

**June 2024 Report to the Citizens Advisory Council**  
*(New and updated information in italics)*

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**Regulatory Update (Detailed summaries included in respective program sections)**

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- Please refer to the [DEP Rolling Regulatory Agenda](#) for the full Regulatory Update.
- Proposed Rulemaking – Administration of the Land Recycling Program (#7-575): The draft proposed regulation was discussed with the Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board on October 10, 2022, January 23, 2023, and May 31, 2023. The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) adopted the proposed regulation on March 12, 2024.
- *Draft Final* Rulemaking – Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards (#7-577): The draft proposed regulation was discussed with the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) on May 19 and November 17, 2022, and the Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) on December 8, 2022. The EQB adopted the proposed regulation on July 11, 2023. The proposed regulation was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on October 7, 2023, for a 45-day public comment period that closed on November 21, 2023. A virtual public hearing was held on November 14, 2023. The draft final annex was presented to AAB on April 17, 2024, *and WRAC on May 16, 2024.*
- *Draft Final* Rulemaking – Water Quality Standards – Site-Specific Water Quality Criteria (#7-571): The draft proposed regulation was discussed with the AAB on March 15, 2023, and the Water Resources Advisory Committee on March 16, 2023. The EQB adopted the proposed regulation on July 11, 2023. The proposed regulation is scheduled to be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on November 4, 2023, for a 45-day public comment period that closed on December 19, 2023. A virtual public hearing was held on December 5, 2023. *The draft final annex was presented to WRAC on May 16, 2024.*

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**Public Comment Periods**

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To see the latest DEP and EQB public comment periods, visit DEP's [eComment website](#).

**Proposals Open for Public Comment**

- *Proposed State Implementation Plan Revision; Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for the Beaver, PA Nonattainment Area for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard (opened 5/18/2024, closes 6/21/2024)*
- *Stream Redesignation Evaluations of Beaver Run, Bald Eagle Creek, Raystown Branch Juniata River, Sibbald Run, Stony Creek, Kettle Run, Haycock Creek, Fletcher Run; Water Quality Standards Review (opened 5/18/2024, closes 6/17/2024)*
- *Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs; Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Intended Use Plans (opened 5/18/2024, closes 6/17/2024)*
- *Proposed General Plan Approval and/or General Operating Permit for Human or Animal Crematory Incinerators (opened 5/4/2024, closes 6/17/2024)*
- Draft Safe Drinking Water General Permit 01 (SDWGP-01) – Community Water System Finished Water Storage Tank Painting (opened 4/27/2024, closes 5/28/2024)

- Draft Stream Evaluation Reports: Chester Creek (Chester County), Reynolds Run (Lancaster County), Unnamed Tributary to North Fork Dunkard Fork (Greene County), Loyalsock Creek (Lycoming and Sullivan) (opened 4/20/2024, closes 6/4/2024)

### **Recently Closed Comment Periods**

- Pennsylvania's Ozone Exceptional Event Analyses for June 1, 2023, through June 2, 2023, and June 29, 2023, through June 30, 2023 (opened 4/27/2024, closes 5/28/2024)
- Revised Interim-Final Technical Guidance: Guidelines for the Uniform Environmental Review Process in Pennsylvania (opened 4/20/2024, closed 5/20/2024)
- Closure Requirements for Aboveground Storage Tank Systems (opened 4/6/2024, closed 5/6/2024)
- Closure Requirements for Underground Storage Tank Systems (opened 4/6/2024, closed 5/6/2024)
- Proposed Revised General Plan Approval and/or General Operating Permit for Coal-Mine Methane Enclosed Flares (BAQ-GPA/GP-21) (opened 3/16/2024, closed 4/29/2024)
- Intent to Submit Pennsylvania State Implementation Plan Revisions to Environmental Protection Agency (opened 2/24/2024, closed 4/26/2024)
- Environmental Assessment Approvals for PENNVEST Funding Consideration (April 2024) (opened 3/30/2024, closed 4/22/2024)
- Draft TMDL Prioritization Strategy for USEPA's 2022-2032 Vision (opened 3/23/2024, closed 4/22/2024)
- General Permit WMGR081 Proposed Modifications (opened 2/3/2024, closed 4/4/2024)
- Draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Construction Activities (PAG-02) (opened 3/9/2024, closed 4/8/2024)

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### **Communications Monthly Press Releases**

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To see the latest DEP press releases, visit DEP's [news releases webpage](#).

#### Press Releases Issued

April 24 – MEDIA ADVISORY – DEP, Partners to Celebrate Stream Restoration Investments and Water Quality Improvements on Turtle Creek

April 25 – Shapiro Administration and Partners Celebrate Turtle Creek Watershed Stream Restoration, Investments, and Water Quality Improvements

April 29 – DEP Launches New Pilot Program to Reduce Errors, Speed Up Processing Time for Key Construction Permit

May 3 – DEP Begins 2024 Black Fly Suppression Program

May 10 – DEP To Host Public Hearing for Schuylkill County Landfill Permit Renewal Application

May 13 – The Shapiro Administration Awards \$5.67 Million for Mineland Restoration Projects

May 15 – Shapiro Administration Awards \$5 Million to Beaver County Community Projects Through Record-Breaking Agreement Holding Shell Accountable for Environmental Violations

May 16 – DEP To Host Public Meeting and Hearing on Reworld Plymouth Air Permit

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## Active and Abandoned Mine Operations

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### **Act 54 Effects of Underground Mining 6<sup>th</sup> Report**

DEP has designated calendar years 2018-2022 to be the 5-year period for the 6th “Act 54” report. Through January 2023, DEP’s Bureau of Mining Programs (BMP) and California District Mining Office completed an update to the data records of claims, compliance actions, stream effects and wetland effects related to underground bituminous mining. BMP and California District Mining Office then arranged and packaged the data for submittal to the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) for peer review. *The final report was completed and is being routed for public release.* After the 6<sup>th</sup> report is released, the online data will be updated to include 2023 information to the present.

### **Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding**

On April 5, the first of three rounds of the 2024 AML/AMD Grant Program ([AML/AMD Grant Program \(pa.gov\)](#)) closed. *Currently*, 10 applications are under review. The three rounds of the 2024 AML/AMD Grant Program are:

2024 Application Round 1 – February 19, 2024 through 11:59 p.m. April 5, 2024

2024 Application Round 2 – June 3, 2024 through 11:59 p.m. July 19, 2024

2024 Application Round 3 – September 23, 2024 through 11:59 p.m. November 8, 2024

*On May 13, a PA-DEP Press Release at [Article Viewer \(pa.gov\)](#) announced that up to \$5,672,751 in funding from the BIL is being made available for eight reimbursable grants through the AML/AMD Grant program that was from the third and final round of the 2023 AML/AMD Grant Program that closed on December 2, 2023. The applicants of projects that are not recommended will be consulted with so they may improve, correct, and resubmit their projects for future grant rounds.*

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## Air Quality

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### **Control of Existing Sources of VOC Emissions from the Oil and Natural Gas Industry**

The final-form rulemaking for the control of VOC emissions from unconventional oil and natural gas sources and the final-omit rulemaking for the control of VOC emissions from conventional oil and natural gas sources were both published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on December 10, 2022.

BAQ submitted the SIP revision to EPA on December 12, 2022. The EPA found the submittal administratively complete on December 14, 2022. This completeness determination rescinded the offset sanctions which took effect on June 16, 2022, and halted the imposition of Federal highway funding sanctions that were set to take effect in Pennsylvania on December 16, 2022. EPA will evaluate the approvability of this SIP submission in accordance with the applicable technical and RACT requirements of the CAA.

On January 27, 2024, the Department published a notice suspending the enforcement of the initial annual report submission for Unconventional and Conventional Oil and Gas Sources until June 1, 2024, the date the second report is due. This suspension was in response to concerns expressed regarding the ability of some owners and operators to complete the first annual report on time based on understanding the technical aspects of the regulation and the reporting requirements.

On February 13, 2024, the Department posted model [Annual Compliance Reporting Templates](#) on the public Air Quality website along with specific instructions on how to electronically upload reports to DEP. These templates are not required to be used but will assist affected parties with compliance with the reporting requirements in the regulations. These templates and other information can be found at [Annual Reporting for the VOC Rules for Oil & Natural Gas Sources \(pa.gov\)](#).

### RACT III Major Sources of NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS

The rulemaking was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on November 12, 2022. The Federally mandated deadline for compliance by regulated facilities was January 1, 2023. A SIP revision was submitted to EPA on January 13, 2023, for their review and action. Air Quality regional staff have reviewed 59 of 60 RACT II equals RACT III determinations and 14 of 94 case-by-case RACT determinations received from major sources of NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC. A public comment period and hearing is being offered for each of these permitting actions.

### Regulatory State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revisions

#### Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT II)

On May 25, 2022, EPA issued a proposed notice for a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) addressing RACT requirements for certain sources in Pennsylvania. This FIP proposed to set emission limits for NO<sub>x</sub> emitted from coal-fired electric generating units (EGUs) equipped with SCR controls to meet the RACT requirements for the 1997 and 2008 ozone NAAQS. The Department submitted comments in opposition to the FIP.

On May 26, 2022, DEP submitted a RACT II SIP revision for Homer City, Keystone, and Conemaugh EGUs. On June 6, 2022, DEP submitted a RACT II SIP revision for Montour EGU. All four facilities filed appeals to the Environmental Hearing Board regarding the terms and conditions of their RACT II permits.

On August 31, 2022, EPA published the final FIP setting emission limits for nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) at Conemaugh, Homer City, Keystone and Montour EGUs. In the final rule, EPA adjusted its rate calculation for facilities with more than one unit and made additional changes in response to technical information received. Conemaugh, Keystone, and Homer City filed petitions to review in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court. On March 13, 2023, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit denied the facilities' motions to stay the March 29, 2023 FIP compliance date. On July 1, 2023, the Homer City EGU ceased operations and soon after dismissed its petition for review. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court held a hearing on the merits on November 6, 2023, *and issued its ruling on May 2, 2024, upholding the FIP.*

On January 16, 2024, DEP forwarded draft modified Title V Permits for Conemaugh, Keystone, and Homer City Stations to EPA for review. The draft permits incorporate the FIP limits. The public comment period for these permits closed on February 26, 2024. The Department received one set of comments and prepared a Comment/Response document. The Operating Permits were issued on March 14, 2024, and the SIP revision incorporating these permits was submitted to EPA on April 10, 2024. Keystone and Conemaugh have appealed the Operating Permits to the EHB.

On February 21, 2024, EPA published their proposed disapproval of RACT II SIP revisions for the Keystone, Conemaugh and Homer City electric generating facilities originally submitted by DEP on May 26, 2022. The public comment period ended on March 22, 2024.

Air Quality Permit NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC offset sanctions for areas of Pennsylvania not designated as attainment for Ozone went into effect on March 15, 2024.

### Non-Regulatory SIP Revisions

#### 2010 Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) NAAQS Attainment Demonstration SIP Revisions

On August 18, 2022, EPA published a Final Partial Approval/Partial Disapproval of the Department's SIP revision for Indiana and Armstrong Counties. The partial disapproval focused on the calculation of the SO<sub>2</sub> permit limit averaging periods. DEP must submit and EPA must approve a SIP revision within 18 months (by March 2024) or permit offset sanctions will apply. DEP submitted its SIP revision to EPA on October 12, 2023. Air Quality Permit SO<sub>2</sub> offset sanctions for Indiana and parts of Armstrong Counties went into effect on March 19, 2024.

On February 22, 2023, the EPA Region III Administrator sent Governor Shapiro a “120-Day Letter” proposing to reclassify several townships in Westmoreland County and Cambria County from “attainment” to “nonattainment” for the 2010 sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) NAAQS. The area lies immediately outside of the current Indiana County SO<sub>2</sub> nonattainment area for which the BAQ is preparing a SIP revision. The Department reviewed the technical support document accompanying the 120-Day Letter and responded with comments on June 22, 2023.

On February 7, 2024, the EPA Region III Administrator signed a proposed rulemaking creating the new 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS non-attainment areas, specifically Lower Yoder Township (Cambria County); St Clair Township, Seward Borough (Westmoreland County), and New Florence Borough (Westmoreland County). The official notice was published on February 12, 2024, announcing a 45-day comment period. If a new designation is finalized, DEP is required within 18 months to submit a SIP revision demonstrating how the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS will be attained in these partial counties.

#### 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards

On October 7, 2022, EPA published a final rule: Determinations of Attainment by the Attainment Date, Extensions of the Attainment Date, and Reclassification of Areas Classified as Marginal for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). Of the 28 nonattainment areas nationwide, five areas attained the standard, 22 failed to attain it, and one area received an extension. Areas were required to attain the standards by August 3, 2021. The Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City (PA-NJ-MD-DE) Area was reclassified to moderate nonattainment. The “bumped up” area includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties and is now required to attain the standards by August 3, 2024.

The Department worked with EPA, NJ, MD and DE on the needed modeling and published the proposed SIP revision in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on August 5, 2023. A public hearing was held on September 6, and the comment period closed on September 7, 2023. The Department submitted the SIP revision on Sept 28, 2023, and EPA issued a completeness letter on October 5, 2023.

The Department evaluated the impact of wildfire smoke on the 2023 ozone season (March - October) for the PA-NJ-MD-DE Non-Attainment Area and submitted an exceptional event Initial Notification to EPA on March 4, 2023. *DEP published its Exceptional Event analyses on April 27, 2024, for public comment. The public comment period ends on May 28, 2024. Pennsylvania anticipates submitting the Exceptional Event Analyses to EPA in June 2024.*

#### Beaver SO<sub>2</sub> Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan

*On May 18, 2024, DEP opened the public comment period for the Beaver Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for the 2010 SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. The Notice was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Beaver County Times, and on the DEP Air Quality public webpage [Bureau of Air Quality \(pa.gov\)](https://www.dep.state.pa.us/airquality). The public comment period closes on June 21, 2024. A public hearing to receive comments on the proposal will be held on June 18, 2024, 9 a.m. at the DEP Southwest Regional Office.*

#### Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee

The next scheduled meeting is July 11, 2024.

#### Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee

The next scheduled meeting is July 24, 2024.

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#### Energy Programs Office

#### Transportation

## **Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant (AFIG)**

The AFIG Program offers grant funding for clean, alternative fuel projects in Pennsylvania and investment in Pennsylvania's energy sector. Approximately \$5 million in grants is available for school districts, municipal authorities, political subdivisions, nonprofit entities, corporations, limited liability companies or partnerships incorporated or registered in the commonwealth.

*The 2024 Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program (AFIG) opened on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. \$5 million in grant funding is available to school districts, municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and businesses in Pennsylvania that want to transition to cleaner fuel transportation. AFIG is accepting applications on the Electronic Single Application (ESA) system. The program will review all applications submitted by 11:59 PM on June 28, 2024, and again upon the program's closure at 11:59 PM on December 20, 2024.*

## **Electric School Bus Technical Assistance**

*EPO, via contracting with ERG Inc., initiated an Electric School Bus Technical assistance project to educate school districts and transportation companies about the benefits of electric school buses and the funding sources available for electrification. The project began by hosting in-person and virtual workshops on bus and charging technologies and the necessary infrastructure planning and utility engagement needed to enable operations. Several school districts were chosen from the workshop participants to receive one on one technical assistance to help them plan for electrification of their specific fleet. Technical assistance offerings included: bus route analysis, bus type selection, electric vehicle charging infrastructure needs analysis, total cost of ownership calculations and guidance on workforce training.*

*ERG provided technical assistance this month to three school districts interested in electrifying their fleets. Technical assistance has included bus route analysis, electric vehicle charging infrastructure needs analysis, charging equipment layout review, utility coordination guidance, and bus performance analysis. A new funding source for electric school buses was announced by EPA this month, and EPO and ERG developed a webinar to help Pennsylvania school districts learn about it. The May 30<sup>th</sup> webinar presented the \$650 million dollar opportunity available to schools through EPA's Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle grant fund and addressed how federal tax credits can be used alone or in combination EPA funding for fleet electrification.*

## **ZEV Roadmap**

DEP is developing a new, updated Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Roadmap which will build upon the successes of the original Roadmap, created in 2019 and updated in 2021. DEP's contractor, ICF, Inc., and the Drive Electric PA (DEPA) Coalition are assisting with development. *The new roadmap will go beyond light-duty electric vehicles and will model medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicle adoption and also explore hydrogen fuel cell vehicle adoption. The final ZEV Roadmap 2.0 will map out specific, implementable strategies aimed to maximize the economic and environmental benefits of zero tailpipe emission transportation in Pennsylvania in the light, medium and heavy-duty spaces.*

*Draft light, medium and heavy-duty fleet modeling and electric and hydrogen infrastructure modeling was developed and shared with the DEPA Coalition. Infrastructure cost modeling was developed, and EPO decided on which actionable strategies to include in the roadmap. These strategies were presented to the DEPA Coalition on June 6, 2024. The final ZEV roadmap report will be available this summer.*

## **Energy Security**

### **Monthly Fuels Sector Calls**

EPO and DEP's Director of Emergency Response have coordinated monthly Fuels Sector Calls with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) to provide situational awareness regarding supply



concerns related to heating and transportation fuels. *Various State Agencies, including PUC, PennDOT, Agriculture, Revenue, and State Police, attend the meeting as well as Pennsylvania private Fuel Sector stakeholders such as the state propane and petroleum associations, retailers and refineries. The group discussion is to identify any issues that could be problematic. The next meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2024. There were no reported concerns in the last meeting that occurred in April 2024 and discussion was made on future exercise engagement with the liquid fuel industry. Approximately 40 people attended the meeting in April.*

### **Energy Storage Consortium**

Energy storage is a complex and important technology needed to enhance resiliency and reliability of our electricity grid and to maximize the benefits of the growing renewable energy sector. The Pennsylvania Energy Storage Consortium serves as an opportunity for engagement of key stakeholders on a wide range of topics that can lead to an advancement of storage capacity in Pennsylvania. *The Consortium has been meeting quarterly since 2021 and registered stakeholders represent organizations that include government, developers, utilities, EJ and environmental consultants, trade associations, manufacturers and more.*

*EPO hosted an Energy Storage Consortium meeting on May 29, 2024 where Emily Barrett, Sr. Lead Market Design Specialist at PJM, discussed how PJM is approaching energy storage's role in a cleaner energy future. This included current utilization of energy storage in PJM's markets, an outlook on pending projects, and how stakeholders can participate in the market going forward and engage with PJM in shaping the use of energy storage in the market of the future.*

## **Climate Change**

### **Shared Energy Manager**

The Shared Energy Manager (SEM) program was designed to assist local governments in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with on-the-ground, practical support from a professional energy manager contracted by the DEP Energy Programs Office to conduct energy assessments, renewable energy studies, and other services to implement elements of their climate action plans.

A contract has been awarded to Wilson Engineering Services, which will serve as the Shared Energy Manager for the DEP Energy Programs Office's local government participants. The programs will run from 2024-2027, with 20 participants per cohort for a total of 80 participants over 4 years.

*Wilson Engineering completed multiple site visits for Cumberland County in April to assess the feasibility of a large PV array for the county's energy needs. Additionally, there were energy audits/assessments at municipal facilities for Hampden Township (volunteer firehouse), New Cumberland Borough (municipal building/police station), Dickinson Township, and North Newton Township under the umbrella of Cumberland County. Site visits were also completed for Lewisburg Borough to complete an energy audit of the municipal building and review of city streetlights for conversion to LEDs. A future site visit is being planned for Centre Region COG. Wilson is also preparing a presentation on Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreements and their applicability/utilization for local governments to be considered for presentation at the August Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting.*

## **Renewable Energy**

### **Toolkit for Solar on Schools in Pennsylvania**

The Energy Programs Office (EPO), with support from its contractor the Philadelphia Solar Energy Association, has developed a Toolkit for Solar on Schools in Pennsylvania. The goals of this project *were* to accelerate adoption of solar energy on schools and nonprofits statewide by educating key decision makers and streamlining processes, maximize Pennsylvania's utilization of federal funding made available through the

federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the federal Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IIJA), and reduce soft costs and shorten the learning curve for solar adoption at schools. The Toolkit includes information on the key elements of a solar PV system, how to determine if a property is a good location for solar, how to estimate savings and financial return, an overview of the solar installation process, a discussion of ownership models and contracts, and information on financing options and incentives, including new opportunities afforded by the Inflation Reduction Act. *The toolkit and supporting materials were finalized in April and are available on the newly created schools page on the DEP Solar Energy Resource Hub (<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/solar/Pages/Schools.aspx>). This project was funded through DEP's State Energy Program funds from DOE.*

#### **Grid-Scale Solar Development on Previously Impacted Mine Lands in Pennsylvania Assessment:**

The Energy Programs Office has been exploring in-depth the different challenges associated with siting grid-scale solar development on previously mined lands to gain a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders involved in the development process. EPO has been attempting to identify factors which lead to successful deployments to develop actionable recommendations to improve processes and other factors involved in siting. *The Energy Programs Office (EPO), in partnership with the project team from the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (ECAMR) and LaBella Associates, developed an assessment report, which was reviewed and approved by the DEP leadership team in April. Upon final review by the DEP Communications team, the assessment report will be available for release to the public. This initiative was funded through DEP's State Energy Program funds from DOE.*

**Grid-Scale Solar Development Outreach and Technical Assistance for Local Government Officials:** The Energy Programs Office (EPO) has partnered with the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) to provide Phase III of outreach and technical assistance support to local government officials regarding grid-scale solar development across the Commonwealth. *Through May, all six of the planned in-person sessions for this phase have taken place. Since January 2024, events have been conducted in Susquehanna/Wayne, Blair, Clearfield, Greene, Mercer, and Armstrong Counties. Each session provided an opportunity for local government practitioners to ask questions about how grid-scale solar projects are being developed and what steps they need to take to ensure development occurs in a responsible and sustainable fashion, balancing the concerns of landowners, neighboring property owners, and developers. Topics addressed included considerations for ordinances to govern land use and zoning, property tax implications, and decommissioning requirements. The Municipal Officials' Guide to Grid-Scale Solar Development in Pennsylvania, created through a previous EPO project with Penn State Extension, provided the foundational information for the meetings. Each session attracted between 25 to 35 local government officials representing roles such as township supervisors, land use planners, consulting engineers, and solicitors. In addition to conducting these sessions, the PSATS team has provided follow-up one-on-one technical assistance to over 80 jurisdictions since the project started in January 2023. PSATS also hosted a webinar providing an overview of the solar development process to newly elected officials in February, as well as a webinar open to statewide local officials in April. PSATS's outreach is being funded through DEP's State Energy Program funds from DOE.*

## **Energy Efficiency**

### **Building Energy Code Trainings**

Using funding through the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) State Energy Program, DEP has sponsored energy code trainings for building code officials, contractors, design professionals and builders for over 10 years. On February 14, 2022, the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) went into effect for all new construction and major renovations for residential and commercial buildings. *EPO has selected a contractor and 2023-24 trainings on IECC residential and commercial energy building code and duct and envelope testing sessions are being scheduled through June. The scope includes eight in-person trainings, five three-hour and two one-hour virtual workshops. The trainings are targeted to code officials and third-party*



code inspectors, but available to designers, builders, and contractors. Half the courses have been held with good attendance, and the remaining half of the courses are scheduled with registrations underway.

## **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Energy Update and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)**

- **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)-Home Energy Rebates** EPO is developing two programs within the Inflation Reduction Act Home Energy Rebates, Home Efficiency Rebate Program (HOMES) and Home Electrification Rebates Program (HEAR) The HEAR Program will provide point-of-sale consumer discounts to enable low- and moderate-income households across America to electrify their homes. These point-of-sale rebates are an immediate, off-the-top discount when making qualifying electrification purchases. The HOMES Rebate program is meant to encourage performance-based residential energy efficiency retrofits. This will ensure that Pennsylvanians with the highest energy burdens can better-afford upgrades. The RFP for the HEAR designer/implementer was issued on March 25<sup>th</sup> and closed on May 9<sup>th</sup>. EPO is in the process of evaluating the proposals for this program and will be making a selection of the contractor in the coming months. The HOMES RFP is currently being developed by EPO and will solicit proposals for the design of that rebate program. In the coming month, EPO will push the RFP through the state procurement process to solicit bids for the design of the rebate program.
- **Training for Residential Energy Contractors (TREC)** Pennsylvania will be awarded \$4,960,910 over four years to implement a heat pump training program for HVAC contractors in Pennsylvania in order to prepare them for successfully delivering Home Energy Rebates. The ALRD released by DOE on July 17, 2023. EPO submitted its application several days in advance of the original DOE deadline of January 31, 2024. DOE informed Pennsylvania in May 2024 that the award of program funds has been delayed to from April 2024 to “fall/winter 2024.” Questions and comments on Pennsylvania’s application were received from DOE in May and EPO responded within a week. DOE is currently reviewing responses and informed Pennsylvania that it will be included in the earliest group of TREC awards. In order to be prepared when EPO is awarded its program funds by DOE, EPO intends to issue an RFP in the next few months for a contractor to lead and manage the PA TREC program.
- **Solar for All:** The Solar for All program is providing grants to States, Tribal governments, municipalities, and nonprofits to expand the number of low-income and disadvantaged communities that are primed for residential and community solar investment (\$7 billion nationally). EPA announced the release of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund’s Solar for All Notice of Funding Opportunity on June 28, 2023, and DEP/PEDA applied October 6, 2023. DEP/PEDA was among the 60 awardees announced on April 22, 2024, receiving \$156,120,000 to develop a low-income solar program across Pennsylvania. PEDA’s Solar for All application was submitted in coalition with the Philadelphia Green Capital Corporation (PGCC), the non-profit green bank affiliate of the Philadelphia Energy Authority. PEDA is working with PGCC to take the experience and success of the Solarize Philly program and expand that across the state. The PA Solar for All program will enable solar installations for 14,000 homeowners over a 5-year program period. PEDA is working with the EPA to finalize the grant by September 2024 and adjust the program budget and workplan to fit the award amount. Program design work is ongoing to identify technology and financial partner needs to support an early 2025 program launch.
- **The Pennsylvania Grid Resilience Grants (PA GRG) Program:** Approximately \$16 million in competitive funding was made available to entities that own or operate electric power system infrastructure throughout the Commonwealth that want to implement resilience measures intended to mitigate the impact of electric grid disruptive events. The program received 16 Full Applications for the 2023 funding year on January 26. A goal of PA GRG implementation was to expand state funding accessibility to small utilities in Pennsylvania (entities that sell not more than 4,000,000 MW/year). 16 applications were received requesting \$41,193,683 in grant funds including representations from: 7 Rural Electric Cooperatives, 5 Investor Owned Utilities, 3 Municipalities, and 1 Institution of Higher Education. A team of four Energy Program Office staffers reviewed and scored the 16 Full Applications

competitively through a set criteria: 1) improving grid performance; 2) improving grid resilience; 3) increasing economic resilience; 4) ensuring workforce benefits; 5) improving environmental performance and GRG reduction; 6) improving outcomes in disadvantaged communities; and 7) project readiness. *The Program will make awardee announcements Summer 2024.*

Additionally, EPO submitted Round 3 application documents to DOE's Grid Resilience State/Tribal Formula Grant Program to fund PA GRG Round 2. EPO staff are currently working on revising PA GRG program documents and expect to launch the next application round with the \$8 Million requested from DOE.

- **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program** (\$3.0 million) and **Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund** (\$3.3 million) – EPO has been working on blending these programs together to create a municipal financing program entitled the Municipal Opportunities for Retrofits and Energy Efficiency (MORE) Program. Applications were submitted to DOE for both the EECBG and RLF programs which would result in the development of the MORE Program. The MORE Program will consist of two parts: the MORE Grant and the MORE Loan. The MORE Grant will cover costs that are often barriers for municipal governments energy efficiency upgrade financing, and the MORE Loan will offer low to zero interest financing for eligible municipalities and municipal authorities to perform retrofits, energy efficiency upgrades, and renewable energy generation (when paired with energy efficiency measures). *The MORE Program launched June 3, 2024, as a product of the Energy Accelerator Program (EAP).* EPO has started outreach to local governments to make them aware of this exciting opportunity.
- **Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) – Funded Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program (GRIP)** *In response to the IIJA's GRIP Program funding opportunity round 2, EPO entered into a partnership agreement with Smart Wires to submit a full application to fund an \$185 million investment in grid enhancing technologies (GETs) across the states of Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and New York. The objective of this project is to accelerate the cost-effective, timely interconnection of renewable generation. In PJM, Dynamic Line Rating (DLR) and Advanced Power Flow (APFC) devices will be deployed in 5 states to unlock up to 6 gigawatts of renewable capacity in the PJM network. A key part of this partnership agreement is funding for the Commonwealth Workforce Transformation Program (CWTP). The CWTP is a Pennsylvania interagency workforce development program that leverages IIJA and IRA funding to provide pre-apprenticeship and on-the-job training opportunities for IIJA/IRA relevant industries. It is an interagency program that coordinates workforce initiatives across multiple state agencies. Each agency takes a customized approach to how workforce can best fit into their IIJA/IRA programmatic needs. For this DOE program, the CWTP would provide training providers up to \$20,000 of funding per pre-apprentice. With an annual allocation of \$125,000, the program can fund about 5-8 pre-apprentices per year after accounting for administrative costs and the varying amount of supportive services used by the pre-apprentices. Funding would cover the cost of training, a stipend, and supportive services. Additionally, DEP provided a letter of support to FirstEnergy's GRIP application for their "CREATE through DERMS and Enhanced AMI" program. The \$200 million proposed grid resilience project will reduce outages and increase the electric grid's flexibility at the distribution level through four initiatives including remote sectionalizing, voltage conversion ties, network modernization, and energy storage systems. DOE anticipates notifying successful applicants Fall 2024.*

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## **Environmental Education**

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### **DEP Environmental Education Grants Program**

The DEP 2023 Environmental Education Grants program will conclude June 30, 2024. 66 projects remain active. Midterm Progress reports and requests for reimbursement have been processed.

Awardees are required to develop and submit for review and feedback an appropriate assessment/evaluation tool, designed to measure the audience's behavior change(s) as a result of participating in the funded environmental education project. The behavior change goals are unique to each project and may reflect increased awareness and/or knowledge, adoption an attitudinal change, and/or taking an action, either individually or collectively on behalf of the environment.

The 2024 Environmental Education Grants program application deadline was November 15, 2023. 107 applications reflecting 96 unique applicants were received. Projects requests reflect funding for Mini-Grants (up to \$5,000), General Grant Level I (up to \$30,000) and General Grants Level II (up to \$65,000).

105 eligible applications and required materials have been independently evaluated by 3 reviewers. A meeting with the Secretary has been scheduled for April 2 to discuss the evaluation results and a list of recommended and not recommended projects. Final recommendations will be forwarded to the Governor's Office for approval. Barring unforeseen circumstances, the 2024 EE Grant Program awards will be announced in Spring 2024.

Information about the DEP Environmental Education Grants Program, including the current EE Grants Program manual, is available at: [Environmental Education Grants Program](#). Questions should be directed to the DEP Environmental Education & Information Center (EEIC) at [RA-epEEgrants@pa.gov](mailto:RA-epEEgrants@pa.gov).

### **RCSOB Peregrine Falcons**

DEP is preparing for the 2024 Falcon season. Falcon activity can be observed by visiting the PA Falcon Cam at: <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/EnvironmentalEducation/PAFalcon/Pages/default.aspx>

Falcon Wire News posts provide general falcon information and reports on recent Falcon observations: <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/EnvironmentalEducation/PAFalcon/Pages/falconwire.aspx>

### **2024 Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators (PAEE) Annual Conference**

The EEIC staff will attend the PAEE annual conference slated for March 17-19, 2024. The event will take place at the Pocono Environmental Education Center in Dingman's Ferry, PA. Many current Environmental Education awardees will be in attendance, sharing information about their DEP EE Grants funded projects.

### **2024 Ag Progress Days**

The DEP has reserved its booth space in the Harrington Building for the 2024 Ag Progress Days slated August 13-15, 2024. The event will be held at PSU's Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center located in Pennsylvania Furnace.

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## **Environmental Justice**

### **Environmental Justice Executive Order**

Former Governor Wolf signed an Environmental Justice Executive Order 2021-07 in October 2021 making permanent the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ), Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB) and creating the Environmental Justice Interagency Council (EJIC). DEP currently holds EJIC meetings on the last Thursday, of every other month. Under the terms of the Executive Order, DEP will develop an agency EJ Strategic Plan and may also revise the EJ Policy and create EJ mapping tools.

### **Environmental Justice Planning**

DEP has adopted the Interim-Final Policy, built from years of public engagement on this topic. DEP's OEJ has taken comments and concerns about the current Environmental Justice Public Participation Policy, which DEP has had in place since 2004. The updated policy will include comments of a previous revision effort from 2017, and an extensive outreach on the draft policy received in 2022. The OEJ hosted 12 public meetings between

September and November of 2023 and received over 740 public comments over the course of the process. DEP Staff are currently reviewing and drafting a comment response document.

DEP is also updating where the policy applies. The PennEnviroScreen tool is a publicly available, state of the art mapping tool, built on proven national models, that will allow DEP to more accurately identify communities facing environmental justice issues. DEP is engaged in a department-wide effort to improve the efficiency and quality of our permitting process. This new approach, in the environmental justice context, will not add a single delay to DEP's permitting process.

OEJ continues to convene the Environmental Justice Internal Work Group to inform and educate DEP staff and solicit feedback on critical environmental justice initiatives within DEP, such as the EJ Policy.

#### Environmental Justice Advisory Board

EJAB convened on *Tuesday, May 14*. The meeting included DEP updates on the Office of Environmental Justice, Federal Funding updates, *as well as numerous presentations. Those included an update from Marcus Hook Neighbors for Public Health/Clean Air Council from Echo Alford, a presentation from Felicia Fred on the Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers or EJ TCTAC. There was a presentation on funding opportunities for local CBO's from Stuart Clarke, from the William Penn Foundation and finally a presentation from Mathy Stanislaus, Esq., on a regional emergency preparedness initiative. The next EJAB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 13. This meeting will be hybrid, with both a virtual and an in-person option and will be held at the RCSOB in Harrisburg.*

#### OEJ Initiatives

OEJ assisted the Office of Administration, DEP, other agencies, and federal agencies on identifying vendors who provide language services for PA Dutch. OEJ also shared best practices of using Microsoft Teams functions on having multiple interpreters, including American Sign Language (ASL) for virtual presentations. DEP is in the midst of updating its Language Access Plan and the Policy shop has identified a temporary/interim language coordinator to coordinate.

#### Brownfields Technical Assistance Grant

EPA has awarded DEP a Small Communities Assistance pilot grant for the past three years to assist a small, disadvantaged community on providing training, research and technical assistance for addressing brownfields redevelopment. DEP was awarded the Small Communities Assistance grant again for the 2022 fiscal year and is working with Oil City in Northwest Pennsylvania. The Oil City report was finalized, and the project concluded in June 2022. OEJ assisted in getting application support materials for the 2023 fiscal year applicant, Mahanoy City Borough in Schuylkill County. This program is set to receive an infusion of funding that may allow it to work with more and different types of communities but will keep a focus on communities facing EJ issues. OEJ has joined DEP's Brownfields staff to help introduce this project to municipalities facing EJ issues.

#### Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate Information Sheet

OEJ worked with the Energy Programs Office (EPO) and Office of Communications to develop a sheet that highlights the available resources that can make an electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle purchase more affordable. In particular, the sheet was developed to address the lack of awareness around the rebate's applicability to the purchase of a one-time pre-owned vehicles, and the availability of additional funds for low-income households. In addition, the sheet describes available federal and electric distribution company incentives. The Alternative Fuel Vehicle Rebate guidelines have been recently revamped to add income caps to aid low to moderate income families in purchasing alternative fuel vehicles. OEJ is working with EPO on a revamp of the sheet, it will soon be found on the EPO webpage.

#### Grants

OEJ is working with DEP's Grants Center and individual programs to track grant participation in EJ Areas and incorporate EJ consideration into program area grants. OEJ is supporting the Grants Office and other offices in developing outreach materials about the DEP grantmaking process. OEJ is also participating in an interagency

group assessing overarching principles for advancing equity in Commonwealth grantmaking. OEJ assisted the 902 Recycling Grant Program made available for municipalities by adding instructions on how to use the PennEnviroScreen tool to identify EJ areas as potential applicants answer EJ related questions.

### Outreach on Key DEP Initiatives

OEJ is working with the Policy Office regarding inclusion and evaluation of equity and EJ considerations in the development of the 2021 Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan. OEJ is working with EPO and community partners on outreach and engagement for the Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan 2024, through the Climate Action for Environmental Justice Communities Program and events.

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## **Oil and Gas**

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### **Oil and Gas Rulemakings**

#### Proposed Environmental Protection Performance Standards for Conventional Oil and Gas Operators Rulemaking

In 2016, the General Assembly passed Act 52, which abrogated the ongoing rulemaking process regarding conventional oil and gas wells and established the Pennsylvania Grade Crude Oil Development Advisory Council (CDAC). Act 52 directed DEP to work with CDAC to “examine and make recommendations regarding existing technical regulations promulgated under 58 Pa.C.S. (relating to oil and gas) ... that impact the conventional oil and gas industry of this Commonwealth and explore the development of a regulatory scheme that provides for environmental oversight and enforcement specifically applicable to the conventional oil and gas industry.” From 2016 to the present, the Office of Oil and Gas Management (OOGM) has worked with CDAC to develop potential legislation and proposed regulations relating to conventional oil and gas wells.

Because discussions did not result in viable legislation, DEP proceeded with the development of a draft proposed conventional oil and gas rulemaking and advanced the regulatory concepts via two rulemaking packages during 2020. The first rulemaking relates primarily to the proper management of waste generated at conventional oil and gas well sites; the second rulemaking addresses other critical environmental protection performance standards at such sites.

On August 6, 2020, the OOGM first presented these two draft proposed rulemakings to CDAC. On September 17, 2020, DEP also informed the Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board (TAB) of discussions with CDAC regarding the draft proposed rulemakings and shared copies of both draft proposed rulemakings. During a series of meetings from December 3, 2020, through September 9, 2021, OOGM staff, CDAC, and TAB continued to discuss and review the draft proposed rulemakings. At its regularly scheduled meeting on December 16, 2021, OOGM staff shared the final version of the Environmental Protection Performance Standards for Conventional Oil and Gas Operators draft proposed Annex with CDAC members. This provided CDAC with an opportunity to adopt written comments to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) in accordance with section 5 of Act 52 of 2016 (58 P.S. § 1205). The CDAC Regulatory Subcommittee prepared formal comments in February 2022 and March 2022 and presented them to the full council on April 21, 2022. CDAC voted to accept the comments and will submit them to DEP to accompany the rulemaking when it is submitted to the EQB.

The Department discussed the Chapter 78 proposed Waste Management rulemaking with CDAC at the first meeting of 2023 on February 16 that was conducted at Pennsylvania Western University, Clarion. The Chapter 78 proposed Waste Management rulemaking was also discussed at the CDAC meeting on Thursday, May 25, 2023. This rulemaking package will be a priority action of the Department in 2024 to advance it through the CDAC and the remaining steps of the regulatory development process.

### Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Initial Grant

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) approved the application as submitted for the full \$25 million Initial Grant on August 25, 2022, with an effective “date of receipt” of October 1, 2022. The award allowed for up to \$2.5 million to be allocated to DEP to cover administrative costs associated with administering the Initial Grant. Based on DEP’s application, all Initial Grant funding will be used for well plugging contracts or administrative costs.

DEP expects to plug a total of 226 orphan and abandoned wells using \$22.5 million of the Initial Grant funding via two grant rounds. During the first round, DEP published five separate Invitations to Bid in the commonwealth’s electronic bid solicitation tool called “Bid Express” ([www.bidexpress.com](http://www.bidexpress.com)). The second round included eight additional Invitation to Bid Packages.

As of May 21, 2024, the Department has plugged 71 of 80 orphan and abandoned wells in Round 1 and 108 of 146 orphan and abandoned wells in Round 2. The Department has plugged a total of 179 wells thus far using the IJA Initial Grant funding and is expected to plug the remaining wells by the end of this calendar year.

DEP allocated 10 percent (\$2.5 million) of the Initial Grant funding toward administrative costs to implement the program as authorized in the federal grant agreement.

#### Draft Formula Grant Guidance Published by U.S. Department of the Interior

On July 10, the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) issued a press release that announced the availability of nearly \$660 million to 26 states for the plugging of orphan and abandoned wells.

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-invests-660-million-states-plug-orphaned-oil-and-gas-wells> Pennsylvania will be awarded \$76,406,474 in this first phase and will receive a total of \$305,625,896 over the remaining phases of the Formula Grant. Eligible states were required to submit their applications by December 31, 2023 and DEP met this milestone by submitting its application for Phase 1 of the Formula Grant on December 18, 2023.

*The DOI is conducting a technical review of the IJA Formula Grant application that will result in an award of \$76,406,474 in this first phase of this grant. The DOI requested additional clarification about the Orphan Well Plugging Grant Program, the Commonwealth Workforce Transformation Program and the applicability of Administrative costs outlined in the grant application. The Office of Oil and Gas Management prepared revisions to the Phase 1 Formula Grant application and submitted it to DOI on May 11. The Department expects to receive feedback from DOI within the next two weeks.*

The DOI has informed the Department that Pennsylvania’s application is a high priority and DOI is committed to completing their review of the application as quickly as possible, *however, as of May 15 no such grant award has been announced.*

*The Orphan Well Plugging Grant Program has been developed in advance of receipt of the federal grant and will be launched following receipt of the Formula Grant award. DEP posted an online virtual training about the electronic application on the DEP Orphan Well webpage on May 6.*

#### Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit (ESCGP-3) Prioritized Review Workgroup

Innovative approaches through design and implementation of environmentally enhanced Best Management Practices (BMPs) and superior construction practices reduce environmental impacts from oil and gas operations. To incentivize these technologies and practices, DEP intends to replace the Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit (ESCGP) Expedited Review process with a Prioritized Review process that will allow for voluntary participation by industry. Permit applications submitted as Prioritized Review will be given a score based on proposed BMPs and environmentally superior construction practices. High-scoring projects will be given priority and will be reviewed before projects that are not submitted as Prioritized Review.

DEP presented revised documents to TAB at its December 16, 2020, meeting. This technical guidance



document (TGD) was published as draft for public comment in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on August 28, 2021, initiating a 30-day public comment period that closed on September 27, 2021. DEP received 194 comments and is continuing to review the comments and prepare responses.

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## **Radiation Protection**

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### **Radiation Protection Advisory Committee**

The Department's Radiation Protection Advisory Committee (RPAC) held a hybrid-style meeting on April 17. The agenda and minutes from the last RPAC meeting were reviewed and approved. There were two open comment sessions. During the meeting, the results of BRP's recent Integrated Materials Performance Evaluation Program (IMPEP) conducted by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) were presented. BRP received the NRC's highest rating of "Satisfactory and Compatible"; thus, the work performed is adequate to protect the health and safety of Pennsylvania's residents. Continued discussions about cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) regulations and the possibility of separating dentists into a separate category compared with others that use CBCTs were held. The definition of a Qualified Expert was also discussed. Concerns were raised during the first session of the Open Floor about the shortage of X-ray techs. Currently, upon graduation students that graduate can no longer assist with performing X-rays until they pass their Boards. An exemption request process is being considered for X-ray techs to work and be monitored until they pass their Boards. Several RPAC members will draft a possible blanket exemption for review before the next RPAC meeting. The Committee provided input on the public safety fee codes and if different categories need to be added or discounted as schools are ordering more baggage cabinets to perform scans for safety. During the last Open Floor session, a possible regulation revision concerning qualifications of supervision during a high-risk procedure was discussed.

The next RPAC meeting will be held on October 16, 2024.

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## **Waste Management**

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### **Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)**

The next regular SWAC meeting will be held on June 26. *The agenda and meeting materials will be posted on the [SWAC website](#) 2 weeks prior to the meeting.*

### **Recycling Fund Advisory Committee (RFAC)**

The 2024 RFAC meeting will be held on October 9 (jointly with SWAC). Additional information is available on the [SWAC website](#).

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## **Water Programs**

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### **Water Programs Rulemakings**

#### **Methylmercury Site-Specific Water Quality Criteria Rulemaking**

This proposed rulemaking will recommend updates and revisions to § 93.8d which outlines the site-specific water quality criteria process. The proposed amendments include the addition of language that clarifies when site-specific water quality criteria may be requested and specifies the conditions under which site-specific water quality criteria may not be requested. The proposed amendments will update language throughout § 93.8d to identify the data and information that must be submitted with each request for a site-specific water quality criterion and the actions to be taken by the Department as part of the site-specific water quality criterion development and regulatory processes. These proposed amendments are consistent with federal regulations and requirements.

In addition, this proposed rulemaking proposes to delete the statewide total mercury water quality criterion of

0.05 µg/L for Ebaughs Creek located in York County; and to add a site-specific methylmercury water quality criterion of 0.00004 µg/L for Ebaughs Creek in § 93.9o (relating to Drainage List O). The York County Solid Waste Regional Authority (YCSWRA) owns and operates the York County Sanitary Landfill, which is a 306-acre site located in Hopewell Township, York County. Between 1974 and 1997, the landfill received municipal and industrial waste, which was placed into lined and unlined cells. The site contains approximately 135 acres of unlined landfill. Detection of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in several groundwater wells was discovered in 1983 and was associated with the unlined cells. A treatment system was installed to remove the VOCs and began operation in 1985. The system consisted of 17 extraction wells and air stripping towers. The air stripping towers discharge the treated groundwater under NPDES permit number PA0081744. Mercury was later identified through the Department's permit application review process as a potential pollutant of concern. YCSWRA has requested the Department delete the statewide total mercury water quality criterion of 0.05 µg/L for Ebaughs Creek and develop a site-specific methylmercury water quality criterion for Ebaughs Creek to inform their NPDES permit effluent limitations for Outfall 002. Since the Department does not currently have statewide numeric water quality criteria for methylmercury, YCSWRA's request satisfies § 93.8d(a)(3).

DEP presented the proposed rulemaking to the Agricultural Advisory Board and the Water Resources Advisory Committee on March 15, 2023, and March 16, 2023, respectively. The proposed rulemaking was presented to and approved by Environmental Quality Board on July 11, 2023. On August 21, 2023, a tolling memo was received from the Office of Attorney General. On September 13, 2023, DEP staff and counsel submitted a response to the Office of Attorney General's tolling memo. The proposed rulemaking was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on November 4, 2023, which initiated a 45-day public comment period that closed on December 19, 2023. A public hearing was held on December 5, 2023. Public comments on the proposed rulemaking can be found on DEP's [eComment](#) website. A final rulemaking is anticipated in late 2024.

#### Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards

Water quality standards are in-stream water quality goals that are implemented by imposing specific regulatory requirements and permit conditions (such as treatment requirements, effluent limits, and best management practices) on individual sources of pollution. This proposed rulemaking fulfills the Commonwealth's obligation to periodically review and revise its water quality standards and updates Pennsylvania's water quality standards such that the surface waters of this Commonwealth are afforded the appropriate level of protection.

This rulemaking proposes to:

- Add or revise aquatic life and human health water quality criteria for 17 substances,
- Clarify duration periods for aquatic life criteria, and
- Reaffirm the removal of Water Contact Sports use from the Outer Erie Harbor/Presque Isle Bay and portions of the Delaware Estuary and removal of portions of the Warm Water Fishes (WWF) and Migratory Fishes (MF) aquatic life uses for portions of the Delaware Estuary.

DEP presented the proposed rulemaking to the Water Resources Advisory Committee and Agricultural Advisory Board on November 17, 2022, and December 8, 2022, respectively. The proposed rulemaking was presented to and approved by Environmental Quality Board on July 11, 2023. The proposed rulemaking was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on October 7, 2023, opening the 45-day public comment period, which ended on November 21, 2023. A public hearing was held on November 14, 2023. The final rulemaking was presented to the Agricultural Advisory Board on April 17, 2024. A presentation is tentatively planned to the Water Resources Advisory Committee in the coming months. A final rulemaking is anticipated for mid-2024. Public comments on the proposed rulemaking can be found on DEP's [eComment](#) website.

#### General Permits for Beneficial Use of Sewage Sludge (aka Biosolids)

The Department issues general permits for the beneficial use of biosolids (aka sewage sludge) and residential septage. PAG-07 allows for the Beneficial Use of Exceptional Quality (EQ) Biosolids; PAG-08 allows for the Beneficial Use of Non-Exceptional Quality (Non-EQ) Biosolids; and PAG-09 allows for the Beneficial Use of

Residential Septage. Beneficial use is the use or reuse of biosolids or residential septage for any purpose, where the use does not harm or threaten public health, safety, welfare, or the environment. These permits apply to a person who prepares biosolids that will be sold or given away in a bag or other container or biosolids that will be land-applied, and to a person who applies biosolids or residential septage to the land. The Department issues these permits under the authority of Pennsylvania's Solid Waste Management Act and Clean Streams Law.

The Department has administratively extended these general permits for several years. The Department has presented pre-draft permits to the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) and the Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) in March 2021.

The Bureau of Clean Water has also organized a workgroup to gather input on the proposed changes to the general permits. The group includes biosolids generators, land appliers, farmers, consultants, and interested third parties (including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Delaware Riverkeeper Network). The workgroup discussion focused on the biosolids land application program, the proposed changes to the permit, PFAS in biosolids, nutrient management of biosolids, impacts of hauled-in residual waste into the biosolids treatment process, and field storage of biosolids on land application sites. The workgroup members decided to provide formal written comments to the Department. DEP will use the information gathered during the outreach process to draft any revisions to the permit documents prior to issuing draft permits for public comment.

The Department also communicated with and provided information to the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) as the LBFC evaluated the costs and practicality of the proposed changes to the general permits, as directed by [House Resolution 149 from the 2021-2022 General Assembly session](#). LBFC's [final report](#) on the proposed revisions to the general permits was published in June. DEP's response to LBFC's draft report is included in LBFC's final report as Appendix E. These permits are on hold.

### **Federal Infrastructure Funding - Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides funding to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). These programs have seen increases to base program funding as well as new supplemental funding programs.

The BIL reauthorizes the base DWSRF program funding and establishes new supplemental DWSRF pots for general infrastructure projects, emerging contaminants projects, and lead service line replacement projects. Base and general supplemental DWSRF money will be used for projects that will improve water system infrastructure (e.g., replacing aging water lines, upgrading treatment plant components, finished water storage tanks). DWSRF BIL funding will provide funding to eligible water systems via PENNVEST for these infrastructure projects. Additionally, the BIL will provide money for technical assistance to water systems, as well as money to cover the cost of administration of the DWSRF program for both the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water (BSDW) and the Bureau of Clean Water (BCW).

BIL reauthorizes the base CWSRF program funding and also establishes new CWSRF supplemental funding for general infrastructure projects and emerging contaminants projects. In addition, it establishes a new set-aside that will enable DEP to provide technical assistance to small, rural Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW). Similar to the DWSRF program, the CWSRF base program provides funding to infrastructure projects to improve non-point source pollution, stormwater infrastructure, and wastewater infrastructure. CWSRF funding will provide funding to eligible project applicants via PENNVEST for infrastructure projects. The BIL CWSRF funding will also support technical assistance to systems and includes a means to cover the cost of administration of the CWSRF program.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law also mandates that 49 percent of funds provided through the DWSRF General Supplemental Funding and the DWSRF Lead Service Line Replacement Funding must be provided as

grants and forgivable loans to disadvantaged communities. The BIL also requires that at least 25 percent of funds provided through the DWSRF Emerging Contaminants Funding be provided as grants and forgivable loans to disadvantaged communities or public water systems serving fewer than 25,000 people.

DEP staff manage EPA applications for both the DWSRF and CWSRF capitalization grants awarded to PENNVEST. DEP staff also oversee DEP's role in managing potential and funded projects from pre-application through project closeout. DEP staff coordinate to prepare the SRF Intended Use Plans (IUPs) including budgets on an annual basis and review, ranking and management of PENNVEST project applications.

DEP and PENNVEST applied for the coming federal fiscal year state allotments. These are noncompetitive grants, so EPA provides the state allotment in advance of the application process to facilitate grant application development. DEP submitted the application on behalf of PENNVEST by July 1, 2023. Public notice of the intent to apply included a public comment period. DEP was awarded the DWSRF grants for an approximate total of \$275 million which includes the state match funds. Similarly, DEP was awarded the CWSRF grants for an approximate total of \$134 million which includes the state match funds.

The BIL also provides additional funding programs that appear to fall outside of the SRF umbrella. To date, EPA has provided very little if any information to states on this additional funding outside of the SRF umbrella. DEP BSDW staff will continue to push EPA for this guidance and provide additional details in future weekly articles as more information becomes available. While specific state funding allotments are not yet available, these programs include funding for the following:

- Assistance for Small and Disadvantaged Communities (Sec. 50104) – Preliminary EPA documents indicate that PA's share may be ~\$28 million annually. Funding may be provided through Small, Underserved, and Disadvantaged Communities Grants (not SRF), and can be used to remediate PFAS in drinking water.
- Several Lead Programs – Reducing Lead in Drinking Water (Sec. 50105) and Lead Contamination in School Drinking Water (Sec. 50110). Note: These lead programs may be under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Grant umbrella.
- Operational Sustainability Grants to Small PWSs (Sec. 50106) and Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program (Sec. 50107).

#### FFY 2024 CWSRF and DWSRF Capitalization Grant Application Schedule Change

EPA is strongly encouraging SRF applicants to submit both the CWSRF and DWSRF capitalization grant applications as well as all five (5) BIL grant applications administered through the SRF program as soon as possible with a goal of May 1<sup>st</sup> and a deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup>. Applications received after June 1<sup>st</sup> cannot be guaranteed to be awarded before 9/30/2024. EPA will make awards based on draft IUPs if needed. This 60-day to 30-day reduction in SRF grant application preparation time is primarily due to EPA's additional workload of processing Inflation Reduction Act grants this year. DEP plans to meet the new EPA deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Chesapeake Bay Restoration IIJA/BIL

On May 2, 2022, EPA announced the allocation of \$40 million in first-year funds from the IIJA at an event in Baltimore. The funding includes the \$15 million allocation to jurisdictions for the Most Effective Basins (MEB) as well as funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Small Watershed Grants (SWG) and Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reductions (INSR) grants program. To date, the IIJA funding that would be directed through the SWG/INSR has not been awarded; EPA published a Request for Application (RFA) on July 31, 2023, with the intent to award the IIJA funds for SWG/INSR administration in January 2024.

On March 13, 2023, EPA provided the Pennsylvania agency-specific allocations, beginning October 1, 2023. Including all Chesapeake Bay federal grants, DEP received more than \$13 million, of which more than \$5 million will be IIJA money. DEP worked with EPA to review the draft grant guidelines and to identify

procurement requirements associated with IJJA funding. DEP reviewed the additional federal funding allocation with conservation districts during the annual Conservation District and Commonwealth Agency Agricultural meeting on April 6, 2023. DEP and SCC held two follow-up sessions on May 18, 2023, with county partners (Tier 1-2 and Tier 3-4, respectively) to review and discuss options for delivering the additional federal funding, complementing state funding sources, to the counties. The workplan, budget, and associated forms were submitted to EPA by the July 16, 2023 deadline. On August 30, 2023, DEP received our FY2023 IJJA funding allocation.

The 2024 Community Clean Water Coordinator (CCWC) and CAP Implementation Block Grant round opened for counties to submit their project proposals on September 29, 2023 and closed on October 31, 2023. Funding for this block grant program comes from the Environmental Stewardship Fund / Growing Greener and the EPA Chesapeake Bay MEB IJJA, Local Government Implementation, and Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG) MEB grant funds. Changes to this year's round included a requirement to submit the estimated nutrient and sediment reductions (in prior years this was voluntary) and a minimum threshold for funding of \$200,000. The reason for the mandatory submission of estimated nutrient and sediment reductions is due to requests from EPA to include these metrics in Pennsylvania's 2024-2025 Chesapeake Bay Milestone Commitments. These adjustments also allow for counties to proactively plan ahead to meet their CAP nutrient and sediment reduction goals with the knowledge of the minimum amount of funding that would be allocated to their county, if requested. Staff reviewed the project proposals and allocation formulas and announced the awards on December 1, 2023.

EPA provided the FY2024 IJJA allocation amount to DEP, SCC, and DCNR on February 8, 2024. EPA met with the three state agencies to discuss potential allocations. EPA will shift all of the Most Effective Basin annual allocation back to DEP through the Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG), and then move some of DEP's IJJA allocation to further support DCNR and SCC. This allocation was done at the request of DEP, SCC, and DCNR. DEP will be receiving more than \$2.8 million, SCC will receive \$4.5 million, and DCNR will receive \$2 million in IJJA funds. All Chesapeake Bay grants combined, DEP will have an increase in funding over FY2023 by \$795,112, SCC will have an increase in funding by \$500,000, and DCNR will have an increase in funding by \$2 million. *DEP intends to submit our updated CB IJJA workplan and budget to EPA on or before June 1, 2024.*

### **PAG-13 General Permit**

*On Saturday, May 18, 2024, DEP published notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin ([54 Pa.B. 2693](#)) of an extension to the PAG-13 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges to Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s). By this action the availability of the general permit has been extended until PAG-13 is reissued. DEP had previously extended PAG-13 for a 2-year period and solicited interest in participants for a workgroup. A series of 8 meetings was held by the workgroup between November 2022 and March 2023 and DEP received a significant amount of feedback on the next version of PAG-13. DEP also received recommendations from EPA Region 3 via a letter dated February 28, 2023. DEP has prepared preliminary draft PAG-13 documents which are under internal review.*

### **PAG-02 General Permit**

On March 9, DEP published notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin of the availability of a draft PAG-02 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities. The draft PAG-02 General Permit would become effective on December 8, 2024, one day following the expiration of the current PAG-02 General Permit. DEP anticipates publishing the final PAG-02 General Permit during the Fall of 2024 to provide existing permittees sufficient time to prepare and submit Notices of Intent (NOIs) to remain covered under the reissued PAG-02. The public comment period for the draft PAG-02 ended on April 8.

### **Chapter 102 Pilot Program**

*DEP has announced the availability of a Pilot program for Individual NPDES Permits for Stormwater*



*Discharges Associated with Construction Activities. The purpose of the Pilot program is to evaluate the effect that certain modifications to existing procedures has on the quality of applications received and the amount of time necessary to review applications and take final actions. Ten delegated county conservation districts are participating in the Pilot program. Not every type of project is eligible to participate; eligibility guidelines are posted to DEP's [Construction Stormwater](#) webpage. The Pilot is expected to run a minimum of three calendar quarters. If the Pilot is considered successful DEP may make some or all of the modified procedures part of its standard operating procedures for all applications.*

### **Manure Management – Land Application of Manure Technical Guidance Document (361-0300-002) Substantive Revision – Final Publication**

The Manure Management Manual (MMM) Technical Guidance Document (TGD) contains current standards for development and implementation of a plan to manage nutrients for water quality protection which can be used to comply with the requirements in 25 Pa. Code Section 91.36(b)(1). The MMM TGD was published as final on April 27, 2024 (see [54 Pa.B. 2326](#)). With substantive revisions since it was first published in 2011, and engagement and outreach beginning in 2018 through surveys, workgroups and subcommittees comprised of conservation districts, other state agencies, certified Nutrient Management Planners, ag industry and environmental groups (including but not limited to the PA Farm Bureau, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and DEP Agriculture Advisory Board members), and Penn State Extension, these revisions will address lessons learned over the last decade of implementation. Revisions include: a short form for agricultural operations that meet specific criteria, Animal Equivalent Unit (AEU) calculations and Agricultural Process Wastewater worksheets, and clarifications made to existing worksheets. Regarding winter spreading, the option to plan to the phosphorus removal rates for the coming year's crops has been removed; however, winter application of manure is still allowed, with restrictions. Clarification of vegetation requirements needed to maintain pasture and the simplified rate tables for phosphorus removal are provided; if applying to nitrogen need, a higher level of planning (through Nutrient Balance Sheets) will be needed. Education, outreach, tools, and resources are planned, including updates to the Penn State Manure Management website and PAOneStop, DEP's Clean Water Academy, and development of handouts for distribution to farmers by district and DEP staff with printed copies of the final version available for use. These outreach materials are planned to be developed and rolled out in Summer-Fall 2024.

Information regarding the final publication of the MMM TGD was presented at the April 17 meeting of DEP's Agricultural Advisory Board.

### **Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Section 319**

The Section 319 NPS Management grant funds are provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and authorized through Section 319(h) of the federal Clean Water Act. The program's primary purpose is to implement Section 319 Program Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) to improve and protect Pennsylvania's waters from nonpoint source pollution.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023 EPA Section 319 NPS Management Grant awards were [announced](#) on October 19, 2023.

*The FFY 2024 EPA Section 319 NPS Management Grants round opened April 21, 2023, with applications due by June 23, 2023, at 11:59 p.m., as noticed in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on April 1, 2023 at [53 Pa.B. 1869](#). The draft FFY 2024 workplans and budgets were submitted by DEP to EPA by the November 30, 2023, deadline for EPA review. On April 24, 2024, EPA notified DEP of our final FFY 2024 allocation, which is less than anticipated. EPA Section 319 Project Officers noted that this is due to the national allocation for FFY 2024, not having to do with DEP's administration of the funds. DEP is working on making the necessary revisions to the FFY 2024 workplans and budgets to account for the deduction of almost \$300,000 from our draft workplans and budgets.*

In order to meet the requirements of the federal Section 319 grant program, EPA requires that the states develop



and implement their five-year Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Program Plan and submit annual reports regarding the status of implementation of those statewide plans. Pennsylvania's current NPS Management Plan includes six goals with multiple objectives and strategies tied to each goal, which is reported on every year and published to the DEP [Nonpoint Source](#). DEP has worked with other state and federal agencies and programs to draft an update to the current [HYPERLINK](#)

"<https://www.depgreenport.state.pa.us/elibrary/GetDocument?docId=3424078&DocName=NONPOINT%20MANAGEMENT%20PLAN%202019%20UPDATE.PDF%20%20%3cspan%20style%3D%22color:green%3b%22%3e%3c/span%3e%20%3cspan%20style%3D%22color:blue%3b%22%3e%3c/span%3e%2010/8/2022>"2019 NPS Management Plan. The draft 2024-2029 NPS Management Plan was submitted to EPA for their review in October 2023, in accordance with the EPA Action Plan required deadlines. For the 2024-2029 draft NPS Management Plan, DEP has included an addition of a seventh goal focused on climate change and Environmental Justice (EJ). Also included in the draft 2024-2029 NPS Management Plan is the incorporation of recommendations from EPA's 2020 Midpoint Assessment of DEP's Nonpoint Source Management Program. EPA conducted their review and provided feedback and comments to DEP in late December 2023 to consider and address prior to submission of the final 2024-2029 NPS Management Plan. *DEP intends to publish the Nonpoint Source Management Plan and Annual Report in early summer.* Management Plan was submitted to EPA for their review in October 2023, in accordance with the EPA Action Plan required deadlines. For the 2024-2029 draft NPS Management Plan, DEP has included an addition of a seventh goal focused on climate change and Environmental Justice (EJ). Also included in the draft 2024-2029 NPS Management Plan is the incorporation of recommendations from EPA's 2020 Midpoint Assessment of DEP's Nonpoint Source Management Program. EPA conducted their review and provided feedback and comments to DEP in late December 2023 to consider and address prior to submission of the final 2024-2029 NPS Management Plan. *DEP intends to publish the Nonpoint Source Management Plan and Annual Report in early summer.*

As noticed at [54 Pa.B. 2174](#), the FFY 2025 EPA Section 319 NPS Management Grants round opened on April 22, 2024 (Earth Day), with applications due by June 21, 2024. The grant guidance, recorded tutorial, and associated material can be found on DEP's [Nonpoint Source](#) webpage. New this year:

- Section 319 WIP Revisions or updates to existing WIPs that are at least 8 years or older are encouraged to apply. New Section 319 WIP development applications are no longer an eligible project category.
- Preference will be given to Section 319 WIP implementation projects in Pennsylvania's [Environmental Justice Areas](#).

### **Growing Greener Plus Program**

DEP opened the 2022 Growing Greener Plus grant round on April 22, 2022. The deadline to apply was June 24, 2022. The 2022 Growing Greener Plus grant round includes some new features, including: (1) a reinvigorated Growing Greener Watershed Renaissance Initiative (GGWRI) focused on the complete implementation of existing watershed restoration or implementation plans on small catchment areas in Centre, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Snyder, and Union counties; and (2) a priority to implement projects in support of the Pennsylvania 2021 Climate Action Plan. The 2022 Growing Greener Plus awards were announced on January 12, 2023. The full list of 2022 Growing Greener projects can be found [here](#).

The 2023 Growing Greener Plus Grants awards were announced on January 5, 2024. The full list of 2023 Growing Greener projects can be found [here](#).

The 2024 Growing Greener Plus Grants round opened on April 22, 2024 (Earth Day), with applications due by June 21, 2024. The grant guidance, recorded tutorial, and associated materials can be found on DEP's [Growing Greener](#) webpage.

New this year:

- The Growing Greener Watershed Renaissance Initiative (GGWRI) is expanded statewide.
- Within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, agricultural construction projects will be considered, however

[Chesapeake Bay Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan Countywide Action Plan](#) and statewide [Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program](#) funding should be the priority funding source for agricultural construction projects.

- Preference will be given to implementation projects in Pennsylvania's [Environmental Justice Areas](#).

### **State Water Plan**

*The [2022 State Water Plan Update Report](#) (“Update Report”) is now complete and available to the public. This report is focused on items such as water resources strategies outlined in the Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan and updated regional watershed priorities. In addition to this important document, a [Digital Water Atlas Story Map](#) was created as a planning tool for professionals and as a research tool for academics.*

*The first round of meetings for 2024 was successfully completed in April with all seven committees having met. The content of these meetings consisted of an update from DEP on matters such as recruiting and outreach. There was also discussion surrounding the formation of a workgroup to draft a framework for Integrated Water Resources Management. This workgroup has now had its first meeting in which the purpose and goals of the group were established as well as a schedule for upcoming meetings. Several committees struggled to achieve quorum during their meetings leading to an emphasis on recruiting in the coming months to ensure that business can be conducted in future meetings. The Citizen’s Advisory Council can assist with recruitment efforts by referring anyone who could fill a committee vacancy to James Horton ([jahorton@pa.gov](mailto:jahorton@pa.gov)). Up-to-date information on current committee membership and vacancies can be found [here](#).*

*The next round of meetings will take place in October of 2024. In accordance with Act 220 of 2002’s requirements, a new update will be needed in 2027.*

### **Public Water System Technical Assistance Center (PWS TAC) Board Meeting**

*The meeting of the Public Water System Technical Assistance Center (PWS TAC) Board was held on Thursday, May 23, 2024. The meeting was held in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building with an option for virtual attendance. The agenda and meeting materials are posted to the [PWS TAC Board](#) webpage.*

The PWS TAC Board provides direction and advice to DEP on water system technical and management assistance programs; and to comment on policies, guidance and regulations as they may affect all public water systems, with an emphasis on the unique effects on small public water systems.

*The next PWS TAC Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, in Room 105 at the Rachel Carson State Office Building with an option for virtual attendance.*

## Attachment 1

### 2024 Events Calendar

Please consult the [DEP Calendar of Events](#) for a comprehensive listing of upcoming events and information on how to attend. The Calendar can be accessed in the Public Participation Tab on the DEP website; click on “Public Participation” then “Calendar of Events.” Unless otherwise indicated below or on the DEP Calendar of Events, there will be virtual and in-person attendance options for each event.

<b>June</b>	
5	Storage Tank Advisory Committee, 10am
6	Board of Coal Mine Safety, 10am
11	Citizens Advisory Council, 12:30pm
12	Coastal Zone Advisory Committee, 9:30am
12	State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators, 10am
13	Oil & Gas Technical Advisory Board, 10am
18	Agricultural Advisory Board, 9am
18	Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board, 9:30am
25	Climate Change Advisory Committee, 9am
26	State Board for Certification of Sewage Enforcement Officers, 10am
26	Solid Waste Advisory Committee, 10am
<b>July</b>	
9	Citizens Advisory Council, 12:30pm
9	Environmental Quality Board, 9am
10	Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment, 10am
11	Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee, 9:15am
18	Water Resources Advisory Committee, 9:30am
24	Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee, 10am
25	Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board, 10am

This report was prepared by Max Schultz, DEP Policy Office, Deputy Policy Director for Energy Resources. For questions or requests, please email [maxschultz@pa.gov](mailto:maxschultz@pa.gov).