

*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*

Top DEP Stories

Shamokin News-Item: More than \$17 million awarded for Chesapeake Bay Watershed conservation projects

https://www.newsitem.com/news/local/more-than-17-million-awarded-for-chesapeake-bay-watershed-conservation-projects/article_435ce9ff-db74-4f19-be3d-e41533693de3.html

Sunbury Daily Item: Valley conservation districts get \$1.5M in grants

https://www.dailyitem.com/news/valley-conservation-districts-get-1-5m-in-grants/article_cb17d6a0-8285-4163-b321-e2d2ea6ea804.html

Mentions

Pennlive: Pa. DEP staffing lagging as state faces fracking, air and water pollution issues: report

<https://www.pennlive.com/news/2025/12/pa-dep-staffing-lagging-as-state-faces-fracking-air-and-water-pollution-issues-report.html>

Bloomsburg Press-Enterprise: PFAs found at Superfund site; Contamination discovered in wells at former Safety Light property

<https://www.pressenterpriseonline.com/daily/121425/page/1/story/pfas-found-at-superfund-site>

Farm and Dairy: Well-pad setback petition moves on to Pennsylvania DEP

<https://www.farmanddairy.com/news/well-pad-setback-petition-moves-on-to-pennsylvania-dep/898372.html>

Air

WHYY: Delaware City Refinery failed to immediately report accurate butane emissions

<https://whyy.org/articles/delaware-city-refinery-butane-emissions-reporting/>

Conservation and Recreation

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>

Tubecity Almanac: Bills Would Protect Native Plants, Insects

<http://almanac.tubecityonline.com/almanac/?e=3971>

Pa Environment Digest Blog: Westminster College Honors Student Research And Creative Works At 18th Student Symposium On The Environment

<https://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2025/12/westminster-college-honors-student.html>

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: Chillisquaque Creek offers microcosm of issues, opportunities for Susquehanna system

<https://www.sungazette.com/news/outdoors/2025/12/chillisquaque-creek-offers-microcosm-of-issues-opportunities-for-susquehanna-system/>

Shamokin News-Item: Chillisquaque Creek nominated for River of the Year

https://www.newsitem.com/news/local/chillisquaque-creek-nominated-for-river-of-the-year/article_6ef18617-38bd-53be-a31f-5d59f2be64ed.html

Milton Standard-Journal: Chillisquaque Creek nominated for River of the Year

https://www.standard-journal.com/news/local/article_cca609a3-d53d-41dd-9be6-527834d004d5.html

Sunbury Daily Item: Chillisquaque Creek in running for Pa. river of year

https://www.dailymail.com/news/chillisquaque-creek-in-running-for-pa-river-of-year/article_1cb61651-71fc-4793-b4a7-9edfd2c0b5e2.html

Lock Haven Express: Penn State, others receive funding to conserve PA biodiversity

<https://www.lockhaven.com/news/local-news/2025/12/penn-state-others-receive-funding-to-serve-pa-biodiversity/>

Data Centers

Allegheny Front: As Springdale council prepares to vote, residents worry how data center could impact life in town

<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/springdale-allegeny-county-data-center/>

WITF: Pa. Attorney General Dave Sunday says he'll defend state AI laws from Trump administration

<https://www.witf.org/2025/12/15/pa-attorney-general-dave-sunday-says-hell-defend-state-ai-laws-from-trump-administration/>

Bloomsburg Press-Enterprise: Salem supers clear way for data center

<https://www.pressenterpriseonline.com/daily/121625/page/1/story/salem-supers-clear-way-for-data-center>

Centre Daily Times: What's at stake in Trump's executive order aiming to curb state-level AI regulation

<https://www.centre daily.com/opinion/us-viewpoints/article313657894.html>

Shamokin News-Item: Data center boom threatens our wallets (LTE)

https://www.newsitem.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-to-the-editor-data-center-boom-threatens-our-wallets/article_803a0400-0db1-4a9c-bc1d-86679475902e.html

Lock Haven Express: Energy market watchers see electric bills in PA, other states rising as data center demand continues

<https://www.lockhaven.com/news/local-news/2025/12/energy-market-watchers-see-electric-bills-in-pa-other-states-rising-as-data-center-demand-continues/>

NorthcentralPA.com: Talen makes changes ahead of rescheduled meeting

https://www.northcentralpa.com/community/talen-makes-changes-ahead-of-rescheduled-meeting/article_d9dac5c6-4beb-49a7-b08a-4d476bdc768d.html

Bloomsburg Press-Enterprise: Data center ordinance eyed; Hemlock Township supervisors aim to prepare for energy proposals

<https://www.pressenterpriseonline.com/daily/121325/page/1/story/data-center-ordinance-eyed>

Energy

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Competition keeps electricity prices down, regulation raises them

<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/letters/2025/12/14/pennsylvania-power-market-regulation-competition-monopoly/stories/202512140080>

Sunbury Daily Item: The path forward: Communities prepare for their energy futures

https://www.dailymail.com/cnhi_network/the-path-forward-communities-prepare-for-their-energy-futures/article_6ca1788d-8f58-5be5-880f-fbcf379f2e6f.html

StateCollege.com: Cloudy Outlook for Solar Power Agreement in Centre County

<https://www.statecollege.com/articles/local-news/cloudy-outlook-for-solar-power-agreement-in-centre-county/>

Centre Daily Times: With expected cost savings in doubt, future of Centre County solar project unclear

<https://www.centre daily.com/news/politics-government/article313406690.html>

NorthcentralPA.com: Electric bills in Pa. rising as data center demand continues

https://www.northcentralpa.com/business/electric-bills-in-pa-rising-as-data-center-demand-continues/article_2fdf5c16-66d0-4080-83a0-1fdcad6a9f90.html

Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields

Tribune-Review: Army Corps of Engineers receives another \$32M for Parks Township remediation work

<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/army-corps-of-engineers-receives-another-32m-for-parks-township-remediation-work/>

PFAS

Businesswire.com: Aqua Pennsylvania Installs PFAS Treatment to Protect Drinking Water for Thousands of Customers in Bucks County

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20251215172629/en/Aqua-Pennsylvania-Installs-PFAS-Treatment-to-Protect-Drinking-Water-for-Thousands-of-Customers-in-Bucks-County>

Waste

Latrobe Bulletin: Local nonprofit encourages county residents to recycle live Christmas trees

https://www.latrobebulletinnews.com/news/local/local-nonprofit-encourages-county-residents-to-recycle-live-christmas-trees/article_39ff66b0-f250-41de-8667-c31fdeda9732.html

Carlisle Sentinel: Carlisle plans in-house trash collection by 2028

https://cumberlink.com/news/local/government-politics/article_8b26cf3b-086c-4e8e-b94c-56d3806bad00.html

Centre Daily Times: Commentary: We're losing the race against plastic, but there's a solution

<https://www.centredaily.com/opinion/us-viewpoints/article313574404.html>

Centre Daily Times: F.D. Flam: The real microplastics problem isn't in your brain (Commentary)

<https://www.centredaily.com/opinion/us-viewpoints/article313673507.html>

NorthcentralPA.com: Lycoming waste transfer station to close for maintenance

https://www.northcentralpa.com/business/lycoming-waste-transfer-station-to-close-for-maintenance/article_ddb0d419-e877-41a8-84b5-c64b2237e946.html

Water

Tribune-Review: 2 stormwater projects included in 2026 Bradford Woods budget with no tax increase

<https://triblive.com/local/2-stormwater-projects-included-in-2026-bradford-woods-budget-with-no-tax-increase/>

Lancaster Online: Adamstown Borough finalizes 2026 budget with property tax, sewer rate and water rate hikes

https://lancasteronline.com/news/regional/adamstown-borough-finalizes-2026-budget-with-property-tax-sewer-rate-and-water-rate-hikes/article_84a629ce-fee9-496c-a9cc-dff65fabc323.html

Lebtown: Myerstown Wastewater Treatment Facility receives PRWA recognition

<https://lebtown.com/2025/12/16/myerstown-wastewater-treatment-facility-receives-prwa-recognition/>

Huntingdon Daily News: Alexandria has Water System of the Year

https://www.huntingdondailynews.com/news/local/alexandria-has-water-system-of-the-year/article_af3d5ff9-579d-4191-856e-e5819b7bceb1.html

WHYY: Road salt remains in Pa., N.J. and Del. waterways months after winter storms, according to new data

<https://whyy.org/articles/road-salt-remains-waterways-winter-storms/>

Shamokin News-Item: Sunbury receives \$1 million DCED grant for stormwater, sewer project

https://www.newsitem.com/news/local/sunbury-receives-1-million-dced-grant-for-stormwater-sewer-project/article_dcaad900-b0ab-4566-ac9a-e8669079088f.html

NorthcentralPA.com: Eagle Creek receives state grant for sewer system upgrades
https://www.northcentralpa.com/news/eagle-creek-receives-state-grant-for-sewer-system-upgrades/article_7c5438ad-0ed0-4436-ad1e-3298754fd6bc.html

Bloomsburg Press-Enterprise: Montour Township offering discounts on sewer payments
<https://www.pressenterpriseonline.com/daily/121425/page/1/story/montour-township-offering-discounts-on-sewer-payments>

Miscellaneous

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: One-third of Pittsburgh's plows were unavailable during weekend snowstorm: 'We have to invest in our fleet'
<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/weather-news/2025/12/15/pittsburgh-snow-plows/stories/202512150106>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Trump order that discourages state AI laws is an 'abuse of power,' Sen. Costa says
<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/politics-state/2025/12/15/pennsylvania-trump-state-ai-regulation-costa-sunday/stories/202512150087>

Lancaster Online: Elizabethtown residents will see property tax, sewer fee and trash collection increases next year
https://lancasteronline.com/news/regional/elizabethtown-residents-will-see-property-tax-sewer-fee-and-trash-collection-increases-next-year/article_133aa465-d412-476f-a5e4-88fc58b1c0fc.html

Huntingdon Daily News: Supervisors to split cost of hazard plan
https://www.huntingdondailynews.com/news/local/supervisors-to-split-cost-of-hazard-plan/article_bd7591b1-1910-46f9-9e61-795d901c6d21.html

Gettysburg Times: Borough makes complaint against Met-Ed public
https://www.gettysburgtimes.com/news/local/article_ba6ef001-059a-42f8-94fe-a2708fbb7503.html

The Philadelphia Inquirer: In 2026, America needs an anti-AI party | Will Bunch Newsletter
<https://www.inquirer.com/columnists/attytood/ai-time-person-of-the-year-silicon-valley-billionaires-20251216.html?query=energy>

MyChesco.com: Pennsylvania Locks In Its Farmland as Millions Block the Bulldozers
<https://www.mychesco.com/a/news/pennsylvania/pennsylvania-locks-in-its-farmland-as-millions-block-the-bulldozers/>