

News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

Jan. 25

DEP public meeting to answer questions regarding Chrin Landfill's permit application to expand its existing facility in Williams Township, Northampton County, 6-9 p.m., Wilson Area High School, 424 Warrior Lane, Easton. Contact: Colleen Connolly, coconnolly@pa.gov

Jan. 26

DEP public meeting and hearing on a proposed air quality plan approval for the Tenaska Westmoreland Generating Station, 6-8 p.m., Turkeytown-South Huntington Twp. Fire Dept., 90 Supervisor Dr., West Newton. Contact: John Poister, jpoister@pa.gov

Jan. 28

Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center (TAC) Board meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Dawn Hissner, dhissner@pa.gov

Jan. 28

DEP public hearing on proposed air quality plan approval for Sunoco Partners Marketing Terminals (SPMT) in Delaware County, 6-8 p.m., Marcus Hook Community Center, 7 W Delaware Ave., Marcus Hook. Contact Virginia Cain, vicain@pa.gov

Feb. 3

Environmental Quality Board meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact:

Gov. Wolf Announces New Methane Rules to Improve Air Quality, Reduce Industry Loss



HARRISBURG -- Governor Tom Wolf this week announced a nation-leading strategy to reduce emissions of methane, a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change, and has been implicated in health risks. The plan is designed to protect the environment and public health, reduce climate change, and help businesses reduce the waste of a valuable product by reducing methane leaks and emissions from natural gas well sites, processing facilities, compressor stations and along pipelines.

"Pennsylvania is the second-largest producer of natural gas in the nation behind Texas," said Governor Wolf. "We are uniquely positioned to be a national leader in addressing climate change while supporting and ensuring responsible energy development, creating new jobs, and protecting public health and our environment. These are commonsense steps that Pennsylvania can take to protect our air and reduce waste for industry. The best companies understand the business case for reducing methane leaks, as what doesn't leak into the atmosphere can be used for energy production."

[Read more.](#)

FaceBook Town Hall Features discussion of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment

Laura Edinger,
ledinger@pa.gov

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. 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

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, 10:00 a.m., Susquehanna Conference Room B, DEP Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg. Contact: Charles M. Swokel, cswokel@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



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DEP Secretary John Quigley and DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn talk about Pennsylvania's strategy to reduce methane emissions, which contribute to climate change.

HARRISBURG -- Earlier this week, DEP Secretary John Quigley and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Dunn joined Governor Tom Wolf for a FaceBook Town Hall discussion on a host of environmental issues including the methane reduction strategy, climate change and energy issues.

Secretary Quigley talked about the timeline for the new initiative and how it's a win-win for industry and the environment.

"We are poised now to deliver to our Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee in early February this combination of revised general permits and regulatory concepts that we will then push through the regulatory process," Quigley said. "So we're looking at the second half of this year having new general permits in place which will give the industry streamlined permitting in exchange for enhanced environmental protections, specifically reduced methane emissions and reduced volatile organic compound emissions."

Click [here](#) to view the FaceBook Town Hall.

Pa. Unveils Comprehensive Strategy to Improve Water Quality in Pa., and Chesapeake Bay Watershed



DEP Secretary John Quigley is joined by Agriculture Secretary Russ Redding and DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn.

ELIZABETHTOWN -- After 30 years of work that has prevented millions of pounds of pollutants from reaching Pennsylvania's waterways and the Chesapeake Bay, the commonwealth continues to face immense pressure from the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to improve water quality. In order to meet



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.

those obligations, Pennsylvania today unveiled a comprehensive strategy to "reboot" the state's efforts to improve water quality in the commonwealth and the bay.

The new plan, developed jointly by the Pennsylvania departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and Environmental Protection (DEP), as well as the State Conservation Commission brings new focus to the state's efforts to help protect the Chesapeake Bay while emphasizing the need for balance and resilience. The strategy relies on a mix of technical and financial assistance for farmers, technology, expanded data gathering, improved program coordination and capacity and – only when necessary – stronger enforcement and compliance measures.

[Read more.](#)

Feb. 3 EQB Meeting to be Streamed Live



EQB Members will consider amendments to oil and gas regulations that improve environmental protections.

HARRISBURG -- DEP will provide a live stream of the Feb. 3 Environmental Quality Board meeting as members consider the Final Rulemaking, Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites for Oil and Gas (25 Pa Code Chapters 78 and 78a).

The amendments to the oil and gas regulations address surface activities at well sites, and center on five core areas. The amendments improve protection of water resources, add public resources considerations, protect public health and safety, address landowner concerns, and enhance transparency and improve data management.

The live stream will begin at 9 a.m. and can be viewed [here](#).

DEP's 2015 Accomplishments Focused on Innovation to Help Restore the Capacity of the Agency that Protects Pennsylvania's Air, Land, Water, and Public Health

HARRISBURG -- Under the Wolf Administration, DEP has worked to use innovation to help restore the capacity and integrity of the agency that protects Pennsylvania's air, land, water, and public health.

DEP Secretary John Quigley is committed to collaboration, science, and transparency in meeting the agency's mission. Over the past year, DEP has made major advances, even though DEP lost 14 percent of its staff complement over the last 10 years, with 671 fewer positions than 7 years ago. That is compared to a state

government average of a 6 percent decrease in staff in that same time period. Modernizing the agency has also been a challenge; with the department's Information Technology budget 43 percent less in nominal terms than it was 11 years ago.

[Read more.](#)

DEP to Hold Public Hearing on Tenaska Air Quality Plan Approval for Westmoreland Generating Station

PITTSBURGH -- DEP will hold a public hearing on an Air Quality Plan Approval Application for the proposed Tenaska Pennsylvania Partners, LLC power plant in South Huntingdon Township, Westmoreland County. The public hearing will take place Jan. 26, 2016 at the Turkeytown South Huntingdon Township fire hall (Huntington Place), 90 Supervisor Dr., in West Newton. The hearing will be preceded by an open question and answer session beginning at 6 p.m. The public hearing will start at 7 p.m.

The Tenaska Pennsylvania Partners, LLC Westmoreland Generating Station is a proposed natural gas fired combined cycle electrical generating plant having an approximate generating capacity of 1000 MW.

[Read more.](#)

DEP to Host Public Meeting on Proposed Landfill Expansion in Northampton County

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP will host a public meeting to answer questions regarding Chrin Landfill's permit application to expand its existing facility in Williams Township, Northampton County. The meeting will take place from 6-9 p.m., Monday, Jan. 25 at Wilson Area High School, 424 Warrior Lane, Easton.

During the meeting, department staff will answer questions about the permit review process. Also, staff from Chrin Landfill will answer questions regarding the expansion itself.

[Read more.](#)

Radon Awareness Focus of Comcast Newsmakers Segment



DEP Secretary John Quigley is interviewed by Comcast host Jill Horner about the dangers of radon.

HARRISBURG -- The danger of radon and why every home in Pennsylvania should be tested is the subject of a new Comcast Newsmakers segment. Host Jill Horner talks with DEP Secretary

John Quigley about the prevalence of radon in Pennsylvania, and what citizens can do to safeguard themselves and their families.

Radon, a deadly radioactive gas, is found everywhere in Pennsylvania and is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers.

View the video [here](#).

DEP Participates in Farm Show's 100th Anniversary Activities



DEP Special Deputy Secretary Kelly Heffner is joined by Agriculture Secretary Russ Redding and Cody Walker of York County.

HARRISBURG -- DEP Special Deputy Secretary Kelly Heffner participated in the VIP Dairy Showmanship Contest Jan. 13 during the 100th Pennsylvania Farm Show. Twelve-year-old Cody Walker from York County served as Kelly's "coach." He gave her tips on showmanship as she walked his red and white Guernsey calf, Sophia, around the show ring.

The annual event is hosted by the Center for Dairy Excellence, PennAg Industries Association and the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association. It provides an opportunity for state officials to meet dairy farmers from around the Commonwealth and take part in a favorite Farm Show pastime for many of Pennsylvania's dairy farm families.



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