



Updates to the Regulatory, Technical Guidance, and Advisory Committees Policies

Water Resources Advisory Committee
Meeting

October 25, 2017

Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary

Policy Revision Overview

- Policies first developed in the 1990s
- Overview of 2017 Updates to Policies:
 - Increase transparency and clarity
 - Intended to facilitate meaningful conversation between DEP and all stakeholders interested in participating in our policy development
 - Removed DEP's internal workflow processes into Standard Operating Procedures documents for simplicity.

Regulatory Review Policy

Title: Development and Review of Regulations

Policy Number: 012-0820-001

Background:

- Originally developed in 1996.
- Last updated in 1999.

Regulatory Review Policy

Purpose:

- Provides an overview of how DEP will develop regulations necessary to effectively implement Commonwealth and Federal environmental laws, based on the expertise of DEP and other Commonwealth agency staff, departmental advisory committees, boards and councils, and based on comments received during the public participation process.

Regulatory Review Policy

Summary of Revisions:

- Updates made to ensure that the policy remains relevant to current practice.
- Explains how amendments made to the Regulatory Review Act in 2012 (Act 76) impact the way DEP carries out its regulatory review and development process.
- Policy was reformatted for clarity and readability.

Technical Guidance Policy

Title: Policy for the Development and Publication of Technical Guidance

Policy Number: 012-0900-001

Background:

- Originally developed in 1996.
- Revised and published as Interim-Final in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* in May 2015.

Technical Guidance Policy

Purpose:

- Outlines DEP's key considerations for the development of TGDs, the tools to enhance transparency, public comment periods, and the maintenance and distribution of TGDs.

Technical Guidance Policy

Summary of Revisions:

- Significantly simplified from the previous version.
- A “Providing Comments” section was added to clarify what identifying information should be included in a comment and where comments can be submitted.

Advisory Committee Policy

Title: Advisory Committee Guidelines

Policy Number: 012-1920-002

Background:

- Originally published May 5, 1998.
- No update after 1998.

Advisory Committee Policy

Purpose:

- Explains the role, function, and expectations of DEP's advisory committees. DEP currently works with over 25 advisory committees.

Advisory Committee Policy

Summary of Revisions:

- Clarifies the roles of advisory committee members, the public, and DEP related to the planning and holding of advisory committee meetings.
- Clarifies role of advisory committees and members in the regulatory review and technical guidance review processes.



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