

News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

April 15

Stakeholder workgroup meeting on the Proposed Disinfection Requirements Rule, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Dawn Hissner, dhissner@pa.gov

April 19

Mine Families First Response & Communications Advisory Council meeting, 10 a.m., Fayette Room, DEP New Stanton Office, 131 Broadview Rd., New Stanton. Contact: Allison D. Gaida, agaida@pa.gov

April 19

Citizens Advisory Council meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Katherine Hetherington Cunfer, khethering@pa.gov

April 20

DEP South-central Employees' Asylum Run Cleanup, 9 a.m., on the grounds of the DGS Capital Annex, adjacent to the DEP South-central Regional Office Building. Contact: John Repetz, jrepetz@pa.gov

April 27

Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Nancy Herb, nherb@pa.gov

May 17

Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting, 10

IRRC to Consider Proposed Drilling Regulations at April 21 Meeting



The EQB held nine public hearings and received an unprecedented 23,000 public comments on the rulemaking.

HARRISBURG -- The Independent Regulatory Review Commission will consider proposed amendments to Chapter 78 and 78a drilling regulations at its April 21 meeting in Harrisburg.

The proposed rulemaking has been in development three years and represents the first update to rules governing surface activities associated with the development of oil and gas wells since 2001 and implements provisions of the 2012 Oil and Gas Act.

The proposed changes would strengthen the rules regarding oil and gas surface activities. These regulatory changes would:

- Ensure the protection of public health, safety, and the environment.
- Protect public resources to minimize impacts from oil and gas drilling.
- Modernize the regulatory program to recognize advances in technology.
- Address landowner concerns.
- Enhance transparency and improve data management.

Due to the expected heavy attendance at the meeting, the meeting will be streamed live. Visit www.irrc.state.pa.us

a.m., Delaware Conference Room, 16th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Mark Brojakowski, mbrojakows@pa.gov

May 18

Conventional Oil and Gas Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg. Contact: Kurt Klappkowski, kklappkowsk@pa.gov

May 19

Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg. Contact: Kurt Klappkowski, kklappkowsk@pa.gov



Upcoming Webinars

April 19

Citizens Advisory Council meeting, 10 a.m. Click [here](#) to register.



Speakers Bureau



Public Input

April 18

Deadline to comment on the Proposed Rulemaking: Underground Coal Mine Safety - Proximity Detection Systems Reg. Contact: Craig Carson, cocarson@pa.gov

April 18

Deadline to comment on the Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards; Class A Stream Redesignations Reg. Contact: Rodney Kime, rkime@pa.gov

April 19

Deadline to comment on the Proposed Rulemaking: Disinfection Requirements Rule. Contact: Lisa D. Daniels, ldaniels@pa.gov



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DEP Fines Oil and Gas Companies for 17 Violations of State Environmental Regulations

PITTSBURGH -- DEP has entered into three Consent Assessment of Civil Penalties (CACP) with Rice Drilling B, LLC, of Canonsburg, Washington County and two of its affiliates for violations at sites in Washington and Greene counties. DEP also assessed fines for the violations totaling \$393,500, which the company has paid.

DEP fined Rice Drilling for violations in Amwell Township, Washington County, including installing a waterline between a well pad and an impoundment without a permit, building a pipeline through a wetland that was not authorized by permit, and putting three waterlines under a stream when the permit authorized only one pipeline.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Reignites Initiative to Improve Effectiveness, Consistency of Inspections, Compliance and Enforcement Activities

HARRISBURG -- DEP recently announced it is restarting a process to improve statewide consistency in the way DEP conducts inspections of regulated entities and activities, ensures compliance with state and federal laws and regulations, and handles enforcement cases.

"The result of this process will be a general, inspection, compliance, and enforcement policy aimed at improving consistency for all our program-specific policies," said DEP Secretary John Quigley. "This foundation will help to ensure that our work across all programs is internally aligned, consistent, and in compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements."

[Read more.](#)

Expedited Permitting Subject of Senate Hearing

HARRISBURG -- DEP Secretary John Quigley testified before a joint hearing of the Senate Majority Policy and Senate Democratic Policy Committees on April 11 to discuss DEP's efforts to expedite the permitting process.

"We recognize the important public policy imperative of facilitating economic growth," Quigley said. "DEP's regulatory responsibilities apply equally to economic development projects, so, the challenge is to accommodate economic development and help create new opportunities in Pennsylvania communities large and small without compromising public health and the environment."

Quigley talked about the impacts of staff reductions and cuts in the agency's information technology budget. He pointed out the most significant cause for delay in environmental permitting is deficiencies in the quality and completeness of permit applications when they come in the door.

Read his full testimony [here](#).

DEP Secretary Quigley Testifies about Clean Energy Jobs before House Panel



DEP's Mission:

to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water from pollution and to provide for health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment.



Secretary Quigley testified that Pennsylvania's solar industry is projected to grow 20 percent in the next year.

HARRISBURG -- DEP Secretary John Quigley testified before the House Democratic Policy Committee on April 11 about the economic opportunities provided by the development of clean energy such as solar and wind.

"The market efficacy and the economics of clean energy development and energy efficiency show that they can not only be a part of the nation's energy grid but integral to the nation's economy," Quigley said. "There's an immense economic opportunity for all states, and Pennsylvania, I think, in particular, to embrace alternative energy, embrace energy efficiency, embrace storage technologies, create jobs, and accelerate the development of our economy."

Read his full testimony [here](#).

DEP Reaches Penalty Agreement with Brunner Island for January Fish Kill

HARRISBURG -- DEP announced this week that Brunner Island LLC has signed a consent assessment of civil penalty, the result of a January fish kill at its coal-fired electric generating station on the Susquehanna River. Brunner Island paid a civil penalty of \$25,898.

The generating station releases heated water from the cooling process to a condenser discharge channel. During cold weather, fish are generally attracted to the warmer water. An equipment shutdown on January 30 prevented the warmed water from entering the channel. The water temperature in the channel dropped approximately 13 degrees in one hour, causing the death of more than 1,100 fish.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Announces Settlement to Resolve Violations at York County Farm

HARRISBURG -- DEP has entered into a consent order and agreement with the Gutman Family cattle businesses located in York and Adams counties, to correct various environmental violations of the Clean Streams Law. As part of the agreement, the Gutmans paid a civil penalty in the amount of \$20,000.

The Gutman's York County facility headquartered on Krafts Mill Road in Codorus and North Codorus Townships, is an agricultural operation that buys dairy heifers for resale domestically and overseas. Responding to complaints, the York County Conservation District (YCCD) conducted multiple inspections between June 2014 and May 2015. During those inspections, the YCCD discovered that the Gutmans had insufficient Erosion and Sediment Control and Manure Management plans.

[Read more.](#)

Harrisburg Falcons Eggs Hatching...Watch Live Now!



The male has been hunting regularly for both falcons and performing some of the incubation duties

HARRISBURG -- The first two of four eggs produced by the pair of peregrine falcons who nest on the 15th floor ledge of the Rachel Carson Building are hatching.

This morning, a pip, or hole, was visible in one of the eggs. It hatched around 4:10 p.m. A pip in a second egg appeared this afternoon, so a second nestling could arrive later today.

The last of the four eggs was laid on March 12. The incubation period lasts for 32 to 35 days, so the hatching of the first two eggs is right on schedule. View the live falcon cam [here](#).



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