

News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Acting Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

June 1

DEP public meeting and hearing on Pennsylvania General Energy Company Application to Reclassify Yanity Gas Well, 6 p.m., East Run Sportsmans Association, 1668 Sebring Rd., Marion Center. Contact: John Poister, 412-442-4000.

June 2

Storage Tank Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Charles M. Swokel, 717-772-5806.

June 3

Coastal Zone Advisory Committee meeting, 9:30 a.m., 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Stacey Box, 717-772-5622.

June 4

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.

June 4

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.

June 16

Environmental Quality Board (EQB) meeting, 9

DEP Acting Secretary Quigley to Chair Gov. Wolf's Task Force on Pipeline Infrastructure Development



The task force will recommend a series of best practices for pipeline development.

HARRISBURG -- Gov. Tom Wolf has announced the formation of a task force to help Commonwealth agencies, the natural gas industry, and communities across the state collaborate more effectively as thousands of miles of pipelines are being proposed to transport natural gas and related byproducts to markets from gas wells throughout the Commonwealth.

In Pennsylvania, natural gas drilling has outpaced the development of the infrastructure needed to get gas to market. Governor Wolf created the Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force (PITF) in an effort to promote unprecedented collaboration of stakeholders to facilitate the development of a world-class pipeline infrastructure system.

[Read more.](#)

Training Helps Emergency Responders Prepare for Spills



Federal, state and local emergency responders practice containing a spill in the Schuylkill River.

a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St. Harrisburg. Contact: Jen Swan, 717-783-8727.

June 16

Citizens Advisory Council meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Jennifer Swan, 717-783-8727.

June 17

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, 717-772-5158.

June 23

Board of Coal Mine Safety meeting, 10 a.m., DEP Cambria Office, 286 Industrial Park Rd., Ebensburg. Contact: Allison Gaida, 724-404-3147.

July 8

Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment meeting, 8 a.m., Westmoreland Room, DEP New Stanton Office, 131 Broadview Rd., New Stanton. Contact: Allison D. Gaida, 724-404-3147.

July 21

Environmental Quality Board meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St. Harrisburg. Contact: Jennifer Swan, 717-783-8727.

July 21

Citizens Advisory Council meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg. Contact: Jennifer Swan, 717-783-8727.

July 22

Certification Program Advisory Committee meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Cheri Sansoni, 717-772-5158.

July 22

Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400

UPPER PROVIDENCE TWP. -- DEP emergency responders joined their counterparts from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Montgomery County on May 21 for oil containment training on the Schuylkill River in Upper Providence Township.

The training involves deploying booms to direct and contain any potential oil spills that might occur. A significant amount of Bakken Crude oil is shipped by rail through Montgomery County. This is just one step in an ongoing process of training and planning for a potential spill.

The training is the latest of numerous activities conducted by local agencies in partnership with federal, state, and private industry partners, to improve oil response capabilities.

Gov. Wolf Announces Small Business Advantage Grant Recipients



Small Business Advantage Grant

HARRISBURG -- Governor Tom Wolf today announced that nearly 140 businesses across Pennsylvania will soon install energy-efficiency or pollution-prevention projects by using Small Business Advantage Grants provided by DEP. This year, DEP awarded more than \$980,000 to 139 small businesses.

"Improving energy efficiency helps small businesses and helps improve quality of life for all residents," Governor Tom Wolf said. "These grants will help small businesses, improve the environment and grow the economy."

[Read more.](#)

DEP Announces Work to Reclaim Hazardous Abandoned Mine Land in Luzerne County

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation has announced work is set to begin next month to reclaim abandoned mine lands in Hazle Township, Luzerne County that are classified as a significant health and safety hazard under the federal Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program. The 65.5 acres of abandoned strip mine land is considered hazardous due to its proximity to homes and heavily travelled Route 309.

The work involves eliminating a 1500-foot high-wall, with a high point of 100-feet. The wall is located approximately 350-feet from homes. It will also include removing 820,000-cubic yards of material, mostly coal refuse, from the Penny's Bank and Lattimer Basin Mine areas near the Hazleton Airport and filling in an old stripping pit. The mining operations of the Pardee Brothers Company that created the dangerous stripping pit date back to 1929.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Listens to Concerns Raised at Jeansville Mine Fire Public Meeting



Market St., Harrisburg.
Contact: Susan Foster,
717-787-7019.



Upcoming Webinars

June 10

DEP Webinar on the interim final Policy for the Development and Publication of Technical Guidance. [Register here.](#)

June 30

DEP Webinar on the interim final Policy for the Development and Publication of Technical Guidance. [Register here.](#)



Public Input

June 15

Deadline to comment on Federal Consistency under the Coastal Zone Management Act; Spring Garden Street Waterfront Rehabilitation Project. Contact: Matthew Walderon, 717-772-2196.

June 16

Deadline to comment on Pennsylvania's 2015-2016 Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan. Contact: Nicholas Lazor, 717-783-9268.

July 12

Deadline to comment on the Policy for Development and Publication of Technical Guidance. Contact Laura Henry, 717-783-8727.



Speakers Bureau



Subscribe

[DEP staff answer questions about a mine fire in Carbon County.](#)

CARBON COUNTY -- DEP mining officials recently met with residents of Banks Township, Carbon County, to discuss a mine fire that is burning on abandoned and active mine land in the area. DEP Director of Abandoned Mines Eric Cavazza and Pottsville District Mining Office Manager Mike Menghini told approximately 45-50 people who attended how both programs intend to fight the fire.

Most questions from the audience centered on DEP AQ staff conducting overnight air monitoring because a sulfur smell from the fire appears to be permeating during late night/early morning hours. Residents also requested air monitoring on days when it is overcast and cloud cover is low.

Other questions centered around what is actually burning: coal/coal refuse or rock material and questions about if gases from fire can migrate and collect in basements. DEP Air Quality Environmental Manager Jean Grabowski explained to residents that previous air quality tests showed no dangerous levels of gases in air and it was highly unlikely for any gases to migrate through basements.

DEP Issues Permit to End Tullytown Landfill Disposal Operations within Two Years

NORRISTOWN -- DEP has issued a permit to Waste Management of Pennsylvania, Inc. (WMPA), directing that the Tullytown Landfill cease all waste disposal operations within two years. WMPA is the owner and operator of the Tullytown Landfill, which is located in the Borough of Tullytown and Falls Township, Bucks County.

"After a complete review of the renewal application and consideration of public input, we concluded that a balance had to be reached to allow disposal operations to continue, but for a limited amount of time so that the landfill could close in a structurally sound and environmentally safe manner," said DEP Southeast Regional Director Cosmo Servidio.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Fines Washita Valley Enterprises Inc. \$53,344 for Residual Waste Violations in Bradford County

WILLIAMSPORT -- DEP has fined Washita Valley Enterprises Inc. of Ulster \$53,344 for repeated residual waste violations at the company's well pipe and casing reconditioning facility in Sheshequin Township, Bradford County.

"This company was operating in a manner that did not adhere to our residual waste regulations and threatened the environment," said DEP North-central Regional Director Marcus Kohl. "Our staff continued to find violations nearly four months after a notice of violation letter was sent to the company, and this lack of effort to comply is unacceptable."

[Read more.](#)

DEP Fines Maryland Demolition Company for Illegal Waste Disposal

HARRISBURG -- DEP has ordered a Maryland business owner to stop the unpermitted disposal of residential and commercial construction and demolition waste at a site in Bedford County, and issued a \$13,500 civil penalty for past violations.

Stanley N. Boinovych, of Cumberland, Maryland, is the owner and manager of Dilapidated Demolition. On multiple occasions between February 2012 and June 2014, DEP inspectors observed construction and demolition waste at a Boinovych-owned 85-acre commercial property in Colerain Township. DEP had not authorized or permitted the transportation of, or disposal of solid waste at the site.

[Read more.](#)

Report Illustrates Conservation Achievements of No-Till Farming in Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG -- Pennsylvania farmers are protecting their soils, their bottom lines, and the state's waterways by widely adopting conservation practices in their crop operations, according to a study commissioned by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

"This report confirms the good work of Pennsylvania's agriculturalists as stewards of our natural resources," said Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding. "It details producer sentiments, showing that they believe in the power of no-till crop farming for the health of their land. The results of this study are further proof that investments are being made to meet nutrient reduction goals for the Chesapeake Bay."

[Read more.](#)

27 Pa. Counties Remain in Drought Watch

HARRISBURG -- Despite the recent precipitation events, DEP is maintaining a drought watch for 27 counties across Pennsylvania because parts of the state have below-average groundwater and in some areas surface water levels.

"We are still recovering from a very dry fall and below-normal precipitation this winter," Acting DEP Secretary John Quigley said. "These factors have contributed to low groundwater and surface water levels mostly in the northeast and central portions of the state."

[Read more.](#)

DEP Staff Help Students Learn about Water Quality at Hydromania



DEP Hydromania participants included Dave Malloy, Ed Osterhuber, Castor Ayala, Bridget Reinert, Ron Schock, Bharat Bham and Eric Bartoloacci.

ALLENTOWN -- Staff from DEP's Bethlehem and Pocono district offices took part in Hydromania on May 14 at Cedar Crest College in Allentown. This is the 15th year of the event.

Nearly 1,200 third and fourth graders participated, visiting different educational booths where volunteers taught them lessons on how

to conserve water and keep rivers and streams clean for future use.

Two More Pa. Drinking Water Facilities Receive Presidents Award



HARRISBURG -- Two more Pennsylvania facilities have been awarded the Partnership for Safe Water Presidents Award for optimal water treatment. The two plants are Capital Region Water's Dr. Robert E. Young Water Services Center in Dauphin County and Pennsylvania American Water's Clarion Regional Water Treatment Plant.

These water treatment plants are the seventh and eighth in Pennsylvania to receive the prestigious award presented by the Partnership for Safe Water, a voluntary effort to provide safe drinking water to consumers. Only 21 water treatment plants nationwide have received this award.

There are four phases to the program. The Presidents Award is an intermediate award between Phase III and Phase IV and is intended to be a significant stepping stone towards accomplishing the highest possible level of performance that can be achieved in the program, which is Phase IV.

Three Young Female Falcons Banded, Video Available Online



Pa. Game Commission biologists attach an alpha-numeric band on the leg of one of three female falcons.

HARRISBURG -- State environmental officials participated in the annual banding of the young peregrine falcons born this season on the ledge of the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg on May 21. Game Commission biologists determined all three fledglings to be females. They were then banded, weighed and examined. They are all in good health.

Banding allows officials to track the birds' movements as they grow and leave the nest. Representatives from Zoo America in Hershey also participated in the event bringing a live male adult peregrine falcon, to educate area school children and teachers about adaptation.

[Click here](#) to view a video and photos of the banding.



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