



News for Immediate Release

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DEP Reorganizes to Improve Efficiency, Transparency

Harrisburg — A major reorganization within the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection will refocus the agency on its core mission of protecting the environment while improving efficiency and regulatory consistency.

"These organizational changes will enhance the department's ability to protect Pennsylvania's air, water and land, and also will result in a consistent and predictable regulatory system," DEP Secretary Mike Krancer said.

Krancer said DEP will make decisions based on facts and sound science by providing enhanced, unified oversight to the natural gas industry; emphasizing the revitalization of brownfields; providing consistent, predictable decision-making; and delivering compliance assistance and pollution prevention education.

"This is an installment of delivering what Governor Corbett promised during the campaign; and I, along with the governor, am committed to protecting the environment and public health for the future of all Pennsylvanians by strictly and vigorously enforcing our environmental laws," he added. "Our commitment to protecting our state's environment remains as strong as ever."

The reorganization will improve internal communication and coordination and will create new channels as well. It will also boost the interdisciplinary and cross-media approach to environmental regulation that Krancer has emphasized.

"I am directing agency management to analyze their operations and practices, so we can move to improve in that area, too," Krancer said.

Some of the specific highlights of the changes that will happen are:

- With the projected growth of the Marcellus Shale and other shale formations and as a reflection of the administration's emphasis on proper oversight of the Marcellus Shale industry, the Bureau of Oil and Gas Management will elevate to becoming a deputation, which will unify oversight of this industry by Harrisburg-based and regional staff. This will give DEP the ability to better coordinate its permitting, inspection and enforcement efforts.
- A new bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields will be created under the Office of Waste, Air, Radiation and Remediation. This new bureau

will house all aspects of site cleanup and will more closely mirror the structure used in environmental cleanup statewide.

- A new Bureau of Conservation and Reclamation will be created to better align the Office of Water Management's core functions, and others will be realigned. The new bureau will incorporate staff assigned to restoring streams affected by acid mine drainage. By aligning staff assigned to stream restoration, DEP will further improve the Office of Active and Abandoned Mine Operations' focus.
- A new Office of Pollution Prevention and Energy Assistance will be formed, so that the agency can enhance its efforts to communicate and educate these values and provide know-how, tools and partnering. The reorganization will also create the Office of Program Integration to develop and coordinate the implementation of initiatives, as well as examine and improve program efficiency across the agency.

The department will begin implementing the new organizational structure immediately and will make additional details available in coming months.

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

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