

*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

New Castle News: DEP declares Code Orange Air Quality Alert for Monday

https://www.ncnewsonline.com/news/local_news/dep-declares-code-orange-air-quality-alert-for-monday/article_a3d8e637-cdd8-4d2f-8b2a-118b7ce9ccb6.html

Mentions

Allegheny Front: Energy Transfer seeks to expand gas plant with history of problems in Washington County

<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/energy-transfer-seeks-to-expand-gas-plant-with-history-of-problems-in-washington-county/>

WESA: Wildfire smoke returns to Pittsburgh today, Code Orange air quality alert in effect through midnight

<https://www.wesanews.org/environment-energy/2026-07-20/wildfire-code-orange-air-quality>

WPXI: Air quality alert issued for Western Pennsylvania because of wildfire smoke

<https://www.wpxi.com/news/local/air-quality-alert-issued-western-pennsylvania-because-wildfire-smoke/NFCUAVE6XJDYHPFZXMXBLST7K4/>

WTAE: Code Orange Air Quality Alert issued for Western Pennsylvania

<https://www.wtae.com/article/code-orange-western-pennsylvania-air-quality/73189874>

Tribune-Democrat: DEP issues 'Code Orange' air quality alert for Monday in western Pa.

https://www.tribdem.com/news/dep-issues-code-orange-air-quality-alert-for-monday-in-western-pa/article_ed669ed5-4d65-4938-9e4f-3872034d8798.html

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Code Orange air alert issued, but skies continue to clear

<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/weather-news/2026/07/19/pittsburgh-weather-tornadoes/stories/202607190070>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Spill of hydraulic fluid in Allegheny River contained, Lower Burrell fire chief says

<https://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2026/07/18/hydraulic-fluid-spill-allegheny-river/stories/202607180037>

News Castle News: Former INMETCO plant receives \$1.5-million grant

https://www.ncnewsonline.com/news/local_news/former-inmetco-plant-receives-1-5-million-grant/article_753147a7-10a4-4b7f-a87b-a8673f670636.html

WOLF: West Nile virus detected again in Lackawanna County mosquito samples

<https://fox56.com/news/local/west-nile-virus-detected-again-in-lackawanna-county-mosquito-samples>

Philly Burbs: Burlington County officials leery of nearby PA data center | Exclusive
<https://www.phillyburbs.com/story/news/health/2026/07/17/amazon-data-center-falls-township-bucks-county-delaware-river-florence-fieldsboro-bordentown-city/90948415007/>

Air

Mon Valley Independent: Smoke returns to Valley, but far less severe than Friday
[Smoke returns to Valley, but far less severe than Friday - Mon Valley Independent](#)

Erie Times: Presque Isle State Park's Beach 6 nearly deserted due to 'bad' air
<https://www.goerie.com/videos/news/2026/07/17/air-quality-poor-presque-isle-beach-6-nearly-deserted/90960312007/>

Indiana Gazette: Storms pass; new smoke alert in effect in western Pa.
https://www.indianagazette.com/local_news/storms-pass-new-smoke-alert-in-effect-in-western-pa/article_40f263ea-d439-4a34-96fb-e21396be3755.html

Fox 29: Code Orange air quality alert issued for Philadelphia area Saturday, July 18
<https://www.fox29.com/news/code-orange-air-quality-alert-issued-philadelphia-area-saturday-july-18>

Philly Burbs: Are Canadian wildfires still burning? Bucks County air quality today
<https://www.phillyburbs.com/story/weather/2026/07/18/canadian-wildfires-still-burning-how-long-will-wildfire-smoke-last-pa-air-quality-forecast-map/90965171007/>

WHYY: Reprieve from wildfire smoke expected to come over the weekend, meteorologists say
<https://whyy.org/articles/philadelphia-wildfire-smoke-forecast-weekend/>

NBC10: Severe storms hit Philly region on Saturday
<https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/live-updates-air-quality-alert-severe-storms-saturday-philadelphia-new-jersey-pennsylvania-delaware/4435193/>

6abc: Better air quality, less humid Sunday in the Philadelphia region
<https://6abc.com/live-updates/air-quality-alerts-philadelphia-pennsylvania-new-jersey-delaware-due-canadian-wildfire-smoke/19521992/y>

CBS3: Air quality improves across the Philadelphia area as severe storm chances return this week
<https://www.cbsnews.com/philadelphia/news/ef-2-tornadoes-philadelphia-weather-forecast/>

6abc: Better air quality, less humid Sunday in the Philadelphia region
<https://6abc.com/live-updates/air-quality-alerts-philadelphia-pennsylvania-new-jersey-delaware-due-canadian-wildfire-smoke/19521992/>

Conservation and Recreation

Tribune-Democrat: 'No better way to spend a day': Tubapalooza provides fun on Stonycreek River
https://www.tribdem.com/news/local_news/no-better-way-to-spend-a-day-tubapalooza-provides-fun-on-stonycreek-river/article_7eeff10b-64f5-4e4b-bd96-cfd06036c879.html

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: 'New' old-growth forests in southwestern Pa. offer much more than monster trees
<https://www.post-gazette.com/life/outdoors/2026/07/19/old-growth-forests-southwestern-pa/stories/202607170042>

Republican Herald: Japanese knotweed: the notorious invasive taking root across Pennsylvania
<https://www.republicanherald.com/2026/07/18/japanese-knotweed-the-notorious-invasive-taking-root-across-pennsylvania/>

Data Centers

ABC27: Mifflin County data center town hall postponed after application returned as 'incomplete'
<https://www.abc27.com/local-news/mifflin-county-data-center-town-hall-postponed-after-application-returned-as-incomplete/>

Bloomsburg Press-Enterprise: Data center rules are set out
<https://www.pressenterpriseonline.com/news/2026/07/17/1/data-center-rules-are-set-out>

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: Legal notice claims lack of action by Muncy Township equates to approval of proposed data center
<https://www.sungazette.com/news/top-news/2026/07/legal-notice-claims-lack-of-action-by-muncy-township-equates-to-approval-of-proposed-data-center/>

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: Limited options: Lawmaker explains role township ordinances will play in data center development
<https://www.sungazette.com/news/top-news/2026/07/limited-options-lawmaker-explains-role-township-ordinances-will-play-in-data-center-development/>

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: Muncy Township solicitor: Data center filings are inconsistent
<https://www.sungazette.com/news/top-news/2026/07/muncy-township-solicitor-data-center-filings-are-inconsistent/>

Bucks County Today: AI Data Center Boom Turns Northeast Pennsylvania Farmers Into Instant Millionaires
<https://bucksco.today/2026/07/salem-township-pa-farmland-ai-data-center-millions/>

Daily Local: Sen. Muth to hold virtual town hall Monday
<https://www.dailylocal.com/2026/07/18/sen-muth-to-hold-virtual-town-hall-monday/>

Energy

WESA: Electricity demand in Pennsylvania and surrounding states is outstripping supply

<https://www.wesanews.org/environment-energy/2026-07-20/electricity-demand-pennsylvania-supply-pjm>

Huntingdon Daily News: College planning \$8M solar array project

https://www.huntingdondailynews.com/news/local/college-planning-8m-solar-array-project/article_0ed4737a-cb87-4a4e-aeb0-b373e455fd15.html

WBRE: Power restored to most customers after Saturday storms

<https://www.2822news.com/top-stories/thousands-reported-without-power-after-saturday-storms/>

Bloomsburg Press-Enterprise: Grid operator falls short on energy supply

<https://www.pressenterpriseonline.com/news/2026/07/16/7/grid-operator-falls-short-energy-supply>

Fox29: US average gas price rises above \$4 a gallon again

<https://www.fox29.com/news/us-average-gas-price-rises>

Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields

Bloomsburg Press-Enterprise: Valley supers move to seal up condemned hotel

<https://www.pressenterpriseonline.com/news/2026/07/20/1/valley-supers-move-seal-hotel>

PFAS

My Chesco.com: Pennvest Loan Funds PFAS Treatment at Malvern Well

https://www.mychesco.com/a/communities/malvern/pennvest-loan-funds-pfas-treatment-at-malvern-well/#google_vignette

Vector Management

TribLive: Pa. Lyme disease cases near historic highs in Allegheny, Westmoreland counties

<https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/pa-lyme-disease-cases-near-historic-highs-in-allegheny-westmoreland-counties/>

Waste

Lancaster Farming: Livestock Composting Leads to Bucks County Stink

https://www.lancasterfarming.com/farming-news/conservation/livestock-composting-leads-to-bucks-county-stink/article_c2018c2f-cf46-4140-921e-26e47c812d23.html

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: County commissioner reacts to citizen comment about landfill

<https://www.sungazette.com/news/top-news/2026/07/county-commissioner-reacts-to-comment/>

The Philadelphia Citizen: Philly Trash Doesn't Have to Burn in Chester

<https://thephiladelphiacitizen.org/burn-trash-chester/>

Pottstown Mercury: Friel's bill regulating food waste use on Pa. farms is now law
<https://www.pottsmmerc.com/2026/07/16/friels-bill-regulating-food-waste-use-on-farms-is-now-law/>

Water

Mon Valley Independent: PUC approves smaller than requested rate changes for Pa. American Water
<https://www.monvalleyindependent.com/2026/07/20/puc-approves-smaller-than-requested-rate-changes-for-pa-american-water/>

Pennlive: That water looks nasty. Is it a harmful algal bloom that's dangerous to people, pets?
<https://www.pennlive.com/outdoors/2026/07/that-water-looks-nasty-is-it-a-harmful-algal-bloom-thats-dangerous-to-people-pets.html>

Central Penn Business Journal: Cumberland County gains grant for water infrastructure
<https://www.cpbj.com/cumberland-county-gains-grant-for-water-infrastructure/>

Morning Call: Severe storms, flash flooding possible in Lehigh Valley once again.
<https://www.mcall.com/2026/07/20/allentown-weather-severe-weather-flash-flooding-tuesday/>

KYW: Get ready for more detours: PennDOT to resume construction on Market Street Bridge
<https://www.audacy.com/kywnewsradio/news/local/penn-dot-to-resume-construction-market-street-bridge-july-2026>

The Philadelphia Citizen: Make our Rivers So Clean, You Can Swim in Them
<https://thephiladelphiacitizen.org/ideas-we-should-steal-make-our-rivers-clean-swimmable/>

Levittown Now: Meet The 'Frankenfish' You Should Kill When You Catch It
https://levittownnow.com/2026/07/18/meet-the-frankenfish-you-should-kill-when-you-catch-it/#google_vignette

Miscellaneous

AXIOS: Pittsburgh startup scans leftovers to cut food waste
<https://www.axios.com/local/pittsburgh/2026/07/20/pittsburgh-clean-plate-food-waste>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: What to know about the health impacts of wildfire smoke
<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/health/2026/07/17/air-quality-health-effects/stories/202607170047>

WFMZ: Rodale Institute unveils plans to transform 1819 barn into education center
https://www.wfmz.com/news/area/berks/northern-berks-county/rodale-institute-unveils-plans-to-transform-1819-barn-into-education-center/article_fe970e76-c204-456d-9992-53155c621838.html

The Philadelphia Inquirer: Pope Leo XIV will present inaugural Villanova University sustainability award created in his name

<https://www.inquirer.com/education/villanova-sustainability-award-pope-leo-xiv-20260720.html>