

News

from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | Patrick McDonnell, Acting Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

Jan. 10

Climate Change Advisory Committee Regular Meeting, 10 a.m. Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Mark Brojakowski, mbrojakows@pa.gov

Jan. 18

Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment, 10 a.m. New Stanton District Office, Westmoreland Room, 131 Broadview Road, New Stanton, PA 15672. Contact: Peggy Scheloske, mscheloske@pa.gov

Feb. 8

State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Operators Meeting, 10 a.m. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Cheri Sansoni, csansoni@pa.gov



Speakers Bureau



Public Input

Dec. 26

Deadline to comment on Environmental Assessment Approval for PENNVEST Funding Consideration. Visit [eComment](#).

Jan. 3

Deadline to comment on Federal Consistency under the Coastal Zone Management Act; Delaware River Pipeline

Year-In-Review: DEP Puts Miners Back to Work, Protects Air and Water and Kick-Starts Energy Economy in 2016

HARRISBURG -- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell announced the following accomplishments by the agency in 2016.

"This year was tremendous year for the DEP, and we have many things to be proud of," said McDonnell. "From putting miners back to work reclaiming abandoned mine lands for communities to work to continuing to safeguard the state's drinking water to kick-starting efforts to clean up Pennsylvania waterways, DEP has made great strides in 2016."

Putting Coal Miners Back to Work on Abandoned Mine Lands

Together with the federal Department of the Interior, Governor Tom Wolf and DEP announced mine land reclamation projects in 14 Pennsylvania communities. They will result in new or upgraded water supplies for more than 600 homes and businesses, reforestation and restoration of public lands, significant stream water quality improvement, restored fisheries, and increased tourism through public trail development and mining heritage preservation.

Investing in PA's New Energy Economy

In February, DEP and the Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force sent nearly 200 recommendations for pipeline safety, construction, permitting, and siting to Governor Tom Wolf. The task force presented the 184 recommendations in six major categories, designed to drive wider public discussion on the critical, complex, and interrelated environmental and community issues that Pennsylvania faces in the development of the infrastructure needed to transport gas to market.

DEP was selected by the U.S. Department of Energy for a \$550,000 grant for a project called "Finding Pennsylvania's Solar Future." The project will bring together stakeholders to envision ways to increase solar deployment in the Commonwealth.

[Read more.](#)

Governor Wolf Provides Pennsylvanians Tips for Preparing for Winter Weather

Relocation Project. Visit [eComment](#).



Subscribe



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.

An energy-efficient home keeps costs down while you stay cozy.

 **Winterizing tip #1**

Save energy by sealing home air leaks with caulk. Once sealed, install insulation to further protect your home.

#GetWinterReadyPA



  www.dep.pa.gov

HARRISBURG -- As winter weather approaches, Governor Wolf urged Pennsylvanians to be prepared for cold weather and snowstorms.

“As Governor, my top priority is the safety and well-being of all Pennsylvania citizens,” said Governor Wolf. “As winter weather approaches, I urge everyone to take the necessary precautions to ensure that you and your family, friends, and neighbors are fully prepared for severe cold and snow storms.”

State agencies offered the following tips to help Pennsylvanians prepare for winter weather:

Preparing Your Home for Cold Weather

The Department of Environmental Protection encourages Pennsylvanians to stay safe and warm this winter by properly preparing their homes. Home winterization can help keep your home warmer, while using less energy and costing less money.

Read all of the tips on preparing for winter weather [here](#) and visit the [DEP Facebook page](#) for more information!

2016 Survey Provides First Documentation Of Farmers' Voluntary Water Quality Best Management Practices

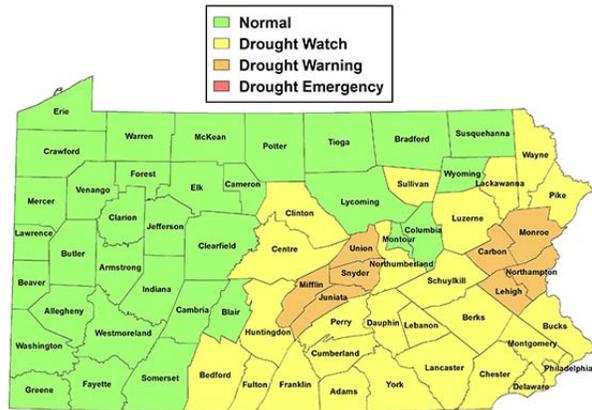
HARRISBURG -- Results of the 2016 survey of Pennsylvania farmers in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed were announced on December 15. Based on survey responses and on-site verification, they provide the first official documentation that many farmers have implemented a number of best management practices (BMPs) voluntarily and at their own expense to reduce the nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment levels entering local streams and rivers and, ultimately, the bay.

DEP, the Department of Agriculture, Penn State, and other stakeholders partnered on the survey, which was completed by 6,782 farmers in 41 counties.

DEP held a live media webinar on the survey at 10:00 am on December 16. DEP Acting Patrick McDonnell; Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding; Matthew Royer, director of the Penn State Agriculture and Environment Center; and Rich Batiuk, Associate Director for Science, Analysis and Implementation at the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office discussed the survey process and results and what they mean for cleaning up local waters and charting Pennsylvania's progress on its bay watershed goals.

For more information visit the [DEP Website](#) or [DEP YouTube Channel](#).

DEP Increases Drought Warning to Eight Counties, 26 Counties Remain on Drought Watch



HARRISBURG -- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has placed four more counties on drought warning status following a meeting today of the Commonwealth Drought Task Force.

While recent precipitation over the past few weeks has helped dry conditions in the eastern part of Pennsylvania, the central part of the state still has persistent 90-day precipitation deficits of up to 4 inches from normal as well as low groundwater and stream levels.

Mifflin, Juniata, Snyder, and Union Counties were moved from drought watch to drought warning status. Snyder has a precipitation deficit of 11 inches from normal over the past year.

These four counties join Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, and Northampton, which have been on drought warning status since November 3. DEP encourages residents in these counties to voluntarily reduce their water use by 10–15 percent.

Counties on drought watch are Adams, Bedford, Berks, Bucks, Centre, Chester, Clinton, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Luzerne, Montgomery, Northumberland, Perry, Philadelphia, Pike, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Wayne, and York Counties. Residents are encouraged to reduce their nonessential water use by 5 percent.

Conditions in western Pennsylvania and along the northern tier generally have remained at normal or above normal levels.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Wins 2016 Pennsylvania Excellence in Technology Award for Network Innovations



CORRECTION: The DEP award was presented to the Bureau of Information Technology Network Administration Section: Matt Clark, Greg Fiedler, and Dave Hayes and State CIO John MacMillian.

HARRISBURG -- DEP has won a 2016 Pennsylvania Excellence in Technology Award for innovations leading to improved network operations and cost savings.

The annual Excellence in Technology awards, presented to multiple state agencies by the Pennsylvania Office of Administration and Government Technology magazine, recognize outstanding accomplishment, dedication, innovation, and leadership in information technology to enhance government service.

The DEP award was presented to the Bureau of Information Technology Network Administration Section: Greg Fiedler, Matt Clark, and Dave Hayes.

“These professionals have worked tirelessly to bring the DEP network up to speed by evaluating how the department currently manages its essential network communications and finding efficiencies, cost savings, and more practical approaches to managing customer service,” said CIO Sean Crager.

This year, the Network Administration team has: challenged the traditional way in which DEP received network services and evaluated, tested, and begun to deploy a new technology network that will save DEP approximately \$900,000 over 5 years; taken the initiative to clean up and rebuild all of the network closets in the Rachel Carson State Office Building, resulting in a 5-year savings of approximately \$190,000 by eliminating unused network equipment and its associated support costs; and rolled out a new wireless network throughout the entire building and consolidated its operations into an easy-to-manage interface.

The 2016 Excellence in Technology Awards were presented at the annual Pennsylvania Digital Government Summit, December 1, at the Harrisburg Hilton.

DEP to Host Public Hearing Regarding Northampton County Landfill Proposed Expansion

WILKES-BARRE -- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will host a public hearing regarding Chrin Landfill's permit application to expand its existing facility in Williams Township, Northampton County. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2017 from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM at Wilson Area High School, 424 Warrior Lane, Easton, PA 18042.

During the meeting, DEP staff will take testimony regarding the landfill's application for expansion.

Chrin Landfill is requesting an expansion of the landfill permit area by approximately 30-acres and the disposal area by approximately 33-acres. The application for this expansion was deemed complete by DEP on November 9, 2015. Chrin's response to the DEP's environmental assessment of the expansion application was received on November 21, 2016.

[Read more.](#)



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