DEP, Engineers Society Host 10th Annual Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference in Erie

Exhibitors at the 2015 Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference in the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie.

ERIE, PA -- Hundreds of redevelopment and remediation experts from across the northeast gathered at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center May 13 for the 2015 Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference. The event runs through May 15 and is sponsored by DEP and the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania (ESWP).

Acting DEP Secretary John Quigley delivered the keynote address, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the signing of Acts 2, 3, and 4, the cornerstone statutes of Pennsylvania’s Land Recycling Program. Quigley also unveiled a new video, The 20th Anniversary of Pennsylvania’s Land Recycling Program, which honors the legacy of land recycling in Pennsylvania.

For more information about the conference, visit ESWP’s website.

Acting Secretary Quigley Visits the Great Lakes Children’s Water Festival in Erie
DEP's Legislative Affairs Director Sarah Clark and Acting Secretary John Quigley enjoy the “Edible Aquifers” activity.

ERIE, PA -- On May 14, Acting Secretary Quigley stopped by the 2015 Great Lakes Children’s Water Festival, hosted by the Water Systems Council (WSC) at Penn State Behrend in Erie. This year’s festival was one of the largest ever, drawing thousands of fifth-grade students from Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio. During the festival, students explored drinking water, groundwater, watersheds, surface water, well systems, and water quality and conservation through dynamic and interactive activities.

For more information about the festival, visit WSC’s website.

DEP to Host Public Information Session on Jeanesville Mine Fire

Smoke and gas rise from the ground at the Jeanesville mine fire in Luzerne County.

WILKES-BARRE, PA -- DEP will hold a public information session to update the public about the Jeanesville mine fire in Banks Township, Carbon County. The session will be held on May 20, at 6 p.m. at the Tresckow Volunteer Fire Company, 26 East Oak St., Tresckow.

For more information, visit DEP’s website.

DEP Continues the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate Program

HARRISBURG, PA -- DEP recently announced the continuation of Pennsylvania’s Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate Program, which provides $2,000 rebates to Pennsylvania residents for large-battery system plug-in hybrid electric and battery-electric vehicles. DEP provides these rebates as incentives to assist residents with the incremental cost of purchasing a new alternative fuel vehicle.

For more information, visit DEP’s website.

DEP Begins Helicopter Spraying to Control Black Flies

A spray operation taking place on the Delaware River in Northampton County.

HARRISBURG, PA -- DEP has begun aerial spraying on more than
Environmental Protection
Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites.
Contact: Kurt Klapkowski, 717-772-2199

May 20
Deadline to comment on the Riparian Buffer or Riparian Forest Buffer Equivalency Demonstration Technical Guidance. Contact: Jennifer Orr, 717-787-3411

May 20
Deadline to comment on the Riparian Buffer or Riparian Forest Buffer Offsetting, Technical Guidance. Contact: Jennifer Orr, 717-787-3411

May 20
Deadline to comment on the Nutrient Credit Trading Program; Credit Certification. Contact: Jay Braund, 717-772-5636

1,600 stream miles in 36 Pennsylvania counties to control black flies, also referred to as gnats.

For more information, visit DEP’s website.

**DEP Awards $2.05 Million in West Nile Virus Grants to 25 Counties**

A *culex pipiens* mosquito, commonly known as the house mosquito, is most often implicated in the spread of West Nile Virus.

HARRISBURG, PA -- DEP recently awarded $2.05 million in West Nile Virus Control grants to 25 counties.

For more information, visit DEP’s website.

**DEP Announces Regional Keystone Energy Education Program Workshops**

HARRISBURG, PA -- DEP invites middle school teachers, administrators, and building managers to a free training workshop on the Keystone Energy Education Program to teach and track energy efficiency in school buildings and homes.

There are two upcoming workshops, one on May 28 in Philadelphia and another on June 17 in Pine Grove Mills, Centre County.

For more information, visit DEP’s website.

**Chesapeake Bay Commission Releases Report on Livestock in Streams**

ANNAPOLIS, MD -- A new report from the Chesapeake Bay Commission found that allowing livestock in streams harms both the animal and the water.

In *Healthy Livestock, Healthy Streams: Policy Actions to Promote Livestock Stream Exclusion*, the commission examines stream fencing efforts across its member states of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. These three states contain more than 3.5 million hoofed farm animals, including cows, horses, and sheep.

For more information, visit the Commission’s website.

**DEP Hosts Open House on Keystone Landfill**
Residents learn more about Keystone’s proposal to expand during an open house.

WILKES-BARRE, PA -- On April 27, DEP, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry held an open house at the Throop Civic Center to answer questions from the public regarding Keystone Landfill’s application to expand.

The agencies held two separate sessions to provide information. About 100 members of the public attended.

For more information, visit DEP’s website.

**Funding Available for Stockton Water Improvements**

WILKES-BARRE, PA -- The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) has granted $2.2 million for the Hazelton City Authority to extend water service to residents in the villages of Stockton in Hazle Township, Luzerne County.

More than 40 homes, located in an area known as Stockton 6 and 8, are currently using an unfiltered water system. Tests show the water is contaminated by insects and larvae.

For more information, visit PENNVEST’s website.

**DEP Deputy Secretary Scott Perry Speaks at Chatham University**

Deputy Secretary for Oil and Gas Operations Scott Perry speaks to a group at Chatham University in Pittsburgh.

PITTSBURGH, PA -- DEP Deputy Secretary for Oil and Gas Management Scott Perry participated in a panel discussion at Chatham University on May 13. The panel included representatives from industry, conservation groups, and citizen activists and examined the challenges of dealing with waste produced by the unconventional drilling industry.

The event was sponsored by the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters.

**DEP to Hold Public Meeting on FirstEnergy Proposal to Modify Coal Waste Landfill Permit**

PITTSBURGH, PA -- DEP will hold a public meeting on May 21 to take questions from residents about a proposal from FirstEnergy Generation LLC to modify the permit for the Coal Combustion Landfill located at the company’s Hatfield’s Ferry Power Station in Monongahela Township, Greene County.

For more information, visit DEP’s website.
DEP Hosts Public Hearing to Discuss Proposed Ethane Cracker Plant

Residents present testimony during the public hearing.

PITTSBURGH, PA -- Over 100 people attended DEP's May 5 public hearing to discuss Shell Chemical Appalachia's request for an air quality plan approval for its proposed Ethane Cracker plant in Potter Township, Beaver County. DEP and Shell representatives responded to questions from the audience and 30 people presented testimony.

For more information, visit DEP’s website.

Capitol Police to Host Bike Rodeo

HARRISBURG, PA -- The Capitol Police will host a Bike Rodeo this Saturday, May 16 from 11 A.M. to 12 P.M. near the fountain on Commonwealth Avenue. The rodeo is for children Ages 4 to 12.

The event is free and will include hands-on bicycling activities to teach and promote bike safety. There will also be an obstacle course, a bike safety check, door prizes, and snacks. All participants need to bring their bikes and helmets.

Parents should register their children by May 15 by emailing Officer Finicle at nfinicle@pa.gov.