



# Citizens Advisory Council

to the Department of Environmental Protection

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Dear Stakeholder:

On behalf of the Citizens Advisory Council (“CAC” or “Council”) to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (“Department” or “DEP”), the Council’s Act 54 Report Committee (“Committee”) is writing to request feedback, recommendations, and proposed programmatic changes from technical experts, regulated entities, and interested members of the public, in light of the Department’s Sixth Act 54 Report, which is available at <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/programs-and-services/mining/bureau-of-district-mining-operations/act-54>.

Under Act 54 of 1994, DEP is required to compile data and report findings regarding the effects of underground mining on land, structures, and water resources. This report is done with assistance from professionals with appropriate expertise, as stipulated by Act 54, and presented to the Governor, the General Assembly, the CAC every five years. This report is an important audit of Pennsylvania’s underground mining program, providing various stakeholders with an opportunity to review and comment on the program and allowing DEP and other stakeholders to consider programmatic and structural improvements.

While Act 54 has guided DEP for more than 30 years, environmental stewardship from all stakeholders have significantly evolved. In preparing its response to the sixth Act 54 Report, the Committee believes that it has the opportunity to more broadly reflect on the overall structure, scope, and process of the report itself. Therefore, the Committee is seeking feedback from stakeholders on two primary areas.

First, the Committee is seeking any specific feedback you might have on the analysis or conclusions provided in the most recent Act 54 Report.

Second, and of greater emphasis for the Committee’s response, is the overall structure and process of the report. Some key insights that the Committee would like to hear about are:

- After three decades, is the current report format appropriate for its purpose?
- Are there ways that the report could be streamlined for greater transparency and information circulation (e.g., online quarterly or semi-annually)?
- Are there opportunities to improve accessibility, organization, and use of digital tools or information?
- Can the information in the report be available, periodically or in near real-time, online?

- Are there other ways to modernize the report?
- With online updates, should the report summarize data, audit information submission, and look to the future versus a look to the past?

The Committee is particularly interested in recommendations that may help evolve the Act 54 Report and its processes to ensure it remains a meaningful, readable, and useful tool while balancing it with the demands that Act 54 places on DEP, its staff, the regulated community, and stakeholders.

Your insights will directly inform the Committee's formal response to the Governor, General Assembly, and Department and will help shape recommendations for future improvement in the report and process. Written comments on high-level observations and detailed, technical feedback can be submitted to the Council's Executive Director, Ian Irvin, at [iirvin@pa.gov](mailto:iirvin@pa.gov) by Monday, June 8, 2026.

Thank you for your time, expertise, and engagement. The Committee values your perspective and looks forward to your input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Walliser".

John Walliser  
Chairperson, Act 54 Report Committee  
Citizens Advisory Council to the  
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection