

*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*

Mentions

Butler Eagle: Connoquenessing Township's \$53M sewer plan rejected by state DEP
<https://www.butlereagle.com/20251230/connoquenessing-townships-53m-sewer-plan-rejected-by-state-dep/>

The Philadelphia Inquirer: Pennsylvania was known for an arduous permitting process. New policies aim to accelerate building projects.
<https://www.inquirer.com/news/pennsylvania/dep-permitting-process-pennsylvania-reforms-20251230.html>

Climate Change

DELCO Times: 'Trump's EPA' in 2025: A fossil fuel-friendly approach to deregulation
<https://www.delcotimes.com/2025/12/30/trump-epa-review/>

WHYY: Concrete is a big contributor to climate change. Penn researchers say they can shrink its footprint
<https://whyy.org/articles/concrete-climate-change-pennsylvania-university/>

Philly Voice: What your cheap clothes cost the planet
<https://www.phillyvoice.com/fast-fashion-environmental-cost-pollution-shein-cheap-clothes/>

Conservation and Recreation

WESA: Guided hikes in local parks lead Pittsburghers into the new year
<https://www.wesa.fm/environment-energy/2025-12-31/guided-hikes-in-local-parks-lead-pittsburghers-into-the-new-year>

Allegheny Front: River otters in Western Pennsylvania: An environmental success story
<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/river-otters-pennsylvania-conemaugh-river/>

Allegheny Front: Grandma Gatewood's epic Appalachian Trail hike
<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/grandma-gatewood-appalachian-trail-first-woman/>

Courier Express: Forest and wildlife technology programs to open at Penn State Altoona
https://www.thecourierexpress.com/news/state/forest-and-wildlife-technology-programs-to-open-at-penn-state-altoona/article_1307868b-4ebc-45c3-ba1d-99ffaf71e84f.html

Morning Call: Here's what to get out of hiking in the Lehigh Valley

<https://www.mcall.com/2025/12/30/heres-where-to-get-out-and-get-hiking-in-the-lehigh-valley-on-new-years-day/>

Bradford Era: More logging in Allegheny National Forest could boost nearby communities
<https://www.bradfordera.com/2025/12/31/logging-allegheny-national-forest-boost-nearby-communities/>

Clarion News: Corps of Engineers accepting Christmas trees for recycling
https://www.theclarionnews.com/news/frontpage/corps-of-engineers-accepting-christmas-trees-for-recycling/article_77b403ad-92a8-48e3-9e99-69c6b687cac2.html

WHYY: Your Philly Christmas tree could get a second life benefitting city gardens, trails and even goats: Here's how to recycle or compost
<https://whyy.org/articles/philadelphia-christmas-tree-recycling-compost/>

Daily Local: First Day Hikes at PA state parks in the region
<https://www.dailylocal.com/2025/12/30/first-day-hikes-at-pa-state-parks-in-the-region/>

Altoona Mirror: Best foot forward: Local state parks ready to start new year off right with First Day Hikes
<https://www.altoonamirror.com/news/local-news/2025/12/first-day-hikes-start-year-best-foot-forward/>

Data Centers

The Daily Item: Commissioner: "Not willing to take a risk" on data centers in Union County
https://www.dailyitem.com/news/commissioner-not-willing-to-take-a-risk-on-data-centers-in-union-county/article_9ffe39b4-dcbb-4dde-b682-a198af113e50.html

WOLF: Residents voice strong opposition to proposed data center ordinance in Sugarloaf Township
<https://fox56.com/news/local/residents-voice-strong-opposition-to-proposed-data-center-ordinance-in-sugarloaf-township>

WBRE: Residents pack township meeting on proposed data center
<https://www.2822news.com/news/residents-pack-township-meeting-on-proposed-data-center/>

Scranton Times: Data center proposed in Abingtons community
<https://www.thetimes-tribune.com/2025/12/30/data-center-proposed-in-abingtons-community/>

Times Leader: 2025 IN REVIEW: Data centers, openings, closings and celebrations mark busy year in NEPA
<https://www.timesleader.com/news/1728608/2025-in-review>

Morning Call: Lehigh Valley top stories of 2025: Chicken coop battles, ICE raid, children in danger and data centers
<https://www.mcall.com/2025/12/31/top-stories-of-2025-chicken-coop-battles-ice-raids-children-in-danger-and-warehouse-closures/>

Energy

KDKA: More Pittsburgh-area residents seeing increased need for utility assistance programs
<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/dollar-energy-fund-western-pennsylvania-winter-weather/>

Times Observer: Don't count on lower electricity prices in 2026
<https://www.timesobserver.com/news/local-news/2025/12/dont-count-on-lower-electricity-prices-in-2026/>

WHYY: New financing is available for Philly-area homeowners seeking to install rooftop solar
<https://whyy.org/articles/philadelphia-homeowners-rooftop-solar-panels-financing/>

Delco Times: Power outage numbers rise in Delaware County with the winds
<https://www.delcotimes.com/2025/12/29/power-outage-numbers-rise-in-delaware-county-with-the-winds/>

Mining

Allegheny Front: A former gravel mine in Erie County gets a second chance as forestland
<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/erie-pennsylvania-lake-pleasant-mineland-reforestation/>

Vector Management

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: This tick-borne disease continues to rise in Allegheny County
<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/health/2025/12/31/anaplasmosis-allegheny-county/stories/202512260013>

Waste

Centre Daily Times: Which Centre County spots pick up Christmas trees curbside? How to dispose of yours
<https://www.centredaily.com/news/local/community/article314054901.html>

Waste Today: Philadelphia sanitation department launches waste, recycling portal
<https://www.wastetodaymagazine.com/news/philadelphia-department-of-sanitation-launches-waste-recycling-portal/>

Water

Beaver County Radio: Consumer Alert: PUC to Hold Two Additional Public Input Hearings on Rate Changes Proposed by Pennsylvania American Water Company
<https://beavercountyradio.com/news/consumer-alert-puc-to-hold-two-additional-public-input-hearings-on-rate-changes-proposed-by-pennsylvania-american-water-company/>

Westfield Free Press-Courier: Elkland council agrees to increase water, sewer rates

https://www.tiogapublishing.com/free_press_courier/news/local/elkland-council-agrees-to-increase-water-sewer-rates/article_8cd32186-38b4-47ac-b610-d7e0f58e79d9.html

Billy Penn: Get out the vote: Why the Lower Schuylkill River should win Pa. River of the Year

<https://billypenn.com/2025/12/25/pennsylvania-river-of-the-year-2026-vote-lower-schuylkill-philadelphia/>

Lancaster Online: 2 more public hearings set for proposed Pennsylvania American Water Co. rate hikes

https://lancasteronline.com/news/local/2-more-public-hearings-set-for-proposed-pennsylvania-american-water-co-rate-hikes/article_e640fa3b-1581-4c90-9f86-74d7e2ee50a0.html

Lewistown Sentinel: Township approves 20% sewer rate increase

<https://www.lewistownsentinel.com/news/local-news/2025/12/township-approves-20-sewer-rate-increase/>

CBS21: Crews use over 87K gallons of water in fight against large mulch fire

<https://local21news.com/news/local/photos-crews-use-over-87k-gallons-of-water-in-fight-against-large-mulch-fire-peach-bottom-township-robert-fulton-highway-fire-company-tuesday-morning-wind-dry-pennsylvania-pa>

WFMZ: PUC to host public meetings on proposed PA American Water rate hikes

https://www.wfmz.com/news/area/berks/puc-to-host-public-meetings-on-proposed-pa-american-water-rate-hikes/article_f3cddb0-168f-472a-866d-fa1b1fba1cb9.html

Miscellaneous

WJAC: Hundreds of weather related EMA calls in area as strong winds cause downed trees and lines

<https://wjactv.com/news/local/hundreds-of-weather-related-ema-calls-in-area-as-strong-winds-cause-downed-trees-and-lines>

Bucks County Herald: NTSB: Soil beneath destroyed Bristol Township nursing home positive for gas

https://www.buckscountyherald.com/news/ntsb-soil-beneath-destroyed-bristol-township-nursing-home-positive-for-gas/article_f7a4a959-309c-4bb6-8833-e3c4a43608d8.html