

News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | Patrick McDonnell, Acting Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

June 7

Storage Tank Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Charles M. Swokel, cswokel@pa.gov

June 14

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

June 16

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

June 20

DEP public meeting and hearing on revisions to an air quality plan approval for Lackawanna Energy Center, LLC proposal to build and operate a 1500-mega-watt natural gas-fired power plant in Jessup, Lackawanna County, 6-9:30 p.m., Valley View High School, Archbald. Contact Colleen Connolly, 570-826-2035.

June 20

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

Gov. Wolf Appoints Patrick McDonnell Acting Secretary of DEP



DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell.

HARRISBURG -- Governor Tom Wolf on May 20 appointed Patrick McDonnell as the Acting Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) following the resignation of John Quigley.

McDonnell most recently served as DEP's director of policy where he oversaw the agency's regulation and policy development processes. In addition, McDonnell ran the State Energy Office and was charged with coordination of renewable energy and energy efficiency issues.

"My years here have taught me that DEP is one of the best teams to be a part of in the Commonwealth," McDonnell said in an email to staff. "Together I know we will continue to carry on some of the most vital work in state government."

[Read more.](#)

Wolf Administration Investing \$25.1 Million in Projects to Protect and Improve Pennsylvania Water Resources

June 23

Conventional Oil and Gas Advisory Committee (COGAC) and Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board meeting (TAB), 10 a.m., DEP Moshannon District Office, 186 Enterprise Dr., Philipsburg. Contact: Todd Wallace, twallace@pa.gov

June 29

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

June 30

Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Chris Noble, 717-787-9870.

June 30

Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Keith Ashley, riashley@pa.gov

July 13

Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board meeting, 9 a.m., 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Michael Maddigan, mmaddigan@pa.gov

July 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

July 27

Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Nancy Herb, nherb@pa.gov



**Speakers
Bureau**



Growing Greener

HARRISBURG -- Governor Tom Wolf recently announced the selection of 114 projects to receive \$25,143,294 in funding from DEP for the protection of Pennsylvania's water

resources. The selected projects enhance watersheds, mitigate acid mine drainage, and support water pollution cleanup programs.

"The Growing Greener program, and this year's funding, is an investment in our future and proof that when state government works collaboratively, we achieve long-lasting results," said Governor Wolf. "The Environmental Stewardship Fund has helped spark innovation and coordinate partnerships to tackle some of the most challenging environmental issues in our state."

[Read more.](#)

DEP Schedules June 20 Public Meeting and Hearing on Changes to Air Quality Plan Approval for Proposed Lackawanna County Power Plant

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP will host a public meeting and hearing on revisions to an air quality plan approval for Lackawanna Energy Center, LLC. The company is proposing to build and operate a 1500-mega-watt natural gas-fired power plant in Jessup, Lackawanna County. The meeting and hearing will take place from 6 to 9:30 P.M. on Monday, June 20, at Valley View High School, in Archbald.

Lackawanna Energy Center submitted a plan approval application on February 24, 2016, to revise the layout of the plant to include three smaller steam turbines and three smaller air-cooled condensers in place of the originally planned single steam generator and single air-cooled condenser. The steam turbines and air-cooled condensers are not air emission sources, therefore, this plan approval application does not change any emission limits imposed under the previously issued plan approval in December 2015.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Joins Federal, Local Officials in Preparing for Hazardous Waste Emergency



DEP Northcentral Regional employees Andrew Hobbins and Matt Shawley participated in the drill.



Public Input

June 6

Deadline to comment on Federal Consistency under the Coastal Zone Management Act: Issuance of Pennsylvania State Programmatic General Permit-5 (PASPGP-5). Matthew Walderon, Federal Consistency Coordinator, 717-772-2196.

June 6

Deadline to comment on Federal Consistency under the Coastal Zone Management Act: Maintenance Dredging at Shades Beach Launch Ramp. Matthew Walderon, Federal Consistency Coordinator, 717-772-2196.



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.

WILLIAMSPORT -- Sixteen individuals from various county, state and federal agencies recently completed a 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) course at DEP's North-central Regional Office in Williamsport.

This five-day course is designed for personnel involved with the investigation and remediation of uncontrolled hazardous waste sites and response to accidents and/or releases involving hazardous materials. The course provides fundamental information required to meet the 40-hour training requirements of OSHA's Title 29 regulations.

Course work included instruction and discussion of personal protective equipment (PPE), analytical instrumentation and field detection methods, decontamination of personnel and equipment, hazard recognition and containment/remediation, as well as practical application exercises involving Level B PPE.

Training was provided by HazTrain of Waldorf, MD in conjunction with the federal Environmental Protection Agency. There was no cost to the Commonwealth for this course.

Faculty Learn to Teach About Energy Efficiency at DEP-Funded Course



Workshop instructor Mark Stutman explains the heating, ventilating, & air conditioning (HVAC) systems located within the building.

PHILADELPHIA -- Nine university faculty attended a free three-day workshop this week at The Navy Yard in Philadelphia to learn how to instruct a course titled "Leadership in Building Energy Efficiency."

The workshop is for participants to return to their respective higher education institutions and teach modules from the class or the whole course, which focuses on the identification of low and no-cost energy saving opportunities in commercial buildings via a process called "re-tuning."

Re-tuning is a systematic process that identifies operational problems by leveraging data collected from a building walk-down and correcting those problems at no- or low-cost. The course introduces the topics of energy management through no-cost and low-cost operational measures in the following major focus areas: lighting, building envelope, hot water/steam systems, HVAC, compressed air, indoor environmental quality and plug loads.

Development of the course by Penn State's Architectural Engineering faculty was funded through DEP's U.S. Department of

Energy State Energy Program (SEP) funds. The workshop itself was also paid for via SEP funds.

[Read more.](#)

Buoy to Provide Water Quality Info about Presque Isle Bay



The buoy provides real-time data on Lake Erie's water quality.

ERIE -- DEP recently installed a new water quality buoy in Presque Isle Bay in Erie. The buoy will provide information about the daily conditions of the bay and help staff in monitoring for harmful algal blooms.

The buoy records temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, turbidity, and total algae every 20 minutes. It was purchased with federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds.

The buoy is one of several deployed in partnership with the Regional Science Consortium, Pennsylvania Sea Grant, Pa. Fish and Boat Commission and Erie County Health Department to provide information for boaters, anglers and swimmers about changes in environmental and weather conditions.

To access the data, visit www.PaLakeErieBuoy.com

DEP Celebrates Lake Appreciation Month



DEP Water Pollution Biologist Sherrill Leap takes a water sample from Lilly Lake.

WILKES-BARRE -- May is "Lake Appreciation Month," a time set

aside by DEP to appreciate the value of Pennsylvania's local lakes and streams.

DEP staff regularly test the health of lakes throughout the commonwealth. Recently, Sherrill Leap, a water pollution biologist from DEP's Wilkes-Barre Office took a sample from Lilly Lake near Shickshinny in Luzerne County for chlorophyll A, a group of related green pigments found in bacteria that aids in the growth of algae and invasive plants in bodies of water.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the water quality of Pennsylvania's lakes and streams.

Penncrest High School Wins 2016 Pa. Envirothon



Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding (far left) and DEP Executive Deputy Secretary John Stefanko (far right) are pictured with the winning team from Penncrest High school.

MIFFLINBURG -- The team from Penncrest High School in Delaware County is the winner of this year's Pennsylvania Envirothon. Penncrest scored 548.3 points out of a possible 600, earning top honors and the chance to represent Pennsylvania at the NCF-Envirothon North American competition July 24–29 at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario Canada.

At the Envirothon, five-member teams participate in a series of field station tests that focus on five topic areas – soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and environmental issues. The 2016 current environmental issue focused on Invasive Species. The teams also prepare and deliver oral presentations to panels of judges who evaluate each team on its problem-solving capabilities, oral presentation skills and recommendations to help solve the specific environmental challenge, which relates to the current environmental issue.

High school students from 65 Pennsylvania counties took part in this year's competition. Second place went to Lebanon County's Palmyra Area High School, third place was Carmichaels Area High School, Greene County, Neshaminy High School, Bucks County finished fourth and YHSA Homeschoolers, York County, finished in fifth place.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Staff, Volunteers Help as Falcons Take Their First Flights



One of the two males rescued from a ledge on the fourth floor of the Rachel Carson State Office Building is examined before being released on the roof of the building.

HARRISBURG -- All three of the young peregrine falcons that hatched last month in a nest on the 15th floor of the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg took their first flights this week.

DEP staff, summer interns and a group of dedicated volunteers watch out for the birds as they learn to fly. The birds sometimes land on rooftops and ledges of other nearby buildings and need to be rescued if they encounter trouble. When they're rescued, DEP staff do a quick check to look for any signs of injury or disease, then return them to the roof of the building where they resume flying.

To learn more about the rescue efforts and the falcons' first flights, watch a [new video](#) on DEP's YouTube Channel.



Follow DEP on Twitter! [@PennsylvaniaDEP](#)