

*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 – Patti Monahan; SERO – Robyn Briggs; SCRO – John Repetz; SWRO – Laina Aquiline). If **Central Office** staff (and others outside of DEP) need access to these clips, please email me at [brandongla@pa.gov](mailto:brandongla@pa.gov)*

## Top DEP Stories

PA Environment Digest: DEP Awards \$17.7 Million To Support 222 County Water Quality Cleanup Projects In Chesapeake Bay Watershed  
<https://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2025/12/dep-awards-177-million-to-support-222.html>

## Mentions

PA Environment Digest: PA Drought Task Force Adds 8 More Counties To Drought Watch, Total Now 37  
<http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=64432&SubjectID=>

## Air

Lehighvalleynews: Report: Valley air pollution exceeds WHO standards, lowest concentrations in residential areas  
<https://www.lehighvalleynews.com/environment-science/report-valley-air-pollution-exceeds-who-standards-lowest-concentrations-in-residential-areas>

## Conservation and Recreation

Allegheny Front: Hellbenders share spotlight with Abraham Lincoln at new nature preserve  
<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/ohio-eastern-hellbender-preserve-railroad-history/>

WESA: Pittsburgh greenways to see pilots in stewardship, pollinators and signage  
<https://www.wesa.fm/environment-energy/2025-12-15/greenways-grants-pittsburgh-land-trust>

Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association: Local experts share concerns over weighing 'economic impact,' other changes to Endangered Species Act. Public comment open until Dec. 22  
<https://www.middlesusquehannariverkeeper.org/blog/local-experts-share-concerns-over-weighing-economic-impact-other-changes-to-endangered-species-act-public-comment-open-until-dec-22>

Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association: Voting open until Jan. 16: River of the Year finalist Chillisquaque Creek offers microcosm of issues and opportunities for bigger Susquehanna River system  
<https://www.middlesusquehannariverkeeper.org/blog/voting-open-until-jan-16-river-of-the-year-finalist-chillisquaque-creek-offers-microcosm-of-issues-and-opportunities-for-bigger-susquehanna-river-system>

## Data Centers

WESA: As Springdale council prepares to vote, residents worry how data center could impact life in town  
<https://www.wesa.fm/environment-energy/2025-12-15/springdale-data-center>

Scranton Times: Dickson City receives four data center proposals  
<https://www.thetimes-tribune.com/2025/12/11/dickson-city-receives-four-data-center-proposals/>

Citizens Voice: Luzerne County Council moving cautiously with PPL power line request  
<https://www.citizensvoice.com/2025/12/13/luzerne-county-council-moving-cautiously-with-ppl-power-line-request/>

Standard Speaker: Luzerne County Council moving cautiously with PPL power line request  
<https://www.standardspeaker.com/2025/12/13/luzerne-county-council-moving-cautiously-with-ppl-power-line-request/>

Standard Speaker: Municipalities react to planned data centers  
<https://www.standardspeaker.com/2025/12/12/municipalities-react-to-planned-data-centers/>

The Philadelphia Inquirer: How Pennsylvanians really feel about AI data centers, according to a new survey  
<https://www.inquirer.com/business/data-centers-philadelphia-pros-cons-opposition-survey-20251215.html>

PA Environment Digest: YaleEnvironment360: Pennsylvania Faces A New Natural Gas Fracking Boom With Soaring Energy Demands Needed To Feed A.I. Data Centers  
<http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=64434&SubjectID=>

## **Energy**

Tribune-Review: Area townships on front line as Pennsylvania eyes regulations for solar farms  
<https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/area-townships-on-front-line-as-pennsylvania-eyes-regulations-for-solar-farms/>

Centre Daily Times: 'Groundbreaking' solar project on abandoned mine land in Centre County takes next step  
<https://www.centredaily.com/news/local/community/philipsburg/article313615210.html>

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: Muncy area fire chief sounds alarm on solar array design to date  
<https://www.sungazette.com/news/top-news/2025/12/muncy-area-fire-chief-sounds-alarm-on-solar-array-design-to-date/>

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: Specialist: Muncy solar array could confuse local bats  
<https://www.sungazette.com/news/top-news/2025/12/specialist-muncy-solar-array-could-confuse-local-bats/>

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: Finger-pointing on energy useless (Op-Ed by Senator Yaw)

<https://www.sungazette.com/opinion/other-commentaries/2025/12/finger-pointing-on-energy-useless/>

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: "Affordability First" flips script on energy policy (Op-Ed)

<https://www.sungazette.com/opinion/other-commentaries/2025/12/affordability-first-flips-script-on-energy-policy/>

PA Environment Digest: 265 MW Solar Energy Facility Approved By Rush Township In Centre County On Nearly 2,000 Acres Of Abandoned Mine Land

<http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=64449&SubjectID=>

## **Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields**

Pottstown Mercury: Toxic chemicals found in Gilbertsville Elementary School's water

[https://www.pottsmmerc.com/2025/12/13/toxic-chemicals-found-in-gilbertsville-elementary-schools-water/?utm\\_campaign=socialflow&utm\\_source=facebook.com&utm\\_content=fb-pottstownmercury&utm\\_social\\_handle\\_id=354440567934930&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_social\\_post\\_id=622136002](https://www.pottsmmerc.com/2025/12/13/toxic-chemicals-found-in-gilbertsville-elementary-schools-water/?utm_campaign=socialflow&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_content=fb-pottstownmercury&utm_social_handle_id=354440567934930&utm_medium=social&utm_social_post_id=622136002)

Patch.com: New PFAS Contamination Discovered Near Montgomery Co. Landfill

<https://patch.com/pennsylvania/pottstown/new-pfas-contamination-discovered-near-montgomery-co-landfill>

## **Mining**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Deadly Toxic Trail: Thousands of miners left in danger by critical enforcement gaps

<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/health/2025/12/14/coal-dust-silica-black-lung-msha/stories/202512140064>

## **Oil and Gas**

PA Environment Digest: PUC Highlights Ways Natural Gas Customers Can Manage Winter Energy Use, Costs, Explore Energy Affordability Options

<http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=64444&SubjectID=>

PA Environment Digest: Susquehanna River Basin Low Flow Water Conditions Trigger Water Withdrawal Restrictions On 40 Shale Gas Water Withdrawal Points; 17 Shale Gas Withdrawals Blocked By Ice Conditions

<http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=64440&SubjectID=>

PA Environment Digest: Sen. Yaw Bill To Subsidize Building Only Natural Gas Power Plants To Help Meet The Energy Demands Of A.I. Data Centers; Continues 'One Of The Above' Energy Policy

<http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=64435&SubjectID=>

## **Water**

The Mon Valley Independent: Elizabeth Township sets water shut-off procedure

<https://www.monvalleyindependent.com/2025/12/15/elizabeth-township-sets-water-shut-off-procedure/>

New Castle News: Shenango to take over SNCB sewers

[https://www.ncnewsonline.com/news/local\\_news/shenango-to-take-over-sncb-sewers/article\\_4a77ad25-cc3b-4daf-97f8-bff58f1d4975.html](https://www.ncnewsonline.com/news/local_news/shenango-to-take-over-sncb-sewers/article_4a77ad25-cc3b-4daf-97f8-bff58f1d4975.html)

PA Environment Digest: Stroud Water Research Center Fall Salt Snapshot Found Most Streams Still Exceeded Chloride Standards Months After Last Road Salt Was Applied

<http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=64457&SubjectID=>

## **Miscellaneous**

Tribune-Review: Some defendants in Plum fatal explosion case ask judge to dismiss negligence claims

<https://triblive.com/local/plum/some-defendants-in-plum-fatal-explosion-case-ask-judge-to-dismiss-negligence-claims/>

Scranton Times: St. Louis firm buys fourth Triboro Industrial Park lot, totaling \$80M since June

<https://www.thetimes-tribune.com/2025/12/14/st-louis-firm-buys-fourth-triboro-industrial-park-lot-totaling-80m-since-june/>

WFMZ: 'A lot more than I thought': Residents face cleanup after snow blankets sidewalks and streets

[https://www.wfmz.com/news/area/lehighvalley/lehigh-county/allentown-area/a-lot-more-than-i-thought-residents-face-cleanup-after-snow-blankets-sidewalks-and-streets/article\\_9f34f677-ce77-4acc-94f2-e2e760789d62.html#tncms-source=More-from-newsroom-\(right-column\)](https://www.wfmz.com/news/area/lehighvalley/lehigh-county/allentown-area/a-lot-more-than-i-thought-residents-face-cleanup-after-snow-blankets-sidewalks-and-streets/article_9f34f677-ce77-4acc-94f2-e2e760789d62.html#tncms-source=More-from-newsroom-(right-column))

Delaware Currents: Managing microplastics across the watershed: How water providers are responding to another 'emerging' contaminant

<https://delawarecurrents.org/2025/12/15/delaware-river-microplastics/>