

**Department of Environmental Protection  
Report to the Citizens Advisory Council  
July 2013**

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**Water Management**

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**Water Quality Standards Triennial Review**

Once every three years, the Department is required by the Federal Clean Water Act to review and amend, as necessary, its water quality standards. This process is known as the Triennial Review. The Department has conducted the review and identified needed additions, corrections, and updates to the water quality regulations. A number of new chemical parameter limits are proposed. The current Triennial Review is due as final to EPA by May 15, 2013. At the regularly scheduled WRAC meeting in January 2012, they voted to accept the Triennial as presented. The EQB approved the triennial review proposed rulemaking at the April 2012 meeting. The triennial review proposed rulemaking was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin with a 45-day public comment period. Two public hearings were held on the proposal. Concurrently, the Department also proposed revisions to Chapter 16 Water Quality Toxics Management Strategy – Statement of Policy that are consistent with, and accommodate the proposed revisions to the water quality standards regulations. The Department’s Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) held two Adhoc workgroup sessions in August 2012 to discuss Molybdenum and Sulfates. The Department presented the final rulemaking to WRAC in November 2012. WRAC endorsed taking the final rulemaking to EQB. *The Department presented the final rulemaking package to EQB on April 16, 2013. The EQB voted to approve the rulemaking. The rulemaking was submitted to the Legislative Standing Committees and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) who respectively approved the final rulemaking on June 19, 2013, and June 20, 2013. The rulemaking was approved for form and legality by the Attorney General’s Office and is being prepared by the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication as final rulemaking in the PA Bulletin.*

**Planning and Permitting of onsite sewage systems in areas of High Quality (HQ) and Exceptional Value (EV) Streams.**

The Environmental Hearing Board (EHB) in November 2011 in their Pine Creek decision ruled that the methodology or lack thereof relied upon by the DEP for the planning of onsite sewage treatment systems in HQ/EV areas was not sufficient. The SCRO DEP’s approval of the Pine Creek development plan was rescinded. The Pine Creek EHB decision, established a legal and scientific standard that is extremely difficult to meet, thereby jeopardizing any future development using septic systems in HQ and EV watersheds. DEP since that decision has been researching methodologies to address the EHBs concerns. DEP on March 2, 2013 released, for a 60 day public comment period that was later extended to June 3, 2013, a guidance document to address the issue. It presented a Best Management Practices approach as a methodology for addressing antidegradation concerns when planning and permitting onsite sewage systems. However, during the public comment period, the Pennsylvania General Assembly began moving legislation amending Act 537 that eliminated the need for the guidance document. The legislation (HB 1325) stated onlot sewage systems, as designed and approved by DEP regulations, satisfy the antidegradation requirements of the Clean Streams Law. The legislation was signed into law (Act 41 of 2013) on July 2, 2013. *As a result of the new law, DEP is no longer pursuing the technical guidance document.*

**NPDES MS4 General Permit (PAG-13)**

*The NPDES MS4 General Permit (PAG-13) was issued final on September 17, 2011, and the permit’s effective date is March 16, 2013. DEP is continuing its discussions with EPA Region III regarding provisions in PAG-13 particularly in regards to implementation of TMDLs and the implementation of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. Fifteen work sessions reviewing the permitting requirements of federal MS4 program and the PAG-13 and individual permit applications were held in various locations of the Commonwealth from January 2012 through April 2012. Permit renewal applications or Notice of Intents (NOI) were required to be filed by September 14, 2012. A number of permit applications were not received or were not received on time. The DEP Bureau of Point and Non-Point Source Management continues to assist municipalities and the re-organized DEP regional offices in handling the renewal applications.*

The majority of the renewal MS 4 permit applications were received and they are being processed by the regional office Clean Water program permitting staff. Those entities who did not submit applications were sent two reminder notices and, if they still did not submit their application or NOI, a Notice of Violation *and Administrative Order*. The Department does not expect to notify any new municipalities assigned as “urbanized areas” by EPA because of the 2010 census until the renewal permits are close to being through the re-issuance process. The expected time frame of notification to new MS4 entities is sometime in late 2013.

**Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**

Approximately 30 SOPs for permitting activities were developed by the Bureau of Point and Non-Point Source Management (BPNPSM) in November 2012 to ensure consistency in the implementation of DEP’s “Policy for Implementing the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) Permit Review Process and Permit Decision Guarantee.” The SOPs cover review procedures for essentially all of the permits issued by the DEP regional Clean Water Program, and are available online at the following link:

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/Permit\\_Decision\\_Guarantee/21215/SOPs/1294992](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/Permit_Decision_Guarantee/21215/SOPs/1294992)

BPNPSM is working on SOPs for the review of Sewage Planning applications and will be posting SOPs to the website in the near future. In addition, BPNPSM is also working on SOPs for conducting inspections at permitted facilities.

**Chesapeake Bay TMDL/WIP**

EPA published a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay on December 29, 2010, which establishes a ‘budget’ for nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment loadings. As part of the process, EPA directed states to submit phased Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) intended to demonstrate “Reasonable Assurance” that TMDL objectives would be met. EPA requested Phase I WIPs in 2010; Phase 2 WIPs in 2012; and expects Phase 3 WIPs to be delivered in 2018. Over 125 individuals representing a broad range of organizations and interest volunteered to participate on a Management Team and workgroups that provided input throughout the development of the first two Pennsylvania WIPs.

The Pennsylvania WIP documents are posted at:

[http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/chesapeake\\_bay\\_program/10513](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/chesapeake_bay_program/10513). EPA has established a website specifically for the TMDL, which can be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl/>

According to EPA's 2011 watershed model progress run, when compared to 1985, Pennsylvania has achieved 26% of the nitrogen reductions, 32% of the phosphorous reductions, and 46% of the sediment reductions needed to reach the 2025 restoration targets. This is real progress but more needs to be done. When compared to current 2011 progress reported by the watershed model, Pennsylvania needs to achieve an additional 33.64 million pound reduction in nitrogen, 1.2 million pound reduction in phosphorous, and 567.8 million pound reduction in sediment by 2025. This is real progress. Current progress and goals are identified in the below table.

Phase 5.3.2 Watershed Model			
Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment Delivered Loads			
(Millions of Pounds)			
	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Total Suspended Sediment
2011 Progress	112.47	4.8	2513
August 1, 2011 Phase 2 WIP Planning Targets	78.83	3.60	1,945
Remaining Reductions	33.64	1.2	568

It should be noted that EPA’s watershed model can be a useful tool to help guide management actions and project their results. It is not, however, sufficiently precise to measure actual progress or lack thereof. It should not be used in a regulatory context to determine whether an enforcement action or other penalty is appropriate.

**Pennsylvania WIPs**

Phase 2 was addressed in a process similar to Phase 1. DEP staff re-convened the Management Team and held eight county workshops from October through early November to solicit input on the Phase 2 draft. DEP then held a 45 day

public comment period on the Draft Phase 2 WIP. Many of the public comments received supported the issuance of local area targets to help inform county and municipal governments of the approximate level of effort necessary to reach Pennsylvania's TMDL allocations. EPA also called for local area targets. In response to these comments, DEP has posted on its website revised Draft County Planning Targets. These targets are for planning purposes only.

EPA provided their evaluation of the final Phase 2 WIP on May 30, 2012. The evaluation included the following:

- EPA appreciated the steps that Pennsylvania is taking to continue working with local partners, including providing draft county planning targets.
- EPA upgraded the wastewater sector from "enhanced" to "ongoing" oversight based on additional information in the final Phase 2 WIP and milestones.
- EPA stated that the proposed resolution in support of the Model Agriculture Compliance Policy from PACD and Pennsylvania's work with USDA NRCS on advanced manure technologies both show promise that the Commonwealth's agricultural strategies will be successful. However, EPA will maintain enhanced oversight for the agriculture sector until Pennsylvania more fully addresses issues identified in the evaluation. These include compliance, tracking and verifying unreported BMPs, and quantifying the reductions associated with manure technology.
- EPA will now conduct enhanced oversight for Pennsylvania's trading program until recommendations from the recent offset and trading program assessment are addressed, including EPA concerns with the baseline for credit generation.
- EPA is maintaining backstop actions for the urban stormwater sector as they do not feel that the final Phase 2 WIP and milestones provide clear strategies for how to achieve reductions in nutrient and sediment loads from existing urban lands.

### **Additional Wastewater Details**

Following issuance of the Final Phase 2 WIP, on April 2, 2012 the Bureau of Point and Non-Point Source Management (BPNPSM) issued a *wastewater* supplement to the Final Phase 2 WIP to EPA. This supplementary document described the status of TMDL implementation for point sources through the establishment of TN and TP annual load limits in NPDES permits, and set forth an updated permitting strategy. Specifically, the document addressed the following:

- It determined that the issuance of permits to significant sewage dischargers is nearly complete, and that upon completion total cap loads in permits will exceed the wasteload allocations (WLAs) in the TMDL. However, the exceedance is generally due to the connection of retired on-lot sewage systems, and so DEP will need to shift some load from the non-point source septic load allocation (LA) to the point source WLAs.
- It estimated reserves for significant industrial waste dischargers following the initial round of permitting, and a strategy for managing these reserves.
- It modified the list of significant sewage and industrial waste dischargers based on updated information.
- It provided updated direction on permitting non-significant discharges, approving offsets, and certifying or verifying credits.

BPNPSM intends for the document to be dynamic, with frequent updates based on the collection of additional data and modifications due to new or changing circumstances that are encountered. *The latest wastewater supplement is dated June 27, 2013 and is available at:*

[http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Water/Wastewater%20Management/EDMRPortalFiles/Phase\\_2\\_WIP\\_Supplement.pdf](http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Water/Wastewater%20Management/EDMRPortalFiles/Phase_2_WIP_Supplement.pdf) .

### **Milestones**

EPA will be using two-year milestones to track Pennsylvania's progress toward the Year 2025 Chesapeake Bay goals. Pennsylvania's Final 2012 – 2013 Programmatic Milestones were submitted to EPA on March 30, 2012 and are posted to DEP's Chesapeake Bay Program website. BMP progress for Years 2009 through 2011 was announced at the Chesapeake Executive Council on July 9<sup>th</sup>, and posted to the DEP website.

### **Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment**

The Chesapeake Bay Program's Principals Staff Committee adopted the below Guiding Principles for the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Midpoint Assessment at their December 5, 2012 meeting.

#### **Guiding Principles**

1. Continue implementation, tracking progress and reporting results, with stable tools through at least 2017

2. Enhance decision support and assessment tools to enable successful engagement of local partners
3. Incorporate new or refined BMPs and verification of practices into existing accountability tools and reporting protocols
4. Address emerging issues that may impact current strategies and future plans
5. Prioritize midpoint assessment actions and use adaptive management to ensure water quality goals are met

### **What is the Midpoint Assessment?**

- Review and incorporation of the latest science, data, tools, BMPs and lessons-learned to determine whether Partnership's strategies will result in all practices in place by 2025 necessary to attain water quality standards in the Bay
- Midpoint assessment includes:
  - Changes to modeling decision support tools
  - Integrated assessment of progress, including watershed monitoring and assessment of water quality standards attainment
  - Expectations and schedule for Phase III WIP development
- Why is a midpoint assessment necessary?
  - Partnership needs to be able to engage local partners in order to get practices on the ground
  - Current suite of modeling tools is pushing partners away
  - Changes to modeling inputs and assumptions will allow us to work with key partners
- TMDL allocations will remain in place through at least 2017
- Future changes to targets and allocations are a decision point, not a presumption. After the midpoint assessment is complete, including but not limited to any changes to decision support tools:
  - EPA will work with Partnership to set Phase III WIP planning targets. Note level of effort could change.
  - Based on midpoint assessment and Phase III WIPs, EPA will determine whether to modify Bay TMDL

### **BMP Verification Principles**

The priority of the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) is the implementation of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, the jurisdictions' Watershed Implementation Plans, and 2-year milestones. The CBP has committed to the development of a best management practice (BMP) verification framework for use by the seven watershed jurisdictions to assure data quality for BMP reporting for annual Model Progress runs. The framework is guided by the BMP Verification Principles approved by the PSC Principles' Staff Committee on December 5, 2012 ([http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel\\_files/19044/attachment\\_iv.c.\\_final\\_draft\\_cbp\\_bmp\\_verification\\_principles\\_for\\_psc.pdf](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/19044/attachment_iv.c._final_draft_cbp_bmp_verification_principles_for_psc.pdf)). The CBP sector workgroups were subsequently directed to develop Verification Protocols for agriculture, forestry, stormwater, wastewater streams and wetlands. ([http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/best\\_management\\_practices\\_bmp\\_verification\\_committee](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/best_management_practices_bmp_verification_committee)) Jurisdictions are expected to develop BMP Verification Programs to address the Protocol requirements. The current schedule is for these to be developed by the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter in 2014.

The CBP has established a BMP Verification Review Panel which will examine the degree to which a jurisdiction's program meets the parameters established by the CBP BMP verification framework. This review will include an examination of existing BMP measurements, accounting, and inspection systems and any proposed improvements to those systems submitted for CBP review. The jurisdictions will build from existing practice tracking and reporting systems and work towards achieving or maintaining the following principles.

### **Developing a new Chesapeake Bay Agreement: EPA Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) – Partnering, Leadership, and Management Goal Implementation Team (GIT 6)**

*In response to the goals & governance options selected at the April 17th CBP Principals Staff Committee (PSC) meeting, Goal Implementation Team (GIT) 6 is moving forward with leading the process for the development of a proposed new Chesapeake Bay Agreement (agreement). GIT 6 has been working with the other GITs for several months aiding with the development of their goals and outcomes, which are to be included in the agreement. These goals and outcomes were presented at the May 16th Management Board (MB) meeting, and the GIT members explained the rationale behind each.*

*GIT 6 is currently focused on developing structure and wording for the mission, vision, and principles sections of the new agreement. After receiving input from the May 16th MB meeting, GIT 6 is developing the draft wording and details of the mission, vision, and principles segments of the new agreement. These draft mission, vision, and principles sections will then be brought back to the MB during their June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting for further discussion and review prior to the next PSC meeting.*

*GIT 6 is currently developing a timeline outlining the proposed steps and deadlines for all appropriate stakeholders needed to reach a new agreement by the Fall 2013 Executive Council Meeting. Other work will include revising the CBP Governance document and aiding with the development of management strategies, which will likely be referred to in the new agreement. Further information is available at:*

*[http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/enhancing\\_partnering\\_leadership\\_and\\_management\\_goal\\_implementation\\_team](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/enhancing_partnering_leadership_and_management_goal_implementation_team)*

### **Nutrient Trading**

DEP continues to implement the Nutrient Trading Program as designed in the regulations, 25 Pa. Code, Chapter 96, "Water Quality Standards Implementation." The Nutrient Trading Program regulations, Section 96.8, "Use of offsets and tradable credits from pollution reduction activities in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed" were published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and became effective on October 9, 2010. (Reference, 40 Pa. B. 5790.) The program has become very successful in providing a cost-effective means for facilities subject to limits for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment to meet those limits by working with other facilities or with nonpoint sources, or both. It has become an integral part of Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Program strategy to advance the restoration and protection of this very valuable water resource. However, DEP has recognized that there are a few program components that could be enhanced. As a result, Deputy Secretary for Water Management Kelly Heffner and Paul Marchetti, Executive Director for Pennvest sent notices to potential members of a stakeholder group comprised of buyers, sellers, governmental agencies, environmental groups and other interested parties asking them if they would be interested in participating in a series of meetings to further evaluate the need for revisions in the policies, guidance and regulations governing the Nutrient Trading Program. These meetings are now finished. Recommendations were provided relative to three major topic categories as follows:

1. Streamlining processes for certification, verification and registration of credits – including the creation of an Independent Review Team, the extension of the "true-up period", the role of the aggregator and 3<sup>rd</sup> party verification.
2. Nutrient Credit Clearinghouse – including interbasin and interstate trading, the PENNVEST Auction process, the credit reserve and the use of public funds for the generation of credits
3. Calculation of Credits and Practice Efficiencies – including the definition of baseline and threshold, the eligibility of practices for credit generation and the life of a credit

The Department met again with this group on November 15, 2012. An overview of the proposed enhancements to the program was provided. These enhancements were developed with the following goals in mind:

1. Maximize the use of existing technical and financial resources of the Department and the participants in the NTP.
2. Enhance program transparency and public involvement where appropriate.
3. Meet EPA expectations regarding program elements.
4. Minimize the perception of risk in the credit trading market and enhance certainty.

The key points from the presentation provided to the stakeholder group are:

- There are no proposed revisions to the credit certifications, verifications or credit registrations currently in place. However, all certifications currently in place would expire September 30, 2015. It is unclear at this point if those certifications with approval dates after this date would have to submit a complete new application for certification.
- Moving forward, the proposed adjustments for threshold would be applied to all credits generated after October 1, 2015. If a credit generator wants approval for credit generation after this date; the draft adjustments in place at the time of application would be applied to the DEP approval of the credit certification application.
- The adjustments to threshold would be phased in, starting in October 2014 for point sources and October 2015 for nonpoint sources.
- To trade, a credit generator must first demonstrate achievement of the threshold. This threshold is being adjusted in order to address EPA concerns.

- Adjustments to the threshold for nonpoint sources include:
  - a. *The possible* application of a trading ratio based on EPA technical memorandum. This ratio will be in addition to the credit reserve and edge of stream/delivery ratios.
  - b. This ratio will not be applied to technologies where actual quantification of reductions can be quantified through sampling.
  - c. *Application of a performance-based approach. Possible* modeling tool to simulate actual farm practices *and urban stormwater are being evaluated and reviewed.* Further analysis is needed to determine whether one allocation for each sector within the Pennsylvania portion of the Chesapeake Bay basin or allocations for each sector within smaller watersheds *or by county* is more equitable.
- Adjustments to the threshold for point sources include:
  - a. Elimination of the ability to generate credits solely on the fact that the wastewater treatment facility discharged less wastewater than their permit allows starting October 1, 2013.
  - b. Credits would be calculated based on a threshold of effluent concentration of 8 mg/L total nitrogen and 1 mg/L total phosphorus. This threshold would be reduced to 6 mg/L total nitrogen and 0.8 mg/L total phosphorus starting October 1, 2014.
- There are a couple proposed options for changes to the business processes including:
  - a. Locational – Certification applications for credit generation would be submitted for each site where the pollutant reduction activity would be installed. This is the current process.
  - b. Pollutant Reduction Activity – Certification applications for credit generation would be submitted for each pollutant reduction activity. Once approved, any credit generator could install the practice on a site without further application. Submittal of locational information would be done at verification.
  - c. Generator Approval Program – Any entity could apply to be a credit generator, describing the types of pollutant reduction activities they plan to utilize and the general area they plan to work. Details on actual pollutant reduction activities installed and location would be submitted at verification.
  - d. Tailored – Approval for credit generation would be based on whether or not the seller wants to sell the credits during the current year, or in future years. Applications for credit generation for future years would need to supply additional locational information and would be subject to more detailed review. In essence, this is a combination of options a and b above.
- Before adjustments can be made to the existing business processes, questions to still be answered include:
  - a. Which option is the best option; or is a combination of options a more appropriate approach?
  - b. When should DEP approval of a credit certification application (regardless of option taken) expire, or should it expire at all?
- Other proposed enhancements:
  - a. Extension of the “true-up” period to 90 days
  - b. Add an additional 5% reserve to credits generated through inter-basin trading where the location of the credit generator is not in the same basin as the entity buying the credits
  - c. Creation of a Compliance Monitoring & Inspection Audit Program
- Other input received that resulted in no changes to the program
  - a. An Independent Review Team will not be created
  - b. Existing policies on the use of public funds for the creation of credits will not change
  - c. For the purpose of determining compliance, credits cannot be averaged over a 3 year period
  - d. The department is continuing to evaluate edge of stream and delivery ratio factors. However, for now, the edge of stream and delivery ratios from Version 4 of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model will continue to be the ones used in the credit calculation methodologies.

While most of these proposed enhancements can be done through guidelines DEP is planning to propose comprehensive revisions to the existing regulations to implement these enhancements in order to provide sufficient opportunity for outreach and training to ensure the final program enhancements will meet the goals of the program. In addition, to minimize confusion with other proposed revisions to Chapter 96, the existing regulations will be rescinded and replaced with a new, separate Chapter 98. It is estimated that these regulations can be in place by May, 2015.

Before draft regulations are developed DEP intends to implement a comprehensive outreach strategy to ensure the proposed enhancements are comprehensive and will achieve the intended outcomes. This strategy is now under development.

Another important component to facilitate the nutrient trading market involves Pennvest. Pennvest has been serving as the Nutrient Credit Clearinghouse for nutrient credit trading transactions. In this context, credit buyers and sellers contract with Pennvest rather than directly with each other. These transactions occur through periodic credit auctions. The next Pennvest auction will take place on June 12, 2013. Results from the March 20 auction and additional information about the auction can be found at:

[http://www.pennvest.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pennvest\\_internet/9242](http://www.pennvest.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pennvest_internet/9242) .

The nutrient trading regulations provide for three distinct activities regarding the generation of credits: certification, verification and registration. Certification is written approval by DEP that a proposed nutrient reduction activity will generate credits. Verification is the process of confirming that the certified activity took place. Registration is the accounting mechanism used by DEP to track and associate the use of credits for permit compliance. Detailed information on this process and specific projects can be found on the DEP website at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us). (Keyword: Nutrient Trading) The true-up period for 2012 Water Compliance Year was completed. Table 1 is summary of the number of credits certified, verified and registered for this water year.

Table 1. **Summary of Credit Transactions for 2012**

Activity	Certified		Verified		Registered as Sold	
	TN	TP	TN	TP	TN	TP
WWTFs with New Concentration Criteria	300,229	28,391	298,345	28,068	212,518	10,041
WWTF Under Cap Load	873,913	75,313	811,584	47,448	222,787	16,520
Nonpoint Source Ag BMP	68,743	221	22,494	433	26,472	0
Nonpoint Source Manure	1,357,580	167,370	176,845	21,138	161,804	6,510
NPS Treatment w/Permit	1,720,454	54,315	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	4,338,919	327,810	1,309,268	97,087	623,703	33,203
<b>TOTAL TRADES</b>					50	

DEP is in the process of updating the individual spreadsheets posted on the website to describe each project involved in the three process steps that participated in the program in 2012.

Based on data made known to DEP, the price of nitrogen has been in the range of \$2.50 to \$15 per pound. The price of phosphorous has ranged from \$1.50 to \$10 per pound.

#### Agriculture Compliance Efforts

Related to the efforts to implement the Phase 1 Chesapeake bay WIP, there have been several significant activities to enhance compliance with PA’s environmental regulations that address agriculture (Ag).

Extensive education and outreach activities have been undertaken to ensure farm operators are aware of their regulatory requirements under Pennsylvania’s Erosion Control regulations and the Manure Management Manual. Beginning in July 2011, County Conservation Districts in the Chesapeake Bay watershed have engaged in over 6,200 site visits. DEP exceeded the 4,000 site visits target established for the fiscal year ending June 2012. With the completion of the “Manure Management Manual,” DEP organized regional trainings on the DEP Manure Management Manual. Dr. Doug Beegle and Jerry Martin from Penn State Extension prepared “train-the-trainer” format presentations that allowed participants to both learn the manual and prepare to deliver this information to farm operators and others in their local jurisdictions. Using federal Chesapeake Bay funds and PA Clean Water Funds, DEP supported mini-grants for conservation districts to

conduct local training/workshops for farmers, consultants, and others to improve awareness of the revised Manure Management Manual and to assist farmers in completing manure management plans. Forty Seven conservation districts held 152 manure management manual training programs. This training included 2,966 farmers, 30 consultants and 246 “others” and followed the format developed by Penn State. Through this effort, 717 plans were completed at these training sessions. Additional sessions are expected in FY 2013-14.

To support Pennsylvania’s expanded outreach to the Ag community to increase compliance with Chapter 102 and manure management requirements, DEP worked with the Lancaster County Conservation District and the Ag Ombudsman program to develop and produce outreach materials. Pennsylvania has prepared several easy to read materials on Pennsylvania’s existing regulatory programs. This series of information includes the “Am I in Compliance” brochure which has a distribution of ~20,000 copies since January 2011; the “Ag E&S Barn sheet” which was prepared in July 2011; and the “Manure Barn Sheet” which was prepared in November 2011. At least 8,000 of each barn sheet have been distributed. These materials were prepared for general distribution and for use in conservation district site visits. The fourth item in this series was completed and mailed by the USDA-NASS to over 80,000 farm operators and related businesses.

As part of Pennsylvania Ag compliance efforts, DEP evaluated and modified several regulatory tools that aide in implementation of the existing Manure Management and Ag E&S requirements.

The Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations General Permit (PAG-12) was published as draft in 2012. Seven commentators provided comments. These comments were evaluated and final PAG-12 was published on March 23, 2013.

### **Revisions to the Construction Stormwater General Permit PAG-02**

The Department released the final construction stormwater general permit (PAG-02) on December 7, 2012. The final PAG-02 incorporates requirements from the updated Chapter 102 regulation revision, but did not include numeric effluent limitations for turbidity which were proposed and then stayed by EPA. There are two trainings scheduled, one in the eastern and one in the central areas of the state with an additional training session to be held in the western area of the state to be announced soon. The dates and locations of the two scheduled trainings are as follows:

April 16 - Holiday Inn Conference Center, 7736 Adrienne Drive, Breinigsville

April 23- Ramada Hotel and Conference Center, 1450 South Atherton Street, State College

May 22, 2013 - *Regional Learning Alliance, 850 Cranberry Woods Dr., Cranberry Township*

June 26, 2013 – *Regional Learning Alliance, 850 Cranberry Woods Dr., Cranberry Township*

All trainings will start at 8:00 AM and will conclude at 12:00 PM. Pre-registration is required; PDHs will be awarded. Please contact the Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands at 717-787-3411 for more information.

### **Stormwater Offsetting Workgroup**

The Department has organized a workgroup to address issues related to offsetting stormwater through permits at an offsite location. The group will be working through the winter and spring to provide structure to the Department in developing a stormwater offsetting policy. It is anticipated that a draft policy will be available for public comment in summer of 2013.

### **Publication of the Erosion and Sediment Control Pollution Manual**

The final Erosion and Sediment Control Pollution Manual was announced as final in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on March 31, 2012. Three trainings were held for county conservation district and Department staff in multiple programs. Additional trainings were held throughout the summer and fall of 2012 and continue into 2013 for the regulated community due to the high demand. These additional training sessions for 2013 are as follows:

March 19 and 20; Holiday Inn, Williamsport

May 29 and 30; Villanova University, Villanova

### **Safe Drinking Water**

From July to December 2012, the Safe Drinking Water Program accomplished the following:

- Administered the Drinking Water Program and protected public health at nearly 9,200 public water systems serving 10.7 M people (86% of population). With nearly 9,200 PWSs, PA is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the Nation.

- Maintained the surveillance program:
  - Total # sanitary surveys conducted = 1,232
  - Total # other inspections conducted = 1,322
- Maintained the enforcement program:
  - Total # enforcement actions taken = 84
  - Total fines/penalties assessed = \$71,235
  - Total fines/penalties collected = \$149,625
- Continued work to implement and ensure compliance with recently enacted rules, including:
  - Stage 2 Disinfectants/Disinfection By-products Rule
  - Revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule
  - Long-term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule
  - Ground Water Rule
  - General Update to Chapter 109
- Managed the Source Water Assessment and Protection Program, including oversight of various grants/contracts (SWPTAP, WREN, PRWA and WMON), and support for the development of local source water protection programs.
- Provided Capability Enhancement/Technical Assistance:
  - Provided on-site assistance to 41 water system owners, administrators and operators.
  - Conducted 37 filter plant performance evaluations.
- Administered the Operator Training and Certification Program:
  - Approved 8 new training providers and 94 training events. Currently, there are 232 approved training providers and 2,562 approved training courses.
  - Administered examinations to 1,119 individuals, and processed 2,567 applications for new/upgraded/renewed certifications.
  - Developed and/or delivered several regulatory-based training courses, including Public Notification and Stage 2 Disinfectants/Disinfection By-products Rule.
- Managed the inventory and compliance/enforcement records for all 9,200 public water systems, processed approximately 600,000 sample records, and updated automated compliance programs, as needed. As of September of 2012, all laboratories and public water systems are required to comply with mandatory electronic reporting requirements for the reporting of sample results. The public may access inventory data, sample results, and compliance/enforcement records for any PWS on the Department's website via the Public Drinking Water Reporting System. Here is the link: <http://www.drinkingwater.state.pa.us/dwrs/HTM/Welcome.html>
- Administered the permitting program:
  - Total # construction permits issued = 246
  - Total # operation permits issued = 420
- New Rulemaking:
  - Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) 3: The federal rule was published as final on May 2, 2012. The purpose of the rule is to gather occurrence data (for not more than 30 contaminants), refine analytical methods, and gather additional health effects data in order to make a regulatory determination.
    - Monitoring will occur during 2013 – 2015 at all large water systems and select medium and small water systems.
    - Monitoring will include 21 chemicals (VOCs, SVOCs, metals, chlorate, PFCs), seven hormones, and two viruses.
    - The UCMR rules are direct implementation rules with EPA as the lead agency. DEP assists through a Partnership Agreement.
  - Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR): The revised federal rule was published as final on February 13, 2013.
    - The rule establishes a health goal and an MCL for E. Coli and eliminates the MCLG and MCL for total coliforms, replacing it with a treatment technique for coliforms that requires assessment and corrective action.
    - PWSs and states must comply with the federal requirements beginning April 1, 2016. The Department will be initiating the rulemaking process to ensure state regulations are as stringent as the federal regulations.

### **Recycling Fund and Solid Waste Advisory Committees**

The next meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, *August 8, 2013*, at 10:00 a.m. in room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building.

### **Municipal and Residual Waste Regulation Revisions**

The Bureau of Waste Management (BWM) is currently revising the Municipal and Residual Waste Regulations to update the chapters relating to Infectious and Chemotherapeutic Waste. While most of the revisions are being made to Chapter 284, other affected chapters that contain references to infectious and chemotherapeutic waste include Chapters 271, 272, 273, 285, 287, 288, and 299. The revisions largely aim to replace all references to “infectious waste” with “regulated medical waste.” The global change in terminology will allow Pennsylvania’s requirements for the management of infectious and chemotherapeutic waste to be consistent with federal requirements and the requirements of other states. In addition, the revisions allow persons who generate, transport, process, or dispose of infectious waste to use standard business documentation, including electronic tracking systems in lieu of the currently mandated paper manifest system to track waste through the shipping process to disposal. Recent revisions to the Regulatory Review Act pertaining to small businesses required extensive analysis and outreach, thus requiring additional time to develop the Regulatory Analysis Form (RAF). The proposed regulations were approved by the Environmental Quality Board on April 16, 2013. The proposed rulemaking is scheduled to be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin in the summer and a 30-day comment period will be held.

### **General Permits**

General permits (GPs) are regional or statewide permits which authorize the processing and/or beneficial use of municipal or residual waste. The following residual waste GPs are currently being modified by BWM:

- General Permit Number WMGR081 – This GP authorizes the disassembly and recycling of waste electronic devices. Amendments to WMGR081 are proposed and include:
  1. Certification requirements under the CDRA for processing covered devices.
  2. Flexibility in permitting for small volume waste electronic device disassembly facilities.
  3. A transfer of authority from the Department’s central office to the regional offices to approve the determination of applicability.
  4. Clarification that General Permit Number WMGR081 can cover electronic waste transfer facilities.
  5. A requirement that processing and storage takes place in an enclosed facility.

The 60-day public comment period ended June 5<sup>th</sup>. Comments received on the proposed modifications are being reviewed; a Comment/Response document will be drafted and the permit will be revised where necessary.

- General Permit Number WMGR097 – This GP authorizes research and development (R&D) activities to demonstrate the beneficial use of residual waste and/or municipal waste. Amendments to WMGR097 are proposed and include the following:
  1. Reorganization of the general permit for overall clarity and ease of use.
  2. Clarification of the registration process and specification of the forms and information required for a person proposing to operate under WMGR097.
  3. Clarification of the requirements to justify large-scale projects and projects with a proposed duration greater than one year.
  4. Clarification of the operating conditions, recordkeeping requirements and reporting requirements of WMGR097.

The public comment period for this GP closed December 5, 2012. BWM is in the process of drafting the Comment/Response document and revising the permit where necessary.

### **Identification, Assessment and Management of TENORM Waste**

TENORM is a material in which radionuclide concentrations or potential for human exposure have been increased above levels encountered in the natural state by human activities. The many sources of TENORM include residual wastes from industrial and resource extraction activities, demolition wastes, and wastes resulting from municipal and industrial wastewater treatment.

During the past year as part of its routine tracking procedures, BWM noticed an increase in the amount of TENORM waste going to landfills. After further investigation, it was determined that this increase was largely due to the development of the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania and the resulting wastes containing TENORM – specifically, the sludges resulting from the treatment of wastewaters associated with drilling activities. In addition, while monitoring Marcellus waste disposed in landfills, BWM has learned that these particular waste streams, in regards to TENORM, are not consistent over time or on any production or geographic basis.

BWM, in conjunction with the Bureau of Radiation Protection (BRP), is developing a strategy for further evaluation and management of these TENORM-containing wastes. Led by BRP, the Department *is* conducting a comprehensive study of the radioactive materials (TENORM) generated during the development of oil and gas resources. Sampling under the study began on April 16, 2013. The study is projected to be completed in approximately 12 to 14 months and should provide the Department with the information necessary to continue to effectively manage these materials and ensure that public health and the environment continue to be protected. In the short term, the Department is reviewing its existing management approach regarding the disposal of TENORM waste, with the objective of developing additional tools for testing, tracking and monitoring.

BWM has formed a work group to develop procedures and guidance for testing, tracking and monitoring TENORM-containing waste relative to the following:

- Recordkeeping and reporting requirements for generators.
- Improved tracking of rejected loads. BWM is working towards developing a mechanism through which information on rejected loads is automatically sent to the Department.
- Revised Residual Waste Codes.
- Development of waste acceptance criteria for landfills.
- Waste characterization at the point of generation.
- Clarification/finalization of 26R requirements for well sites, centralized impoundments and processing facilities.

### **Chrin Landfill Slope Failure (Williams Township, Northampton County)**

*Remediation work continues involving the removal of waste from the area affected by the March landfill slope failure, and environmental controls continue to be monitored.*

*The landfill has broken the remediation work into four phases and has provided the following estimate of time to complete each phase. Work is continuing on removal of soil, waste and liner material from Phase I Area of excavation. Liner and cap material continue to be exposed and removed as the excavation continues in Phase I. Data collection activities continue for purposes of investigating the Stage 3D/3E Slide area root cause.*

- *Phase I Waste Relocation – Present to Early August 2013.*
- *Phase II Waste Relocation – Early August to Mid-October 2013*
- *Industrial Drive Reopens – Mid-October*
- *Phase III Waste Relocation – Mid-October 2013 to Mid-July 2014*
- *Phase IV Waste Relocation – Mid-July 2014 to Mid-September 2014*
- *Industrial Drive Closes (If Needed) – Mid-July 2014 for Phase IV excavation*
- *Industrial Drive Re-Opens – Mid-September 2014*
- *Remaining Waste Relocation – Mid-September 2014 to February 2016 (remaining waste includes Stage 3D sump area, the area immediately above and east of the slide, and the western perimeter anchor trench area)*
- *Dates are approximate and may vary based on adjustments to the plan, weather, site conditions, average relocation rate, etc.*

### Water Monitoring

Weekly groundwater and storm water monitoring and monthly groundwater monitoring continue to be performed. Groundwater sampling is scheduled for July 16 & 17, 2013.

### Slide Area Monitoring / Unaffected Area Monitoring

No additional lateral movement was noted along Industrial Drive or other onsite areas. Work continues to verify stability in the unaffected areas of the landfill. Survey hubs are installed and monitored for movement. There are 36 survey points within the landfill boundary – 15 points in the slide area and 21 points in the remaining area of the landfill. All are monitored on a daily basis.

### Landfill Gas and Air Monitoring

A temporary candlestick flare was installed and has operated since March 28, 2013, to destroy landfill gas collected within the slide area. Sixteen gas wells or drains are connected to the candlestick flare. Total gas flow to all flares and the PPL gas-to-energy plant are similar to pre-slide volumes.

### Leachate Collection

Leachate pumping continues from the leachate extraction well installation in the low-lying area of the Stage 3E/3D Slide Area. The three leachate extraction wells in the low-lying area of Stage 3D/3E are operational and have been automated. Current pumping totals to date: approximately 182,314 gallons as of June 20, 2013. Piezometer and extraction well levels continue to be monitored daily.

### **Emergency Response Procedures**

BWM recently drafted procedures for responding to catastrophic events including hurricanes, flooding, earthquakes, man-made disasters, or any emergency situation where large quantities of disaster debris are generated and disposed of within a short time period. The emergency response procedures facilitate the management of disaster debris by outlining the roles and responsibilities of both Regional and Central Office staff.

In general:

- Central Office Staff will confer with Executive Staff to determine the necessity for fee waivers and notify the Regional Offices and waste industry when fee waivers are approved. Central Office staff will also track and compile any authorizations and/or approvals granted to Pennsylvania waste disposal facilities and prepare information for Emergency Response personnel and Executive Staff.
- Regional Office staff will modify impacted facilities' permit conditions as necessary, maintain communication with waste haulers and Central Office staff, draft and submit situational reports, and acquire any other information as needed from impacted facilities within their respective regions.

Comments from Regional Offices and Central Office staff have been received and the procedures are being revised where necessary.

### **Recycling Performance Grants**

A full complement of administrative staff has been in place since the fall of 2012, processing the backlog of Recycling Performance Grants as well as grant agreements and disbursement requests associated with other recycling and planning grant programs. Ninety-six percent (722 applications) of the CY2010 Performance Grant applications have been reviewed and approved for payments totaling \$14.5M. Due to the diligence of the administrative staff during their review of the applications, errors and ineligible materials were uncovered in the applications, which avoided overpayments totaling \$2.6M. To date, approximately 50% of the CY2011 applications have been processed, totaling \$8.725M in awards. At the current rate of processing, all CY2011 applications should be processed by the end of this November. It is anticipated that the review of CY2012 applications (submittal deadline: September 30, 2013) will commence by late fall of this year. This is the earliest new applications have been processed since the beginning of the program. The four administrative staff members have done an exemplary job in addressing the historic lag-time in the processing of Recycling Performance Grants, especially considering their need to learn the program and perform other grant administrative functions as well.

## **Permit Decision Guarantee**

BWM continues to work to “eliminate the queue” of permit applications received prior to the implementation of Permit Decision Guarantee (PDG). Regional Office staff provides updates on their respective projects to Central Office on a regular basis.

In the coming months, BWM will begin to develop SOPs and permitting checklists for those permits not included in PDG, as well as review and modify, as necessary, the associated applications for these permits.

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## **Radiation Protection**

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### **Comprehensive Oil and Gas Development Radiation Study**

Generation of technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material (TENORM) has increased significantly. This is mainly due to the recent expansion in natural gas exploration and production in Pennsylvania. There are many issues with TENORM that must be managed effectively. These issues include potential worker radiation exposure, public radiation exposure, environmental (water, etc.) contamination, and waste disposal. On January 24, 2013, DEP announced it will undertake a study to assess naturally occurring levels of radioactivity in by-products associated with oil and natural gas development. On April 4, 2013, DEP released detailed sampling and quality assurance plans for this comprehensive study.

The purpose of the study is to gather data necessary to ensure the existing protocols and management approaches continue to be effective, and to determine if any modifications are necessary. Using standard scientific protocols, DEP’s contractor, Perma-Fix Environmental Services, Inc., will collect samples of flowback water, rock cuttings, treatment solids and sediments at well pads and wastewater treatment and waste disposal facilities. The study will also analyze the radioactivity levels in pipes and well casings, storage tanks, treatment systems and trucks. Perma-Fix, of Pittsburgh, has worked with the agency as a consultant on health physics and radiological issues for more than a decade.

It is noteworthy that Pennsylvania is the only state that requires through regulation that landfills monitor radiation levels incoming wastes to ensure public health and the environment are protected. Should waste trigger a radiation monitor, the landfill must use a conservative and highly protective protocol that DEP developed to determine if the amount and concentration of the radioactive material can be accepted. This protocol ensures that TENORM does not pose a risk to public health from disposal at an approved site.

DEP will manage and fund the study, which began on April 15, 2013 and is expected to take 12 to 14 months. The study proposal, summary and sampling and quality assurance plans are posted at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) at the “Oil and Gas Development Radiation Study” button at the top of the front page (scroll right to find it).

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## **Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields**

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### **Land Recycling Program Technical Guidance Manual**

The Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board (CSSAB) has established a new Process Workgroup to review the Land Recycling Program Technical Guidance Manual and provide recommendations for pending revision. The Vapor Intrusion Workgroup is reviewing the existing vapor intrusion guidance and will provide recommendations on revisions to the vapor intrusion section to the Land Recycling Program Technical Guidance Manual. The workgroups presented recommendations to the full CSSAB and to DEP on May 7, 2013. The Department will review the recommendations and draft revisions to the technical guidance documents. The Department’s goal is to have a final draft document available for public comment by December 2013.

### **Land Recycling Cleanup Standards Regulation Revisions**

DEP intends to update the Statewide health standard Medium-Specific Concentrations (MSCs) based on any new toxicological data published since the last revisions to the MSCs. DEP is required to update the MSCs every three years so the standards include the most current scientific data. DEP provided draft revisions to the CSSAB in May 2013 and received comments from the Board. DEP will also present the draft regulations to the Storage Tank Advisory Committee in June 2013.

### **Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board**

The CSSAB met on May 7, 2013. The board reviewed and discussed the proposed revisions to Chapter 250, further discussed the Department's proposed changes to the vapor intrusion guidance and reviewed the vapor intrusion workgroup's recommendations, received a presentation of recommendations from the process work group for updating the Technical Guidance Manual, and received a presentation from the Department of its new Standard Operating Procedure for the review of reports submitted under Chapter 250 and the review of environmental covenants under Chapter 253.

### **Storage Tank Advisory Committee**

The STAC met on June 11, 2013. The Committee reviewed the proposed revisions to the Technical Guidance Document "Storage Tank Modification and Maintenance Issues" (263-0900-01) and members were briefed on the proposed revisions to Chapter 250. The next meeting of the Storage Tank Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building.

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## **Air Quality**

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### **Revision to the General Plan Approval and/or General Operating Permit (GP-5) for Natural Gas Compression and/or Processing Facilities**

On February 1, 2013, the Department finalized the revision to the General Plan Approval and/or General Operating Permit (GP-5) for Natural Gas Compression and/or Processing Facilities. The notice of availability of the final GP-5 along with related documents, including the instructions, application form, fact sheet, comment/response document, and technical support document were published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on Saturday, February 2, 2013. The final GP-5 represents a significant work effort by the staff and will result in lower emissions at well sites and more efficient compressor stations, resulting in cleaner air as development, production and transmission take place.

### **Proposed Exemption Criteria for Compressed Natural Gas Fueling, and Oil and Gas Exploration, Development, Production Facilities and Associated Equipment**

The Department has published a notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* proposing revisions to the technical guidance document, which lists sources or classes of sources that may be exempt from the plan approval and permitting requirements of 25 Pa. Code Chapter 127. This includes Category No. 33, pertaining to compressed natural gas fueling, and Category No. 38, pertaining to oil and gas exploration, development, production facilities and associated equipment. The public comment period on the proposed revisions closed on March 19, 2013. The Department has received a total 653 comments, including 11 comments from environmental groups, 6 comments from owners/operators of industrial sources, 634 comments from concerned citizens, 1 letter from EPA and 1 letter from State House Representative Greg Vitali. The Bureau of Air Quality is summarizing the comments and preparing a comment/response document. *The Department intends to publish the final Air Quality Exemption Criteria in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2013.*

### **Proposed Revision to Title V Emission Fee**

On February 2, 2013, the Environmental Quality Board published for public comment the proposed revision to the Title V emission fee. The proposed rulemaking would amend § 127.705 (relating to emission fees) to establish a base Title V annual emission fee of \$85 per ton for up to 4,000 tons of regulated pollutant, beginning with the fees due by September 1, 2014, for emissions from Title V facilities in the 2013 calendar year. The initial base Title V annual emission fee, established at 24 Pa.B. 5899, November 26, 1994, was \$37 per ton of regulated pollutant up to 4,000 tons of each regulated pollutant per Title V facility. As provided in § 127.705(e), the emission fee imposed under § 127.705(a) has been increased in each year after November 26, 1994, by the percentage, if any, by which the Consumer Price Index for the most recent calendar year exceeds the Consumer Price Index for the previous calendar year. Under the existing regulatory framework, the base Title V annual emission fee has not been revised since 1994. The Title V annual emission fee due September 1, 2012, for emissions occurring in calendar year 2011 was \$56 per ton of regulated pollutant for up to 4,000 tons of each regulated pollutant.

Minor clarifying amendments are proposed for § 127.701 (relating to general provisions). The proposed rulemaking would revise § 127.701 to clarify that fees paid to the Department are deposited into the Pennsylvania Clean Air Fund. The proposal would also make additional editorial changes to this section.

Three public hearings were held in March. The public comment period closed on April 8, 2013. No members of the public provided testimony at the public hearings. Four written comments were received during the public comment period. Comments from the Independent Regulatory Review Commission were received on May 8. The comments are being reviewed and a final regulatory package is being prepared. The draft *final-form regulation was considered by the Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee during the June 13, 2013 meeting. It is anticipated the final regulatory package will be considered by the Environmental Quality Board at the Board's August 20, 2013 meeting.*

### **Proposed RACT Regulation**

The Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee concurred with the Department's recommendation to move a draft regulation on Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) standards to the EQB for consideration as a proposed rulemaking. RACT applies to existing major stationary sources of volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides in ozone nonattainment areas. RACT re-evaluation is a requirement to be fulfilled each time a National Ambient Air Quality Standard is promulgated, as happened in 1997 and 2008 for ozone. The proposed rulemaking would establish presumptive emission standards for certain air contamination sources. The EQB is expected to consider the proposal later this year.

### **Long-Term Marcellus Shale Monitoring**

In July 2012, the DEP launched a one-year ambient air monitoring project with an emphasis on characterizing near-source concentrations of criteria and hazardous air pollutants from permanent facilities related to the Marcellus Shale gas industry (compressor stations, gas processing). Based on the results of the three DEP short-term studies undertaken in 2010, this long-term study is focused on permanent gas facilities located in Washington County.

The study consists of four monitoring sites including a primary site and three satellite sites as well as a background site. During the long-term study, DEP will collect samples of the following to assess potential emissions: VOC's, NOx, particulate matter, carbon monoxide and hydrogen sulfide. *The Department is also collecting meteorological data at each site. The long-term study is expected to end in October/November 2013; a final report will be prepared in early 2014.*

The Department has installed a monitoring site in Bradford County to measure ambient concentrations of ozone and nitrogen oxides. The site is located in the Towanda area and has been chosen because of the local topography (ridge and valley) and the numerous wells and compressor stations to the west. This site is specifically located to determine if Pennsylvania is experiencing similar winter-time ozone issues to those being seen in states like Wyoming and Colorado. Site operations will be performed by the Pennsylvania State University (PSU). The DEP/PSU collaboration ozone site near Gleason (Tioga County) has been upgraded with a nitrogen oxide monitor. With the installation of the Bradford County monitor, PA DEP has air monitors in 18 of the 37 counties included in the Marcellus Shale region.

### **Proposed Ambient Air Quality Network Plan**

On May 4, 2013, the 2014 Annual Air Monitoring Network Plan was made available for public comment on the Department of Environmental Protection's (Department) web site at [www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/aq/default.htm](http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/aq/default.htm). The plan has been updated to address changes that have been made in the Commonwealth's ambient air monitoring network and to identify changes that are anticipated to occur in 2014. The plan, which is due to be submitted to EPA by July 1, 2013, must include a statement of purpose for each ambient air monitor and provide evidence that the siting and operation of each monitor meets Federal requirements. The public comment period on the proposed plan ends on June 4, 2013. In response to a request for an extension of the comment period, the DEP agreed to consider any additional comments submitted by June 14, 2014. The Department has prepared a Comment/Response Document and will revise the plan, if necessary, prior to submitting the final plan to the EPA Region III.

### **1-Hour SO2 NAAQS**

EPA adopted a revised 1-hour SO2 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) in June 2010. EPA set the standard at 75 parts per billion (ppb). In June 2011, PA submitted recommendations to EPA for area designations, recommending four counties be designated as nonattainment (Allegheny, Beaver, Indiana, and Warren) based on ambient air quality data. On February 7, 2013, EPA notified the states of EPA's response to the recommendations. States have 120 days to review EPA's response and provide any additional data. DEP responded to EPA's 120-day letter on April 8, 2013, requesting partial-county designations for certain areas (Allegheny, Beaver, Indiana and Warren counties) and removal of the partial-county nonattainment designation for Armstrong County. *EPA is expected to promulgate final designations, based on*

monitoring data this summer. The areas designated nonattainment would be required to achieve and maintain the 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS within 5 years of the designation.

### **Climate Change**

The Department is required under Act 70 of 2008 to prepare a climate impacts assessment and action plan and update those reports every three years. The impacts assessment report has been prepared by researchers at the Pennsylvania State University. The report is undergoing review by the Department. The Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) is reviewing draft action plans that will be included in the Department's report to the legislature. *The next meeting of the CCAC is scheduled for October 8, 2013.*

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### **Energy Initiatives**

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#### **Natural Gas Vehicles**

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced the NGEDP awards on May 16, 2013. Eighteen projects were awarded, for a total of \$6,744,511.00. Fifteen of these projects will result in new natural gas fueling infrastructure. These projects will deploy 311 vehicles that will consume natural gas equivalent to over 3.7 million gallons of gasoline per year.

#### **Alternative Fuel Vehicles**

Office of Pollution Prevention and Energy Assistance (OPPEA) opened the 2013 round of the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program (AFIG) for competitive applications. The AFIG Program offers grant funding for clean, alternative fuel projects in Pennsylvania, and investment in Pennsylvania's energy sector. The opening date for accepting applications was Saturday, May 25, 2013, using the DEP/DCNR eGrants system. AFIG will be open for applications for a period of two months with the last day for submission being Friday, July 26, 2013.

#### **Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority**

On June 19, 2013, a PEDDA Board meeting was held to approve a County Environmental Improvement (CEI) Project for Northumberland County. CEI Growing Greener projects are not part of any competitive grant round. PEDDA is an approved Growing Greener II funding category/program; thereby, allowing counties to submit designations for CEI projects to PEDDA. Northumberland County submitted an application for an energy efficiency project to PEDDA on January 28, 2013, to convert a 30 year old oil fired boiler with energy efficient natural gas fired boiler with automatic controls as a CEI project. This project would result in a significant increase in energy efficiency for the County. The PEDDA Board approved the project with a unanimous vote. PEDDA plans to hold a future Board meeting regarding energy planning and future activities of the Authority in the fall.

#### **Small Business Advantage Grants**

*On Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> 2013 Governor Corbett announced the opening of the Small Business Advantage Grant Program.* Businesses with 100 employees or less can apply for 50-percent matching funds of up to \$9,500 to adopt or acquire energy-efficient or pollution-prevention equipment or procedures. The project must save the business at least 25 percent plus \$500 in annual energy consumption or in pollution handling or prevention related expenses. The application deadline is Sept. 6. Eligible applications will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis from July 8 through Sept. 6 or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first. Funding is eligible for those costs incurred between July 8, 2013 and June 30, 2014.

#### **PA Sunshine Program**

The current available balance for projects yet is approximately \$3.2 million. The PA Sunshine Program will close, upon the exhaustion of the funds before or by December 31, 2013, whichever occurs first.

#### **State Energy Program (SEP)**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released the SEP Solicitation and Program Guidance for the 2013 Fiscal Year, which is from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014. The Office of Pollution Prevention and Energy Assistance (OPPEA) has been preparing an application for submittal to receive Pennsylvania's \$1,434,440.00 allocation.

## Energy Efficiency

**Keystone Home Energy Loan Program (HELP) Home Energy and Geothermal Loan Program:** The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) supported Keystone HELP has provided a total of 4,046 consumer loans valued at \$34,139,853.43 to PA home-owners resulting in annual energy savings of 12,035,958.37 kwh of electricity; 59,569,714.41 kBTU reduction in heating fuel consumption; and 18,651,816.98 lbs. reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions through installed residential energy conservation and efficiency measures since The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) inception. The Geothermal Loan Program funded 442 of those loans, totaling \$5,606,506.52. In addition, there have been 331 PHFA Renovate and Repair loans totaling \$7,062,748.00.

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## Oil and Gas Issues

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### **Draft Proposed Rulemaking – Chapter 78, Subchapter C (relating to environmental protection performance standards)**

The Department developed a proposed rulemaking concept paper outlining potential changes to the Oil and Gas regulations in Chapter 78, Subchapter C. The environmental protection performance standards in Subchapter C primarily address surface activities related to oil and gas exploration and production. These topics include protection of water supplies, erosion and sediment control, waste management, pits and tanks for temporary containment of drill cuttings and production fluids, containment of polluttional substances (such as hazardous substances stored on a well site), site restoration and spill reporting and remediation.

A concept paper was presented to the Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board (TAB) in February 2012 but was significantly updated to address both changes to the regulations that are necessary as the result of enactment of Act 13 as well as implementation issues identified by the Department since that meeting. The Department presented a revised concept paper for discussion at the August 15, 2012 Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board meeting; however, the TAB members were not prepared to discussed the document.

A special meeting was held with TAB on October 15, 2012 to discuss the draft proposed rulemaking and the board met again on Wednesday, February 20, 2013. This meeting included a discussion of the actual draft proposed Chapter 78, Subchapter C rulemaking language and adjustments that were incorporated since the last TAB meeting. The Department also accepted public comment on this draft proposed rulemaking during the meeting.

The DEP presented the revised draft proposed rulemaking package to the TAB on Tuesday, April 23, 2013. Included in this draft were revisions made based on the TAB and public input from the February 20 TAB meeting. TAB voted 4-0 to recommend approval of the proposed rulemaking by the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) for public comment. This approval was conditioned on the establishment of TAB subcommittees/workgroups to consider issues raised during the development of the draft proposed rulemaking but not completely resolved prior to consideration by the EQB.

On Wednesday, June 12, the Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board (TAB) met for the purpose of discussing the formation of a sub-committee to consider the following four issue areas as agreed during the April 23 meeting: Public Resource Protection, Pre-hydraulic Fracturing Assessment, Waste Management at Well Sites, and Water Supply Restoration Standards.

*These workgroup meetings will be open to the public. The first round of workgroup meetings is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, July 17, 2013 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and on Thursday, July 18, 2013 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Westmoreland County Conservation District – Donohoe Center, 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA 15601.*

*The second round of workgroup meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, August 14, 2013 through Thursday, August 15, 2013 in the Nittany Room of the Ramada Inn State College, 1450 S Atherton Street, State College, PA 16801.*

*The final workgroup meetings will be held on Wednesday, September 18, 2013 through Thursday, September 19, 2013 in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101.*

The Department anticipates presenting the proposed regulations to the EQB at the August 20, 2013 meeting.

## **Draft Proposed Rulemaking – Chapter 78, Subchapter B (relating to permits, transfers and objections)**

Section 78.19(f) requires the Department to provide the EQB with an evaluation of the fees in Chapter 78 and “recommend regulatory changes to the EQB to address any disparity between the program income generated by the fees and the Department’s cost of administering the program with the objective of ensuring fees meet all program costs and programs are self-sustaining.” This evaluation is required at least once every three years. Because the prior fee regulation was effective in October 2009, the Department prepared the 3-Year Report and developed a proposed rulemaking to address the disparity between program income and costs as described below.

The purpose of the proposed regulation is to change the unconventional natural gas well permit fee structure from a sliding fee schedule based on well bore length to a fixed fee of \$5,000 for horizontal unconventional wells and \$4,200 for vertical unconventional wells. As a result of this change in structure, the permit fee for an average unconventional well will increase by approximately \$1,800 per well for horizontal wells and by \$2,200 per well for vertical unconventional wells.

Since 2010, the Department has experienced a 22% decrease in the number of unconventional well permit applications received. The decline in permit applications is met with declining revenues but with the passage of Acts 9 and 13 of 2012, the overall responsibility of the Oil and Gas Program has increased. It is imperative that the Department have the resources and technology necessary to ensure industry compliance and environmental protection as Office of Oil and Gas Management responsibilities in this area continue to expand.

This increase in workload coupled with declining permit revenues creates a situation where the incoming permit revenue is insufficient to cover the current operational costs of the program, not allowing any room for flexibility in terms of future staff and resource needs. As the oil and gas industry continues to expand in Pennsylvania, additional Department staff and technology will be critical to ensure the Department’s proper oversight of the industry.

The Department consulted with the TAB in the development of this proposed rulemaking. The Department presented the draft proposed rulemaking to TAB at its April 23, 2013 meeting. Because the rulemaking does not address technical issues relating to oil and gas, TAB did not take a formal action relative to the proposed rule.

The Department will present the proposed regulations to the EQB at the Board’s July 16, 2013 meeting.

### **Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit (ESCGP-2)**

On January 21, 2012, the Department published a draft Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit for Earth Disturbance Associated with Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Processing or Treatment Operations or Transmission Facilities (ESCGP-2) with a 60-day public comment period. This General Permit is intended to provide coverage under the Clean Streams Law to operators who conduct earth disturbance associated with oil and gas exploration, production, processing or treatment operations or transmission facilities where the total disturbance of the project is 5 acres or greater.

On February 16, 2012 the Department met with stakeholders to allow individuals an opportunity to clarify and provide additional input on any comments that were submitted to the Department for consideration during the comment period.

The public comment period closed on March 21, 2012. The Department received and reviewed a total of approximately 450 comments from the public and prepared a Comment Response Document.

A special meeting of the Oil & Gas Technical Advisory Board (TAB) meeting was held on September 17, 2012 to discuss the Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit (ESCGP-2) and related documents.

The ESCGP-2 was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin as final on December 29, 2012 (42 Pa.B. 7863). The final date that the ESCGP-1 permit was accepted by the Department was January 28, 2013 since the permit expires on April 12, 2013. Given this expiration date, January 28 was the latest the Department could accept ESCGP-1 applications and still meet the timelines established by the Department’s Permit Decision Guarantee Policy and the regulations in Chapter 102. The Department developed a transition plan to facilitate a smooth transition from the use of the ESCGP-1 to the ESCGP-2 permit.

The Department is providing internal training to Oil and Gas staff located in each of its District Oil and Gas Offices and is also scheduled to provide training to the regulated community. Specifically, industry training is scheduled for the following locations and dates: Greensburg (April 24), in Harrisburg (May 23) and in State College (July 10). A schedule has been made available on DEP's website at:

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/training\\_workshops/20302](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/training_workshops/20302)

The Greensburg, PA training sessions were held on April 24 and were well-attended (over 300 individuals) and received positive reviews. The Department is revising the training based on issues and questions raised during that training session. It is the Department's intent to make a recorded version of the ESCGP-2 training available on the Oil and Gas webpage for future use and online training.

The Harrisburg, PA training sessions were held on May 23 and approximately 200 individuals attended. The final training session in State College will be recorded in order to allow the Department to maintain the training online for remote access.

### **Workload Report**

The following is the Oil and Gas Workload Report for the week ending *June 21, 2013*:

<b>YTD WELL PERMIT APPLICATIONS - 1/1/2013 to 6/21/2013</b>						
	<b>RECEIVED</b>	<b>UNDER REVIEW</b>	<b>PROCESSED</b>	<b>PERMITS ISSUED</b>	<b>WELLS PERMITTED</b>	<b>OTHER DISPOSITIONS</b>
CONVENTIONAL	809	223	742	703	702	39
UNCONVENTIONAL	1,343	279	1,388	1,357	1,323	31
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2,152</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>2,060</b>	<b>2,025</b>	<b>70</b>
AUTHORIZATIONS	116	26	120	95	N/A	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,268</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>2,250</b>	<b>2,155</b>	<b>2,119</b>	<b>95</b>

<b>WEEKLY WELL PERMIT APPLICATIONS - 6/15/2013 to 6/21/2013</b>						
	<b>RECEIVED</b>	<b>UNDER REVIEW</b>	<b>PROCESSED</b>	<b>PERMITS ISSUED</b>	<b>WELLS PERMITTED</b>	<b>OTHER DISPOSITIONS</b>
CONVENTIONAL	22	22	22	21	21	1
UNCONVENTIONAL	2	2	86	78	78	8
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>9</b>

AUTHORIZATIONS	2	2	6	3	N/A	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>12</b>

**HISTORICAL WELL PERMIT APPLICATIONS AS OF 6/21/2013**

	RECEIVED	PROCESSED	PERMITS ISSUED	WELLS PERMITTED	OTHER DISPOSITIONS	ACTIVE PERMITS
CONVENTIONAL	194,728	194,491	193,302	187,546	1,189	108,007
UNCONVENTIONAL	14,389	14,104	13,795	12,178	309	9,507
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>209,117</b>	<b>208,595</b>	<b>207,097</b>	<b>199,724</b>	<b>1,498</b>	<b>117,514</b>

AUTHORIZATIONS	39,820	39,787	39,610	N/A	177	18,576
<b>Total</b>	<b>248,937</b>	<b>248,382</b>	<b>246,707</b>	<b>239,152</b>	<b>1,675</b>	<b>136,090</b>

**YTD INSPECTIONS - 1/1/2013 to 6/21/2013**

	INSPECTIONS	WELLS INSPECTED	VIOLATIONS	ENFORCEMENTS
CONVENTIONAL	5,327	4,060	672	193
UNCONVENTIONAL	6,197	3,475	255	106
CLIENT/SITE	1,220	0	267	110
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,744</b>	<b>7,535</b>	<b>1,194</b>	<b>409</b>

**WEEKLY INSPECTIONS - 6/15/2013 to 6/21/2013**

	INSPECTIONS	WELLS INSPECTED	VIOLATIONS	ENFORCEMENTS
CONVENTIONAL	144	141	8	3
UNCONVENTIONAL	104	103	2	1
CLIENT/SITE	29	0	6	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>

**WELLS DRILLED**

	Two Years Prior 1/1/2011 to 6/21/2011	One Year Prior 1/1/2012 to 6/21/2012	Year To Date 1/1/2013 to 6/21/2013	Week of 6/15/2013 to 6/21/2013	As of 6/21/2013
CONVENTIONAL	539	549	394	12	196,130
UNCONVENTIONAL	840	754	589	20	6,830

<b>Total</b>	<b>1,379</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>202,960</b>
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### **Act 9 of 2012**

The Department worked with PEMA on the development of draft regulatory language to implement Act 9 (formerly SB995) that requires operators of each permitted unconventional well in Pennsylvania to post certain 911 response information at the entrance to each unconventional well site. The three main provisions of Act 9 include:

**Registration:** A drilling operator must register the address of the well pad location with the DEP, PEMA and county emergency response organization in which the drill site is located.

**Signage –** A reflective sign must be posted at the entrance of a well site that identifies a variety of information including the operator name, site name, street address of well site entrance, and GPS coordinates for each well located on the well site.

**Emergency Response Planning –** The operator must develop an emergency response plan that provides for equipment, procedures, training and documentation to properly respond to emergencies that threaten human health and safety for each well site or planned well site.

A presentation of Act 9 was provided to the members the oil and gas Technical Advisory Board on August 15, 2012 and the Department requested the TAB to provide formal comments to the Department by the end of August. The final-omitted emergency rulemaking was presented to TAB on September 17, 2012.

The Environmental Quality Board approved the emergency regulations at the Board’s November 20, 2012 meeting. The final regulations were published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on January 26, 2013 (43 Pa.B. 526). Operators of new well sites will be required to comply with the regulations after January 26, while operators of existing well sites will have phased-in compliance dates of February 26 (addresses), April 26 (emergency response plans) and July 26 (signs).

The Department is working with PEMA, industry stakeholders and county emergency management agencies to develop a Frequently Asked Questions document which should be available on the Department’s Oil and Gas website in early February. The FAQ document is now available on the Oil and Gas Management website at [http://files.dep.state.pa.us/OilGas/BOGM/BOGMPortalFiles/IndustryResources/InformationalResources/Act\\_9\\_Emergency\\_FAQ.pdf](http://files.dep.state.pa.us/OilGas/BOGM/BOGMPortalFiles/IndustryResources/InformationalResources/Act_9_Emergency_FAQ.pdf). The Department will update this FAQ as necessary. The Department is also developing an enterprise solution to allow operators to register the 911 addresses and GPS coordinates of access road entrances and well sites.

On April 18, 2013, the Department issued an administrative implementation plan discussing registration of 911 addresses and GPS coordinates as well as submission of emergency response plans to the Commonwealth. The address registration will be handled through the Department’s existing Oil and Gas Electronic Reporting system. All unconventional operators are registered for this system and already use it to report production and waste generated at well sites. The administrative implementation plan was amended on May 29, 2013 to extend the submission deadline for emergency response plans to allow details relating to electronic submission to be finalized.

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## **Mining/Reclamation/AMD Issues**

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### **ABS BF Discharge Treatment**

Progress is being made in systematically approaching the problem, with designs underway for many of the treatment facilities. Operation and maintenance continues for the facilities that are in place. Progress reports are being provided to the Office of Surface Mining to assist them in their oversight of the project. Act 157 of 2012 provides for additional funding sources to pay for the required operation and maintenance of the treatment facilities. The structural elements regarding site and operator eligibility regarding funding through Act 157 are being developed via a collaborative process with the Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board. Approval to initiate the rulemaking process was received in April 2013. *An initial draft of regulations has been prepared to review with the MRAB.*

### **Noncoal Program Fees**

The final rulemaking was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on October 13, 2012. Permit application fees were effective upon publication and the annual administration fees were effective January 1, 2013. The noncoal fees are

designed to provide full funding to support the noncoal regulatory program (between \$2.5 and \$3 Million per year). Annual administration fees are collected throughout the year based on the anniversary of the mine operator's renewal of their mining license. The Bureau of Mining Programs has been conducting extensive outreach to the regulated community to explain the new annual fees. The regulations require DEP to report to the EQB within three years regarding program costs and any proposed changes to the fee schedule. DEP committed to IRRC to provide a status report in one year. We are monitoring the revenue and expenses. For January through *April* 2013, the annual administrative fees have generated \$410,150. It was estimated that these fees would generate about \$1.7 M per year.

### **NPDES Permitting for Mine Sites**

The mining program has focused its attention on improving the documentation for NPDES permit reviews. This is necessary due to recent initiatives by EPA and OSM. Efforts will focus on dealing with the conductivity/TDS requirements and reasonable assurance of meeting the state water quality standards. EPA has conducted a permit quality review for NPDES permits for mine sites. The Department has engaged EPA in discussions intended to improve NPDES permitting for mining permits. New issues continue to be raised by EPA. The Department has focused its attention on the regulatory requirements. Some of EPA's objections seem to go beyond the regulations. Comments have been received on about 167 of the 276 permits sent to EPA as of January 2013. A new NPDES application form for mining activities has been developed and implemented. The draft guidance was published for comment in November 2012. Comments were received from 3 commentators. The guidance has been finalized and notice of its availability published in the June 22, 2013, issue of the PA Bulletin. Outreach is planned in order to ensure implementation of the guidance. A SOP *has been* developed in order to implement the permit requirements and a fact sheet has been drafted specifying the requirements for permittees.

### **Act 54 Report**

The Department has executed the documents with the contractor (University of Pittsburgh) to begin data collection in September 2012 for the 2008-2013 reporting period. The contract period is two years. Data collection and evaluation is underway. Bureau of Mining Program and California District staff are meeting regularly with University of Pittsburgh personnel to manage the contract and provide guidance. *Field work by the contractor is underway for additional data collection.*

### **Pending Guidance Documents**

The guidance for Reclamation Fill for active noncoal mines was published for comment on March 23. Work is progressing on the comment and response document for the conventional bond TGD. *A preliminary draft TGD for the beneficial use of coal ash is in development.*

### **Permit Decision Guarantee**

The mining program has developed and posted standard operating procedures for permit application review in order to implement the permit decision guarantee (PDG). The Bureau of Mining Program is systematically reviewing existing guidance documents to identify revision required to reflect the elimination of the money-back guarantee and the implementation of the PDG. There are about a dozen guidance documents in need of revision, most of which have not been updated since the mid 1990's. In addition, the Large Noncoal Permitting process was evaluated for efficiency using the LEAN process. This process identified improvements that could be made, some of which can be done immediately, while others require continuous effort. The improvement of the Large Noncoal Application form is the current focus of attention. While the LEAN process was initiated independently from the PDG, it is clear that the result of LEAN process will be applicable to implementing the PDG.

### **Rulemaking**

*Preliminary drafting is underway for rulemaking packages relating to surface coal mining water supply replacement, remaining and water quality, and general coal mining program improvements. Interaction with the MRAB, Regulation, Legislative and Technical Committee is expected to occur in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2013.*

### **2013 OSM Title IV Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program Grant**

*On June 12, the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) announced the final amount available for the Title IV AML Grant award to Pennsylvania for 2013. Pennsylvania's total Title IV Grant Distribution is just over \$65 million, however due to uncertainty concerning federal budget sequestration OSM withheld 10% or just over \$6.5 million and made an initial award of \$58.5 million. OSM has determined that the final impacts of*

*sequestration on 2013 AML funding is a reduction of 5.1% or \$3,317,695. As the result, PA's AML Grant award will be increased by \$3,187,590 for a total award of \$61,735,153 in 2013. Including the additional funding, DEP set aside the maximum amount for AMD problems which equates to over \$15.9 million. The remaining AML funds will be used to address AML hazards throughout the anthracite and bituminous coal regions of the state. The grant became effective April 1.*

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## **Office of Homeland Security**

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The PA Criminal Intelligence Center (PaCIC) and the Department have signed an MOU allowing DEP subject matter experts to begin working at the Commonwealth's Fusion Center to assist in the analysis of intelligence received in order to prepare for all hazards.

The Pa. Department of Agriculture has developed a multi-disciplinary team to provide a rapid response to food and feed contamination in the Commonwealth, and DEP is participating in this endeavor. The DEP members of this Rapid Response Team will assist with issues concerning safe drinking water, groundwater contamination, waste disposal, etc. Additionally the team has been tasked with developing MOUs and SOPs so that all agencies and Departments will be able to respond quickly and effectively during a contamination incident.

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## **Environmental Education**

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### **Outreach Energy Education Exhibit**

The award-winning, educational, interactive DEP at Home exhibit was taken on the road to several events throughout the state. Fashioned into a home structure, the exhibit features practices and products promoting energy efficiency and sustainable building materials as well as environmentally friendly and Pennsylvania-produced products for the home. The team worked more than nine months to plan, design, create and illustrate the three-room exhibit. It has a bathroom and laundry area; kitchen; and living room that showcase décor, appliances and building materials that help improve energy efficiency, water conservation, radon awareness, air quality and other staples of environmental awareness. Each of the rooms can be displayed on their own, providing maximum flexibility for use at upcoming home shows, agricultural fairs and other environmental outreach activities. The exhibit made its debut during the 2013 Pennsylvania Farm Show, where nearly 585,000 visitors interacted with it. Here, it was awarded the "Best Educational Exhibit" at the week-long event and was featured in more than a dozen newspaper and TV news features around the state. Since then, it has traveled to the Pittsburgh Home and Garden Show, where it was on display for hundreds of thousands of onlookers, and the Erie Home and Garden Expo, where 10,000 visitors enjoyed it. The exhibit was set-up in the East Wing Rotunda of the State Capitol for Earth Week, April 22 to 26. Monday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> was designated a legislative day. DEP staff greeted lawmakers and answered questions related to the exhibit. School groups and the general public visited the exhibit throughout the week. The next venue for the exhibit is Juniata College for the 2013 statewide Envirothon.

### **Environmental Education Grants Program**

The 2013 grant awards were announced on Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The program awarded \$334,074 in environmental education grants to 92 schools, universities, non-profit organizations and conservation districts across Pennsylvania.

### **Energy Education IFB**

EE staff will be working closely with the vendor, the Gove Group. The vendor will begin work July 1<sup>st</sup> and conduct twelve k-12 energy education workshops statewide. All work must be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup> 2014.

### **Falcons**

All four of the young peregrines have fledged. The young male (yellow band) was the first to fledge, the morning of May 31st. The morning of June 1st, the largest of the brood (red band) fledged. It was a busy season for the watch and rescue crews as six rescues were undertaken. All four fledges are flying strong at this point. The adults have been observed with the juveniles delivering food in flight and giving advanced flying lessons.

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## **Office of Program Integration**

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Permit Review Process/ Permit Decision Guarantee Implementation of the “Policy for Implementing the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) Permit Review Process and Permit Decision Guarantee” began in November 2012. The effectiveness of the new process and guarantee will be evaluated on at least a quarterly basis during the first year. The first evaluation was completed on February 14, 2013 and the second evaluation was completed in May 2013. Information pertaining to the Department’s Permit Review Process and Permit Decision Guarantee can be found on the Department’s web site at [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us) (DEP Search/Keyword: Permit Decision Guarantee).

The below information is an excerpt from the second quarterly report which provides cumulative statistics for the period November 14, 2012 through April 30, 2013. The second quarterly report indicates continued success of the new policy as DEP is becoming more efficient in issuing protective and timely permits that bring greater predictability to the permitting process.

Increased Predictability (measured in % of permits meeting target and/or guarantee)

- Permit Review Process – 97 percent
- Permit Decision Guarantee – 96 percent

With more available data, the cumulative statistics presented in this report indicate continued success with meeting target and guarantee timeframes and overall efficiency gains. Specifically, when compared to the previous permitting structure known as Money Back Guarantee, the following increases in efficiency have been measured for those permits included in the Permit Decision Guarantee:

Improved Efficiency (measured in fewer average days to process)

- Mining—56 percent;
- Oil and Gas—10 percent;
- Waste, Air, Radiation and Remediation (WARR)—35 percent; and
- Water —45 percent.

During the second quarter as DEP worked to identify efficiencies internally, applicants received training and support from the Department to ensure submission of a more complete application package. The percentage of applications returned increased slightly overall from 1.36% to 2.14%, and in response, DEP will be targeting specific industry sectors and specific permits over the next quarter for training and support.

Staff is also diligently working to clear the queue of applications and authorization requests that were in place when the Executive Order was signed. At this point, staff has cleared 54% percent of the queue and will continue to work diligently toward eliminating it entirely.

DEP has also developed a Pre-Application Information Tool (DEP Keyword: Permits), which will be invaluable to potential applicants who are considering siting a new project in Pennsylvania, or expanding or relocating an existing operation. Specifically, this tool allows potential applicants to quickly and easily determine which types of environmental permits, authorizations or notifications may be required for specific projects.