

News from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | Patrick McDonnell, Acting Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

Nov. 14

Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center Board meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Dawn Hissner, dhissner@pa.gov

Nov. 15

Citizens Advisory Council meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Glenda Davidson, gldavidson@pa.gov

Nov. 16

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

Nov. 16

Public hearing on emission reduction credit application for Perdue soybean plan, 6:30 p.m., Bainbridge Fire Hall, 34 South 2nd Street, Bainbridge, PA 17502. Contact: Brenda Esterline, besterline@pa.gov

Nov. 17

Radiation Protection Advisory Committee meeting, 9 a.m., 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg. Contact: Joseph Melnic, jmelnic@pa.gov

Nov. 22

Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board (TAB) meeting, 10 a.m., Room

New Disposal Options for Unwanted and Expired Medicines



HARRISBURG -- Pennsylvanians have more options to dispose of unwanted and expired medicines and pharmaceutical drugs thanks to enactment of HB 1737, part of the opioid epidemic package of bills signed by Governor Tom Wolf.

“With this new legislation we want to remind PA residents that there are safe ways to dispose of unwanted and expired medicines,” said Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell. “We want to encourage everyone to safely and responsibly dispose of medicines and other pharmaceuticals rather than just flush them down the drain or send them to a landfill.”

The law, sponsored by Representative John Maher, allows pharmaceuticals delivered to collection events to be incinerated at permitted facilities, instead of solely being disposed of as hazardous waste and allows collection events conducted by law enforcement, medical facilities, pharmacies, and resource recovery facilities incinerating the pharmaceuticals to be exempt from registering with DEP prior to commencing operations.

“We hope that changing prior disposal restrictions will encourage more collection events to enable people to dispose of expired and unwanted drugs,” said McDonnell.

Read more [here](#).

To view the Governor's release, [click here](#).

105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Todd Wallace, twallace@pa.gov

Dec. 6

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

Dec. 7

Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee meeting, 9 a.m., Bureau of Labs Building, 2575 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg. Contact: Aaren Alger, aaalger@pa.gov

Dec. 8

Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, 9:15 a.m. Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Nancy Herb, nherb@pa.gov

Dec. 13

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



Speakers Bureau



Public Input

Nov. 14

Deadline to comment on PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan Amendment. Visit [eComment](#).

Nov. 14

Deadline to comment on Nutrient Credit Trading Program; Certification Request: LASA Farm Property Lancaster Area Sewer Authority (Lancaster County). Visit [eComment](#).

Nov. 28

Nutrient Credit Trading Program; Certification Request: EnergyWorks Group (Adams County) Gettysburg Energy and Nutrient Recovery Facility. Visit [eComment](#).

Dec. 7

Deadline to comment on Interim Final: Policy for the Replacement or Restoration of Private

Governor Wolf Announces Statewide Planning Project to Boost Pennsylvania's Solar Energy Development



HARRISBURG -- Governor Tom Wolf today announced that a statewide planning project led by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will equip Pennsylvania to produce more solar energy and increase solar-generated in-state electricity sales to at least 10 percent by 2030. The project, called "Finding Pennsylvania's Solar Future," was selected for a \$550,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy.

"This is an important step-forward for us to better understand how we can increase Pennsylvania's solar footprint long-term, which will provide more options for consumers and decrease emissions," Governor Wolf said. "Alternative energy and lower-emission fuels like natural gas will help to decrease the impacts of climate change, which we know will have negative impacts on our air, our health and important industries, including agriculture and tourism."

The project will begin in January 2017 with a kickoff meeting composed of experts from local and state government, the solar industry, the utilities and transmission sector, environmental organizations, low-income advocacy groups, consumer organizations, and the business and academic communities as well as others interested in solar development and deployment.

"Solar is a clean renewable energy source that Pennsylvania must develop strategically," said DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "By bringing together diverse viewpoints in a transparent, consensus-focused, statewide process, we ensure that our solar strategy maximizes the economic and environmental benefits to the Commonwealth while increasing our grid resiliency."

Read more [here](#).

Hazleton Area Partners Look to Increase Recreation and Cultural Tourism with Help from \$2 Million DEP Coal Mine Cleanup



Water Supplies Impacted by Unconventional Operations. Visit [eComment](#).

Dec. 7

Deadline to comment on Interim Final: Guidelines for Implementing Area of Review (AOR) Regulatory Requirement for Unconventional Wells.

Visit [eComment](#).



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.

Project Is Part of Abandoned Mine Pilot Program Focused on Community and Economic Development Potential

HAZLETON -- Local, state, and federal partners and supporters gathered at Eckley Miners' Village today as Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell announced \$2 million in funding for the cleanup of a 62-acre abandoned coal mine property. The project will enable the community's planned extension of a popular bike path to the historical mining village and other area improvements.

"This project, which literally will create a path to enhanced recreation and cultural tourism opportunities, demonstrates how environmental benefits can be combined with economic goals to benefit our coal regions," said McDonnell.

DEP selected the Hazleton/Eckley project to receive a share of \$30 million in federal funding from the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) through its Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Economic Revitalization Pilot Program. The project is one of 14 mine reclamation projects in Pennsylvania chosen for the pilot funding on the basis of strong potential for combined community, economic, and environmental outcomes.

Old mining pits and dangerous 40-foot highwalls will be removed, and part of Hazel Creek will be rechanneled to improve water flow and quality. Wetlands will be created, including an approximately two-acre pond that will be stocked with fish. The site will be seeded with grasses, legumes and trees. Wetland vegetation will be planted, including milkweed to benefit the monarch butterfly. Not only will Hazel Creek water quality and aquatic life improve, but the overall health of Black Creek Watershed will benefit.

Read more and view the video production [here](#).

Growing Greener Plus Program Now Accepting Grant Applications for Water Quality Improvement Projects



HARRISBURG -- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is now accepting applications for projects under the Growing Greener Plus Program. Up to \$18 million in grants will be available for eligible projects that restore and protect Pennsylvania watersheds and reclaim and conserve surface mining lands.

"Protecting and restoring Pennsylvania's waters and watersheds is one of the most important things we can do for the environment," said Acting DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "Growing Greener is a program with a long history of success in restoring Pennsylvania's waters, and we are looking forward to continuing that success with this next round of grants."

Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "Each year, the diverse projects of the Coastal Zone Grant recipients help us take a comprehensive approach to ensuring their ecological health."

Coastal zones are the area where the land meets the sea and include both coastal waters and adjacent shorelands. They're under increasing pressure from development, erosion, biodiversity loss and pollution.

The annual Coastal Zone Grants are awarded to projects related to fisheries, wetlands, recreation, historic sites, public education, coastal hazards such as bluff recession, and other areas. Funded primarily by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the grants are administered by the DEP Coastal Resources Management Program.

See the full press release and list of award winners [here](#).

DEP Awards Emergency Contract for Construction of Pump Station in Gilberton

GILBERTON BOROUGH -- To maintain water levels in the abandoned Gilberton mine complex and minimize potential flooding, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) received quotes for an emergency project to drill a new borehole and construct a new pump station.

The construction project was awarded to Global Shaft Drilling, LLC of Morgantown, W.Va., at their quoted price of \$2,719,272.

Rising mine pool water levels in the flooded underground coal mine complex, together with stormwater runoff and infiltration, contribute to potential flooding in the Schuylkill County borough.

Read more [here](#).

DEP to Hold Public Hearing on Use of Emission Reduction Credits for Proposed Soybean Plant in Lancaster County

HARRISBURG -- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will host a public hearing regarding Perdue AgriBusiness LLC's application to use Emission Reduction Credits at the proposed soybean processing facility currently under construction in Conoy Township, Lancaster County.

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2016, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at the Bainbridge Fire Hall, 34 South 2nd Street in Bainbridge.

Perdue proposes to use 174 tons per year of volatile organic compound (VOC) credits from an industrial facility in Orange County, New York, and 94 tons per year of VOC credits from an industrial facility in Washington County, Maryland. The scope of the hearing is limited to the use of these specific emission reduction credits for the already-approved Perdue facility.

Read more [here](#).



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