

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

April 16, 2007

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

12 Winners of 2007 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence Announced

Gov. Rendell this week announced 12 winners of the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence.

In a related announcement, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council announced that the Dominion Foundation, Constellation Energy, Inter-Power/AHL Con and PPL will serve as sponsors for a [dinner in Harrisburg on April 17](#) to honor the recipients of the 2007 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence

The dinner event will take place at the Banquet Hall at the Farm Show Building on Cameron Street in Harrisburg. Tickets for the event are \$100 (\$60 for retiree/student/non-profit). Sponsorships are also available for the event. For more information call 800-322-9214. (*See separate story*)

The [Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence](#) honor Pennsylvania businesses and organizations that put in place projects that tackle environmental problems and help build new businesses, enhance the bottom line and engage residents in a renewed commitment to investing in their communities.

"Pennsylvania is working with businesses and residents to advance innovative measures that encourage new investment in the commonwealth, enhance our energy independence and ensure the highest standards of environmental protection and public health," Gov. Rendell said.

"From innovations in clean energy to community revitalization, each of this year's winners is making invaluable contributions to improve the health of Pennsylvania's natural resources," said Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty. "The connection between protecting our natural resources and creating a better quality of life in Pennsylvania is evident in each one of the projects honored by this award."

Winners of the 2007 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence include:

[US Steel Mon Valley Works](#): US Steel reduced greenhouse gases and improved air quality with a reduction of nearly 13,000-tons-per-year of carbon dioxide, 13.7-tons-per-year of nitrogen oxide and 1.2-tons-per-year of sulfur dioxide emissions. Total steam reduction achieved plant-wide was 18,000-pounds-per-hour, which is saving the company \$1.5 million each year.

[Borough of Media, Delaware County](#): Solar Energy for Media installed 5kW on each of four buildings in the borough: Media Elementary School, Media Upper Providence Library, Media Theatre and the Media Fire House. This brings the total amount of

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kilowatts produced in the borough to 25 and eliminates 32,892 pounds of carbon dioxide, 84 pounds of nitrogen oxides and 176 pounds of sulfur oxide.

CARDONE Industries Inc., Philadelphia: In June 2006, CARDONE installed RigMaster Auxiliary Power Units on 23 of its long-haul tractors. An annual net savings of 12,000 idling hours, which the company expects to meet or exceed, means a savings of 9,600 gallons (\$28,128 @ 2.93/gal) of fuel with a nitrogen-oxides-emission reduction of 3,703 pounds and a carbon dioxide reduction of 216,931 pounds per year.

Earth Conservancy, Luzerne County: The reclamation of the Cleveland Landfill plays a critical role in the environmental restoration of the Warrior Creek Watershed and the economic revitalization of the Wyoming Valley. By properly closing the landfill, Earth Conservancy turned a brownfield site into a usable economic asset for the Lower Wyoming Valley.

Earth Force, multiple counties: Earth Force engaged 4,000 young Pennsylvanians in environmental problem-solving, generated 84 youth-driven environmental action projects and prepared 350 Pennsylvania teachers to raise environmental literacy in 70 schools and after school sites across the commonwealth from Philadelphia to Erie. [Delaware Valley Earth Force](#) and [Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force](#).

Greater Erie Industrial Development Corporation, Erie: The Greater Erie Industrial Development Corporation remediated the former Cohen/A-1 Auto Property site creating nine industrial lots ranging from 1.5 acres to 4 acres. Through brownfield redevelopment, the Joyce A. Savocchio Business Park will bring more jobs and annual tax benefits to the local community.

Green Woods Charter School, Philadelphia: At Green Woods Charter School, the 4th grade students are immersed in a yearlong study focusing on the local watershed. Throughout the year, concepts outlined in the Pennsylvania Academic Standards relating to history, social studies, language arts, science and sustainable projects are incorporated into this study.

Huntingdon Farm, Huntingdon County: Huntingdon Farm has a strong foundation in conservation planning and sets the example for farms interested in demonstrating sustainable energy practices. The 300-acre farm is home to a sustainable cabin constructed with certified sustainable wood and powered by a 10kW wind turbine, and uses rotational grazing strategies, fencing and solar operated drinking troughs for the livestock.

Nalco Company, Beaver County: The Nalco Company brought together a cross functional team to implement a waste minimization and water reduction project that would realize both environmental and financial benefits to the company. Through this project, Nalco reduced plant waste volumes by 692,000 gallons-per-year, improved material recycling by 1.32-million-pounds-per-year and will reduce city water usage by more than 10 million gallons annually.

Resilite Sports Products Inc., Northumberland County: Resilite implemented an energy efficiency project that has already reduced the company's fuel oil consumption by approximately 20,100 gallons and has saved the company \$39,960 per year. Resilite's success demonstrates there are cost-effective ways to make capital improvements that reduce energy consumption and harmful air emissions.

Schuylkill Conservation District, Schuylkill County: The Schuylkill Conservation District worked with a contractor on the Audenreid Mine Tunnel Acid Mine Drainage Remediation Project, the largest passive AMD treatment system of its kind ever undertaken and successfully completed in Pennsylvania. Now, native brook trout are being caught along Catawissa Creek in places that have historically never before shown signs of aquatic life.

Southwest Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Task Force, Allegheny County: Through the task force's efforts, 19 household hazardous waste events have been successfully organized and completed in eight western Pennsylvania counties. In addition, a consumer education program encourages participation in collection events, as well as recognizing HHW, purchase less toxic or non-toxic alternatives, purchasing only what is needed and using those products safely. The Southwest Pennsylvania HHW Task Force is overseeing a sustainable effort that brings collection events and educational opportunities to both urban and rural communities in the western Pennsylvania region.

For information about this year's winners and previous winners is available on the [Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence webpage](#).

You can view [past winners of the Governor's Award Online](#).

NewsClip: [Earth Conservancy Receives Award for Landfill Work](#)

PA Environmental Council April 17 Dinner Honors Governor's Award Winners

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council this week announced that the Dominion Foundation, Constellation Energy, Inter-Power/AHL Con and PPL will serve as sponsors for [a dinner in Harrisburg on April 17](#) to honor the recipients of the [2007 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence](#).

The Dominion Foundation will serve as the Premier Sponsor, Constellation Energy and InterPower/AHL Con will co-sponsor the dinner reception and PPL will be a Silver Sponsor.

“These four sponsors recognize that quality of life in Pennsylvania is tied to environmental excellence,” noted Brian Hill, President & CEO of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. “They are committed to helping PEC promote innovative organizations and businesses that are leading the way in securing a clean and healthy future for our Commonwealth.”

Kathleen A. McGinty, Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, will also be keynote speaker at the event.

The Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence is the highest statewide honor bestowed on businesses and organizations for environmental performance and innovation.

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Previous winners of the Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence are saving millions of kilowatt hours of electricity, billions of gallons of water, reducing and recycling millions of tons of waste and eliminating tons air pollution from the environment.

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council is honored to create this gala event around the 2007 Governor’s Awards.

The dinner event will take place on April 17 at the Banquet Hall at the Farm Show Building on Cameron Street in Harrisburg.

Tickets for the event are \$100 (\$60 for retiree/student/non-profit). Sponsorships are also available for the event. For more information call 800-322-9214.

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council promotes the protection and restoration of the natural and built environments through innovation, collaboration, education and advocacy with the private sector, government, individuals and communities as partners to improve the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians.

The Council was founded in 1970 and serves the entire state through offices in Meadville, Wilkes-Barre, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and Philadelphia. For more information call 717-230-8044.

The Dominion Foundation is dedicated to the economic, physical and social health of the communities served by Dominion, one of the nation's largest producers of energy. Dominion’s energy portfolio includes about 26,300 megawatts of power generation, 7,800 miles of natural gas pipeline and the nation's largest natural gas storage system, with about 950 billion cubic feet of storage capacity. Dominion also serves retail energy customers in 11 states including Pennsylvania. Corporate headquarters are in Richmond, Va.

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Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to voting session April 16. The House will be in session 3 of the 4 weeks prior to the May 15 Primary, but the Senate will be in all four weeks before taking a break for the election.

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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- Applications Now Being Accepted for 3 Clean Energy, Alternative Fuels Programs
- Free Energy Harvest, PEDA Grant Writing Workshop April 25 in Pittsburgh
- ARC Announces Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grants Competition
- Philadelphia Eagles to Reimburse Employees for Purchasing Wind Energy
- Penn State Students Have Their Own Version of Friday Night Lights
- April 19 Rachel Carson Forum Topic: Carbon Sequestration: Hope, Help or Hype?
- Southwest Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events Kick off April 28
- Mt. Carmel Area School District Declares Litter-Free School Zone
- Game Commission to Host Elk Workshop for Teachers in June
- Krancer Steps Down As Hearing Board Chairman, Renwand Appointed
- Help Wanted: PA Land Trust Assn, National Fish & Wildlife Federation

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

Video Blog Feature

Capital Area Senior Environment Corps Members Show How It's Done

Art Sconing, Velda Kauffman, Carl Crone and Harvey Baney are just four of the over 2,900 volunteer members of the [Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps](#) that go out every week to check water quality in local streams and educate people about the need to keep our water clean.

Art and his crew are members of the Capital Area Senior Environment Corps, one of the first organized in 1997 when the program started. There are now chapters covering 52 counties that monitor water quality at over 658 streamside sites around the state.

PA Environment Digest caught up with Art and the crew at two of their chemical and macroinvertebrate sampling sites on the [Yellow Breeches Creek](#) in and around New Cumberland Borough, Cumberland County.

Art, Velda, Carl and Harvey take turns explaining how they [collect water samples](#) to do dissolved oxygen, phosphates, pH, temperature and other water quality and chemical testing.

Water samples are then [taken to a lab](#) set up specifically by them in the New Cumberland Senior Center where they complete their analysis and record the results.



Volunteers Art Sconing, Harvey Baney,
Velda Kauffman and Carl Crone

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At a second location, the crew captures and [counts macroinvertebrates](#) which give an indication of the overall aquatic health of the stream.

Each volunteer comes to the Senior Environment Corps in a different way with a different interest, but [they are all enthusiastic](#) about what they do and in attracting new volunteers to help out.

Take a look at these very special Video Blog pieces on some terrific volunteers:

- [Water Quality Sampling](#) on the Yellow Breeches;
- [Counting Macroinvertebrates](#) in the Yellow Breeches;
- [Lab Tour](#) – Senior Environment Corps; and
- [Senior Environment Corps Volunteers](#) Share Their Experiences.

For more information or to volunteer, visit the [Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps webpage](#).

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced

The Senate and House return to session April 16, and here's what's on the agenda...

House

Committees: the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 43](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) establishing a uniform covenant for brownfields remediation and [House Bill 297](#) (Yewcic-D-Cambria) creating a right of first refusal for mineral rights sales; the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Federal & State Relations meets to consider [House Resolution 122](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to make more funds available for Low-Income Energy Assistance Programs.

Senate

Committees: the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 76](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) establishing the Home Energy Assistance Act to provide matching public funds to hardship funds contributed by stockholders, employees and ratepayers of home energy providers; [Senate Bill 105](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) authorizing the Environmental Quality Board to retain independent legal advice; [Senate Bill 176](#) (Pippy-R-Allegheny) authorizing the use of public funds to pay for the repair of lateral sewer lines; [Senate Bill 354](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) prohibiting the Environmental Quality Board from accepting rulemaking petitions to regulate substances not authorized by current state or federal law; and [Senate Resolution 79](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) designating April 22, 2007 as Earth Day Pennsylvania.

Other Committees: the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee holds an [Environmental Issues Forum](#) featuring Julia Marano, Keep PA Beautiful.

Bills Introduced

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Several more environmental bills were introduced this week, here's the rundown...

Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards: [Senate Bill 715](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) changes to the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act proposed in Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Plan.

Landowner Liability: [Senate Bill 735](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) limiting liability of landowners making land available for public recreation purposes.

Acceptable Data: [Senate Bill 752](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) amending the Regulatory Review Act to require the documentation of scientifically acceptable data as background to support regulations.

Mercury Emission Reductions: [Senate Bill 762](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) requiring power plants to reduce mercury emissions by 80 percent by 2010 and 90 percent by 2015 and authorizes a limited form of emissions trading to meet the 90 percent reduction.

Disaster Recovery: [Senate Bill 757](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) establishing a program to provide grants to persons for property damaged or destroyed by disasters.

Earth Day: [Senate Resolution 79](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) designating April 22, 2007 as Earth Day Pennsylvania.

Arbor Day: [House Resolution 189](#) (Marsico-R-Dauphin) recognizing April 27 as Arbor Day.

Game Commission: [House Resolution 193](#) (Haluska-D-Cambria) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the fiscal impact of future increased value of assets of the Game Commission in relation to the cost of licenses issued by the Commission.

Coal Miner Stamp: [House Resolution 197](#) (McCall-D-Carbon) memorializing the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to issue a commemorative stamp honoring coal miners.

House Environmental Committee Meets on Brownfields, Mineral Resources Bills

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is scheduled to meet on April 17 to consider two environmental bills—

- [House Bill 297](#) (Yewcic-D-Cambria) which would create a right of first refusal for surface rights owners before the sale of mineral rights; and
- [House Bill 43](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) establishing the Uniform Covenants Act covering brownfield redevelopment.

The Committee is chaired by Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango).

Senate Committee Meets on Energy Assistance, Rulemaking Petitions, More

The [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee](#) will meet on April 17 to consider several pieces of environmental legislation—

- [Senate Bill 76](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) establishing the Home Energy Assistance Act to provide matching public funds to hardship funds contributed by stockholders, employees and ratepayers of home energy providers;
- [Senate Bill 105](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) authorizing the Environmental Quality Board to retain independent legal advice;
- [Senate Bill 176](#) (Pippy-R-Allegheny) authorizing the use of public funds to pay for the repair of lateral sewer lines;
- [Senate Bill 354](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) prohibiting the Environmental Quality Board from accepting rulemaking petitions to regulate substances not authorized by current state or federal law; and
- [Senate Resolution 79](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) designating April 22, 2007 as Earth Day Pennsylvania.

The Committee is chaired by Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne).

House Committee Hears Outline of Water/Wastewater System Issues

The House Consumer Affairs Committee this week held an informational meeting on issues facing drinking water and wastewater systems and heard from a variety of industry and government representatives.

Karl Kyriss, Regional President of Aqua Pennsylvania, said the most pressing issue facing the water and wastewater industry is its infrastructure, citing a 2006 American Society of Civil Engineers report card for Pennsylvania which gave drinking water systems a D+ and wastewater systems a D-.

Kyriss said most of present infrastructure was built following World War II and many municipalities have infrastructure approaching 100 years old.

He noted many municipal systems do not have the resources or sometimes the political will to raise rates to a level needed to become viable and take care of necessary improvements to their infrastructure.

Kyriss said in cases like this, investor-owned companies like Aqua Pennsylvania offer a reasonable alternative since they can take advantage of their economies of scale and system-wide resources to deal with issues. He also pointed out, that every dollar a customer pays toward their bill pays to recoup the investment made by the company in that infrastructure.

As an example, Kyriss pointed to Bristol Water Treatment Plant in Bucks County that faced a \$1 million debt to bring the plant up to federal and state standards in 1996. Bristol sold the plant to Aqua for \$25 million and in the follow 10 years Aqua invested nearly \$25 million to rebuild the facility.

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Kyriss recommended municipally-owned and investor-owned systems have an equal chance to get state funding through PennVEST and other sources and that barriers to investor-owned companies buying struggling systems be eliminated.

[A copy of Kyriss' testimony is available online.](#)

Also presenting comments were [Dan Warnock](#), President Pennsylvania American Water, [John Hollenbach](#), Vice President and Manager United Water Pennsylvania for the Pennsylvania Chapter National Association of Water Companies, and [Sonny Popowsky](#), Consumer Advocate of Pennsylvania.

April 16 Environmental Issues Forum: Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

The [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) will hold its Earth Day 2007 Environmental Issues Forum on April 16 at 12 noon in Room 205, Ryan Building, Harrisburg.

The guest speaker will be Julia Marano, executive director of the [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) organization. Marano will provide an overview of KPBP's progress in the areas of litter and illegal dumping prevention and cleanup, community enhancement and beautification, and proper waste handling.

In addition, Marano will describe some of KPBP's projects that involve partnerships with state agencies and other organizations. Included in these projects are a campaign to improve Pennsylvania's roadside aesthetics, college internship opportunities and results, an update on the 2007 Great Pennsylvania Cleanup (which kicks off April 21), the "Litter Free School Zone" project and the "Clean Up Our Anthracite Lands and Streams" (C.O.A.L.S) beautification program.

Other News

Lehigh River Named Pennsylvania's River of the Year

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week named the Lehigh River as the Commonwealth's River of the Year for 2007.

The designation recognizes the watershed's role in eastern Pennsylvania history and its promising recreational future. The Lehigh River drains portions of 10 counties and stretches more than 100 miles.

"The Lehigh River is alive and thriving, with water quality better now than it has been the last 150 years," Secretary DiBerardinis said. "There are scores of partners working to preserve, protect and enhance this great state resource, and its resurgence has pumped new life into the communities surrounding it.

"Once a historic transportation corridor for coal bound from Carbon and Luzerne counties to Philadelphia, New York and beyond, the Lehigh River helped fuel America's Industrial Revolution," Secretary DiBerardinis said. "Now, mountain bikers, hikers and hunters are seen where mules and canal barges hauled coal and other cargo. Where dams



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once contained the mighty river, anglers in great number now seek trout, American shad and other species found in a healthy waterway."

DCNR annually designates a "River of the Year" to applaud local residents, governments, non-profit and conservation organizations working to improve waterways and the quality of life in their watersheds across the state.

The Lehigh River winds 104 miles from its headwaters near Gouldsboro, Wayne County, to its junction with the Delaware River in Easton, Northampton County. Its watershed drains Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Schuylkill and Wayne counties. The Lehigh is the Delaware's second largest tributary

With this year's designation, the Lehigh River will be the subject of a Rivers Month poster to be issued in June and an annual River Sojourn, sponsored by the Emmaus-based [Wildlands Conservancy](#) and planned for June 22-27.

A sojourn is a water-based journey for canoeists, kayakers and others to raise awareness of the environmental, recreational, tourism and heritage values of rivers.

For details on the sojourn, as well as other activities involving the Lehigh River throughout the year, [visit the conservancy's website](#).

For more information, visit [DCNR's rivers program webpage](#) and for other sojourns, visit the [PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers Sojourn webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Lehigh Named PA's Top River](#)

Video Blog: [What's a Sojourn?](#)

Draft Lehigh River Fisheries Management Plan Open for Comment

The Fish and Boat Commission is asking Lehigh River anglers for their input on a draft [fisheries management plan](#), with a special emphasis on the portion of the river from F.E. Walter Reservoir to the mouth.

In addition to accessing the documents online, anglers can also submit their comments via the web. Comments will be accepted through April 27.

The plan is designed to be a "living document" that will be modified as needed and regularly updated on a five-year basis. Among the items covered in the plan are proposed habitat improvements such as low flow channel deflectors, species- and river section-specific stocking targets, and studies of angler use and harvest.

One method of examining angler use and harvest is through [angler log books](#).

These logbooks provide an opportunity for anglers to record information on their fishing activities and provide this information to the PFBC. The Commission then analyzes this data and provides the results to those who participate when the report is completed. A Lehigh River log book program was conducted in 2006 and the PFBC will continue it in 2007.

Logbooks are being distributed to fishing guides, bait and tackle stores, Hickory Run State Park, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' F.E. Walter office, and area sportsman's clubs.

For more information, visit the [fisheries management plan](#) and [angler log books](#) webpages.

Crawford County High Schools Compete in Riparian Buffer Projects

Four high schools in Crawford County will be competing over the next few weeks on how well they can install riparian buffers on three farms to help keep cattle out of streams and reduce nutrient and sediment runoff to streams.

The four high schools are Saegertown and Cambridge Springs, Titusville, Linesville and Conneaut Lake.

The Saegertown and Cambridge Springs High School project involves planning about 800 trees along a tributary to French Creek on the Bob Abbott farm.

Titusville High School students will plant trees and install shelters along a tributary to Oil Creek on the Jeff Jones Farm.

The Linesville and Conneaut Lake project will plant trees and 1,200 livestock and shrubs on a tributary of Conneaut Creek on the Jim Lloyd Farm.

Keeping cattle out of a stream not only has environmental benefits, but can also have benefits to the dairy herd. Cattle will be healthier and vet bills should be reduced if they are no longer forced to drink from potentially contaminated water sources.

For more information, contact Brian Pilarcik, Watershed Specialist, Crawford County Conservation District, 814-763-5269 or send email to:

brian@crawfordconservation.com .

Susquehanna River Basin Commission Releases 2007 Water Resources Program

The [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#) recently issued its annual [2007 Annual Water Resources Program](#) cataloging SRBC's 12 identified water resource needs for the Susquehanna basin and the many federal, state and regional programs and projects intended to address those needs.

The identified water resources needs relate to coordination, flood damage reduction, water quality improvement, drought mitigation, adequate water supplies, economic development, aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection, migratory fish restoration, recreation enhancement, and other important needs.

SRBC Federal Commissioner (Nominee) Brig. General Todd T. Semonite (Commander, North Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) said, "Nine federal agencies with jurisdiction in the Susquehanna watershed worked collaboratively with the Commission to produce the annual plan, demonstrating the federal government's commitment to enhanced coordination among its agencies and its partners. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is pleased to facilitate efforts to strengthen the partnership between the Commission and its federal partners. Stronger partnerships allow agencies to align resource commitments and programs to provide better service to the public."

SRBC is required by the Susquehanna River Basin Compact to produce an annual water resource program consisting of the programs and projects proposed within a 6-year period by SRBC, other governmental agencies, private-sector interests and organizations to address identified water resource needs.

In addition to the federal agency input, SRBC received direct input from Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Fish and Boat Commission; Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board in New York; and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition - a

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non-profit organization representing Southern Tier New York and portions of Northern Tier Pennsylvania.

[The 2007 Annual Water Resources Program is available online.](#)

May Operator Certification Exams, Plus May 22-23 Safety Training

The Pennsylvania Rural Water Association will hold three [water and wastewater operator certification exams](#) during May in Crawford, Lackawanna and Clearfield counties.

Certification is a requirement for operating a water or wastewater system in Pennsylvania.

Exams will be held on the following dates and locations:

- May 10 -- Linesville, Crawford County (registration deadline April 12);
- May 17 -- Scranton, Lackawanna County (registration deadline April 19); and
- May 24 -- DuBois, Clearfield County (registration deadline April 26).

PRWA registered more than 600 water and wastewater operators for the DEP Operator Certification Exam in 2006.

[Registration forms are available online](#) or by contacting Carolyn with questions at 814-353-9302 or by sending e-mail to ctyger@prwa.com.

PRWA will also hold a [2-day conference May 22-23](#) to give operators, field personnel and managers the tools they need to work more safely. The Safety Toolbox has been approved for 5 water/wastewater DEP contact hours. The conference will feature such topics as chemical, trench, highway and electrical safety.

The event will be held at the Best Western Conference Center in DuBois. Registration includes meals and can be completed online or by contacting PRWA at 814-353-9302.

Accord Seeks to Enhance, Protect Economy, Ecology of Appalachian Highlands

Gov. Rendell joined the governors of Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland to sign the Highlands Action Program charter, a regional partnership that seeks to preserve the ecological and cultural resources of the Mid-Atlantic Appalachian Highlands.

In Pennsylvania, emphasis has been placed on preserving and restoring the Kittatinny Ridge through projects like Audubon PA's [Blue Mountain -Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Project](#).

"The mid-Atlantic region offers an array of recreational opportunities and thousands of acres of public lands that draw visitors from throughout the world, yet also supports robust timber, agriculture and mining industries that have been the mainstay of our economy since colonial times," Gov. Rendell said. "Our challenge is to seek common ground and develop policies that will manage the many demands on this land while preserving the natural beauty and heritage of the Appalachian Mountains."

In 2001, Congress directed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to implement the Highlands Action Program. At the urging of Rep. Alan B. Mollohan (D-WV), the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the states, created the Highlands Action Program to work with community-based programs to revitalize the region's ecosystem, create long-term employment opportunities and improve the quality of life for people who live in and visit the multi-state region.

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"The Appalachian Highlands region is a unique area, both from a cultural and ecological standpoint. It has species and landscapes found nowhere else in the world," Governor Kaine said. "I am pleased to join with these Appalachian region governors to support efforts to restore ecologically damaged areas, and to work together to improve the region's economic viability."

"In the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia, people have always had a direct connection to the natural resources around them," Governor Manchin said. "We understand that job creation and long-term economic stability go hand-in-hand with improving and maintaining our rich natural and cultural resources. West Virginia is pleased to partner with other Highlands states on restoration initiatives to improve natural resources and build a more diverse economic base for the region."

"In Maryland, we welcome the creation of a program that is community-based and connects the economic and environmental future of the Highlands. This effort is especially important since the region's natural resources were crucial to the establishment of our great nation," said Governor O'Malley.

Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia have committed to help link communities, non-governmental organizations, local, state, and federal governments, and businesses to: highlight places of ecological and cultural importance; Revitalize damaged ecosystems, empower citizens and communities to strengthen linkages among cultural heritage, economic viability, and the environment, enhance restoration industry opportunities providing lasting employment for highland residents and leverage existing funds.

States will focus on enhancing "green infrastructure" as a basis for targeting restoration and protection. Green infrastructure refers to the network of hubs and corridors that are essential to maintaining the health of natural ecosystems and resource-based working lands.

In Pennsylvania, the [Blue Mountain / Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Project](#) is guiding the conservation efforts of 24 partner agencies and organizations to establish a comprehensive corridor of protected lands for the ridge through Pennsylvania, a globally-important migration flyway for hawks and eagles.

Also, the [Appalachian Trail Protection Initiative](#) is helping the Appalachian Trail Conference with its effort to focus public attention on the Appalachian Trail through Pennsylvania, and to identify ways to increase protection measures on lands adjacent to the trail.

NewsClips: [Money Coming to Highlands](#)
[Governors Sign Highlands Action Charter](#)
[Program to Revive Appalachian Mountain Ecosystem, Tourism](#)

Video Blog: [Paul Zeph Talks About the Mid-Atlantic Highlands Action Program](#)

Applications Now Being Accepted for 3 Clean Energy, Alternative Fuels Programs

Gov. Rendell announced this week that applications are now being accepted for \$31.5 million worth of grants and loans to support clean energy and alternative fuels projects under three separate programs.

The deadline for applications is June 15. The programs include:

Alternative Fuels Incentive Grants (AFIG): Up to \$16.4 million is available through the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grants program to finance the production and use of clean-burning fuels.

Grant funds awarded through AFIG can cover the added cost to purchase E85 ethanol-blended fuels or biodiesel and to install related refueling equipment. Pennsylvania producers of ethanol or biodiesel are eligible for a reimbursement of 5 cents a gallon for up to 12.5 million gallons covering a 12-month period. (*See [notice of priorities](#)*)

Since its inception in 1992, Pennsylvania has awarded almost \$32 million through AFIG for 1,000 projects in almost every county in the commonwealth. AFIG funds have leveraged more than \$118 million from public and private fleet operators, fuel providers and the federal government.

Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority (PEDA): \$10 million are available from the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority for grants and loans.

Applicants for PEDA financing can seek grant assistance for capital costs for a variety of innovative, advanced energy projects including: solar energy; wind; low-impact hydropower; geothermal; biologically derived methane gas, including landfill gas; biomass; fuel cells; coal-mine methane; waste coal; integrated gasification combined cycle; demand management measures, including recycled energy and energy recovery, energy efficiency and load management; and clean, alternative fuels for transportation.

PEDA particularly encourages applicants with projects related to distributed generation for critical public infrastructure to apply. (*See [notice of priorities](#)*)

PEDA financing is available to organizations operating in Pennsylvania and to those businesses interested in locating their advanced energy operations in Pennsylvania.

Over the last few years, PEDA has directed \$21 million in grants and loans for 57 clean energy projects that are leveraging another \$240 million in private investment. The projects will create 975 permanent and construction jobs.

Energy Harvest: Up to \$5 million in grants are available under the Pennsylvania Energy Harvest Grant program.

Grants fund projects that promote awareness and build markets for cleaner or renewable energy technologies.

Eligible proposals include: renewable energy deployment, including biomass energy; waste coal reclamation for energy; deployment of innovative energy efficiency technologies; and distributed generation projects.

Since 2003, Energy Harvest has awarded \$21 million and leveraged another \$51.9 million in private funds.

Free Energy Harvest, PEDA Grant Writing Workshop April 25 in Pittsburgh

The Southwest Office of the Department of Environmental Protection will hold a grant writing workshop for [Energy Harvest](#) and [PA Energy Development Authority](#) grants on April 25 starting at 8:30.

The program will be held at the DEP office at 500 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh.

Non-profits, local government, educational institutions, conservation districts, watershed organizations and businesses interested in applying for grants should attend.

Advanced registration is required as seating is limited.

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To register, send your name and contact information by email to: flwilson@state.pa.us or call 412-442-4125.

ARC Announces Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grants Competition

The [Appalachian Regional Commission](#) announced a grants competition this week to assist communities in leveraging renewable energy and energy efficiency resources to revitalize their economies.

The deadline for proposals is June 30.

ARC expects to provide eight to 10 awards of up to \$75,000 each, for a total of \$400,000 in awards, to help communities implement these strategies.

Eligible projects should result in the creation of new jobs or businesses in the target communities. Outcomes could include:

- Production and use of renewable energy products, such as biofuels, biomass, solar, or wind energy, including siting of these facilities and net metering applications;
- Distribution of renewable energy products, including customer purchasing commitments;
- Expansion or start-up of 'clean energy' businesses, including support for business incubation programs and targeted business financing programs;
- New construction or facilities renovations that follow 'green building' and LEED certified guidelines; and
- Installation of energy efficiency equipment in public or non-profit facilities that is 2005 Energy Policy Act Tax Credit eligible, directly results in cost savings, and leads to increased delivery of services to local communities.

This program will not provide support for projects that propose to study or plan for future activities. Energy audits will not be supported unless they include implementation of energy efficiency programs.

Non-profit organizations, governmental entities, and public educational institutions located within the ARC Region are eligible to apply. Private for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply.

Applications will be evaluated on several criteria, including:

- Feasibility of proposal and likelihood of achieving proposed outcomes;
- Capability of applicant, including expertise in relevant program areas, grants management, and community development;
- Level of community support, including overall level of match and private sector match.
- Articulation of clear, measurable outcomes; and
- Sustainability of effort, including ability to continue the activity at the conclusion of grant period.

Additional consideration will be provided for projects focusing on ARC designated distressed counties and areas, and for projects involving multi-state collaboration.

For information on submitting an application, visit the [ARC Energy webpage](#).

Philadelphia Eagles to Reimburse Employees for Purchasing Wind Energy

The Philadelphia Eagles will reimburse its employees living in the Philadelphia region and

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New Jersey who purchase electricity from wind farms, making it the first organization to pick up this type of cost for employees.

Eagles owner Christina Lurie, joined by Secretary of Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Michael DiBerardinis; NFL Executive Vice President of Communications and Public Affairs Joe Browne; and PECO, An Exelon Company Director Frank Jiruska, spoke at the site of the 2007 NFL Business Summit at the downtown Marriott.

The Eagles will present its [Go Green program](#), which was launched in 2003, during the four-day conference, as NFL team representatives share best practices in the areas of business, marketing, and community relations.

"We hope to serve as an example for NFL teams and the corporate sector," said Lurie. "The topic of greening in sports is especially important in cities like Philadelphia with professional teams and sports arenas. Game days have a huge environmental impact considering traffic, trash, energy and material consumption, and water use. They are also opportunities for education and awareness."

"On behalf of Gov. Rendell, who is taking a number of steps to make Pennsylvania a leader in the national drive toward energy independence, I thank the Eagles for being a great role model for the community, private businesses and other NFL teams," said Commonwealth of DCNR Secretary Mike DiBerardinis.

"With the Go Green initiative, the Eagles are showing a commitment to educating and encouraging the community about recycling practices and helping to green the environment. Imagine getting this message out to hundreds of thousands of fans! That's a great score for the conservation of our natural resources."

Secretary DiBerardinis added that these types of initiatives help individuals understand the role that can be played in the stewardship of our earth and our quality of life.

If an employee purchases 300 KW of wind energy, it is equivalent to planting 268 trees every year or not driving 3,600 miles. Considering the Eagles would get at least 100 employees to participate, that would equal 360,000 miles not driven or more than 26,800 trees planted.

"Since its launch in May 2004, PECO WIND has become the fastest growing green power program in the country, with more than 36,000 customers," said PECO director Frank Jiruska. "The environmental benefit for the entire program is the same as planting about 11 million trees or not driving 144 million miles. This purchase - where employees of a company band together to enroll in PECO WIND - is the first of its kind, making the Eagles trailblazers, which makes today a very good day for the environment."

"'Go Green' is more than just a play on words for the Eagles," said Lurie. "'Go Green' has become both a rallying cry for the football team and we hope a good citizenship message for the community."

The Philadelphia Eagles is the first team in professional sports to adopt responsibility for the environment and its role in the community. In 2003, the Eagles launched [Go Green](#), a ground-breaking campaign to better the environment and encourage sustainable business practices as core operating principles.

Penn State Students Have Their Own Version of Friday Night Lights

It's called Friday Night Lights Out and it's aimed at helping the Penn State University minimize pollution and reduce its \$1 million a month electric bill.

Some 20 to 45 student volunteers gather on Friday night at the HUB-Robeson Center on the University Park campus. They are divided into small groups and assigned to targeted buildings, where they turn out lights that were left on in public areas such as classrooms, study rooms, restrooms and lounges.

It's estimated that students turn off approximately 1,500 to 2,500 light bulbs every Friday night.

The concept is simple -- and effective -- but how do you get college students to give up part of their weekend for a conservation effort?

Organizers appeal to their sense of service and citizenship and a desire to help save the environment -- and then provide free pizza and soft drinks.

"Actually, it has not been difficult to get students involved on a Friday night," Dawn Snyder, project coordinator, said. "I'm sure the free pizza helps, but most express a desire to help the University and protect the environment at the same time. We do it on a Friday night because if lights are left on, they may stay on all weekend. Most of the students finish their assignments by 7:30 p.m. so they have the rest of the weekend for themselves.

"The input and feedback from those participating in the project indicates it has made a big difference for them. It has shown that they, as individuals, can have some impact. It also is succeeding in promoting awareness by getting them to think about energy conservation in a personal way. There are a lot of lights left on, and if we can turn off some of them, we are making a difference."

The student project is a spin-off of efforts by Paul Ruskin, communications coordinator in the Office of Physical Plant, to conserve electricity by turning off lights every day during the lunch hour. Ruskin estimates that, over 26 years through his "Operation Light Lunch," he has turned off some 5 million light bulbs.

His "personal hobby" caught the attention of the Council of LionHearts, a group consisting of leaders of the major student service organizations on campus, and a project was initiated in December 2005 under the direction of Emily Hoberg, former president of the Alpha Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity.

Snyder, a College of Education graduate student majoring in college student affairs, restructured the program this year so that the student organizations manage it. Organization leaders recruit participants, distribute information sheets, and provide feedback to Snyder on their groups' effort. The pizza is provided by the University's Housing and Food Services through the efforts of David Manos, assistant director of Housing, and Barry Scerbo, director of Food Services.

"We have a wide variety of organizations involved," Snyder said, "ranging from the Archery Club to various service clubs and social fraternities and sororities. Included are groups that hadn't given much thought to environmental concerns. Increasing awareness is our primary goal and I think we are succeeding in that regard. We may not change attitudes in a drastic way, but we may get them to think about it."

Snyder hopes to expand the program to include more organizations, particularly those that generally don't do service programs. She also hopes to see it expanded to the University's other campuses.

"Friday Night Lights Out personalizes energy conservation, which often is seen as a global or nonpersonal thing," she added. "This gives them something tangible. They can say, 'We just turned off 100 lights, and that makes a difference.' When the students leave campus, they will take with them more than they learned in the classroom.

"Our ultimate goal is to raise awareness among the entire University community -- students, faculty and staff -- about the importance of turning off lights when they leave a room. We hope to eventually have no more lights to turn off on Friday nights."

April 19 Rachel Carson Forum Topic: Carbon Sequestration: Hope, Help or Hype?

John Quigley, DCNR's Director of Legislation and Strategic Initiatives, will discuss DCNR's in-depth study of the [opportunities for carbon sequestration](#) in Pennsylvania at the next Rachel Carson Forum on the Environment, Noon-1:00 p.m. April 19 in the Second Floor Auditorium of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg.

Carbon sequestration is one suite of tools that hold promise for reducing atmospheric concentrations of global warming gases.

Earlier this month, the world's leading scientific panel on climate change reported that from the poles to the tropics, the earth's climate and ecosystems are already being shaped by global warming and face inevitable, possibly profound, alteration.

Quigley joined DCNR as Director of Operations in February 2005, and was named Director of Legislation and Strategic Initiatives in July 2006. He closely guides some of DCNR's priority projects, oversees the formation of the department's legislative activities, and helps the agency tackle some of the challenging goals outlined in its action plan.

Quigley holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Bloomsburg University, and a master of Public Administration degree from Lehigh University. He has done additional graduate work in business and economics.

The Rachel Carson Forum on Future of the Environment is a monthly mid-day speakers series that seeks to stimulate discussion on important environmental and sustainable development issues.

The Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Policy, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation Science, and the Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy are organizing this series.

For more information, contact Will Delavan by sending email to: wdelavan@state.pa.us or call 717-783-8727.

Southwest Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events Kick off April 28

The [Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force](#) will kick off its 2007 collection season with its first event on April 28 at the North Park Swimming Pool parking lot in Allegheny County starting at 9:00 a.m. and running to 1:00 p.m.

This Allegheny County collection event is sponsored in cooperation with the North Hills Council of Governments.

The average home can easily accumulate 100 pounds of household hazardous waste, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. They include: cleaners, non-latex paints, stains and varnishes, car batteries, automotive fluids, pesticides, pool chemicals and other products containing potentially hazardous ingredients.

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Individuals dropping off waste materials in Allegheny County are required to pay a fee of \$2 per gallon. Payment will be cash only (no checks or credit cards accepted).

For more information on what will and will not be accepted at this collection event, visit the [Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force](#) website or call the Pennsylvania Resources Council at 412-488-7452.

“This year the Task Force is celebrating a very important milestone: to date, we’ve collected and disposed of more than one million pounds of household hazardous waste,” according to Dave Mazza of the Pennsylvania Resources Council, which serves as the Task Force’s administrator. “While a significant number, this just begins to scratch the surface of the problem of safe disposal of these materials.

“Since the first collection took place in 2003, the group has collected 1,004,657 pounds of materials from more than 11,000 households,” said Mazza. “The Task Force has partnered with numerous groups and organizations to provide the public with an opportunity to dispose of hazardous materials in a safe, cost effective and environmentally friendly manner.”

“Homeowners typically find potentially hazardous products in five areas of their homes: the kitchen, bathroom, garage, workshop and garden,” said Mazza. “While products classified as household hazardous waste are safe to use if you follow all label directions, problems can arise when you use or dispose of them improperly. In addition, information is coming to light regarding the negative health impacts long-term exposure to some common household chemicals can cause.”

The Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force, formed in 2002, secures funding, organizes events and creates a partnership of individuals representing governmental, private and public organizations. Numerous organizations support the household hazardous waste collection campaign by providing financial support of the events.

Task Force partners include: ALCOSAN, Allegheny County Health Department, Armstrong County, Bayer Corporation, Beaver County, Butler County, Cambria County, Carnegie Mellon University, Char-West Council of Governments, City of Pittsburgh, Environmental Quality Management, Inc., Environmental Resources Management, Inc., Green Tree Borough, Lawrence County, McKeesport Municipal Authority, North Hills Council of Governments, PA CleanWays of Allegheny County, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Resources Council, PPG Industries, Inc., Venango County and Westmoreland Cleanways.

For more information on collections, visit the [Southwestern PA Household Hazardous Waste Task Force website](#) or call the Pennsylvania Resources Council at 412-488-7452.

Mt. Carmel Area School District Declares Litter-Free School Zone

Standing on the Veterans Memorial Baseball Field with dozens of school children holding brand new litterbags, officials from the Mt. Carmel Area School District this week announced the district’s enrollment in the “[Litter-Free School Zone](#),” a new program to keep schools clean.

The new anti-litter program is the focus of this year’s [Great PA Cleanup](#), an ambitious statewide effort to remove litter and trash from the state’s schools, roadways, parks, forests, riverbanks, neighborhoods and open spaces.

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“We are proud that our students are taking a proactive approach to taking care of the environment, not only on our school campus, but also throughout the communities of our district,” Mt. Carmel Area School Superintendent Cheryl Latorre said. “We are proud of our area and its heritage and are happy that our students are taking pride in making and keeping our environment clean and beautiful for all to enjoy.”

The Litter-Free School Zones program was launched by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, co-sponsor of the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup. Participating schools agree to check the campus grounds weekly, remove litter, and also to promote and implement all campus events as litter-free events.

“The students and staff of the Mt. Carmel Area School District can be very proud of the example they are setting for others by becoming the first school district in north central Pennsylvania to sign the Litter-Free School Zone agreement,” DEP Northcentral Regional Director Robert Yowell said. “With this emphasis on cleaning up schools, we can work with our children in the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup and learn, together, that everyone has a role to play in keeping our neighborhoods clean.”

The Great Pennsylvania Cleanup is supported and sponsored by the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful alliance, a wide range of businesses, trade organizations, civic and environmental groups, and local and state governments, including DEP, PennDOT, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Department of Education.

“Let’s Pick It Up, PA!” is the theme this year.

Last year during the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup, more than 132,000 volunteers from all 67 counties removed 6.7 million pounds of trash.

Visit the [Great Pennsylvania Cleanup website](#) for more information or call 1-888-548-8372.

Game Commission to Host Elk Workshop for Teachers June 20, 21

Representatives from the Game Commission will hold a two-day "WILD about Elk" workshop designed to give upper elementary, middle and high school teachers and other educators an opportunity to have an in-depth, hands-on experience with Pennsylvania's largest mammal.

The deadline to apply is June 8, and space in the workshop is limited.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. until 7:30 p.m., June 20, at Parker Dam State Park in Clearfield County, and from 8:30 a.m. until noon, June 21, at the Game Commission's elk viewing area in Benezette, Elk County.

This "Wild about Elk" workshop, which has been approved for Act 48 hours for educators, is part of the agency's Project WILD program, an award-winning, international, hands-on conservation education program.

Game Commission biologists, land managers, wildlife conservation officers and educators will offer an in-depth program featuring elk biology; conservation history and the Game Commission's elk reintroduction program; current conservation programs; land management issues related to elk; and other management initiatives.

Additionally, the course will include a field experience to view elk and participate in other hands-on activities, including a demonstration of how Game Commission biologists use radio-telemetry to track elk.

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Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is offering reimbursements of up to \$50 for lodging or travel. Also, on June 20, lunch and dinner will be provided by RMEF. On June 21, a snack will be provided by RMEF.

Participants also will receive Project WILD's "WILD About Elk" book, background information, hands-on activities and state and local resource information.

To make reservations, contact Theresa Alberici, Game Commission Wildlife Conservation Education Specialist, at 717-783-4872 or via e-mail at talberici@state.pa.us .

Krancer Steps Down As Hearing Board Chairman, Renwand Appointed

Mike Krancer, chairman of the [Environmental Hearing Board](#), announced this week he stepped down to devote his full attention to being a candidate for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on the May 15 Primary Election ballot.

Gov. Rendell announced the appointment of Judge Thomas W. Renwand of Allegheny County as the acting chairman of the Environmental Hearing Board.

"I want to focus my complete time, energy and resources to my campaign for Justice of the Supreme Court," said Krancer. "Pennsylvanians deserve and expect public servants to be public servants full time. I am adhering to that expectation and doing what I believe is the right thing to do."

Krancer served as judge for eight years on the Environmental Hearing Board, which is the first step in appealing all actions of the Department of Environmental Protection. He was first nominated by Gov. Ridge in 1999 and then named Chief Judge and Chairman in 2003 by Gov. Rendell.

"I thank Gov. Rendell for his confidence in me and I am extremely humbled by this appointment," Judge Renwand said. "I also wish to thank outgoing Chief Judge Mike Krancer for his outstanding service and leadership of the board."

Judge Renwand was originally nominated to the board by Gov. Casey in 1994. He was renominated by Gov. Ridge in 1995 and unanimously confirmed by the Senate. In 2002, he was nominated to a second term by Governor Mark S. Schweiker and again unanimously confirmed by the Senate. He is the second judge seated in Pittsburgh to lead the board.

The Environmental Hearing Board is composed of five administrative law judges nominated by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. Presently serving with Judge Renwand on the board are Judges George J. Miller, Michelle A. Coleman, and Bernard A. Labuskes, Jr.

NewsClip: [Supreme Court Hopeful Steps Down From Hearing Board](#)

Help Wanted: PA Land Trust Assn, National Fish & Wildlife Federation

Two organizations are looking to fill important technical and administrative positions.

The [PA Land Trust Association](#) is looking for a [project and administrative coordinator](#).

The National Fish & Wildlife Federation is [looking for candidates to fill positions](#) related to development, director of wildlife and habitat, project administrator, director of their Eastern Partnership Office and a finance assistant.

Quick Clips

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

[Volunteers Lend Hand a State Park Along Susquehanna Cleanup Crews to Make Preserves Litter-Perfect Reduce, Reuse, Recharge](#)
[Tire Recycling Helps Prevent Environmental Problems](#)
[Students Learn through Tire Recycling Project](#)
[Climate Change, the Local Picture](#)
[Area Activities Help Mark National Day of Climate Action](#)
[State Ranked 3rd as Global Warming Culprit](#)
[Op-Ed: Global Warming No Longer a Future Event](#)
[Op-Ed: Corn is Food, Not Fuel](#)
[Ethanol Storage Facility Proposed](#)
[State OKs Ethanol Tank Permits](#)
[Upper Paxton Residents Blast Plan for Wind Farm](#)
[Montco Test Driving New Electric Car](#)
[Group Urges Commuters to Consider Alternatives](#)
[Energy Program Benefits School District](#)
[Reports Say a Lack of Regionalism Hurts PA](#)
[Op-Ed: State Must Speed Up Reforms to Prosper](#)
[Money Coming to Highlands](#)
[Governors Sign Highlands Action Charter](#)
[Program to Revive Appalachian Mountain Ecosystem, Tourism](#)
[Support Sought for South Mountain Conservation](#)
[Armstrong Trail Due Spring Cleanup](#)
[Groups Set to Plant Trees](#)
[Linn Conservancy Program Centers on Montandon Marsh](#)
[Bald Eagles Halt Work Toward Produce Market](#)
[Chester Facing a Deer Problem](#)
[Gordon: Deer Herd Tops Game Commission Agenda](#)
[Gordon: Hunting Wild Pigs A Good Idea](#)
[Schweiker: Key People Sleeping on the Job](#)
[Coal Firm Fined \\$874,000 in Miner Death](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Lehigh Named PA's Top River](#)
[Orner Farms Named Farm of the Year](#)
[Federal Farm Bill Would Make Conservation Easier](#)
[Meshoppen Creek Watershed Void of Natural Trout](#)
[Codus Creek Cleanup Group's Co-Founder Returns as Executive Director](#)
[Donations Help Rejuvenate Kiski River](#)

[Ecologists Line Up Earth Day Cleanup of Martins Creek](#)
[Raccoon Creek Cleanup to Begin](#)
[Twin/Walker Watershed Group Uses Grant to Teach at Shohola](#)
[Water Specialist Speaks in Pike County](#)
[Upper Delaware Council Expresses Caution Over River Plan](#)
[Green Roof System May Be Solution for Developers Working With Difficult Site](#)
[Green Roof Can Aid Stormwater Problem](#)
[Greenway Proposed for Branch Creek](#)
[Allentown Completes Third Phase of Partnership for Safe Water](#)
[A Plan to Curb Farm to Watershed Pollution of Chesapeake Bay](#)

Regulations

No new regulations were published this week.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – April 14, 2007](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published an updated list of those certified to perform radon-related activities in Pennsylvania ([PA Bulletin page 1736](#)).

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **April 16** – House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Federal & State Relations meets to consider [House Resolution 122](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to make more funds available for Low-Income Energy Assistance Programs. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 12:00.
- **April 16** - [Environmental Issues Forum](#), Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee featuring Julia Marano, Keep PA Beautiful. Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.

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- **April 17** - House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meeting to consider [House Bill 43](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) establishing a uniform covenant for brownfields remediation and [House Bill 297](#) (Yewcic-D-Cambria) creating a right of first refusal for mineral rights sales. Room 205 Ryan Building. 9:00.
- **April 17** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 76](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) establishing the Home Energy Assistance Act to provide matching public funds to hardship funds contributed by stockholders, employees and ratepayers of home energy providers; [Senate Bill 105](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) authorizing the Environmental Quality Board to retain independent legal advice; [Senate Bill 176](#) (Pippy-R-Allegheny) authorizing the use of public funds to pay for the repair of lateral sewer lines; [Senate Bill 354](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) prohibiting the Environmental Quality Board from accepting rulemaking petitions to regulate substances not authorized by current state or federal law; and [Senate Resolution 79](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) designating April 22, 2007 as Earth Day Pennsylvania. Room 8E-B East Wing. 9:30.
- **April 17** – **CANCELLED**. Environmental Quality Board meeting. Next scheduled meeting is May 16.
- **April 19** – Rachel Carson Forum: Carbon Sequestration: Hope, Help or Hype?. Auditorium, Rachel Carson Building. Noon.
- **April 25** – **CANCELLED**. [DEP Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is July 25.
- **April 25** – [DCNR Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **April 26** – [Joint Conservation Committee](#) Forestry Task Force meeting. Celebration Hall by Hoags, 2280 Commercial Blvd., State College. 10:00.
- **April 27** – Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Listening Session. Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport. 10:00.
- **April 27-28**: West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium III. Genetti Hotel. Williamsport. Contact: Amy Wolfe at 570-726-3118 or send email to: awolfe@tu.org .
Video Blog: [Amy Wolfe Talks About Restoring the West Branch](#).
- **April 30** – Senate Community, Economic & Recreational Development Committee hearing on Governor’s Energy Independence Initiative and DCED budget with Secretaries Yablonsky (DCED) and McGinty (DEP). Hearing Room 1, North Office. 9:00.
- **May 11** – **CHANGE**. DEP’s [Delaware Regional Water Resources Committee](#) will [convene on its alternate location](#): Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, 12 Morris Road, Ambler. 9:30.
- **May 14** – Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Listening Session. Mercer County Conservation District, 747 Greenville Road, Mercer. 10:00.

[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

[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

Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to *PA Environment Digest* - DHess@CrisciAssociates.com or go to www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com .

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