

*Some clips may be behind a paywall. If **Regional** employees need access to these clips, please contact your **Regional Communications Manager** (NWRO – Tom Decker; NCRO – Megan Lehman; NERO – Colleen Connolly; SERO – Stephanie Berardi; SCRO – John Repetz; SWRO – Lauren Camarda). If **Central Office** staff (and others outside of DEP) need access to these clips, please email me at kedeibert@pa.gov*

Top DEP Stories

Pennlive: Sinkhole where Pa. woman died is unusual, but state is full of similar spots

<https://www.pennlive.com/news/2024/12/sinkhole-where-pa-woman-died-is-unusual-but-state-is-full-of-similar-spots.html>

PA Environment Digest: DEP Invites Comments On Proposed Hazardous Sites Cleanup Consent Order For Penn State Benner Township PFAS 'Forever Chemicals' Contamination Site In Centre County

<https://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2024/12/dep-invites-comments-on-proposed.html>

Tribune Review: Coal, once king in Pennsylvania, leaves behind abandoned mines that pose concerns

<https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/coal-once-king-in-pennsylvania-leaves-behind-abandoned-mines-that-pose-concerns/>

Pittsburgh Post Gazette: The sinkhole where a Westmoreland County woman died is unusual. But sinkholes themselves are not.

<https://www.post-gazette.com/business/powersource/2024/12/07/sinkhole-mine-westmoreland-pennsylvania/stories/202412060090>

Pittsburgh Post Gazette: Crews find body of missing Westmoreland County grandmother at bottom of sinkhole

<https://www.post-gazette.com/local/westmoreland/2024/12/06/sinkhole-unity-rescue-updates-westmoreland/stories/202412050133>

Pittsburgh Post Gazette: Shaken Westmoreland County restaurant owners prepare to reopen after deadly sinkhole saga

<https://www.post-gazette.com/local/westmoreland/2024/12/07/sinkhole-unity-pollard-restaurant/stories/202412070056>

Mentions

LehighValleyNews.com: Bethlehem supermarket vending machine shut down after bacteria detected

<https://www.lehighvalleynews.com/health-news/bethlehem-supermarkets-water-vending-machine-shut-down-after-bacteria-detected>

Meadville Tribune: City Council approves solar array for roof of DEP building

https://www.meadvilletribune.com/news/city-council-approves-solar-array-for-roof-of-dep-building/article_571e0d32-b41e-11ef-a0af-fff6f6be1d184.html

PA Environment Digest: DEP issues 10 violations to Big Dog Energy for abandoning shale gas wells

<https://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2024/12/dep-issues-10-violations-to-big-dog.html>

PA Environment Digest: Interns Wanted: DEP, DCNR Now Accepting Applications For Paid Internships
<http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=62011&SubjectID=>

PennLive: Decision to scrap \$1.1B Pa. recycling plant partially linked to Lancaster engineering firm
<https://www.pennlive.com/news/2024/12/decision-to-scrap-11b-pa-recycling-plant-partially-linked-to-lancaster-engineering-firm.html>

Next Pittsburgh: Landforce and partners receive \$13.9 million for workforce development program
<https://nextpittsburgh.com/business-tech-news/landforce-partners-receive-13-9-million/>

KDKA: Body of Pennsylvania grandma Elizabeth Pollard found in sinkhole above abandoned mine
<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/elizabeth-pollard-body-found-in-abandoned-mine-unity-township/>

KDKA: Photos show sinkhole and abandoned mine where Pennsylvania grandmother fell
<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/pictures/photos-sinkhole-pennsylvania-grandma-found/10/>

Pittsburgh Union Progress: To fluoridate, or not to fluoridate?
<https://www.unionprogress.com/2024/12/06/to-fluoridate-or-not-to-fluoridate/>

Tribune-Review: Grief, relief felt as Unity woman's remains recovered from sinkhole
<https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/unity-sinkhole-search-for-elizabeth-pollard-enters-4th-day/>

Tribune-Review: Unity woman, victim of sinkhole tragedy, remembered for dedication to family, concern for neighbors
<https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/unity-woman-victim-of-sinkhole-tragedy-remembered-for-dedication-to-family-concern-for-neighbors/>

WPXI: Elizabeth Pollard, woman who fell into sinkhole while looking for cat, found dead after 4-day search
<https://www.wpxi.com/news/local/woman-who-fell-into-sinkhole-while-looking-cat-found-dead-after-4-day-search/2LKMPGF5RNEF7DWYRRSFCLTFU/>

Westmoreland County Sinkhole

Bradford Era: Underground voids from abandoned mines pose danger to people and property when land collapses
https://www.bradfordera.com/news/underground-voids-from-abandoned-mines-pose-danger-to-people-and-property-when-land-collapses/article_5c83fd02-b3f8-11ef-adde-3f10001606af.html

Latrobe Bulletin: Missing body of 64-year-old Elizabeth Pollard found
https://www.latrobebulletinnews.com/news/local/missing-body-of-64-year-old-elizabeth-pollard-found/article_142199fe-b3f1-11ef-99dd-0b86c82ff698.html

The Mon Valley Independent: The terrible cost of an unknown mine
<https://www.monvalleyindependent.com/2024/12/09/the-terrible-cost-of-an-unknown-mine/>

WJAC: Johnstown FD sends three members to assist at scene of Westmoreland County sinkhole
<https://wjactv.com/news/local/johnstown-fd-had-three-people-at-scene-of-westmoreland-county-sinkhole#>

Tribune-Review: Editorial: The terrible cost of an unknown mine
<https://triblive.com/opinion/editorial-the-terrible-cost-of-an-unknown-mine/>

Avian Influenza

Butler Eagle: USDA orders nationwide testing of milk for bird flu to halt the virus
<https://www.butlereagle.com/20241206/usda-orders-nationwide-testing-of-milk-for-bird-flu-to-halt-the-virus/>

Air

Philly Voice: Formaldehyde causes more cancer than any other toxic air pollutant. Little is being done to curb the risk
<https://www.phillyvoice.com/formaldehyde-cancer-air-pollution-epa-regulations-myeloid-leukemia/>

Pittsburgh Post Gazette: Higher air quality permit fees could be coming for U.S. Steel and others in Allegheny County
<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/health/2024/12/06/allegheny-county-air-quality-permit-fees/stories/202412050132>

Climate Change

Delaware Currents: DRBC urged to be a bulwark against climate change
<https://delawarecurrents.org/2024/12/07/drbc-urged-to-be-a-bulwark-against-climate-change/>

WESA: In Sweden, companies are cleaning up steel production – one of the world’s biggest carbon problems
<https://www.wesa.fm/environment-energy/2024-12-08/sweden-cleaner-steel-production-carbon-emissions>

Allegheny Front: In Sweden, companies are cleaning up steel production – one of the world’s biggest carbon problems
<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/in-sweden-companies-are-cleaning-up-steel-production-one-of-the-worlds-biggest-carbon-problems/>

Conservation and Recreation

PA Environment Digest: Pennsylvania’s Outdoor Recreation Economy Grows To \$19 Billion In 2023, Supporting Thousands Of Jobs and Creating Economic Opportunity Across The Commonwealth

<https://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2024/12/pennsylvanias-outdoor-recreation.html>

PA Environment Digest: College Township Secures \$300,000 DCNR Grant For Development of ClearWater Community Conservation Center; Next DCNR Grant Round Opens Jan. 21

<http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=62008&SubjectID=>

PA Environment Digest: PA Environmental Defense Foundation Files Court Action Challenging Use Of ATVs For Recreation In Northcentral PA State Forests Resulting In 2,000+ Miles Of Illegal ATV Trails

<http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=61975&SubjectID=>

Pittsburgh Post Gazette: Pittsburgh's bald eagle season is in question, with new mates and a collapsed nest

<https://www.post-gazette.com/life/outdoors/2024/12/07/bald-eagles-pittsburgh/stories/202412050134>

KDKA: National Aviary welcomes adorable new Victoria crowned pigeon chick

<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/national-aviary-new-victoria-crowned-pigeon-chick/>

WESA: Common terns successfully breed at Presque Isle State Park for the first time in 60 years

<https://www.wesa.fm/environment-energy/2024-12-07/presque-isle-common-terns-successfully-breed>

WESA: Audubon Christmas Bird Count takes flight this month

<https://www.wesa.fm/environment-energy/2024-12-09/audubon-christmas-bird-count-2024>

Pittsburgh Union Progress: State to put a \$3.4 million 'shine' on Point State Park before 2026 NFL draft, U.S. 250th birthday

<https://www.unionprogress.com/2024/12/06/state-to-put-a-3-4-million-shine-on-point-state-park-before-2026-nfl-draft-u-s-250th-birthday/>

Tribune-Review: Have you seen a red-bellied woodpecker? In Pittsburgh region, it's a possibility, birder says

<https://triblive.com/local/regional/have-you-seen-a-red-bellied-woodpecker-in-pittsburgh-region-its-a-possibility-birder-says/>

WPXI: Youghiogheny River nominated for Pennsylvania's 2025 River of the Year

<https://www.wpxi.com/news/local/youghiogheny-river-nominated-pennsylvanias-2025-river-year/F26RU5JE7RAYJGDDEXWFRPRELY/>

Drought

Delaware Currents: DRBC declares a water-supply emergency, not a drought

<https://delawarecurrents.org/2024/12/07/delaware-river-drought-2/>

Energy

Bradford Era: Grants open for state's Solar for Schools program

https://www.bradfordera.com/news/grants-open-for-states-solar-for-schools-program/article_e2690e44-b3ee-11ef-91cb-9b2014d573eb.html

Sunbury Daily Item: EV hype slowing as focus turns to hybrids

https://dailyitem-cnhi.newsmemory.com/?token=7e481bdd156928130efdeea0d806aeb7_6755b497_1406033&selDate=20241208&goTo=A001&artid=3

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: IMC secures grants to drive green energy manufacturing

<https://www.sungazette.com/news/business/2024/12/imc-secures-grants-to-drive-green-energy-manufacturing/>

WESA: Utility law will lapse after Pa. legislature deadlocks on expanding consumer protections

<https://www.wesa.fm/politics-government/2024-12-09/pennsylvania-utility-shutoff-law-lapse-unpaid-bills-consumer-protections>

Tribune Review: CNX Resources to acquire Apex, gain 36K acres in Westmoreland County

<https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/cnx-resources-to-acquire-apex-gain-36k-acres-in-westmoreland-county/>

Allegheny Front: Pittsburgh-area battery plant secures \$303M loan guarantee to scale up clean energy storage

<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/pittsburgh-turtle-creek-eos-energy-zinc-battery-plant-clean-energy-storage/>

Oil and Gas

Tribune-Review: Plum homeowner accused of trying to blow up his house with natural gas

<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/plum-homeowner-accused-of-trying-to-blow-up-his-house-with-natural-gas/>

Tribune-Review: Upper Burrell considers injection well rules

<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/upper-burrell-considers-injection-well-rules/>

KDKA: Man accused of criminal arson after attempting to blow up his home in Plum

<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/man-accused-of-criminal-arson-after-attempting-to-blow-up-his-home-in-plum/>

Vector Management

Levittown Now: PA Will Have To Test Raw Milk From Farms Due To Bird Flu Outbreak

<https://levittownnow.com/2024/12/07/pa-will-have-to-test-raw-milk-from-farms-due-to-bird-flu-outbreak/>

Waste

Lebtown.com: Refuse Authority Board approves 2025 budget, with no change in tipping fees
<https://lebtown.com/2024/12/09/refuse-authority-board-approves-2025-budget-with-no-change-in-tipping-fees/>

The Almanac: Pittsburgh business recycling old Christmas lights for charity
https://www.thealmanac.net/local_news/2024/dec/06/pittsburgh-business-recycling-old-christmas-lights-for-charity-2/

Water

Around Ambler: Segment of Highland Ave closed due to water main break
<https://aroundambler.com/segment-of-highland-ave-closed-due-to-water-main-break/>

Delaware Currents: Underwater exploration of Upper Delaware yields hidden history
<https://delawarecurrents.org/2024/12/09/underwater-exploration-of-upper-delaware-yields-hidden-history/>

Erie Times: Rising Temperatures Expected To Melt Snow, Lead To Potential Flooding In Erie County
<https://www.goerie.com/story/news/local/2024/12/06/weather-forecast-warmer-temperatures-rain-may-lead-to-erie-county-flooding/76826792007/>

CBS21: York Water Company making changes to billing in 2025
<https://local21news.com/news/local/york-water-company-making-changes-to-billing-in-2025-city-trash-refuse-payments-payment-bills-money#>

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: Lycoming County Water and Sewer Authority rate increases approved
<https://www.sungazette.com/news/top-news/2024/12/lycoming-county-water-and-sewer-authority-rate-increases-approved/>

Pittsburgh Post Gazette: With fluoride again drawing criticism, sorting out its prevalence in Pittsburgh-area drinking water
<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/health/2024/12/07/fluoride-drinking-water-rfk/stories/202412080026>

Miscellaneous

Butler County Times: Shell Polymers to host smoke detector distribution Thursday
<https://www.timesonline.com/story/news/local/2024/12/06/shell-polymers-hosting-smoke-detector-distribution-on-thursday-beaver-county/76796131007/>

Pittsburgh Post Gazette: As Charleroi's glassmaking tradition ends, an Ohio town gains from its loss
<https://www.post-gazette.com/business/career-workplace/2024/12/08/anchor-hocking-pyrex-glass-charleroi-lancaster/stories/202412040087>

The Tribune Democrat: Windber eyes tax hike for 2025, neighboring communities set to hold line
https://www.tribdem.com/news/windber-eyes-tax-hike-for-2025-neighboring-communities-set-to-hold-line/article_f0bfdc56-b278-11ef-aac5-971a0c97d204.html

KDKA: Western Pennsylvania area wakes up to rain Monday, accumulating snow possible Wednesday
<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/western-pennsylvania-area-rain-monday-accumulating-snow-wednesday/>

Tube City Almanac: Duquesne OK's EOS Plant in RIDC Park
<http://almanac.tubecityonline.com/almanac/?e=3626>

Post-Gazette: EPA bans cancer-causing chemicals used in dry cleaning
<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/environment/2024/12/09/epa-chemical-ban-perc-tce-nyt/stories/202412090064>

Post-Gazette: What Trump's second administration could mean for environmental justice
<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/politics-nation/2024/12/08/trump-environment/stories/202412080043>

Tribune-Review: BNY sells South Buffalo data center for \$5.5 million
<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/bny-sells-south-buffalo-data-center-for-5-5-million/>

KDKA: Crews call off search for possible plane in Monongahela River
<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/crews-call-off-search-possible-plane-monongahela-river/>