

News from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Wolf, Governor | John Quigley, Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

May 17

Citizens Advisory Council meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Katherine Hetherington Cunfer, khethering@pa.gov

May 17

Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., Delaware Conference Room, 16th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Mark Brojakowski, mbrojakows@pa.gov

May 18

Conventional Oil and Gas Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Kurt Klappkowski, kklappkowsk@pa.gov

May 18

Vapor Intrusion Workgroup conference call, 9 a.m. Call 855-734-4390, Pin# 831861. Contact Michael Maddigan, mmaddigan@pa.gov

May 19

Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Kurt Klappkowski, kklappkowsk@pa.gov

June 7

Storage Tank Advisory Committee meeting 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St.,

Wolf Administration Increases Zika Surveillance Plans



Zika virus is transmitted to humans mainly through the bite of an infected Aedes-species mosquito.

HARRISBURG -- Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf today announced his administration's plan to bolster surveillance, mitigation, and response efforts for Zika virus to better protect all residents in the commonwealth.

The Pennsylvania Zika Virus Response Plan, developed by the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Environmental Protection, outlines the phases of education, surveillance, and response activities that will occur for various levels of mosquito activity within the commonwealth as well as triggers based on the presence of Zika disease within our state. The phases range from the current situation of a moderate level of travel-associated cases to potential widespread local transmission by mosquitos. Pennsylvania has requested funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to implement this plan.

[Read more.](#)

Popular KeystoneHELP Program Re-launches: Millions of Pa. Residents Now Eligible for Home Energy Improvements



Harrisburg. Contact
Charles M. Swokel,
cswokel@pa.gov

June 9

Air Quality Technical
Advisory Committee
meeting, 9:15 a.m., Room
105, Rachel Carson State
Office Building, 400
Market St., Harrisburg.
Contact: Nancy Herb,
nherb@pa.gov.

June 14

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

June 16

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

June 20

Sewage Enforcement
Officer (SEO) Certification
Examination, 8 a.m., 2nd
Floor Training Room,
Rachel Carson State
Office Building, 400
Market St., Harrisburg.
Contact: Kristen
Szwajkowski,
kszwajkows@pa.gov

June 29

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

June 30

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



Upcoming Webinars

May 17

CAC meeting, 10 a.m.
Click here to view via
webinar.

DEP Secretary John Quigley joined Pennsylvania Treasury Secretary Timothy Reese and other officials in Philadelphia to announce the re-launch of KeystoneHELP.

PHILADELPHIA -- The Pennsylvania Treasury, in partnership with leading national clean energy finance company Renew Financial and the Energy Programs Consortium (EPC), a national nonprofit, today announced the re-launch of the award-winning Keystone Home Energy Loan Program (KeystoneHELP) that provides Pennsylvania homeowners with up to \$20,000 of affordable financing for home energy efficiency improvements. KeystoneHELP is additionally supported by DEP and the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST).

"Thousands of Pennsylvania homeowners have already benefited significantly from home upgrades made possible by the KeystoneHELP program and now many more homeowners will be able to take advantage of this program", Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf said. "We are excited to see this program made available again so that homeowners can make improvements that are not only better for their families, but better for our communities and our environment."

[Read more.](#)

DEP and County Conservation Districts Collaborating on Farm Inspection Details in Chesapeake Bay Watershed



A key point of the strategy is to quantify undocumented BMPs in watersheds impaired by agriculture or stormwater.

HARRISBURG -- In a briefing to the State Conservation Commission (SCC) on May 10, DEP officials discussed details of the collaboration between DEP and county conservation districts to conduct farm inspections in the Chesapeake Bay watershed as part of the recently announced "Bay Reboot" strategy.

DEP announced the strategy in January. It was developed in conjunction with the Pennsylvania departments of Agriculture, and Conservation and Natural Resources, and the State Conservation Commission. The strategy relies on a mix of technical and financial assistance for farmers, improved technology, expanded data gathering, improved program coordination and capacity and – when necessary – stronger enforcement and compliance measures.

[Read more.](#)

Ambient Air Manganese Levels in the Glasgow Borough Warrant Further Investigation

PITTSBURGH -- DEP this week announced that airborne manganese concentrations in Glasgow Borough in Beaver County



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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.

warrant further investigation. The results of a short-term (eight-month) monitoring project revealed manganese levels exceeding federal health-based long-term screening guidelines.

DEP, in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and Ohio's environmental agency (Ohio EPA), will begin conducting further investigation of manganese emissions from the nearby S.H. Bell East Liverpool Terminal, located in East Liverpool, Ohio, and Midland, PA, along the Ohio River, and other potential sources.

[Read more.](#)

Perdue AgriBusiness Granted Air Plan Approval for Lancaster County Soybean Oil Extraction Facility

HARRISBURG -- DEP issued an Air Plan Approval to Perdue AgriBusiness, LLC, on May 5 for the construction and operation of a soybean oil extraction facility in Conoy Township, Lancaster County. The proposed facility will use commercial hexane solvent to extract oil from soybeans.

"The final plan approved for this facility includes the most stringent emissions limitations for any soybean processing facility in the country," said DEP Secretary John Quigley. "During our review, DEP carefully analyzed all the data using the best available science. We also considered significant public input, including two public hearings and hundreds of public comments, both for and against the project."

[Read more.](#)

EPA, DOJ and DEP Announce \$6.8 Million Penalty for Violations at Schneider Electric USA's Rodale Manufacturing Superfund Site

PHILADELPHIA -- The U.S. Justice Department (DOJ), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and DEP announced May 3 that Schneider Electric USA will pay a \$6,868,975 penalty for allegedly violating the terms of a 2002 court-approved Superfund consent decree during its cleanup at the Rodale Manufacturing Superfund Site located in Emmaus, Northampton County. These violations resulted in uncontrolled emissions of air pollutants that can cause threats to public health and the environment.

The company will pay the largest Superfund stipulated penalty in EPA history, and the third largest stipulated penalty overall in EPA history. Ten percent of the penalty will be paid to the Pennsylvania DEP.

[Read more.](#)

Countdown is on for DEP Mobile Inspections and Electronic Permitting



DEP Secretary John Quigley and Chief Information Officer Sean Crager stand in front of the countdown clock for DEP's mobile inspections and electronic permitting.

HARRISBURG -- Since January 2015, DEP has embarked on a wide-ranging, Secretary-prioritized, internal modernization effort that will include improved business processes, a transition to new geolocation-based mobile solutions, paperless workflows, archive digitization, internal data-driven analytical research efforts, and greater data transparency.

Two of our signature GO TIME initiatives of this effort will be the introduction of an electronic permitting application, as well as the implementation of a mobile inspection application. These two initiatives, led by DEP CIO Sean Crager, will be operating by Feb. 15, 2017, and their use will be expanded to other program areas following the initial rollout.

The pilot focus for electronic permitting will be the mining deputate and the Bituminous Surface Mine Permit Application. DEP has identified over \$500,000 in Title V federal matching funds to build out the agency's first, full-service electronic permitting system. The goal will be to use this code for all of the agency's 700+ authorizations. DEP is currently developing this system in-house, and expects this system to increase productivity while saving money and providing better service for the regulated community.

By rolling out mobile inspections, DEP will end a double entry system where inspections are conducted with carbonless paper and then keyed into the central database later by the same inspector. We believe this investment will double an inspector's productivity. DEP is currently partnering with PennDOT's Mobile Application Team to build the app and leverage their backend infrastructure to support that capability. DEP will begin with an oil and gas inspection process as a pilot, with a goal of configuring the app for additional inspections in the near future. Up to 350 inspectors will be equipped with this technology by early 2018. This initiative is expected to save \$6.5 million over five years.

DEP Reaches Natural Resource Damage Settlement with Talen Generation, LLC for 2005 Martins Creek Ash Spill

WILKES-BARRE -- DEP and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) have entered into an agreement with Talen Generation, LLC, for the company to pay a total of \$952,150.00 for natural resource damages associated with the August 2005 ash spill at the Martins Creek Steam Electric Station in Lower Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County. The fine money will be directed to mussel restoration and dam removal projects in tributaries to the Delaware River.

The spill occurred after a wooden stop log in the Ash Basin No. 4 discharge structure failed, causing an estimated 100 million gallons of ash material to spread across local fields and into the Oughoughton Creek and the Delaware River. DEP, working with PFBC, the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), determined that the mussel population in the Delaware River was impacted as a result of both the spill and the cleanup. Mussel restoration and dam removal projects will assist in the restoration and vitality of the mussel populations and improve aquatic habitat and water quality.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Oil and Gas Staff Participate in Mongolian Sustainable Energy Development Workshop

MONGOLIA -- Two members of DEP's Oil and Gas program joined other executives from Pennsylvania's Department of State and the U.S. Department of Commerce at a sustainable energy development workshop in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on May 4-6.

"This was an unprecedented opportunity for DEP to assist Mongolian government leaders by sharing our knowledge regarding environmental regulation of the oil and gas industry," DEP Deputy Secretary for Oil and Gas Management Scott Perry said. "DEP's regulations are among the most protective in this country but still allow for the industry to proceed in a responsible manner."

Perry was joined by DEP's Director of District Oil and Gas Operations John Ryder.

Perry and Ryder made seven presentations to the 13 Mongolian government executives on a wide range of topics, including interagency government coordination, conventional and unconventional well construction and permitting, adapting to water-stressed areas, and inspections, auditing and compliance tracking.

The workshop was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the American embassy in Ulaanbaatar in coordination with the Mongolian Petroleum Authority and the Ministries of Mining and the Environment and Tourism. Funding for the workshop was provided by the federal and state departments of State.

Mongolia is a country of about three million people in East Asia. Coal, copper and gold mining represent more than 80 percent of the country's exports. The country also exports nearly 10 million barrels of oil to China annually.

DEP Announces Training for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)

HARRISBURG -- Training workshops will be held at six locations across the state this summer to assist new and existing Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) with changes to the MS4 NPDES General Permit, also referred to as a PAG-13.

A reissued PAG-13 General Permit is expected to become effective in March 2018, and NOIs are due from most MS4s in September 2017. Preparing applications will need to begin soon in order to meet this deadline.

[Read more.](#)

DEP Begins 2016 Ozone Forecasting

HARRISBURG -- Ozone forecasting for 27 counties in Pennsylvania for the 2016 season is now underway. DEP monitors ambient ozone concentrations year-round and makes air quality forecasts for ground-level ozone during the spring and summer months.

The daily forecasts, developed in conjunction with local Air Quality Partnerships, use a color-based Air Quality index for air quality conditions. Green signifies good air quality; yellow means moderate conditions; orange represents pollution levels that could trigger health effects for sensitive people, such as the very young, the elderly, and those with respiratory ailments; and red warns of pollution levels that could trigger health effects for all members of the population.

[Read more.](#)

State Environmental Officials Band, Inspect Harrisburg's Newest Young Peregrine Falcons



Pa. Game Commission Biologist Art McMorris measures and inspects one of three young falcons before returning her to the nest.

HARRISBURG -- Officials from DEP and the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) banded and inspected the three young peregrine falcons nesting on the 15th Floor of the Rachel Carson State Office Building on May 3 to ensure they are healthy and disease free before they enter their next stage of development -- learning to fly.

"We want to do everything we can to ensure that these young falcons are free from any health issues or infestations so they are successful when they take their first flights in the next few weeks," DEP Secretary John Quigley said. "To further ensure their safety, this year, the falcons were banded near the nest to reduce the amount of time and stress the banding causes to the both the fledglings and the adult falcons."

[Read more.](#)

Pennsylvania SBDC EMAP Wins National EPA Honor for Assistance to Small Businesses



Members of the EMAP team (left to right) are: Jeremy Hancher, Lee Ann Briggs, Nancy Crickman, Carrie Wintersteen and Chuck Haney

WASHINGTON D.C. -- The Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)'s Environmental Management Assistance Program (EMAP) was awarded the Fiscal Year 2015 U.S. EPA Administrator's Award for Outstanding Accomplishments by a Small Business Trade or State Small Business Environmental

Assistance Provider.

DEP provides funding to support EMAP in a longstanding partnership to provide environmental technical and compliance assistance to Pennsylvania small businesses, as required by the state Air Pollution Control Act and the federal Clean Air Act. EMAP provides valuable services to help small businesses in Pennsylvania come into compliance with environmental regulations, stay in compliance, and even go beyond compliance to become more sustainable.

In 2015, EMAP provided environmental consulting assistance to 278 businesses in 50 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. EMAP staff conducted on-site assessment visits at 39 of these businesses. A significant number of the businesses had complex and long unresolved issues that EMAP consultants were able to sort through to help the businesses thoroughly address their compliance issues. Since 2004, EMAP has provided environmental compliance assistance to over 2,645 small companies and conducted 1,262 onsite visits.

For more information, visit <http://www.askemap.org/>.

DEP Participates in Luzerne County Earth Day Celebration



DEP's Chris Ostrowski demonstrates a hand-held air quality monitoring device to students.

WILKES-BARRE -- "Save the River by Recycling and not Polluting the Air" was the theme of a DEP booth at Earth Day Celebration 2016 at RiverFront Park in Kingston, Luzerne County on April 22. DEP Northeast Regional Air Quality employees Chris Ostrowski and Brandi Thear, along with Community Relations Coordinator Colleen Connolly, demonstrated how DEP tests for pollutants in the air and how clean air goes along with preserving the earth.

Ostrowski used a hand-held monitoring device to show how the department tests for VOCs, nitrates, CO and other pollutants. The 1,000 students who attended also learned how recycling can be a valuable tool in keeping the earth clean by not clogging up landfills or rivers with plastics, glass or paper.



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