

# News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Secretary



## DEP Calendar of Events

### June 16

Citizens Advisory Council meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Jennifer Swan, 717-783-8727.

### June 17

Keystone Energy Education Program workshop, Ferguson Township Elementary School, Pine Grove Mills. Registration is required. Contact: Ann Devine at [adevine@pa.gov](mailto:adevine@pa.gov)

### June 17

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.

### June 22

DEP public meeting regarding IESI Landfill's permit application to expand its facility in Bethlehem, Northampton County, 6 p.m., Saucon Valley High School Auditorium, 2100 Polk Valley Rd., Hellertown. Contact: Colleen Connolly, 570-826-2511.

### June 23

Board of Coal Mine Safety meeting, 10 a.m., DEP Cambria Office, 286 Industrial Park Rd., Ebensburg. Contact: Allison Gaida, 724-404-3147.

### July 8

Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment

## Senate Confirms John Quigley as Secretary of DEP



DEP Secretary John Quigley answers questions before the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee on June 2.

HARRISBURG -- Members of the state Senate on June 3 confirmed Gov. Tom Wolf's nomination of John Quigley as Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection. Quigley was confirmed along with Education Secretary Pedro Rivera and Insurance Commissioner Teresa Miller.

"Secretary Pedro Rivera, Secretary John Quigley, and Commissioner Teresa Miller are capable and qualified leaders that are ready to take on the challenges that face Pennsylvanians in providing a quality education for our students, protecting and supporting the viability of our environment, and supporting protections and peace of mind for consumers."

During testimony before members of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee on June 2, Quigley talked about Gov. Wolf's proposed comprehensive energy policy and how it will strike the right balance of supporting the rapid development of the natural gas industry with environmental protection.

"We think it's a process that will demonstrate to the country and the world how to achieve that balance, how to make sure this

meeting, 8 a.m., Westmoreland Room, DEP New Stanton Office, 131 Broadview Rd., New Stanton. Contact: Allison D. Gaida, 724-404-3147.

### July 21

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

### July 21

Environmental Quality Board meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St. Harrisburg. Contact: Jennifer 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, 717-787-7019.

### 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.



## Upcoming Webinars

### June 30

DEP webinar on the Policy for Development and Publication of Technical Guidance, 2 p.m. [Register here.](#)

development happens responsibly, how we can get to the win-wins, how government can work to provide jobs that pay," Quigley said. "It's a great opportunity and its part of the Governor's balanced approach of the right regulations, the right energy policy and the right supports to make sure this wave of resource extraction in Pennsylvania is done right and to the highest standard."

To learn more about Secretary Quigley's career, read his [Wikipedia page.](#)

## Chevron Fined for Fatal Lanco Gas Well Fire

PITTSBURGH -- DEP has entered into a Consent Assessment of Civil Penalty (CACP) with Chevron Appalachia, LLC (Chevron) for violations related to a fatal explosion and fire last year at the company's Lanco Well Site in Dunkard Township, Greene County.

The CACP requires the company to pay a \$939,552 fine for violations at the well site. The penalty points to Chevron's failure to construct and operate the well site to ensure that health, safety and the environment were protected, as required by the state's Oil and Gas Act.

[Read more.](#)

## DEP Hears Testimony on Injection Well Proposal in Indiana County



DEP regional Oil and Gas Program Manager Eric Gustafson listens to testimony from Indiana County Commissioner Rod Ruddick at hearing in Grant Township.

GRANT TWP. -- More than 100 people attended a DEP public hearing on a proposal by Pennsylvania General Energy (PGE) to convert a gas production well to an injection well for waste water from the Oil and Gas industry.

The hearing was hosted by staff from DEP's Southwest Regional Oil and Gas program who are currently reviewing PGE's permit application.

As with all injection wells in Pennsylvania, the Environmental Protection Agency must first approve the company's proposal for what it will inject into the well.

DEP issues its permit on the well hole integrity - not the location or what is being injected into the well.

Twenty-five people signed up to testify at the hearing. Nearly all the speakers were opposed to the plan. There is no timeline as to when DEP will decide on this application.



## Public Input

### June 15

Deadline to comment on Federal Consistency under the Coastal Zone Management Act; Spring Garden Street Waterfront Rehabilitation Project. Contact: Matthew Walderon, 717-772-2196.

### June 16

Deadline to comment on Pennsylvania's 2015-2016 Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan. Contact: Nicholas Lazor, 717-783-9268.

### July 12

Deadline to comment on the Policy for Development and Publication of Technical Guidance. Contact Laura Henry, 717-783-8727.

### July 29

Deadline to comment on the NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, PAG-13. Contact 717-787-5017.



Speakers Bureau



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## Residents Express Opposition to Quarry Permit Application at DEP Hearing



A local resident testifies about a proposed 200-plus acre quarry in Lehigh County.

LOWER MILFORD TWP.-- Approximately 100 people attended a public hearing June 3 at the Lower Milford Township building to offer testimony on a proposed quarry on farmland in Lehigh County.

Twenty people testified in opposition to Geryville Materials' application for a non-coal surface mining permit to build and operate a 200+ acre quarry.

Most of the reasons residents gave against the permit include: impacts on streams, water supply, dust and noise from trucks and blasting operations and monitoring of operations 24/7.

DEP's Pottsville District Mining Manager Mike Menghini, Geologist Mike Kutney, Environmental Manager Nate Houzer are reviewing the application.

The public comment period for the permit application ends on Friday, July 3.

## DEP to Begin Drilling Work at Mine Fire in Carbon County

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) has announced that work is underway to determine the extent and intensity of the Jeansville Mine fire, located on both active and abandoned mine lands in Banks Township, Carbon County and Hazle Township, Luzerne County. A plan is also in place to do additional air monitoring in areas around the fire.

The work involves drilling 53 boreholes at the site to help determine the extent of the fire and provide ongoing monitoring. BAMR received a Declaration of Emergency from the federal Office of Surface Mining. The emergency declaration was needed to work on portions of the observed fire area and surrounding areas that are also a protected long eared bat habitat.

[Read more.](#)

## DEP's New Public Comment Policy Enhances Public Participation, Transparency



HARRISBURG -- DEP recently announced improvements for public participation and transparency through a new online engagement system. DEP's new online eComment system allows the public to more easily access Technical Guidance Documents and other policy-related

proposals open for comment. The public can also view all support documentation, submit comments online, and view the full text of all public comments submitted.

“By publishing technical guidance comments as we receive them, anyone interested in a proposed policy will be able to read the comments and concerns raised by others online while the comment period is still open,” DEP Acting Secretary John Quigley said. “This more open and upfront process will lead to more meaningful engagement with the public and result in more effective policies.”

[Read more.](#)

## **DEP Solicits Comments on Draft Revised Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit**

HARRISBURG -- DEP invites local governments, engineers, environmental groups, and the general public to comment on the proposed changes to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4).

The proposal updates the requirements for entities applying for new MS4 permits, new or reissued, to better control pollution caused by stormwater. One of the updates requires some MS4 entities to prepare pollution control plans before submitting their next MS4 application to DEP and to apply a public participation process to those plans.

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

WILKES-BARRE-- DEP will host a public meeting to answer residents' questions regarding IESI Landfill's permit application to expand its existing facility on Applebutter Road in Bethlehem, Northampton County. The meeting will take place Monday, June 22 from 6 to 9 pm at Saucon Valley High School Auditorium, at 2100 Polk Valley Rd., Hellertown.

“The goal of this meeting is to help residents better understand how the department reviews permit expansion applications like this,” said Mike Bedrin, director of DEP's Northeast Regional Office.

[Read more.](#)

## **DEP Reaches Agreement with Hyndman Borough to Resolve Safe Drinking Water Violations**

HARRISBURG -- DEP on June 4 announced that Hyndman Borough in Bedford County has agreed to make necessary improvements that will address ongoing monitoring, treatment and recording issues at its water treatment plant. Hyndman Borough operates a community water system that serves approximately 1,000 customers, including Hyndman Elementary School in the Bedford Area School District.

Hyndman Borough and DEP entered into a Consent Order and Agreement on June 3, 2015, requiring corrective actions and improvements to the plant. In settlement of DEP's claim for civil penalties, Hyndman Borough agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$10,000. DEP issued a Public Water Supply Permit to Hyndman Borough on April 29, authorizing construction of the needed improvements.

[Read more.](#)

## First West Nile Virus-Carrying Mosquito Sample Detected



DEP Water Pollution Biologist Bryn Witmier hard at work identifying mosquitoes that have been sent in from one of Pennsylvania's 67 county programs.

HARRISBURG -- DEP and the Department of Health are reporting the confirmation of the first 2015 detections of West Nile Virus from a mosquito sample that was collected on May 22 in Springettsbury Township, York County and a bird found May 26 in Harris Township, Centre County.

"DEP vigilantly monitors the mosquito population across Pennsylvania. When West Nile Virus is identified, DEP staff works quickly to prevent the spread of the virus," said Acting DEP Secretary John Quigley. "Today's announcement serves as a reminder that all Pennsylvanians should take precautions to protect against mosquitoes."

[Read more.](#)

## Pa. Outdoor Recreation Plan Unveiled



DEP Secretary John Quigley addresses participants who developed the Pa. Outdoor Recreation Plan.

HARRISBURG -- DEP Secretary John Quigley spoke to members of the technical advisory committee who recently completed the newest version of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Recreation Plan.

The plan is a blueprint to guide local and state governments and other outdoor recreation providers over the next five years. The

plan identified five priority areas: health and wellness, local parks and tourism, tourism and economic development, resource management and stewardship and funding and financial stability.

DEP staff participated on the 41-member technical advisory committee who developed the plan and its recommended priority action items.

[Read more.](#)

## Two Pennsylvania Schools Awarded Green Ribbon Status



(L-R) Andrea Suarez Falken, U.S. Dept. of Education; Lori Braunstein, Pa. Green & Healthy Schools Partnership; Dr. John C. Sanville, Unionville-Chadds Ford School District; Tim Hoffman and Betsy Ballard, Patton Middle School; Jennifer Dugan, Pa. Dept. of Education; Adam Honeysett, U.S. Dept. of Education; Heidi Kunka, DEP.

WASHINGTON D.C. -- The U.S. Department of Education recently honored two Pennsylvania schools during its Green Ribbon Schools Ceremony June 3 in Washington, D.C.

Fifty-eight schools, 14 districts, and nine colleges and universities were recognized for their commitment to reducing environmental impacts, promoting better health, and providing environmental education. The Pennsylvania recipients honored at the ceremony were Northampton Community College in Bethlehem and Charles F. Patton Middle School in Kennett Square.

The award recognizes those schools taking a comprehensive approach to greening their school by incorporating and integrating environmental learning with efforts to maximize positive environmental outcomes and health impacts.

Pennsylvania's winners and nominees will be honored at 1 p.m., June 24 at the state capitol.

## Students Learn About Dam Safety with Hands-on Lesson



Students built and tested three kinds of dams at French Creek State Park.

CHESTER CO. -- A group of fourth graders from Franklin Elementary School in Pottstown learned about dams and dam safety during a visit June 2 to DCNR's French Creek State Park in Chester and Berks counties.

Dam Safety staff discussed the Johnstown Flood and the importance of National Dam Safety Day, which is held annually on May 31 to honor the anniversary of the historic flood. Staff also helped students to build and test three different kinds of dams. The dams were made of earth, rock, and timber. Each of the dams built by the students successfully held water.



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