

News from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

July 21

Citizens Advisory Council meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg. Contact: Jen Swan, 717-783-8727.

July 22

Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Susan Foster, 717-772-3369.

July 22

Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force meeting, 1-4 p.m., DEP South-central Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. Contact: RA-EPPITF@pa.gov

July 22

DEP public hearing on the State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision for the North Reading Nonattainment Area for the Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), 1 p.m., Muhlenberg Township Recreation Building, 3025 River Rd., Reading. Contact: Alex Haas, 717-787-9495.

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.

DEP Secretary Quigley to Chair Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force



The task force will provide a final report detailing its findings to Gov. Tom Wolf by February 2016.

HARRISBURG -- Gov. Tom Wolf this week announced the appointment of 48 individuals to participate on the Pennsylvania Pipeline Infrastructure Taskforce, which will be chaired by DEP Secretary John Quigley. The group of experts and stakeholders will recommend policies, guidelines and best practices to guide the anticipated and unprecedented build-out of pipeline infrastructure expected to take place across Pennsylvania during the next decade.

"Pipeline expansion is important to our economy and growing energy sector," Gov. Wolf said. "We will work together to make sure that this important infrastructure can be developed effectively and responsibly with consideration for the environment, residents and local communities."

The task force is made up of representatives from state agencies, the legislature, federal and local governments, the pipeline and natural gas industries and environmental groups. Experts were drawn from across the state and country.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Releases 2014 Oil and Gas Annual Report

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
Baily, 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.

Aug. 25

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

Aug. 26

Cleanup Standards
Scientific Advisory Board
meeting, 9 a.m., Room
105, Rachel Carson State
Office Building, 400
Market St., Harrisburg.
Contact: Mike Maddigan,
717-772-3609.

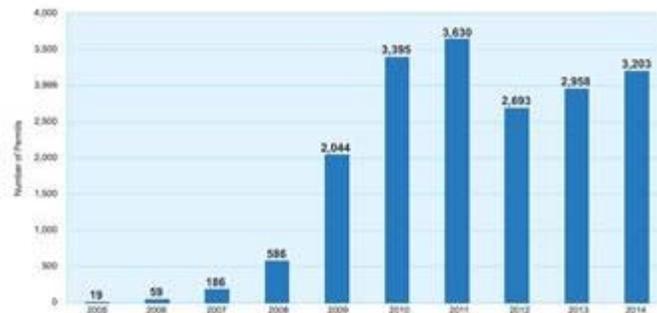
Aug. 27

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



Upcoming
Webinars

Unconventional Well Drilling Permits Issued



In 2014, operators drilled a total of 2,163 wells in Pennsylvania, including both conventional and unconventional wells.

HARRISBURG -- DEP today announced the availability of its 2014 Oil and Gas Annual Report.

According to DEP Secretary John Quigley, this annual report delivers the governor's goal of providing both enhanced transparency and integrity in the way that the DEP operates.

Specifically, this report includes data and trends related to DEP's permitting and inspection programs. Also highlighted in the report is a summary of important policy and regulatory developments, notable accomplishments achieved during 2014 and a glimpse of what to expect from DEP during 2015.

This annual report is available to the public in an electronic format and includes links to additional information and data that are referenced in the body of the report. To view the report, click [here](#).

DEP Completes First Round of Moniteoring Near Carbon County Mine Fire



DEP Emergency Response Team member Bob Bisignani, center, demonstrates the new sulfide analyzer for staff.

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP has completed a first round of air quality monitoring near the Jeansville mine fire in Banks Township, Carbon County. Initial air quality results do not indicate an actionable level of gases near the fire. However DEP will continue monitoring with more sensitive detection equipment for hydrogen sulfide to ensure the safety of nearby communities.

On several days in the vicinity of Tresckow and north of the mine fire, the department detected low levels of hydrogen sulfide. A very low level of carbon monoxide was also detected one day. The

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](#).



Public Input

July 14

Deadline to comment on the Policy for Development and Publication of Technical Guidance. Submit comments [here](#).

July 20

Deadline to comment on the Draft Nonpoint Source Management Plan—2014 Update. Submit comments [here](#).

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](#).



Speakers Bureau



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levels were near the lower detection limit of the instrument and not at a level that requires action. Hydrogen sulfide is a colorless gas that can emit an odor of rotten eggs; carbon monoxide is both odorless and colorless.

In response to the detections, DEP acquired a more sensitive instrument, called a JEROME® J605 Gold Film Hydrogen Sulfide Analyzer. Seven air quality staffers were recently trained on how to use the hand-held device that can detect hydrogen sulfide at much lower levels.

[Read more.](#)

Recreational Restrictions Lifted on Conewago Creek near Site of Miller Chemical Fire



A trench and retention pond was dug to contain runoff from the fire.

HARRISBURG -- Cleanup efforts continue at the site of the June 8 fire at Miller Chemical, a fertilizer plant in Adams County.

Recreational restrictions have been lifted for the Conewago Creek after water samples taken at various times and locations since the fire indicate the waterway is again suitable for fishing, swimming and boating.

Contaminated runoff water and soil currently stored onsite is being hauled to treatment facilities for proper disposal. Debris from the fire and contaminated soil is being taken to a local landfill.

[Read more.](#)

DEP to Hold Public Hearing on the Pa. Turnpike Commission's Stormwater Construction and Encroachment Permit Applications

NORRISTOWN -- DEP's Waterways and Wetlands Program will conduct a public hearing at 7 PM on Tuesday, July 14 on the reconstruction and widening of the Pennsylvania Turnpike from milepost 320 to milepost 326. The hearing will be held in Keene Hall in the Tredyffrin Township Municipal Building. The proposed plans will be available for review beginning at 6:30 PM and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission will provide a project overview prior to testimony.

Comments received will be considered by DEP in completing its review and prior to taking final actions concerning any of the applications. The hearing will not be a question and answer

session.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Marks Agency's 20th Anniversary



DEP Secretary John Quigley reflects on the agency's 20 years of protecting Pennsylvania's environment.

HARRISBURG -- DEP recently celebrated its 20th anniversary on July 1. The agency was created by Act 18 of 1995, which split the then-Department of Environmental Resources into the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The Department of Environmental Resources was created by Act 275 of 1970, which abolished the Department of Forest and Waters. The Department of Forest and Waters was created by the General Assembly in 1901.

Watch Secretary Quigley's message to employees [here](#).

DEP Interns Learn about Water Management, Public Service



DEP's Josh Lookenbill, right, explains how aquatic macroinvertebrates, or bugs are an indicator of water quality.

HARRISBURG -- Approximately 40 interns from DEP's Office of Water Management met with Water Management Deputy Secretary Kelly Heffner and other staff on July 7 to discuss how DEP protects Pennsylvania's water resources as well as the rewards of working in public service.

The event was held at Fort Hunter Park in Dauphin County to provide access to the Susquehanna River where DEP's Josh Lookenbill and staff from the Bureau of Point/Nonpoint Source Management, Division of Water Quality Standards gave the students a tour of DEP testing locations on the river as well as an on-land presentation on the responsibilities of staff to ensure water quality to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Lookenbill leads DEP's team who, along with Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and the United States Geological Survey, have undertaken a multi-year study of the river to investigate a number of issues facing the smallmouth bass population.



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