

Some clips may be behind a paywall. If you need access to these clips, email me at djagiela@pa.gov.

Top DEP Stories

Post-Gazette: Air-quality alert issued for Liberty-Clairton area

<https://www.post-gazette.com/local/south/2020/12/19/Code-Orange-Air-Quality-Action-Day-Liberty-Clairton-Allegheny-County/stories/202012190035>

KDKA: Code Orange Air Quality Alert Issued For Allegheny County This Weekend

<https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2020/12/18/code-orange-air-quality-alert-allegheny-county/>

Mentions

Indiana Gazette: Township manager: Source of runoff not found

https://www.indianagazette.com/news/township-manager-source-of-runoff-not-found/article_24905db2-413f-11eb-b110-c779710fa1f0.html

Allegheny Front: Local governments plan for climate change with help from a state program

<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/local-governments-plan-for-climate-change-with-help-from-a-state-program/>

Common Dreams: 'The Fossil Fuel Industry Is Terrified': Gas Company Sues to Destroy Small Town's Rights of Nature Law

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2020/12/15/fossil-fuel-industry-terrified-gas-company-sues-destroy-small-towns-rights-nature>

Post-Gazette: State pipeline regulators reach deal with Energy Transfer for pipeline blast

<https://www.post-gazette.com/business/powersource/2020/12/21/State-pipeline-regulators-reach-deal-with-Energy-Transfer-for-pipeline-blast/stories/202012210011>

StateImpact PA: Study: PA heart failure patients near fracking were more likely to be hospitalized

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2020/12/21/study-pa-heart-failure-patients-near-fracking-were-more-likely-to-be-hospitalized/>

Air

Pa Environment Digest: Environmental Groups Sue EPA Over Sulfur Dioxide Pollution In Indiana, Armstrong Counties

paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2020/12/environmental-groups-sue-epa-over.html

Pennlive: Code Orange air quality issued for central Pa.

<https://www.pennlive.com/news/2020/12/code-orange-air-quality-issued-for-central-pa.html>

York Dispatch: Code orange air quality action day declared Monday for Susquehanna Valley

<https://www.yorkdispatch.com/story/news/local/2020/12/20/code-orange-air-quality-action-day-declared-monday-susquehanna-valley/3985226001/>

Lancaster Newspapers: No need for vehicles to idle

https://lancasteronline.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/no-need-for-vehicles-to-idle-letter/article_98ff5cac-415d-11eb-802f-17a8ef7d8ea7.html

Post-Gazette: Big bang at steel mill blamed on heavy snow

<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/environment/2020/12/18/Heavy-snow-causes-steel-mill-reaction/stories/202012180154>

Pittsburgh Business Times: Snowfall causes reaction at U.S. Steel's Edgar Thomson facility

<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2020/12/18/snowfall-causes-reaction-at-us-steel-facility.html>

Tribune-Democrat: Private donors help Johnstown expand blight removal

https://www.tribdem.com/news/private-donors-help-johnstown-expand-blight-removal/article_a74f01b4-434b-11eb-b5f4-4fdd78dd2cde.html

Climate Change

WITF/NPR: 2020 may be the hottest year on record. Here's the damage it did

<https://www.witf.org/2020/12/18/2020-may-be-the-hottest-year-on-record-heres-the-damage-it-did/>

The Guardian: 'Folks, we're in crisis': Joe Biden introduces environmental advisers

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/dec/19/folks-crisis-joe-biden-environmental-advisers-haaland-kerry-granholm>

AP: Biden introduces his climate team, says 'no time to waste'

<https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-donald-trump-climate-climate-change-environment-7755dec25951b39f26b0124487fcdba3>

Tribune-Review: Regional energy consortium's efforts net Pittsburgh top climate protection award

<https://triblive.com/local/regional-energy-consortiums-efforts-net-pittsburgh-top-climate-protection-award/>

Post-Gazette: Lou Leonard, Michael Vandenberg and Jonathan Gilligan: The road back to Paris runs through Pittsburgh

<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/Op-Ed/2020/12/21/Lou-Leonard-Michael-Vandenberg-and-Jonathan-Gilligan-The-road-back-to-Paris-runs-through-Pittsburgh/stories/202012210008>

Next Pittsburgh: Peduto wins top award for mayoral leadership on climate change

<https://nextpittsburgh.com/latest-news/peduto-wins-top-award-for-mayoral-leadership-on-climate-change/>

Conservation and Recreation

Post-Gazette: Hunting is one activity COVID-19 hasn't knocked down

<https://www.post-gazette.com/life/outdoors/2020/12/19/hunting-pennsylvania-COVID-19-license-sales-white-tail-deer/stories/202012170130>

Post-Gazette: Save the monarch

<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/2020/12/21/Save-the-monarch/stories/202012170029>

Tribune-Review: In brief: Business networking, Master Naturalist training and more around Sewickley
<https://triblive.com/local/sewickley/in-brief-business-networking-master-naturalist-training-and-more-around-sewickley/>

Allegheny Front: In a Noisy World, Our Brains Still Need the Sounds of Nature
<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/in-a-noisy-world-our-brains-still-need-the-sounds-of-nature/>

Allegheny Front: These Hungry Beetles Could Save Pennsylvania's Hemlocks
<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/these-hungry-beetles-could-save-pa-hemlocks/>

Energy

Meadville Tribune: \$25M solar power project proposed in southwestern Crawford County
https://www.meadvilletribune.com/news/25m-solar-power-project-proposed-in-southwestern-crawford-county/article_d230eebc-4187-11eb-ade1-bbdc18a67335.html

Post-Gazette: In last rush, Trump grants mining and energy firms access to public lands
<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/politics-nation/2020/12/19/In-last-rush-Trump-grants-mining-and-energy-firms-access-to-public-lands/stories/202012190054>

Oil and Gas

WITF/StateImpact: Study: PA heart failure patients near fracking were more likely to be hospitalized
<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2020/12/21/study-pa-heart-failure-patients-near-fracking-were-more-likely-to-be-hospitalized/>

Beaver County Times: All cracker plant workers to be tested for COVID-19 after holiday break
<https://www.timesonline.com/story/news/coronavirus/2020/12/21/all-cracker-plant-workers-tested-covid-19-after-holiday/3957795001/>

Water

Ridgway Record: Video provides tips on how to defend your drains from FOG clogs (pg 4)
<https://www.ridgwayrecord.com/sites/default/files/RR%2012-19-20.pdf>

WICU-TV: High Sewage Data Shows Surge in COVID-19
<https://www.erienewsnow.com/story/43085024/high-sewage-data-shows-surge-in-covid19>

York Daily Record: Road salt for snow and ice is not very nice for Pennsylvania waterways
<https://www.ydr.com/story/opinion/2020/12/18/salt-snow-and-ice-effective-but-not-very-nice/3959323001/>

York Dispatch: At least \$175M offered for York City's wastewater system
<https://www.yorkdispatch.com/story/news/local/2020/12/18/least-175-m-offered-york-citys-wastewater-system/3964325001/>

abc27: York Water Company cares this holiday season, offers assistance to those behind on bills
<https://www.abc27.com/news/local/york/york-water-company-cares-this-holiday-season-offers-assistance-to-those-behind-on-bills/>

LehighValley Live: Conservancy steps in to restore stream eroding Northampton County farmland
<https://www.lehighvalleylive.com/slate-belt/2020/12/conservancy-steps-in-to-restore-stream-eroding-northampton-county-farmland.html>

Post-Gazette: Water line break on Steuben Street causes road closures
<https://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2020/12/19/Water-line-break-on-Steuben-Street-causes-road-closures/stories/202012190058>

Pittsburgh Business Times: Evoqua buying Ultrapure's industrial water business, increases service capabilities in Texas
<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2020/12/21/evoqua-buying-business-from-ultrapure.html>

KDKA: Water Main Break Closes Steuben Street In Both Directions
<https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2020/12/19/water-main-break-closes-steuben-street-in-both-directions/>

Miscellaneous

Bradford Era: Penn State botanists get state grant to study ginseng in Pennsylvania
www.bradfordera.com/news/penn-state-botanists-get-state-grant-to-study-ginseng-in-pennsylvania/article_857f5385-3086-5ff5-9e4e-4673560310bb.html

Vox: 10 ways Biden should fix the EPA
<https://www.vox.com/2020/12/17/22187183/michael-regan-epa-biden-cabinet>

Nature: Biden's pick to head US environment agency heartens scientists
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-03621-6>

Rolling Stone: Trump Tries to Ruin the Environment as Much as Possible Before Leaving
<https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/trump-energy-firms-access-public-lands-drilling-1106326/>

The Hill: Five states sue EPA over rule limiting pesticide safety enforcement
<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/530870-five-states-sue-epa-limiting-pesticide-safety-enforcement>

Daily American: NTSB releases report on Hyndman train wreck
https://www.dailyamerican.com/news/local/somerset/ntsb-releases-report-on-hyndman-train-wreck/article_62bfeb0a-4303-11eb-a284-039ea1aaa0e1.html

Pittsburgh Business Times: Covid-19 sparks productive conversations for CEOs for Sustainability
<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2020/12/18/covid-19-sparks-productive-conversations-for-ceos.html>

Allegheny Front: 'Anti-Protest' Bill Passes Ohio House

<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/anti-protest-bill-passes-ohio-house/>