DEP Highlights

Standout Social Media
- DEP posted our first ever time-lapse video, showing the female Harrisburg falcon protecting her eggs during the Stella snowstorm. This post was picked up by Yahoo’s Facebook page, where it had over 80k views. On the DEP FB and Twitter pages, it had 8k views and 700 engagements. Social posts on the falcons’ four eggs have also been highly popular.

- A letter from the Acting Secretary to EPA administrator Scott Pruitt, which warned of the impacts of EPA funding cuts, had 700 engagements on the DEP Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn pages.

Environmental Justice
The Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) will hold nine listening sessions around the Commonwealth to take comments on Environmental Justice. Including: Greene County – April 12, Pittsburgh – April 13, Williamsport – April 20, Erie – April 27, Lancaster – May 4, Allentown – May 11, Harrisburg – May 16, Chester – May 23 and Philadelphia – May 25. The Department will seek the comments and feedback of many stakeholders including the Legislature, industry and citizens throughout this process. Additionally, the OEJ in conjunction with the Department’s GIS staff has create an EJ Viewer for the Commonwealth that identifies all EJ communities and provides graphical overlays of select permits, demographics, and select health data provided by the DOH.

Federal Regulations

Recently Submitted DEP Comments
Nothing to report.

Regulations Planned for DEP Comment
Nothing to report.

Regulatory Update (detailed summaries included in respective program sections)
Please refer to the DEP Rolling Regulatory Agenda for the Regulatory Update.

Proposals Open for Public Comment
- Proposed Rulemaking: Gasoline Volatility Requirements (Opened 2/25/2017, Closes 5/1/2017)
- Air Quality Draft General Permit GP-5A; Draft General Permit GP-5, and Air Quality Permit Exemption List (Opened 2/4/2017, Closes 6/5/2017)

Recently Closed Comment Periods
Communications Monthly Press Releases (All New, not Italicized)

Press Releases Issued

March 02 – DEP Receives Phase II Application from Elcon Recycling Services, LLC

March 02 – Statewide Solar Energy Development Planning Begins with First Meeting

March 03 – GO-TIME: New iPad App Makes DEP Oil and Gas Site Inspections More Efficient

March 07 – DEP Awards $1.9 Million in Alternative Fuel Incentive Grants to PA Communities and Businesses

March 08 – DEP AMD Treatment Plant to Restore Over 20 Miles of Stream

March 09 – Volunteers Needed for Statewide Cleanup, Beautification Effort

March 10 – Governor Wolf Announces Launch of Electronic Permit Application for Coal Mines

March 16 – Wolf Administration Reacts to Proposed EPA Cuts, Noting Immediate and Devastating Effects if Enacted

March 21 – Governor Wolf Announces Launch of Oil and Gas Electronic Submissions Review for Accelerated Public Access

March 21 – DEP Denies Nulife Glass NY’s Application for a Variance for Storage of Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs)

March 23 – Wolf Administration Announces 2017 Environmental Excellence Award Winners

March 27 – DEP Approves Permits for Underground Injection Wells in Elk and Indiana Counties

March 27 – Free Peregrine Falcons Workshop Offered for Educators April 13
Active and Abandoned Mine Operations

**Federal Proposed Stream Protection Rulemaking**
On July 27, 2015, the federal Office of Surface Mining published a substantial revision to the coal mining regulations relating to the protection of streams. The scope of the rule is extensive. Many new additional requirements are proposed, including, for example, site-specific continuous precipitation data for every mine site. The comment period for the proposed rulemaking was originally scheduled to end September 25, but was extended to October 26. The Department completed its evaluation of the rule and submitted comments on October 23. The Department’s 17 pages of comments included specific recommendations for alternative approaches or revised language for purposes of improving the proposed regulations. In other instances, there were sections that were not clear and requests were made for clarification. Overall, two specific requests were made: to expand the preamble to comprehensively address each aspect of the proposed rule and the supporting science and to clarify the proposed regulatory language based on feedback received during the initial comment period. OSM has engaged with the states to discuss concerns about the rule. From this interaction it is clear that OSM is working to finalize the rule as quickly as it can. Indications are that the final rule will account for many of the comments made. The final Environmental Impact Statement was posted on OSM’s webpage in mid-November. The final rule was published December 20. Many revisions were made in response to comments. However, the fate of the rule is uncertain based on possible litigation or action by Congress. On February 16, President Trump signed an executive order that revoked the stream protection rules.

**Act 54 Report Review**
The Bureau of Mining Programs is working with the California District Mining Office to systematically review the Act 54 report. Discussions have identified a few categories of action items. The Department has received the CAC comments and will work with the Council to address their concerns. The TGD Surface Water Protection-Underground Bituminous Coal Mining Operations will be revised to address some of the issues raised in the Act 54 report and in response to recent litigation. **BMP started to draft the next report and will soon select the party that will undertake the project.**

**Final Rulemaking**

**Draft Final-Form Rulemaking – Handling and Use of Explosives**
The proposed rulemaking for the explosives program was reviewed with the MRAB and the Aggregate Advisory Board. Each recommended that the Department proceed with the rulemaking process. The EQB approved the package on September 15, 2015, but the Attorney General’s Office tolled the regulation on November 10, 2015. Program staff and Regulatory Counsel developed a response which was submitted to the Attorney General’s Office on December 29, 2015. This was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on February 27, 2016, opening the public comment period. Several comments were received by the close of the comment period on March 28 which are currently under review. The final-form rulemaking was presented to the MRAB at their July meeting, resulting in a recommendation to proceed. This rulemaking was presented to the Aggregate Advisory Board at their November meeting which also resulted in a recommendation to proceed. It has been routed for approval and will be presented to the EQB in 2017.

**NPDES Permitting for Mine Sites**
The Mining Program continues to work with EPA to implement NPDES permitting and compliance improvements. The focus has shifted from developing tools (e.g. TGD, SOP, Permit Document and Inspection Report) to deploying the tools. EPA is working with the Mining Program to identify the parameters of further interaction between the agencies. A two-year work plan has been drafted. A checklist that would eventually provide an alternative to submission of draft permits is under discussion; some progress has been made in implementing the checklist, aimed at beginning its use in April. Monthly calls with EPA to discuss program
issues have been reinstated. Several workgroups are being established to address on-going issues. One of the workgroups will be evaluating the best way to integrate remining in TMDL watersheds. EPA has recently identified an example of a draft permit and fact sheet that provided them with the information they needed in a very clear and concise manner.

**Guidance Document Revisions**

The Bureau of Mining Programs is systematically reviewing the library of Technical Guidance Documents (TGDs) to identify all of the documents which require changes. The following TGDs are under active development:

**Processing Completion Reports for Coal Mining Operations (563-2504-411)**  
*This draft guidance explains the process operators should follow to submit a completion report to have their bond liability reduced. On completion of a stage of reclamation, the operator or any other person having an interest in the bond, may file a Completion Report requesting a bond release. There will be a 30-day comment period on this guidance document this Spring.*

**Blaster’s License Suspension and Revocation Procedure (562-2402-501)**  
*Substantive changes have been made to the draft based on public comment. The changes enhance clarity and transparency, and ensure that the necessary actions taken are reasonable. This guidance document is expected to be published as final this Spring.*

**Board of Coal Mine Safety (BCMS)**

**Draft Final-Form Rulemaking - Proximity Detection Systems for Continuous Mining Machines**  
The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) issued a final rule on proximity detection systems for continuous mining machines in underground coal mines on January 15, 2015. The MSHA rule excludes full-face continuous mining machines. Miners working near continuous mining machines are at risk of pinning, crushing, and striking hazards. This rule provides for greater protection for miners regarding these hazards. The rule was distributed to the BCMS for review prior to their June meeting. At the June meeting the Board directed DEP to draft initial regulatory language to incorporate the MSHA rule on proximity detection systems for continuous mining machines in underground coal mines into PA mine safety regulations. The package was approved by the Board of Coal Mine Safety on December 8, 2015, and sent to Office of General Counsel and Budget for review. The rulemaking was signed off by the Office of General Counsel, the Governor’s Budget Office, and the Office of Attorney General. This was published on March 19, 2016, opening the 30-day public comment period. No comments were received. On May 18, 2016, a no comments letter was received from IRRC. If a final-form regulation is delivered without revisions and if the House and Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committees do not take any action, it will be deemed approved. While implementation is proceeding, an issue has emerged concerning instances where a miner wearing a proximity pad is close to a source interfering with radio frequencies (RFI) (e.g., dust sampler, radio, energized cable), the proximity pad may be rendered inoperable. MSHA and equipment manufacturers are working on solutions including carriers that will keep the proximity pad separated from the RFI and developing software for the pads that will give the miner an audible and visual warning if RFI interference is causing a malfunction. The Board tabled action on this rule at their December 13 meeting pending resolution of MSHA implementation issues.

**Proposed Rulemaking - Performance Based Cable Safety**  
The Board undertook the issue of performance based cable standards to address both shielded cables and sensitive ground fault. Typical low and medium voltage systems use a 15-ampere grounding resistor with a ground fault relay that trips at no more than 50% of the resistor value. It was determined that sensitive ground fault protection, set at an appropriate level, would not only decrease the potential hazard of handling a damaged cable, thereby increasing cable safety, it would also afford protection from inadvertent contact with energized circuits while troubleshooting or performing maintenance. Since the 1980's some components, such as the
shearer and face motors, of the high-voltage longwall systems have used a ground fault relay which trips at no more than 0.125 amperes. A similar protection scheme can be used on low- and medium-voltage systems and can increase the protection of miners. This has been under development for several years. Draft language was presented and discussed at the March 23, 2016, meeting of the Board. Based on the Board’s review, final language was developed by Department staff and presented to the Board at their July 7 meeting. The draft was reviewed by the Board at their September 13 meeting where it was approved with some minor changes brought up by the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance. This was delivered to IRRC, the House and Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committees, and Legislative Reference Bureau on March 3, 2017. It was published on March 18 opening the public comment period through April 17. IRCC will have until May 17 to comment.

Future regulatory issues that will be taken up by the Board include a better way to define what is a reportable accident and consolidating required ventilation plans into one package to simplify the entire plan approval process.

Air Quality

Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC)
The next CCAC meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 105, RCSOB.

Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (AQTAC)
The April 20, 2017, AQTAC meeting has been cancelled due an insufficient number of agenda items. The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2017, at 9:15 a.m. in Room 105, RCSOB.

Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee (SBCAC)
The April 26, 2017, meeting of the SBCAC has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. The next meeting will be held July 26, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in the 12th Floor Conference Room, RCSOB.

Pennsylvania’s Methane Reduction Strategy for the Oil and Natural Gas Industry
Methane is the primary component of natural gas and it has been identified by the EPA as the second most prevalent greenhouse gas emitted from human activities in this nation. Pennsylvania is the second largest producer of natural gas in the United States. On Jan. 19, 2016, Governor Tom Wolf announced a four-point methane emission reduction strategy for unconventional natural gas operations in Pennsylvania. This strategy included the development of a general permit for new unconventional well pad operations (GP-5A) and modifications to the existing general permit (GP-5) for compressors and natural gas processing facilities. The proposed general permits were presented to the AQTAC, CCAC and CAC on Dec. 8, 2016, Jan. 10 and Jan. 17, 2017, respectively. A Pennsylvania Bulletin notice on Feb. 4, 2017, opened a 45-day public comment period which was subsequently extended to 120 days and will close on June 5, 2017. The Department will then draft a comment and response document prior to finalizing the General Permits and making them available for use.

DEP will also develop a regulatory proposal to implement EPA’s final Control Technique Guidelines (CTG) for the Oil and Gas Industry. This rulemaking will be submitted to EPA as a SIP revision within two years following the issuance of the final guidelines. The CTG was issued on Oct. 27, 2016.

Ozone Designations
On Oct. 26, 2015, EPA reduced the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) from 75 ppb to 70 ppb. Following promulgation of a new or revised air standard, states are given the opportunity to submit recommendations for the designation of attainment, unclassifiable and nonattainment areas. Using 2013, 2014, and 2015 ozone season data and EPA guidance, DEP proposed the following ozone nonattainment areas in the Aug. 20, 2016, Pa. Bulletin:
- A 7-county Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Area;
- A 5-county Philadelphia Area;
The Department held public meetings in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh and Norristown on Aug. 24, 25, and 26, respectively. There were 24 comments received from five commentators. The Department submitted its recommendations to EPA on Oct. 3, 2016. On Feb. 28, 2017, the Department submitted certified 2016 ozone data to EPA. Based on 2014, 2015 and 2016 ozone season data, the Department will be recommending that the 7-county Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Area and Indiana County be designated as attainment. In addition, the Department has begun the process of completing two exceptional event analyses with respect to forest fires contributing to high ozone concentrations across the Commonwealth in 2016. This analysis may likely confirm the design values for Lebanon County and Berks County meeting the 2015 Ozone NAAQS, leaving only the 5-county Philadelphia Area in nonattainment for ozone. EPA will perform its own analysis to determine nonattainment areas, while taking the Commonwealth’s recommendations into account. By June 3, 2017, EPA will send a letter that will state whether EPA intends to modify the Commonwealth’s recommendations. EPA will open a 30-day public comment period on approximately July 3, 2017. Pennsylvania will then have until Aug. 2, 2017, to submit additional information for EPA to consider in making final designations. EPA intends to publish the final designations by Oct. 1, 2017.

2010 SO₂ NAAQS Attainment Demonstration SIP Revisions

On March 18, 2016, effective April 18, 2016, the EPA published a final action finding that several states, including Pennsylvania, failed to submit SIPs to satisfy nonattainment area planning requirements of the Clean Air Act (CAA) for the 2010 1-Hour Primary SO₂ NAAQS. The four areas in Pennsylvania are Beaver, Indiana/Armstrong, Warren, and Allegheny Counties. The Pennsylvania SIPs, which were due by April 4, 2015, must describe how the areas will meet the SO₂ standard by the statutory attainment date of Oct. 4, 2018. EPA’s findings of “failure to submit” triggered mandatory deadlines for EPA to impose sanctions if Pennsylvania does not submit SIPs addressing those requirements and for the EPA to promulgate a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) to address any outstanding SIP requirements. EPA is obligated to apply offset sanctions within 18 months (Oct. 18, 2017) from the effective date of the findings and highway funding sanctions in 24 months (April 18, 2018) from the effective date of the findings if the state has not submitted the SIPs and EPA has not found them to be complete by the respective deadlines. The findings also trigger an obligation under the CAA for EPA to promulgate a FIP no later than 2 years from the finding of failure to submit, if the state has not submitted, and the EPA has not approved, the SIP. Work is in progress to deliver the attainment demonstration SIPs for the four Pennsylvania nonattainment areas prior to the sanction deadline. On March 6, 2017, the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) submitted a draft SIP for the Allegheny County nonattainment area to the Department. The ACHD will be holding a public hearing on April 6, 2017; the public comment period will close April 11, 2017.

2008 Ozone NAAQS SIP Revisions

On Jan. 13, 2017, the EPA notified 15 states, including Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia that they had failed to submit certain SIP revisions to address Clean Air Act requirements for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS. The states affected are overdue in submitting SIP revisions for either their designated nonattainment areas or their entire state as a member of the Ozone Transport Region, or both.

Five areas in Pennsylvania were identified: Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton area; Lancaster area; Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City area; Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley area and the Reading area. Pennsylvania must submit a SIP revision certifying that our current Nonattainment New Source Review rule meets the requirements of the 2008 Ozone NAAQS. DEP must also finalize the Industrial Cleaning Solvent (ICS) regulation, implementing the last of the Federal Volatile Organic Compound Control Technique Guidelines (CTGs). The draft ICS regulation was considered and unanimously approved at the March 21, 2017, EQB meeting.

As required by Section 7.11 of the Pennsylvania Air Pollution Control Act, on Feb. 16, 2017, the Department
provided written notification to the Senate and House Environmental Resources and Energy Committees.

**Air Quality Rulemaking Packages**

**Control of VOC Emissions from Industrial Cleaning Solvents**

The proposed rulemaking would establish RACT requirements for industrial cleaning solvents as recommended in EPA’s 2006 CTG for ICS. *The AQTAC, SBCAC, and CAC concurred with DEP’s recommendation to submit the proposed ICS rulemaking to the EQB on Feb. 20, April 23 and June 17, 2014, respectively. However, in response to comments heard at the various committee meetings, substantive changes were made to the proposed rulemaking. A revised draft Annex A was presented to AQTAC, CAC and SBCAC on Feb. 11, March 15, and April 27, 2016, respectively. All three committees again concurred with DEP’s recommendation to submit the final rulemaking to the EQB for consideration. The draft ICS regulation was considered and unanimously approved by EQB at its March 21, 2017, meeting.*

**Low Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) Gasoline Repeal**

The gasoline volatility regulation codified in 25 Pa. Code Chapter 126, Subchapter C, requires that summertime gasoline with a Reid vapor pressure (RVP) limit of 7.8 pounds per square inch (psi) or less per gallon be sold at the retail level in the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Area (Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland counties) between May 1 and September 1 of each calendar year by all refiners, importers, distributors, resellers, terminal owners and operators and carriers. The restrictions apply between June 1 and Sept. 15 of each year for all wholesale purchaser-consumers and retailers of gasoline. The EQB adopted the regulation in Nov. 1997 to address a violation of the 1-hour ozone standard in the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Area; EPA approved the SIP revision on July 20, 1999. Given mandatory vapor recovery technology (carbon canister) requirements for all new vehicles since 2007, this regulation has had a diminishing effect on ozone precursor emissions.

On May 14, 2014, the Pennsylvania General Assembly enacted legislation requiring DEP to develop a SIP revision for the removal of the low RVP fuel provisions from the SIP. The law also directs the EQB to promulgate regulation repealing the low RVP regulation. *AQTAC, SBCAC and CAC concurred with DEP’s recommendation to submit the proposed rulemaking to the EQB for consideration on Dec. 10, 2015, and Feb. 17 and March 15, 2016, respectively. On Oct. 18, 2016, the EQB voted 15-5-0 on DEP’s recommendation to move the proposed rulemaking forward to be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin for public comment. In the Feb. 25, 2017, Pennsylvania Bulletin and in seven major newspapers across the Commonwealth the Department published notice of a public comment period, which will close on May 1, 2017. On March 28, 29 and 30, 2017, the Department held public hearings at DEP regional offices in Pittsburgh and Norristown and at the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg, respectively, and received no comments.*

When the public comment period closes, the Department will prepare a comment and response document.

**Air Program Fee Schedule for Emission, Plan Approval and Operating Permit Fees**

A proposed rulemaking is under development that would amend existing requirements and fee schedules codified in 25 Pa. Code Chapter 127, Subchapter I (relating to plan approval and operating permit fees) to ensure that fees are sufficient to cover the costs of administering the air program, as required by Section 502(b) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and Section 6.3 of the Air Pollution Control Act (APCA). Existing fees for plan approval applications and operating permits would be increased and fees would be established for requests for determination (RFD) of whether a plan approval is required, risk assessment reviews, and asbestos notifications. As listed in the Governor’s Regulatory Agenda published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on Feb. 4, 2017, the Air Quality Fee Schedule Amendment is scheduled for EQB consideration in the 4th Quarter of 2017.

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**Energy Initiatives**
Application to USDOE for Competitive Solar Energy Evolution and Diffusion Studies II – State Energy Strategies (SEEDSII-SES)

On Nov. 2, Governor Tom Wolf announced that a statewide planning project led by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) called “Finding Pennsylvania’s Solar Future,” was selected to receive $550,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. The project will help to equip Pennsylvania to produce more solar energy and increase solar-generated in-state electricity sales to at least 10 percent by 2030. The project began on January 1, 2017.

The project kickoff meeting for Finding Pennsylvania’s Solar Future, the 2017-2019 statewide planning project to equip Pennsylvania to produce more solar energy by 2030 was held on Thursday, March 2, from 10 am to 4 pm in the Auditorium of the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg. Over 100 stakeholders were in attendance representing academia, solar industry, utilities, Non-Governmental Organizations, and other state agencies. Project participants were asked to commit to serving on working groups that will meet regularly throughout 2017 and 2018. Meeting materials along with an attendee list have been added to the PA Solar Future website: www.dep.pa.gov/PAsolarfuture The next meeting is scheduled for June 8th near Pittsburgh

2016 Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant (AFIG)

The AFIG Program offers grant funding for clean, alternative fuel projects in Pennsylvania, and investment in Pennsylvania’s energy sector. During the first AFIG 2016 submission period, a total of 30 applications were submitted via the DEP Environmental eGrants system by April 30, 2016. The award announcement for the 1st submission period occurred on September 8, 2016. DEP awarded more than $1.6 million to 10 applicants including Pennsylvania schools and businesses for projects using alternative fuels and infrastructure. The winning projects are estimated to eliminate from use an estimated 980,000 gallons of gasoline.

Award announcements for the second submission period for the 2016 AFIG were made on Tuesday, March 7, 2017. DEP awarded more than $1.9 million to 16 applicants including Pennsylvania schools and businesses for projects using alternative fuels and infrastructure. The winning projects are estimated to eliminate from use an estimated 1.2 million gallons of gasoline.

The application submission period for Round Three of the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program closed on Friday, December 30, 2016. A total of 27 applications were submitted, including: 15 applications for vehicle retrofit and/or purchase projects, 11 applications for refueling infrastructure projects, and one application for innovative technology projects. DEP staff have scored these applications and are developing recommendations for awards. The 2017 Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant Program is currently under development.

Alternative Fuel Fleet Vehicles

Since 2012, the Act 13 Natural Gas Energy Development Program has awarded $20 million to 62 companies and organizations. To date, DEP has reimbursed grantees for the purchase or conversion of 710 heavy duty vehicles under the Act 13 program totaling more than $13.8 million in program funds disbursed. The 710 vehicles supported to date with grant funds are estimated to be displacing over 8.9 million gasoline gallon equivalents per year. Over $37.4 million in actual incremental costs have been expended on alternative fuel vehicles due to this program.

Since 2013, the Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant Program has provided $7 million to 66 awardees to support the purchase or conversion for light and medium duty natural gas vehicles as well as propane and electric fleet vehicles of any size. So far, DEP has reimbursed grantees for the purchase or conversion of 514 vehicles totaling over $2.9 million in program funds disbursed. The 514 vehicles are estimated to be displacing over 1.2 million gasoline gallon equivalents per year. $6.1 million in actual incremental costs have been expended on alternative fuel vehicles due to this program.
Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate Program

The alternative fuel vehicle rebate program provides rebates to PA residents for EVs and PHEVs. DEP has provided 80 rebates at $2,000 since January 1, 2017 resulting in $160,000 of support. The program transitioned to an online electronic submission format on March 18, 2017 and revised to the rebate amounts to $1,750 for large-sized battery EVs, $1,000 for mid-sized battery EVs and PHEVs, and $750 for small battery EV and PHEVs. As of March 18, 2017, 250 rebates are available at the $1,750 level. Upon payment of the first 250 rebates at $1,750 or June 30, 2017, whichever occurs first, rebate amounts offered will be reassessed and likely reduced if funds remain.

PA Turnpike Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Car Charging Group Inc. (CCGI) provided to PADEP a new construction schedule to deploy electric vehicle service equipment at the remaining rest stops on the PA Turnpike mainline. DEP and the PA Turnpike have been working with CCGI since 2011 to plan for the install electric vehicle infrastructure across the Turnpike system. To date, beginning in 2014, CCGI has installed 10 electric vehicle chargers at 5 of the 17 service plazas along the Turnpike. These electric vehicle chargers have performed over 700 vehicle charges since the 1st charger was deployed. CCGI has provided a plan to deploy the remaining 22 electric vehicle chargers starting April 3, 2017. CCGI stated that they intend to complete the project by June 30, 2017 in accordance with the conditions of their signed contract.

Industrial Energy Efficiency Assistance

The Climate Change Action Plan Update contains a work plan that calls for greatly increasing the number of energy assessments for the manufacturing sector and this proposal directly coincides with that recommendation. DEP contracts with the Pennsylvania State University’s Technical Assistance Program (PennTAP) to help Pennsylvania companies improve their competitiveness by providing technical assistance and information. DEP and PennTAP entered into a new contract for FY 2016 – 2017 to provide 70-75 energy efficiency assessments for small to mid-sized manufacturers. The project will also educate the next generation of engineering students at Penn State University by including them in site visits and writing assessment reports. Funding is provided by EPA’s Pollution Prevention Incentives for States and the DOE’s State Energy Program. PennTAP’s technical staff provided five energy assessment reports to companies in the month of February 2017 for metal fabrication, advanced materials and wood, lumber and paper companies in the northcentral, southcentral and northwestern regions in PA.

Energy Assessments and Retrofits for Restaurants and Corner Stores

DEP contracted with the Energy Outreach and Assessment Center (EOAC) at the Philadelphia Navy Yard to design and demonstrate a scalable approach to facilitating building energy assessments that will lead to energy retrofits in small and medium sized facilities. This demonstration will focus initially on the Philadelphia PA region as a model for broader statewide applications and specifically on convenience stores and restaurants which are the most energy intensive type of commercial building (3 to 5 times higher than office buildings). These types of facilities have also been targeted by the Philadelphia Energy Authority, who will be a key partner in this project.

This initiative will draw from recent investments by Penn State, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the DEP in Building Operator Certification and Building Retuning Training designed to engage entry-level workers in building energy assessments. It will also include market partners that will execute retrofit implementations through innovative methods that overcome many barriers currently impeding progress in building energy efficiency. Key innovations include:

(1) Lowering the cost of energy retrofit customer acquisition through low cost energy assessment conducted by education and training program integration and community outreach,
(2) Supply chain integration of retrofit design, pricing, product procurement, and construction, and
(3) Aggregation of small projects into portfolios
During the October-December quarter, of the 30 assessments conducted in the previous quarter, seven were in development for retrofit proposals with expected delivery to the business owners in early 1st Quarter 2017. In order to speed up assessments and improve viability of projects with businesses likely to implement proposed equipment retrofits, the Philadelphia Energy Authority will be vetting leads for assessments. Additional students were trained in a one-week long “boot camp” in early January. Funding has been identified through the partners for at least eight interns to be hired from students attending the boot camp with their goal to complete an additional 45 assessments by mid-February. Capital financing has been a barrier identified in the process, with the PEA working to have full financing packages available at the time the proposals are presented; DEP’s matching grant program requires up-front capital, and the bridge financing was a missing piece. Their overall goal is to have 15 retrofits completed by June of 2017 from the 75 assessments and subsequent proposals.

Building Operator Certification (BOC) Outreach and Building Re-tuning (BRT) Workshop
DEP has contracted with PennTAP to create and deliver a well-structured statewide workshop to showcase DEP’s Building Construction Technology Extension Program and to provide BRT training and BOC required maintenance points for re-certification. The workshop will highlight DEP’s Scope of Work on the BRT projects that have been implemented over the past several years. Program participants will discuss BRT at their facilities and lessons learned of executing projects. BRT training will be provided to participants at the workshop interested in the hands-on training. BOC training modules will be provided to past participants of the Building Operator Certification Program to provide them an opportunity to obtain their required re-certification BOC maintenance points. PennTAP Technical Advisors and instructors from the Penn College National Sustainable Structures Center (NSSC) will present training sessions that are competency-based and offer facility personnel the improved job skills and knowledge needed to transform their workplaces to be more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly. Additionally, PennTAP is subcontracting with Penn College’s National Sustainable Structures Center will deliver BOC training to 20 government, community colleges and K-12 school participants in 1 or 2 sessions (Statewide).

The BOC/BRT Facility Operations Workshop was held on March 27, 2017. This date was chosen to occur prior to a BOC certification expiry deadline at the end of March. The event was held at the Penn Stater Conference Hotel Center. Continuing education credits (CEU) certificates will serve as the proof of participation required to qualify for BOC points. Targeted enrollment is 100. The workshop consists of two parallel tracks that focus on a) BRT principles and the practical application in building walkthroughs, and b) a variety of BOC topics (earning certification points).

The location, subjects, dates, and logistics for the BOC training sessions have been determined and are being promoted through Penn College. A BOC level 1 course, with 14 attendees, began in Cranberry Township, PA on January 25, 2017. Classes end on April 26, 2017. Another BOC 1 Course is slated to begin in State College, PA on April 6th, 2017. This course will end on June 28th 2017. An initiative to align the BOC program with the international ISO standard will be incorporated in these new training sessions. The activity to date has primarily been planning. NSSC staff will conduct outreach at the upcoming Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) Facilities Management and Transportation Conference.

Energy Efficient Building Codes Outreach and Education
The Pennsylvania Municipal League will be administering building energy code trainings in the spring and summer 2017 (Dates To Be Determined). The Pennsylvania Construction Codes Academy and Pennsylvania Systems Development will be conducting the trainings. There will be three residential energy code trainings and six commercial energy code trainings targeted to energy plan reviewers, inspectors, builders, design professionals, and other industry professionals. There will also be 3 webinars on commercial energy code as well as technical assistance available to local governments. More information will be provided when it is available. Funding is provided by DOE’s State Energy Program.
EV Everywhere
DEP held a series of electric vehicle stakeholder meetings in December 2016 at the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission Headquarters in Middletown. The topics included: EV Education & Outreach, EV Procurement, and EV Charging Infrastructure. DEP is intending to have follow-up meetings with this newly created PA EV Coalition, and also encourage more stakeholders and constituents to get involved in shaping a statewide agenda and plan to support electric vehicles adoption in Pennsylvania. No meetings have been scheduled for follow-up to date. The PA EV Coalition includes state government officials, Clean Cities Coalitions, EV businesses, consultants, transportation organizations, electric utilities, environmental groups, major auto companies, and cities. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 13.

Alternative Fuels Technical Assistance (AFTA)
The AFTA Program provides professional consulting assistance to PA municipalities, school districts, authorities, and non-profits interested in adopting alternative fuel strategies for their fleet vehicles. Eligible entities that are accepted into the program are assigned to an alternative fuels consulting firm who will evaluate the organization’s fleet and operating profile. The result is a report that provides alternative fueling recommendations that consider the economic and environmental circumstances unique to that organization. AFTA was formally opened at the end of January, 2017. Since then, DEP has received five applications for technical assistance. Four of the applications received were approved for inclusion in the program, and the contractor, Philadelphia Region Clean Cities, was given notice to proceed with their analysis of each fleet. A draft report for each project is due within 90 of assignment, which puts the first reports due in May. DEP declined approval of a fifth application that was deemed insufficient for inclusion in the program. The organization accepted into the program collectively operate over 600 vehicles on gasoline and diesel fuel. OPPEA continues to market AFTA to eligible entities in the hopes of getting 5-7 technical assistance projects completed by June 30. AFTA is funded through use of a limited portion of funds ($48,000), from the Alternative Fuels Incentive Fund.

National Energy Efficiency Registry
OPPEA has been partnering with six states along with The Climate Registry and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) to develop a strategy to help create a NEER. Tennessee is the prime recipient of a competitive grant from the Department of Energy for this project. NEER will allow states to track initiatives within their own programs as well as demonstrate progress towards energy goals and potential compliance with existing and future state and federal environmental regulations. NEER will also allow the public and private sectors to transparently track attributes associated with energy efficiency initiatives. This will help states reduce emissions cost-effectively and will support using energy efficiency investments to improve economic competitiveness and environmental quality. The final draft of the principles and operating rules for the NEER have been approved by the Steering and Advisory Committee. These will be released for public comment from April 3 to May 31. NASEO continues to develop the NEER state roadmapping report, and plans to hold meetings or webinars with stakeholders in each state.

2017 State Energy Program (SEP)
DOE’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy’s (EERE’s) State Energy Program (SEP) issued SEP Formula Grant Guidance to states and territories on January 19, 2017. States are expected to submit applications to increase market transformation of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies through policies, strategies, and public-private partnerships that facilitate their adoption and implementation. DOE’s emphasis this year is on enhancing the robustness of States’ energy plans and developing energy efficiency and renewable energy plans, and programs to support State achievement of State air quality goals. The draft allocation for Pennsylvania is $1,530,360. This amount, however, is subject to revision, because Congress is deliberating a Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2017. When the final full year 2017 budget is passed, the allocations may be revised. Pennsylvania’s application is due April 11, 2017. The Trump Administration released its initial 2018 budget proposal on March 16. This proposal would eliminate all funding for SEP as
well as the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), managed in PA by DCED. DEP and DCED a letter to the Secretary of Energy in support of these programs.

**Street Lighting Technical Assistance Project**
The LED Street Lights Technical Assistance project was initiated in mid-2015. DEP staff performed assessments for approximately 200 municipalities since the inception of the project. Early 2017 has seen a resurgence in municipal requests for assistance from OPPEA staff due to new, increased rates for street lights that took effect at the beginning of the year in several utility territories. This project also included a series of workshop, conference presentation, and webinars to teach municipal officials how to read and understand their street light bills and tariffs, then make informed decisions about moving forward with LED street light orders. During the life of the project, a total of nine workshop and webinar presentations were performed by OPPEA staff with about 500 municipal officials in attendance. One remaining workshop is scheduled in April at the PA State Assn. of Township Supervisors annual conference. Depending on the particular utility involved, municipalities can reduce their street light bill by up to 50% and reduce street light energy consumption by up to 70% upon conversion to LED. It is estimated that approximately 40,000 leased LED street lights have been installed in 2016, representing about 10-15% of leased street lights in PA.

**Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields**

**Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board (CSSAB)**
The CSSAB meeting scheduled for March 15 was cancelled. The next CSSAB meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2017, at 9 a.m. in Room 105, RCSOB, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg.

**Storage Tank Advisory Committee (STAC)**
The STAC held its first meeting of calendar year 2017 on March 7 in Room 105, RCSOB, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg. DEP presented to the committee changes made to the draft proposed amendments to Chapter 245 (Administration of the Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Program) since the December 6, 2016, meeting of the STAC. After the presentation, the STAC voted unanimously to recommend to present Chapter 245 to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) as proposed rulemaking. Presentation to the EQB is expected in summer 2017. The next STAC meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2017, at 10 a.m. in Room 105, RCSOB, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg.

**Environmental Education**

**Environmental Education Grants Program (EEGP)**
For the 2017 grant round, organizations applied for mini-grants of up to $3,000 or general grants up to $50,000. General grants will be awarded to organizations implementing large scale regional or statewide environmental education projects. Mini-grant applicants may apply for local environmental education projects. All applicants were encouraged to undertake projects that address DEP’s priority topics of climate change, water education and environmental justice.

DEP’s Environmental Education and Information Center (EEIC) received 204 applications totaling $2,978,531 for the 2017 Environmental Education Grant round. This is the single, largest request amount received through the EE Grants program. It is roughly 4 times the amount annually received. Grant raters completed the application scoring on March 3, 2017. The geographic breakdown by region includes the Northcentral Region 2 projects, Northeast Region 2 projects, Northwest Region 2 projects, Southcentral Region 5 projects, Southeast Region 6 projects, Southwest Region 6 projects, and 3 Statewide projects.

There are 78 total recommended projects for funding totaling $1,156,412. The grant awards will be announced on or around April 22, 2017, in conjunction with Earth Day.
PA Falcon Reintroduction Program
April will involve incubation of the 4 eggs in this year’s clutch. With a 33 to 35 day incubation period, young should arrive somewhere around April 15.
The 2017 Peregrine Falcon Workshop has been scheduled for April 13, 2017 from 9am until 3pm. This workshop will be cooperatively delivered by DEP staff, the Pa. Game Commission, and Zoo America.

Ongoing, active components of this program include: email interaction with web viewers, Falcon Wire and Twitter postings and school/youth programming on endangered species and adaptations.

For the 2017 nesting season, the PA Falcon Cam features new, high definition cameras with infrared technology where falcon cam viewers can select individual camera views for day or night time watching.

Pennsylvania Envirothon
Planning for the 2017 High School Envirothon is underway. This year, the state high school Envirothon competition will take place May 23 and 24, 2017 on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown (UPJ). At this statewide Envirothon competition all 67 teams (over 300 students) that won their county competition will be recognized. Almost 900 teams competed in county events held statewide. Each team, consisting of 5 high school students compete in field testing using their knowledge in 5 subject areas including soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and an annually selected environmental issue.

DEP Environmental Education Interns
Currently, the Environmental Education staff are busy conducting interviews for the 2 interns to be hired for the summer of 2017. At this point, 27 potential interns have been contacted, with interviews arranged for 10 candidates. These interns assist the Environmental Education staff in program preparation and presentation.

Oil and Gas

TAB Meeting
A meeting of the Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board (TAB) is scheduled on April 13 in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg.

Well Bore Deviation Workgroup
On Wednesday March 15, the Office of Oil and Gas Management kicked off a joint DEP/oil and gas industry workgroup to define acceptable well bore deviations from the well bore path depicted in a typical well permit. In addition to defining what an acceptable degree of deviation is, the work group will also address appropriate directional drilling survey frequencies, how “as drilled” data can be reported in a manner that lends itself to digital mapping and public disclosure, and the appropriate remediation measures for wells that deviate beyond acceptable levels.

Inter-Bureau Collaboration on Fresh Groundwater Resource Conservation
DEP’s oil and gas program met on Thursday, February 23rd with DEP’s Office of Water Resources Planning program to present results of a recent analysis of the base of “deepest fresh groundwater” (DFGW) circulation in southwestern Pennsylvania. Analysis of offset water show data, petrophysical logs, and geochemical data; combined with watershed analysis aimed at understanding groundwater circulation depths within small and intermediate sized groundwater basins, provide evidence of three distinct groundwater regimes in the area. Accurately determining the base of DFGW is a critical development component that operators targeting unconventional shale gas deposits in Pennsylvania must consider to optimize protection of fresh groundwater.
resources. This work may also provide better estimates of fresh groundwater resource availability for planning purposes in areas of the state where data can be accessed for analysis.

**Oil and Gas Workload Report**
Please see Attachment 2.

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**Radiation Protection**

**Radiation Protection Advisory Committee (RPAC)**
The next RPAC meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in the 14th Floor Conference Room, RCSOB.

**Radiation Protection Rulemaking Packages**

**Radiation Protection Program Fees**
This proposed rulemaking will amend Chapters 218 and 240 relating to fees. DEP must review the adequacy of established fees every three years, and the current fee review indicates the need for a fee increase in two program areas. The fees for Radioactive Materials and Decommissioning Program and the Radon Program are insufficient to cover program costs. This information was presented in a 3-year Fee Report to the RPAC and EQB in 2014 meetings of these bodies. RPAC has endorsed the increases. The proposed rulemaking was approved by the EQB on April 19, 2016, and published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on July 2, with a 60-day public comment period that closed Aug. 30, 2016. The draft final annex was reviewed and endorsed by the RPAC on Nov. 17, 2016, and EQB consideration of the final-form rulemaking is anticipated this summer.

**Radiological Health**
This proposed rulemaking is diverse in scope and will amend 25 Pa. Code Chapters 215-240 to establish and maintain adequate radiation protection standards and oversight due to significant technological advances in the use of radiation sources. The revisions will delete Agreement State transitional language and outdated requirements as well as add definitions for clarity of new and existing regulatory provisions. The amendments also contain comprehensive amendments for radon testing, mitigation, and laboratory analysis that largely reflect current practice. This rulemaking has been reviewed at length with RPAC at its meetings in 2014 and 2015. DEP received the Committee’s endorsement of the package in July 2015. The proposed rulemaking was presented to and unanimously approved by the EQB on Oct. 18, 2016. It is currently under review by the Office of Attorney General (OAG), which sent a tolling memo in December with suggested edits to the rule and questions for the Department to answer. When the OAG sends a tolling memo, this halts their review of the regulation until all questions are answered and/or edits are made. The Program has prepared a response to the tolling memo and is awaiting OAG approval. Pennsylvania Bulletin publication is anticipated in May 2017 with a 45-day public comment period.

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**Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)**
The March 16 SWAC meeting was rescheduled to Monday, March 27, 2017, at 10 a.m. in Room 105 of the RCSOB. The Committee reelected Michele Nestor as Chair and Robert Watts as Vice Chair. The Department also provided a general update on the Bureau of Waste Management and an overview of recent Marcellus Shale Waste Management items (i.e., updated residual waste codes and impoundment permitting under Chapter 78a). Acting CAC Executive Director Katie Hetherington Cunfer expressed CAC’s desire to enter into a joint effort with SWAC to encourage the Legislature to act on necessary provisions of Act 101 and the Covered Device Recycling Act, to which SWAC agreed. CAC and SWAC will be working together to draft letters to the Legislature to be acted upon at future CAC meetings. The next SWAC meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 105 of the RCSOB.
**Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule**


This final rule includes approximately 60 changes to the hazardous waste generator regulations that clarify existing requirements, increase flexibility, and improve environmental protection. These changes also reorganize the regulations to make them easier to follow and make certain technical corrections. Some examples of the changes in the final rule include the following:

- **Allowing very small quantity generators (VSQGs) to send hazardous waste to a large quantity generator (LQG) that is under the control of the same person and consolidate it there before sending it on for management at a RCRA-designated facility, provided certain conditions are met.**
- **Allowing a VSQG or a small quantity generator (SQG) to maintain its existing generator category in the case of an episodic event that would otherwise bump the generator into a more stringent generator regulatory category.**
- **Requiring periodic re-notification for SQGs every four years (SQGs only notify once under the current federal system). States with more frequent re-notifications can retain their existing requirements.**
- **Replacing the phrase “conditionally exempt small quantity generator” with the phrase “very small quantity generator” to be consistent with the other two generator categories—LQGs and SQGs.**
- **Reorganizing the hazardous waste generator regulations by moving VSQG regulations from § 261.5 into 40 CFR Part 262, where the regulations for SQGs and LQGs are located, and by moving many of the generator regulations that are currently located in other parts of the hazardous waste standards into Part 262 to replace the current lists of cross references.**

The Department is aware that the reorganization of the hazardous waste generator regulations will cause the federal and state regulations to be out of synchronization. DEP is currently considering whether a formal rulemaking will be appropriate.

**Water Programs & Water Resources Planning**

**New Chapter 102 and 105 Delegation Agreements**

The Department of Environmental Protection has revised the delegation agreements with county conservation districts for both the Water Obstruction and Encroachments Permitting Program (WEOP Program, Chapter 105) and the Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control (E&S) and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permitting Program for the discharge of stormwater from construction activities (Chapter 102). The key changes to the delegation agreements include the following:

- **Permit Decision Guarantee/Permit Review Process (PDG/PRP) SOPs have been developed for each permit type and the timeframes in those SOPs are reflected in the delegation agreements and required output measures (ROMs).**
- **Post Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) delegation has been developed in a stand-alone agreement, along with associated ROMs.**
- **The PCSM delegation provides for both completeness and engineering review of the PCSM plans; what was previously known as the “technical review” will be terminated. Districts who do not assume the PCSM delegation will still remain required to execute completeness reviews of PCSM plans and to make note of PCSM practices during site inspections.**
- **Agriculture E&S is specifically identified in the base and PCSM delegation agreements and ROMs.**
Key Changes to the Chapter 105 Agreement:

- General Permit transfers and Submerged Lands License Agreement transfers will be added to the responsibilities of the delegated conservation districts.
- Customized agreements will no longer be issued. Every conservation district will be provided the same agreement with the same delegated responsibilities.
- Permit Decision Guarantee/Permit Review Process (PDG/PRP) SOPs have been developed for each permit type and the timeframes in those SOPs are reflected in the delegation agreements and ROMs.

The revised delegation agreements were approved by the State Conservation Commission at its September 19, 2015 meeting, and were sent to all conservation districts for review and signature. The districts could opt to maintain their current levels and programs of delegation agreement, add a new level or agreement, or drop a level or agreement. A letter of Intent was requested from each conservation district by February 26, 2016 indicating their choice. The revised delegation agreements were executed and issued to the Districts in December 2016.

**Stormwater Listening Sessions**

DEP held seven Chapter 102 (E&S Program) listening sessions across Pennsylvania to gather comments from two groups – consultants/developers/builders in the AM sessions and Conservation District staff in the PM sessions. Comments were collected from a total of 74 attendees for the AM sessions and 112 District staff for the PM sessions. The comments will be considered when revising the Chapter 102 program. The following questions were asked at each session, What is working well with the Chapter 102 permitting process?, What is not working well with the process?, and what are the most important changes you would make to the process, permits, and regulations? The top 3 priorities for the consultant/developer/builder group (AM session) are the electronic submission of permits, simplification of small permits, and bringing back riparian buffer waivers with added flexibility to the buffer requirements, especially in redevelopment sites. The top 3 priorities for the Conservation District staff group (PM session) are to simplify small permits, provide more training sessions for District staff and consultants, and allow electronic permit submission of permits and digitize inspection reports.

**Aquatic Resource Functional Assessment Technical Guidance Documents**

The Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands is in the process of finalizing three technical guidance documents previously published for public comment. The technical guidance documents set to be finalized are the Pennsylvania Wetland Condition Level 2 Rapid Assessment (Doc Id: 310-2137-002), Pennsylvania Riverine Condition Level 2 Rapid Assessment (Doc Id: 310-2137-003), and Pennsylvania Lacustrine Condition Level 2 Rapid Assessment (Doc Id: 310-2137-004). These technical guidance documents provide standard guidelines for evaluating the condition of palustrine wetlands, riverine and lacustrine aquatic resources for the purposes of meeting regulatory requirements contained in 25 Pa. Code Chapter 105. The technical guidance outlines how to conduct assessments, the factors to consider when doing so and establishes a scoring system based upon condition categories. Program staff presented an overview of the three proposed Aquatic Resource Condition Level 2 Rapid Assessment final technical guidance documents to the Water Resources Advisory Committee at their September 21, 2016 meeting. The WRAC members approved these technical guidance documents with a unanimous vote. The final technical guidance documents were published in the PA Bulletin on February 4, 2017. Bureau staff is also currently developing a roll out plan for these technical guidance documents.

**Sewage Sludge Land Application Permitting**

The Bureau of Clean Water (BCW) is currently re-writing the three sewage sludge land application general permits numbers PAG-07, 08 and 09. These permits initially expired in April 2014. These general permits have been administratively extended since that time and will continue to be extended until new permits are issued on a statewide basis by the BCW staff. The draft revised permits will be published for public information and comment.
eDMR Registration
On October 22, 2015, the EPA published the NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule (“eReporting Rule”) in the Federal Register. The eReporting Rule amended EPA’s NPDES regulations at 40 CFR § 122.41(l)(4)(i) to require the submission of Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) electronically by December 21, 2016. DEP’s regulations require that permittees report monitoring results using a format or process established by DEP (25 Pa. Code § 92a.61(g)). Under EPA’s revised regulations, use of the eDMR system is mandatory. On September 9, 2016, DEP, mailed a letter to permittees not currently using eDMR requesting that they submit the necessary registration paperwork to use DEP’s eDMR system. The deadline to submit the form and Agreement was December 21, 2016 (Failure to register for use of the eDMR system constitutes a violation of 25 Pa. Code § 92a.61(g)). Since September 9th, we’ve received over 2,300 eDMR hard copy registrations and 350 of those have been processed and these permittees are now using eDMR. 1,955 eDMR registrations are awaiting processing by DEP staff, some of which (362) require additional information from the permittees. In the near future, DEP will be mailing Notice of Violation letters to permittees who have not mailed in completed registration paperwork. Due to this extensive volume of registrations requiring manual input into the data system, along with the limited staff available to process these registrations, DEP is likely to have a difficult time meeting EPA’s target of having > 90% participation in the eDMR system by June 2017.

Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards
Section 303(c)(1) of the Clean Water Act and Federal regulations at 40 CFR Section 131.20 require that states periodically, but at least once every 3 years, review and revise as necessary, their water quality standards. Pennsylvania’s Water Quality Standards are set forth in 25 Pa Code Chapter 93 (Water Quality Standards) and Chapter 16 (Water Quality Toxics Management Strategy – Statement of Policy).

DEP is currently drafting proposed rulemaking and related documentation to support recommended revisions to Pennsylvania’s Water Quality Standards (Chapter 93), for consideration by the Environmental Quality Board (EQB). In addition, DEP is recommending related amendments to the Water Quality Toxics Management Strategy – Statement of Policy (Chapter 16). Water quality standards include designated uses, numeric and narrative criteria and antidegradation requirements for surface waters. The regulatory changes in this proposed rulemaking are the result of on-going reviews and evaluations of the water quality standards conducted by DEP. This proposed rulemaking fulfills the federally required triennial review of water quality standards as mandated by the federal Clean Water Act.

The triennial review of water quality standards proposed rulemaking (TR17) was presented to the Water Resources Advisory Committee at the March 24, 2016 meeting. The final rulemaking is anticipated in 2017, which will be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for formal review and approval in accordance with the Federal Clean Water Act.

As part of its continuing water quality management program and ongoing review of water quality standards, DEP is currently drafting proposed rulemaking and related documentation to support recommended revisions to stream redesignations in Pennsylvania’s Water Quality Standards (Chapter 93), for consideration by the Environmental Quality Board (EQB). The recommended amendments are to revise 25 Pa. Code Chapter 93, §§93.9c, 93.9f, and 93.9i.

Section 303(c)(1) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to periodically review and revise, as necessary, water quality standards. This proposed rulemaking contains waterbodies that are candidates for redesignation. Stream evaluations were conducted by DEP to determine the appropriate designated use of the candidate waterbodies. The streams in this proposed rulemaking were all evaluated in response to petitions as follows:

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<th>Stream</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Petitioner</th>
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Page 17 of 26
Additionally, the Department is recommending corrections to some stream names as they appear in §93.9c. The United States Geologic Survey (USGS) maintains the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) Flowline. These corrections are being proposed to maintain consistency between the Pennsylvania Code and the NHD Flowline. The proposed rulemaking was presented to the EQB at their April 19, 2016 meeting.

Final Rulemaking

Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)
The final RTCR was published in the PA Bulletin on September 24, 2016. The purpose of the RTCR Chapter 109 rulemaking is to incorporate necessary federal requirements needed to obtain primacy and to provide for the increased protection of public health by ensuring the integrity of drinking water distribution systems and monitoring for the presence of microbial contamination. The RTCR primacy application was submitted to EPA on Feb 10, 2017.

Proposed Rulemaking

Disinfection Requirements Rule
The purpose of the proposed Disinfection Requirements Rule Chapter 109 rulemaking package is to strengthen requirements relating to microbial protection and disinfection by ensuring the adequacy of treatment designed to inactivate microbial pathogens and by ensuring the integrity of drinking water distribution systems. The amendments include:

- New monitoring and reporting requirements to ensure compliance with existing treatment techniques regarding log inactivation and CT requirements. Without this data, there is no way to determine compliance with the existing requirement.

- Increasing the minimum disinfectant residual requirements in the distribution system to 0.2 mg/L free or total chlorine. The Department’s existing disinfectant residual requirements for the distribution system have not been substantially updated since 1992 and require the maintenance of a detectable residual that is defined as 0.02 mg/L. This is not protective of public health because a residual of 0.02 mg/L does not represent a true detectable residual and the level is inadequate to protect against microbial growth within the distribution system.

- The amendments also include minor clarifications to the Stage 2 Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Rule (Stage 2 DBPR), Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2) and the Lead and Copper Rule Short-Term Revisions (LCRSTR) in order to obtain or maintain primacy.

The proposed rulemaking was approved by EQB on Nov 17, 2015 and was published in the PA Bulletin on February 20, 2016. Three hearings were held on March 28 (Harrisburg), April 5 (Norristown), and April 7 (Pittsburgh). The public comment period closed on April 19, 2016. IRRCs comment period closed on May 19, 2016. The draft final rulemaking should be presented to the TAC Board in mid-2017.

Safe Drinking Water General Update and Fees
There are three main purposes for this rulemaking. The first is to incorporate the remaining general update provisions that were separated from the proposed RTCR as directed by the EQB on April 21, 2015. These
general updates are intended to:

- Clarify the source water assessment, source water protection area, and source water protection program elements and requirements.
- Revise the treatment technique requirements for pathogenic bacteria, viruses and protozoan cysts by adding specific turbidity performance requirements for membrane filtration.
- Revise the disinfection profiling and benchmarking requirements to clarify that public water systems that did not previously conduct these activities must now conduct them.
- Revise the permit requirements to clarify the components that must be included in a permit application for a new source, including a source water assessment, pre-drilling plan, evaluation of water quantity and quality, and hydrogeologic report.
- Revise the design and construction standards to require public water systems (PWS) using surface water or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GUDI) sources to be equipped with alarm and shutdown capabilities. These provisions would be required for plants that are not staffed continuously while the plant is in operation.
- Update the system management requirements for community water systems (CWSs) to strengthen system service and resiliency by requiring auxiliary power or an alternate provision such as finished water storage or interconnections.
- Revise the corrective action timeframes in response to a significant deficiency for PWSs using groundwater and surface water sources to be consistent.
- Delete the provision that allows a PWS to avoid the requirement for a corrective action by collecting five additional source water samples after an E. coli-positive triggered source water sample.

The second purpose is to include additional general update provisions that will:

- Establish the regulatory basis for the issuance of general permits for high volume, low risk modifications or activities to streamline the permitting process.
- Clarify that non-community water systems (NCWS) require a permit or approval from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) prior to construction and operation.
- Address concerns related to gaps in the monitoring, reporting and tracking of back-up water sources and entry points. As per state and federal regulations, all sources and entry points must be included in routine compliance monitoring to ensure water quality meets safe drinking water standards. Sources and entry points that do not provide water continuously are required to be monitored when used. However, monitoring requirements for back-up sources are not currently tracked, which means there are no verifiable controls in place to ensure that all sources and entry points meet safe drinking water standards.

The third purpose is to add new annual fees and amend (update) permit fees. Pennsylvania is ranked 4th in the nation in terms of the number of PWSs, with nearly 9,000 water systems across the Commonwealth. The DEP is responsible for regulating all PWSs and ensuring that safe and potable drinking water is continuously supplied to the 10.7 million customers they serve. To carry out these responsibilities, the DEP must ensure adequate funding for the Safe Drinking Water Program. The proposed rulemaking is necessary to fulfill the DEP’s fiscal responsibility to cover most, if not all, of its state program costs. Program costs are directly tied to the resources needed to meet federal and state mandates for minimum program elements and for the administration of an effective State Drinking Water Program. Failure to meet minimum program elements may result in increased risk to public health as well as the loss of primacy for the Safe Drinking Water Program.
The proposed rulemaking was presented to the Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center (TAC) Advisory Board in November. A webinar was held in December to reach additional stakeholders. All proposed rulemaking documents and webinar materials can be found on the Department’s General Update and Fees webpage at the following link: http://tinyurl.com/109update. The final comments were received by TAC at their January 5, 2017 meeting. The proposed rulemaking is tentatively scheduled for presentation to the EQB in quarter 2 2017.

**Chesapeake Bay Program**

In January 2016, Governor Wolf announced a change in direction to address Pennsylvania’s lack of progress in the implementation of its Chesapeake Bay Phase 2 Watershed Implementation Plan to achieve the nutrient and sediment reduction goals established by the US Environmental Protection Agency within a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). This Chesapeake Bay Restoration Strategy has six recommendations. They are, in priority order:

1. Addressing pollutant reduction deficiencies by meeting the EPA goals of inspecting 10 percent of farms in the Chesapeake Bay watershed annually, with increased inspection and compliance efforts in the agriculture sector using existing Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and conservation district staff and with continued DEP outreach and program development for urban stormwater systems.

2. Focusing on local water quality improvement and protection by locating and quantifying previously undocumented Best Management Practices (BMPs), and putting new high-impact, low-cost BMP projects on the ground in watersheds that are currently impaired by agriculture or stormwater by shifting an additional 15 percent of available statewide water quality funding to Bay work.

3. Improving reporting, record keeping and data systems to provide better and more accessible documentation of progress made toward Pennsylvania’s restoration effort, including consideration of establishing mandatory reporting requirements for the agriculture sector in place of so-far unsuccessful voluntary reporting measures.

4. Identifying strategic, legislative, programmatic or regulatory changes that will give Pennsylvania the additional tools and resources necessary to meet the 2025 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reduction goals.

5. Establishing a new Chesapeake Bay Office within DEP to assure the proper development, implementation and coordination of the Commonwealth’s efforts for restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, and administering DEP’s Chesapeake Bay Program grants. (The Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO) has been established.)

Obtaining additional resources for water quality improvement by seeking new sources of funding, which will make Bay compliance as a primary goal, potentially making several hundred million dollars to devote to local water quality issues and ultimately Bay compliance.

**Chesapeake Bay Ag Inspection Program**

As part of the January 2016 Chesapeake Bay Restoration Strategy, DEP and County Conservation District staff are conducting inspections of farm operations to ensure compliance with existing Pennsylvania regulatory requirements. This element of the restoration strategy is addressing pollutant reduction deficiencies by addressing the EPA goal of inspecting 10 percent of farms in the Bay watershed annually. This increased inspection and compliance effort directed towards the agriculture sector is being accomplished using existing DEP and Conservation District staff. DEP staff completed training sessions for the Chesapeake Bay Initial Ag Inspection program summer of 2016. The goal is for the SCRO to complete 300 inspections, Northcentral Regional Office 200 inspections, Northeast Regional Office 100 inspections and the Southeast Regional Office 30 inspections by the end of June, 2017. As of the end of December, the regional offices have completed 160 inspections, no major issues have been reported. Participating districts began conducting inspections in accordance with their DEP-approved inspections strategies in October. As of the end of December, these districts completed 326 inspections. The goal for each conservation district is 50 inspections for each full time Bay Technician funded with EPA federal grant dollars. The conservation districts have referred 5 operations to DEP for follow up enforcement action because these farmers failed to produce the required Manure
Management Plan or Ag Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan, or both during the initial inspection and inspection follow up process.

**Quantifying Undocumented Best Management Practices**

**Penn State Conservation Practice Survey**

Another key component of the Restoration Strategy includes efforts to improve the Commonwealth’s data management capabilities and to quantify undocumented best management practices installed by producers on a voluntary basis. One step to accomplishing this is a survey recently completed by Penn State University. Penn State developed and sent out a survey to roughly 22,000 Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay watershed farmers requesting that they voluntarily report non-cost share BMPs in January. Of this, 6,751 completed questionnaires were returned (30%, a notably good response); Penn State Extension staff completed verification of 10% of the surveys received across the watershed of voluntary practices installed. The final results of this survey were announced on December 16, 2016. Results are as follows:

- 475,800 acres of nutrient/manure management;
- 97,562 acres of enhanced nutrient management;
- 2,164 animal-waste storage units;
- 2,106 barnyard runoff-control systems;
- 55,073 acres of agricultural erosion and sedimentation control plans;
- 228,264 acres of conservation plans;
- more than 1.3 million linear feet of stream-bank fencing;
- 1,757 acres of grass riparian buffers; and
- 5,808 acres of forested riparian buffers.

Department staff have reported these results to the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office for inclusion in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model. Department Staff is currently working to ensure credit is given for all these practices. Using Scenario Builder and CAST, it is estimated that once credited to the Watershed Model, these practices will result in a reduction of 1,047,704 pounds of nitrogen per year, 79,620 pounds of phosphorus per year and 10,395,906 pounds of sediment per year delivered to the Chesapeake Bay.

**Chesapeake Bay Agriculture Best Management Practice Special Projects**

Request for proposals for agriculture BMP installation projects by conservation districts using EPA Chesapeake Bay grant funds was released January 24, 2017. Deadline for submittal of applications is February 28, 2017. These funds are targeted to watersheds where agriculture inspections are starting or in priority impaired watersheds identified by the Department or the county conservation district. There is no limit on the amount of funding for any one conservation district, provided they can show they have projects lined up and ready to go. Total funding available is approximately $2.5 to $3.0 million from the EPA Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG).

**Chesapeake Bay Stormwater BMP Grant Program**

DEP has announced the availability of approximately $2.4 million in grant funding for urban stormwater BMPs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed for communities with municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s). The BMPs must be constructed within an urbanized area in one of ten counties: Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Luzerne, Lycoming and York. The deadline for submission of grant applications is March 3, 2017, and projects must be completed by March 31, 2019. This is the second round of grant funding for MS4s; the first round of applications were received in 2015 and involved the selection of 19 urban stormwater BMPs, totaling $2.28 million. Funding source for this program is the EPA Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG).
Funding Initiatives
On October 4, 2016, at the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council Meeting Governor Wolf announced a new state and federal funding strategy to accelerate implementation of Pennsylvania’s Restoration Strategy. The funding strategy was developed in partnership between the state departments of Environmental Protection, Conservation and Natural Resources and Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Between all partners, an additional $28.8 million in funding was provided to support targeted activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed in Pennsylvania. The state agency investment was $11.8 million. EPA provided an additional $4.2 million and USDA provided $12.7 million.

Chesapeake Bay Program Midpoint Assessment
The Chesapeake Bay Program is now in the midst of the Midpoint Assessment of the TMDL. This midpoint assessment must be completed by December 2018. Key milestones in the completion of that assessment are:

- **January 19, 2017** – EPA released interim final expectations for completion of revised Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plans to be developed by the states. Appendices will be added to this expectations document as decisions are made over the coming months regarding Conowingo Dam, Climate Change and the actual planning targets for each state.
- **June 1, 2017** – EPA releases draft Phase 3 planning targets. These are revised nutrient and sediment reduction goals for each state by major basin.
- **August 18, 2018** – States must submit draft Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plans to EPA for review and approval. These plans must be developed in concert with stakeholders and include a public outreach and comment process.

Key issues of interest to Pennsylvania now under review as part of this assessment include:

- **Conowingo Dam** – This dam is no longer serving as a trap of nutrients and sediment. This reduction in trapping capacity is having an impact on the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay.

- **Climate Change** – Increases in flow and temperature by 2025 due to climate change are being analyzed as to their potential impact on future water quality and living resources habitat. Several options as to how to deal with this change in climate are being reviewed.

- **Sector Allocations and Sector Growth** – The wastewater systems, or point source sector, have all reached their targeted allocations. Agriculture and Urban stormwater have not. Additional work needs to be done here to reach the allocation goals and to account for population growth and change in land use. The question now becomes how much should each sector do, how should they get it done, and where in the watershed is the most impact on water quality achieved.

- **Local Planning Goals** – EPA included criteria for local planning goals in the interim final expectations document. These criteria were developed by the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership Local Planning Target Task Force. The intent behind these local planning goals is to more effectively target resources and achieve success.

Department staff is in the process of forming a steering committee comprised of the state and local stakeholders with the ability to make decisions and implement the Phase 3 WIP. Workgroups around the individual sectors and Local Planning Goals are also proposed. Incorporated into the development of the Phase 3 WIP may also be a re-evaluation of Pennsylvania’s commitments under the 2014 Watershed Agreement. This Agreement sets goals and outcomes for the following main categories: Sustainable Fisheries; Vital Habitats; Water Quality; Toxic Contaminants; Healthy Watersheds; Stewardship; Land Conservation, Public Access; Environmental Literacy and Climate Resiliency. Some outcomes are combined into a single management strategy, resulting in a total of 29 strategies with associated two year workplans and action items. Pennsylvania is actively
participating in 25 of the 29 strategies. (The four strategies that Pennsylvania is not participating in involve areas such as blue crabs, where Pennsylvania has minimal expertise and daily involvement).

**Coastal Zone Advisory Committee**
A meeting of the Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday January 18, 2017. The Committee heard a presentation on the PennDOT Extreme Weather Vulnerability Study; Coastal program staff provided updates to the committee on grants activities, marine spatial planning and the climate adaptation planning and community resiliency project; and committee members provided updates from their agencies or entity.

**Pennsylvania Receives Award as Partner of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body**
On January 12, 2017, the Peter Benchley Ocean Award was given to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MA-RPB). This honor, known as “the Academy Award of the Oceans” was awarded to the MA-RPB based on its landmark ocean plan. This Mid-Atlantic Ocean Action Plan promotes the collaborative use of integrated ocean data and best practices for informed and efficient management of the nation’s shared marine resources.

DEP was designated by the Governor’s Office to assist the MA-RPB in its planning efforts. In turn, DEP staff assisted in creating a model program that engaged a wide range of coastal and ocean stakeholders to better understand, map and make use of our public seas for all citizens.

The Peter Benchley Ocean Awards are the world’s preeminent ocean awards and are unique in acknowledging outstanding achievement across many sectors of society leading to the protection of our ocean, coasts and the communities that depend on them. Understanding marine ecosystems and how they function and applying that shared knowledge to permitting and planning processes allows for better common uses while reducing conflicts between different users in fisheries, marine farming, shipping and ports, offshore clean energy, national defense and marine parks, wildlife and habitat. For more information, see: [http://peterbenchleyoceanawards.org/press](http://peterbenchleyoceanawards.org/press). The plan is at: [http://www.boem.gov/Ocean-Action-Plan/](http://www.boem.gov/Ocean-Action-Plan/).

**Attachment 1**

**2017 Events Calendar**

Please consult the DEP Calendar of Events for a comprehensive listing of upcoming events. The Calendar can be accessed in the Public Participation Tab on the DEP website. Click on “Public Participation;” “Calendar of Events.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Radiation Protection Advisory Committee Meeting, 9:00 a.m., 14th Floor Conference Room, RCSOB</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board (MRAB) Quarterly Meeting; 10:00 a.m., Room 105, RCSOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel Powered Equipment, 10:00 a.m., Greene Room, DEP New Stanton Office, New Stanton, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Operators Meeting, 10 a.m., 10th Floor Conference Room, RCSOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Oil and Gas TAB (Technical Advisory Board) Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Room 105, RCSOB</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board, 10:00 a.m., 4th Floor Conference Room, RCSOB</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee Meeting, 10 a.m., 12th Floor Conference Room, RCSOB</td>
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### May

| 4 | Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center (TAC) Advisory Board, 9:00 a.m., Room 105, RCSOB |
| 9 | Climate Change Advisory Committee, 10:00 a.m., Room 105, RCSOB |
| 10 | Aggregate Advisory Board, 10:00 a.m., Susquehanna Room, SCRO, 909 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA |

### June

| 6 | Storage Tank Advisory Committee, 10:00 a.m., Room 105, RCSOB |
| 15 | Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee, 9:15 a.m., Room 105, RCSOB |
| 28 | Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Committee, 9:00 a.m., Room 105, RCSOB |
| 29 | Solid Waste Advisory Committee, 10:00 a.m., Room 105, RCSOB |

### July

| 11 | Climate Change Advisory Committee, 10:00 a.m., Room 105, RCSOB |
| 26 | Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee Meeting, 10 a.m., 12th Floor Conference Room, RCSOB |

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**Attachment 2**

**Oil and Gas Workload Report**

| YTD WELL PERMIT APPLICATIONS - 1/1/2017 to 3/24/2017 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | RECEIVED | UNDER REVIEW | PROCESSED | PERMITS ISSUED | WELLS PERMITTED | OTHER DISPOSITIONS |
| CONVENTIONAL | 71 | 37 | 52 | 52 | 52 | 0 |
| UNCONVENTIONAL | 473 | 440 | 282 | 276 | 275 | 6 |
| Sub Total | 544 | 477 | 334 | 328 | 327 | 6 |

| AUTHORIZATIONS | 116 | 56 | 118 | 98 | N/A | 20 |
| Total | 660 | 533 | 452 | 426 | 411 | 26 |

<p>| WEEKLY WELL PERMIT APPLICATIONS – 3/18/2017 to 3/24/2017 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | RECEIVED | UNDER REVIEW | PROCESSED | PERMITS ISSUED | WELLS PERMITTED | OTHER DISPOSITIONS |
| CONVENTIONAL | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| UNCONVENTIONAL | 21 | 21 | 20 | 19 | 19 | 1 |</p>
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<th>21</th>
<th>20</th>
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### HISTORICAL WELL PERMIT APPLICATIONS AS OF 3/24/2017

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### YTD INSPECTIONS - 1/1/2017 to 3/24/2017

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### WEEKLY INSPECTIONS - 3/18/2017 to 3/24/2017

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### WELLS DRILLED

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This report was prepared by Abbey Cadden, Executive Policy Specialist, DEP Policy Office. For questions or requests, please email acadden@pa.gov or call (717) 783-8727.