The rulemaking enables responsible drilling, while protecting public health and the environment.

HARRISBURG -- DEP transmitted the final “Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites” rulemaking (Chapters 78 and 78a) to the state Environmental Quality Board (EQB) for review on Jan. 6. This step brings the rules closer to enactment, and continues DEP’s commitment to modernizing and strengthening the environmental controls employed by both the conventional and unconventional industries to assure the protection of public health, safety, and the environment.

DEP provided EQB with more than 2,800 pages of materials supporting the rulemaking, including the executive summary, the regulatory language, a fact sheet, the order, and regulatory analysis form. The package also includes the comment and response document, in which every one of the almost 28,000 comments were addressed by DEP. Taken together, the order, regulatory analysis form, and comment and response document provide the justification for the final-form rulemaking.

Read more.
$745,000 against Kinder Morgan Liquids Terminals, Inc. (Kinder Morgan) for multiple violations at two facilities in Philadelphia. Through two separate Consent Assessments of Civil Penalty, Kinder Morgan has agreed to resolve civil penalty liability for violations of the Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act at both the Kinder Morgan Liquids Terminal (“Liquids Terminal”) on N. Delaware Ave. and Kinder Morgan Point Breeze Terminal (Point Breeze Terminal) on Passyunk Ave.

The first penalty, in the amount of $570,000, addresses violations relating to a release of approximately 8,000 gallons of fuel grade ethanol from an aboveground storage tank at the Liquids Terminal, which reached soil and groundwater through a failed containment structure. Kinder Morgan neglected to investigate a suspected release as quickly as the law requires and was untimely with the notification of the release to downstream water users. DEP is working with Kinder Morgan on improving its procedures for responding to a release and on ensuring the adequacy of all of its containment structures. Kinder Morgan is in the process of cleaning this site.

Pennsylvania Residents Urged to Test Homes for Radon

HARRISBURG -- DEP is urging all Pennsylvanians to test their homes for radon, a deadly radioactive gas that’s the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers in the United States. DEP also urged residents to take action to reduce radon levels in their homes if they are high.

“Due to our geology, radon is found everywhere in Pennsylvania. For that reason, we urge residents to test their homes to protect themselves and their family’s health,” said DEP Secretary John Quigley. “Winter is the best time to test your home for radon because doors and windows are typically closed and tightly sealed, producing the most accurate results.”

January is Radon Action Month, and a great time to test. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets the “action level” for radon at 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) of air. Residents with levels at or above that figure should take steps to lower them.

Partnership for Safe Water Recognizes 4 Pa. Water Treatment Plants

Watch the new radon public service announcement on DEP’s YouTube channel.

Upcoming Webinars

Jan. 13
Conventional Oil and Gas Advisory Committee meeting webinar, 10 a.m. Register here.

Jan. 14
Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board meeting webinar, 10 a.m. Register here.

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Read more.

Partnership for Safe Water Recognizes 4 Pa. Water Treatment Plants

Read more.
HARRISBURG -- Four Pennsylvania American water treatment plants — Bangor, Brownell, Crystal Lake and Nesbitt — each received the “Presidents Award” from the Partnership for Safe Water (PFSW), a voluntary effort to provide safe drinking water to consumers. Presently, the combined treatment plants provide drinking water service to approximately 87,000 people.

The PFSW is made up of representatives of DEP, EPA, the Pennsylvania Section American Water Works Association, and other national drinking water organizations. Its goal is to implement preventative measures that are based on optimizing treatment plant performance and maximizing the protection of public health.

The Presidents Award recognizes public water suppliers for achieving stringent individual filter performance goals for turbidity. With the addition of these four treatment plants, a total of 15 plants in Pennsylvania have received this award from the PFSW.

For more information, visit DEP’s website.

Learn How to Go Green, Pa. at DEP's New Farm Show Exhibit

HARRISBURG -- Visitors to the 100th Pennsylvania Farm Show can learn how to live green, plant green, build green and save green at DEP’s new interactive exhibit, titled, “Go Green, PA.”

The new exhibit features lots of energy-saving and green product information for both inside and outside your home.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show is the nation’s largest indoor agricultural event, featuring 6,000 animals, 10,000 competitive exhibits, and 300 commercial exhibitors.
The show runs 8 a.m.-9 p.m., January 9-15.

Read more.