

News from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Acting Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

April 21

Environmental Quality Board (EQB) meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Jen Swan, 717-783-8727.

April 21

Citizens Advisory Council meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Jen Swan, 717-783-8727.

April 22

Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Mike Maddigan, 717-772-3609.

April 22

Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Susan Foster, 717-787-7019.

April 23

Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Darek Jagiela, 717-783-9645.

April 29

DEP public hearing on the Advance Notice of Final Rulemaking: Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites, 6-9 p.m., Allen Ballroom,

DEP Announces Dates & Locations for Public Hearings on Chapter 78, 78a Revisions



HARRISBURG -- DEP has announced the dates and locations for three public hearings to discuss revisions to the Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites (Chapter 78 and 78a). The hearings were added to the recently-extended public comment period for the draft final rule.

DEP originally planned a 30-day public comment period for Chapter 78 and 78a, which began on April 4, 2015. On April 6, DEP announced that the public comment period would be extended by an additional 15 days and end on May 19. Three public hearings were also added. The extended public comment period and added hearings will allow more time for citizens to submit written or verbal comments on the changes made to the draft final versions of Chapter 78 and 78a.

Each hearing will begin at 6 p.m. and end at 9 p.m. The dates and locations are as follows:

- April 29 – Washington and Jefferson College, Rossin Campus Center – Allen Ballroom, 60 S. Lincoln St., Washington
- April 30 – Warren County Courthouse, 204 4th Ave., Warren
- May 4 – Pennsylvania College of Technology's Klump Academic Center, 1 College Ave., Williamsport

[Read more.](#)

DEP Persistence Results in Removal of Environmental Hazard in Monroe County

Rossin Campus Center,
Washington and Jefferson
College, 60 S. Lincoln St.,
Washington. Contact:
Jen Swan, 717-783-8727.

April 30

DEP public hearing on
the Advance Notice of
Final Rulemaking:
Environmental Protection
Performance Standards at
Oil and Gas Well Sites,
6-9 p.m., Sykes Student
Union-Theater, Warren
County Courthouse, 204
4th Ave., Warren.
Contact: Jen Swan, 717-
783-8727.

May 4

DEP public hearing on
the Advance Notice of
Final Rulemaking:
Environmental Protection
Performance Standards at
Oil and Gas Well Sites,
6-9 p.m., Klump
Academic Center,
Pennsylvania College of
Technology, One College
Ave., Williamsport.
Contact: Jen Swan, 717-
783-8727.

May 5

DEP public hearing on
Proposed Interim
Response for the General
Alloy Site in Rochester
Township, Beaver County,
5 p.m., Rochester
Township Municipal
Building, 1013 Elm St.,
Rochester. Contact: John
Poister, 412-442-4000.

May 5

Shell Chemical
Appalachia LLC public
hearing to take testimony
concerning Shell's Air
Quality Plan Approval
application for a proposed
petrochemicals complex
to be located on the site
formerly occupied by
Horseheads Corp.'s Sinc
Smelter in Potter and
Center townships, Beaver
County, 6 p.m. Central
Valley High School
Auditorium, 160 Baker St.
Extension, Monaca.
Contact: John Poister,
412-442-4000.

May 6

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, 724-404-3147.

May 13-15

2015 Pa. Brownfields
Conference, Erie Bayfront
Convention Center, Erie.
Contact: Kim Hoover,
717-787-8623.



More than 116 tons of contaminated debris was removed from this site in Monroe County.

POCONO TWP. -- A property that has been an environmental hazard for decades in Pocono Township, Monroe County, has finally been torn down thanks to the persistence of DEP solid waste management staff who work in the department's Bethlehem District Office.

Contaminants such as old paint, construction and demolition debris, oil and other trash, were buried on a property located on Sullivan Trail since the 1990s. The house was condemned after the owners refused to clean up the mess. DEP tried for years to gain access to the property but the owners wouldn't cooperate. A new owner purchased the property last year, but again, would not allow DEP on the land.

A court order from Monroe County Court finally gave DEP access to the site. Thanks to the hard work of Environmental Specialist Meg Boyer and Environmental Compliance Specialist Jim Kunkle, a contractor was able to move in with a dozer last month and knock the house down. He also hauled away 116.5 tons of contaminated demolition debris.

The clean-up work was necessary, not just to preserve the land, but to prevent soil erosion from contaminating nearby Dry Sawmill Run, a high-quality creek that runs near the property.

DEP Encourages Pennsylvanians to Participate in Local Cleanups for Earth Month



Click [here](#) to view DEP's public service announcement about the Great American Cleanup of PA.

HARRISBURG -- DEP encourages all Pennsylvanians to participate in a local cleanup or beautification event as part of the Great American Cleanup of PA.

May 19

Environmental Justice Advisory Board meeting, 8:30 a.m., Delaware Conference Room, 16th Floor Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Alice Wright-Bailey, 484-250-5900.

May 20

Environmental Quality Board (EQB) meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St. Harrisburg. Contact: Jen Swan, 717-783-8727.

May 20

Citizens Advisory Council meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Jen Swan, 717-783-8727.

May 28

Certification Program Advisory Committee (CPAC) meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Cheri Sansoni, 717-772-5158.



Public Input

April 20

Deadline to comment on the Proposed Rulemaking: Security Rule for Radioactive Material. Contact: Joe Melnic, 717-783-8075.

April 20

Deadline to comment on the Public Notice of the Draft NPDES General Permit for Discharges from Hydrostatic Testing of Tanks and Pipelines (PAG-10). Contact: Andrew Gaul, 717-787-0129.

May 4

Deadline to comment on Pennsylvania's Capability Enhancement Program technical guidance (DEP ID: 383-0400-114). Contact: Kevin Anderson, 717-783-9764.

May 19

Deadline to comment on the Advance Notice of Final Rulemaking: Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites. Contact: Kurt Klappkowski, 717-772-2199.

May 20

Deadline to comment on the Riparian Buffer or

“Celebrate Earth Month by organizing or participating in a cleanup in your hometown,” DEP Acting Secretary John Quigley said.

“Thanks to the thousands of volunteers who donate their time and efforts each year, every Pennsylvanian has great opportunity to make a big impact in communities across the state.”

[Read more.](#)

DEP Denies PA Waste LLC's Municipal Waste Landfill Application in Clearfield County

WILLIAMSPORT -- DEP announced on April 9 that it has again denied a municipal waste landfill application originally submitted in 2006 by PA Waste LLC of Feasterville, Bucks County, for a site in Boggs Township, Clearfield County.

“The department’s Waste Management program staff has done a very thorough technical review of this application during the past several years, involving hundreds of pages of technical information,” DEP North-central Regional Director Marcus Kohl said. “Our determination is that the application does not meet all of the municipal waste landfill regulations, and we have notified PA Waste LLC that it has been denied.”

[Read more.](#)

DEP to Hold Open House Regarding Landfill Expansion Permit

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP will host a public availability session regarding Keystone Sanitary Landfill’s permit application to expand its facility located in Dunmore and Throop boroughs in Lackawanna County. The event will take place from 11am to 2pm and from 4pm to 8pm Monday, April 27 at the Throop Community Civic Center, 500 Sanderson St., Throop. Representatives from the State Department of Health (DOH) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) will also participate.

The department will have various booths set up throughout the community center so individuals can ask questions to representatives from the DEP, DOH and the ATSDR.

[Read more.](#)

Pa. Manufacturing Plants Recognized as Leaders in Energy Management

WASHINGTON D.C. -- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently recognized four Pennsylvania manufacturing plants for their leadership in energy management by earning certification to Superior Energy Performance® (SEP).

The SEP program requires organizations to meet the global standard for energy management systems, ISO 50001, and improve energy performance over a sustained period. DOE highlighted this recognition at the Strategic Energy Management Showcase hosted by Penn State, and also recognized the vision and effort of the Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program (PennTAP) and DEP in advancing energy savings and security. Through these leaders and accomplishments, Pennsylvania now stands as the state with the most industrial plants in the nation to earn certification to SEP.

The four Pennsylvania manufacturing plants recognized for achieving SEP certification were:

- Curtiss-Wright, Electromechanical Division, Cheswick
- General Dynamics, Scranton Operations Plant, Scranton

Riparian Forest Buffer Equivalency Demonstration technical guidance (DEP ID: 310-2135-002). Contact: Jennifer Orr, 717-787-3411.

May 20

Deadline to comment on the Riparian Buffer or Riparian Forest Buffer Offsetting technical guidance (DEP ID: 310-2135-003). Contact: Jennifer Orr, 717-787-3411.



Speakers Bureau



Subscribe

- Land O' Lakes, Carlisle Dairy Operations, Carlisle
- Mack Trucks, Macungie Cab & Vehicle Assembly Plant, Macungie

"These four plants are leading the way for Pennsylvania industry," DEP Deputy Policy Director Hayley Book said. "By conserving energy resources and cutting emissions, they are boosting productivity and competitiveness-creating a healthy, vibrant manufacturing sector that generates good jobs and helps meet state energy and environmental goals. We are excited to be leading the country in SEP certifications and give credit to the leadership and vision of our industrial partners."

[Read more.](#)

PACD Announces Funding of 30 Pollution Prevention Projects in Pa.

HARRISBURG -- The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) recently announced the award of more than \$55,000 to fund 30 projects in 26 counties. The projects promote water pollution prevention activities through the Non-point Source (NPS) Pollution Prevention Educational Mini-Grant Program. The projects will take place over the next 13 months.

"This funding from DEP allows conservation districts to address priorities locally, PACD Director of Communications Shannon Wehinger said. "This furthers the conservation district mission of ensuring there is enough clean water and healthy soil for future generations."

[Read more.](#)

Early Bird Rates for Pa. Brownfields Conference End April 17



ERIE -- Register now to take advantage of discount registration rates for the 2015 Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference, taking place May 13-15 at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center.

This year's conference will highlight the 20th Anniversary of Act 2 and include more than 20 sessions, a

Best of Act 2 contest, mobile workshops, exhibit hall, meals, and networking receptions. Exhibit space is still available.

The conference is sponsored by DEP and the Engineers Society of Western Pennsylvania. Click [here](#) to register.

Tale of the Travelling Lunchbox



This map shows the lunchbox's route from Sarnia, Ontario to Erie, Pennsylvania. Photo Credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District.

ERIE -- Last fall, DEP staffers Don Benczkowski and Matt Walderon made an interesting discovery. During a visit to the mouth of Eight Mile Creek in Erie on Oct. 22, they came across a collapsible Thermos cooler that contained an old lunch, a hotel key card, prescription work glasses, and contact information for Glen and Lisa Campbell of Ontario, Canada.

Benczkowski and Walderon set out to contact the Campbells to see if they could return the lunchbox. They learned that Glen Campbell was working on a Great Lakes freighter docked in Sarnia, Ontario in March 2014. During his time on the freighter, his cooler went missing.

The Campbells now know what became of the lunchbox, and were stunned to find out that it had traveled more than 365 miles through the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River, Lake Erie, and finally deposited on Shades Beach near that mouth of Eight Mile Creek in Lake Erie. The traveling lunchbox illustrates an important lesson about water flow and how pollution travels.

Fortunately, Benczkowski and Walderon were recently able to return the lunchbox to the Campbells.

State Transportation Commission Seeks Input on Twelve Year Program



HARRISBURG -- The State Transportation Commission is encouraging input from the public on PennDOT's Twelve Year Program that identifies priorities and future investment for Pennsylvania's transportation system.

In preparation for the 2017 TYP update, the commission will host an online public meeting from 7 – 8 p.m. on April 16, 2015.

The meeting will be broadcast online and anyone can participate via a computer, tablet, or internet-enabled phone. Closed captioning services will be provided. Participants will be invited to submit questions in advance or during the meeting by typing in the chat-box.

In addition to the Online Public Meeting, the commission will launch an online public survey to collect information on transportation priorities.

For more information on the 2017 TYP Public Participation Plan, click [here](#). Send in your questions prior to the webcast by emailing RA-PennDOTSTC@pa.gov.

