

*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

WJAC: PA DEP awards \$360K to Clearfield Co. to enhance watersheds, sustainable farming practices
<https://wjactv.com/news/local/pa-dep-awards-360k-to-clearfield-co-to-enhance-watersheds-sustainable-farming-practices>

Clearfield Progress-News: State awards more than \$17b million for Chesapeake Bay watershed conservation projects
https://www.theprogressnews.com/news/local/state-awards-more-than-17-million-for-chesapeake-bay-watershed-conservation-projects/article_22232ac7-1559-41ef-888d-d630d9d4fb16.html

DuBois Courier-Express: Clearfield County Conservation District receives grant for Chesapeake Bay Watershed project
https://www.thecourierexpress.com/news/local/clearfield-county-conservation-district-receives-grant-for-chesapeake-bay-watershed-project/article_4d0faa23-f796-466e-9987-59adb2111ea1.html

Mentions

DuBois Courier-Express: Consolidation nears finish line as DuBois-Sandy officials review remaining tasks
https://www.thecourierexpress.com/news/consolidation-nears-finish-line-as-dubois-sandy-officials-review-remaining-tasks/article_887b3a58-9749-4a14-a864-f10cd58a8c17.html

Avian Influenza

KDKA: Hundreds of snow geese found dead in Pennsylvania from suspected bird flu
<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/dead-snow-geese-pennsylvania-bird-flu/>

Bradford Era: Avian influenza suspected in deaths of snow geese on Pa.
<https://www.bradfordera.com/2025/12/16/avian-influenza-suspected-deaths-snow-geese-pa/>

Erie Times: About 400 dead snow geese found in eastern Pennsylvania quarry
<https://www.goerie.com/story/sports/outdoors/2025/12/16/avian-influenza-suspected-of-killing-400-snow-geese-in-pennsylvania-game-commission-testing-birds/87796822007/>

Conservation and Recreation

Bradford Era: ANFVB announces '26 event, marketing grants
<https://www.bradfordera.com/2025/12/16/anfvb-announces-26-event-marketing-grants/>

Standard Speaker: Hundreds of snow geese dead at Northampton County quarry suspected victims of bird flu, game commission says

<https://www.standardspeaker.com/2025/12/16/hundreds-of-snow-geese-dead-at-northampton-county-quarry-suspected-victims-of-bird-flu-game-commission-says/>

Gant News: Voting Begins for Pennsylvania's 2026 River of the Year

<https://gantnews.com/2025/12/14/voting-begins-for-pennsylvanias-2026-river-of-the-year/>

Clearfield Progress-News: Clearfield County Commissioners approve CCCD leases

https://www.theprogressnews.com/news/local/clearfield-county-commissioners-approve-cccd-leases/article_f8b1b304-cad1-4d60-93b0-d29e269a5523.html

DuBois Courier-Express: DuBois-Sandy Joint Board hears update on tree planting efforts in city

https://www.thecourierexpress.com/news/dubois-sandy-joint-board-hears-update-on-tree-planting-efforts-in-city/article_1ef9ec5e-f40a-4902-8481-08982876d378.html

DuBois Courier-Express: Pa. endangered species series: Eastern mud salamander

https://www.thecourierexpress.com/news/local/pa-endangered-species-series-eastern-mud-salamander/article_a3c3bb5b-77b9-4bd6-a0b5-9016e720ceaf.html

DuBois Courier-Express: Pa. endangered species series: Tricolored bat

https://www.thecourierexpress.com/news/local/pa-endangered-species-series-tricolored-bat/article_6d956b31-c410-4253-8f0c-7efb26a82ddd.html

DuBois Courier-Express: State secures 35-year lease to boost small businesses, outdoor tourism in PA Wilds

https://www.thecourierexpress.com/news/local/state-secures-35-year-lease-to-boost-small-businesses-outdoor-tourism-in-pa-wilds/article_c1c69051-4542-4611-8a61-cc6cc22433e0.html

Data Centers

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Over residents' concerns, Springdale votes yes on data center

<https://www.post-gazette.com/business/development/2025/12/16/springdale-pennsylvania-data-center-council-vote/stories/202512160104>

KDKA: Springdale council approves high-tech AI data center after months of debate

<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/springdale-borough-data-center-council-approves-months-debate/>

WTAE: Councilmembers approve conditional use permit for Springdale data center

<https://www.wtae.com/article/councilmembers-conditional-use-permit-springdale-data-center/69790687>

WESA: Pittsburgh-area hyperscale data center gets green light

<https://www.wesa.fm/environment-energy/2025-12-16/pittsburgh-area-hyperscale-data-center-gets-green-light>

Tribune-Review: Springdale Council approves data center despite resident resistance
<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/springdale-council-approves-data-center-despite-resident-resistance/>

Lancaster Online: Lancaster city making safety plans for data center battery fires
https://lancasteronline.com/news/local/lancaster-city-making-safety-plans-for-data-center-battery-fires/article_7ea8dd90-cf0f-42ee-b6ef-563111464166.html

Altoona Mirror: Groups urge Shapiro to dial back support for data centers
<https://www.altoonamirror.com/news/local-news/2025/12/groups-urge-shapiro-to-dial-back-support-for-data-centers/>

Lehighvalleynews: LVPC: 2.6 million-square-foot Upper Macungie data center proposal is missing vital information
<https://www.lehighvalleynews.com/parkland/lvpc-2-6-million-square-foot-upper-macungie-data-center-proposal-is-missing-vital-information>

Drought

Clearfield Progress-News: CMA lifts drought restrictions
https://www.theprogressnews.com/news/local/cma-lifts-drought-restrictions/article_1e74f4fe-d427-4ce7-a8ba-5ecc19ffeb6.html

Energy

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Howard Lutnick: Pennsylvania energy will make America affordable again
<https://www.post-gazette.com/opinion/guest-columns/2025/12/17/trump-pennsylvania-energy-natural-gas-affordability-lutnick/stories/202512160090>

Pennlive: Gov. Shapiro's RGGI exit is smart, balanced leadership
<https://www.pennlive.com/opinion/2025/12/gov-shapiros-raggi-exit-is-smart-balanced-leadership-opinion.html>

ABC27: U.S. Energy Secretary to visit site of Pennsylvania nuclear plant restart
<https://www.abc27.com/local-news/u-s-energy-secretary-to-visit-site-of-pennsylvania-nuclear-plant-restart/>

ABC27: Heating costs expected to jump 9.2 percent this winter
https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/5652622-energy-prices-rise-winter/?utm_campaign=TheHill-trending-stories&utm_source=abc27.com&utm_medium=thehill-cross-brand

WTAJ: Controversial Rush Township solar project moves forward, numbers questioned
<https://www.wtaj.com/news/local-news/controversial-rush-township-solar-project-moves-forward-numbers-questioned/>

WOLF: Scott Township unanimously rejects solar farm after residents voice concerns
<https://fox56.com/news/local/scott-township-rejects-solar-farm-after-residents-voiced-concerns>

DuBois Courier-Express: DuBois-Sandy Twp. officials explore energy services model to fund future capital needs
https://www.thecourierexpress.com/news/dubois-sandy-twp-officials-explore-energy-services-model-to-fund-future-capital-needs/article_ea625783-69ea-430f-bb67-9e48b31c30db.html

Gant News: Joint Board Discusses Timber Sale, Siemens Proposal to be “Environmental Services Company”
<https://gantnews.com/2025/12/09/joint-board-discusses-timber-sale-siemens-proposal/>

Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields

The Philadelphia Inquirer: Montco school in shadow of toxic landfill finds PFAS in its water
<https://www.inquirer.com/news/pennsylvania/boyertown-landfill-gilbertsville-school-pfas-20251216.html>

Patch.com: New 'Forever Chemicals' Found In Community Near Montco Landfill: What To Know
<https://patch.com/pennsylvania/pottstown/new-forever-chemicals-found-community-near-montco-landfill-what-know>

Oil and Gas

Pittsburgh Business Times: Pennsylvania natural gas impact fee collections to jump 46% to nearly \$240M in 2025
<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2025/12/16/natural-gas-impact-fee-pennsylvania.html>

Waste

The Mon Valley Independent: Elizabeth Borough wastewater system sale official
<https://www.monvalleyindependent.com/2025/12/17/elizabeth-wastewater-system-sale-official/>

Water

Beaver County Radio: Major water break occurs in the Chippewa area
<https://beavercountyradio.com/news/major-water-break-occurs-in-the-chippewa-area/>

Meadville Tribune: Sewer authority rates to stay the same as next major project approaches
https://www.meadvilletribune.com/news/sewer-authority-rates-to-stay-the-same-as-next-major-project-approaches/article_5a63e85b-e006-467d-8b70-94a1495ba5ac.html

Lebtown: City of Lebanon Authority to increase sewer rates, maintain water rates for '26

<https://lebtown.com/2025/12/17/city-of-lebanon-authority-to-increase-sewer-rates-maintain-water-rates-for-26/>

Lebtown: Myerstown Wastewater Treatment Facility receives PRWA recognition
https://lebtown.com/?srsltid=AfmBOooP4H7t5kqTWd88QMoBEUyBt3KhFzWriwUIM_--pbyUm96A1Ftg

My Chesco.com: Pennsylvania Waterways Rebound as Billions of Gallons Get a Second Chance
<https://www.mychesco.com/a/news/pennsylvania/pennsylvania-waterways-rebound-as-billions-of-gallons-get-a-second-chance/>

My Chesco.com: Rivers, Wildlife, and Parks Take Center Stage in Pennsylvania's Green Push
<https://www.mychesco.com/a/news/pennsylvania/rivers-wildlife-and-parks-take-center-stage-in-pennsylvanias-green-push/>

WHYY: Philadelphia's water department wants to know whether your pipes are lead-free
<https://whyy.org/articles/philadelphia-pipes-lead-water-department/>

Clearfield Progress-News: Clark named as wastewater operator of the year
https://www.theprogressnews.com/news/local/clark-named-as-wastewater-operator-of-the-year/article_5b95d028-f5f9-4f1b-84e1-384e4ede91ef.html

DuBois Courier-Express: Punxsutawney Council defends Elk Run Fire Co., revisits township sewer rates
https://www.thecourierexpress.com/news/local/punxsutawney-council-defends-elk-run-fire-co-revisits-township-sewer-rates/article_fed6e81a-6e8e-455a-b863-17ddede304f5.html

Miscellaneous

WJAC: Bellefonte waterfront project eyes spring 2026 construction start
<https://wjactv.com/news/local/bellefonte-waterfront-project-eyes-spring-2026-construction-start>

Tubecity Almanac: Report: Mon Valley Works Lags Behind World
<http://almanac.tubecityonline.com/almanac/?e=3973>

Erie Times: Is there ice on Lake Erie? NOAA data shows how much
<https://www.goerie.com/story/news/local/2025/12/16/noaa-lake-erie-ice-coverage-percentage/87778069007/?tbref=hp>

Republican Herald: Cybersecurity threat forces Minersville to close its schools
<https://www.republicanherald.com/2025/12/16/cybersecurity-threat-forces-minersville-to-close-its-schools/>

Scranton Times: Developers hope to break ground soon on Olyphant townhouse community
<https://www.thetimes-tribune.com/2025/12/16/developers-hope-to-soon-break-ground-on-26-unit-townhouse-community-in-olyphant/>

WBRE: Neighbors feel betrayed after Geisinger expansion
<https://www.2822news.com/news/neighbors-feel-betrayed-after-geisinger-expansion/>

DuBois Courier-Express: State lawmakers announce boot camp program to remain in Clearfield County following Quehanna closure

https://www.thecourierexpress.com/news/state/state-lawmakers-announce-boot-camp-program-to-remain-in-clearfield-county-following-quehanna-closure/article_022af7db-6d42-4c20-b7b8-2a13be1603c8.html