

*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

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Federal spending bill cuts \$785 million from programs to clean up pollution from old oil wells and coal mines

<https://www.post-gazette.com/business/powersource/2026/01/09/abandoned-coal-mine-oil-gas-well-plugging-funding-cut/stories/202601090052>

Mentions

Allegheny Front: Takeaways from frack waste investigation in Pennsylvania

<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/pennsylvania-fracking-solid-waste-radioactivity-investigation/>

Pa Environment Digest Blog: DEP Issued Lazy Oil Company Violations For Abandoning 12 More Conventional Oil & Gas Wells In Butler, Venango Counties

<https://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2026/01/dep-issues-lazy-oil-company-new.html>

PA Environment Digest Blog: DEP Invites Comments On Proposed Consent Decree Covering Wastewater Discharges To Continue Operation Of The Keystone And Conemaugh Coal-Fired Power Plants In Indiana And Armstrong Counties

<https://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2026/01/dep-invites-comments-on-proposed.html>

Scranton Times: DEP hearing exposes gravity of data center speculation

<https://www.thetimes-tribune.com/2026/01/11/chris-kelly-opinion-dep-hearing-exposes-gravity-of-data-center-speculation/>

Times Leader: DEP updates Environmental Justice Policy for first time in more than 20 years

<https://www.timesleader.com/news/1729573/dep-updates-environmental-justice-policy-for-first-time-in-more-than-20-years>

South Philly Review: Environmental protections improved via increased public engagement

<https://southphillyreview.com/2026/01/10/around-town-73-2/>

Climate Change

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Scientists just got some ancient clues about future sea level rise — and it's bad news

<https://www.post-gazette.com/news/science/2026/01/11/scientists-just-got-some-ancient-clues-about-future-sea-level-rise-and-it-s-bad-news/stories/202601110025>

Conservation and Recreation

Allegheny Front: How one couple made birds into their bandmates

<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/how-one-couple-made-birds-into-their-bandmates/>

Republican Herald: 10 winter projects to help birds

<https://www.republicanherald.com/2026/01/10/10-winter-projects-to-help-birds/>

Lehighvalleylive: 5 acres for 162: Land swap to clear way for welcome center along Appalachian Trail

<https://www.lehighvalleylive.com/outdoors/2026/01/5-acres-for-162-land-swap-to-clear-way-for-welcome-center-along-appalachian-trail.html>

Pennlive: 5 acres for 162: Land swap to clear way for welcome center along Appalachian Trail

<https://www.pennlive.com/outdoors/2026/01/5-acres-for-162-land-swap-to-clear-way-for-welcome-center-along-appalachian-trail.html>

Lewistown Sentinel Little Buffalo offers winter programs to explore nature

<https://www.lewistownsentinel.com/news/local-news/2026/01/little-buffalo-offers-winter-programs-to-explore-nature/>

Data Centers

Pittsburgh Business Times: Vistra leads Beaver Valley from near closure to bright future with Meta deal

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

Republican Herald: East Union Twp. to consider rules for data centers

<https://www.republicanherald.com/2026/01/09/east-union-twp-to-consider-rules-for-data-centers/>

York Daily Record: York County event to explore water demands of proposed data centers

<https://www.ydr.com/story/news/local/2026/01/09/talk-to-address-data-center-water-impact-in-susquehanna-river-basin/88086647007/?tbref=hp>

Lancaster Farming: Pennsylvania Congressmen Seek Silver Lining on Rural Data Centers

https://www.lancasterfarming.com/farming-news/ag-business/pennsylvania-congressmen-seek-silver-lining-on-rural-data-centers/article_7e440a03-09b1-4824-99e5-74a51c9970bc.html

Shamokin News-Item: Experts speak on data centers, impacts on health, environment at Montour County town hall

https://www.newsitem.com/news/local/experts-speak-on-data-centers-impacts-on-health-environment-at-montour-county-town-hall/article_13f992e7-19b0-5833-b5fc-789c778daa73.html

Sunbury Daily Item: Town Hall features experts discussing potential impacts of data centers

https://www.dailyitem.com/news/town-hall-features-experts-discussing-potential-impacts-of-data-centers/article_a7f7530f-b405-4ff9-887c-262dfef3f53b.html

Drought

Sunbury Daily Item: Three valley counties in drought watch; conservation notice in place for parts of Northumberland County

https://www.dailyitem.com/news/3-valley-counties-in-drought-watch-conservation-notice-in-place-for-parts-of-northumberland-county/article_bcd5115d-604c-4b40-90ed-fc552178636a.html

Energy

WESA: Pa. Supreme Court dismisses appeals to revive RGGI carbon credit program

<https://www.wesa.fm/courts-justice/2026-01-08/pa-supreme-court-dismisses-appeals-rggi-carbon-credit-program>

WESA: As Pa. energy prices rise, advocates skeptical that lawmakers will put aside partisan differences

<https://www.wesa.fm/politics-government/2026-01-11/pa-energy-prices-electric-bills-rise>

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Building science: A training center in Homewood teaches home energy efficiency

<https://www.post-gazette.com/business/powersource/2026/01/11/building-better-homes-weatherization-pittsburgh/stories/202512310043>

Bradford Era: As Pa. energy prices rise, advocates skeptical that lawmakers will put aside partisan differences

<https://www.bradfordera.com/2026/01/11/pa-energy-prices-rise-advocates-skeptical-lawmakers-will-put-aside-partisan-differences/>

Bradford Era: Meta lines up massive supply of nuclear power to energize AI data centers

<https://www.bradfordera.com/2026/01/09/meta-lines-massive-supply-nuclear-power-energize-ai-data-centers/>

Altoona Mirror: Senate bill targets solar locations

<https://www.altoonamirror.com/news/local-news/2026/01/senate-bill-targets-solar-locations/>

Daily Local: Energy developers head to court as Trump says the US 'will not approve any windmills'

<https://www.dailylocal.com/2026/01/12/trump-vs-offshore-wind/>

Waste

WOLF: Proposed waste transfer facility planned for Hazleton site, public comments open

<https://fox56.com/news/local/proposed-waste-transfer-facility-planned-for-hazleton-site-public-comments-open>

Lebtown: GLRA board approves 10-year agreement for purchase of landfill methane

<https://lebtown.com/2026/01/12/glra-board-approves-10-year-agreement-for-purchase-of-landfill-methane/>

Sunbury Daily Item: Tree collection raises money for scholarship, food pantry

https://www.dailyitem.com/news/tree-collection-raises-money-for-scholarship-food-pantry/article_30738b41-9748-4905-b44a-273ebd423c2e.html

Sunbury Daily Item: Butter sculpture highlights America250

https://www.dailyitem.com/news/butter-sculpture-highlights-america250/article_20b2717d-92cc-40f9-8608-c0f21b83242d.html

Water

NEXTpittsburgh: Neighborhood flood control projects slashed as Pittsburgh Water focuses on federally required improvements

<https://nextpittsburgh.com/environment/neighborhood-flood-control-projects-slashed-as-pittsburgh-water-focuses-on-federally-required-improvements/>

Shamokin News-Item: Shamokin CT Sewer Authority to assist city on conduit financing

https://www.newsitem.com/news/local/shamokin-ct-sewer-authority-to-assist-city-on-conduit-financing/article_bd2aa1d1-588f-4147-99a3-bdd3d3a929f8.html

Miscellaneous

Warren Times: Ban on neonic insecticides being proposed

<https://www.timesobserver.com/news/local-news/2026/01/ban-on-neonic-insecticides-being-proposed/>

Republican Herald: 110th PA Farm Show commences, Tamaqua girl sings opening anthem

<https://www.republicanherald.com/2026/01/10/110th-pa-farm-show-commences-tamaqua-girl-sings-opening-anthem/>

WNEP: Pennsylvania Farm Show returns to Harrisburg to ring in America250 celebration

<https://www.wnep.com/article/news/local/pennsylvania-farm-show-returns-to-harrisburg-to-ring-in-america-250-celebration/523-e207fb6d-53a9-4356-9e90-28fc0aa9e7dd>

Pennlive: Western US is in a snow drought, and storms have been making it worse

<https://www.pennlive.com/opinion/2026/01/western-us-is-in-a-snow-drought-and-storms-have-been-making-it-worse-the-conversation.html>

Carlisle Sentinel: Dickinson Township is looking to buy former school site from Carlisle school district

https://cumberlink.com/news/local/education/article_80d8dacc-b5f4-404a-8365-0f6e9764bf8f.html#tracking-source=mp-news

Altoona Mirror: Newry considers Catfish Road closure

<https://www.altoonamirror.com/news/local-news/2026/01/newry-considers-catfish-road-closure/>

Huntingdon Daily News: Activity spotted at Rutter's site

https://www.huntingdondailynews.com/news/local/activity-spotted-at-rutter-s-site/image_2bd3c959-3449-4c41-b79c-3286da9e4be8.html

The Philadelphia Inquirer: Pa. loggers want a bailout from President Trump. Without it, they say mass layoffs could be next

<https://www.inquirer.com/business/pennsylvania-sawmills-logging-industry-layoffs-trump-tariffs-20260112.html>