

# News from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Acting Secretary



## DEP Calendar of Events

### April 2

Radiation Protection Advisory Committee meeting, 9 A.M., 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Joseph Melnic, 717-783-9730.

### April 2

Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting, 10 A.M., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Richard Ashley, 717-787-0120.

### April 14

DEP public hearing on cleanup of Kuhn's Landfill in Beaver County, 5-7 P.M., Darlington Township Municipal Building, 359 Darlington Rd., Darlington. Contact: John Poister, 412-442-4000.

### April 15

Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment, 8 A.M., Fayette Room, DEP New Stanton Office, 131 Broadview Rd., New Stanton. Contact: Allison D. Gaida, 724-404-3147.

### April 15

DEP Agriculture Advisory Board meeting, 9 A.M., DEP South Central Regional Office, Susquehanna Room A; 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. Contact: Tom Juengst, 717-772-5646.

### April 15

State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators meeting, 10 A.M., 10th Floor, Rachel Carson State

## DEP's Northeast Regional Office Hosts Cleanup of State Route 29 in Honor of the Great American Cleanup



From left to right: Norm Frederick of Air Quality, Mary Hastings of Clean Water, NERO Recycling Coordinator Berit Case, Cydney Faul-Halsor of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields, Hannah Amico, JR Holtmaster of Waterways and Wetlands, Lauren Amico, Phil Amico of Clean Water, and NERO Regional Director Mike Bedrin from DEP's Northeast Regional Office participate in a cleanup. Not pictured: Geologist Alex Zdzinski and Eric Supey of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields.

HANOVER TOWNSHIP, Luzerne County, PA -- Staff from The Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Northeast Regional Office (NERO) got a jump start on Earth Day when representatives from 6 of NERO's 7 programs turned out at 9 A.M. on Saturday 3/28/15 to pick up litter between the Wilkes-Barre/Alden exit and the Ashley/Sugar Notch exit of State Route 29 as part of the 2015 Great American Cleanup of PA.

DEP has been cleaning up this heavily traveled and trashed section of state highway for over 20 years. Even though inmates from a local correctional facility recently picked up a lot of bags of trash there, our crew still made a major impact: DEP collected 40 bags of trash and 20 tires and mixed in with the usual assortment of bottles, cans, and fast food wrappers were "treasures" such as a pocket knife, a pregnancy test (not pregnant), a bootleg Pink Floyd CD, 2 toilets, (2) 5-gallon jugs of used motor oil, and enough blue shag rug to cover a small apartment.

## Volunteers Needed for 2015 Great Lakes Children's Water Festival

Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Cheri Sansoni, 717-772-5158.

#### **April 16**

Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee meeting, 9:15 A.M., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Nancy Herb, 717-783-9269.

#### **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.



### **Public Input**

#### **April 10**

Deadline to comment on application by Waste Management of Pennsylvania Inc. to renew its solid waste permit for Tullytown Landfill in Bucks County. Contact: Jonathan Bower, 484-250-5753.

#### **April 10**

Deadline to comment on draft air quality plan approval for Perdue Grain and Oilseed's proposed soybean extraction facility. Contact: Tom Hanlon, 717-705-4862

#### **April 20**

Deadline to comment on Security Rule for Radioactive Material. Contact: Joseph Melnic, 717-783-9730

ERIE, PA -- The Water Systems Council (WSC) will hold its 2015 Great Lakes Children's Water Festival on May 14, 2015 on the campus of Penn State Behrend in Erie, and is recruiting local volunteers to serve as presenters, classroom guides, classroom assistants, registration volunteers, Mess Hall workers, and logistics coordinators.

The Children's Water Festival promises to be one of the largest ever, drawing more than 1,700 students from Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio. These students will explore drinking water, groundwater, watersheds, surface water, well systems, and water quality and conservation through dynamic and interactive activities.

More than 400 volunteers will be needed to staff the 2015 Great Lakes Children's Water Festival on May 14, 2015. Volunteer, sponsorship and presenter forms can be completed on the WSC website at [www.watersystemscouncil.org/water-festivals/](http://www.watersystemscouncil.org/water-festivals/). Please register by April 15.

DEP is a Platinum Sponsor of the 2015 Great Lakes Children's Water Festival. The festival will help DEP meet commitments for water conservation and efficiency outreach in the Great Lakes Compact Agreement.

## **DEP Opens Comment Period for Proposed Technical Guidance Documents on Riparian Buffers**

HARRISBURG, PA -- DEP invites land developers, local governments, environmental consultants, and the general public to comment on two interim final technical guidance documents that address changes in the requirements to provide equivalency and offsetting for riparian buffers. The comment period will last 60 days and will end on May 20.

Riparian buffers are vegetated areas along waterways that absorb stormwater, often installed in an area where development inhibits natural stormwater recharge. They prevent waterways from being inundated with excess stormwater, which can carry with it sediment and other pollutants.

[Read more.](#)

## **Pennsylvania DEP Announces the Members of the Conventional Oil and Gas Advisory Committee**

HARRISBURG, PA -- DEP announced the members of the Conventional Oil and Gas Advisory Committee (COGAC). COGAC's mission is to increase transparency and communication about regulating the conventional oil and gas drilling industry.

COGAC will advise DEP in the development of regulations relating to conventional oil and gas extraction. COGAC will be given the opportunity to review and comment on all regulations of a technical nature prior to submission to the Environmental Quality Board.

[Read more.](#)



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## DEP Begins to Collect Monthly Natural Gas Production Data

HARRISBURG, PA -- In an effort to increase efficiency and consistency, DEP now collects natural gas production data from operators of unconventional natural gas wells on a monthly basis. Production data was previously reported on a semi-annual basis every February and August.

DEP conducts data verification to ensure that required data is submitted on time and that no gross errors are identified. DEP conducts compliance oversight of operators who fail to comply with the reporting requirements. The act did not affect the frequency of production reporting for operators of conventional wells. Conventional well operators will continue to report their production data on an annual basis.

[Read more.](#)

## DEP Hosts Public Hearing On Perdue's Air Quality Plan Approval



Attendees listening to comments during the Perdue Public Hearing.

BAINBRIDGE, PA -- DEP held a public hearing on Tuesday, March 31 to accept comments on an air quality plan approval application from Perdue Grain and Oil Seed LLC for the installation of a grain elevator and a soybean oil extraction facility in Conoy Township, Lancaster County.

More than 100 people attended the hearing at the Bainbridge Fire Company, Lancaster County, to hear 30 people comment on the proposed plan. Representatives from the South-central Regional Office's Air Quality Program and DEP's Communications Office accepted oral and written comments. All written and oral comments DEP receives will be considered with the final review of Perdue's permit application.

The public comment period for the air quality plan approval application is open until April 10. Comments can be submitted to Thomas Hanlon, DEP Air Quality, South-Central Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg, PA, 17110.

## DEP Declares Drought Watch for 27 Pennsylvania Counties



Map shows the counties affected by the drought watch

HARRISBURG, PA -- Despite the recent surge of surface water caused by snow melt, parts of the state have below-average groundwater levels. The lack of groundwater recharge has caused DEP to issue a drought watch for 27 counties across Pennsylvania. Low groundwater levels can cause well-fed water supplies, both private and public, to go dry.

The very dry fall and below-normal precipitation in January and February have contributed to low groundwater levels in the northeast and central portions of the state. The increasing temperatures and melting snow have helped, but groundwater levels may not be back to normal before the summer.

The 27 counties under the drought watch issued are Berks, Bradford, Cambria, Carbon, Clinton, Columbia, Indiana, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne, Westmoreland, and Wyoming.

[Read more.](#)

### DEP Extends Alcosan Customer Municipality Consent Orders for 18 Months to Pursue Green Infrastructure, Flow Reduction Plans

PITTSBURGH, PA -- DEP will provide an 18-month extension of the consent orders and agreements under which Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (Alcosan) customer municipalities have been operating. The agreements expired March 30.

The extensions are being granted in order to accommodate a request by the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County to explore the benefits of green infrastructure as part of the solution to reducing stormwater flows entering sewer systems. The original agreements were executed in 2004, and required municipalities to evaluate, repair and upgrade their sewer systems to reduce the discharge of untreated sewage into area rivers and streams.

[Read more.](#)

## **DEP to Hold Question-and-Answer Session and Public Hearing on the First Environmental Permit for Proposed Shell Cracker Plant**

PITTSBURGH, PA -- To provide information to the public, answer questions and take formal testimony on Shell Chemical Appalachia LLC's Air Quality Plan Approval request, DEP will hold a question-and-answer session followed by a public hearing on May 5, 2015. The hearing will begin at 6 P.M. at Central Valley High School Auditorium, 160 Baker Road Extension, Monaca, PA 15061.

This is the first permit application from Shell to be considered by DEP for the proposed construction of a petrochemicals complex that will, when complete, crack ethane and manufacture polyethylene pellets for use in the plastics industry. The proposed Shell complex would be located on the site formerly occupied by Horsehead Corporation's Monaca Zinc Smelter in Potter Township, Beaver County.

Those wishing to provide testimony at the public hearing should register in advance by calling DEP Community Relations Coordinator John Poister at 412-442-4203 before noon on May 5. There will be an opportunity to register at the door before the hearing. There is no need to register for the question-and-answer portion which precedes the hearing.

[Read more.](#)

## **DEP to Host Public Meeting and Public Hearing on PPL's Power Line Permit Applications**

WILKES-BARRE, PA -- DEP will host a public meeting followed by a public hearing regarding PPL Electric Utilities, Inc.'s (PPL) application for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) and a Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit for construction of the proposed West Pocono-North Pocono 230kV Transmission Line.

The meeting and hearing will be held on Thursday, April 23 from 6 to 10 P.M. at the Thornhurst Township Volunteer Fire Company, 351 Old River Road, Thornhurst, PA 18424.

The public meeting will take place from 6 to 7 P.M. with questions from the public, followed by the public hearing from 7 to 10 P.M. to receive testimony from those in attendance. Staff from both the department and PPL will be on hand to answer questions and listen to testimony.

[Read more.](#)

## **Harrisburg's Peregrine Falcons Produce "Clutch" of Eggs**



A falcon incubates four eggs atop the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg.

HARRISBURG, PA -- The pair of peregrine falcons that nest on a ledge of DEP's headquarters in Harrisburg have produced four eggs so far. The first egg arrived Saturday, March 14. The female typically lays an egg every other day until the "clutch" is complete.

Incubation time increases with the addition of each egg. The full clutch will be warmed continuously until hatching begins, typically around Mother's Day in May. The fledglings usually take their first flights around Father's Day in June.

Watch the drama unfold in high definition live on [DEP's website](#) and follow the falcons on [Twitter](#).

