

News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

July 7

Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting/webinar, 11 a.m. The meeting will be available via a webinar. Click [here](#) to register.

July 7

DEP public hearing on an air quality plan approval application by Moxie Freedom Energy, LLC of Va. to construct and operate a 1050-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant in Salem Township, Luzerne County, 6-9 p.m., Berwick High School, 1100 Fowler Ave., Berwick. Contact Mark Wejkszner, 570-826-2528.

July 8

Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment, 8 a.m., Westmoreland Room, DEP New Stanton Office, 131 Broadview Rd., New Stanton. Contact: Allison D. Gaida, 724-404-3147.

July 9

Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board (MRAB) meeting, 9 a.m., Pottsville District Mining Office, 5 West Laurel Blvd., Pottsville. Contact: Daniel E. Snowden, D.Ed., 717-783-8846.

July 21

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

July 22

Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee meeting, 10

State Agencies Issue Advisory for Bottled Spring Water

HARRISBURG -- The Pennsylvania departments of Agriculture, Environmental Protection, and Health are advising consumers that spring water bottled by Niagara between June 10 and June 18 at its facilities in Hamburg, Berks County or Upper Macungie, Lehigh County should not be consumed due to the possibility of contamination, and that consumers should contact Niagara at 877-487-7873 for further instructions.

Niagara purchased spring water from Far Away Springs-Auburn in Schuylkill County. Multiple water quality sample results from Far Away Springs that were provided to DEP as part of routine testing indicated the presence of E. coli in the water. Niagara received the contaminated water and did not treat the water at a DEP-permitted treatment facility. So, DEP cannot provide assurance to the public as to the quality of the water bottled by Niagara between June 10 and June 18.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Continues to Monitor Cleanup Efforts Following Adams Co. Chemical Fire



Heavy rains following the fire compounded efforts to contain runoff contamination.

HARRISBURG -- DEP continues to monitor the cleanup efforts and environmental impacts of the June 8 fire at Miller Chemical, a fertilizer plant in Adams County.

Miller Chemical is a manufacturer of water soluble fertilizers used for commercial agricultural crops as well a supplier of soil mixtures.

a.m., 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Susan Foster, 717-772-3369.

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 Twp. Recreation Building, 3025 River Rd., Reading. Contact: Alex Haas, 717-787-9495.

July 23

Radiation Protection Advisory Committee meeting, 9 a.m., 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Joseph Melnic, 717-783-9730.

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.



Public Input

July 7

Deadline to comment on DEP's Draft Program Assessment and Strategy Publication under Section 309 of the Coastal Zone Management Act. Contact: Kevin Hess, 717-783-9491.

July 14

Deadline to comment on DEP's Interim Final Policy for Development and

Due to the large amount of water used in firefighting efforts, contaminated runoff had a significant impact to Slagle's Run and the South Branch of the Conewago Creek.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Conducts Overnight Monitoring of Air Quality Near Jeansville Mine Fire



DEP's Brian Paulukonis demonstrates how he monitors air quality using a hand-held device.

WILKES-BARRE -- Air Quality staff from DEP's Northeast Regional Office recently spent the night monitoring air quality around the Jeansville Mine Fire in Carbon County.

Environmental Air Quality Specialist Brian Paulukonis demonstrated for the media how a hand-held monitoring device checks for gases such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, methane and hydrogen sulfide. Paulukonis, along with DEP Compliance Specialist Christian Ostrowski and Community Relations Coordinator Colleen Connolly, guided the media to three locations near the fire where air quality testing took place.

DEP is in the process of acquiring a new hand-held air monitoring device that is able to detect gases at a much lower level than the devices used in previous monitoring. The device will give readings at lower background levels so department staff can advise residents on the quality of air in their neighborhoods near the fire. Residents requested the air monitoring when DEP staff met with them on May 20. They specifically requested that monitoring be done during overnight hours when they say a sulfur-like smell is most noticeable. Air monitoring in the area is expected to continue for the next few weeks.

DEP Assesses \$8.9 million Civil Penalty against Range Resources for Failure to Repair Leaking Gas Well

HARRISBURG -- DEP has notified Range Resources-Appalachia, LLC, of Fort Worth, Texas that it intends to assess an \$8.9 million civil penalty against the company, and has directed Range Resources to prevent methane and other substances from escaping from a leaking gas well and polluting groundwater and a stream in Lycoming County.

On May 11, 2015, DEP ordered Range Resources to submit a plan to remediate the defectively cemented gas well. However, the company failed to submit a satisfactory plan that made necessary

Publication of Technical Guidance, #012-0900-001. Submit comments [here](#).

July 20

Deadline to comment on DEP's Draft Nonpoint Source Management Plan - 2014 Update. Submit comments [here](#).

July 23

Deadline to comment on the Proposed State Implementation Plan Revision for North Reading Nonattainment Area for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standard. Contact: Alex Haas, 717-787-9495.

July 29

Deadline to comment on DEP's NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, PAG-13. Submit comments [here](#).



Speakers Bureau



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repairs to prevent further leaks and pollution.

[Read more.](#)

DEP To Host Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Natural Gas-Fired Power Plant In Luzerne County

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP will host a public hearing to take testimony from residents regarding an application filed by Moxie Freedom Energy, LLC of Virginia for an air quality plan approval to construct and operate a 1050-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant in Salem Township, Luzerne County.

The hearing will take place on Tuesday, July 7, from 6-9 PM at Berwick High School, 1100 Fowler Ave., Berwick.

"Natural gas-fired power plants are a relatively new concept in this part of the state, so it is important that residents be allowed to voice their opinions on the permitting process with projects like this one," said Mike Bedrin, Director of DEP's Northeast Regional Office in Wilkes-Barre.

[Read more.](#)

Cabinet Secretaries Honor Nominees for U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Award



State officials recognize Northampton Community College as a Green Ribbon School.

HARRISBURG -- DEP Secretary John Quigley joined Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Dunn and Department of Education Secretary Pedro Rivera on June 24 at a ceremony honoring Pennsylvania's nominees for the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Award.

Northampton Community College in Northampton County, Patton Middle School in Chester County, and the School District of Jenkintown in Montgomery County were nominated earlier this year for the national Green Ribbon Schools Award.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Expands Drought Watch from 27 to 37 Counties



HARRISBURG -- Despite several recent precipitation events, portions of Pennsylvania continue to have below-average precipitation, below-average groundwater levels, and in some areas, below-average surface water levels. DEP has expanded its drought watch declaration from 27 to 37 counties across Pennsylvania.

The 10 additional counties under the drought watch issued today are: Bedford, Blair, Centre, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lehigh, Mifflin, and Northampton.

[Read more.](#)

New Mine Treatment Project to Restore 5 Miles of Waterways in Tioga County



DEP Deputy Secretary John Stefanko, left, is joined by Chris Gastrock, Tioga State Forester; Mark Boling, Southwestern Energy; Charlie Andrews and Erica Tomlinson, Tioga Co. Conservation District; Andrew Dehoff, Susquehanna River Basin Commission; and Bob Hedin, Hedin Environmental.

BLOSSBURG -- DEP officials joined members of the Tioga County Conservation District, Blossburg Municipal Authority and the Tioga County Concerned Citizens Committee at a groundbreaking ceremony June 22 for a passive treatment system that will restore five miles of the Tioga River.

The project is funded by Southwestern Energy's "ECH2O" program, an initiative to protect and restore water resources. A series of limestone and settling ponds will be installed and on-line by fall.

The Tioga County Conservation District will oversee the system's long term operations and maintenance trust fund, and the Blossburg Municipal Authority will be contracted to perform the routine maintenance.

Riverfest 2015 Celebrates the Susquehanna



DEP Waterways and Wetlands Biologist Shane Kleiner shows visitors some of the insects that are important to water quality.

WILKES-BARRE -- Staff from DEP's Northeast Regional Office recently took part in RiverFest 2015 held along the banks of the Susquehanna River in Wilkes-Barre.

DEP's interactive exhibit, titled: "Protecting the Susquehanna: Our River," was geared to kids and gave youngsters an up-close look at the insects that live in/on the river and how important they are to the health of the water.

The kids also took part in a discovery exercise to see how DEP protects the river from illegal dumping and accidental spills.

Staff also explained the importance of keeping the river clean and what people can do to maintain the river's health.



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