



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION



Bureau of Clean Water

Improving the Chapter 102 Permitting Process

Water Resources Advisory Committee
Harrisburg, PA
October 25, 2017

Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Acting Secretary

Background

- Stakeholder Meetings
 - Seven Held Statewide in February/March 2017
 - Morning Session - Permittees, Consultants, Engineers, Developers, elected officials
 - Total Statewide Attendees - 70
 - Afternoon Session County Conservation Districts (CCDs)
 - Total Statewide Attendees - 112

The Questions

- What is working well with the current process?
- What is **not** working well with the current process?
- What changes should be made ?
 - Process
 - Permits
 - Regulation

What We Heard – Good Things

- Pre-application meeting are good
- Working with CCDs
- Willingness to find solutions/flexibility
- Responsiveness of CCDs
- CCD familiarity with local issues
- GP process through CCD – smooth, quick
- Good communication between DEP and CCDs

What We Heard - The Bad

- Need a low impact/small project permit
- Takes too long to get a permit
- Inconsistency among Regions and CCDs
- BMP Manual needs updated
- Notice of Termination (NOT) process is confusing
- Co-Permittee Process is difficult

The Challenge

- Over the past decade, DEP's operating budget and staffing have declined
- The number of Chapter 102 applications submitted has not declined
- Objective – seek ways to improve efficiency and make the permitting process less cumbersome without sacrificing environmental protection

What We Will Do – Short Term

- Develop a low environmental impact small project general permit (PAG-01)
- Develop additional guidance and permitting tools
- Improve co-permittee, recording of instruments and NOT process
- Publish Final Act 162 Guidance

What We Will Do – Medium Range

- Individual NPDES Permits – Process Changes
- SOPs - Review and Update All
- Training – Release of Training Modules for 102 permitting

What We Will Do – Long Term

- Evaluate revisions to Chapter 102 Regulation
- Revise the BMP Manual
- Develop electronic permit application and notice of intent (NOI) submission capabilities



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