

News from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | Patrick McDonnell, Acting Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

June 16

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, csansoni@pa.gov

June 20

Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) Certification Examination, 8 a.m., Fourth Floor Training Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Kristen Szwajkowski, kszwajkows@pa.gov

June 21

Environmental Quality Board meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Laura Edinger, ledinger@pa.gov

June 21

Citizens Advisory Council meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Katherine Hetherington Cunfer, khethering@pa.gov

June 21

DEP public meeting and hearing on CPV Fairview's proposed natural gas fired power plant to be located in Jackson Township, Cambria County, 6-9 p.m., Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Hall, 176

Governor Wolf Announces Shell Cracker Plant Coming to Pennsylvania



HARRISBURG -- Governor Tom Wolf this week announced that Shell Chemical Appalachia LLC will move forward with plans to build a major petrochemicals complex that will, when complete, crack ethane and manufacture polyethylene pellets for use in the plastics industry. The proposed Shell complex would be located on the site formerly occupied by Horsehead Corporation's Monaca Zinc Smelter in Potter Township, Beaver County.

"My administration is committed to creating jobs in the energy industry through responsible, well-regulated extraction and long-term, creative industrial growth," Gov. Wolf said. "We have worked to develop strategies for safe and responsible pipeline development that brings resources to markets and facilities and we have prioritized the Shell plant to show the world that Pennsylvania is a leader in energy manufacturing and downstream production.

"The success of this project is part of a much-needed, longer term plan to translate our abundant resources to make Pennsylvania a leader in downstream production. The commitment of the Shell cracker plant in Western Pennsylvania is an important step toward this goal."

Construction is expected to get underway in approximately 18 months, with commercial production expected to begin early in the next decade.

Read [Governor Wolf's blog](#): *Shell Cracker Plant a "Game-Changer" for Pennsylvania's Economy.*

DEP Extends Comment Period for Permits Related to Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline

Adams Ave., Mineral Point. Contact: John Poister, jpoister@pa.gov

June 23

Conventional Oil and Gas Advisory Committee (COGAC) and Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board (TAB) combined meeting, 10 a.m., DEP's Moshannon District Office, 186 Enterprise Dr., Phillipsburg. Contact: Todd Wallace, twallace@pa.gov

June 28

DEP public hearing on Sammy-Mar, LLC's proposed Povlik#1 injection well, 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

DEP Board of Coal Mine Safety meeting, 10 a.m., DEP Cambria Office, 286 Industrial Park Rd., Ebensburg. Contact: Allison D. Gaida, agaida@pa.gov

July 13

DEP 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

DEP 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

HARRISBURG -- DEP has extended the comment period on water obstruction and encroachment permits related to the proposed Atlantic Sunrise natural gas pipeline. The comment period will be extended for 60 days and will close on Aug. 1, 2016.

"A project of this size requires thoughtful public input," said DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "Based upon public interest in this project, DEP decided that a 30-day comment period on the water obstruction and encroachment permits for the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline was insufficient, and in the interest of transparency and public participation, we have extended the comment period."

The proposed project will involve approximately 195 miles of pipeline and would cross ten counties in eastern and central PA – Clinton, Columbia, Lancaster, Lebanon, Luzerne, Lycoming, Northumberland, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, and Wyoming – before crossing into Maryland. Permits required from DEP are for water obstruction and encroachments, erosion and sedimentation control and air quality. Interstate pipelines, such as the Atlantic Sunrise, are overseen by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and need to meet applicable state law and permitting requirements.

The water obstruction and encroachment permits can be viewed in the April 30, 2016 [PA Bulletin beginning on page 6](#).

A full draft Environmental Impact Statement of the Atlantic Sunrise project can be found on the [FERC website](#).

Op-ed: Cleaning the Chesapeake Bay Starts With Improving Local Water Quality: What We Can All Do



View of the Susquehanna River from Susquehannock State Park in Lancaster County. The Susquehanna River supplies half of all the freshwater entering the bay.

By Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding, Department of Environmental Protection Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell, and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams-Dunn

Pause for a moment and consider your nearest stream. Do you know where it goes? Chances are, if you live in one of the 41 counties covering central Pennsylvania, that water finds its way to the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay. This week, June 5-11, marks the first-ever Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. It's a time to celebrate the Bay watershed's diverse waterways and landscapes, rich history, immense economic impact, and the aesthetic and recreational offerings it and all of its local waters



Speakers Bureau



Public Input

June 27

Deadline to comment on the Proposed Conditional State Water Quality Certification for the Army Corps of Engineers Pennsylvania State Programmatic General Permit (PASPGP-5). Submit comments via DEP's [eComment](#).

June 27

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

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: EP,WW-SCRO@pa.gov. Send comments on the permits for Columbia and Northumberland counties to: [EP, WW-NCRO@pa.gov](mailto: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.

provide to the 18 million people who live in its watershed.

The actions we take individually and collectively here in Pennsylvania have a profound influence on water quality in our backyards and in the Bay. There are a number of factors that impact water quality, from agricultural and urban stormwater runoff, to development, and the use of lawn fertilizers, among others. Because there are so many factors influencing water quality, we need everyone to help address the impact of these activities and to meet the challenge of cleaning up our streams.

[Read more.](#)

West Nile Virus-Carrying Mosquito Sample Detected



HARRISBURG -- DEP and the Department of Health confirmed the first 2016 detections of West Nile Virus from a Turkey Vulture found in Orrstown Borough, Franklin County, on May 17, and a Red-tailed Hawk found in Worth Township, Centre County, on May 2.

“DEP vigilantly monitors the mosquito population across Pennsylvania with a comprehensive surveillance and control network. When West Nile Virus is identified, DEP staff works quickly to prevent the spread of the virus,” said Acting DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. “Today’s announcement serves as a reminder that all Pennsylvanians should take precautions to protect against mosquitos.”

In 2004, Pennsylvania began its integrated pest management program and has since improved identification and control of mosquito populations. The program routinely surveys counties based on historical West Nile Virus presence. DEP treats impacted areas using effective and safe control substances when necessary.

[Read more.](#)

"Don't Give Up the Drip" Rain Barrels Encourage Erie Residents to Conserve Water



Kristin Currier with the Erie Co. Conservation District and Timothy Bruno, chief of DEP's Office of the Great Lakes, pose beside a rain barrel created by artist Bryan Toy. It was installed at the district's office.

ERIE -- A unique art project with an environmental message can be seen around businesses and other buildings around Erie. More than 30 local artists decorated rain barrels that are installed around the city as part of the "Don't Give Up the Drip" campaign.

This unique project lead by the Erie County Conservation District and Environment Erie was coordinated with the Erie Art Museum to help the public learn about water conservation and how to prevent non-point source pollution in a way that is fun and interesting. It also helps to increase customer traffic at participating businesses and supports the strong art community in the Erie area. The project has been such a success that members of the public have been buying plain rain barrels from the Conservation District and commissioning the artists to decorate the barrels for placement at their homes.

The project was supported with funding from DEP's Office of the Great Lakes and Coastal Resources Management program.

The rain barrels were officially revealed at the Erie Home and Garden Expo on March 18, but are still being installed at locations around Erie. I've attached a photo of me with Kristin Currier at the Erie County Conservation District next to a barrel created by Bryan Toy placed at the Erie County Conservation District.

For more information, visit the [Erie County Conservation District](#) website.

Volunteers Needed for June 18 River Sweep



Last year, River Sweep volunteers collected more than 500 tons of trash.

PITTSBURGH -- Volunteers are needed from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 18 for the 26th Annual River Sweep. Volunteers will help clean up stream and riverbanks in Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

DEP sponsors the Pennsylvania portion of the cleanup along with the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) and a number of corporate sponsors. The River Sweep is an annual six-state effort to clean up litter and debris in the Ohio River watershed, and is the largest organized volunteer river cleanup effort in the country. The event winds through Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Indiana, West Virginia and Illinois, covering more than 2,400 miles of shoreline.

There are more than 10 cleanup points in Pennsylvania. Residents can find out more about River Sweep cleanup locations, by checking the [Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission](#) website.



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