

*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

KDKA: Pittsburgh-area community "powdered" by dust from quarry gets answers after state inspection
<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/westmoreland-county-community-dust-from-quarry-update/>

Coal Region Canary: ICE Admits There's No Written Plan to Supply Fresh Water, Haul Sewage from Tremont Detention Center
<https://coalregioncanary.com/2026/03/19/ice-has-no-written-plan-drinking-water-supply-immigration-detention-center-tremont-township-schuylkill-county/>

WGAL: Lower Susquehanna Riverkeepers file motion to stop operations at J&K Salvage
<https://www.wgal.com/article/lower-susquehanna-riverkeepers-file-motion-stop-operations-jk-salvage/70785295>

Meadville Tribune: Local electric grid gets nearly \$4.7M boost to prevent outages
https://www.meadvilletribune.com/news/local-electric-grid-gets-nearly-4-7m-boost-to-prevent-outages/article_35510ceb-2bb3-47eb-8596-e062c05b8958.html

Leader Times: REA in line to get \$1.5 million in federal electric grid resilience funding from DEP
https://www.leadertimes.com/news/rea-in-line-to-get-1-5-million-in-federal-electric-grid-resilience-funding-from/article_84080477-56b7-406f-ad53-ca58e005b147.html

Mentions

Bradford Era: CLERMONT: Solar sediment reaches high-quality trout streams; DEP orders Clermont Solar to halt earthmoving
<https://www.bradfordera.com/2026/03/18/clermont-solar-sediment-reaches-high-quality-trout-streams-dep-orders-clermont-solar-halt-earthmoving/>

Bucks County Beacon: Peaceful Protest Against ICE Warehouse Detention Center Planned for Friday in Tremont Township
<https://buckscountybeacon.com/2026/03/peaceful-protest-against-ice-warehouse-detention-center-planned-for-friday-in-tremont-township/>

ICE Facility

WOLF: Schuylkill County seeks DHS answers as ICE facility fears mount at nearby daycare
<https://fox56.com/news/local/county-seeks-dhs-answers-as-ice-facility-fears-mount-at-nearby-daycare>

Climate Change

Allegheny Front: How climate change is pressuring Pittsburgh's farms, restaurants and food supply
<https://www.alleghenyfront.org/how-climate-change-is-pressuring-pittsburghs-farms-restaurants-and-food-supply/>

Conservation and Recreation

KDKA: "Draft Day 5K" will be part of Pittsburgh's NFL Draft festivities
<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/pittsburgh-draft-day-5k-pittsburgh-nfl-draft-festivities/>

Standard Speaker: Nothing sings springtime like birds
<https://www.standardpeaker.com/2026/03/18/nothing-sings-springtime-like-birds/>

ABC27: Local county investing \$5M to preserve farmland
<https://www.abc27.com/local-news/local-county-investing-5m-to-preserve-farmland/>

WGAL: Lancaster County seeks public feedback on 2026 parks, trails plan
<https://www.wgal.com/article/pa-lancaster-county-2026-parks-and-trails-master-plan-feedback/70788401>

Data Centers

TribLive: Alcoa nears first sale of property for potential data center
<https://triblive.com/business/alcoa-nears-first-sale-of-property-for-potential-data-center/>

Rocket-Courier: Public Meeting on Data Centers Set for March 23
<https://www.rocket-courier.com/articles/public-meeting-on-data-centers-set-for-march-23/>

Daily Review: Towanda students give data center impact research presentation
https://www.thedailyreview.com/news/local/towanda-students-give-data-center-impact-research-presentation/article_6221e9bb-857a-4ff6-b6dd-19bb196aa5cf.html

Standard-Journal: Six data center campuses planned for one borough
https://www.standard-journal.com/news/local/article_9544a721-b93e-4f21-b23f-985a695ad0b3.html

WNEP: Archbald Borough councilmembers oust council leadership
<https://www.wnep.com/article/news/local/lackawanna-county/archbald-borough-councilmembers-oust-council-leadership-lackawanna-county-data-center/523-7ef6b003-f4de-47c6-9c39-73e95fdce406>

WNEP: Data center developer buys over 1,500 acres, plans to build campus in Salem Township
<https://www.wnep.com/article/news/local/luzerne-county/data-center-developer-buys-over-1700-acres-plans-data-center-salem-township-luzerne-county-qts-amazon-talen-energy/523-32ebb4c3-6deb-49b4-9525-ae9d56c0625?tbref=hp>

WOLF: Dallas Township passes data center zoning amendment after heated public hearing
<https://fox56.com/news/local/massive-land-deal-in-salem-township-paves-way-for-major-data-center-project>

WOLF: Massive land deal in Salem Township paves way for major data center project
<https://fox56.com/news/local/massive-land-deal-in-salem-township-paves-way-for-major-data-center-project>

Scranton Times: Throop declares own zoning invalid, buys time to regulate data centers
<https://www.thetimes-tribune.com/2026/03/18/throop-declares-own-zoning-invalid-buys-time-to-regulate-data-centers/>

Standard Speaker: New Salem Twp. data center developer touts experience, environmental edge
<https://www.standardsspeaker.com/2026/03/18/new-salem-twp-data-center-developer-touts-experience-environmental-edge/>

Chambersburg Public Opinion: Farm Bureau session on data center impacts
<https://www.publicopiniononline.com/story/news/local/2026/03/19/franklin-county-farm-bureau-talk-on-land-and-data-centers/89208113007/>

Drought

The Express: City remains in Stage II drought watch
<https://www.lockhaven.com/news/local-news/2026/03/city-remains-in-stage-ii-drought-watch/>

Energy

TribLive: Diana Vahabzadeh: Legislators must help bring down skyrocketing utility bills
<https://triblive.com/opinion/diana-vahabzadeh-legislators-must-help-bring-down-skyrocketing-utility-bills/>

TribLive: Tarentum buys more power for its distribution grid
<https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/tarentum-buys-more-power-for-its-grid/>

TribLive: How much energy does AI really need? Anthropic official weighs in at CMU Energy Week
<https://triblive.com/business/how-much-energy-does-ai-really-need-anthropic-official-weighs-in-at-cmu-energy-week/>

Wellsboro Gazette: Woodland Biomass draws closer to construction
https://www.tiogapublishing.com/the_wellsboro_mansfield_gazette/news/local/woodland-biomass-draws-closer-to-construction/article_530f1942-d3bc-47de-bb03-17ac307f7912.html

Center Square: The people's virtual power up for consideration in Pennsylvania
https://www.thecentersquare.com/pennsylvania/article_7286dbaa-2600-4b4d-b03f-8f970f96916a.html

ABV27: Solar farm planned in western Schuylkill County township

<https://www.abc27.com/pennsylvania/solar-farm-planned-in-western-schuylkill-county-township/>

CBS21: What is net metering & how is it contributing to rising energy costs in PA?

<https://local21news.com/news/local/pennsylvania-lawmakers-weigh-net-meterings-role-in-rising-energy-costs>

CBS News: Why are electricity bills so high in Pennsylvania? An energy analyst explains

<https://www.cbsnews.com/philadelphia/news/pennsylvania-electricity-prices-high/>

Radiation Protection

Levittown Now: Study: Falls Twp. Landfill Among 49 Probed For Radiation Levels

<https://levittownnow.com/2026/03/17/study-falls-twp-landfill-among-49-probed-for-radiation-levels/>

6abc: Bill Gates-backed TerraPower picks South Philadelphia for \$450 million medical isotope facility

<https://6abc.com/post/bill-gates-backed-terrapower-picks-south-philadelphia-450-million-medical-isotope-facility/18731475/>

WHYY: What to know about Bill Gates' nuclear science company planned for the former South Philadelphia refinery site

<https://whyy.org/articles/bill-gates-nuclear-science-company-philadelphia/>

Waste

FOX43: Illegal dumping continues to impact Michaux State Forest

<https://www.fox43.com/article/news/local/michaux-state-forest-officials-illegal-dumping-nature-outdoors-crime/521-4824cf9a-0e90-46d4-85d2-b1f3899ab55c>

Water

York Daily Record: Hanover to consider removal of fluoride from public drinking water

<https://www.ydr.com/story/news/local/2026/03/17/hanover-pa-in-york-county-considering-removing-fluoride-from-water-system-drinking-water/89191896007/?tbref=hp>

Central Penn Business Journal: Capital Region Water to celebrate \$27M energy recovery project

<https://www.cpbj.com/capital-region-water-to-celebrate-27m-energy-recovery-project/>

FOX43: Watershed experts hold workshop about tree buffers to protect local waterways

<https://www.fox43.com/article/news/local/watershed-experts-hold-workshop-about-tree-buffers-to-protect-local-waterways-environment-york-county/521-124632fa-8b4c-495c-836f-7a4a4c79159c>

Philly Burbs: Edison Furlong Road bridge replacement means detours in Central Bucks

<https://www.phillyburbs.com/story/news/traffic/2026/03/18/edison-furlong-bridge-replacement-proposed-in-doylestown-buckingham-penn-dot-bucks-county-detour/89203862007/>

Miscellaneous

TribLive: Does your Westmoreland County home have lead paint? This free program provides repairs
<https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/does-your-westmoreland-county-home-have-lead-paint-this-free-program-provides-repairs/>

WTAE: Pennsylvania regulators seek \$2.6 million in penalties for deadly 2023 chocolate factory explosion
<https://www.wtae.com/article/pennsylvania-chocolate-factory-explosion-penalties/70781486>

News-Item: The Trump admin's secretive, fast-tracked process to pick who will run Pa.'s new detention centers
https://www.newsitem.com/news/local/the-trump-admin-s-secretive-fast-tracked-process-to-pick-who-will-run-pa-s/article_77e9c071-97d7-432f-bdef-e776fbc8fc38.html

Press Enterprise: Amazon donates \$250G to local groups
<https://www.pressenterpriseonline.com/news/2026/03/19/1/amazon-donates-250g-local-groups>

WJET-TV: Erie's Forever Curious Festival sparks joy among older adults
<https://www.yourerie.com/news/local-news/eries-forever-curious-festival-sparks-joy-among-older-adults/>

The Philadelphia Inquirer: Philadelphia gets \$10 million to keep the Chinatown Stitch project moving forward after Trump cut funds
<https://www.inquirer.com/transportation/chinatown-stitch-funding-dvrpc-philadelphia-20260319.html>

Bucks County Herald: March: Winter's planning and prep takes to seed
https://www.buckscountyherald.com/news/march-winter-s-planning-and-prep-takes-to-seed/article_301af4cb-4ce6-43d8-9404-5612a4e8d674.html

Bucks County Today: Bucks County Plant Nursery Ranked in the Top Ten in the Country by USA Today
<https://bucksco.today/2026/03/bowmans-hill-wildflower-preserve-nursery/>