classification of the streams listed in this proposed rulemaking. The PFBC Commissioners approved these waters after public notice and comment. The Department anticipates presenting the proposed rulemaking to the EQB in late 2024.

General Permits for Beneficial Use of Sewage Sludge (aka Biosolids)

The Department issues general permits for the beneficial use of biosolids (aka sewage sludge) and residential septage. PAG-07 allows for the Beneficial Use of Exceptional Quality (EQ) Biosolids; PAG-08 allows for the Beneficial Use of Non-Exceptional Quality (Non-EQ) Biosolids; and PAG-09 allows for the Beneficial Use of Residential Septage. Beneficial use is the use or reuse of biosolids or residential septage for any purpose, where the use does not harm or threaten public health, safety, welfare, or the environment. These permits apply to a person who prepares biosolids that will be sold or given away in a bag or other container or biosolids that will be land-applied, and to a person who applies biosolids or residential septage to the land. The Department issues these permits under the authority of Pennsylvania's Solid Waste Management Act and Clean Streams Law.

The Department has administratively extended these general permits for several years. The Department has presented pre-draft permits to the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) and the Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) in March 2021.

The Bureau of Clean Water has also organized a workgroup to gather input on the proposed changes to the general permits. The group includes biosolids generators, land applicators, farmers, consultants, and interested third parties (including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network). The workgroup discussion focused on the biosolids land application program, the proposed changes to the permit, PFAS in biosolids, nutrient management of biosolids, impacts of hauled-in residual waste into the biosolids treatment process, and field storage of biosolids on land application sites. The workgroup members decided to provide formal written comments to the Department. DEP will use the information gathered during the outreach process to draft any revisions to the permit documents prior to issuing draft permits for public comment.

The Department also communicated with and provided information to the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) as the LBFC evaluated the costs and practicality of the proposed changes to the general permits, as directed by [House Resolution 149 from the 2021-2022 General Assembly session](#). LBFC's [final report](#) on the proposed revisions to the general permits was published in June. DEP's response to LBFC's draft report is included in LBFC's final report as Appendix E. These permits are on hold.

Federal Infrastructure Funding - Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides funding to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). These programs have seen increases to base program funding as well as new supplemental funding programs.

The BIL reauthorizes the base DWSRF program funding and establishes new supplemental DWSRF pots for general infrastructure projects, emerging contaminants projects, and lead service line replacement projects. Base and general supplemental DWSRF money will be used for projects that will improve water system infrastructure (e.g., replacing aging water lines, upgrading treatment plant components, finished water storage tanks). DWSRF BIL funding will provide funding to eligible water systems via PENNVEST for these infrastructure projects. Additionally, the BIL will provide money for technical assistance to water systems, as well as money to cover the cost of administration of the DWSRF program for both the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW) and the Bureau of Clean Water (BCW).

BIL reauthorizes the base CWSRF program funding and also establishes new CWSRF supplemental funding for general infrastructure projects and emerging contaminants projects. In addition, it establishes a new set-aside that will enable DEP to provide technical assistance to small, rural Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW). Similar to the DWSRF program, the CWSRF base program provides funding to infrastructure projects to improve non-point source pollution, stormwater infrastructure, and wastewater infrastructure. CWSRF funding will provide funding to eligible project applicants via PENNVEST for infrastructure projects. The BIL CWSRF funding will also support technical assistance to systems and includes a means to cover the cost of administration of the CWSRF program.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law also mandates that 49 percent of funds provided through the DWSRF General Supplemental Funding and the DWSRF Lead Service Line Replacement Funding must be provided as grants and forgivable loans to disadvantaged communities. The BIL also requires that at least 25 percent of funds provided through the DWSRF Emerging Contaminants Funding be provided as grants and forgivable loans to disadvantaged communities or public water systems serving fewer than 25,000 people.

DEP staff manage EPA applications for both the DWSRF and CWSRF capitalization grants awarded to PENNVEST. DEP staff also oversee DEP's role in managing potential and funded projects from pre-application through project closeout. DEP staff coordinate to prepare the SRF Intended Use Plans including budgets on an annual basis and review, ranking and management of PENNVEST project applications.

DEP and PENNVEST applied for the coming federal fiscal year state allotments. These are noncompetitive grants, so EPA provides the state allotment in advance of the application process to facilitate grant application development. DEP submitted the application on behalf of PENNVEST by July 1, 2023. Public notice of the intent to apply included a public comment period. DEP was awarded the DWSRF grants for an approximate total of \$275 million which includes the state match funds. Similarly, DEP was awarded the CWSRF grants for an approximate total of \$134 million which includes the state match funds.

The BIL also provides additional funding programs that appear to fall outside of the SRF umbrella. To date, EPA has provided very little if any information to states on this additional funding outside of the SRF umbrella. DEP BSDW staff will continue to push EPA for this guidance and provide additional details in future weekly articles as more information becomes available. While specific state funding allotments are not yet available, these programs include funding for the following:

- Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities (Sec. 50104) – Preliminary EPA documents indicate that PA's share may be ~\$28 million annually. Funding may be provided through Small, Underserved, and Disadvantaged Communities Grants (not SRF), and can be used to remediate PFAS in drinking water.
- Several Lead Programs – Reducing Lead in Drinking Water (Sec. 50105) and Lead Contamination in School Drinking Water (Sec. 50110). Note: These lead programs may be under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Grant umbrella.
- Operational Sustainability Grants to Small PWSs (Sec. 50106) and Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program (Sec. 50107).

FFY 2024 CWSRF and DWSRF Capitalization Grant Application Schedule Change

EPA is strongly encouraging SRF applicants to submit both the CWSRF and DWSRF capitalization grant applications as well as all five (5) BIL grant applications administered through the SRF program as soon as possible with a goal of May 1st and a deadline of June 1st. Applications received after June 1st cannot be guaranteed to be awarded before 9/30/2024. EPA will make awards based on draft IUPs if needed. This 60-day to 30-day reduction in SRF grant application preparation time is primarily due to EPA's additional workload of processing Inflation Reduction Act grants this year. *DEP has met EPA's June 1, 2024 deadline for submitting the four (4) FFY 2024 DWSRF Base and BIL grant applications, totaling approximately \$276.6M in federal funds, and the three (3) FFY 2024 CWSRF and BIL grant applications, totaling approximately \$130.9M in federal funds. Similarly, BCW has submitted the FFY 2022 and FFY 2023 Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse (OSG) grant application, totaling approximately \$3.9M in federal funds.*

Chesapeake Bay Restoration IIJA/BIL

On May 2, 2022, EPA announced the allocation of \$40 million in first-year funds from the IIJA at an event in Baltimore. The funding includes the \$15 million allocation to jurisdictions for the Most Effective Basins (MEB) as well as funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Small Watershed Grants (SWG) and Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reductions (INSR) grants program. To date, the IIJA funding that would be directed through the SWG/INSR has not been awarded; EPA published a Request for Application (RFA) on July 31, 2023, with the intent to award the IIJA funds for SWG/INSR administration in January 2024.

On March 13, 2023, EPA provided the Pennsylvania agency-specific allocations, beginning October 1, 2023.

Including all Chesapeake Bay federal grants, DEP received more than \$13 million, of which more than \$5 million will be IJA money. DEP worked with EPA to review the draft grant guidelines and to identify procurement requirements associated with IJA funding. DEP reviewed the additional federal funding allocation with conservation districts during the annual Conservation District and Commonwealth Agency Agricultural meeting on April 6, 2023. DEP and SCC held two follow-up sessions on May 18, 2023, with county partners (Tier 1-2 and Tier 3-4, respectively) to review and discuss options for delivering the additional federal funding, complementing state funding sources, to the counties. The workplan, budget, and associated forms were submitted to EPA by the July 16, 2023 deadline. On August 30, 2023, DEP received our FY2023 IJA funding allocation.

The 2024 Community Clean Water Coordinator (CCWC) and CAP Implementation Block Grant round opened for counties to submit their project proposals on September 29, 2023 and closed on October 31, 2023. Funding for this block grant program comes from the Environmental Stewardship Fund / Growing Greener and the EPA Chesapeake Bay MEB IJA, Local Government Implementation, and Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG) MEB grant funds. Changes to this year's round included a requirement to submit the estimated nutrient and sediment reductions (in prior years this was voluntary) and a minimum threshold for funding of \$200,000. The reason for the mandatory submission of estimated nutrient and sediment reductions is due to requests from EPA to include these metrics in Pennsylvania's 2024-2025 Chesapeake Bay Milestone Commitments. These adjustments also allow for counties to proactively plan ahead to meet their CAP nutrient and sediment reduction goals with the knowledge of the minimum amount of funding that would be allocated to their county, if requested. Staff reviewed the project proposals and allocation formulas and announced the awards on December 1, 2023.

EPA provided the FY2024 IJA allocation amount to DEP, SCC, and DCNR on February 8, 2024. EPA met with the three state agencies to discuss potential allocations. EPA will shift all of the Most Effective Basin annual allocation back to DEP through the Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG), and then move some of DEP's IJA allocation to further support DCNR and SCC. This allocation was done at the request of DEP, SCC, and DCNR. DEP will be receiving more than \$2.8 million, SCC will receive \$4.5 million, and DCNR will receive \$2 million in IJA funds. All Chesapeake Bay grants combined, DEP will have an increase in funding over FY2023 by \$795,112, SCC will have an increase in funding by \$500,000, and DCNR will have an increase in funding by \$2 million.

EPA approved DEP's CB IJA workplan and budget on June 11, 2024.

PAG-13 General Permit

On Saturday, May 18, 2024, DEP published notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin [[54 Pa.B. 2693](#)] of an extension to the PAG-13 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges to Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s). By this action the availability of the general permit has been extended until PAG-13 is reissued. DEP had previously extended PAG-13 for a 2-year period and solicited interest in participants for a workgroup. A series of 8 meetings was held by the workgroup between November 2022 and March 2023 and DEP received a significant amount of feedback on the next version of PAG-13. DEP also received recommendations from EPA Region 3 via a letter dated February 28, 2023. DEP has prepared preliminary draft PAG-13 documents which are under internal review.

PAG-02 General Permit

On March 9, DEP published notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin of the availability of a draft PAG-02 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities. The draft PAG-02 General Permit would become effective on December 8, 2024, one day following the expiration of the current PAG-02 General Permit. DEP anticipates publishing the final PAG-02 General Permit during the Fall of 2024 to provide existing permittees sufficient time to prepare and submit

Notices of Intent (NOIs) to remain covered under the reissued PAG-02. The public comment period for the draft PAG-02 ended on April 8.

Chapter 102 Pilot Program

DEP has announced the availability of a Pilot program for Individual NPDES Permits for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities. The purpose of the Pilot program is to evaluate the effect that certain modifications to existing procedures has on the quality of applications received and the amount of time necessary to review applications and take final actions. Ten delegated county conservation districts are participating in the Pilot program. Not every type of project is eligible to participate; eligibility guidelines are posted to DEP's construction stormwater website (www.dep.pa.gov/constructionstormwater). The Pilot is expected to run a minimum of three calendar quarters. If the Pilot is considered successful DEP may make some or all of the modified procedures part of its standard operating procedures for all applications.

Manure Management – Land Application of Manure Technical Guidance Document (361-0300-002) Substantive Revision – Final Publication

The Manure Management Manual (MMM) Technical Guidance Document (TGD) contains current standards for development and implementation of a plan to manage nutrients for water quality protection which can be used to comply with the requirements in 25 Pa. Code Section 91.36(b)(1). The MMM TGD was published as final on April 27, 2024. With substantive revisions since it was first published in 2011, and engagement and outreach beginning in 2018 through surveys, workgroups and subcommittees comprised of conservation districts, other state agencies, certified Nutrient Management Planners, ag industry and environmental groups (including but not limited to the PA Farm Bureau, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and DEP Agriculture Advisory Board members), and Penn State Extension, these revisions will address lessons learned over the last decade of implementation. Revisions include: a short form for agricultural operations that meet specific criteria, Animal Equivalent Unit (AEU) calculations and Agricultural Process Wastewater worksheets, and clarifications made to existing worksheets. Regarding winter spreading, the option to plan to the phosphorus removal rates for the coming year's crops has been removed; however, winter application of manure is still allowed, with restrictions. Clarification of vegetation requirements needed to maintain pasture and the simplified rate tables for phosphorus removal are provided; if applying to nitrogen need, a higher level of planning (through Nutrient Balance Sheets) will be needed. Education, outreach, tools, and resources are planned, including updates to the Penn State Manure Management website and PAOneStop, DEP's Clean Water Academy, and development of handouts for distribution to farmers by district and DEP staff with printed copies of the final version available for use. These outreach materials are planned to be developed and rolled out in Summer-Fall 2024.

Information regarding the final publication of the MMM TGD was presented at the April 17 DEP Agriculture Advisory Board.

Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Section 319

The Section 319 NPS Management grant funds are provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and authorized through Section 319(h) of the federal Clean Water Act. The program's primary purpose is to implement Section 319 Program Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) to improve and protect Pennsylvania's waters from nonpoint source pollution.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023 EPA Section 319 NPS Management Grant awards were [announced](#) on October 19, 2023.

The FFY 2024 EPA Section 319 NPS Management Grants round opened April 21, 2023, with applications due by June 23, 2023, at 11:59 p.m., as noticed in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on April 1, 2023, at . The draft FFY 2024 workplans and budgets were submitted by DEP to EPA by the November 30, 2023, deadline for EPA review. On April 24, 2024, EPA notified DEP of our final FFY 2024 allocation, which is less than anticipated.

EPA Section 319 Project Officers noted that this is due to the national allocation for FFY 2024, not having to do with PA DEP's administration of the funds. DEP is working on making the necessary revisions to the FFY 2024 workplans and budgets to account for the deduction of almost \$300,000 from our draft workplans and budgets.

In order to meet the requirements of the federal Section 319 grant program, EPA requires that the states develop and implement their five-year Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Program Plan and submit annual reports regarding the status of implementation of those statewide plans. Pennsylvania's current NPS Management Plan includes six goals with multiple objectives and strategies tied to each goal, which is reported on every year and published to the DEP Nonpoint Source [webpage](#). DEP has worked with other state and federal agencies and programs to draft an update to the current [2019 NPS Management Plan](#). The draft 2024-2029 NPS Management Plan was submitted to EPA for their review in October 2023, in accordance with the EPA Action Plan required deadlines. For the 2024-2029 draft NPS Management Plan, DEP has included an addition of a seventh goal focused on climate change and Environmental Justice (EJ). Also included in the draft 2024-2029 NPS Management Plan is the incorporation of recommendations from EPA's 2020 Midpoint Assessment of DEP's Nonpoint Source Management Program. EPA conducted their review and provided feedback and comments to DEP in late December 2023 to consider and address prior to submission of the final 2024-2029 NPS Management Plan. DEP intends to publish the Nonpoint Source Management Plan and Annual Report in early Summer.

EPA approved DEP's 2023 NPS Annual Report on June 12, 2024, which will be published on DEP's [Nonpoint Source](#) webpage. EPA will notify DEP of their approval of the 2024-2029 NPS Management Plan by the end of June.

The FFY2025 EPA Section 319 NPS Management Grants round opened on April 22, 2024 (Earth Day), with applications due by June 21, 2024. The grant guidance, recorded tutorial, and associated material can be found on DEP's [Nonpoint Source](#) webpage.

New this year:

- Section 319 WIP Revisions or updates to existing WIPs that are at least 8 years or older are encouraged to apply. New Section 319 WIP development applications are no longer an eligible project category.
- Preference will be given to Section 319 WIP implementation projects in Pennsylvania's [Environmental Justice Areas](#).

Growing Greener Plus Program

DEP opened the 2022 Growing Greener Plus grant round on April 22, 2022. The deadline to apply was June 24, 2022. The 2022 Growing Greener Plus grant round includes some new features, including: (1) a reinvigorated Growing Greener Watershed Renaissance Initiative (GGWRI) focused on the complete implementation of existing watershed restoration or implementation plans on small catchment areas in Centre, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Snyder, and Union counties; and (2) a priority to implement projects in support of the Pennsylvania 2021 Climate Action Plan. The 2022 Growing Greener Plus awards were announced on January 12, 2023. The full list of 2022 Growing Greener projects can be found [here](#).

The 2023 Growing Greener Plus Grants awards were announced on January 5, 2024. The full list of 2023 Growing Greener projects can be found [here](#).

The 2024 Growing Greener Plus Grants round opened on April 22, 2024 (Earth Day), with applications due by June 21, 2024. The grant guidance, recorded tutorial, and associated materials can be found on DEP's [Growing Greener](#) webpage.

New this year:

- The Growing Greener Watershed Renaissance Initiative (GGWRI) is expanded statewide.
- Within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, agricultural construction projects will be considered, however [Chesapeake Bay Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan Countywide Action Plan](#) and statewide [Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program](#) funding should be the priority funding source for agricultural construction projects.
- Preference will be given to implementation projects in Pennsylvania's [Environmental Justice Areas](#).

State Water Plan

The [2022 State Water Plan Update Report](#) ("Update Report") is now complete and available to the public. This report is focused on items such as water resources strategies outlined in the Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan and updated regional watershed priorities. In addition to this important document, a [Digital Water Atlas Story Map](#) was created as a planning tool for professionals and as a research tool for academics.

The first round of meetings for 2024 was successfully completed in April with all seven committees having met. The content of these meetings consisted of an update from DEP on matters such as recruiting and outreach. There was also discussion surrounding the formation of a workgroup to draft a framework for Integrated Water Resources Management. *This workgroup has now met twice and discussed the changes that will be made to their section of the report, a plan for carrying out work, and the different roles at play within the field of Integrated Water Resources Management.* Several committees struggled to achieve quorum during their meetings leading to an emphasis on recruiting in the coming months to ensure that business can be conducted in future meetings. The Citizens Advisory Council can assist with recruitment efforts by referring anyone who could fill a committee vacancy to James Horton (jahorton@pa.gov). Up to date information on current committee membership and vacancies can be found [here](#).

The next round of meetings will take place in October of 2024. In accordance with Act 220 of 2002's requirements, a new update will be needed in 2027.

Public Water System Technical Assistance Center (PWS TAC) Board Meeting

The meeting of the Public Water System Technical Assistance Center (PWS TAC) Board was held on Thursday, May 23, 2024. The meeting was held in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building. The agenda and meeting materials were posted to the [PWS TAC Board](#) website two weeks prior to the meeting date.

The PWS TAC Board provides direction and advice to DEP on water system technical and management assistance programs; and to comment on policies, guidance and regulations as they may affect all public water systems, with an emphasis on the unique effects on small public water systems.

The next PWS TAC Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, in room 105 at the Rachel Carson State Office Building.

Attachment 1

2024 Events Calendar

Please consult the [DEP Calendar of Events](#) for a comprehensive listing of upcoming events and information on how to attend. The Calendar can be accessed in the Public Participation Tab on the DEP website; click on “Public Participation” then “Calendar of Events.” Unless otherwise indicated below or on the DEP Calendar of Events, there will be virtual and in-person attendance options for each event.

July	
9	Citizens Advisory Council, 12:30pm
9	Environmental Quality Board, 9am
10	Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment, 10am
11	Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee, 9:15am
18	Water Resources Advisory Committee, 9:30am
25	Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board, 10am
August	
7	State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators, 10am
13	Environmental Justice Advisory Board, 9am
13	Environmental Quality Board, 9am
14	Public Water System Technical Assistance Center Board, 9am
20	Climate Change Advisory Committee, 9am
21	Agricultural Advisory Board, 9am
22	Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority Board, 10am
28	Aggregate Advisory Board, 10am

This report was prepared by Max Schultz, DEP Policy Office, Deputy Policy Director for Energy Resources. For questions or requests, please email maxschultz@pa.gov.