

News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | Patrick McDonnell, Acting Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

Aug. 18

DEP public hearing on the Sunoco Mariner East 2 Pipeline Project, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Founder's Hall, Westmoreland County Community College, 145 Pavilion Lane, Youngwood. Contact: John Poister, jpoister@pa.gov

Sept. 12

Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) Certification Examination, 8 a.m., Fourth Floor Training Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Kristen Szwajkowski, kszwajkows@pa.gov

Sept. 13

Board of Coal Mine Safety meeting, 10 a.m., DEP Cambria Office, 286 Industrial Park Rd., Ebensburg. Contact: Allison D. Gaida, agaida@pa.gov

Sept. 13

DEP workshop on 2017 Environmental Education Grant applications, 10 a.m.-noon, McKeever Environmental Learning Center, 55 McKeever Center, Sandy Lake, Mercer County. Register [here](#).

Sept. 15

DEP workshop on 2017 Environmental Education Grant applications, 10 a.m.-noon, Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, 8480 Hagy's Mill Road, Philadelphia. Register [here](#).

Sept. 20

DEP workshop on 2017 Environmental Education

DEP Releases 2014 Air Emissions Inventory for Unconventional Natural Gas Operations



The types and number of gas-related facilities from which DEP collects data have increased since the first inventory in 2011.

HARRISBURG -- According to DEP's latest inventory of air emissions for the unconventional natural gas operation industry, several categories of contaminants have increased.

The inventory represents 2014 emissions from Marcellus Shale natural gas production and processing operations as well as compressor stations that receive gas from coal gas, conventional, and unconventional well sites. Air emissions from the industry are required to be reported to DEP under Pennsylvania's Air Pollution Control Act.

[Read more.](#)

DEP to Conduct Online Training on New Regulatory Requirements for Unconventional Natural Gas Well Operators

HARRISBURG -- In an effort to improve compliance with upcoming new regulatory requirements, DEP invites operators of unconventional natural gas well sites and other interested parties to participate in a series of 10 webinars relating to the final "Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites" rulemaking. The rulemaking is currently being finalized for publication later this fall.

Each training module covers a particular aspect of the final

Grant applications, 1 to 3 p.m., Pool Wildlife Sanctuary, 3701 Orchid Place, Emmaus, Lehigh County. Register [here](#).

Sept. 20

Environmental Quality Board meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Jennifer Swan, jswan@pa.gov

Sept. 20

Citizens Advisory Council meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Glenda Davidson, gldavidson@pa.gov

Sept. 21

State Board for Certification of Sewage Enforcement Officers meeting, 10 a.m., 11th Floor Conference Room B, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Kristen Szwajkowski, kszwajkows@pa.gov

Sept. 22

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Richard Ashley, riashley@pa.gov

Sept. 27

DEP workshop on 2017 Environmental Education Grant applications, 10 a.m.-noon, Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center, 100 Wildwood Way, Harrisburg, Dauphin County. Register [here](#).



Upcoming Webinars

Aug. 22-Sept. 1

DEP Webinar Series on New Regulatory Requirements for Unconventional Natural Gas Well Operators Registration information [here](#).

Sept. 29

DEP webinar on the 2017 Environmental Education Grants application, 10-11 a.m. Register [here](#).



Public Input

Aug. 30

rulemaking. The new regulations address surface activities at unconventional well sites, and center on five core areas. The amendments will improve protection of water resources; add public resources considerations; protect public health and safety; address landowner concerns; and enhance transparency and improve data management.

Registration for the webinars is required. The list of dates and times for each training module topic is available on [DEP's website](#).

DEP Assesses \$1M Civil Penalty Against Montgomery County Company for Air Quality Violations

NORRISTOWN -- DEP has assessed a \$1 million penalty against Matheson Tri-Gas Inc. (Matheson) for air quality violations at its facility in Upper Hanover Township, Montgomery County. Through a Consent Assessment of Civil Penalty, Matheson has agreed to pay the full settlement amount, which will be paid to the Pennsylvania Clean Air Fund.

In November 2008, Matheson took ownership of the Montgomery County facility from Advanced Gas Technologies (AGT) and began operation of a compressed gas production facility. Matheson operated its specialty gas plant without the necessary permits or control devices for five years. It was determined in 2012 that Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions were significantly higher than originally recorded at the time of sale. The amount of VOC emissions from the facility also resulted in violations of air quality regulations.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Releases Update on Zika Surveillance and Response



There have not been any cases of Zika transmitted locally in Pennsylvania, nor have mosquitoes tested positive for the virus.

HARRISBURG -- DEP this week released results of surveillance for Aedes mosquitoes, which have been found to be vectors of the Zika virus. At this time, there have not been any cases of Zika transmitted locally in Pennsylvania, nor have mosquitoes tested positive for the virus.

Twenty-six counties in Pennsylvania have active surveillance sites for albopictus mosquitoes, commonly known as Asian Tiger mosquitoes. The mosquitoes are predominantly found in southern and eastern counties. There have not been any specimens of Aedes aegypti collected, which are the primary carrier of Zika in South America. Aedes aegypti have not been found in

Deadline to comment on Proposed Rulemaking: Radiological Health and Radon Certification Fees; Pennsylvania Radon Mitigation System Tag and Fee. Contact: Joseph Melnic, 717-783-9730.

Sept. 2

Deadline to comment on Delegation of Authority to Implement Plan Requirements for Federal Sewage Sludge Incineration Units. Contact: Maisha Webb, 717-787-9702.

Sept. 6

Deadline to comment on Draft Technical Guidance: Coal Mine Activity Permit Renewals. Contact: Greg Greenfield, 717-787-3174.

Sept. 12

Deadline to comment on Draft 2016 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report. Contact: Gary Walters, 717-787-9637.



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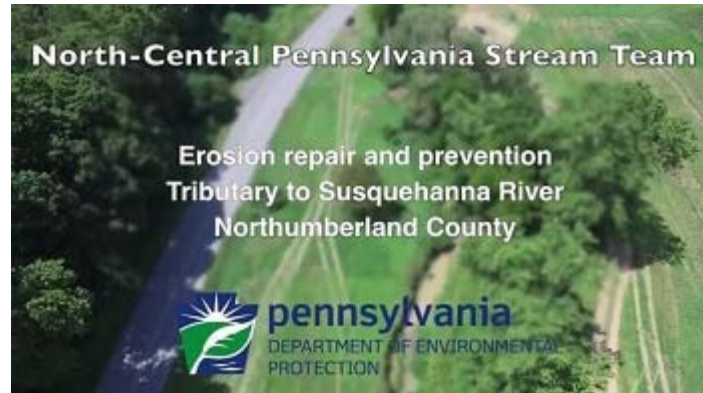
DEP's Mission:

to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water from pollution and to provide for health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment.

Pennsylvania since 2002.

[Read more.](#)

DEP and North-central Partners Restoring Streams for Seventh Consecutive Year



View a video about stream restoration efforts on [DEP's YouTube Channel](#).

WILLIAMSPORT-- Nine streams in eight northcentral counties will soon be cleaner and healthier, thanks to restoration projects funded by the DEP and carried out by the DEP, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and nine conservation organizations.

"The tremendously important work being done by this partnership has improved water quality in our local creeks and streams and the Susquehanna River as well as the overall health of the Chesapeake Bay in a quick and cost-effective manner," DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell said on Friday during a tour of two projects on tributaries of the river just south of Sunbury. "It's a key component of DEP's bay restoration strategy aimed at meeting EPA's 2025 nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reduction goals."

[Read more.](#)

DEP Participates in PEMA Emergency Drill in Wilkes-Barre



Representatives of Talen Energy and state agencies participate in a debriefing following an emergency drill conducted at the company's offices near Wilkes-Barre.

WILKES-BARRE -- The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), in conjunction with Talen Energy, conducted a dress rehearsal emergency drill involving the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station near Berwick, Luzerne County, on Aug. 2.

DEP staff from the Northeast and North-central regional offices

participated in various roles, including radiation protection and public information. The final drill will be held on October 18.

DEP Asks County Conservation Districts in Chesapeake Bay Watershed for Decision on Conducting Agricultural Inspections

HARRISBURG -- As the next step in Pennsylvania's plan to reduce annual loading of nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment entering the Chesapeake Bay, DEP has asked the 41 County Conservation Districts in the bay watershed to finalize their role in conducting agricultural inspections.

"We recognize that for the Chesapeake Bay strategy to succeed, we have to focus on local water quality as our primary concern," said Acting DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "Our goal is that partnerships at the local and state level will directly translate into improving water quality at home, and in the bay, while meeting the federal Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements."

[Read more.](#)

DEP Announces Changes to 2017 Environmental Education Grants

HARRISBURG -- To help improve the support that DEP provides for environmental education grants, the department is increasing the range of grants available to eligible applicants. The 2017 round will include grants of up to \$50,000 to applicants for larger-scale regional or statewide proposals. These and other changes to the grant program will be outlined in a series of workshops and a webinar in September to help applicants develop successful proposals.

"Projects funded by environmental education grants promote the environmental literacy of our citizens, both students and adults alike," DEP Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell said. "When people understand the environmental challenges facing their neighborhoods and communities, they can make informed decisions and take responsible actions to address them."

[Read more.](#)

DEP Answers Environmental Questions at Senior Expo



Several seniors look over environmental fact sheets and pamphlets at DEP's Senior Expo display.

WILLIAMSPORT -- Staff from DEP's North-central Regional office

participated in a senior expo Aug. 5 in Wellsboro, Tioga County. The expo, sponsored by Rep. Matt Baker, was held at the Wellsboro Area High School, and attracted about 100 exhibitors, a new record, and more than 1,000 visitors.

DEP staff distributed a variety of fact sheets on topics including radon, on-lot septic systems, water well disinfection, oil and gas sampling parameters, and many others.



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