

# — PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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## Farm Shows Feature Conservation, Renewable Energy - Video Blog Feature



Agriculture took center stage this week in Harrisburg with the annual [State Farm Show](#) and at the [Keystone Farm Show](#) in York, but a major theme was the contribution of farming to renewable energy and conservation practices.

This Video Blog feature provides just a quick sampling of the variety of educational displays available at the Farm Shows both for farmers and the public.

### **CBF - Helping Farmers Help the Environment**

A new, innovative proposal would give farmers tax credits for installing best management practices which reduce stormwater runoff, sediments going into streams and nutrients running off fields of up to \$150,000 and to other landowners who install forested riparian buffers.

[Lamonte Garber, Senior Agriculture Consultant with CBF](#), talks about the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act (REAP) at the Keystone Farm Show in York.

The Resource Enhancement and Protection Act was introduced last year as [House Bill 2878](#) by Rep. Stern (R-Blair), Rep. Hershey (R-Chester) and Rep. Daley (D-Washington) and as [Senate Bill 1286](#) by Sen. Wenger (R-Lancaster, now retired), Sen. Waugh (R-York), Sen. O'Pake (D-Berks) and others. It is expected to be reintroduced shortly in the new legislative session.

For more information, visit the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation REAP webpage](#).

Issue Notebook: [Resource Enhancement and Protection Act](#)

### **Good Stream Corridor Management**

Good stream corridor management has a variety of benefits to farmers and the environment, including providing wildlife habitat, preventing erosion and sedimentation into streams helping aquatic life, improving property values and aesthetics and improving the health of livestock and dairy cattle.

[Dave Keller, from the Fish and Boat Commission](#), talks about these benefits to farmers attending the 2007 Farm Show.

The Commission's display features before and after photos of a farm along the Little Lehigh Creek in Berks County and the positive benefits of proper stream corridor management. [A recent article](#) in the Commission's *Angler & Boater* magazine chronicles these benefits.

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For more information, visit the [Trees for Streams Programs](#) of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

### **Master Well Owner Network**

There are over 978,000 wells providing over 3 million people with their drinking water in Pennsylvania. More than 10,000 new wells are drilled every year.

Unlike public water systems, there are no regulations that establish standards for the construction or operation and maintenance of wells. There are no requirements for testing water that comes from wells to make sure it is safe to drink. These responsibilities fall on the owner of the well.

The Master Well Owner Network was created by the Penn State Extension Service to provide well owners with advice on how to keep their wells safe from contamination and maintain them properly.

[Rick Grant, a member of the Master Well Owner Network](#), is one of more than 240 volunteers that have taken on the task of educating well owners. He talks about the Network and how you can protect your well against contamination at the 2007 Farm Show.

For copies of informative publications on wells or to contact a member of the Master Well Owner Network in your area, visit the [MWO Network webpage](#).

### **Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania**

Bluebirds suffered a dramatic decline in their numbers due to pesticides, competition with other species for nesting areas and destruction of their habitat because of development.

The Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania is dedicated to educating the public about this valuable resource and promoting the recovery of the species.

[Nancy Putt, President of the Society](#), talks about bluebirds from their display at the 2007 Farm Show.

More information is available at the [Bluebird Society of PA website](#) and the [Game Commission Bluebird webpage](#).

### **Penn State Biomass Energy Center**

Large-scale production of bioenergy will require development of new crops and appropriate production and harvest, and storage strategies. Penn State has active research programs in woody biomass crops, feedstock management technologies, basic plant biotechnology, and biomass characterization.

Sources of biomass energy include forests, agricultural products like corn, soybeans, switch grass and agricultural wastes like manure.

The focus of the Biomass Energy Center is to coordinate and facilitate research and outreach across the university, building teams to address the complete value chain of biomass energy systems.

This value chain can be classified into four categories:

1. Improved production of biomass feedstocks;
2. Integration of biomass production into sustainable agrosystems;
3. Conversion of biomass into energy; and
4. Technology transfer to companies, state agencies, NGOs, and citizens throughout the Commonwealth and beyond.

[Dr. Greg Roth, a Grain Crops Specialist](#) from the Penn State Extension Service talks about the Center, its activities and the potential of biomass in Pennsylvania.

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The Center was part of an extensive exhibit at the 2007 Farm Show educating farmers and the public on the potential of renewable sources of energy that could be developed from agricultural and forestry producers.

For more information, visit the [Penn State Biomass Energy Center online](#).

### **Alternative Fuels Renewable Energies Council**

Pennsylvania is a national leader in encouraging the development of renewable energy resources from wind, solar, agricultural and forestry products.

The Alternative Fuels Renewable Energies Council brings together producers, suppliers, manufacturers, developers and distributors of renewable energy resources in many forms with the objective of encouraging the development and investment in renewable energy businesses in Pennsylvania.

[Rosemary McAvoy, President of the Council](#), talks about the goals of the Council, its development and future from their exhibit at the 2007 Farm Show.

For more information, visit the [Alternative Fuels Renewable Energies Council website](#).

### **DEP Highlights Conservation Practices**

[John Varner, from the Department of Environmental Protection's](#) Moshannon District Mining Office, takes you on a tour of DEP's Riverwalk Environmental Trail exhibit at the 2007 Farm Show.

One side of the display shows agricultural, mining and development practices that often degrade the environment and the second half shows good best management practices that can protect the environment.

For more information, visit the [DEP website](#).

### **Quecreek Mine Rescue on Arnold's Dairy Farm**

The rescue of nine miners trapped in the flooded Quecreek Mine in Somerset County, PA was a miracle that captured the world's attention in 2002.

Lori and Bill Arnold did not hesitate to open their dairy farm to rescuers to drill the rescue shaft that became the way out of danger for the miners.

[Lori Arnold talks about the rescue](#), all the public attention the rescue site still generates and plans for building a visitors center on the farm to accommodate the over 300 busloads of visitors that come from all over the country and around the world.

The Arnolds formed the non-profit Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation after the rescue to undertake projects on the site to accommodate visitors to what is still a working, and now organic certified dairy farm.

For more information, visit [www.QuecreekRescue.org](http://www.QuecreekRescue.org).

**NewsClips:** [Exhibits on Alternative Fuels Draw Crowd at Farm Show](#)

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### **Session Schedule**

The Senate and House will now BOTH return to session on January 16.

### **On the Hill**

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### Feature

- *Give a Little and Get a Flock This Winter*, By Joe Kosack, Game Commission

[Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

## On the Hill

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### Rep. O'Brien Sponsors Resolution on Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Citing the example set by seven other Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states, freshman Rep. Mike O'Brien (D-Philadelphia) announced plans this week to introduce a resolution calling on Gov. Rendell to participate in the [Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative](#).

"Pennsylvania needs to join this very important group to address the very real problem of greenhouse gas," Rep. O'Brien said. "We must work with our neighbors to address climate change while increasing current energy efficiency and building energy-efficient industries from both the consumer and producer angles."

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, sometimes referred to as RGGI or "ReGGIe," is a cooperative effort by Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states to discuss the design of a regional cap-and-trade program initially covering carbon dioxide emissions from power plants in the region. In the future, RGGI may be extended to include other sources of greenhouse gas emissions and greenhouse gases other than carbon dioxide.

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In December 2005, seven states announced they would sign a memorandum of understanding, which outlines the program in detail and includes the framework for a model rule. The states that agreed to sign the memorandum were Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York and Vermont. Pennsylvania sends a representative to observe the process but has not signed the memorandum yet.

“It’s not enough to consider how we can protect the environment here in Pennsylvania,” Rep. O’Brien explained. “What we do here has an impact in other states, just like what happens in other states has an impact here. By opening our doors to resources in other states, we have a better chance at reducing carbon dioxide emissions and protecting our natural resources for future generations.”

O’Brien is currently seeking co-sponsors for his resolution and will introduce it in the coming weeks.

### House, Senate Appropriations Set Budget Hearing Schedule

The House and Senate Appropriations Committee this week released a schedule of budget hearings which are set to begin February 26 in the Senate and February 14 in the House. Here are some key dates—

February 14: House – Presentation of budget needs by House members.

February 26: Senate - Dept. of Revenue (1:15)

February 27: House – PA Emergency Management Agency (11:30)

February 28: Senate - Budget Secretary (3:00)

House – Public Utility Commission (9:00), Dept. of Community and Economic Development (10:00)

March 1: Senate - Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (9:00)

March 5: House – Dept. of Environmental Protection (1:30), Dept. of Agriculture (3:00)

March 6: Senate - Dept. of Transportation (9:00)

House – PA Economy League on Transportation Funding (10:00), Dept. of Transportation (2:00)

March 7: Senate - Dept. of Community and Economic Development (1:15)

House – Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (3:00)

March 8: Senate - Dept. of Agriculture (9:00), Public Utility Commission (10:30), Dept. of Environmental Protection (1:15)

The hearings are set for Hearing Room 1, North Office Building, instead of the usual Majority Caucus Room. The House hearings will be held in the Majority Caucus Room.

### House Democrats Name Committee Chairs

New House Speaker Dennis O’Brien (R-Philadelphia) Friday named the chairs of the House Committees. Republicans have not yet named their chairs. They are:

Agriculture and Rural Affairs – Rep. Mike Hanna (Centre) (*was not chair before*)

Appropriations – Rep. Dwight Evans (Philadelphia)

Environmental Resources and Energy – Rep. Camille “Bud” George (Clearfield)

Game and Fisheries – Rep. Ed Staback (Lackawanna)

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Local Government – Rep. Robert Freeman (Northampton) *(was not chair before)*  
Professional Licensure – Rep. Mike Sturla (Lancaster) *(was not chair before)*  
Transportation – Rep. Joseph Markosek (Allegheny) *(was not chair before)*  
Urban Affairs – Rep. Thomas Petrone (Allegheny)  
Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness – Rep. Tony Melio (Bucks) *(was not chair before)*

### Bills Introduced

House members started to introduce legislation this week for consideration. Here's a rundown...

**Landowner Recreation Liability:** [House Bill 13](#) (Readshaw-D-Allegheny) further providing for the liability of landowners toward recreational users.

**Uniform Environmental Covenants:** [House Bill 43](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) providing for uniform environmental covenants for brownfield cleanups. *(House Bill 1249 last session)*

**Mercury Thermostats:** [House Bill 44](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) restricting the disposal of thermostats containing mercury. *(House Bill 2658 last session)*

**Green State Buildings:** [House Bill 45](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) requires buildings owned or leased by the Commonwealth to meet certain green building standards. *(House Bill 3047 last session)*.

**Green Building Tax Credit:** [House Bill 46](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) providing a tax credit to building owners and tenants to encourage high performance green buildings and energy efficiency. *(House Bill 3049 last session)*.

The text of these bills is not yet online at this writing, but will be available through the [General Assembly website](#).

### Other News

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#### PA No-Till Alliance Plans Annual Conference for March 13-14

The [Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance](#) announced plans for their [3rd annual conference](#) on March 13-14 in State College at the Ramada Conference Center.

The conference is geared to provide hands-on, practical information that any producer can take to the field and be more successful with their no-till system.

“The Alliance board was very specific when they directed the planning committee to create a program that would provide practical, field tested ideas that any producer can take to the field and put to use,” said Jeff McClellan, Alliance coordinator, “so the planning committee crafted a program that will focus on the nuts and bolts of no-till, and a format that will allow producers to ask questions specific to their operations.”

The conference will begin Tuesday afternoon, March 13 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm with an Earlybird Advanced Session geared especially for veteran no-till farmers looking to fine



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tune their system. The discussion will focus on the latest no-till theory and topics that can help experienced no-till producers refine their systems to a higher level.

Presenters will offer short reviews on a cutting edge no-till subject and then participate in roundtable style discussions to answer questions and ideas generated by the topic. Following the Earlybird session, The PA No-Till Alliance will hold its annual membership meeting.

A full day of no-till information is slated for Wednesday, March 14 kicking off with registration at 8:00 a.m. The conference will open at 9:30 a.m. with a welcome and opening remarks from the Secretary of Agriculture Dennis Wolff, followed by two of the most highly regarded no-till speakers in the U.S., Dan Towery and Ed Winkle.

“Both Dan and Ed are walking encyclopedias when it comes to understanding what makes no-till work, with practical ideas for solving tricky problems in all types of conditions” according to McClellan.

Dan Towery became a private consultant in 2005 dedicated to helping producers adopt continuous no-till systems after working 25 years as an agronomist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. While at the NRCS, Towery managed the National Crop Residue Management survey for the Conservation Technology Information Center and helped promote conservation practices suitable for production agriculture. Dan was the 2005 recipient of the No-Till Innovator Award in Research and Education.

Ed Winkle is a no-till grower, consultant, and Certified Crop Advisor who has spent his career developing a hands-on understanding and working knowledge of how to make the no-till system excel. His personal experience and entertaining presentation earned him the Outstanding Presentation Award at the 2005 National No-Till Conference.

Following the morning session are a series of panel discussions that will cover a range of hot topics related to no-till including: How to transition to no-till, Cover crops-selection, establishment and management, Controlling weeds so they don't control you, Leveraging seed traits for a no-till system, Managing fertility - material selection and placement, No-till manure management in the real world, Equipment options that yield results. Attendees will be able to pick and choose the topics they are most interested in and participate in as many as they choose.

Jeff Frey – Alliance board secretary, believes the panel discussions will be a crowd favorite.

“Based on feedback we received from last year's conference, and from the experience of Alliance members that have attended the National No-Till Conference, we designed the afternoon session to be very open and encourage audience participation,” said Frey. “Many of the most useful, practical ideas we find come from other producers that have put those ideas to work to solve a problem. The afternoon session is all about connecting folks with specific questions or problems with producers and experts that have dealt with that problem before.”

A “No-Till Marketplace” will be available throughout the conference where attendees can visit with suppliers offering products geared to the no-till grower. Agribusinesses interested in exhibiting in the marketplace or sponsoring conference activities can secure one of the limited spots still available by contacting the Alliance office.

Conference registration forms and a complete agenda are available from local conservation district offices, cooperative extension offices, and on the [Alliance website](#).

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For more information, call the PA No-Till Alliance office at 814-863-4260 or send email to: [info@panotill.com](mailto:info@panotill.com) .

### Comments Requested on Proposed TMDLs for Watersheds in 5 Counties

The Department of Environmental Protection is requesting public comments on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plans in four watersheds in three counties. They are:

**Mill Run and Beaverdam Brach Watersheds**, Cambria & Blair counties: DEP will hold a public meeting to accept comments on this TMDL February 6 at 7:00 at the Holiday Inn Express, 3306 Pleasant Valley Blvd, Altoona. Contact: Bill Brown at 717-783-2951 (no email listed)

**Wells Creek Watershed**, Somerset County: DEP will hold a public meeting to accept comments on this TMDL February 7 at 6:30 at the Somerset REC Building, Somerset. Contact: Joe Boylan by sending email to: [jboylan@state.pa.us](mailto:jboylan@state.pa.us)

**Wisconisco Creek Watershed**, Dauphin & Schuylkill counties: DEP will hold a public meeting to accept comments on this TMDL February 7 at 7:00 at the Lykens Township Building, Lykens. Contact: Bill Brown at 717-783-2951 (no email listed)

For a copy of these TMDLs and more information, visit DEP's [TMDL webpage](#).

### DEP Awards Grants for Innovative Water, Wastewater Projects

\$2.2 million in Pennsylvania's municipalities, municipal authorities and public school districts that will help to improve public health and improve utility service.

Projects that receive funding through the program are restricted to drinking water and wastewater treatment technologies, as well as sewer collection and conveyance system improvement technologies that are commercially available, but have not yet been widely used in Pennsylvania. The project must provide one or more significant advantages over conventional technology.

[A complete list of projects is available online.](#)

### Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center Winter Water Education Programs

From documentaries, interactive exhibits and hands-on education programs, the [Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center](#) in Philadelphia offers a wealth of water-related environmental education programs and activities.

Site of the original Philadelphia Water Works which first occupied the site in 1822, the Fairmount Center provided clean water to the City through 1909 when pollution in the Schuylkill River forced its closure.

Catch a preview of "[Runnding Dry](#)" at the Interpretive Center on Saturdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m.. The documentary, inspired by Senator Paul Simon's book Tapped Out, is written, produced and directed by Jim Thebaut. It is a comprehensive public information/education project, established to raise awareness regarding the worsening global humanitarian water crisis and what we can do about it.



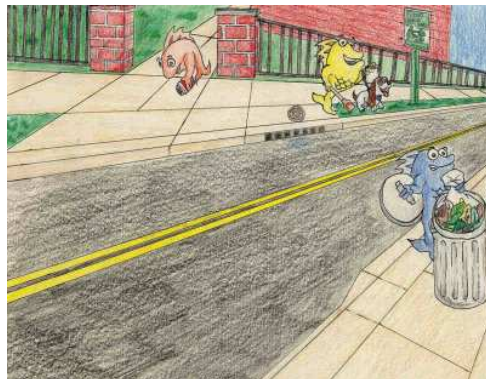
Catch all the action, by visiting the [Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center website](#).

### Stormwater Subject of Delaware Estuary Partnership Student Drawing Contest

The [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#) is officially accepting entries for the 2007 “[Clean Water Begins and Ends With You](#)” Drawing Contest, an annual art competition for kindergarten through 12th grade students throughout the City of Philadelphia.

Deadline for entries is February 23.

For eight years now, the non-profit National Estuary Program has partnered with the Philadelphia Water Department to administer this popular contest, which educates hundreds of children in public, parochial and private schools annually about stormwater runoff pollution, a leading cause of water contamination throughout the Delaware Estuary.



Andrew Lapatina, 11th-grader from Archbishop Ryan High School, won first place in last year.

First-place drawings from four age categories will be featured by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority in a car card advertising campaign celebrating the 37th anniversary of Earth Day. This, along with 12 other award-winning entries, will be published in a calendar available for free to the public.

Other prizes to be awarded at a ceremony in April include framed certificates, a variety of art supplies, and gift cards ranging from \$25 to \$100.

“Art and conservation are school subjects that are frequently passed over in exchange for reading, writing, and arithmetic,” said Lisa Wool, program director with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. “This contest helps teachers to keep these subjects in the classroom in a way that’s educational, fun and rewarding.”

The first school to submit 100 qualified entries or more by the February 23 deadline will also receive a \$500 gift card for school supplies. And each teacher of a winning student will receive a \$25 gift card toward the purchase of art supplies.

Stormwater runoff occurs when water from rain or melted snow flows over watertight surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks, and streets. Rather than naturally soaking into the ground, this stormwater picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants on its way into sewers. It is then frequently discharged as untreated runoff into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, drinking water and more.

For drawing ideas, see the [2006 Drawing Winners](#).

To learn more visit the “[Clean Water Begins and Ends With You](#)” Drawing Contest [webpage](#) or call Dee Ross at 800-445-4935, extension 106.

### Rural Water Assn. Announces 2007 Annual Conference, Rate Survey

The Pennsylvania Rural Water Association will hold its [annual conference March 27-30](#) at the Penn Stater Conference Center, State College.

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There are up to 15 Department of Environmental Protection contact hours available this year for eligible certified operators. In addition to contact hours, the conference features industry vendor exhibits and social events.

Attendees can register online at the [PRWA website](#) or fax in a registration form to 814-353-9341. Registrations received after February 16 will be charged an administrative fee.

PRWA also announced the completion of its 2007 salary and rate survey.

“We all share the same goal of wanting to set rates as low as we can for our customers and at the same time maintain our systems and be prepared for future needs,” PRWA Program Administrator Jeff Martin said. “Salaries are in the same category. We need to pay our staff a fair compensation, high enough to retain them and yet still be responsible stewards of public funds. We are pleased that the large number of survey participants permitted us to provide you with accurate results.”

A copy of the salary and rate survey is also available through the [PRWA website](#).

### **Planting a Seed to Eat Better in the Future, Philadelphia Urban Sustainability Forum**

Shocking but true – food in Philadelphia goes beyond soft pretzels and cheesesteaks.

On January 18 the [Philadelphia Urban Sustainability Forum](#) will present an event to discuss regional food choices and the growth of sustainable agriculture practices in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

The evening will be moderated by Joy Lawrence of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and will be held at the Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia PA 19103. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., program begins at 6:30 p.m..

The January Forum presenters include:

Kathy Lawrence, former Director and founder of Just Food (New York City), who will discuss the challenges in our current food production systems, and how we as consumers can encourage sustainable, equitable and healthy change.

Gary Giberson, Executive Chef at the Lawrenceville School will join us to share the vision and practical lessons that have been a part of transforming the dining experience at Lawrenceville School.

Ann Karlen, the founding Director of the White Dog Cafe Foundation's Fair Food project, will share her wealth of knowledge gained in her work with farmers, chefs and other wholesale buyers to help build business relationships and bring more local food into the Philadelphia marketplace.

The objective of the Philadelphia Urban Sustainability Forum is to create awareness of what city government, businesses and residents can do to make Philadelphia the greenest, most livable city in America.

The Forum is organized and co-sponsored by: The Academy of Natural Sciences – Town Square Program, the Delaware Valley Green Building Council, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Pennsylvania Resource Council, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Sustainable Business Network, Temple University – Ambler, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the U.S. EPA, the City of Philadelphia Planning Commission, the AIA Committee of the Environment, Urban Engineers, Inc, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, the Center City District, the Pennsylvania

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Economy League, Philadelphia University, the University of Pennsylvania Institute of Urban Research, Sara Steele, and Lisa Hough – Prudential, Fox, and Roach.

RSVPs recommended to [rwall@acnatsci.org](mailto:rwall@acnatsci.org).

For more information on this and other upcoming activities, visit the [Philadelphia Urban Sustainability Forum website](#).

### **Dr. Lee Davis To Be Featured at Environmental Professionals Conference**

Dr. Devra Lee Davis, MPH will be the featured speaker at the [May 16-18 Annual Conference](#) of the PA Environmental Professionals Association in State College.

Dr. Davis directs the world's first [Center on Environmental Oncology](#) at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute.

Dr. Davis's topic will be "Tales of Environmental Deception and the Battle Against Pollution." She will highlight [Rachel Carson's](#) work to educate the public on the control of toxic chemicals, and attempts to discredit Carson. Her presentation will include archival film clips of Rachel Carson.

Dr. Davis was a National Book Award Finalist for her work *When Smoke Ran Like Water* (2002, Basic Books) - a book centered on her hometown of [Donora, PA](#) in which more than 20 residents died from inhaling toxic fumes over the course of four days in October 1948.

The Center on Environmental Oncology is a multidisciplinary center that includes experts in medicine, basic research, engineering and public policy who work to develop cutting-edge studies to identify the causes of cancer and propose policies to reduce the risks of the disease.

Honored for her research and public policy work by various national and international groups, Dr. Davis is also a Professor at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health's Department of Epidemiology, Visiting Professor at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz School, Honorary Professor, London's School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Expert Advisor to the World Health Organization.

For more information, visit the [PAEP Annual Conference webpage](#).

### **PAEE to Hold "No Child Left Inside" Conference April 13-15**

The [PA Association of Environmental Educators](#) will hold its annual conference April 13-15 in Wilkes-Barre with the theme "No Child Left Inside."

If you have ever thought that children don't spend enough time outside, that video games and television are poor substitutes for fresh air and fireflies -- then Wilkes-Barre is the place for you.

PAEE will bring together hundreds of people, including: classroom teachers, non-formal educators, home-schooling parents, nature center staff, high school and college students, academics, school administrators, and professionals from environmental and education sectors.

We will learn from each other and discuss how to nurture a future generation of environmental stewards for our state. Join us for our annual conference and help explore the vision of a Pennsylvania learning community where there is "No Child Left Inside".

For more information, download the ["No Child Left Inside"](#) conference brochure.

## Fundamentals of Geology, Applied Geology Courses in January, February

The [PA Council of Professional Geologists](#) is sponsoring several upcoming seminars as a review for the Pennsylvania Professional Geologist Licensing Examination.

On January 31 there will be a Geophysical Well Logging and Imaging seminar at The Inn at Chester Springs, Exton.

On February 15 a Fundamentals of Geology course will be held at the Best Western Parkway Center Inn, Pittsburgh.

On February 16 there will be an Applied Geology/Professional Practice seminar at the same location.

On March 2 a Sedimentary Geology and Geomorphology: Fundamentals to Applications will be held at The Inn at Chester Springs, Exton.

For more information, visit the [PA Council of Professional Geologists website](#).

## Court Throws Out Challenge to Deer Case, Audubon Supports Open Process

Game Commission this week hailed a Commonwealth Court ruling that dismissed, with prejudice, the Unified Sportsmen of Pennsylvania's challenge to the agency's [deer management program](#). The decision to throw out the case was made "with prejudice," meaning that the lawsuit may not be re-filed.

A spokesperson for the sportsmen's group said they would likely appeal this decision.

"Today's court ruling is a strong statement that the Game Commission's deer management program is being conducted in a sound, methodical and scientific manner," said Carl Roe, Executive Director of the Commission. "We believe that most hunters and the general public recognize that the need to reduce and stabilize our state's deer herd is a short-term pain that we must endure in order to achieve long-term gains.

"Our hope is that this ruling will cease the unnecessary expenditure of sportsmen's dollars and tax dollars fighting frivolous and ill-conceived lawsuits."

"The ruling is not an endorsement of either the Unified position or the scientific validity of the Game Commission's current deer management program. Rather, it simply states that the courts are not a place to settle policy disagreements," said Dr. Timothy Schaeffer, Executive Director of Audubon PA. "The best way to judge the effectiveness of deer management or any other public policy is to have an open system, in which the data used by resource managers to make their decisions are subject to public scrutiny and peer review." *Link: [Audubon Deer and Habitat Report](#)*

Roe noted that, since 2000, the Game Commission has worked to implement a deer management program that takes into account the concerns of all Pennsylvanians, and the agency has been consistent and open in its approach.

"The deer management plan, which is available on our website, was developed with public input to improve the health of the state's deer herd; to encourage healthy habitat, which deer and all other wildlife depend on; and to reduce deer-human conflicts," Roe said. "We believe this deer management program will improve the health of our deer herd and the habitat that supports it and other wildlife.

"Yes, hunting has become more challenging in many areas. However, the benefits from our program changes are unmistakable, as hunters have reported seeing and

harvesting larger deer; land managers and foresters are seeing some regeneration recovery in our forests; and farmers are telling us that they have seen less damage to their crops.

"We have reduced deer herds in many of our more rural Wildlife Management Units, and our focus has been to stabilize deer herds in those areas over the past two hunting seasons. However, we continue to focus our efforts on reducing deer impacts in our most urbanized WMUs - 2B, 5C and 5D - in the southwestern and southeastern portions of the state."

For more information, visit the Game Commission's [Deer Management Program webpage](#).

**NewsClip:** [PA Court Rejects Deer Management Lawsuit](#)  
[Outdoors: Time for Another Battle in Deer War](#)

### **Rate Cap Plans Disapproved, Sustainable Energy Funding Ends for Met-Ed, Penelec**

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission [this week disapproved](#) the 2010 rate cap transition plans of Met-Ed and Penelec and eliminated funding provided in a customer surcharge to the Sustainable Energy Development Fund serving their territories.

The Commission voted 4-0 to allow Met-Ed to increase its revenues by about \$58.7 million (5.1 percent) and Penelec by about \$50.2 million (4.6 percent). Met-Ed had requested an increase of about \$216 million (19 percent) and Penelec for an increase of \$157 million (15 percent).

The PUC eliminated funding to the Met-Ed/Penelec Sustainable Energy Development Fund because it said the adoption of the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act in 2005 required utilities to purchase electric power from renewable sources. The surcharge on customers for the Fund was therefore duplicative.

Vice Chairman James Cawley issued a statement disagreeing with the majority saying funding should be restored to the Sustainable Energy Fund because it does not add significantly to customer rates and the Fund has established a responsible record of making investments in alternative energy projects.

The Commission denied the Met-Ed and Penelec Rate Transition Plans that included an increase in generation costs. The Commission did not make any adjustments to rates to reflect merger savings based on FirstEnergy testimony that they provided \$700 million of generation support provided to Met-Ed and Penelec.

Met-Ed serves about 534,966 customers in eastern and southeastern Pennsylvania.

Penelec serves about 587,975 customers in western and southwestern Pennsylvania.

For recent news releases, audio of select Commission proceedings or more information about the PUC, visit [www.puc.state.pa.us](http://www.puc.state.pa.us).

Visit the [Berks County Community Education Foundation website](#) and the [Community Foundation for the Alleghenies](#) for information on the Met-Ed/Penelec Sustainable Energy Fund programs.

### **Fires Fuel Mercury Emissions, University of Michigan Study Finds**

Forest fires release more mercury into the atmosphere than previously recognized, a multidisciplinary research project at the University of Michigan suggests.

Based on their analysis and estimates of the area of forest and shrub land burned annually in the United States, the study calculated that wildfires and prescribed burns

account for approximately 25 percent of human-generated mercury emissions in this country.

In a related project, the researchers are trying to identify the sources of the atmospheric mercury that ended up in the forests they studied. Preliminary results suggest that much of it came from mining operations in the western United States.

The study, which has implications for forest management and global mercury pollution, was published January 9 in the journal *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*.

Doctoral student Abir Biswas, the paper's lead author, came up with the idea for the project when he was a student at UM's Camp Davis Rocky Mountain Field Station near Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Wildfires were burning all around the station that summer, and smoke blanketed the camp. Around that time, Biswas happened to read a new scientific paper suggesting the possible role of fires in global mercury emissions.

"There I was, watching forest fires around our field camp, and it seemed like the ideal place to study the problem," he said.

The study Biswas read investigated mercury emissions from the combustion of foliage at locations around the USA and extrapolated to estimate mercury release during forest fires.

"I'm interested in earth surface geochemistry so I wanted to approach the question differently," Biswas said.

Over the next two summers, under the direction of University of Michigan professor Joel Blum, Biswas collected core samples of forest soil from burned and unburned areas, using sections of PVC pipe sharpened at one end to obtain the cylindrical samples.

He and Blum also collaborated with UM professor Gerald Keeler and former research scientist Bjorn Klaue to take air samples at Camp Davis - measuring mercury and trace metals over two summers - which provided the scientists with a picture of the atmospheric background on which the fires were superimposed.

Forests act as mercury traps because mercury in the atmosphere - which comes from both natural and human-generated sources such as coal-fired power plants and municipal waste incinerators - collects on foliage.

When the foliage dies, it falls to the forest floor and decomposes, and the mercury enters the soil.

Because it binds strongly to organic molecules, mercury is most prevalent in the top several inches of soil, where organic matter is concentrated.

By comparing the mercury content of burned soil with that of unburned soil, the researchers could estimate how much mercury was released when forests burned. They found that both the type of trees in the forest and the severity of the fire affected the amount of mercury released.

The type of tree makes a difference because evergreens take up more mercury from the atmosphere on their needles than do broad-leafed trees, leading to more mercury accumulation in the soil prior to the fire.

Understanding the role fires play in mercury emissions is particularly important in light of predictions that forest fires will increase as global warming makes some parts of the world hotter and drier, said Blum, who is the John D. MacArthur professor of geological sciences and director of Camp Davis.

The findings also have implications for forest fire management, Biswas said.



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"When you let fires run free in an area where they have been suppressed for a long time, as happened in the Yellowstone fire of 1988, the fires end up burning a huge area that has been accumulating mercury for a long time, so a lot of mercury is released," he said.

"By contrast, when you allow fires to occur in natural 50- to 100-year cycles, you end up with more frequent, less severe fires, which release less of the mercury in the soil."

"So the current shift in management practices from suppressing fires to letting some of them burn suggests that in the immediate future there may be a lot of high mercury release fires, but that down the road the amount of mercury released from these fires should drop."

Studies of the sources and fate of mercury pollution are critical, Blum said, because it's a problem that won't go away.

"Once mercury starts getting emitted and deposited into a forest, it then gets re-emitted and re-deposited and re-emitted again," said Blum.

"So the legacy of mercury pollution will be with us for a very long time," he said.

Funding was provided by grants from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to Blum and from the Department of Geological Sciences to Biswas.

**NewsClip:** [State Bureau Halts Stricter Mercury Regulations](#)  
[Researchers Claim To Link Mercury With Power Plants](#)

### **Allegheny Health Department Offers Grants to Retrofit Diesel School Buses**

The Allegheny County Health Department is inviting local school districts to apply for [funding to retrofit diesel school buses](#) with devices that not only cut external tailpipe emissions but also the air pollution that seeps inside where children are exposed while riding a bus.

"Retrofitting is the key to curbing emissions from pre-2007 diesel school buses which will remain on the road for many years to come," said County Health Director Dr. Bruce W. Dixon. "The improved air quality would be especially beneficial to children, who are more sensitive to pollution and may be exposed on board a bus for long periods of time."

Grants are available from the Allegheny County Clean Air Fund to cover 75 percent of retrofit costs, which can range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 per bus for various types of tailpipe retrofits and from \$400 to \$700 per bus for crankcase filters that reduce pollution which gets inside a bus.

The retrofit program is open to all public school districts in the county that operate their own fleet or use a school bus contractor. Districts with a large number of lower-income students qualify for full funding and will not be required to pay 25 percent of their retrofit costs.

A total of \$500,000 is available for distribution to school districts that successfully apply for grants.

Applications and information about the program may be obtained by visiting the [Health Department's website](#) or by calling Steve Noorbakhsh at 412-578-8180 or Jayme Graham at 412-578-8129.

School districts that intend to apply for a grant should submit a letter of interest by March 15, and must complete and return their grant application by July 15.

## **Labor & Industry Adopts New Online System to Report Hazardous Chemicals**

The Department of Labor and Industry unveiled a new online system to report hazardous chemicals under state law and the federal Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Title II program.

The new [Pennsylvania Tier II Reporting System](#) will store information about the presence of harmful substances stored and/or used at facilities and businesses throughout the Commonwealth. Before PATTS, information was provided through paper reports which created delays in processing.

PATTS allows businesses to report the location, type and quantity of hazardous materials they have online. It also provides the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency with secure, 24-hour access to the data. PATTS data can be revised only by authorized business personnel and is viewable only by PENNSAFE and PEMA officials.

According to the SARA Title II Program, any facility that stores or uses reportable quantities of a hazardous material must report it within five days of its arrival.

For more information, visit the [PATTS webpage](#).

## **Help Wanted: Conservation Agronomist Position**

Penn State Cooperative Extension, Lebanon County, is accepting applications for an individual to provide technical assistance and training to facilitate increased adoption of no-till farming systems to agency staff and farmers through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the regional Park the Plow for Profit program.

The deadline for applying is January 15.

The Partnership Conservation Agronomist will be responsible for assisting in the outreach and coordination of the EQIP and Park the Plow programs to benefit landowners, the private sector and agency staff within the south central and southeast regions of Pennsylvania. The individual will be expected to conduct outreach and education appropriate to farmers, including members of the plain sect.

A bachelor's degree in agronomy or related field with at least two years of agronomic experience is preferred. Candidate should demonstrate positive human relations as well as effective oral and written communication skills.

This position has been made possible thanks to a public-private partnership effort between the NRCS, the Capital RC&D, the Department of Environmental Protection, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Capitol Region Penn State Cooperative Extension, and county conservation districts.

For more information or to apply, please send by email at: [bss1@psu.edu](mailto:bss1@psu.edu) or call 814-863-3452, and be sure to reference Job Number: 24068.

## **Help Wanted: PA CleanWays Greensburg Office**

[PA CleanWays](#) a statewide nonprofit organization based in Greensburg, PA is hiring an experienced Program Manager to ensure the quality of all programs and contract performance enabling PACW to successfully fulfill its mission to empower people to eliminate illegal dumping and littering in Pennsylvania.

Interested individuals should apply by January 31.

Program Managers are accountable for producing program, project, and funding reports, responsible for maintaining budgets and financial documentation as they relate to contract/grant management and conducting program evaluation.

The Program Manager reports directly to the President and is a supervisory position. Program Managers are responsible for maintaining appropriate documentation for personnel and program performance evaluation purposes.

Interested individuals should send a cover letter and resume with references to PACW, Attn: Program Manager Search, 105 W. Fourth St. Greensburg, PA 15601 or e-mail to [info@pacleanways.org](mailto:info@pacleanways.org).

## Feature

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### Give a Little and Get a Flock This Winter

By Joe Kosack

Wildlife Conservation Education Specialist  
Pennsylvania Game Commission

Winter causes songbirds to converge increasingly on backyard feeders. If you're interested in attracting some of this avian traffic, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has tips on how to get involved.

"While current conditions belie normal Pennsylvania winters, research has shown that backyard feeders are worth their weight in gold to some songbirds when a crusted snow is blanketing the ground, or

overnight temperatures are dipping into the single digits," explained Dan Brauning, Game Commission Wildlife Diversity Section supervisor. "It's not necessarily a dependency, but birds sometimes need all the help they can get when winter's worst deep freezes or buries our woods, waters and fields."

Birds produce body heat, much like people do, and insulate themselves with a feathery coat of down. In fact, a winter bird's natural defense against the cold is considered better than a human's and most mammals', so long as food is readily available. Food feeds a bird's thumping metabolism, which creates enriched blood that is circulated through its body and generates heat. Smaller birds run at higher body temperatures than larger birds and humans. But if a bird's temperature drops below 90 degrees Fahrenheit, it likely will die.

A bird's high metabolic rate and need to remain lightweight to support flight obligate it to eat well daily and yet remain relatively lean. They don't pack it on, like a bear or deer, or they'd find themselves grounded, a chilling proposition in January and February. But some birds can increase their body weight up to 40 percent and still get off the ground.



Downy Woodpecker  
*Game Commission Photo*

During periods of deep snow or icing, bird feeders can become of paramount importance to birds - particularly ground-feeders and seed-eaters such as dark-eyed juncos, cardinals, mourning doves and black-capped chickadees - because they quickly become some of the few feeding locations open, with the exception of plowed roads and driveways, waterways and spring seeps.

"When the snow is piling up, such as during a nor'easter, birds often concentrate at feeders before, during and after the storm, because they must have food to sustain their relatively hyperactive lifestyle and produce heat," explained Brauning. "Their physiological inability to store large amounts of fatty energy can place some songbirds in harm's way in prolonged periods of wicked winter weather. Feeders can, and often do, provide relief.

"Feeders are not an integral habitat component that sustains most birds through winter," emphasized Brauning. "They can be beneficial to a variety of species, but for the most part, feeders offer supplemental foraging opportunities. The exception would be for southern species that have extended their range further north into Pennsylvania, such as cardinals, tufted titmice and Carolina wrens. Hard winter weather could push some of these birds south if they didn't have feeders to lean on during deep freezes and periods of frozen precipitation."

Two highly desirable foods for wintering songbirds are black-oil sunflower seeds and white-proso millet. Offering these seeds will reduce waste and provide mass-appeal to a wide variety of species, but primarily seed-eaters and ground-feeders. Although millet is quite appealing to the lowly house or English sparrow - an introduced species that competes vigorously with bluebirds for nest cavities - it also is a favorite of cardinals and other finches, juncos, mourning doves, even wild turkeys and bobwhite quail. Black-oil sunflower seeds are the biggest draw in bird feeding. They're credited with pulling in more than three dozen different bird species, including tufted titmice, white-throated sparrows, purple finches and especially evening grosbeaks that occasionally drift south of the Canadian border when the supply of various tree seeds in the northern woods fail to meet their needs.

Inexpensive birdseed mixes - usually loaded with milo - often offered at supermarkets and department stores are probably more useful as anti-skid material on icy sidewalks than bird-food. Songbirds usually pick through mixes for what they want, frequently discarding the other less-desirable seeds. So don't let them choose, and you'll keep waste to a minimum. If you're looking for a waste-free offering, consider shelled peanuts or peanut hearts. They'll be warmly received by everything from woodpeckers and bluebirds and blue jays to sparrows, chickadees and wild turkeys.

Suet and suet cakes also are great choices for people interested in watching or making life easier for woodpeckers. The primary visitors to suet cakes are downy, red-bellied and hairy woodpeckers. The hairy woodpecker is a robin-sized version of the downy. Red-bellies often are mistaken for red-headed woodpeckers. Just about any songbird field guide will help you distinguish one from another. Suet can be smeared or lodged in tree crevices, suspended in fruit bag netting or commercial cages, or pitched on the ground in winter. When birds find it, they will return regularly for more.

"Feeders provide a chance to get to know the wild birds from the comforts of home," Brauning said. "It's a wonderful and exciting way to get closer to nature and a source of almost endless conversation for families and friends. Try it. The experience is rewarding and satisfying."

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Bird feeders can be suspended from nearby trees, even a wash-line, or supported by posts or poles; seeds also can be tossed on the ground. Feeders should be cleaned regularly to ensure the health of visiting birds. In addition, feeders should be placed away from windows - especially picture windows - to limit bird injuries; birds cannot see glass and often fly into it. Placing feeders near cover - by shrubs and trees - also will provide safety from Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks, which stake-out feeders. Vegetation also provides dining perches for seed-busting songbirds.

"Safety should always be a consideration when deciding where to place a bird feeder," emphasized Brauning. "After all, we're trying to help birds, not hurt them. So take the time to do it right. Place the feeder near cover, but away from groundcover that would hide an approaching housecat. A feeder also should be placed no closer than 20 feet to windows. And don't forget to clean them regularly, even during winter.

Filled with the right seeds, and placed in the proper location, a feeder will spur activity from dawn to dusk - even beyond sunset if you have flying squirrels nearby. So do something wild. Put up a feeder and fill it with seeds. It's easy, and fun, and when the birds start coming, downright heartwarming.

People who feed birds are advised that their feeders can be a magnet for more than just songbirds. In addition to squirrels, feeders also may attract anything from mice to black bears, as well as predators such as hawks and cats. If a bear begins frequenting your yard, it's usually better - and less expensive - to pull your feeders for a couple of weeks, rather than trying to match wits with the bear, which quickly can become an unwelcomed daily visitor and quite destructive. Bears may show up at a feeder during winter warming spells and any time after early April, when they usually emerge from winter dens.

Avoid storing your birdseed - and particularly black-oil sunflower - in heated areas, because it commonly contains grain moth pupae cocoons and they will hatch at a faster rate and escape into your home's living quarters. Place the seed outside in a metal ashcan or waterproof container that rodents, such as mice and squirrels, will not gnaw through. If the container is air-tight, it also will reduce its powers of attraction to bears. Bay leaves can be used as a natural repellent for grain moths.

Created in 1895 as an independent state agency, the Game Commission is responsible for conserving and managing all wild birds and mammals in the Commonwealth, establishing hunting seasons and bag limits, enforcing hunting and trapping laws, and managing habitat on the 1.4 million acres of State Game Lands it has purchased over the years with hunting and furtaking license dollars to safeguard wildlife habitat. The agency also conducts numerous wildlife conservation programs for schools, civic organizations and sportsmen's clubs.

The Game Commission does not receive any general state taxpayer dollars for its annual operating budget. The agency is funded by license sales revenues; the state's share of the federal Pittman-Robertson program, which is an excise tax collected through the sale of sporting arms and ammunition; and monies from the sale of oil, gas, coal, timber and minerals derived from State Game Lands.

Visit the Game Commission's [Birdfeeding webpage](#).

## Quick Clips

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Here's a selection of NewsClips on environmental topics from around the state...

## PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

[DEP Secretary Congratulations Winners of Student Radon Poster Contest](#)  
[Outdoors: Time for Another Battle in Deer War](#)  
[Golden Eagles, Wind Farms on Collision Course?](#)  
[Station/Audubon Studies Effects of Turbines on Birds](#)  
[Bald Eagle Sighting Thrills Bird Watcher](#)  
[Exhibits on Alternative Fuels Draw Crowd at Farm Show](#)  
[Rural Areas Could Be Vast Source of Energy](#)  
[Interest Grows in Fuels Made from Crops](#)  
[Biodiesel Plant to Begin Operation in White Deer](#)  
[Coal Waste Could Heat Homes](#)  
[Full Steam Ahead on Hydroelectric Plant](#)  
[Editorial: Rendell, Clean Fuels Crusader](#)  
[Editorial: Conservation Better Bet Than Lower Oil Prices](#)  
[Clarion County Dentist Saves Money With New X-Ray System](#)  
[California Dreamin' Vehicle Standards](#)  
[Lower Macungie Township Takes Advantage of Tax Breaks to Preserve Land](#)  
[Berry's Mountain Neighbors Battle Over Road](#)  
[Officials Say Radioactive Cleanup Will Be Closely Monitored](#)  
[PUC Balks at 19% Met-Ed Rate Hike](#)  
[Electricity Rates Can't Be Raised, PUC Rules](#)  
[Renewable Energy Takes Hit in Ruling](#)  
[Efforts to Save One of the Last Anthracite Breakers](#)

### **Watershed NewsClips**

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Read a sampling of NewsClips on watershed topics from around Pennsylvania.

[French Creek Money Dries Up](#)  
[Op-Ed: Determination Obtained Mine Cleanup Funds](#)  
[Deluge of New Flood Insurance Policies](#)  
[Business Challenges Susquehanna River Basin Regulations](#)  
[A Revitalized Chesapeake Bay May Be Decades Away](#)  
[EPA Says Clean Bay By 2010 Isn't Possible](#)  
[Central PA Creek Flows Over Dam, Into Sinkhole](#)  
[UDC Discusses Upper Delaware Flood Mitigation Plans](#)  
[Lake Managers Take on Stormwater](#)  
[\\$81,000 Grant to Replace Water Supply Affected By Abandoned Mines](#)  
[Watersheds Face New Challenge](#)  
[Perkiomen Conservancy Facilitates Stormwater Partnership with Municipalities](#)  
[Chesapeake Watershed Forests Losing 100 Acres Daily](#)

### **Regulations**

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The Department of Agriculture published final regulation covering [commercial manure hauler and broker certification](#) and the Department of Environmental Protection published a [correction to the final regulation](#) adopting California vehicle emission standards.



Rendell Administration lawyers and the Legislative Reference Bureau exchanged letters this week on the issue of publishing the final regulation setting limits on mercury emissions from power plants in the *PA Bulletin*.

The Rendell Administration said the LRB lacks the authority the block publication of the rule. The LRB said the requirements of the Regulatory Review Act have not yet been fulfilled.

Stay tuned for more...

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – January 13, 2007](#)

Comment Deadlines: [Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations \(DEP website\)](#)

[Status of Regulations, 6-Month Calendar \(DEP website\)](#)

## Technical Guidance & Permits

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No new guidance documents were published this week.

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)

[For copies of Final Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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Upcoming conferences, meetings, workshops, plus links to other online calendars. Meetings are in Harrisburg unless otherwise noted. [Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

- [DEP No Cost Internet Environmental Remediation Training](#)
- [DEP Published Notice of Advisory Committee Meetings for 2007.](#)
- **January 16** – Inauguration of Gov. Rendell for second term.
- **January 16** – First day of session for the Senate and House.
- **January 17** – [Environmental Quality Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **January 17** – [DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 11:00.
- **January 17** – [DEP Coastal Zone Advisory Committee](#) meeting. 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **January 18** – DEP [Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board](#) Applicability and Attainment Subcommittee teleconference meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 11:30.

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- **January 18** – DCNR [Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building, 9:00.
- **January 23** – DEP [Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board](#) Vapor Intrusion Subcommittee meeting. 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **January 24** – DEP [Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee](#) meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **January 24** – DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **January 25** – DEP [Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **January 26** – [Regional Water Management Task Force](#) – SW PA Elected Officials Briefing. Regional Learning Alliance, 850 Cranberry Woods Dr., Cranberry Township. 412-624-7792. 2 to 4 p.m.
- **February 8** – Sewage Task Force, Joint Conservation Committee. Penn Stater, State College. 10:00.
- February 14 - House Appropriations Committee – Presentation of budget needs by House members. 9:00.
- **February 15** – Legislative Forestry Task Force Meeting, Joint Conservation Committee. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.
- **February 26** - Senate Appropriations Committee - Dept. of Revenue (1:15). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **February 27** - House Appropriations Committee – PA Emergency Management Agency (11:30). Majority Caucus Room.
- **February 28** - Senate Appropriations Committee - Budget Secretary (3:00). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **February 28** - House Appropriations Committee – Public Utility Commission (9:00), Dept. of Community and Economic Development (10:00). Majority Caucus Room.
- **March 1** - Senate Appropriations Committee - Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (9:00). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **March 3** – [Schuylkill Watershed Congress](#). Montgomery County Community College, Pottstown.
- **March 5** - House Appropriations Committee – Dept. of Environmental Protection (1:30), Dept. of Agriculture (3:00). Majority Caucus Room.
- **March 6** - Senate Appropriations Committee - Dept. of Transportation (9:00). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **March 6** - House Appropriations Committee – PA Economy League on Transportation Funding (10:00), Dept. of Transportation (2:00). Majority Caucus Room.
- **March 7** - Senate Appropriations Committee - Dept. of Community and Economic Development (1:15). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **March 7** – House Appropriations Committee – Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (3:00). Majority Caucus Room.
- **March 8** - Senate Appropriations Committee- Dept. of Agriculture (9:00), Public Utility Commission (10:30), Dept. of Environmental Protection (1:15). Hearing Room 1, North Office.
- **March 18-20**: [Governor’s Outdoor Conference](#). State College.

## PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

- **April 5-6:** [Preparing for the Storm: Stormwater Solutions for PA Communities](#). State College.
- **April 13-15:** [PA Assn. Environmental Educators “No Child Left Inside” Conference](#). Wilkes-Baree.

### [DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#) (courtesy [PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers](#))

### [Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

(courtesy [PA Center for Environmental Education](#))

[Senate Committee Schedule](#) [House Committee Schedule](#)

## Helpful Web Links

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### [PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

[Daily NewsClips](#) [Daily DEP Update](#) [GreenTreks Network](#) [Watershed Weekly](#)

[DEP Press Releases](#) [DEP Advisory Committee Meetings & Agendas](#)

[DCNR Resource Magazine](#) [DCNR Press Releases](#)

[Fish & Boat Commission Press Releases](#) [Game Commission Press Releases](#)

## Stories Invited

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Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to *PA Environment Digest* - [DHess@CrisciAssociates.com](mailto:DHess@CrisciAssociates.com) or go to [www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com](http://www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com) .

*PA Environment Digest* is edited by David E. Hess, former Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and is published as a service to the clients of Crisci Associates and the public. Crisci Associates is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Crisci Associates call 717-234-1716.

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