

News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | Patrick McDonnell, Acting Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

Sept. 8

Aggregate Advisory Board: Regulatory Legislation and Technical Committee meeting, 10 a.m., 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Daniel E. Snowden, dsnowden@pa.gov

Sept. 12

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

Sept. 13

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

Sept. 13

DEP workshop on 2017 Environmental Education Grant applications, 10 a.m.-noon, McKeever Environmental Learning Center, 55 McKeever Center, Sandy Lake, Mercer County. Visit www.paee.net.

Sept. 13-14

DEP training on the Final-Form Rulemaking on Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites, Ramada Inn, 1450 South Atherton St, State College. Pre-registration is required by Sept. 9. Contact kklapkowski@pa.gov

Commonwealth Court Upholds DEP's Authority to Consider Impacts to Public Resources When Permitting Wells

HARRISBURG -- Commonwealth Court today ruled 5-2 that DEP may consider impacts to public resources such as parks, forests, natural landmarks and public drinking water supplies as part of its well permit application process.

The court struck down a petition by the Pennsylvania Independent Oil & Gas Association (PIOGA) to prevent DEP from considering such impacts.&

"Today's ruling is important for DEP's permitting of oil and gas wells across Pennsylvania," DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell said. "It unconditionally confirms that the department has legal authority under Act 13 (the 2012 Oil and Gas Act) to consider the impact that a proposed well site will have on public and natural resources. This decision will assist DEP in its work to ensure responsible development of natural resources in Pennsylvania."

The full text of the decision is available on [Commonwealth Court's website](#).

DEP to Offer In-Person Training on Oil & Gas Final Rulemaking



HARRISBURG -- DEP invites operators of unconventional natural gas well sites and other interested parties to attend in-person training later this month regarding implementation of the final "Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites" rulemaking. The in-person training will supplement the

Sept. 15

DEP workshop on 2017 Environmental Education Grant applications, 10 a.m.-noon, Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, 8480 Hagy's Mill Road, Philadelphia. Visit www.paeen.net.

Sept. 20

DEP workshop on 2017 Environmental Education Grant applications, 1 to 3 p.m., Pool Wildlife Sanctuary, 3701 Orchid Place, Emmaus, Lehigh County. Visit www.paeen.net.

Sept. 20

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

Sept. 20

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

Sept. 21

State Board for Certification of Sewage Enforcement Officers meeting, 10 a.m., 11th Floor Conference Room B, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Kristen Szwajkowski, kszwajkows@pa.gov

Sept. 22

Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board: Regulatory, Legislation and Technical Committee meeting, 10 a.m., 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Daniel E. Snowden, Ddsnowden@pa.gov

Sept. 27

DEP workshop on 2017 Environmental Education Grant applications, 10 a.m.-noon, Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center, 100 Wildwood Way, Harrisburg, Dauphin County. Visit www.paeen.net.

Sept. 27-28

DEP training on the Final-Form Rulemaking on Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites,

series of 10 webinars DEP recently completed about different aspects of the rulemaking that is currently being finalized for publication later this fall. More than 120 people participated in each of the webinars that will be posted to DEP's website in the coming weeks.

The first two-day training session will be held on Sept. 13-14 at the Ramada Inn, 1450 South Atherton St., State College. A second training session will be held Sept. 27-28 at the Ramada Inn, 1170 West Chestnut St., Washington. Pre-registration for the two-day training sessions is required. Registration and the full agenda is available on DEP's website.

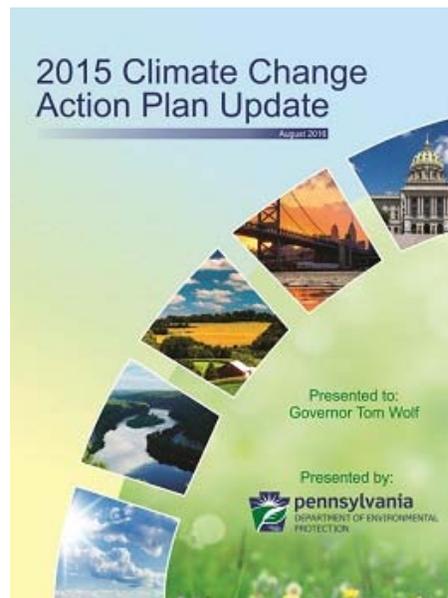
DEP Fines Pipeline Companies for Modifying Construction Plans Without Proper Approval

PITTSBURGH -- DEP has fined CNX Gas Company LLC (CNX) and CONE Midstream Partners LP (CONE) for not constructing pipelines as approved in their permits with the agency. CNX was directly fined \$139,000 and CONE was fined \$45,000 for violating the state's Clean Streams Law and Oil and Gas Act.

During routine inspection in December 2015, inspectors from DEP's Southwest Oil and Gas District discovered that CNX's McQuay to Morris Pipeline and the Morris Spur Pipeline were not constructed to the standards contained in their Erosion and Sediment Control General Permits (ESCGP). The inspection showed that the pipelines were constructed outside the exact area specified in the permit (the limit of disturbance) and in one case a gravel road and a pad for a valve were constructed but not identified in the permit application.

[Read more.](#)

Energy Efficiency, Economic Benefits Emphasized in DEP's 2015 Climate Change Action Plan Update



HARRISBURG -- DEP recently delivered its 2015 Climate Change Action Plan Update to Governor Tom Wolf that details how increasing energy efficiency in all sectors and at all levels will play a key role in reducing Pennsylvania's greenhouse gas emissions by target year 2030.

The Pennsylvania Climate Change Act of 2008 mandated the Climate Change Action Plan in 2009 as well as updates every three

Ramada Inn, 1170 West Chestnut St., Washington. Pre-registration is required by Sept. 23. Contact: kklapkowski@pa.gov

Sept. 28

Aggregate Advisory Board: Regulatory, Legislative and Technical (RLT) Committee meeting, 10 a.m., 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Daniel E. Snowden, dsnowden@pa.gov



Upcoming Webinars

Sept. 29

DEP webinar on the 2017 Environmental Education Grants application, 10-11 a.m. Visit www.paeen.net.



Speakers Bureau



Public Input

Sept. 2

Deadline to comment on Delegation of Authority to Implement Plan Requirements for Federal Sewage Sludge Incineration Units. Contact: Maisha Webb, 717-787-9702.

Sept. 2

Deadline to comment on Proposed Designation Recommendations for the 2015 Ozone Standards. Contact: Roma Monteiro, 717-787-9702.

Sept. 6

Deadline to comment on Draft Technical Guidance: Coal Mine Activity Permit Renewals. Contact: Greg Greenfield, 717-787-3174.

Sept. 12

Deadline to comment on Draft 2016 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report. Contact: Gary Walters, 717-787-9637.

Sept. 15

Deadline to comment on Nutrient Credit Trading Program Certification Request by Red Barn Consulting for Chickies Creek Farm, Lancaster County. Jay Braund, 717-

years. The 2015 update presents data from the EPA State Inventory Tool for 2000 through 2012 (the most recent data available), showing an overall decrease of 15.93 percent in net emissions, reflecting a shift by some power plants from coal to natural gas, as well as the success of Pennsylvania's energy efficiency programs. Overall, Pennsylvania's total greenhouse emissions are projected to be lower in 2030 than in 2000, with reductions in the residential, commercial, transportation, agriculture and waste sectors.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Notifies Farmers of Next Steps to Review Erosion and Manure Management Plans



Visits will be in high-priority areas of the bay watershed to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment runoff as quickly as possible.

HARRISBURG -- Continuing efforts to reduce annual loading of nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment entering the Chesapeake Bay, DEP recently notified a selection of farmers in the bay watershed that officials will be visiting farms soon to verify and review the operation's manure management and agricultural erosion and sediment control plans.

"It is important that we identify good practices and become aware of gaps in having these mandated plans," said Acting DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "These visits will help us document compliance with state requirements, and direct resources where they are needed most."

[Read more.](#)

DEP and North-central Partners Restoring Streams and Rivers for Seventh Consecutive Year



-772-5636.

Sept. 15

Deadline to comment on Nutrient Credit Trading Program Certification Request by Red Barn Consulting for Lime Valley Farms. Lancaster County. Jay Braund, 717-772-5636.

Sept. 15

Deadline to comment on Nutrient Credit Trading Program Certification Request by Red Barn Consulting for Five Springs Farm, Lancaster County. Jay Braund, 717-772-5636.

Sept. 19

Deadline to comment on Proposed Rulemaking: Environmental Laboratory Accreditation. Contact: Aaren Alger, 717-346-8212.



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.

Workers install in-stream stabilization structures to counter the effects of stream bank erosion caused by livestock.

WILLIAMSPORT -- The North Fork Cowanesque River will soon be cleaner and healthier, thanks to a Tioga County restoration project funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and nine conservation organizations.

"The tremendously important work being done by this partnership has improved water quality in our local creeks and streams and the Cowanesque River as well as the overall health of the Chesapeake Bay in a quick and cost-effective manner," DEP North-central Regional Director Marcus Kohl said. "It's a key component of DEP's bay restoration strategy aimed at meeting EPA's 2025 nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reduction goals."

[Read more.](#)

Mine Reclamation Project in Somerset County Will Eliminate Safety Hazards, Improve Water Quality



Construction crews work to level the area and reclaim dangerous highwalls.

PITTSBURGH -- A \$371,000 abandoned mine reclamation project outside the village of Boswell in Somerset County is almost complete. The project involves the reclamation of four dangerous highwalls and a hazardous pool of water, features that remained when a local coal mine was abandoned coal mine. Work on the project began earlier this summer and is expected to wrap up in the next two weeks.

Work crews continue to return the land to its original contours and have put up a sediment fence in preparation for planting and mulching the area. Aside from eliminating a safety concern, the project will also benefit the water quality in nearby Quemahoning Creek. Before the work was done on the site, surface water was mixing with coal fines on the property. The runoff had a high acid content and was emptying into a small stream that ran through the adjacent Orenda Historic Park and into the creek. By eliminating the water pool and separating any surface water from coal fines, the quality of the water going into the creek is far less acidic and contributes to improving the quality of the water in the creek.

Reporter Judy Ellich of the *Somerset Daily American* interviewed DEP Environmental Projects Construction Inspector David Hochstein for a story that will appear in Saturday's edition of the newspaper. In addition to the newspaper story, a video with Mr. Hochstein explaining the benefits of the project will be posted on the [Daily American website](#) on Sunday.

DEP Among Winners of the 2016 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) recently announced the winners of the 2016 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards that honor the highest quality projects across the nation to reclaim abandoned coal mines. DEP won the Appalachian Region Award for its project to reclaim a company town in Morgan Township, Green County.

DEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation will receive the award at the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs annual conference in Bozeman, Montana later this month.

Part of OSMRE's mission is to ensure that coal mines are reclaimed after mining is complete, including the reclamation of mines abandoned before Congress passed the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). Only projects that are funded wholly or in part by Abandoned Mine Land funds and completed by approved state or tribal regulatory programs, are eligible to win an Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Award. A panel of judges, composed of directors of state reclamation programs and OSMRE managers, voted to determine the winners.

DEP Among State Agencies Honored for Innovation and Efficiency



DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell receives an award from Secretary of Administration Sharon Minnich.

HARRISBURG -- State employees from a dozen agencies including DEP were recently recognized by the Governor's Office of Transformation, Innovation, Management and Efficiency (GO-TIME) for their work on projects to save money, increase efficiency and improve programs and services. These efforts helped the commonwealth to achieve over \$156 million in savings during the 15/16 fiscal year.

Among the efforts recognized was DEP's development of an electronic bidding system for projects. As part of a larger agency-wide information technology and business process modernization effort, Eric Cavazza, Director of DEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation suggested the idea of creating an eBidding system to replace the inefficient, paper and labor intensive way DEP processed project bids from vendors. Soon after his suggestion, DEP's Bureau of Information Technology began development of the eBidding project system that went live in April 2016.

DEP Announces New Regional Director for Northwestern Pa.



DEP Northwest Regional Director Jim Miller.

MEADVILLE -- DEP recently appointed Jim Miller as Regional Director to oversee the Northwest Regional Office located in Meadville. The Northwest Region encompasses the counties of Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer Venango, and Warren and has satellite offices in both New Caste and Warren.

"I am pleased to promote Jim Miller as Regional Director of operations in the Northwest," DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell said. "His experience and transparent management style make him the best person to carry out the mission of the Department as Regional Director."

Most recently, Miller worked as Assistant Regional Director at DEP's North Central Region in Williamsport. Miller's career at DEP has spanned 26 years including 20 years spent in the Waste Management Program. "My family and I look forward to moving to the Northwest Region and working with the DEP staff to help protect our natural resources," said Miller.

[Read more.](#)

Roundtable Members Learn about Alternative Technologies During Visit to ETAC



Roundtable members tour one of ETAC's state-of-the-art lab where companies can learn how to increase productivity and improve energy efficiency.

BETHLEHEM -- The Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals (PAEP) P2E2 Roundtable held its quarterly meeting Aug. 18 at the Emerging Technology Applications Center (ETAC) in Bethlehem.

ETAC provides confidential assistance to businesses and manufacturers and assists them in gaining a competitive advantage by applying alternative technologies to improve heating, drying, coating and curing processes. In addition, ETAC has been helping

companies, including small businesses, solve energy problems and reduce energy, materials, waste handling and disposal costs for more than two decades.

Roundtable members touring the center included consultants, Scranton Army Ammunition Plant, EPA, Nazareth Area School District, Prior Coated Metals, General Dynamics, Northampton County, Tobyhanna Army Depot, Talen Energy, ACT Engineers, and the City of Bethlehem Wastewater Treatment Plant.

ETAC shared information on projects that included reducing electric demand; waste heat recovery; combustion efficiency; process heating and cooling, variable speed drives and compressed air. ETAC also highlighted their work with the Association of College and Universities in Pennsylvania (ACUP) for the benefit of the Nazareth Area School District that also attended the recent DEP Building Retuning Training. ETAC conducted assessments on college campuses to assist clients reduce their annual energy use and improve the environment. A Steering Committee session followed the meeting to plan the November P2E2 Roundtable meeting.

For information about future meetings and the 2017 PAEP Annual Conference, visit www.paep.org.

Register Now for the 2016 Pa. Brownfields Conference in Lancaster



HARRISBURG -- Registration is now open and the agenda posted for the 2016 Pennsylvania Brownfields conference to be held Oct. 26-28, at the Lancaster County Convention Center. In its 11th year, the conference is the premier brownfields information and networking event in Pennsylvania. It's sponsored by DEP in collaboration with the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania (ESWP).

Environmental and civil engineers; economic development officials; community developers and planners; local, state and federal government officials; real estate developers; attorneys and environmental bankers are encouraged to attend.

In addition to a full range of educational sessions, there will be an exhibit hall, networking events and a mobile workshop that highlights Lancaster's successful and innovative brownfields development.

To learn more or to register for the conference, visit ESWP's website.



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