

News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | Patrick McDonnell, Acting Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

Aug. 8

DEP public hearing on the Mariner East II Pipeline, 6:30-9:30, Blair County Convention Center, One Convention Center Drive, Altoona. Contact: John Repetz, jrepetz@pa.gov

Aug. 9

DEP public hearing on the Mariner East II Pipeline, 6:30-9:30, Lebanon Valley Exposition Center, 80 Rocherty Rd., Lebanon. Contact: John Repetz, jrepetz@pa.gov

Aug. 10

DEP public hearing on the Mariner East II pipeline project, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Sykes Student Union, West Chester University, 110 W. Rosedale Ave. West Chester. Contact: Virginia Cain, vicain@pa.gov

Aug. 16

DEP public hearing on the Mariner East II Pipeline, 6:30-9:30, Keystone Conference Center, Pa. Farm Show Complex, 2300 Cameron St., Harrisburg. Contact: John Repetz, jrepetz@pa.gov

Aug. 18

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, sansoni@pa.gov

Aug. 31

DEP public hearing on

DEP Hosts Kick-off Ceremony for Ehrenfeld Reclamation Project



DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell, left, and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell visit the Ehrenfeld abandoned mine site in Cambria County.

PITTSBURGH -- U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell today led a special event to mark the beginning of work to remediate and reclaim an abandoned mine site in the community of Ehrenfeld, in Cambria County. Work on the 62-acre site will also bring 40 jobs to laid-off coal workers.

The \$13.4 million for the removal project is the first to receive funds from the 2016 Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Economic Revitalization Pilot Program Grant in Pennsylvania. The state was one of three states to receive \$30 million in the initial federal grant program. The Ehrenfeld project will get \$3.5 million from the pilot program. The remaining funds will come from Pennsylvania's AML program grant, which derives from a nationwide fee on coal. The cost for the disposal of the material from the coal pile is \$12.7 million bringing the total cost of the project to \$26 million.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Lists Susquehanna River as Impaired for Multiple Uses, Develops New Analytic Methods for Impaired Waterways Report

Delegation of Authority to Implement Plan Requirements for Federal Sewage Sludge Incineration Units, 10 a.m.-noon, 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact Maisha Webb, maiwebb@pa.gov

Sept. 6

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

Sept. 12

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

Sept. 13

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

Sept. 14

Sewage Advisory Committee meeting, 10:30 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg. Contact: John Diehl, jdiehl@pa.gov

Sept. 20

Environmental Quality Board meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Jennifer Swan, jswan@pa.gov

Sept. 20

Citizens Advisory Council meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Glenda Davidson, gldavidson@pa.gov



Upcoming Webinars

Sept. 29

Successful Environmental Education Grant Writing Strategies, 10 a.m. Click [here](#) to register.



DEP began intensive study of the Susquehanna River in 2012.

HARRISBURG -- A new report released this week from DEP lists four miles of the Susquehanna River as impaired for recreation. The recreation impairment listing joins an impairment for fish consumption for the Susquehanna River, though the listings are not related to smallmouth bass populations in the river. The report also sets forth a groundbreaking protocol to scientifically assess a large river system.

“DEP has dramatically increased the monitoring efforts of the Susquehanna River, and is developing analytic protocols that set the bar for scientific study of large river systems,” said DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell. “DEP carefully considered the scientific data in preparing this report, and the additional impaired listings in 2014 and 2016 of the Susquehanna River to the impaired waterways list is the recognition of that increased monitoring.”

[Read more.](#)

Pa. Natural Gas Production Increased In 2015



HARRISBURG -- Pennsylvania's natural gas production volume trended upward in 2015, according to the newly released DEP 2015 Oil and Gas Annual Report.

In 2015, more than 4.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas were produced in Pennsylvania compared to about 1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas produced in 2011. Currently, Pennsylvania is the second largest supplier of natural gas in the nation.



Speakers Bureau



Public Input

Aug. 30

Deadline to comment on Proposed Rulemaking: Radiological Health and Radon Certification Fees; Pennsylvania Radon Mitigation System Tag and Fee. Contact: Joseph Melnic, 717-783-8075.

Sept. 2

Deadline to comment on Delegation of Authority to Implement Plan Requirements for Federal Sewage Sludge Incineration Units. E-mail comments to: ecomment@pa.gov

Sept. 12

Deadline to comment on the Draft 2016 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report. E-mail comments to: ecomment@pa.gov



Subscribe



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.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Accepting Applications for the 2016 Small Business Advantage Grants



Small Business Advantage Grant

HARRISBURG -- DEP has announced the availability of up to \$1 million of grant funding in the 13th year of the Commonwealth's Small Business Advantage Grant Program for small businesses that adopt or acquire equipment or processes that promote pollution prevention and/or energy efficiency projects.

With more than 900,000 small businesses in this Commonwealth, a well-designed energy efficiency or pollution prevention project can help small businesses cut operating costs and complement the economy, while simultaneously protecting the environment.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Approves PA Turnpike Widening Project in Chester and Montgomery Counties

NORRISTOWN -- DEP recently announced the approval of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's Total Reconstruction and Widening Project for miles 320-326 in Tredyffrin and Upper Merion townships, Chester and Montgomery counties.

The project proposes reconstruction and widening of an existing four-lane highway to a six lane highway for the six mile section. The project also includes the replacement of two overhead bridges, seven mainline bridges, three arch culverts, crossing pipes, noise barriers, retaining walls, stormwater management (SWM) facilities, and storm pipe systems throughout the project area.

[Read more.](#)

DEP North-central Citizens' Roundtable Members Tour Union County Stream Improvement Projects



Workers install in-stream stabilization structures to improve water quality.

WILLIAMSPORT -- On July 25, members of the DEP North-central Citizens' Roundtable toured several stream improvement projects being done in Union County through a partnership involving the North-central Pennsylvania Conservancy, Union County Conservation District, PA Fish and Boat Commission and DEP funded by DEP's Growing Greener grant program.

The group visited projects on Limestone Run and Turtle Creek to see firsthand how in-stream stabilization structures, such as log

vanes and muddsills, and agricultural best management practices, such as walkways and fencing, can dramatically improve water quality on agriculturally impaired streams, which also benefits the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

The partnership has 17 projects planned for this construction season in eight northcentral Pennsylvania counties.



Follow DEP on Twitter! [@PennsylvaniaDEP](https://twitter.com/PennsylvaniaDEP)

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA
17105