Gov. Tom Wolf delivers his budget address before a joint session of the legislature as Lt. Gov. Mike Stack looks on.

HARRISBURG -- Governor Tom Wolf’s 2015-16 Budget released today will make Pennsylvania an energy leader through new investments to take full and responsible advantage of our rich natural resources, including natural gas, coal, wind, solar, and timber. In addition, the plan also invests millions more to protect, clean and conserve the commonwealth’s land, air and water.

“To take the reins as the nation’s energy leader, we must expand and develop new markets for Pennsylvania’s energy technologies, services and fuels, and this budget makes historic investments to bolster and transform our energy economy,” Acting Secretary of Environmental Protection John Quigley said, “Governor Wolf’s budget attests to his commitment to create new jobs and protect public health and our environment, all of which strengthens Pennsylvania’s economy.”

The proposed spending plan includes a new $225 million energy investment initiative as part of the Governor’s larger economic growth package to ensure a comprehensive energy portfolio that supports gas, coal, oil and renewables, and encourages conservation and clean technology alternatives.

Governor Wolf’s budget proposal provides for the agency’s safe and responsible development of Pennsylvania’s shale gas resources, while providing a renewed focus on clean energy...
Drive, Leola. Contact: Joyce Rivers, 717-901-7055.

March 20
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) workshop -- TMDL Plan/Chesapeake Bay Pollutant Reduction Plan, 9 a.m., Inn at Leola Village, 38 Deborah Dr., Leola. Contact: Joyce Rivers, 717-901-7055.

March 25
DEP public hearing on application by Waste Management of Pennsylvania Inc. to renew its solid waste permit for Tullytown Landfill in Bucks County, 6-9 p.m., Falls Twp. Building, 188 Lincoln Highway, Suite 100, Fairless Hills. Contact: Jonathan Bower, 484-250-5753.

March 25
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) workshop -- TMDL Plan/Chesapeake Bay Pollutant Reduction Plan Session, 8:30 a.m., The Woodlands Inn, 1073 Highway 315, Wilkes-Barre. Contact: Joyce Rivers, 717-901-7055.

March 26
Conventional Oil and Gas Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Kurt Klapkowski, 717-772-2199.

April 1
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) workshop -- TMDL Plan/Chesapeake Bay Pollutant Reduction Plan Session 8:30 a.m., Pittsburgh Marriott North, 100 Cranberry Woods Dr., Cranberry Twp. Contact: Joyce Rivers, 717-901-7055.

April 2
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.

April 2
Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Richard Ashley, 717-787-0120.
Hundreds of people attended a hearing last month on Keystone Landfill’s application to expand.

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP today announced it will extend the public comment period for the permit expansion application submitted by Keystone Sanitary Landfill in Lackawanna County to expand its facility to Monday, April 6, 2015.

In March of 2014, Keystone Landfill filed a major permit application with the department requesting an expansion of its existing facility in the boroughs of Dunmore and Throop by 1-hundred and 65-feet. The department held a public meeting at Dunmore High School on Wednesday, February 25th on the permit application to answer questions from the public.

A copy of the expansion application is available for public review at the department’s Northeast Regional Office, located at 2 Public Square in Wilkes-Barre. The documents are also available for review on the department’s website. Appointments to review the application may be made by calling 570-826-2519 for the Wilkes-Barre Office.

To submit written comments to the department about Keystone Sanitary Landfill’s permit expansion application, mail or hand-deliver them by 4 p.m. on Monday, April 6th to Roger Bellas, Waste Management Program Director, 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

The public can also email comments to: rbellas@pa.gov


DEP Schedules Public Hearing on Tullytown Landfill’s Solid Waste Permit Renewal Application

NORRISTOWN -- DEP has scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, March 25, 2015, on application by Waste Management of Pennsylvania Inc. to renew its solid waste permit for Tullytown Landfill in Bucks County. The hearing will be held from 6:00 PM-9:00 PM. at the Falls Township Building, 188 Lincoln Highway, Suite 100, Fairless Hills.

“The hearing will provide an opportunity for residents to provide input about any impacts the landfill’s operation is having on nearby communities,” DEP Southeast Regional Director Cosmo Servidio said. “DEP will then consider those comments as we evaluate the renewal application.”

Read more.

DEP Announces Public Hearing on Draft Air Quality Plan Approval for Perdue Grain and Oil Seed Facility
HARRISBURG -- DEP will host a public hearing on Tuesday, March 31 to accept comments on a draft air quality plan approval for Perdue Grain and Oil Seed LLC for the installation of a grain elevator and a soybean oil extraction facility in Conoy Township, Lancaster County.

The 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. hearing will be at the Bainbridge Fire Hall, located at 34 South 2nd St., Bainbridge.

DEP previously held a public hearing on December 13, 2012, on three applications Perdue originally submitted for the proposed project: an air quality plan approval for the soybean extraction plant, an air quality plan approval for the grain elevator, and a storage tank application for the installation of two above-ground storage tanks.

Read more.

DEP Reaches Agreement with Newport Borough Water Authority to Address Drinking Water Violations

HARRISBURG -- DEP recently announced that the Newport Borough Water Authority in Newport, Perry County, has signed a consent order and agreement (COA) to address drinking water treatment, monitoring and reporting violations that occurred in 2013 and 2014.

“DEP took this action not only to ensure the safety of the community’s drinking water supply, but to address ongoing shortcomings of the authority’s operation of its new filter plant,” DEP South-central Regional Director Lynn Langer said. “A state-of-the-art plant is not effective if it’s not operated properly.”

Read more.

Reporting Deadlines for Water Suppliers Approaching

HARRISBURG -- DEP reminds water suppliers that reporting deadlines for the 2014 calendar year are coming up. Reports from public water suppliers are due by March 31. Non-public water supplier reports are due by June 30.

The reports are required under DEP’s 25 Pa. Code Chapter 110 Water Resources Planning regulation that establishes water withdrawal and use registration, monitoring, record-keeping and reporting requirements.

Registrants submit annual water use primary facility and subfacility reports through DEP’s GreenPort. The subfacility report for each source contains information about the water source, such as the monthly amounts withdrawn or purchased. The primary facility report for public water suppliers contains overall system information and for those other than public water suppliers identifies how much of the amount of water reported in each source’s subfacility report was discharged.

Both the primary facility report and subfacility report(s) (even if source is not used) are required to be submitted to DEP; together they supply invaluable data to government and private sectors for water resource planning and permitting purposes in assessing water resources against existing and projected use demands.

More information on Chapter 110 can be found on DEP’s State Water Plan website.
Live Falcon Video Feed Returns

The live feed of the falcons' nest is broadcast in high-definition.

HARRISBURG -- In what's become a sure sign that spring's not far away, DEP began the live video stream of the pair of peregrine falcons that nest on a ledge of the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg. The feed is available on DEP's website.

"This season marks 15 years since the first pair of peregrine falcons produced eggs at this nest," DEP Acting Secretary John Quigley said. "Over the years, tens of millions of people from across the globe have followed their story, and more importantly, learned the important environmental lessons they teach us about how pollution affects wildlife."

DEP works with Commonwealth Media Services to provide the live three-camera high definition feed during the nesting season and until the young falcons eventually fledge from the nest in June. The feed is central to an in-service program and curriculum developed by DEP and the Pennsylvania Game Commission for Pennsylvania teachers. This year’s falcon education workshop will be held from 9 AM to 3 PM, March 26. Teachers will learn about peregrine reintroduction efforts in Pennsylvania, and the importance of urban habitat as well as complete endangered species curriculum activities. To register for the workshop, email Ann Devine at adevine@pa.gov