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Top DEP Stories

Tribune-Review: DEP examining 'pinhole leak' in gas line as part of Rustic Ridge house explosion probe
<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/dep-examining-pinhole-leak-in-gas-line-as-part-of-rustic-ridge-house-explosion-probe/>

Post-Gazette: DEP investigators work their piece of the gas puzzle in Plum
<https://www.post-gazette.com/business/powersource/2023/08/21/plum-house-explosion-investigation-gas-dep/stories/202308210102>

KDKA: Secretary of Pennsylvania DEP says agency determined to find cause of Plum house explosion
<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/secretary-pennsylvania-dep-determined-find-cause-plum-house-explosion/>

Tribune-Review: State inspectors capture gas samples at Plum explosion site, await test results
<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/state-inspectors-capture-gas-samples-at-plum-explosion-site-await-test-results/>

AP: Underground mines are unlikely to blame for a deadly house explosion in Pennsylvania, state says
<https://apnews.com/article/deadly-house-explosion-pennsylvania-4204191a18af7cff560012f350cdb847>

WTAE: 10 damaged homes remain uninhabitable, a week after Plum explosion that killed 6
<https://www.wtae.com/article/plum-explosion-rustic-ridge-homes-uninhabitable/44849667>

WTAE: Pennsylvania DEP to investigate Plum house explosion
<https://www.wtae.com/article/plum-house-explosion-department-of-environmental-protection/44846273>

WTAE: Rustic Ridge homeowner says gas company found gas leak at his home
<https://www.wtae.com/article/rustic-ridge-plum-gas-leak-peoples-house-explosion/44872400>

WTAE: Pennsylvania DEP pledges home methane detectors, fast-tracked test results for Rustic Ridge residents
<https://www.wtae.com/article/plum-house-explosion-dep-rustic-ridge-methane-test-results-gas-lines/44871701>

Tribune-Review: Editorial: People of Plum deserve honesty, transparency in explosion investigation
<https://triblive.com/opinion/editorial-people-of-plum-deserve-honesty-transparency-in-explosion-investigation/>

AP: 10 damaged homes remain uninhabitable, a week after Pennsylvania explosion that killed 6
<https://apnews.com/article/pennsylvania-plum-house-explosion-5178bba809fdeb22b871836756c413d4>

Tribune-Review: A week after fatal house explosion, Plum community seeks the will to push forward
<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/a-week-after-fatal-house-explosion-plum-community-seeks-the-will-to-push-forward/>

Tribune-Review: Morning Roundup: Air quality alert issued in Western Pa.
<https://triblive.com/local/regional/morning-roundup-air-quality-alert-issued-in-western-pa/>

Sharon Herald: Natural gas well setbacks questioned after health impact study
https://www.sharonherald.com/news/natural-gas-well-setbacks-questioned-after-health-impact-study/article_46897332-3e39-11ee-a140-e72c6393ca56.html

East Palestine Derailment

Post-Gazette: Bob Casey and John Fetterman are urging Norfolk Southern to join feds' close call reporting system
<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/politics-nation/2023/08/21/casey-fetterman-norfolk-southern-close-call-report/stories/202308210087>

The Intercept: NORFOLK SOUTHERN SPENT \$1.9 MILLION IN WASHINGTON AS CONGRESS WEAKENED RAIL SAFETY BILL
<https://theintercept.com/2023/08/18/norfolk-southern-rail-safety-lobby-congress/>

Mentions

PA Environment Digest Blog: DEP Finds 2 More Petro Erie, Inc. Conventional Oil Well Wastewater Tanks With A Pipe Leading To A Discharge Area In A Ditch In Sugarcreek Boro, Venango County
<http://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2023/08/dep-finds-2-more-petro-erie-inc.html>

PA Environment Digest Blog: Petro Erie, Inc. Appeals DEP's July Field Order To Clean Up Conventional Oil Well Wastewater Spill Contaminating Village Of Reno's Water Supply In Venango County; 2nd Appeal May Be Coming
<http://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2023/08/petro-erie-inc-appeals-deps-july-field.html>

Marcellus Drilling News: PA DEP issues interim final shale-drilling-is-racist regulation
<https://marcellusdrilling.com/2023/08/pa-dep-issues-interim-final-shale-drilling-is-racist-regulation/>

Tribune-Review: Environmental advocates weight in on state DOH, Pitt fracking study
<https://triblive.com/local/regional/environmental-advocates-weight-in-on-state-doh-pitt-fracking-study/>

KDKA: Boat at Fox Chapel Yacht Club sinks, leaks unknown amount of fuel into Allegheny River
<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/boat-at-fox-chapel-yacht-club-sinks-leaks-unknown-amount-of-fuel-into-allegheny-river/>

Post-Gazette: Boat at Fox Chapel Yacht Club sinks, leaking fuel into the Allegheny River
<https://www.post-gazette.com/local/north/2023/08/21/fox-chapel-yacht-club-boat-sinks/stories/202308210047>

Allegheny Front: A NEW INVESTIGATION SHOWS STATE REGULATORS HAVE STRUGGLED TO KEEP UP WITH POLLUTION EVENTS AT SHELL'S PETROCHEMICAL PLANT IN BEAVER COUNTY

<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/publicsource-dep-air-pollution-flaring-shell-ethane-cracker-beaver-county/>

Tribune-Democrat: City of Johnstown seeks cooperation with neighboring municipalities to repair stormwater systems

https://www.tribdem.com/news/city-of-johnstown-seeks-cooperation-with-neighboring-municipalities-to-repair-stormwater-systems/article_432584d2-3dc7-11ee-84b0-bbde2786a3b4.html

Observer-Reporter: Nonprofit receives \$100,000 for Dunkard Creek Watershed restoration

https://observer-reporter.com/news/localnews/nonprofit-receives-100-000-for-dunkard-creek-watershed-restoration/article_62d3669c-3ddf-11ee-a535-e7e05bdca169.html

NBC: 'Orphan well' mishap stirs suspicion and frustration in tiny Pennsylvania town

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/orphan-well-mishap-stirs-suspicion-frustration-tiny-pennsylvania-town-rcna74637>

Air

Post-Gazette: Pennsylvania research targets cow burp emissions

<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/state/2023/08/21/pennsylvania-cows-methane-production/stories/202308210065>

Climate Change

Centre Daily Times: How can cow burps affect climate change? Penn State researcher seeks to lower emissions

https://www.centredaily.com/news/local/education/penn-state/article278457869.html?ac_cid=DM837493&ac_bid=-532378596

Post-Gazette: White House is torn over Joe Manchin's fury at climate law he crafted

<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/politics-nation/2023/08/19/joe-manchin-biden-inflation-reduction-act-climate-change-policy/stories/202308190082>

Conservation and Recreation

Shamokin News-Item: Successful August events highlighted at AOAA authority meeting

https://www.newsitem.com/news/local/successful-august-events-highlighted-at-aoaa-authority-meeting/article_fde6f925-dd4c-5530-aa00-cede98cf817b.html

Times Observer: ANF seeks comment on plan to deal with invasive species

<https://www.timesobserver.com/news/local-news/2023/08/anf-seeks-comment-on-plan-to-deal-with-invasive-species/>

WICU-TV: Asbury Woods, S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie to Host First Fish Field Day Event

<https://www.erienewsnow.com/story/49470376/asbury-woods-sons-of-lake-erie-to-host-first-fish-field-day-event>

KDKA: Entomologist explains why we're seeing so many spotted lanternflies

<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/why-are-there-so-many-spotted-lanternflies-pittsburgh/>

KDKA: Salamander mussel found in Pennsylvania facing extinction

<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/salamander-mussel-endangered-species-proposal-pennsylvania/>

WESA: Allegheny County to expand rails-to-trails network with new acquisition

<https://www.wesa.fm/development-transportation/2023-08-21/allegheny-county-brilliant-line-rail-trail-expansion>

Next Pittsburgh: Retired rail line to become Pittsburgh's newest trail to Aspinwall

<https://nextpittsburgh.com/latest-news/retired-rail-line-to-become-pittsburghs-newest-trail-to-aspinwall/>

Observer-Reporter: The goats are back in town

https://observer-reporter.com/news/the-goats-are-back-in-town/article_beea8784-3ec1-11ee-8839-175d3deec5fd.html

Observer-Reporter: Greene County commissioners approve Greene River Trail extension study

https://observer-reporter.com/news/localnews/greene-county-commissioners-approve-greene-river-trail-extension-study/article_9671b754-3dc3-11ee-9459-77323730d971.html

Pittsburgh Business Times: PPG and PPG Foundation commit \$5M to environmental sustainability education

<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2023/08/17/ppg-ppg-foundation-commit-5m.html>

Environmental Health News: Growing veggies in the city this year? You may want to check your soil

<https://www.ehn.org/non-toxic-gardening-2662701497.html>

WESA: Pa. guitar company first in U.S. to get plastic-free sustainability certification for instrument

<https://www.wesa.fm/arts-sports-culture/2023-08-20/c-f-martin-guitar-plastic-free-sustainability-pennsylvania>

Tribune-Review: Westmoreland pollinator group exceeds goal of 250 habitat sites for monarch butterflies

<https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/westmoreland-pollinator-group-exceeds-goal-of-250-habitat-sites-for-monarch-butterflies/>

WESA: Dispute continues over graffiti near Pittsburgh's Color Park

<https://www.wesa.fm/arts-sports-culture/2023-08-21/pittsburgh-color-park-graffiti-dispute-continues>

Energy

Tribune-Review: LED lighting switch part of Seton Hill University's sustainability efforts

<https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/led-lighting-switch-part-of-seton-hill-universitys-sustainability-efforts/>

Tribune-Review: Letter to the editor: Say no to Invenergy plant

<https://triblive.com/opinion/letter-to-the-editor-say-no-to-invenergy-plant/>

Beaver County Times: Community Matters: An open invitation to participate in Beaver County's solar future

<https://www.timesonline.com/story/opinion/columns/2023/08/20/community-matters-an-open-invitation-to-participate-in-beaver-countys-solar-future/70613492007/>

Mining

Observer-Reporter: 12 to compete for Coal Queen title

https://observer-reporter.com/living/12-to-compete-for-coal-queen-title/article_97e1dffe-3c53-11ee-bff8-0bfdc6bbc24b.html

Oil and Gas

Shamokin News-Item: Valley gas prices dip

https://www.newsitem.com/business/valley-gas-prices-dip/article_5c5cac62-20a9-5ac3-bca2-b99263bc4caf.html

Daily Courier: Fayette studies injection well ordinance

https://www.dailycourier.com/news/fayette-studies-injection-well-ordinance/article_3fc5f902-3dd6-11ee-afaa-cfae96d73e0e.html

Observer-Reporter: Fayette commissioners take step to prevent injection wells

https://observer-reporter.com/news/localnews/fayette-commissioners-take-step-to-prevent-injection-wells/article_34f88f0a-3d2f-11ee-8040-37792ffb1e2a.html

Post-Gazette: Editorial: Who pays for fracking's harm?

<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/editorials/2023/08/20/fracking-health-study-childhood-cancer-asthma-compensation-fund/stories/202308180082>

Post-Gazette: How to tell natural gas from sewer gas

<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/letters/2023/08/20/stinking-gas/stories/202308200162>

Post-Gazette: Brandon McGinley: The cost of living: Plum, Lahaina and the fiery foundations of modern life

<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/brandon-mcginley/2023/08/18/plum-house-explosion-lahaina-fire-fossil-fuels/stories/202308200112>

NBC: Millions in the U.S. live near abandoned oil and gas wells linked to explosions and toxins

<https://www.nbc.com/nbc-nightly-news/video/millions-in-the-us-live-near-abandoned-oil-and-gas-wells-linked-to-explosions-and-toxins/NBCN986309805>

Bloomberg: Cancer in Kids Is Too High a Price for Cheap Gas

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2023-08-18/study-fracking-linked-to-lymphoma-cancer-in-kids#xj4y7vzkg>

Post-Gazette: Processing research on southwestern Pa., fracking and health, residents seek answers together

<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/health/2023/08/19/fracking-health-study-southwestern-pa/stories/202308190012>

Vector Management

Bradford Era: Spotted lanternfly management tips can be found on Penn State Extension website

https://www.bradfordera.com/news/spotted-lanternfly-management-tips-can-be-found-on-penn-state-extension-website/article_311f1fc2-403e-11ee-a94c-7f4a26179c85.html

Indiana Gazette: Spotted lanternfly now has spread to 51 counties

https://www.indianagazette.com/news/spotted-lanternfly-now-has-spread-to-51-counties/article_0ccee544-fd32-5e14-838f-6df657a17256.html

Philadelphia Inquirer: Should we still care about spotted lanternflies in Philly?

<https://www.inquirer.com/life/outdoors/spotted-lanternfly-invasive-species-philadelphia.html>

The Almanac: Pediatricians see summer spike in Lyme disease

https://thealmanac.net/news/pediatricians-see-summer-spike-in-lyme-disease/article_b45fce12-f0f4-5cf9-a213-fb16bae59a3d.html

Waste

Mon Valley Independent: North Charleroi: Fines approved for residents who violate trash rules

<https://monvalleyindependent.com/2023/08/north-charleroi-fines-approved-for-residents-who-violate-trash-rules/>

Tribune-Review: Building the Valley: Fourth generation keeps family business running at Pitt Penn Recycling

<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/building-the-valley-fourth-generation-keeps-family-business-running-at-pitt-penn-recycling/>

Water

Meadville Tribune: Public hearing tonight on water line route for Conneaut Lake-area housing development

https://www.meadvilletribune.com/news/public-hearing-tonight-on-water-line-route-for-conneaut-lake-area-housing-development/article_afc55ffe-4065-11ee-bb2c-7f736e4a8ed1.html

WPXI: Getting enough water on fire was major issue during Plum house explosion, sources say

<https://www.wpxi.com/news/local/getting-enough-water-fire-was-major-issue-during-plum-house-explosion-sources-say/XUXVODLH3VGEJGSO7GNSJVOEBE/>

Latrobe Bulletin News: LTMA seeking permit modification

https://www.latrobebulletinnews.com/news/local/ltma-seeking-permit-modification/article_655c97c0-345e-5754-99fe-68d697b96445.html

Observer-Reporter: Water shutoff announced

https://observer-reporter.com/news/localnews/water-shutoff-announced/article_1fc6777e-4026-11ee-9f64-1b4aa0d326f6.html

Tribune-Review: 75th anniversary celebration to commemorate construction of Youghiogheny River Dam

<https://triblive.com/local/regional/75th-anniversary-celebration-to-commemorate-construction-of-youghiogheny-river-dam/>

Miscellaneous

Pittsburgh Business Times: U.S. Steel saga puts fate of Mon Valley Works back into spotlight

<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2023/08/18/mon-valley-works-us-steel-cleveland-cliffs.html>

Pittsburgh Business Times: Steelworkers could tip scales for Cleveland-Cliffs' bid for U.S. Steel

https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2023/08/21/united-states-steel-cleveland-cliffs-bid.html?cx_testId=40&cx_testVariant=cx_37&cx_artPos=0#cxrecs_s

Tribune-Review: Union says it supports Cleveland-Cliffs in possible U.S. Steel takeover

<https://triblive.com/local/regional/union-says-it-supports-cleveland-cliffs-in-possible-u-s-steel-takeover/>

Tribune-Review: Editorial: Proposed U.S. Steel buyout could be next chapter of Pittsburgh history

<https://triblive.com/opinion/editorial-proposed-u-s-steel-buyout-could-be-next-chapter-of-pittsburgh-history/>