

News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | Patrick McDonnell, Acting Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

June 28

DEP public hearing on Sammy-Mar, LLC's proposed Povlik#1 injection well in Huston, Clearfield County, 6-9 p.m., Penfield Grange Hall, 12255 Bennetts Valley Highway, Penfield. Contact: John Poister, jpoister@pa.gov

June 29

State Board for Certification of Sewage Enforcement Officers meeting, 10 a.m., Conference Room B, 11th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Kristen Szwajkowski, kszwajkows@pa.gov

June 30

Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Keith Ashley, riashley@pa.gov

July 7

Board of Coal Mine Safety meeting, DEP Cambria Office, 286 Industrial Park Rd., Ebensburg. Contact: Allison D. Gaida, agaida@pa.gov

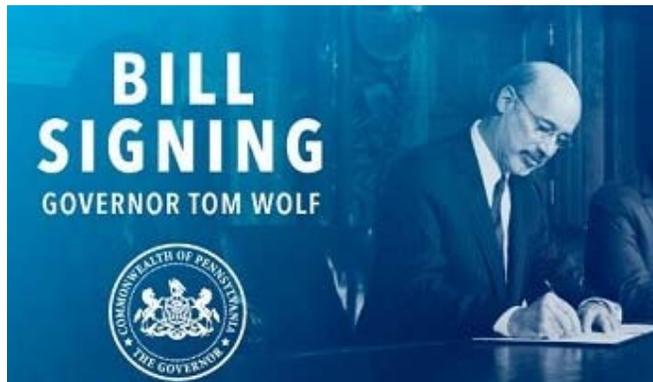
July 12

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,

Governor Wolf Signs Bill Allowing New Fracking Rules to Be Finalized



HARRISBURG -- Governor Tom Wolf today signed 12 bills into law, including Senate Bill 279, which will allow for new regulations aimed at protecting the environment, water supplies and public areas from effects of unconventional oil and gas drilling, most commonly referred to as 'fracking.'

"I am pleased to have reached bi-partisan agreement with the legislature to proceed with the Chapter 78a unconventional oil and gas regulations, which will better protect the health of our environment and our residents," said Governor Wolf. "As part of the compromise I reached with the legislature, my administration will get to work immediately to redraft conventional regulations, and I have directed the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to begin the process."

[Read more.](#)

Pennsylvania Schools Named U.S. Department of Education's 2016 Green Ribbon Schools



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 27

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



Public Input

June 27

Deadline to comment on the Environmental Assessment Approval for PENNVEST Funding Consideration. Contact Richard Wright, riwright@pa.gov

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](#).

DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell (second from left) and DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn (third from left) join administrators, teachers and students from Park Forest Elementary School in State College, Centre County.

HARRISBURG -- Environmental and education advocates gathered at the State Capitol Building on June 22 to honor three Pennsylvania schools that were named 2016 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS). The School District of Jenkintown, Park Forest Elementary School (State College, PA), and Slippery Rock University were celebrated for receiving the prestigious, national honor at a press conference.

"The three winning Pennsylvania schools demonstrate how environmental stewardship, sustainability and wellness go hand-in-hand," DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell said. "These schools not only create better places for students to learn, but also healthier places for people to work which benefits the entire community."

In addition to McDonnell, those in attendance included Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Executive Deputy Secretary David Volkman, Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Cindy Adams Dunn, President of PA Green & Healthy Schools Partnership (PAGHSP) Nick Semon, EPA Region 3 Deputy Regional Administrator Cecil Rodrigues, as well as lawmakers and other stakeholders.

[Read more.](#)

FaceBook Town Hall on Zika Virus to be Held July 6



HARRISBURG -- The Pennsylvania departments of Health and Environmental Protection will hold a FaceBook Town Hall meeting at 11 a.m., 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, will take questions and talk about Pennsylvania's Zika Response Plan to educate pregnant women, travelers to Zika-affected areas and the general public about the Zika virus; prepare for Zika virus testing; enhance surveillance and control of mosquito populations that can spread Zika virus; and enhance surveillance for Zika cases in Pennsylvania.

More information about the FaceBook Town Hall will be available on the Department of Health's [FaceBook page](#) on Monday, June 27.

DEP Fines UPMC \$451,000 for Medical Waste Disposal Violations

PITTSBURGH -- Capping a two-year investigation, DEP fined 12 UPMC hospitals a total of \$451,000 for violations of the Solid Waste Management Act. The action was taken after inspectors for DEP's Waste Management found that large quantities of untreated regulated medical waste were transported to Waste Management

Aug. 1

Deadline to submit 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.



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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.

Inc.'s Monroeville landfill.

The landfill operators alerted DEP to the problem when they noticed medical waste mixed in with trash in municipal waste shipments from various UPMC facilities. That prompted DEP inspectors to visit the landfill and screen shipments as they arrived from several medical facilities in the region, including two hospitals in the Allegheny Health Network (AHN). Inspectors observed the incoming municipal waste included medical waste such as bloody dressings, body fluids and sharps (needles). A contractor hired by the hospitals removed the medical waste from the landfill and disposed of it at an authorized disposal facility.

[Read more.](#)

State DEP to Investigate PFC Contamination on Easton Road, Bucks County

NORRISTOWN -- DEP is investigating perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) found in exceedance of the 2016 Lifetime Health Advisory Level (HAL) established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in parts of Doylestown, Plumstead, and Buckingham townships, Bucks County, near the Cross Keys area.

"At this time, the extent and source of the contamination is not yet known. DEP is working expediently to investigate private wells in the area, remove them from service and determine a long term solution," said Southeast Regional Director Cosmo Servidio. "It is important to reiterate that all public municipal water in the area meets the EPA Health Advisory."

[Read more.](#)

DEP to Hold Public Hearing on Injection Well Permit Request in Clearfield County

PITTSBURGH -- DEP will hold a public hearing on an application from Sammy-Mar, LLC to drill a new injection disposal well in Huston Township, Clearfield County. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 6 P.M. on Tuesday June 28, 2016 at the Penfield Grange Hall, 12255 Bennetts Valley Highway, Penfield, PA 15849.

Both DEP and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must approve permits for this proposed injection well. EPA's permits oversee the material that is injected into the well, the integrity of the well, groundwater protection and closure requirements. DEP permits govern how the hole is drilled and surface issues on the well pad.

[Read more.](#)

RACT Implementation Documents Available on DEP's Website

HARRISBURG -- DEP has posted three documents to its website regarding the implementation of the final "Additional RACT Requirements for Major Sources of NOx and VOCs" (RACT II), promulgated by the Environmental Quality Board on April 23, 2016 (46 Pa.B. 2036). The Federal Clean Air Act (CAA) requires a reevaluation of Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) requirements each time the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency promulgates a National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) including the 1997 and 2008 8-hour ozone NAAQS. The RACT II regulation must be implemented statewide because the entire commonwealth is treated as a moderate ozone nonattainment area in the Ozone Transport Region.

An owner or operator of a major NOx-emitting facility or a major

VOC-emitting facility as defined in 25 Pa. Code § 121.1 must demonstrate compliance with the RACT II requirements by Jan. 1, 2017. If an owner or operator is proposing to install a control device to meet a presumptive RACT emission limitation or RACT emission limitation determined on a case-by-case basis, the owner or operator may petition DEP for an alternative compliance schedule to go beyond the Jan. 1, 2017, compliance deadline. The petition for an alternative compliance schedule or alternative RACT requirement must be submitted to the appropriate DEP regional office by no later than Oct. 24, 2016.

The implementation documents include a fact sheet, an overview and implementation presentation, and responses to frequently asked questions (FAQ) on RACT II implementation. The documents can be found [here](#).

CAC Celebrates 45 Years of Service



Members of the Citizen Advisory Council to DEP mark 45 years of service.

HARRISBURG -- The Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) this week celebrated its 45th anniversary during its June 21 monthly meeting. The CAC was created by Act 275 of 1970, and members began meeting the following year.

The Council's mission includes performing non-partisan, independent oversight of the operations, management and policy of the DEP; evaluating environmental issues and laws; participating in the development of environmental regulations; providing advice concerning environmental matters to the department, the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Commonwealth's federal representatives.

For more information, visit [CAC's website](#).

Centre County Reclamation Project Wins Reforestation Award



Pictured from left to right: Bill Dadamo (BAMR), Charlesetta Morgan, Ralph Morgan, Kevin Giles (BAMR), John Stefanko, Eric Cavazza (BAMR), Shawn Whitaker (BAMR)

EBENSBURG -- The Pennsylvania Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) recently presented its 2015 Excellence in Reforestation Award to DEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) and contractor Morgan's Excavating.

The award was for the Coaldale Abandoned Mine Reclamation project in Rush Township, Centre County.

The project consisted of grading the available adjacent spoil material to eliminate two dangerous highwalls that were in excess of over 50 feet high and had a combined length of over 7,000 feet.

These dangerous abandoned mine features qualified for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Priority 2 safety criteria.

The site was designed and inspected by the Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Cambria Office Staff. The site was reclaimed by Morgan's Excavating, LLC utilizing the ARRI methodology as designed and completed under a BAMR contract.

The total project covered 61 acres with 38,000 trees planted on 52 acres.

The project is located adjacent to the Moshannon State Forest and is in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The reclamation is consistent with the Chesapeake Reforestation Strategy and will provide cover and habitat for the local wildlife and provide enjoyment for the local sportsman of the area for generations to follow.

DEP's Bruno Named to the 2016 Class of Erie's 40 Under 40



DEP's Timothy Bruno

ERIE -- Timothy Bruno, chief of DEP's Office of the Great Lakes was named to Erie Reader's 40 Under 40 Class of 2016. The annual list highlights young people who are effecting change in Erie. Those selected are nominated by readers. This year's honorees were selected from hundreds of nominations.

Bruno, a Gannon University graduate, coordinates water policy issues with other Great Lakes states and provinces and represents Pennsylvania's priorities on water use and water quality. He also works closely with local and county governments, other state agencies, and nonprofit organizations to further the goals of the Department of Environmental Protection's water protection programs.

You can read more about Tim and the other honorees [here](#).



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