

*Some clips may be behind a paywall. If **Regional** employees need access to these clips, please contact your **Regional Communications Manager** (NWRO – Tom Decker; NCRO – Megan Lehman; NERO – Patti Monahan; SERO – Robyn Briggs; SCRO – John Repetz; SWRO – Laina Aquiline). If **Central Office** staff (and others outside of DEP) need access to these clips, please email me at brandongla@pa.gov*

Top DEP Stories

Allegheny Front: Pa. environmental groups appeal permit for massive gas power plant meant to fuel data center

<https://www.allegenyfront.org/pennsylvania-homer-city-data-center-power-plant-permit-appeal/>

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: State's updated environmental policy at odds with White House

<https://www.sungazette.com/news/top-news/2026/01/states-updated-environmental-policy-at-odds-with-white-house/>

Mentions

National Review: [Pennsylvania DEP Issues Final Environmental Justice Policy](#)

<https://natlawreview.com/article/pennsylvania-department-environmental-protection-releases-final-environmental>

Climate Change

WHYY: Thousands of Bucks and Montco residents live in flood zones. A new study suggests ways to lower the risk

<https://whyy.org/articles/pennsylvania-flooding-montgomery-bucks-county-perkiomen-creek/>

Conservation and Recreation

Lewistown Sentinel: \$120K awarded for Kish Park improvements

<https://www.lewistownsentinel.com/news/local-news/2026/01/120k-awarded-for-kish-park-improvements/>

CBS21: City of Harrisburg receives \$750K grant to 'reconnect' Capital Area Greenbelt

<https://local21news.com/news/local/city-of-harrisburg-receives-750k-grant-to-reconnect-capital-area-greenbelt-recreation-park-funding-homeless>

Chester County.com: Year-long reforestation effort at Natural Lands' preserves

<https://www.chestercounty.com/2026/01/07/559725/year-long-reforestation-effort-at-natural-lands-preserves>

NorthcentralPA.com: Updated Susquehanna River Valley outdoor recreation guides now available

https://www.northcentralpa.com/news/updated-susquehanna-river-valley-outdoor-recreation-guides-now-available/article_0476a65a-c342-45a3-b5f9-0796714d2de6.html

Lock Haven Express: Western Clinton County sportsmen clubs end corn distribution to membership, cite new info from Game Commission

<https://www.lockhaven.com/news/local-news/2026/01/western-clinton-county-sportsmen-clubs-end-corn-distribution-to-membership-sight-new-info-from-game-commission/>

Williamsport Sun-Gazette: Watershed journal to be featured at upcoming Trout Unlimited meeting

<https://www.sungazette.com/news/outdoors/2026/01/watershed-journey-to-be-featured-at-upcoming-trout-unlimited-meeting/>

Data Centers

Scranton Times: County to hold open house on plans for Upvalley zoning collaborative

<https://www.thetimes-tribune.com/2026/01/08/county-to-hold-open-house-on-plans-for-upvalley-zoning-collaborative/>

WNEP: Data centers target rural communities for lower costs, not to create high-quality jobs, study finds

<https://www.wnep.com/article/news/nation-world/data-centers-target-rural-communities-for-lower-costs-study-finds/507-6b98eb97-bd8c-4764-a915-872c8ac7ffee?tbref=hp>

Morning Call: Could the Lehigh Valley's Eastern End be next for data centers?

<https://www.mcall.com/2026/01/08/easton-data-centers/>

Lancaster Online: Data center water usage discussion planned in Wrightsville next week

https://lancasteronline.com/news/local/data-center-water-usage-discussion-planned-in-wrightsville-next-week/article_b59ef6aa-c144-4c00-a634-076ef9d07369.html

WGAL: Data center project in Cumberland County advances with new approvals

<https://www.wgal.com/article/data-center-project-cumberland-county-advances-new-approvals/69949858>

The Philadelphia Inquirer: AI will drive the economy in 2026, for better or worse, economist says

<https://www.inquirer.com/economy/artificial-intelligence-stocks-economy-bubble-20260109.html>

Energy

Pittsburgh Business Times: Meta signs nuclear power deal with Vistra that will expand Beaver Valley plant capacity

<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2026/01/09/beaver-valley-power-plant-meta.html>

Inside Climate News: Looking Ahead to a Deepening Affordability Crisis, an Election and the Threat of an AI Investment Bubble

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/08012026/inside-clean-energy-what-to-expect-in-2026/>

Lock Haven Express: Can the U.S. solve its energy crisis? (Opinion)

<https://www.lockhaven.com/opinion/columns/2026/01/can-the-u-s-solve-its-electricity-crisis/>

Waste

Mon Valley Independent: Major sewage project likely ahead for Monessen

<https://www.monvalleyindependent.com/2026/01/09/major-sewage-project-likely-ahead-for-monessen/>

WGAL: York County's largest landfill will remain operational, environmental concerns persist

<https://www.wgal.com/article/york-countys-largest-landfill-remain-operational-environmental-concerns-persist/69949875>

The Philadelphia Inquirer: How to recycle your old electronics the right way, according to e-waste experts

<https://www.inquirer.com/consumer/technology/how-to-recycle-old-phones-tvs-ewaste-20260109.html>

Water

WFMZ: Steel Ice Center to expand with new ice rink, fitness center

https://www.wfmz.com/news/area/lehighvalley/lehigh-county/bethlehem-area/steel-ice-center-to-expand-with-new-ice-rink-fitness-center/article_99d2a511-7bb6-4f9d-9b55-5cf23627b74b.html#tncms-source=Homepage-Local-Govt

Huntingdon Daily News: Saxton lifts voluntary water restriction

https://www.huntingdondailynews.com/news/local/saxton-lifts-voluntary-water-restriction/article_e4071240-1e92-42e9-929b-bed2e7b6ba9e.html

Bedford Gazette: Water restrictions lifted in Saxton

https://www.bedfordgazette.com/news/local/water-restrictions-lifted-in-saxton/article_229bd0a9-ac49-47c4-bee6-520d8e85dc6b.html

Miscellaneous

WESA: Penn State says unique programs at closing DuBois and Mont Alto campuses will move to Altoona

<https://www.wesa.fm/education/2026-01-08/penn-state-dubois-mont-alto-campuses-altoona>

NEXTpittsburgh: Why some Pennsylvanians are forgoing embalming or cremation in favor of natural wooden caskets

<https://nextpittsburgh.com/features/pennsylvanians-are-forgoing-embalming-or-cremation-in-favor-of-green-burials/>

Scranton Times: Viewmont Mall evacuated, UGI investigating possible gas leak

<https://www.thetimes-tribune.com/2026/01/08/viewmont-mall-evacuated-ugi-investigating-possible-gas-leak/>

WBRE: Viewmont Mall closed and evacuated due to emergency

<https://www.2822news.com/news/viewmont-mall-closed-and-evacuated-due-to-emergency/>

Standard Speaker: Developer seeks variances for warehouse in Hazleton, Hazle Twp.

<https://www.standardspeaker.com/2026/01/08/developer-seeks-variances-for-warehouse-in-hazleton-hazle-twp/>

WOLF: Unveiling the 2026 PA Farm Show's 1,000-lb. butter sculpture

<https://fox56.com/news/local/photos-unveiling-the-2026-farm-shows-1000-lb-butter-sculpture-growing-a-nation-harrisburg-pennsylvania-farmer-pa>

Lancaster Farming: Proposed Maryland Salmon Farm Seeks Stricter Permit Following Lawsuit

https://www.lancasterfarming.com/farming-news/conservation/proposed-maryland-salmon-farm-seeks-stricter-permit-following-lawsuit/article_a003fe91-3a5c-443e-a183-edf1a241913b.html

Altoona Mirror: Gaining ground: Blair County works on behind-the-screens deal to purchase land for new prison

<https://www.altoonamirror.com/news/local-news/2026/01/blair-prison-county-works-behind-the-scenes-land-deal/>

Delco Today: Radnor to Acquire 14 Acres at Valley Forge Military Academy

<https://delco.today/2026/01/valley-forge-military-academy-radnor/>