

News from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

July 30

DEP public meeting and hearing to take testimony concerning its intent to issue a plan approval for alternative short term Sulfur Dioxide emission limits from units 1, 2 and 3 at the Homer City Generating Station in Indiana County, 6 p.m., Homer-Center High School Auditorium, 70 Wildcat Ln., Homer City. Contact: John Poister, 412-442-4000.

Aug. 4

Environmental Justice Advisory Board meeting, 8:30 a.m., Delaware Conference Room, 16th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Alice Wright Bailey, 484-250-5818.

Aug. 6

Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee meeting, 9:15 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Nancy Herb, 717-783-9269.

Aug. 12

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, 717-772-5158.

Aug. 18

Environmental Quality Board (EQB) meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St. Harrisburg. Contact: Jen Swan, 717-783-8727.

DEP Secretary John Quigley Chairs the First Meeting of Pipeline Infrastructure Taskforce



DEP Secretary John Quigley leads the first-ever meeting of the Pipeline Task Force.

HARRISBURG, PA -- DEP Secretary John Quigley chaired the first meeting of the newly formed Pipeline Infrastructure Taskforce on July 22 at DEP's South-central Regional Office in Harrisburg, Dauphin County.

During the meeting, the 48 experts and stakeholders selected to participate in the committee discussed the role of the taskforce and its workgroups, operating rules, and the meeting template.

The next meeting of the Pipeline Infrastructure Taskforce will be on August 26. The public may attend, although space is limited.

The agenda and related materials for the meeting are available [here](#). Remarks from Secretary Quigley can be viewed [here](#).

PA Officials Reiterate Commitment to Clean Water, Chesapeake Bay Cleanup at Executive Council Meeting



Aug. 27

Conventional Oil and Gas Advisory Committee (COGAC) meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Kurt Klapkowski, 717-772-2199

Sept. 2

Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Kurt Klapkowski, 717-772-2199



Upcoming Webinars

Aug. 12

DEP webinar training for operators using Exemption 38 Compliance Demonstration Criteria and General Permit 5 for Natural Gas Compression and/or Processing Facilities, 2 p.m. [Register here.](#)



Speakers Bureau



Public Input

July 23

Deadline to comment on the Proposed State Implementation Plan Revision; Attainment Demonstration for the North Reading Nonattainment Area for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standard. Submit comments [here.](#)

July 24

Deadline to comment on the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs – Federal Fiscal Year 2015 Intended Use Plans. Contact: Veronica Kasi, 717-772-4053.

July 29

Deadline to comment on the Availability of Draft NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (PAG-13). Submit comments [here.](#)



Subscribe

From left to right: Assistant Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Kirk Hanlin, Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission Scott Lingenfelter, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, Governor of Virginia Terry McAuliffe, Lieutenant Governor of Maryland Boyd Rutherford, Mayor of Washington, D.C. Muriel Bowser, DEP Secretary John Quigley, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US Department of Interior Karen Hyun gather at the National Arboretum for the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council Meeting.

HARRISBURG, PA -- In Washington, DC, PA Department of Environmental Protection Secretary John Quigley and Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Reading restated Pennsylvania's commitment to improving river and stream health throughout the commonwealth, and ultimately, the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Secretaries Quigley and Redding represented Governor Tom Wolf at the annual meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council. With Pennsylvania contributing half of the water flowing into the bay, Secretaries Quigley and Redding said states throughout the watershed are looking to the commonwealth for leadership, and the state is responding.

"A Chesapeake Bay reboot is needed in Pennsylvania, and we plan to focus resources and technical assistance, reinvigorate partnerships, and create a culture of compliance in order to protect Pennsylvania's waters and the waters of the bay," said Quigley during a press conference immediately following the meeting with leaders of the bay states.

For more information, click [here.](#)

DEP Lifts Drought Watch for 37 Counties Across PA



The drought map shows that no counties remain on drought watch.

HARRISBURG, PA -- On July 10, DEP lifted the drought watch declaration for 37 counties throughout Pennsylvania, based on recommendations from the Pennsylvania Drought Task Force. No counties remain on drought watch.

"We have seen an increase in rainfall in many parts of the state that has restored groundwater levels and streamflow," DEP Secretary John Quigley said. "While conditions have improved, I would encourage all Pennsylvanians to continue to consider their water use and conserve whenever possible."

The drought watch was issued on March 24 for Berks, Bradford, Cambria, Carbon, Clinton, Columbia, Indiana, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne, Westmoreland, and Wyoming

counties. It was expanded on June 17 for Bedford, Blair, Centre, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lehigh, Mifflin, and Northampton counties.

For more information, click [here](#).

Three Pennsylvania Farms Receive Clean Water Farm Award

HARRISBURG, PA --The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. awarded the operators of three farms with the Clean Water Farm Award during its annual conference on July 8, 2015 in Monroeville, Allegheny County. The honor is awarded annually to farmers who manage their daily farm operations in an environmentally conscious manner that helps to protect Pennsylvania's water quality.

This year's award recipients are Joel Loch of Lehigh County, Longview Family Farm of Potter County, and David & Cathy Reifsneider of York County.

For more information, click [here](#).



Harry Bickel, Chairman of the York County Conservation District, accepted the Clean Water Farm Award on behalf of Gobbler's Knob Farm of Felton, York County on July 8. PACD President Glenn Seidel presented the award.

DEP Takes Control of Cleanup at Illegal Dump Sites in Two Counties



The crew is hard at work cleaning up this dump site in the Poconos.

WILKES-BARRE, PA -- DEP's Northeast Regional Office decided to step in and clean up six piles of illegally dumped debris on several properties throughout the Poconos. The cleanup took place on July 14.

The piles were dumped last summer at six locations throughout Carbon and Schuylkill counties; one of the sites is near the Lehigh River outside of Lehigh where tourists come to row and raft on weekends.

DEP used funds from the Solid Waste Abatement Fund to clean up the piles. Hazelton Recycling Service and URS were hired to haul the waste to IESI Landfill in Northampton County. A total of 550-cubic yards of construction and demolition debris along with some household garbage were hauled away from the six sites.

DEP Offers Free Energy Efficiency Training

HARRISBURG, PA -- DEP is offering two free energy efficiency training opportunities for facility managers and HVAC technicians at K-12 schools and local governments throughout Pennsylvania's northern tier. Both trainings, Building Operator Certification (BOC) and Building Retuning (BRT), are funded by a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Energy.

BOC is geared to those with two or more years of experience in building operations. The course consists of eight, 8-hour classroom sessions focused on HVAC systems and controls, fundamentals for efficient lighting, and indoor environmental quality. In addition to the 64 hours of in-classroom instruction, there are also open-book, multiple-choice exams and several homework assignments. Upon successful completion of the course, participants will receive their BOC credential. The value of this free training opportunity is \$1,695 per person!

BRT is a systematic approach to finding low-to-no-cost energy efficiency improvements in buildings and consists of approximately 20 hours of instruction for a small cohort of 8 to 12 facility managers.

Dates and locations have not yet been established for these trainings. The trainings will be located where the level of interest is greatest. If you are interested in BOC or BRT, please contact DEP's Heidi Kunka at 717-783-9989 or hkunka@pa.gov.

DEP Regional Citizens' Roundtable Tours New Panda Patriot Power Plant



The Panda Patriot natural gas-fired power plant is being constructed in Clinton Township, Lycoming County and is expected to be complete in 2016.

WILLIAMSPORT, PA -- On July 20, DEP's North-central Regional Citizens' Roundtable held its annual group dinner and field trip to the new 829-megawatt Panda Patriot natural gas-fired power plant under construction in Clinton Township, Lycoming County. The tour was conducted by Panda Construction Manager Shannon Poulter,

and two other members of his staff.

Plant construction began in December 2013 and is expected to be substantially complete by mid-2016. It is Panda's second plant being built in north-central Pennsylvania. The other facility, Panda Liberty, is located in Asylum Township, Bradford County.

The Patriot plant has created approximately 500 construction jobs and will result in 27 direct jobs to operate the plant and 45 indirect jobs to support the plant. It will utilize the latest, most advanced emissions-control technology, making it one of the cleanest natural gas-fueled power plants in the U.S., and use Siemens H-class gas turbines — the world's first generation technology to achieve operating efficiencies of 60 percent.

The plant design will minimize sound using special blade designs, low-output motors and building enclosures and will be cooled with air rather than water, thus not drawing water from, or discharging water into, the Susquehanna River. This eliminates potential impacts to sensitive species in the watershed.

The combined-cycle plant is expected to supply the power needs of up to 1 million homes.



Follow DEP on Twitter! @PA_DEP