

News from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

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, 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 IES1'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

Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania Begins



DEP Secretary John Quigley and volunteers encourage you to participate in the Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania.

HARRISBURG -- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection partnered with the Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania to release a public service announcement that encourages Pennsylvanians to "pick it up!"

The Great American Cleanup of PA runs through May 31 and is sponsored each year by PennDOT, DEP, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, and other partners. During last year's cleanup, 6 million pounds of litter was collected from Pennsylvania's roads, trails and shorelines by more than 128,000 volunteers.

DEP staffers from the Northeast Regional Office and their families spent two hours on Saturday, March 19, taking part in the Great American Cleanup by picking up trash along a 1-mile stretch of Route 29 between Wilkes-Barre and Sugar Notch.

This year's team picked up and collected 60 bags of trash and 2 tires. Mixed in with the bottles, cans, and fast food wrappers were "treasures" such as a Chinese newspaper, steel fishing leaders, an empty wrapper from a stack of \$20 bills, a teddy bear, a sign asking "Will you be my girlfriend?" and a live mouse that was nesting in a piece of cardboard.

Visit DEP's [YouTube Page](#) to view the PSA. For more information on the Great American Cleanup, click [here](#).

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

April 18

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

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.



Mike Bedrin, Dee Clark, Debbie Augustine, Tyeson Sargent, Sue Iannuzzo, Tom Coar, Kathleen, Emma, and Caroline Coar, Cydney Faul-Halsor, Dave McGovern, Michele Nesbit, Don Rood, Eric Supey, Amy Supey, Berit Case, and Alex Zdzinski clean up Route 29.

Wolf Administration Investing \$1.19 Million in Projects to Clean Up Acid Mine Drainage

HARRISBURG -- Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf announced the selection of 4 projects to receive \$1,193,603 in funding for the rehabilitation of Pennsylvania's water resources. The selected projects mitigate acid mine drainage (AMD) and support programs that improve water quality in watersheds, wetlands, and fisheries that have been impaired by AMD.

"The health of Pennsylvanians depends on the health of Pennsylvania's waterways" said Governor Wolf. "These grants will aid projects that are committed to protecting public health by eliminating acid mine drainage."

"Pennsylvania's history is inextricably linked to mining," said Secretary Quigley. "Unfortunately, acid mine drainage has also been a part of this history. The investments we are making today are essential in correcting the errors of the past to restore water quality in our streams for generations to come."

[Read more.](#)

DEP Cites Illegal Tire Dump in Allegheny County

PITTSBURGH -- DEP, partnering with the municipality of Penn Hills, cited Monster and Mom and Bobo's Car Wash LLC, for illegally storing an estimated 50,000 waste tires.

Penn Hills Police discovered the tire dump, which is adjacent to a daycare center. The operators of the tire dump solicited the waste tires from throughout the area.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Authorizes Emergency Contract to Stop Mine Subsidence Damage in Pleasant Hills

What you need to know about mine subsidence:

1. It's not covered by your homeowners insurance
2. Damages often exceed \$100,000
3. 1 million+ Pennsylvania homes at risk



To learn more, call the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Mine Subsidence Insurance Fund at 800-922-1678 or visit www.pamsi.org.

Learn how to protect your home with mine subsidence insurance.

PITTSBURGH -- DEP has authorized an emergency contract to stop serious mine subsidence in Pleasant Hills, Allegheny County. Two homes on Brushglen Lane have shown considerable structural damage due to the shift of ground underneath their foundations.

DEP continues to encourage residents of the importance of having mine subsidence insurance. A typical homeowner's insurance policy rarely covers mine subsidence damage, leaving the property owner with repair expenses which can often exceed \$100,000 per building. Mine subsidence insurance is an affordable option that protects homeowners from the cost of potential damages caused by subsidence.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Releases Results of Silica Sand Air Monitoring in Wyoming County

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP determined through ambient air monitoring that levels of crystalline silica sand in the area of Tunkhannock, Wyoming County, do not show any potential for immediate health impacts. The monitoring was conducted in response to residents' concerns about a planned silica sand transfer station and its potential effects on air quality.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Issues Waste Management of Fairless, LLC Landfill Permit

NORRISTOWN -- DEP announced that it has issued a solid waste permit for a new municipal waste landfill proposed for Falls Township, Bucks County. DEP formally received the application from Waste Management of Fairless, LLC, a subsidiary of Waste Management, Inc., in March 2009.

The issuance of the Fairless Landfill permit will allow Waste Management to transition current waste disposal operations from existing facilities in the area to this new location.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Participates in Drinking Water Emergency-Table-Top Exercise



DEP staff learn how to respond when a public water system is affected by a natural disaster.

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP and the Environmental Protection Agency hosted a table-top exercise regarding how both agencies respond to natural disasters or man-made events that affect a public water supply system.

Approximately 25-30 NERO staffers took part in the event, along with representatives from several municipalities and operators of public water supply systems. The exercise focused on response time, outreach to the public, communication to the public regarding updates on events and how each municipalities' emergency response plans are up-to-date in dealing with emergency scenarios. The June 2015 explosion at a fertilizer plant in Hanover, PA was one example used in how to prepare for emergencies.

DEP Suspends Accreditation and Issues Notice of Violation to Vermont Laboratory

HARRISBURG -- DEP suspended the accreditation of Analytical Services, Inc., an environmental laboratory located in Williston, Vermont, effective immediately. DEP accredited the laboratory in March 2015 to provide analysis of drinking water supplies for cryptosporidium, giardia, and E. coli. Over the past year, 15 Pennsylvania public water systems in Pennsylvania used Analytical Services to conduct raw source water sampling as part of a routine assessment for only those contaminants.

As a result of the suspension, Analytical Services will no longer be allowed to conduct tests to demonstrate compliance with water quality regulations for public drinking water suppliers in Pennsylvania.

[Read more.](#)

Thirteen Environmental Stewardship Projects Earn Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence



HARRISBURG -- Governor Tom Wolf announced that 17 organizations involved in 13 projects from across the commonwealth will receive the prestigious Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. These award winners represent the best in using innovation, collaboration, and public service to improve and protect Pennsylvania's environment.

"Pennsylvania is blessed with an abundance of natural beauty," said Governor Tom Wolf. "The award winners prove that Pennsylvania is also blessed with excellent environmental stewards. I applaud every winning and nominated organization for their commitment to the commonwealth and our environment."

Pennsylvania businesses, schools, government agencies, trade or non-profit organizations, or agribusinesses that have completed projects to promote environmental stewardship and economic development were eligible to apply for the award. The winners were selected by DEP.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the winning projects.

