

News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

May 17

Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting, 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 St., 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 St., Harrisburg. Contact: Kurt Klappkowski, kklappkowsk@pa.gov

June 7

Storage Tank Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Charles M. Swokel, cswokel@pa.gov

June 9

Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee meeting, 9:15 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Nancy Herb, nherb@pa.gov

June 14

Board of Coal Mine Safety meeting, 10 a.m., DEP Cambria Office, 286 Industrial Park Rd., Ebensburg. Contact: Allison D. Gaida,

DEP Begins Emissions Study of Plugged, Abandoned and Orphan Wells



DEP Oil and Gas Program staffers Lindsay Byron, Rick Swank and Doug Catalano and Timothy Kuntz of DEP's Southwest Regional Air Quality program use a FLIR camera to detect a leak at a well site.

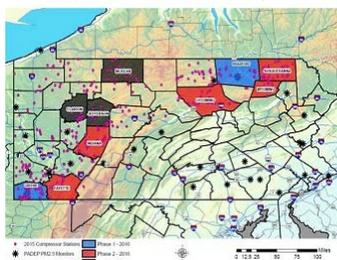
INDIANA COUNTY -- Staff from DEP's Oil and Gas and Air Quality programs this week kicked off a study to evaluate the integrity of plugged, abandoned, and orphan oil and gas wells across Pennsylvania, as well as provide insight into potential greenhouse gas implications associated with methane emissions from these wells.

The field team investigated three diverse well sites in Indiana County on April 25 -- one orphan well that was discharging water; one abandoned well that was venting gas; and one plugged well where no leaks were detected.

Staff employed digital manometers to measure gas flow rates, portable methane detection meters, and FLIR cameras for visual detection of methane leaks. A total of 208 wells were randomly selected for the study. DEP anticipates the field data collection phase will wrap up in the fall.

DEP Expands Particulate Matter Air Monitoring Network

Pennsylvania's Current and Future PM_{2.5} Monitoring Network



agaida@pa.gov

June 16

State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators meeting, 10 a.m., 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building., 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Cheri Sansoni, csansoni@pa.gov

June 20

Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) Certification Examination, 8 a.m., 2nd Floor Training Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Kristen Szwajkowski, kszwajkows@pa.gov

June 29

State Board for Certification of Sewage Enforcement Officers meeting, 10 a.m., Conference Room B, 11th Floor Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Kristen Szwajkowski, kszwajkows@pa.gov

June 30

Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Keith Ashley, riashley@pa.gov



Speakers Bureau



Public Input

April 30

Deadline to comment on the Federal Consistency under the Coastal Zone Management Act - Proposed Lake Erie Connector International Electric Transmission Cable Project. Contact Matthew Walderon, 717-772-2196.



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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.

HARRISBURG -- DEP has launched an unprecedented expansion of the state's fine particulate matter (PM2.5) ambient air monitoring network to ensure human health is protected in rural Pennsylvania.

"We have heard citizens of this commonwealth express concerns about air quality in areas near natural gas activities," said DEP Secretary John Quigley. "With this expansion, we can better assess the ambient air in the natural gas regions."

[Read more.](#)

DEP Cites Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority for Unapproved Water Treatment Change



DEP Secretary John Quigley appears on Pittsburgh's WTAE Action News 4 to explain the administrative order.

PITTSBURGH -- DEP issued an Administrative Order on April 25 citing the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) for making a substantial modification to its drinking water treatment system without prior approval by DEP. The change, which occurred in April 2014, involved the use of caustic soda in place of soda ash to control corrosion in PWSA's water distribution system. PWSA went back to the use of soda ash in January 2016.

"Preliminary data shows no imminent threat to the public as a result of this unauthorized change. We are asking PWSA to analyze all data from April 2014 to January 2016, the period the authority used caustic soda, and the rest of 2016," said DEP Secretary John Quigley. "We have put PWSA on notice that its unilateral decision to change treatment was a clear violation of safe drinking water regulations. PWSA had no authority to modify its treatment without first demonstrating to DEP that the proposed change would not adversely impact the corrosion control treatment, and obtaining DEP approval via a permit amendment."

[Read more.](#)

Independent Regulatory Review Commission Approves Oil and Gas Regulations



DEP's Kurt Klapkowski, Elizabeth Nolan, Secretary John Quigley and Deputy Secretary Scott Perry answer questions about the proposed regulations.

HARRISBURG -- The Independent Regulatory Review Council (IRRC) approved revisions to Pennsylvania's oil and gas drilling regulations on April 21, continuing the process that modernizes and strengthens the "Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites" (Chapters 78 and 78A) rulemaking. The regulations amend the environmental controls employed by both the conventional and unconventional industries to assure the protection of public health, safety, and the environment.

"I am pleased that IRRC moved these important regulatory updates closer to the finish line. The Chapter 78 and 78A regulations have been written with an unprecedented amount of public participation, including from the conventional and unconventional drilling industries," said DEP Secretary John Quigley. "This final regulatory package will improve protection of water resources, add public resources considerations, protect public health and safety, address landowner concerns, enhance transparency, and improve data management."

[Read more.](#)

Progress Made in Construction of Duryea Flood Control Project



DEP staff look at the installation of 550 feet of wall that's part of the \$1.5 million project.

DURYEA -- Staff from DEP's Northeast Regional Office recently got a look at the progress of work to build a levee system in the borough of Duryea, Luzerne County.

Fred Perry and Jonathan Conville of Dam Safety Program, who designed the sheet-pile wall, took NERO Director Mike Bedrin, Waterways and Wetlands Program Manager Joe Buczynski and Community Relations Coordinator Colleen Connolly on a tour of the project along the Lackawanna River. Several Duryea Council members also toured the site.

Approximately 550 feet of wall has been driven into the ground as part of the \$1.5 million dollar project. In 2011, heavy rains forced the nearby Susquehanna River to overtop the Lackawanna River, causing both to push through a gap in the existing levee system and flood the tiny borough. Several homes and business were lost in the flooding. Another 550 feet of wall still needs to be installed, with work projected to be complete by mid-to-late June.

DEP Staff Provide Update on Dam Safety Regulations to Dam Owners



DEP Dam Safety Staff talk with members of the Chamberlain Lake Property Owners Association.

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP Dam Safety staff recently met with owners of private dams in Bradford and Wyoming counties to discuss the updates to regulations regarding dams. Dam Safety staff spent most of the day April 19th talking to owners of three dams about new specifications for height of dams, spillway pressure and bonding to own and maintain a dam in Pennsylvania.

DEP's Roger Adams and Kirk Kreider, along with Rep. Karen Boback of Wyoming County, talked with members of the Chamberlain Lake Property Owners Association. The members of the 50-acre lake are considering applying for a grant to get the necessary funding to rehabilitate the existing dam on the lake and perform required maintenance.

Winners of Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence Honored



DEP Secretary John Quigley with WGAL News 8 anchor Janelle Stelson who emceed the event.

HARRISBURG -- DEP and Pennsylvania Environmental Council hosted a dinner on April 19 at the Harrisburg Hilton to honor this year's winners of the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. DEP Secretary John Quigley delivered the keynote address, focusing on how the winning projects embody the choices we all must make for sustainability in Pennsylvania.

Governor Tom Wolf announced that 17 organizations involved in 13 projects from across the commonwealth will receive the prestigious award. These award winners represent the best in using innovation, collaboration, and public service to improve and protect Pennsylvania's environment.

[Read more.](#)

DEP's Korb Receives Minerals Education Public Outreach Award



IMCC's Greg Conrad, right, presents the award to DEP's Michael Korb.

LAKE PLACID, NY -- The Interstate Mining Compact Commission recently presented DEP's Michael Korb with its 2016 Minerals Education Public Outreach Award during its annual meeting earlier this month in Lake Placid, New York.

Korb serves as an environmental program manager for DEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation in Wilkes-Barre. His career has spanned 50-years, working in Pennsylvania hard coal and soft coal, California sand, Lehigh Valley limestone and Venezuelan iron ore.

In presenting the award, the commission pointed out Korb's work to educate communities and companies about the best practices for managing and reclaiming mines. They also cited his work with the Society of Mine Engineers, where he wrote technical papers and held forums to explain to the public and youth about the role that mines and mine products play in their lives.

Presentation Proposals for the 2016 Pa. Brownfields Conference Due April 30



HARRISBURG -- The 2016 Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference is set for Oct. 26-28, 2016 at the Lancaster County Convention Center. The Conference Planning Committee is seeking high-quality presentations in development and technical topic areas. Presentation proposals are due by April 30, 2016.

The Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference brings together environmental professionals from across the Commonwealth, including practicing engineers, redevelopers, community planners, attorneys. In its 11th year, the Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference is a collaboration of DEP and the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania.

Click [here](#) to submit your idea online.

DEP Employees Participate in Earth Day Cleanup



DEP staff pose behind the pile of trash they removed from the stream.

HARRISBURG -- Employees of DEP's Southcentral Regional Office in Harrisburg participated in the annual cleanup of Asylum Run in Harrisburg April 20.

The run is located near the regional office on Elmerton Avenue and each year employees spend the day cleaning up along the waterway. The cleanup is part of the Great American Cleanup of Pa. that runs through May 31.



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