

News from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

March 18

Alternative Fuels Seminar on AFIG grant program eligibility and application requirements, 9:30-noon, Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority Interpretive Center, 253 Transfer Rd., Bellefonte. Contact: Michelle Ferguson, miferguson@pa.gov

March 21

DEP public meeting on Chrin Landfill's permit application to expand its existing facility by 32.7 acres., 6-9 p.m., Wilson High School, 424 Warrior Ln., Easton. Contact Colleen Connolly, coconnolly@pa.gov

March 22

Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee (LAAC) meeting, 9 a.m.-noon, Bureau of Laboratories Building, 2575 Interstate Dr., Harrisburg. Contact: Aaren Alger, aaalger@pa.gov

March 22

Alternative Fuels Seminar on AFIG grant program eligibility and application requirements, 10 a.m.-noon, DEP Northeast Regional Office, 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre. Contact: Joshua Dziubek, jdziubek@pa.gov

March 22

Sewage Advisory Committee meeting, 10:30 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: John Diehl, jdiehl@pa.gov

March 23

Board of Coal Mine

DEP Secretary Reiterates Need for Major Technology Investment Before Senate Panel



DEP Secretary John Quigley testifies before a Senate subcommittee about the agency's proposed budget for 2016-17.

HARRISBURG -- DEP Secretary John Quigley testified before members of the newly formed Senate Subcommittee on Infrastructure, Environment and Government Operation on March 14 to talk about Governor Tom Wolf's 2016-17 proposed spending plan for the agency.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has created four subcommittees with specific department focuses, each with a Majority Chair and Minority Chair. Their purpose is to more thoroughly review department and agency spending.

Secretary Quigley answered questions about the governor's proposed severance tax on natural gas, the solvency of DEP's 12 special funds, and the success rate of DEP's Permit Review Process and Permit Decision Guarantee. But much of the discussion centered on DEP's need for a significant investment in information technology to allow the agency to meet its mission.

"Agency staff are using antiquated tools to permit and monitor industries equipped with 21st Century technology," Secretary Quigley said.

Click [here](#) to view the hearing.

DEP Installs Air Sampling Monitors Near Keystone Landfill

HARRISBURG -- As part of its ongoing monitoring of the Keystone Landfill in Dunmore, Lackawanna County, DEP has installed air

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

March 24

Alternative Fuels Seminar on AFIG grant program eligibility and application requirements, 10 a.m.-noon, DEP Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. Contact: Joshua Dziubek, jdziubek@pa.gov

March 28

DEP public hearing on the Proposed Disinfection Requirements Rule, 1 p.m., Susquehanna Room, DEP Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. Contact: Dawn Hissner, dhissner@pa.gov

March 30

Stakeholder workgroup meeting on the Proposed Disinfection Requirements Rule, 10 a.m.-noon, 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Dawn Hissner, dhissner@pa.gov

March 30

Conventional Oil and Gas Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg. Contact: Kurt Klapkowski, kklapkowski@pa.gov

March 31

Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Kurt Klapkowski, kklapkowski@pa.gov

April 5

DEP public hearing on the Proposed Disinfection Requirements Rule, 1 p.m., Delaware & Schuylkill Rooms, DEP Southeast Regional Office, 2 E Main St, Norristown. Contact: Dawn Hissner, dhissner@pa.gov

April 7

Alternative Fuels Seminar on AFIG grant program eligibility and application requirements, 10 a.m.-noon, DEP Southeast Regional Office, 2 East Main St., Norristown. Contact: Joshua Dziubek,

sampling monitors at three locations near the landfill.

DEP began air monitoring and sampling in Lackawanna County last month to collect data for a health study by the Department of Health (DOH) near Keystone Sanitary Landfill in Dunmore. The three-month monitoring and sampling period will provide both agencies with information on what type of particles and vapors are in the air and what people in the surrounding area are breathing.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Conducts Mine Rescue Safety Training Drill



Mine rescue teams learn how to properly rescue a patient during a drill conducted by DEP's Deep Mine Safety Program.

SCRANTON -- Staff from DEP's Deep Mine Safety program conducted a mine rescue drill for local mining rescue teams on March 16 at the Lackawanna Coal Mine in Scranton.

The focus of the drill was to educate miners on proper techniques for dealing with a mine fire as well as the rescue of a patient. Teams of three entered the mine and had to safely address: carbon monoxide and methane levels, a fire below and rescuing a miner trapped deep in the mines. Each team was evaluated for its performance.

The Deep Mine Safety program staff is required to hold these drills twice a year.

DEP staff who took part include: Troy Wolfgang, David Williams, Jeffrey Stanchek, Scott Wolfgang, Steven Geist, Arthur Snyder, Jeffrey Harman, Terry Wolfgang, Kenneth Dengler and Larry Graver.

DEP Issues NPDES Permit for Natural Gas-Fired Power Plant in Lackawanna County

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP has issued a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to Lackawanna Energy Center, LLC of Chicago to discharge treated wastewater from a proposed 1500-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant to be constructed on Industrial Drive in Jessup, Lackawanna County. The permit authorizes the company to discharge into nearby Grassy Island Creek.

"The department thoroughly reviewed Lackawanna Energy's application and found that it met the criteria for discharge regulations," said Mike Bedrin, Director of DEP's Northeast Regional Office in Wilkes-Barre.

[Read more.](#)

Electric Car Charging Station to Open at Harrisburg International Airport

jdziubek@pa.gov

April 7

DEP public hearing on the Proposed Disinfection Requirements Rule, 1 p.m., Waterfront Rooms A&B, DEP Southwest Regional Office, 400 Waterfront Dr, Pittsburgh. Contact: Dawn Hissner, dhissner@pa.gov

April 12

State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Operators meeting, 10 a.m., 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Cheri Sansoni, csansoni@pa.gov

April 13

DEP public hearing on IESI's permit application to expand its existing facility by 6 acres, with 22.5 acres overtopping existing landfill areas 6-9 p.m., Saucon Valley High School, 2100 Polk Valley Rd., Hellertown. Contact Colleen Connolly, coconnolly@pa.gov

April 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



Speakers Bureau



Public Input

March 28

Deadline to comment on the Proposed Rulemaking: Handling and Use of Explosives. Contact: Thomas Callaghan, 717-787-7060.

March 30

Deadline to comment on the Draft Climate Change Action Plan Update. Contact: Mark Brojakowski, mbrojakowsk@pa.gov.

April 18

Deadline to comment on the proposed rulemaking: Water Quality Standards; Class A Stream Redesignations. Contact Rodney Kime, 717-787-9637.

April 19



The first of two chargers has been installed at Harrisburg International Airport parking lots.

HARRISBURG -- Travelers who park at Harrisburg International Airport will soon be able to charge their electric vehicles.

A Level 3 DC fast charger has been installed at the cell phone lot as part of an Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant to Car Charging Group (CCGI) to install chargers throughout Pennsylvania. The charger will be operational beginning next week. HIA and CCGI have also obtained permits to install an additional DC fast charger in the short term parking garage.

DEP Issues Public Notice for Lead Exceedance in Drinking Water Served by Berks County Vendor

HARRISBURG -- DEP has notified the public about a violation of the lead standard applicable to the drinking water sold at Crystal Spring Water, a company that sells water through vending machines in Adamstown, Berks County. The Department's notice does not apply to Crystal Spring Bottled Water, which is an unrelated company.

A routine test sample collected by the owner in September 2015 contained a lead level of 16 parts per billion (ppb) which is above the maximum contaminant level of 5 ppb. According to the Safe Drinking Water Act, the owner of Crystal Spring should have notified DEP within 24 hours of receiving this test result and should have notified customers within 30 days. Neither notification was given.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Northwest Regional Employees Receive Legal Aid Excellence Award



Deadline to comment on Disinfection Requirements Rule. Contact: Lisa Daniels, 717-787-7060.



Subscribe



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.

From left to right: Brad Vanderhoof, DEP Drinking Water Program Manager; Charles Scalise, Housing and Neighborhood Development Services of Erie, Carla Falkenstein P.H.F.A., Wendy Carter, PathStone, Robert Damewood Esq., Regional Housing Staffing Services, Kenneth Joseph, Esq., Pepper Hamilton, LLP; and Wesley R. Payne, IV, President Emeritus of the PA Legal Aid Network, Inc.

MEADVILLE -- Six employees from DEP's Northwest Regional Safe Drinking Water Program and Office of Chief Counsel were part of a team honored with the Legal Aid Excellence Award for their work to help residents of Hardwood Estates Mobile Home Park located outside of Conneaut Lake in Crawford County.

More than 24 people who live in the park were left without a reliable public water system after the property owner abandoned it in 2012. The DEP employees, with the help of Legal Aid and several other organizations, helped the residents form an association and secure funding to repair the water system's chlorinator, obtain necessary permitting, hire a properly trained certified water operator, and ultimately take ownership of the mobile home park through a judicial sale in April 2015. This action enabled the residents to remain in their homes.

"This example of your work with the general public is yet another remarkable story of DEP employees going above and beyond our day-to-day jobs and is a perfect indication of the commitment and dedication I see every day amongst your peers at DEP," DEP Secretary John Quigley said. "Congratulations for a job well done!"

The DEP employees receiving the award are Brad Vanderhoof, Matt Postlewaite, Melissa Crow, Sean Singer, John (Jack) Crow and Angela Erde.

Registration Open for April 5 Peregrine Falcon Educator's Workshop



The pair of falcons this year have produced a clutch of four eggs. They will hatch most likely sometime in April and begin taking their first flights in May.

HARRISBURG -- DEP invites teachers, non-formal educators, homeschoolers and youth group and scout leaders to attend a free Peregrine Falcon Educator's Workshop, WILD in the City, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesday, April 5 in the second floor auditorium of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg. The workshop is sponsored by DEP and the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) in cooperation with ZOOAMERICA North American Wildlife Park and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

[Read more.](#)



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