

News from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | Patrick McDonnell, Acting Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

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

March 7

Storage Tank Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting, 10 a.m. Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Dawn Heimbach, dheimbach@pa.gov

March 9

Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center (TAC) Advisory Board, 9 a.m. Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Dawn Hissner, dhissner@pa.gov



Upcoming Webinars



Speakers Bureau



Public Input

Feb. 13

Deadline to comment on DRAFT Technical Guidance: Bonding-Direct Submittal of Bonds. Visit [eComment](#).

Feb. 13

Secretary McDonnell Joins U.S. Senator Casey To Discuss Energy Efficiency Initiatives

HARRISBURG -- On Thursday, January 26, Acting Secretary Patrick McDonnell joined PennEnvironment and the Academy of Natural Sciences for a discussion with Senator Casey on how to defend the Clean Air Act and climate change in a new era of unprecedented attacks on climate science and clean energy.

Secretary McDonnell covered topics of reducing fossil fuels, energy efficiency, climate adaptation and how to educate the residents of Pennsylvania.

"Reducing fossil fuels is about momentum. We are hoping to create a momentum for solar deployment from this effort and increase agreement among utilities, businesses, and government on the value of solar. And throughout it all, we want to document the process. I do believe that one of the definitions of success is that it be replicable.

"We are working on energy efficiency initiatives focusing in low-income communities that engage energy-level workers in building energy assessments and will include market partners that will execute retrofit implementations and overcome many barriers currently impeding progress in building energy efficiency, such as cost of assessments, connecting with legitimate retrofit contractors, and lack of financing.

"And finally it is important to educate Pennsylvanians not only about the impacts about what needs to be done, but about what they need to do to lessen their carbon footprint. The science is settled and everyone can do something, whether it be to seal and insulate your home, recycle and dispose of waste properly, or to share rides or opt for other modes of transportation. Making these changes have a great impact to creating a path forward for the future." – Secretary McDonnell.

DEP Announces Boil Water Advisory For PWSA Customers Can Be Lifted

HARRISBURG -- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has issued a [letter](#) to the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA), informing PWSA that the Boil Water Advisory can be lifted. DEP has evaluated the data provided by PWSA and has determined PWSA's data demonstrates that the water in the distribution network is now in compliance with

Deadline to comment on Federal Consistency under the Coastal Zone Management Act; Annual Beach Nourishment Activities at Presque Isle State Park. Visit [eComment](#).

March 21

Deadline to comment on Interim Final Technical Guidance: Comprehensive Environmental Assessment of Proposed Project Impacts for Chapter 105 Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit Applications. Visit [eComment](#).



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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.

regulations.

"We are pleased to announce that the Boil Water Advisory can be lifted," said Acting DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "DEP does not issue such advisories lightly, and only does so to ensure the safety of Pennsylvania residents. PWSA has the responsibility to demonstrate that the drinking water being served in the distribution system consistently meets safe drinking water standards, and prior to this morning that evidence had been lacking."

DEP staff reviewed data provided by PWSA through the night and this morning, and received additional information from PWSA on equipment calibration to guarantee accuracy of readings going forward.

[View release here.](#)

Rooftop Solar Project Completed In Mercer County



Photo shows about half of the panels and was taken while installers finished panel installation.

WEST MIDDLESEX -- Estes Trucking recently completed the installation of a 688kW rooftop solar array at its warehouse terminal in West Middlesex, Mercer County. This approximately \$1.4 million project (\$2.04 per watt) was built with the assistance of a \$400,000 Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority (PEDA) grant awarded to Estes in 2014. A final inspection for grant purposes was completed in January, along with the utility interconnection inspection. Final commissioning also occurred in January, and the system was turned on. At 2,200 panels with 688kW capacity, this is the largest roof-mounted solar array in Western PA.

Estes anticipates this project will meet about 56% of the facility's electric consumption while saving about \$67,000 per year in avoided electric purchase and reducing CO2 emissions about 1.2 million pounds annually. The utility bill savings combined with the PEDA grant, a 30% federal tax credit, and sale of solar renewable energy credits are expected to bring the payback for the project to about 8.5 years for Estes. A publicity event for early Spring 2017 is in initial planning stages among Estes, its installation contractor (Dynamic Energy of Wayne, PA), and DEP.

February Is Falcon Nesting Season!



Male and female resident falcons sitting on the ledge of the Rachel Carson State Office Building.

HARRISBURG -- After a challenge from a new male and female falcon, it seems the resident falcons have retained their nest site. Keep up with the Harrisburg Falcons on [Twitter](#), or visit the [Falcon Website](#) to watch the falcons live from your computer or mobile device.



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