

News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | Patrick McDonnell, Acting Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

Nov. 1

Climate Change Advisory Committee Meeting, Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Mark Brojakowski, mbrojaows@pa.gov

Nov. 15

Environmental Justice Advisory Board meeting, 8:30 a.m., Delaware Conference Room, 16th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg. Contact: Carl Jones, caejone@pa.gov

Nov. 15

Environmental Quality Board meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg. Contact: Jennifer Swan, jswan@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. 17

Radiation Protection Advisory Committee meeting, 9 a.m., 14th Floor Conference Room,

DEP Hosted Annual Statewide Brownfields Conference in Lancaster County



Acting DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell and EPA Regional Administrator Shawn Garvin at the 2016 Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference

LANCASTER -- Department of Environmental Protection Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell addressed more than 250 civic leaders at the 11th annual Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference on Thursday, October 27, 2016. The conference was held at the Lancaster County Convention Center at Penn Square from Oct. 26 to 28, to promote discussion on how to transform communities by recognizing brownfields.

The theme of this year's conference, "Transforming Communities," highlighted the success of both DEP's Land Recycling Program and EPA's Brownfields Program in transforming communities like Lancaster throughout the Commonwealth.

The conference was hosted by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in partnership with the Engineers Society of Western Pennsylvania.

Brownfields are properties where expansion, redevelopment or reuse are jeopardized due to the presence of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants. Pennsylvania's approach to brownfields redevelopment has proven to be a national model for transforming abandoned, idled properties into places of economic opportunity.

To learn more about brownfields redevelopment in Pennsylvania,

Rachel Carson State
Office Building, 400
Market Street, Harrisburg.
Contact: Joseph Melnic.
jmelnic@pa.gov



**Speakers
Bureau**



Public Input

Nov. 14

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

Dec. 7

Deadline to comment on
Interim Final: Policy for
the Replacement or
Restoration of Private
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](#).



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**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.

[click here](#). To learn more about the 2016 Brownfields Conference visit, <https://eswp.com/brownfields/overview>.

Pittsburgh Botanic Garden to Grow by 66 Acres with Support from DEP Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Pilot Program



The Lotus Pond

PITTSBURGH -- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced phase 2 of a coal mine cleanup project that will enhance 66 acres of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden.

DEP selected the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, in North Fayette Township, Allegheny County, 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 Economic Revitalization Pilot Program.

The Garden 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. The Garden project received over \$700,000.

“The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden project showcases what our coal mine reclamation work can achieve,” said DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell. “Reflecting the collaboration of committed partners, the results of this project are many: needed public safety improvements, restoration of environmental health, enhancement of the area’s native natural beauty, and expansion of this regional tourist destination, with resulting economic benefits.”

Read more about this project and watch the video production [here](#).

Lead and Copper Sampling Results Available for Many Pennsylvania Water Systems

HARRISBURG -- Results of water sampling for lead and copper for public water systems are now available on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) website. More than 2,800 water systems were required to test for the 2016 monitoring period, with less than 5% reporting an exceedance of the lead or copper action levels.

Water systems are required to sample the water from consumers' homes on a specific frequency, which is either every six months, annually or triennially (once every three years). An action level exceedance occurs if the results from more than 10% of the homes tested are above the action level, which is 15 parts per billion (ppb) for lead and 1.3 parts per million (ppm) for copper.

There are 3,154 total community and non-community, non-transient

water systems in Pennsylvania. Of the 2,859 public water systems required to conduct testing in 2016, 11 exceeded both the lead and copper action levels, 79 exceeded only the lead action level, and 42 exceeded only the copper action level. Both the individual results and the compliance values are available on the Drinking Water Reporting System website (with instructions for how to search this data) at: <http://www.drinkingwater.state.pa.us>.

Read more [here](#).

DEP Staff Address National Governor's Association State Policy Forum



DEP Director for the Bureau of Oil and Gas Planning and Program Management Kurt Klappkowski (second from right) engaged in a panel discussion

PITTSBURGH -- DEP Director for the Bureau of Oil and Gas Planning and Program Management Kurt Klappkowski and DEP Deputy Policy Director Hayley Book spoke at the National Governor's Association State Policy Forum on Responsible Shale Energy Development. Director Klappkowski spoke on a panel discussion titled 'Processes for Designing Effective State Regulations'. Director Book spoke on the panel discussion titled 'Successes and Challenges for Expanding Natural Gas Vehicles'.

To learn more about the National Governors Association, visit [here](#).

DEP Fines JKLM Energy LLC \$472,317 for 2015 Potter County Surfactant Discharge

WILLIAMSPORT -- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today announced that it has finalized a \$472,317 civil penalty with JKLM Energy LLC of Sewickley, Allegheny County, for groundwater contamination caused by the use of an unapproved surfactant during the drilling of a natural gas well. The contamination impacted six private drinking water wells in Sweden and Eulalia townships, Potter County, in September 2015.

“This was a serious incident that may have been prevented if JKLM had used better judgement at the time,” DEP Director of Oil and Gas Operations John Ryder said. “The department is satisfied with the company’s cooperation in remediating the contamination, and ensuring that the affected families will have safe drinking water now and in the future.”

In addition to the payment of that civil penalty, JKLM has agreed to

provide \$100,000 for a Community Environmental Project, which will be conducted by the local Triple Divide Watershed Coalition. The money will be used to purchase and install continuous conductivity monitors for eleven public water supplies in Potter County. The project will be jointly supervised by the watershed coalition and the Potter County Planning Commission, and be administered through the county's treasurer's office.

Read more [here](#).

Pennsylvania Environmental Council Honors Leaders



Individuals and organizations who were recognized as Environmental Partners

WILKES-BARRE -- NERO Director, Mike Bedrin, welcomed guests to the Northeast PA Environmental Council (PEC) Partnership's 26th Annual Awards Program in front of an audience of 250 at the Woodlands Inn, Wilkes-Barre. PEC Connects citizens, expands resource conservation, facilitates nature-based economic development, and transforms communities with green infrastructure.

The NERO PADEP has been a partner since the inception of the award banquet and serves on the dinner committee.

Sean Robbins, PADEP Assistant Counsel, represented DEP on the 2016 Reception Committee because of his outstanding professional work and his exceptional athletic accomplishments which fit well within this year's dinner theme.

The keynote speaker was Terrence Sweeny Ph.D., University of Scranton, who spoke about his Extreme Physiology course that connects people, fitness, and exercise with the outdoors. This annual premier environmental event is co-sponsored by the PA Environmental Council, DEP, DCNR, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance, PPL, Procter & Gamble and Wilkes University.

The following individuals and organizations were recognized as Environmental Partners: 2016 Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award-Don Miller of Monroe County, Naturalist (35 years); 2016 Emerging Environmental Leader Award-Margaret Capocci, Lackawanna County; 2016 Environmental Partnership Award Recipients: Buzzi Unicem USA Stockertown Plant, Northampton County, Hercules Meadow Project; Lehman Sanctuary, Luzerne County, Uniquely Diverse Teaching Resource; Richard Mitchell Jr., Luzerne County, Edible Landscaping; Tom Ogorzalek, Luzerne County, Greater Hazleton Rail Trail (GHRT) Partnerships; William Reichert, Schuylkill County, Championing for

Improved Water Quality; Tobyhanna Conservation Association, Monroe County, Community, Conservation, and Environmental Education. Planning for the 2017 event will begin in January.

DEP Begins Reclamation of 9.9 Acres of Inadequately Reclaimed Highwall in Jefferson County

KNOX -- To reclaim a poorly revegetated former mine site, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Knox District Mining Office, has awarded a Government Financed Construction Contract (GFCC) to P. and N. Coal Company, Inc., of Punxsutawney, PA.

The contract includes reclamation of 9.9 acres of poorly revegetated and inadequately reclaimed highwall and the incidental removal of coal at no cost to the Commonwealth. In addition, the reclamation project will enhance past mining operations through reforestation as well as reducing sedimentation loading to local waterways.

Read more [here](#).



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