

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) created the Regional Permit Coordination Office (RPCO) to act as a centralized permitting office to assist with Ch. 102 and Ch. 105 permitting and provide statewide technical support and coordination. This move addressed a need to establish a centralized entity to provide Chapter 102/105 permitting functions under certain circumstances. RPCO officially opened for business on January 7, 2019.

What type of work does RPCO do?

With the establishment of this office, some permitting functions were transferred from the regions to RPCO to streamline project development and permit processing, reduce redundant operations, and provide effective service and project delivery. This office assists with cross-program coordination and consistency efforts with the various departmental programs that have authority to process permits/authorizations under Chapter 102 and Chapter 105. RPCO also works with conservation districts to coordinate project reviews of mutual jurisdiction in accordance with established delegation agreements.

Two clear categories of work that fall under the responsibility of RPCO are Chapter 102 and 105 permits for: (1) natural gas transmission pipeline projects requiring a FERC Certificate of Public Necessity and Convenience and (2) All PA Turnpike Commission projects. Numerous other types of projects (general to complex) also fall under the purview of RPCO. Additional details of responsibilities are spelled out in RPCO’s Transfer of Responsibility Memo, which was shared with pertinent staff in 2019.

How is RPCO structured?

From a functional skills perspective, RPCO is staffed similar to DEP regional offices in the 102 and 105 programs and consists of a team of engineers and biologists. RPCO does not include field staff; therefore inspections, compliance and enforcement remain the responsibility of regional offices and delegated conservation districts. RPCO requests that County Conservation Districts copy our office on all RPCO-related project communications with the applicant or regional office.

RPCO also includes the following staff in order to carry out its duties:

1. A Transportation Coordinator to help manage MOU obligations with both PennDOT and the PA Turnpike Commission.
2. A Licensed Professional Geologist to assist with projects with geologic concerns.
3. A Water Program Specialist to assist with program coordination and consistency efforts, as well as coordination and assistance with compliance and enforcement activities for large/complex projects.

How can RPCO be contacted?

For general inquiries related to RPCO, including administrative questions, please use the RPCO resource account (RA-EPREGIONALPERMIT@pa.gov). For inquiries related to project coordination, please contact the RPCO Management Team at EP-RPCOMgmtTeam@pa.gov, or individually as necessary. RPCO’s management team email addresses are listed below.

TITLE	NAME	EMAIL	PHONE
RPCO General Contact	General RPCO Inquiries	RA-EPREGIONALPERMIT@pa.gov	717-772-5987
RPCO Management	RPCO Management	EP-RPCOMgmtTeam@pa.gov	717-772-5987
Director	Domenic Rocco, P.E.	drocco@pa.gov	717-772-5659
Encroachment Section Chief (105)	Kevin White, P.E.	kevwhite@pa.gov	570-826-2015
Aquatic Biologist Supervisor	Rebecca Dunlap	redunlap@pa.gov	570-327-3767
Stormwater Section Chief (102)	Rebecca Albert, P.G.	realbert@pa.gov	570-830-3050
Transportation Coordinator	Tiffany Landis, P.E.	tlandis@pa.gov	717-772-5163
Water Program Specialist	Andrew Foley	anfoley@pa.gov	484-250-5813

DEP is also making efforts to update the Permit Application Consultation Tool (PACT), the General Information Form (GIF) and pertinent permit application forms/instructions to direct prospective permit applicants to RPCO when necessary. Similar efforts will be made to update pertinent Guidance Documents and SOPs.