

News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | Patrick McDonnell, Acting Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

July 12

Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Mark Brojakowski, mbrojakows@pa.gov

July 13

Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board meeting, 9 a.m., 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Michael Maddigan, mmaddigan@pa.gov

July 13

Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment meeting, 10 a.m., Westmoreland Room, DEP New Stanton Office, 131 Broadview Rd., New Stanton. Contact: Allison D. Gaida, agaida@pa.gov

July 19

DEP and PENNVEST public meeting on Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Intended Use Plans, 1:30 p.m., 2nd Floor Auditorium, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Crystal Blair, 717-772-4011.

Aug. 2

Environmental Justice Advisory Board meeting, 9 a.m., Delaware Conference Room, 16th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Carl Jones, caejone@pa.gov

Aug. 4

VIDEO: DEP, Coal Alliance Urge Miners to Put Safety First, No Shortcuts



HARRISBURG - The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in partnership with the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance (PCA), today launched a new safety campaign that urges coal miners not to take shortcuts that could lead to dangerous consequences while on the job. The [video](#), introduced by Governor Tom Wolf, debuted at today's meeting of the Board of Coal Mine Safety in Ebensburg, Cambria County.

"Safety of our miners is paramount and requires a team effort by government, industry and our mine workers," DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell said. "DEP, through rigorous inspections, regular safety training by mining companies and adherence to safety procedures by employees will make our mines safe for our men and women who work underground."

Since January 2015, four Pennsylvanians lost their lives while working in mining operations. The campaign, "Safety First, No Shortcuts," urges Pennsylvania's thousands of mine workers to make safety their number one priority. The Pennsylvania Coal Alliance and DEP will make the video available to mining companies to share with their workers before they enter a mine.

"PCA is pleased to partner with DEP in this campaign to raise miner's awareness of potential safety issues," PCA CEO John Pippy said. "PCA member companies place the highest priority on ensuring the safety for the men and women working underground, and are committed to continually enhancing training and technology to reduce the risk of accidents."

[Read more.](#)

[View the video.](#)

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

Aug. 10

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



Upcoming Webinars

July 14

Pennsylvania AML Pilot Projects Webinar



Speakers Bureau



Public Input

July 11

Deadline to comment on Draft Technical Guidance: Government-Financed Construction Contracts for Coal Mining (563-2000-001). Contact Chris Yeakle, cyeakle@pa.gov

July 11

Deadline to comment on DRAFT Technical Guidance: Beneficial Use of General Permit (GP) Materials at Active Coal Mines (563-2112-001), Contact Chris Yeakle, cyeakle@pa.gov

July 18

Deadline to comment on Nutrient Credit Trading Certification Requests: Lycoming County. Contact: jbraund@pa.gov

July 18

Deadline to comment on the Proposed 2016 Pennsylvania Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan. Submit comments via DEP's eComment.

July 25

Deadline to comment on the Proposed Rulemaking: Water Quality Standards; Sobers Run et al. Stream Redesignations. Submit comments via DEP's eComment.

Aug. 1

Deadline to submit

Facebook Town Hall on Zika Virus Held on July 6



Left to right - Department of Health staff: Dr. Loren Robinson, Dr. Sharon Watkins, Physician General Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary of Health Dr. Karen Murphy; Governor's Office Deputy Secretary Megan Healey; DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell and DEP Environmental Group Manager Andy Kyle.

HARRISBURG - The Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Environmental Protection held a Facebook Town Hall meeting at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, July 6, to answer questions about the Zika virus.

Department of Health Secretary Dr. Karen Murphy and DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell, along with other department experts, took questions and talked about Pennsylvania's Zika Response Plan to educate pregnant women, travelers to Zika-affected areas and the general public about the Zika virus; how to prepare for Zika virus testing; enhancing surveillance and control of mosquito populations that can spread Zika virus; and enhancing surveillance for Zika cases in Pennsylvania.

Department of Health Reports First Human Case of West Nile Virus in Pennsylvania in 2016

HARRISBURG - Pennsylvania's first probable human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) infection in 2016 has been detected in an Indiana County woman. The Departments of Health and Environmental Protection strongly recommend that all residents minimize their exposure to mosquitoes.

"Detecting the first human case serves as a great reminder for Pennsylvanians to take the proper precautions when they are outside or near areas where mosquitoes are prevalent," Secretary of Health Karen Murphy said. "There are some simple steps you can take to protect yourself and your loved ones from mosquito-related diseases."

Although mosquitoes can bite at any time of the day or night, the mosquitoes that transmit WNV are most active at dawn and dusk. When outdoors, people can avoid mosquito bites by properly and consistently using DEET-containing insect repellants and covering exposed skin with lightweight clothing. To keep mosquitoes from entering a home, make sure window and door screens are in place and in good condition.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) conducts regular surveillance and control to manage mosquito populations around the state. So far, DEP has detected WNV-infected

comments on the water obstruction and encroachment permits related to the proposed Atlantic Sunrise natural gas pipeline. Send comments on the permits for Lancaster and Lebanon counties to: RA-EP, WW-SCRO@pa.gov. Send comments on the permits for Columbia and Northumberland counties to: RA-EP, WW-NCRO@pa.gov.

Aug. 2

Deadline to comment on the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs; Federal Fiscal Year 2016 Intended Use Plans. Submit comments via DEP's eComment.

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.



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.

mosquitoes in 10 counties.

"DEP monitors the mosquito population across Pennsylvania," said Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "Today's announcement serves as a reminder that all Pennsylvanians should take precautions to protect against mosquitoes. Using a personal insect repellent or staying indoors during dawn and dusk will help prevent exposure to mosquitoes."

[Read More](#)

New Greening Projects Announced to Help Improve Local Neighborhoods in Harrisburg, Baltimore and Surrounding Regions



Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell pictured with G3 Grantees, Mayor Eric Papenfuse, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin.

HARRISBURG - The Chesapeake Bay Trust, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency and Maryland's Department of Natural Resources announced 17 green projects through its Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns (G3) Grant Initiative.

This program was created in 2011 to advance innovative green infrastructure while promoting enhanced liability and creating green jobs throughout the region. During the event, 17 grantees including five in central Pennsylvania unveiled what their projects hope to accomplish. Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell spoke at the event to congratulate all grantees.

The five grantees from central Pennsylvania include: Redevelopment Authority of Cumberland County, County of Blair, The Borough of Chambersburg, East Pennsboro Township, and The Salvation Army Harrisburg Capital City Region.

DEP to Host Public Hearing regarding Keystone Sanitary Landfill Proposed Expansion

WILKES-BARRE - The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will host a public hearing to take testimony regarding Keystone Sanitary Landfill's permit application to expand its facility located in Dunmore and Throop Boroughs in Lackawanna County. The event will take place on Monday, July 18, from 6:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. at Mid-Valley High School, located at 52 Underwood Road, Throop.

Keystone Sanitary Landfill filed an application with the department on March 20, 2014, to vertically expand on 435 total acres within

the existing permitted area and to increase the facility's disposal capacity by approximately 145 million cubic yards. The department held two public meetings in February and June 2015 and answered questions from the public regarding the permit application process. DEP also issued its first environmental assessment of the proposed expansion to Keystone Landfill in October 2015 and Keystone responded in May 2016.

Those wishing to offer testimony at the hearing can pre-register by emailing: Roger Bellas, Program Manager, Waste Management, at rbellas@pa.gov or Colleen Connolly, Community Relations Coordinator, at coconnolly@pa.gov. The department will also accept written testimony by email or by sending comments to: Roger Bellas, Program Manager, Waste Management, 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701. Written comments will be accepted until Friday, July 29, 2016 at 4:00 P.M.

[Read More](#)

Pennsylvania Launches New Zika Virus Prevention and Awareness Campaign

HARRISBURG - The Pennsylvania Department of Health today announced the launch of the commonwealth's new Zika Virus Prevention and Awareness Campaign. The campaign aims to increase awareness of the virus and urge Pennsylvanians traveling to Zika-affected areas, like Mexico, South America and the Caribbean, to take necessary precautions to avoid getting mosquito bites.

Beginning today, posters with Zika virus prevention tips will be in all airports that have international destinations, including flights departing from Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, Erie, and Lehigh Valley. Posters will be displayed throughout commonwealth airports in various concourses, baggage claim areas, and lobby locations. Electronic versions of the poster can also be found on the department's website at www.zika.pa.gov and are available in both English and Spanish.

[Read More](#)

DEP Rebates for Alternative Fuel Vehicles Still Available

HARRISBURG - The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is reminding Pennsylvania car buyers of rebates to assist with the cost of purchasing a new alternative fuel vehicle.

"Rebates are available for battery electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, and alternative fuels like natural gas and fuel cell vehicles," said DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "These vehicles are helping to reduce climate change causing emissions and are a part of a sustainable Pennsylvania."

These rebates are funded by the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program, which is supported by a gross receipts tax on utilities. To qualify, the vehicle must be registered in Pennsylvania, operated primarily in-state, and be purchased no more than six months before the rebate application is submitted. Rebates are available for new cars only.

Large-battery vehicles are eligible for a rebate of \$2,000 (examples include models such as the Nissan Leaf, Ford Focus, Chevy Volt, and similar models from BMW, Volkswagen and Tesla). DEP is also offering rebates of \$1,000 for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and battery-electric vehicles (examples include

the Hyundai Sonata, Ford C-Max Energi, BMW x5, Volvo XC).

[Read More](#)

NERO Staff Visit Students to Share the Importance of Recycling and Protecting the Earth



Water Quality Specialist Supervisor Michelle Nesbitt, and students from Wyoming Valley Presbyterian Church's after-school program.

WILKES-BARRE - NERO Water Quality Specialist Supervisor Michelle Nesbitt recently spoke to a group of elementary students about the work of DEP and protecting the environment. The students attend Wyoming Valley Presbyterian Church's after-school program "In the Center of the Village" in Wilkes-Barre, which teaches students how to be good citizens. Nesbitt spoke to students about the importance of recycling, protecting the earth and water and being good stewards of the environment. Approximately 10-15 children participated.

RIVERFEST 2016 An Interactive Success



DEP staff working with the children showing hands on activities.

WILKES-BARRE - Staffers from DEP Wilkes-Barre manned an "interactive" table at RIVERFEST 2016 in Wilkes-Barre in June. The event celebrates the Susquehanna River and its importance to the region. Attendees were able to see and touch some of the insects that DEP studies as part of the health of the river. They also got a chance to use tiny "booms" to clean-up an

simulated oil spill in the river by using soap containers. Each child that participated took home a fossil that was collected near the river in Bloomsburg.



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