

News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

Feb. 10

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

Feb. 11

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

Feb. 16

DEP public hearing on an application from Windfall Oil and Gas Inc. on its application for a new injection-disposal well in Brady Township, Clearfield County, 6-8 p.m., Hiller Auditorium, Penn State DuBois, College Place, DuBois. Contact: John Poister, jpoister@pa.gov

Feb. 17

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

March 8

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

March 8

Storage Tank Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., Susquehanna Conference Room B, DEP South-central Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. Contact: Charles M. Swokel, cswokel@pa.gov

March 8

Environmental Quality Board Passes Updates to Oil and Gas Drilling Regulations



In calling for passage of the revised regulations, DEP Secretary John Quigley (center) says they are long overdue.

HARRISBURG -- The Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board (EQB), an independent board responsible for adopting environmental regulations, yesterday passed the revisions to the oil and gas drilling regulations by a vote of 15 to 4. The "Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites" (Chapters 78 and 78a) rulemaking modernizes and strengthens the environmental controls employed by both the conventional and unconventional industries to assure the protection of public health, safety, and the environment.

In addressing surface activities at well sites, the amendments improve protection of water resources, add public resources considerations, protect public health and safety, address landowner concerns, enhance transparency, and improve data management. The regulatory language has been formulated with the input of more than 25,000 Pennsylvania residents.

Click [here](#) to view a video of the meeting on DEP's YouTube channel.

Wolf Administration Highlights Steps to Reduce Lead Exposure

Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Mark Brojakowski, mbrojakows@pa.gov

March 22

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

March 30

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

March 31

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



Speakers Bureau



Public Input

Feb. 12

Deadline to comment on DEP's intention to renew PQ Corporation's Title V Operating Permit No. 23-00016 for its glass furnace plant in Delaware County. Contact: Virginia Cain, vicain@pa.gov

Feb. 13

Deadline to comment on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' plans to conduct maintenance dredging activities at Conneaut Harbor, Ohio, between July 1, and Sept. 15, 2016. The project is subject to DEP review due to its effects on Pennsylvania's coastal resources. Contact Matthew Walderon, RA-Fed.Consistency@pa.gov

Feb. 13

Deadline to comment on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' plans to dredge and discharge material excavated from the federal navigation channels of Erie Harbor to maintain sufficient depth for deep-draft commercial vessels. Dredging would take place between June 15 and Sept. 15, 2016. Contact Matthew Walderon, RA-Fed.Consistency@pa.gov

March 30

What can I do to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water?

- Test your water, whether you're on a public system or a private well.
- Run your water to flush out lead.
- Do not boil water. Boiling water won't reduce lead.
- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.
- Check if your plumbing fixtures contain lead.

Visit www.dep.pa.gov/lead for more information.

HARRISBURG -- National events about lead exposure have generated new concerns for Pennsylvanians related to the safety of their homes and water. The Wolf Administration takes the issue of lead exposure very seriously and state agencies will continue to work together on their coordinated response to address lead exposure in communities across the commonwealth. The Departments of Health (DOH) and Environmental Protection (DEP) both work diligently to protect children from lead exposure and have many resources available for residents to learn more and take action on lead.

According to Department of Health, the primary source of childhood lead poisoning in Pennsylvania continues to be exposure to aging, deteriorating lead-based paint (chips and dust), and not drinking water. The age of Pennsylvania's housing stock contributes to this problem. While lead was banned from paint in 1978, many older dwellings still contain layers of pre-1978 paint. According to 2010 Census data, Pennsylvania ranks third in the nation for having the most housing units identified as having been built before 1950 (when lead was more prevalent) and fourth in the nation for housing units identified as having been built before 1978, according to a 2014 Department of Health report.

[Read more.](#)

Restored EPA Funding to Help Pennsylvania Farmers Meet Watershed Goals

HARRISBURG -- On the strength of the commonwealth's rebooted strategy to improve clean water in the Susquehanna River watershed, extending into the Chesapeake Bay, announced last month, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has restored \$3 million in program funding to DEP.

The commonwealth's comprehensive strategy was developed collaboratively between DEP and Pennsylvania departments of Agriculture and Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

[Read more.](#)

DEP, Other Agencies Respond to Heating Oil Tank Release in Philadelphia

Deadline to comment on DEP's Draft Climate Change Action Plan Update. Visit eComment at www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eComment



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.



Booms on the Schuylkill River helped to contain the spill. The investigation of impacted soils near the river continues.

PHILADELPHIA -- DEP and several other local and federal authorities responded to the release of approximately 4,200 gallons of heating oil Jan. 25 that eventually made its way to the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. DEP responded to the spill, along with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, the City of Philadelphia, operator Century Link and environmental contractor Miller Environmental.

The contractor was successful in using vacuum trucks to get much of the oil out of the river and worked to identify the path of oil from the tank to the river. CSX Rail had to rerout its rail traffic to accommodate cleanup efforts.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Awards Contract to Wayne County Company for Flood Control Project in Duryea

HARRISBURG -- DEP has awarded Leeward Construction, Inc. of Honesdale a \$1.5-million contract for a flood-control project along a portion of the Lackawanna River in the borough of Duryea, Luzerne County. The borough was hit hard during heavy flooding in September of 2011 as a result of Tropical Storms Lee and Irene, destroying dozens of homes and businesses.

The work involves the installation of approximately 1-thousand feet of sheet pile, which are vertical steel structures, designed to act as a flood wall and close a gap in an existing flood wall currently running along the river bank. Associated work will also include a small section of levee excavation and installation of two drainage structures with gates. This project will improve upon the original levee constructed in 1967 and provide a consistent level of flood protection throughout the borough.

[Read more.](#)

Vogel Holdings, Inc. Pays \$682,500 Penalty and Agrees to Improve Facilities in Mercer and Butler Counties

PITTSBURGH -- DEP has reached agreements with five subsidiaries of Mars, Pennsylvania-based Vogel Holdings Inc. to resolve civil penalties and a permit appeal.

The settlements with Seneca Landfill Inc., Vogel Disposal Service Inc., Tri-County Industries Inc., and Valley Waste Service Inc. total \$682,500 and resolve penalties for violations

that occurred at their facilities in Butler and Mercer counties. The agreements also resolve the appeals of civil penalty assessments issued to Seneca Landfill Inc. and Vogel Disposal Service Inc.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Releases Findings on September 2015 Odor Event from Scranton Sewer System

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP recently concluded its three-month investigation regarding a substance and odor that ran through the Greenridge section of Scranton Sewer Authority (SSA) in September 2015. The investigation revealed that the source of the petroleum-based liquid cannot be determined, and the substance, an undetermined small amount, was likely introduced into the system during a one-time release.

"The department spent significant resources trying to pinpoint who or what was responsible for this substance being illegally dumped into the sewer system," said Mike Bedrin, Director of DEP Northeast Regional Office in Wilkes-Barre. "We worked closely with authority inspectors to determine what happened and how. Finding the answers to those questions and determining a responsible party were not possible in this case, where a small quantity of material was dumped into a large sewer system."

[Read more.](#)

Reading Area Water Authority Plant Completes Third Phase of Partnership for Safe Water



From left to right: Reading Area Water Authority's Dean Miller, Helen Piccone, Brian Readinger, Erin Snihur, Gene Koontz, Gary Phillips, Patrick Bauer, Jesse Goldberg, Barb Martin, Max Kurbjun, and Walter Cieplinski, and DEP's Kevin Anderson.

READING -- The Reading Area Water Authority's Maiden creek water treatment plant in Berks County, recently completed the third phase of the Partnership for Safe Water program, a voluntary effort to provide safe drinking water. Presently, the plant provides drinking water service to approximately 87,000 people. The Maiden creek water treatment plant is now one of 60 plants to complete this phase of the partnership in Pennsylvania.

The Partnership for Safe Water is made up of DEP, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Pennsylvania Section American Water Works Association (PA-AWWA) and other

drinking water organizations. Its goal is to implement preventative measures that are based on optimizing treatment plant performance.

Phase III entails a detailed, peer-reviewed report that summarizes the rigorous self-assessment portion of the program. This phase is specifically geared toward identifying weaknesses in plant operation, design and administration that could lead to a breakthrough of waterborne disease-causing organisms into the finished water that is distributed to consumers. Correcting these weaknesses helps prevent waterborne disease outbreaks from pathogenic organisms like Cryptosporidium and Giardia. By completing this phase of the program, the Maidencreek plant provides an additional measure of protection to drinking water consumers.

[Read more.](#)

Pennsylvania to Host Green Schools Conference & Expo in Pittsburgh



PITTSBURGH -- For the first time, the Green Schools Conference & Expo will be held in Pennsylvania on March 31–April 1 at the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certified David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

The conference brings together people who are committed to promoting schools that reduce environmental impacts, improve health and wellness, and increase environmental literacy. More than 1,200 people, ranging from teachers to students to administrators, consultants and governmental agencies, are expected to attend from 40 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, and Mexico.

DEP will be represented by Heidi Kunka and Heather Cowley of the Office of Pollution Prevention and Energy Assistance. Both women serve on the advisory council for the partnership, a statewide coalition of government agencies, nonprofits, higher education institutions, K-12 schools, and individuals. Kunka also served as an education session reviewer for the conference.

For more information visit <http://greenschoolsconference.org/>

2016 Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference to be Held Oct. 26-28 in Lancaster



HARRISBURG -- Mark your calendars for the 2016

Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference to be held Oct. 26-28 at the Lancaster County Convention Center in Lancaster.

Join us to learn about opportunities for transforming communities throughout the commonwealth. Conference attendees will experience the City of Lancaster's success in creating a vibrant destination where people want to live, work and visit. DEP will host the conference in partnership with the Engineers' Society of Western PA.

Call for proposals and registration details will be announced soon. For all the latest information, visit the [conference website](#).



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