

News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

March 3

Public hearing regarding the prompt interim response actions taken by DEP at the former Quality Service Cleaners site (Site) in Oxford Borough, Chester County, 7 p.m., Oxford Borough Municipal Building, 401 Market St., Oxford. Contact: Virginia Cain, 484-250-5808.

March 7

Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) Certification Examination, 8 a.m., 2nd Floor Training Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Kristen Szwajkowski, kszwajkows@pa.gov.

March 7

DEP public hearing on Windfall Zelman # 1 Injection-Disposal Well, 6 p.m., Hill Auditorium, Penn State DuBois, College Place, DuBois. Contact: John Poister, jpoister@pa.gov.

March 8

Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) meeting, 10 a.m., 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Mark Brojakowski, mbrojawks@pa.gov.

March 9

Stakeholder meeting on the Proposed Disinfection Requirements Rule, 10 a.m. - noon, Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Dawn Hissner, 717-772-4018.

DEP Secretary to Lawmakers: Continuing Budget Cuts Hurt the Economy and the Environment



DEP Secretary John Quigley testifies before members of the House Appropriations Committee.

HARRISBURG -- DEP Secretary John Quigley provided testimony before the House Appropriations Committee on March 1 about Governor Wolf's proposed Fiscal Year 2016/2017 budget for the department.

Quigley underscored the crippling impact that severe budget cuts have had on the agency during the past decade at a time when regulatory responsibilities and the workload of employees is increasing.

"Here is an important example of the two paths we face: cuts have been made in the past to meet short-term deficits, and this has hurt Pennsylvania businesses that rely on our permits and Pennsylvania communities that rely on our protection," Quigley said. "The choice in front of us is to choose a path that addresses the structural deficit and avoids further cuts, or continue this path we're on – where cuts hurt the economy and the environment."

A copy of Secretary Quigley's testimony is [here](#).

House Panel Hears Details about Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Strategy

March 15

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

March 15

Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Seminar, 10 a.m. - noon, DEP's North-central Regional Office, 208 West Third St., Williamsport. Contact: Michelle Ferguson, 570-327-3783.

March 16

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

March 18

Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Seminar, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority, 253 Transfer Rd., Bellefonte. Contact: Michelle Ferguson, 570-327-3783.

March 21

DEP public meeting to answer questions regarding Chrin Landfill's permit application to expand its existing facility in Williams Township, Northampton County, 6-9 p.m., Wilson Area High School, 424 Warrior Lane, Easton. Contact: Colleen Connolly, 570-826-2035.

March 22

Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee (LAAC) meeting, 9 a.m., Bureau of Laboratories Building, 2575 Interstate Dr., Harrisburg. Contact: Aaren Alger, aaalger@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 Safety meeting, DEP Cambria Office, 286 Industrial Park Rd., Ebensburg. Contact:



Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding, left, and DEP Secretary John Quigley, right, outline the Chesapeake Bay Strategy for lawmakers.

HARRISBURG -- The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and Environmental Resources and Energy committees held a joint informational meeting on Feb. 29 to discuss the Wolf Administration's strategy to reduce pollutants entering the Chesapeake Bay. The administration recently announced its strategy in anticipation of the state missing its 2017 reduction targets for nitrogen and sediment.

DEP Secretary John Quigley and Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding were among those who testified about the new plan that was developed jointly by the departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and DEP, as well as the State Conservation Commission. The strategy relies on a mix of technical and financial assistance for farmers, technology, expanded data gathering, improved program coordination and capacity and – only when necessary – stronger enforcement and compliance measures.

"Local water quality in Pennsylvania is a shared responsibility, and we believe that collaboration, partnerships, commitment, and resources are the key to the success of the effort," Quigley said. "If every farmer, community and citizen does their part, we will restore and safeguard local water quality in Pennsylvania, and help to restore the quality of the Chesapeake Bay."

Video of the meeting is available [here](#).

DEP Approves Coudersport Borough Authority Well Use

WILLIAMSPORT -- DEP has granted approval to the Coudersport Borough Authority, to begin using two drinking water wells that had been out of service since September due to a surfactant spill at a JKLM Energy well pad in Sweden Township, Potter County.

"The results of sampling done in late December by DEP and the authority indicate all drinking water parameters are well below maximum contaminant levels or were not detected," DEP Regional Director Marcus Kohl said. "All other parameters were not detected or at minute safe levels."

[Read more.](#)

No Radioactive Contamination Detected Outside Beaver Falls Scrapyard

HARRISBURG -- DEP was notified Feb. 23 that recycle scrap

Allison D. Gaida,
agaida@pa.gov

March 28

DEP public hearing on the Proposed Disinfection Requirements Rule, 1 p.m., DEP South-central Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. Contact: Dawn Hissner, 717-772-4018.

March 30

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

March 30

Stakeholder 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, 717-772-4018.

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



Upcoming Webinars

March 7

Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant webinar, 1-2 p.m. Register [here](#).

March 8

Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant webinar, 11-12 p.m. Register [here](#).



Speakers Bureau



Public Input

March 14

Deadline to comment on Nutrient Credit Trading Program Certification Request: Borough of Chambersburg – Agricultural Program (Franklin County). Contact: Jay Braund, 717-772-5636.

March 28

Deadline to comment on the Proposed Rulemaking:

contaminated with radioactive material was shipped from a PSC Metals Inc. facility in Beaver Falls, to two facilities in Ohio. A radium-226 source of unknown origin was accidentally shredded with other materials, then shipped to processing facilities in Ohio.

A team from DEP's Radiation Protection Program took extensive readings at the Beaver Falls scrapyards. Elevated readings were found on one large metal shredder and on gloves used by two workers. DEP is performing additional testing to ensure that there was no skin contamination. Radium-226 can be harmful if ingested.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Changes Date of Hearing for Proposed Landfill Expansion in Northampton County

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP has changed the date of the public hearing regarding IESI Landfill's permit application to expand its existing facility on Applebutter Road in Bethlehem, Northampton County. The hearing will take place from 6 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, April 13 at Saucon Valley High School, 2100 Polk Valley Rd., Hellertown. The original date of the hearing was Wednesday, March 16.

The company is requesting an expansion of 6 acres, with 22.5 acres overtopping existing landfilled areas. Residents will be allowed to give public testimony regarding the application.

[Read more.](#)

Volunteers Needed for Statewide Cleanup, Beautification Effort



Volunteers participate in the Shenango River Watchers' 2015 Earth Day Cleanup in Mercer County.

HARRISBURG -- PennDOT and DEP are seeking volunteers for this year's Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania that began March 1 and runs through May 31.

The cleanup is sponsored each year by PennDOT, DEP, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and other partners. Groups participating in PennDOT's Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) program, that involves volunteers cleaning roadsides year round, are also encouraged to participate in the cleanup.

[Read more.](#)

DEP, Partners Receive National Awards for Anti Litter Campaigns

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 19

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: KAB's Mike Rosen, Keep Pa. Beautiful President Shannon Reiter, DEP Secretary John Quigley, DEP Deputy Secretary Ken Reisinger, Pa. Waste Industries President Tim O'Donnell, and KAB's Brenda Pulley.

HARRISBURG -- Officials from Keep America Beautiful (KAB) today presented several national awards to DEP and its partners for their efforts to reduce illegal dumping and promote participation in the Great American Cleanup of Pa.

KAB Senior Vice President of Recycling Brenda Pulley and Senior Vice President of Marketing & Communications Mike Rosen presented the awards to DEP Secretary John Quigley and Deputy Secretary Ken Reisinger.

DEP, along with PennDOT, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, and the Pa. Waste Industries Association received the 2015 State Agency Partnership Award for their work promoting "Pick It Up PA Days" as part of the Great American Cleanup of Pa.

DEP and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful were also recognized with the State Innovation Award for their work on the Illegal Dump Free Pa. campaign.

DEP Announces Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Seminars

WILLIAMSPORT -- DEP, along with its partners at the Eastern Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Transportation (EP-ACT) and Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities, invites fleet managers, municipalities, school districts, incorporated nonprofit entities, and businesses to Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant (AFIG) seminars scheduled for March in Lycoming and Centre counties.

The seminars are scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, from 10 a.m. to noon, at DEP's North-central Regional Office, 208 West Third St., Williamsport; and Friday, March 18, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority, 253 Transfer Rd., Bellefonte.

[Read more.](#)

Roundtable Visits Geisinger Community Medical Center to Learn about Sustainability Program

SCRANTON -- Members of the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals including DEP staff, held their quarterly Pollution Prevention and Energy Efficiency Roundtable Feb. 18 at Geisinger Community Medical Center, Scranton, where they learned about the hospital's Sustainability Program.

Specific energy saving and environmental initiatives include a co-generation power plant on Danville's main campus, EPA ENERGY STAR certification, installing energy-efficient LED lighting fixtures, alkaline battery and eyeglass recycling and securing LEED-Certified for its buildings. Geisinger has managed nearly \$700,000 in energy savings annually while expanding 110,000 square feet. These energy savings were due to a reduction in electricity and natural gas use.

Some of the technologies that Geisinger incorporated were T8/LED lighting; variable frequency drives, occupancy sensors, high efficiency modulating boilers, and variable frequency drive chillers. Geisinger also takes into account the public health impacts of reducing energy use.

To learn more about the roundtable, visit www.paep.org.

Live Webstream Captures Courtship, Falcon Style



Breakfast is served! DEP's falcons share a morning meal on the ledge of the Rachel Carson State Office Building.

HARRISBURG -- The courtship of the pair of peregrine falcons that nest on a ledge of the Rachel Carson State Office Building is on full display through DEP's live falcon cam.

This morning, the male falcon was seen bringing the female her breakfast that consists of small birds of prey. This food offering is part of the courtship/pair bonding process. After she lays the eggs, she will do the majority of the incubation (although the male does some as well) while most of the hunting will be done by the male.

According to the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the food source is tied to the number of eggs she will lay. For example, if prey is highly abundant and high quality, then more eggs are laid. On average, peregrines will lay between 3-5 eggs. In 2015, she laid 4 eggs, with the first one arriving on March 14.

View the live falcon cam [here](#).



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