

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

May 14, 2007

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Sportsmen, Agriculture, Environmental Groups Urge Open Look at Deer Program

Hunting, agriculture, land management and environmental groups urged the House Game and Fisheries Committee to do an independent evaluation of Pennsylvania's Deer Management Program before making wholesale changes in the structure of the Game Commission.

The groups made their comments [in a letter to](#) Committee Majority Chairman Edward G. Staback (D-Lackawanna) and Minority Chair Sam Rohrer (R-Berks).

The groups joining on the letter include: the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc., Pennsylvania Audubon, Pennsylvania State Grange, Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Ecosystem Management, Consol Energy, PA Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation, PA Rifle & Pistol Association, Pheasants Forever, PA Sportsmen's Association, Allegheny County Sportsmen's League, PA Chapter of Safari Club International, Ruffed Grouse Society and United Bow Hunters of PA, Penn Future, Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter.

The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council have sent separate letters raising similar concerns.

"We are asking the House Game and Fisheries Committee to resist the temptation to vote on bills that would change the fundamental structure of the Commission or the current deer management program without first doing an independent evaluation of Pennsylvania's Deer Management Program," said Melody Zullinger, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc., "At a March hearing, both the Majority and Minority Chairs of the Committee called for an independent evaluation of the methods and data used by the Game Commission to measure and make decisions that lead to setting hunting license limits. We think they should follow through on that recommendation before voting on any legislative changes."

The Game Commission uses three factors to determine the number of hunting licenses and bag limits each season—habitat condition, deer health and deer-human conflicts.

"We agree the Game Commission is using the right factors, but good public policy requires the public have the opportunity to examine the methods and techniques which



Game Commission Photo

underlie their decisions,” said Timothy D. Schaeffer, PhD, Executive Director of Pennsylvania Audubon, a state office of the National Audubon Society. “Without an understanding of and faith in the process, skeptics will always be able to question the validity of certain decisions.”

The groups expressed support for an initiative by the Game Commission to hold a series of public meetings across the state in September to explain its methods of producing harvest data, determining habitat and deer herd health and setting doe license allocations.

“By examining the Game Commission information in public forums, along with following through on the suggestion for an independent review of the process and data used in the Deer Management Program by the General Assembly, we would all be in a much better position to suggest more effective solutions,” said Zullinger.

In addition to the letter, Dr. Schaeffer applauded the Game Commission for adhering to the recommendations of its biologists by approving their seasons and bag limits at the April Commission meeting.

“We also suggest the Game Commission and legislators go into the field to examine actual habitat conditions on Game Lands and other representative properties so both the public and House and Senate members have a first-hand view of habitat conditions,” said Dr. Schaeffer. “We also encourage the Committee to look at the recent study completed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources which shows widespread lack of forest regeneration due to deer over-browsing.”

The Committee met Wednesday and reported out [House Bill 1214](#) (Surra-D-Elk) changing the terms of Game Commissioners from eight years to four years.

“The goal of this legislation is to create a better Game Commission – one that is more in step with the perspective and concerns of current sportsmen and that better reflects the priorities and policies of the legislature and governor,” Rep. Surra said, the prime sponsor of the bill.

“I believe a shorter term would keep commissioners more in touch with the concerns of current sportsmen and other stakeholders,” he said. “Commissioners that were appointed more than half a decade ago cannot respond to the needs of current sportsmen as well as more recent appointees.”

A complete copy of the letter sent to the chairmen of the House Game and Fisheries Committee is available at: www.pfsc.org.

NewsClips: [Audit Game Panel, Outdoor Groups Say House to Consider Cutting Game Commission Terms](#)
[Game Commission President Gets Boost](#)
[Editorial: Game Commission Clumsy Attempt to Fire President](#)

Links: [Game Commission to Launch Education Campaign on Deer Management](#)
[Game Commission Keeps Healthy Forest, Healthy Herd Formula for Deer Mgmt.](#)
[Too Many Deer Damaging Forest Ecosystems, Agriculture – Video Blog](#)
[Opinion – Deer Management Is Vital to Ensuring Wildlife Diversity](#)
[Extensive DCNR Study of Forest Vegetation Shows Deer Exacting Heavy Toll](#)
[Game Commission Defends Habitat Approach to Controlling Deer Population](#)
[Hershey Introduces Legislative to Curb Crop Damage from Deer, Wildlife](#)
[Court Throws Out Challenge to Deer Case, Audubon Supports Open Process](#)

**Visit Our
Professional Services Directory
Support Your Sponsors**

Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to voting session May 21, after the May 15 Primary Election..

**Click Here
Professional**

PA Environment Digest Video Blog

- Art Students, PennDOT Combine for Unusual Recycling Project

Online Training

- EPA Office of Children's Health Protection Offers Free Webcasts, Special Report

On the Hill

- On the Senate/House Agenda/ Bills Introduced
- Other Senate/House Bills Moving
- Senate Confirms McGinty, DiBerardinis for DEP, DCNR Posts
- House Committee Moves Climate Change, Energy Office, Electronics Recycling
- Freeman Bill Seeks to Protect Appalachian Trail From Development
- New Environmental Synopsis Newsletter Now Online

Other News

- Environmental Groups Ask for Restoration of Growing Greener Fund
- Schuylkill Partnership Recognizes Schools for Protecting Schuylkill River
- EPA Honors Aqua Pennsylvania for Rebuilding Bristol Water Plant
- Public Meetings Set on Use of Federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Funds
- Chesapeake Bay Targeted Grants to Remove Millions of Pounds of Pollution
- Sen. Casey Supports Historic Investment to Help Farm Conservation Practices
- Grant Troop Named Regional No-Till Agronomist
- Rachel Carson Forum Looks at Impact of Legacy Sediments May 17
- Volunteers Needed for Ohio River Sweep Set for June 16
- Railpower Hybrid Corp. Among EPA Clean Air Award Winners
- McNeil PPC In Lititz Winner of EPA Performance Track Award
- Governor Sets Public Meetings to Follow Outdoor Conference
- PCN Tours State Parks In New Regular Series Starting May 18
- Westmoreland Home School Students Win County Envirothon
- Deadline Extended For Ralph W. Abele College Scholarships, Due June 15
- PA Center for Environmental Ed May EE Connections Newsletter Now Online
- National Arbor Day Foundation Hosts Seminar on Restoring Native Ecosystems
- Pennsylvania Joins Climate Registry to Track Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Energy Efficiency Workshop for Universities, K-12 Schools June 19
- PUC Finalizes Overall Strategy for Addressing Electric Rates After Caps
- Competition Working in Electric Industry in Pennsylvania Expert Says
- Recycled Tire Economic Development Forum to be Held May 21
- PennVEST's Paul Marchetti Receives James McGirr Kelly Award

- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy Appoints Thomas D. Saunders as New President
- DEP Names New Small Business Ombudsman, Director of Communications
- Help Wanted: Fish and Boat Commission, PA Healthy Waters Campaign

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

Video Blog Feature

Art Students, PennDOT Combine for Unusual Recycling Project

Since 2002, art students from Allegheny College and employees of the Department of Transportation in Meadville have creatively recycled discarded highway signs into large flowers and decorated fences surrounding the PennDOT maintenance office along Rt. 322 in Meadville.



To see just a sampling of these creative creations, watch this Video Blog.

For more information, visit: [Allegheny College website](#).

Video Blog: [Roadside Recycling, PennDOT, Meadville](#)

Online Training

EPA Office of Children's Health Protection Offers Free Webcasts, Special Report

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Children's Health Protection is offering two free webcasts designed to present experts in the field of children's health to a wider audience.

On May 24 the webcast topic will be Climate Change and Children's Health.

On June 6 the topic will be The Truth About Children's Environmental Health Disparities.

EPA has also produced a special report celebrating the tenth year of the program in a special report entitled, *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks*.

For detailed agendas, information on how to register for the webcasts and for a copy of the special report, go to the [Distinguished Speaker Webcast Series webpage](#).

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced

The Senate and Senate return to voting session May 21.

House

Calendar: [House Bill 13](#) (Readshaw-D-Allegheny) limiting liability of landowners in connection with opening their lands for hunting and recreation; [House Resolution 112](#) (Mann-D-Lehigh) directing DEP to implement policies that encourage electronic waste recycling; [House Resolution 193](#) (Haluska-D-Cambria) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the future value of assets on Game Commission land; [House Bill 772](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) establishing the Keystone Energy and Environmental Excellence Awards program and an energy efficiency and pollution reduction initiative; [House Bill 894](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) authorizing additional reimbursements for school building construction which meets the LEED standards; [House Resolution 268](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study Game Commission forestry and mineral development policies.

Senate

Calendar: [Senate Bill 782](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) that would increase fees on nuclear power plants and for transport escorts.

Committees: Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Listening Session in Mercer.

Bills Introduced

Several more environmental bills were introduced this week...

PA Energy Development Authority: [House Bill 1200](#) (DePasquale-D-York) giving the PA Energy Development Authority additional responsibilities as proposed by Gov. Rendell in his Energy Independent Initiative.

Micro-Grids: [House Bill 1201](#) (George-D-Clearfield) amending Title 66 authorizing micro-grids in electric distribution.

Alternative Energy: [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) making changes to the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act as proposed by Gov. Rendell.

Host Community Agreements/Moratorium: [House Bill 1241](#) (Goodman-D-Schuylkill) further providing for host community agreements and a permit moratorium on certain municipal and residual waste facilities.

Siting Criteria: [House Bill 1242](#) (Goodman-D-Schuylkill) providing for additional siting criteria for municipal and residual waste facilities.

Waste Facility Moratorium: [House Bill 1263](#) (Goodman-D-Schuylkill) providing for a moratorium on issuance of certain municipal waste permits, rescission of unused capacity and making changes to the municipal recycling program.

Neighborhood Development: [House Bill 1280](#) (Freeman-D-Northampton) amending the Municipalities Planning Code to encourage neighborhood developments.

Appalachian Trail: [House Bill 1281](#) (Freeman-D-Northampton) amends the Appalachian Trail Act to require municipalities to take action to preserve the trail.

Keystone Fund: [House Bill 1295](#) (Hanna-D-Clinton) making changes to the allocation from the Keystone, Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund.

Geospatial Council: [House Bill 1304](#) (Fairchild-R-Union) establishing the Pennsylvania Geospatial Coordinating Council.

Animal Waste Recycling: [House Bill 1306](#) (Caltagirone-D-Berks) establishing a tax credit for certain animal waste recycling facilities and a limited sales and use tax exemption.

Game Land Policies: [House Resolution 268](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study Game Commission forestry and mineral development policies.

Preservation Month: [House Resolution 271](#) (Clymer-R-Bucks) designating May as “National Preservation Month.”

REAP Tax Credit Proposal: [Senate Bill 690](#) (Waugh-R-York) establishing the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act to give tax credits to farmers for installing conservation practices.

Illness Reporting: [Senate Bill 843](#) (O’Pake-D-Berks) establishing the Office of Illness Monitoring in the Department of Health relating to cancer clusters to work in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection.

Other Senate/House Bills Moving

Here’s a quick rundown on other bills moving this week...

Senate

Independent Counsel: The Senate Appropriations Committee reported out [Senate Bill 105](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) authorizing the Environmental Quality Board to hire independent counsel was passed by the Senate and now goes to the House for consideration.

Nuclear Plant Fees: [Senate Bill 782](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) that would increase fees on nuclear power plants and for transport escorts was reported from the Senate Appropriations Committee and is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

Rulemaking Petitions: [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 was recommitted to the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Storage Tanks: [Senate Bill 815](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) that would amend the Storage Tank Act to extend the sunset dates on certain programs was reported from the Senate Appropriations Committee.

House

PA Senior Environment Corps: The House unanimously adopted [House Resolution 260](#) (George-D-Clearfield) to mark the 10th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps and to designate May as “Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps” month.

Landowner Liability: [House Bill 13](#) (Readshaw-D-Allegheny) limiting liability of landowners in connection with opening their lands for hunting and recreation was amended and reported from the House Appropriations Committee.

Game Commissioners’ Terms: [House Bill 1214](#) (Surra-D-Elk) changing the terms of Game Commissioners from eight years to four years was reported from the House Game and Fisheries Committee and is now on the House Calendar for action.

Elk Damage Fund: [House Bill 1078](#) (Hanna-D-Clinton) increase funding for deterrent fencing for wild animals and establish an elk damage compensation fund was reported from the House Game and Fisheries Committee and then tabled.

Gift Vouchers: [House Bill 948](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) authorize the Fish and Boat Commission to issue vouchers for licenses was reported from the House Game and Fisheries Committee then tabled.

Value of Game Land Assets: [House Resolution 193](#) (Haluska-D-Cambria) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the future value of assets on Game Commission land was reported from the House Game and Fisheries Committee then tabled.

Game Land Policies: [House Resolution 268](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study Game Commission forestry and mineral development policies was reported from the House Game and Fisheries Committee then tabled.

Nuclear Power Plant Fees: [House Bill 496](#) (George-D-Clearfield) that would increase fees on nuclear power plants and for transport escorts was referred to House Appropriations Committee.

Senate Confirms McGinty, DiBerardinis for DEP, DCNR Posts

Kathleen McGinty and Michael DiBerardinis were confirmed by the Senate this week after promising changes that would avoid conflicts of interest in awarding grants in the future.

DEP Secretary McGinty was confirmed by a vote of 42 to 6, with Senators Connie Williams (D-Montgomery), Mary Jo White (R-Venango), LeAnna Washington (D-Philadelphia), Jeff Piccola (R-Dauphin), Mike Folmer (R-Lebanon) and John Eichelberger (R-Blair) voting against confirmation.

DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis was confirmed by a vote of 44 to 4 with Senators LeAnna Washington (D-Philadelphia), Jeff Piccola (R-Dauphin), John Eichelberger (R-Blair) and Mike Folmer (R-Lebanon) voting against confirmation.

"Katie and Mike are dedicated public servants who have earned the confidence of citizens because of their broad knowledge and understanding of environmental issues and their commitment to making sound decisions to protect the environment and conserve our natural resources," said Gov. Rendell.

NewsClip: [Senate Approves Rendell Nominees Involved in Grants Flap](#)
[Controversy Still Dogs Two Rendell Nominees](#)
[Editorial: Ethics Ruling on Cabinet Officials – Appearances Count](#)
[Cabinet Woes Overshadow Rendell, Experts Say](#)

House Committee Moves Climate Change, Energy Office, Electronics Recycling

House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week approved and reported out legislation related to climate change, creating a State Energy Office, promoting electronics recycling and extending benefits for certain DCNR employees. The bills are:

- [House Bill 110](#) (Vitali-D-Delaware) providing for a registry and inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, authorizing a stakeholder process and a report on global warming impacts and economic opportunities, was reported out by a vote of 18-8;
- [House Bill 786](#) (Hutchinson-R-Venango) extending benefits to certain DCNR law enforcement officers;
- [House Bill 366](#) (George-D-Clearfield) establishing a State Energy Office within the Department of Environmental Protection; and
- [House Resolution 112](#) (Mann-D-Lehigh) directing DEP to implement policies that encourage electronic waste recycling.

Commenting on House Bill 110, Rep. Vitali said, "This bill, which has bipartisan support and nearly 80 co-sponsors, would provide a detailed and organized action plan for dealing with the impact of global warming, and set greenhouse gas standards and a timetable to achieve goals to reduce the state's contribution to the problem. And since Pennsylvania produces a full 1 percent of the world's greenhouse gasses, it is critical for the state to begin formulating a plan right away.

"It will allow us to inventory our greenhouse gas emissions and determine exactly how much each sector – industry, government, energy production, etc. – are contributing to global warming here in Pennsylvania. If we can obtain a good accounting of our greenhouse gas emissions, we can formulate appropriate plans to reduce those emissions."

"There are many businesses throughout the state that are taking action beyond what is required by law. This bill would record the good things that are being done and give

credit to those businesses that are taking a proactive approach to the global warming issue.”

The Majority Chair of the Committee is Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) and the Minority Chair is Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango).

Senate Committees Set Energy Policy, Coal Bed Methane Hearings

The Senate has scheduled three public hearings on energy policy and coal bed methane in the coming weeks.

On **May 22** the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will hold a public hearing on coal bed methane and related mineral and surface property rights issues.

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committees will hold joint hearings discussing an energy policy for Pennsylvania. The hearings will be held—

- **June 5** – Featuring the Department of Environmental Protection, Public Utility Commission, PUC Office of Consumer Advocate; and
- **June 12** – Featuring the Industrial Energy Consumers of Pennsylvania, Electric Power Generating Association and the Energy Association of PA.

The Majority Chair of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and the Minority Chair is Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) and the Majority Chair of the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee is Sen. Tommy Tomlinson (R-Bucks) and the Minority Chair is Sen. Lisa Boscola (D-Lehigh).

Freeman Bill Seeks to Protect Appalachian Trail From Development

Rep. Bob Freeman (D-Northampton) introduced [House Bill 1281](#) that would require municipalities that border the [Appalachian Trail](#) to enact zoning and other land use ordinances as part of their responsibility to protect the Trail.

“The legislature enacted legislation back in 1978 calling upon municipalities that border the Appalachian Trail to preserve the natural scenic, historic and esthetic values of the trail, but there was no requirement for them to pass land-use ordinances to enforce that,” Rep. Freeman said. “My legislation will have these bordering municipalities put in place zoning and other land-use measures necessary to preserve those values.”

Rep. Freeman said the legislation was suggested by Easton environmental attorney Chot Elliot and was the result of a situation in Monroe County where a developer purchased land near the Appalachian Trail with the intent of constructing a private automobile racing club.

Since the township where this development was being proposed had no zoning in place, there was little that could be done to block this inappropriate use. The development would have brought noise and other developmental problems to the area, disrupting the pristine setting of the trail.

“By requiring municipalities along the Appalachian Trail to enact good land-use ordinances, we can ensure that a conservation buffer zone will be in place to protect it,” Freeman said. “The trail is one of our state’s greatest scenic assets and must be protected.”

The legislation has 34 bipartisan co-sponsors and is currently under consideration in the House Local Government Committee, which Freeman chairs.

Links: [Appalachian Trail Conservancy](#)
[Pennsylvania Important Bird Areas](#)

New Environmental Synopsis Newsletter Now Online

The [April edition](#) of the Environmental Synopsis newsletter published by the [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) is now online.

This month's newsletter features stories on the 150th anniversary of the discovery of oil in Titusville, retrofitting diesel equipment, performance measures for recycling programs, air quality fees, boutique fuels and more.

Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) chairs the Committee and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) serves as vice-chair.

Other News

Environmental Groups Ask for Restoration of Growing Greener Fund

The Pennsylvania Alliance for Restoration and Conservation, a coalition of environmental groups in the Commonwealth, wrote to each member of the Senate and House asking them to oppose using monies from the Growing Greener fund to pay off the Growing Greener II bond issue debt service.

The group supported Gov. Rendell's proposal to impose a new \$2.25 fee on municipal waste to pay for a portion of the Growing Greener II bond and to fund the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.



PARC said, "Pennsylvania voters approved the statewide Growing Greener II ballot initiative in May 2005 by nearly a 2:1 margin. This broad support crossed geographic boundaries and partisan ideologies, and serves as just one example of the public's support for promoting conservation funding efforts.

"These voters cast their ballots to increase funding for the important environmental and conservation programs, and they do not want funding for these programs to be diverted to debt payment or for other purposes.

"We are writing to ask your support to ensure that Growing Greener dollars from the Environmental Stewardship Fund go to conservation and restoration projects and not to other purposes, such as paying off a bond. We also ask you to provide funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund (HSCA) and for payment of debt service on the Growing Greener bond."

The PARC letter also noted, "In his budget address, the Governor proposed raising the tipping fee by \$2.25 to provide stable funding for HSCA and for a revenue stream to pay for a portion of the debt on the Growing Greener bond. We support the Governor's proposal, and we would also be interested in other revenue-raising ideas that keep HSCA

whole and help ensure that Environmental Stewardship Funds are available for watershed restoration and conservation projects, community planning efforts and other projects that protect and restore our natural resources.

“We respect the fact that the legislature has tough fiscal decisions to make during the FY’08 budget and we look forward to working with you to tackle issues like funding the Hazardous Site Cleanup Fund and other important initiatives.

“Thank you in advance for helping us ensure the integrity of the Growing Greener program during the upcoming budget debates. Please don’t hesitate to contact any of the organizations or staff who have signed on to this letter with questions or concerns, and thank you for your continued support for a clean and healthy environment and protecting Pennsylvania’s rich natural heritage.”

In 2005, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, on behalf of the Pennsylvania Alliance for Restoration and Conservation [released a poll](#) conducted by the firm of Madonna-Young Opinion Research indicating more than 70 percent of those polled support funds to protect forests, farmland and open space, clean up abandoned mines and polluted streams, and reinvest in parks and communities.

The poll also indicated that people are willing to pay for the bond. Solid majorities in all areas of Pennsylvania would put up \$20 per household to finance the bond.

Schuylkill Partnership Recognizes Schools for Protecting Schuylkill River

The [Schuylkill Action Network](#) recognized three Pennsylvania schools in the Schuylkill River Watershed this week for developing environmental and educational projects that help to protect sources of drinking water.

Each school was presented with a Schuylkill Action Network Source Water Protection award in celebration of National Drinking Water Week. Schools receiving awards included: C.W. Henry Elementary School, Philadelphia; Pennfield Middle School, Hatfield; and Temple University Ambler College, Ambler.

The C.W. Henry school was selected for its work on several water projects including a seventh grade water monitoring project at the nearby Wissahickon Creek.

The Pennfield Middle school was recognized for a water monitoring project at three nearby streams and for hosting a water awareness night to educate the public about community water issues.

Temple University Ambler College was recognized because its Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture developed several educational storm water management projects including a wetland rain garden and green roof.



L to R students Porsha Kerney, Kayla Davis, Monique Harris, Amber Wilson and Tyshay May.

Schuylkill Action Network Photo

“These schools have made valuable contributions to protect the Schuylkill River by incorporating environmentally sensitive property management practices and educational programs into their daily operations. This river is an important resource that provides drinking water for 1.5 million people,” said Donald S. Welsh, administrator for EPA’s mid-Atlantic region.

The awards were presented on behalf of the Schuylkill Action Network, which was formed in 2003 to create a team approach to cleaning up and protecting the Schuylkill River and its tributaries. Members include EPA, Department of Environmental Protection, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Philadelphia Water Department, Delaware River Basin Commission; conservation districts, local, state and federal agencies, watershed organizations and other non-governmental organizations.

For more information, visit the [Schuylkill Action Network website](#).

NewsClip: [Schuylkill Partnership Recognizes School With Awards](#)

EPA Honors Aqua Pennsylvania for Rebuilding Bristol Water Plant

During a special ceremony this week with federal, state and local officials, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recognized Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. with the 2006 Award for Sustainable Public Health Protection for rebuilding the Bristol Water Treatment Plant, which supplies drinking water to approximately 30,000 local residents.

In presenting the award, Jon Capacasa, director of the Water

Protection Division for EPA’s mid-Atlantic region, said, “We applaud Aqua Pennsylvania for demonstrating outstanding leadership to protect the public’s health by making critically needed improvements to the community’s drinking water system.”

Located in Bristol Borough, Bucks County the plant began to provide service in 1874 and required a complete overhaul when Aqua acquired the municipal water system in 1996. The company invested approximately \$10 million to rehabilitate and upgrade the facility, with \$5.9 million of the total financed with a low-interest loan from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority.

EPA recognized Aqua on the recommendation of PennVEST officials. “We proudly nominated Aqua for its ability and willingness to tackle the needs of neglected, troubled water systems, such as the Bristol facility, which require both the capital and expertise to bring them up to environmental standards,” said PennVEST Chairman Joseph Manko.



Karl Kyriss, Aqua, Jon Capascasa, U.S. EPA, Nicholas DeBenedictis, Aqua, Joseph Manko, PennVEST. *Aqua Photo*

Aqua Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Nicholas DeBenedictis accepted the award. “This honor means a great deal to us, because it recognizes Aqua’s commitment to addressing environmental issues and improving water quality. Furthermore, we take pride in using low-interest financing effectively to reduce interest expense, which helps control rates for customers while enabling us to address more capital improvement needs.”

Aqua began the plant’s overhaul in 1999 and completed the project in May 2001. Improvements included automating the filters and controls, installing equipment to remove solids from the water, upgrading chlorination and electrical systems, integrating a central computer system, and replacing leaking roofs. The project reduced the potential for filter failure and discharge of contaminants and eliminated structural safety hazards.

Under EPA’s Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program, the agency provides grants to the states, which in turn, use the funds to provide low-interest loans for drinking water projects. These projects support the Safe Drinking Water Act by protecting public health. In Pennsylvania, the program is managed by PENNVEST in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection.

Public Meetings Set on Use of Federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Funds

The Department of Environmental Protection, in conjunction with the DEP Citizens Advisory Council and the Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board, has scheduling [a series of town hall meetings](#) on how to most effectively use the up to 30 percent of new federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation funds available to the state.

The new law reauthorization provides for a significant increase in funds available to the Commonwealth for abandoned mine

reclamation. It also offers the Commonwealth the opportunity to set aside up to 30 percent of these funds for abatement and treatment of abandoned mine drainage.

The intent of the meetings is to enable the public to provide input to help in the decision-making process for expenditure of these funds. The decision to set aside funds for mine drainage abatement and treatment, and the appropriate level, must be weighed against the need to restore sites that impact the health and safety of the Commonwealth’s citizens.

DEP is also accepting written comments at the following address: Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Attn.: AML Comments, P.O. Box 8476, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8476.

The meetings will be held on the following dates in the following locations:

- May 22 - EPCAMR Office, Shavertown;
- May 23 - Schuylkill Conservation District Office, Pottsville;
- May 24 - Hillside Rod & Gun Club, Blossburg;
- May 30 - Robertsdale Fire Hall, Robertsdale;



Clean water from Audenreid AMD Treatment Facility, Schuylkill County.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

- May 31 - DEP Cambria Office, Ebensburg;
 - June 5 - Jennings Environmental Center, Slippery Rock;
 - June 6 - California University of PA, Morgan Hall, California;
 - June 7 - Penn State University, Dubois Campus, Hiller Auditorium, Dubois, PA
- The agenda for the meetings will be:
- 4:00 - 5:30 PM - Educational videos and overview of recent legislative changes;
 - 5:30 - 6:30 PM - Opportunity for the public to review PA's Abandoned Mine Land inventory and maps (poster session); and
 - 6:30 - 8:30 PM - Town hall meeting

For more information contact: Sue Wilson, Citizens Advisory Council at 717-787-4527 or e-mail suswilson@state.pa.us; Rich Joyce, DEP BAMR Harrisburg at 717-783-7669 or e-mail rijoyce@state.pa.us; Pam Milavec, DEP BAMR Cambria District Office at 814-472-1800 or e-mail pmilavec@state.pa.us; or Mike Ferko, DEP BAMR Wilkes-Barre District Office at 570-826-2371 or e-mail mferko@state.pa.us.

For more information and directions, visit the [Town Hall meetings webpage](#).

Chesapeake Bay Targeted Grants to Remove Millions of Pounds of Pollution

The [Chesapeake Bay Targeted Grants Program](#) awarded eight grants totaling \$5 million this week, including support for two Pennsylvania projects. They include:

- **Conestoga Watershed Manure Composting** ([Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#), \$800,000), which will coordinate the removal of 40,000 pounds of nitrogen and 35,000 pounds of phosphorus from entering the Conestoga River by implementing a diversified manure composting system in the watershed; and
- **Market-based Approach to Nutrient Reduction** ([Protected Harvest](#), \$800,000), which will establish a third-party dairy certification program that provides premium pricing to dairy farmers in Lancaster County, Pa., and Shenandoah Valley, Va., who adopt conservation practices that minimize nutrient runoff to the Bay and its tributaries.

“This grant award will enable CBF and our partners to make a huge impact on the health of the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay,” said CBF’s Pennsylvania Executive Director Matthew Ehrhart. “Rather than applying excess manure to farm fields where it enters our local rivers and streams, we will instead be turning it into a reusable resource.”

The focus of the effort is on the Conestoga watershed in Lancaster County. The Conestoga contributes the highest level of nitrogen and phosphorus pollution of any watershed flowing into the Susquehanna River. This is mainly caused by the high concentration of animal intensive activities. This project will utilize most of the excess manure in the Conestoga watershed, which might otherwise be applied to the land and contribute to polluted runoff in the region.

The excess manure will be taken from area farms and delivered to one of two to four manure composting facilities that have been or will be established through local municipalities. The end product, the compost, will be used in landscaping operations, to reclaim many of the 184,431 acres of abandoned mine lands, and also as part of a Lancaster County erosion and sediment control program through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

“Ultimately, this project will reduce pollution in Pennsylvania’s rivers and streams; help to restore abandoned mine lands; further our utilization of bio-based energy generation, and increase farm profitability,” Ehrhart said. “This is a model that could be replicated across the watershed, resulting in a dramatic reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus pollution.”

For more information, visit the [Chesapeake Bay Targeted Grants Program webpage](#).

Sen. Casey Supports Historic Investment to Help Farm Conservation Practices

U.S. Senator Bob Casey announced this week he would [co-sponsor federal legislation](#)-- The Chesapeake’s Healthy and Environmentally Sound Stewardship of Energy and Agriculture Act of 2007—to help reduce millions of pounds of nutrients and sediment flowing into the Chesapeake Bay.

The legislation, introduced by Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), would provide an additional \$200 million or more in conservation funding to the region’s farmers.

“As part of the Chesapeake Bay region, Pennsylvania takes the health of the bay very seriously,” said Senator Casey. “Starting with my father’s Nutrient Management Act, Pennsylvania farmers have made it a priority to remove pollution from the watershed and have done a wonderful job. This bill is the next step to help our farmers to meet their obligation to clean up the bay.”

“The leadership of these eight Senators, along with 21 of their colleagues in the House, is critical if we are to have the programs and funding in place by 2010 to achieve the goal of removing our rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay from the nation’s ‘dirty waters’ list,” said CBF President William C. Baker. “This proposal is a demonstration of leadership that, when combined with state and local dollars, would fully implement the agricultural conservation practices required in the restoration roadmap that Bay scientists have developed.”

The Chesapeake’s Healthy and Environmentally Sound Stewardship of Energy and Agriculture Act of 2007, or CHESSEA Act, will direct additional federal Farm Bill funding toward water quality improvement and farm viability in watersheds like the Chesapeake - with recognized nutrient pollution and water quality degradation, agreed-upon multi-state commitments to address that pollution, and identified restoration plans and goals.

If passed, CHESSEA will provide all Pennsylvania farmers: more money for conservation practices, such as streamside buffers; greater access to “green payments;” funding support for development of manure-to-energy systems; and greater technical assistance in conservation planning and implementation.

When combined with state and local funding, nitrogen pollution could be reduced by 65 million pounds annually.

For more information, visit [CBF’s CHESSEA webpage](#).

Grant Troop Named Regional No-Till Agronomist

H. Grant Troop has been named to fill the position of No-Till Agronomist by the Penn State Cooperative Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Capital Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, Inc.

Troop will be located in southcentral Pennsylvania, one of the most agriculturally-focused areas of the state, with a goal of increasing the adoption of no-till acreage to benefit both farmers and the Chesapeake Bay.

Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the regional Park the Plow for Profit program, Troop will provide a valuable link between farmers and county, state and federal programs that intend to serve the agricultural community.

Troop's background includes earning a bachelor degree in agronomy from Penn State University and a master's degree from Moody Graduate School in Illinois. He has experience in teaching, operating a no-till farm business, agricultural and environmental consulting as well as serving as staff agronomist for an agricultural supply company, for which he developed and implemented marketing strategies for crop nutrients, crop protectants and seeds with a no-till friendly emphasis.

"As I look at the agricultural and environmental issues in the Capital Region, I am convinced that no-till farming, in conjunction with cover cropping and residue management, is the most cost-effective and fast track route to accomplishing our mutual goals," said Troop.

Park the Plow for Profit is a no-till assistance program offered to farmers in the south central PA region. The objective of the program is to encourage the transition to continuous no-till cropping systems in the area covered by the Capital RC&D Area Council, administrators of the project.

EQIP is administered by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and is a voluntary conservation program that provides producers with incentive payments for conservation activities that help limit soil erosion, improve water and air quality, and protect wildlife habitat.

The two programs together offer farmers the benefit of technical assistance throughout the transition to a continuous no-till system as well as absorbing the costs associated with any risk involved in adopting new practices.

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

For more information or to speak directly with Troop, please contact him by phone at: 717-274-2597 ext. 130 or by email at: grant.troop@rcdnet.net.

Rachel Carson Forum Looks at Impact of Legacy Sediments May 17

Researchers Robert Walter and Dorthy Merritts, co-chairs of the Legacy Sediment Workgroup for DEP's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy are the featured speakers at the next Rachel Carson Forum on Future of the Environment tMay 17.

The Forum will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in the Second Floor Auditorium of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg.



Walter and Merritts, both professors at Franklin & Marshall College, have been researching legacy sediments in southeastern Pennsylvania for four years, and in the past year have been working in central and northeastern Pennsylvania, and northern Maryland.

By examining historic maps from the 19th century, air photos dating back to the 1930s, and outcrops along streams and in backhoe trenches, they have determined that nearly 400 mill dams once existed in Lancaster County, and each dam formed a slackwater pond and associated backwater that trapped sediment over a period of one to three centuries.

Water-powered mills are long gone, and obsolete, derelict dams gradually breach or are removed, releasing legacy sediment to be carried downstream, some of it ultimately reaching the Chesapeake Bay.

Walter and Merritts will talk about legacy sediments as a source of nutrient loads to the Chesapeake Bay from southeastern Pennsylvania, summarize the issues and make recommendations to address the problems and opportunities associated with legacy sediment.

For more information visit the [Forum announcement](#) or contact Will Delavan at 717-783-8727 or e-mail wdelavan@state.pa.us .

Link: [Documenting Streambank Erosion - Bigger Problem Than Originally Thought](#)

Volunteers Needed for Ohio River Sweep Set for June 16

Volunteers are needed for the [2007 Ohio River Sweep](#) cleanup event to join thousands of other people who care enough about the environment to pick up trash and litter along the Ohio, Allegheny and Monongahela rivers and streams all over the Ohio River Basin.

The River Sweep is organized by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission with the help of the Department of Environmental Protection in Pennsylvania.

For more information, visit the [River Sweep webpage](#) or call 800-359-3977.

Railpower Hybrid Corp. Among EPA Clean Air Award Winners

[Railpower Hybrid Corp.](#) of Erie was one of the 13 winners of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 7th Annual Clean Air Excellence Awards.

They were chosen from 75 applicants around the country for outstanding accomplishments in reducing air emissions.

"Congratulations to the winners of the 7th annual Clean Air Excellence Awards. One should never underestimate the power of American innovation," said William L. Wehrum, acting assistant administrator for Air and Radiation. "These original ideas and cutting-edge projects embody our nation's unwavering commitment to cleaner, healthier air."

Railpower Hybrid Corp. won in the Clean Technology category for developing two models of an ultra-clean switching locomotive called the Green Goat.

Operating under the slogan "Better Economics, Better Environment," Railpower has been active in the development, marketing, and production of hybrid technologies applicable in the rail and port sectors.

Railpower locomotives have been designated as Ultra Low Emitting Locomotives by the California Air Resources Board and have subsequently been used in government-

funded incentive programs, such as the Carl Moyer Program in California and the Texas Emission Reduction Plan.

The Green Goat prototype was developed in 2000, completed in 2001, and tested in 2002. The first hybrid switching locomotive is in service at the Union Pacific Railroad in Roseville, CA; over 100 RailPower Locomotives are currently in service. Railpower produced close to 50 units in 2006 and currently maintains a backlog order of 50 to 100 units.

The program was established in the year 2000 at the recommendation of the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee, a senior-level policy committee that advises EPA on implementing the Clean Air Act.

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

For more information on the Green Goat, visit the [Railpower Hybrid Corp website.](#)

McNeil PPC In Lititz Winner of EPA Performance Track Award

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the winners of the 2007 [Environmental Performance Track Awards](#) that included McNeil PPC in Lancaster County.

Performance Track's 2007 Environmental Performance Awards recognize members that have demonstrated exemplary environmental performance during their participation in the program, particularly during the 2005 calendar year.

The principal evaluation criteria for this award were progress made toward performance goals and the breadth and challenge level of the member's performance commitments.

This evaluation was supplemented with consideration of the member's annual performance report quality, compliance history, and community outreach efforts. This year, there are four recipients of the Performance Track Environmental Performance Award.

McNeil PPC is a leading manufacturer of consumer healthcare products and is becoming a global leader in corporate responsibility.

As a charter member of Performance Track, McNeil's facility in Lititz, Pennsylvania (formerly owned by Pfizer), is doing just that. By 2006, the facility had replaced all equipment containing ozone-depleting CFC refrigerants with less harmful models using HFC refrigerants.

Between 2003 and 2005, despite a 5 percent increase in production, the plant managed to reduce its annual energy use by 7,000 million BTU-a 6-percent decrease. At the same time, the facility reduced its water use by 24 percent, thanks to a hot-loop system that uses high temperature water to kill bacteria, thereby eliminating the need for purging spent process water.

McNeil PPC also improved its condensate recovery system with the installation of new flash tanks, pumps, traps, and high-pressure de-aeration equipment. Modifications in the distribution system and controls for purified water increased the life of filters, thus reducing the volume of water discharged to drains. And by adopting longer production cycles, the plant reduced the number of changeovers and cleanings required for tanks, piping, and vessels.

Since 2003, the plant has reduced sediment runoff to the Chesapeake Bay by 178 tons per year and reduced annual discharges of nitrogen and phosphorous by 1.9 tons.

McNeil PPC also was a key partner in a restoration project in the Lititz Run Watershed, which involved restoring a 900- foot stream corridor and floodplain adjacent to the McNeil site.

Specifically, the project entailed cutting a new stream channel, removing more than 7,000 tons of soil from the area, and stabilizing the stream banks using native plants and grasses. For its continued environmental efforts and community outreach, Performance Track is pleased to recognize McNeil PPC with its second Performance Award.

The Performance Track Fifth Annual Progress Report details members' environmental accomplishments from 2000 – 2005. The cumulative results show members reducing their water use by 3.5 billion gallons, greenhouse gas emissions by 97,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, hazardous waste generation by 130,000 tons, and non-hazardous waste generation by 600,000 tons. Members have also restored or protected more than 14,000 acres of wildlife habitat.

The Performance Track program recognizes and drives environmental excellence by encouraging facilities with strong environmental records to go above and beyond their legal requirements.

Members, who include major corporations, small businesses, and public facilities, typically set four public, measurable goals to improve the quality of our nation's air, water, and land. Since the program's inception in June 2000, Performance Track membership has grown to more than 450 facilities in 46 states and Puerto Rico, and members have made more than 1,500 commitments to the environment.

For more information, visit the [Environmental Performance Track webpage](#).

Governor Sets Public Meetings to Follow Outdoor Conference

Gov. Rendell this week announced that five public meetings will be held across the state to present findings from the recent [Governor's Outdoor Conference](#) and solicit additional ideas and recommendations about keeping people connected to nature.

“We need to continue exploring ways to keep people connected to our abundant natural resources,” Gov. Rendell said. “These meetings will make it easier for people from across the state to learn about the findings from our outdoor conference and contribute new ideas to strengthen our outdoor connections.

“The information gleaned from the conference we held in March, and these post-conference meetings, will be incorporated into a final report by the end of the year with recommendations for action,” the Governor said.

The public meetings will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on:

- May 24, Room 112, Tom Ridge Environmental Center at Presque Isle State Park, Erie;
- May 31, McGowan Building, King's College, Wilkes-Barre;
- June 6, Boyce Park Ski Lodge, Monroeville, Allegheny County;
- June 14, Aldie Mansion, 85 Old Dublin Pike, Doylestown, Bucks County; and
- June 21, Susquehanna Room, Fish and Boat Commission Headquarters, 1601 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg

“I especially encourage young people to participate in these meetings since their insights will be helpful in reversing trends that show their bond to our natural resources is weakening,” Gov. Rendell said.

The meetings will be structured in a way that participants will be asked specific questions in order to gather additional ideas on how to tackle the most pressing issues.

The presentations made at the meetings also will be available for use by organizations and individuals who wish to inform and solicit ideas from their constituents and stakeholders.

“The conference participants did an excellent job laying a foundation for a broader conversation about protecting and enhancing our natural heritage and relationship with the outdoors,” the Governor said. “These issues have the potential to affect so many things, including children’s health, the vitality of our rural areas, our quality of life and the future of the state’s billion-dollar hunting industry.”

Data from the public forums will be compared with the conference data and other feedback collected during the post-conference process. A task force will use all the information collected as the basis for the final report.

Approximately 300 people, including policy makers, business representatives, sportsmen’s groups, conservation organizations and representatives of the health and education sectors, participated in the first-of-its-kind Governor’s Outdoor Conference, March 18-20, in State College.

The conference website will provide full access to the information presented at the conference once it is processed. Online forums will continue to provide opportunities to engage in a meaningful discussion about improving connections between Pennsylvanians and the outdoors.

For more information, visit the [Governor’s Outdoor Conference website](#).

PCN Tours State Parks In New Regular Series Starting May 18

The Pennsylvania Cable Network has joined forces with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to showcase the beauty and versatility of the state’s park system with a series of tours guided by Pennsylvania’s expert state park staff.

The program is designed to highlight the unique features of 10 selected Pennsylvania State Parks. The Commonwealth is home to 117 state parks all of which are filled with wonderful opportunities for the active individual or those interested in a quiet getaway to get back in touch with nature.

"We're really excited because the PCN state park tour series will help us to visually showcase some of our most impressive state parks," said DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. "It's just another way we are encouraging Pennsylvanians every day to have more of an appreciation of their surroundings, to get outdoors and to visit our beautiful public lands."

"We at PCN are very proud to partner with DCNR to highlight all that Pennsylvania has to offer," said Brian Lockman, PCN President and CEO. "As the network for Pennsylvania, it just seems to be the perfect fit to have PCN travel around the state and take viewers along for the ride to experience the outdoor treasures offered throughout the Commonwealth."

Ten parks were chosen for the series. Each was chosen to showcase its natural beauty, historical significance, and outdoor activities--

- May 18: 8:00 p.m. - Oil Creek State Park;
- May 25: 8:00 p.m. - Cook Forest State Park/Clear Creek State Park;
- June 1: 8:00 p.m. - Cherry Springs State Park;
- June 9: 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. - Leonard Harrison State Park;
- June 22: 8:00 p.m. - Hickory Run State Park;
- June 29: 8:00 p.m. - Lehigh Gorge State Park;

- July 6: 8:00 p.m. - Ricketts Glen State Park;
- July 13: 8:00 p.m. - Canoe Creek State Park;
- July 20: 8:00 p.m. - Ohiopyle State Park; and
- July 27: 8:00 p.m. - Presque Isle State Park.

For more information on these and other parks, visit DCNR's [State Parks webpage](#).

Westmoreland Home School Students Win County Envirothon

For the third year in a row, students from the Westmoreland Enrichment Classes, a group of home school students based in Norwin, this week won the Westmoreland County Conservation District Envirothon.

The Westmoreland Enrichment Classes team of Faith Hipple, Heather Holbein, Matthew Holbein, Naomi Westerman, and Evan Zajdel bested 105 other students representing 11 other Westmoreland County high

schools in their knowledge of forests, soil, wildlife, aquatic environments, and alternative energy during the day-long Envirothon, held on May 7 at Mammoth Park.

The [Envirothon](#) is an academic competition in which teams of ninth- to twelfth-grade students vie against each other in outdoor situations that test their knowledge of the natural world. The program began in Pennsylvania, but expanded rapidly to include competitions throughout North America.

The Enrichment Classes team now is preparing for the next leg of the competition – the Pennsylvania State Envirothon – which will be held on May 21 and 22 at Penn State University, University Park, in Centre County. The winner of the state competition then goes on to the national/international Envirothon at Hobart & William Smith Colleges in New York from July 29 to August 4.

Franklin Regional High School brought two teams to the competition, and they took both second and third place. The Franklin Regional team of Kevin Baldasare, Alex Fontaine, Tim Forrester, Kevin Iacovino, and Amy Kerschner took second place and the Franklin Regional team of Zach Flynn, Benjy Lombard, Sean McHugh, Matt O'Brien, and Chris Slatosky took third place.

One of the teams' advisors, Tom Pearson, has been preparing teams for the competition for every one of the 22 years it has been held. He is retiring from teaching this year.

Also competing were teams from Burrell, Derry Area Senior, Greensburg Central Catholic, Greensburg Salem, Kiski Area, The Kiski School, Mount Pleasant Area, Norwin Senior, Southmoreland, and Yough Senior high schools.



L to R - Tammy Deemer, advisor, and students Naomi Westerman, Matthew Holbein, Heather Holbein, Faith Hipple, and Evan Zajdel. WCCC Photo

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Assisting the [Westmoreland Conservation District](#) in hosting this year's Envirothon were the following partners: The Game Commission; the DCNR Bureau of Forestry; the Natural Resources Conservation Service; Penn State Cooperative Extension, Westmoreland County; the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation; Carnegie Museum of Natural History's Powdermill Nature Reserve; and Westmoreland Cleanways.

Major corporate underwriters of the 2007 Westmoreland County Envirothon are Cleveland Brothers CAT, Giant Eagle, and Sony Technology Center.

Deadline Extended For Ralph W. Abele College Scholarships, Due June 15

High school seniors and current college students have until June 15 to submit applications for a [Ralph W. Abele Conservation Scholarships](#). This year one or more scholarships totaling up to \$4,000 will be awarded.

The Abele Scholarship was formed in 1991 as a living memorial to [Ralph W. Abele](#) who provided extraordinary leadership to the Fish and Boat Commission and to Pennsylvania's conservation movement.

Abele scholarships are considered for students giving a priority to seniors or graduates of the Greenwood Area School District in Perry County, second preference to residents of Perry County and children of employees of the Fish and Boat Commission and then other residents of Pennsylvania.

Applicants must be admitted to or enrolled in an approved institution of higher learning with a stated objective of studying one of the environmental disciplines at the undergraduate or graduate level.

A written application is required and the scholarship selection will be based on an applicant's potential, his or her interest in conservation education and demonstrated commitment to conservation.

For more information, visit the [Ralph W. Abele Conservation Scholarships webpage](#) for applications and background. For an electronic application, send email to: JGreene62@comcast.net.

PA Center for Environmental Ed May EE Connections Newsletter Now Online

The [May issue of the EE Connections](#) newsletter from the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) is now available online. The highlights from this month's issue include--

General News: Rachel Carson Centennial, Mechanicsburg E-Day, Lower Susquehanna River Sweep Cleanup, Backyard Composting in Pennsylvania, Harrisburg Peregrine Falcon Lays Five Eggs, Celebrate Endangered Species Day, Meet the Greens.

K-12 News: Get Your Green On' Science Competition, Junior Forest Steward Program, American Water Hydro School, Higher Education, The Macoskey Center's Wind Turbine, Arcadia University's Environmental Education Summer Institute

Professional Development: Alternative and Renewable Energy Workshop, Green Building Alliance Workshops, PennFuture Clean Energy Conference, No Child Left Inside, Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference, New Urbanism and the Old City

Conference, GASP Teacher Trainings, Agriculture in the Classroom, Allegheny Mountain Green Festival, Environmental Studies Summit, International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment, AASHE Workshop.

Grants/Awards: Pennsylvania Composting Grants, Pennsylvania Clean Energy Grants, USDA Grants, Brower Youth Awards.

Join the 11,300 people that receive EE Connections directly by email. To get your own copy, send an email to: info@pcee.org or visit the EE Connections [sign-up webpage](#).

National Arbor Day Foundation Hosts Seminar on Restoring Native Ecosystems

The National Arbor Day Foundation will present a day-long “[Practice of Restoring Native Ecosystems](#)” seminar in Philadelphia on June 26.

The Practice of Restoring Native Ecosystems is becoming a crucial element in the effort to maintain natural systems habitats.

This seminar will examine the principles behind the concept of restoration as well as important issues, approaches, and techniques. Case studies will be included to provide real-world examples to show how you can apply what you learn in your own projects.

The seminar's instructors include Steve Apfelbaum and William Young of Applied Ecological Services.

The program is presented in cooperation with several local organizations: Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Penn State Forest Resources, Heritage Conservancy, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and Wildlands Conservancy.

For a complete agenda and seminar registration and fee information, visit the [seminar webpage](#) or contact the National Arbor Day Foundation at 888-448-7337.

Link: [DCNR Resource Newsletter](#)

Pennsylvania Joins Climate Registry to Track Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Pennsylvania was one of 31 states announced as charter members of [The Climate Registry](#), marking the largest national effort to take action on climate change.

The list of founding member states and tribes thus far includes the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming and the Campo Kumeyaay Nation. Two Canadian provinces, British Columbia and Manitoba, have also committed to participate.

Participants range from states that have been moving forward with aggressive mandatory greenhouse gas emissions reduction programs, to those that are taking initial steps to address the challenge. Both Republican and Democratic governors are well represented and the states are geographically diverse.

The newly formed climate registry is a tool to measure, track, verify and publicly report GHG emissions accurately, transparently and consistently across borders and industry sectors. This is a critical first step in developing robust programs to reduce GHG

emissions. The registry will support voluntary, market-based and regulatory GHG emissions reporting programs.

"You have to be able to count carbon pollution in order to cut carbon pollution," said Frances Beinecke, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council. "The Registry gives business and policymakers an essential accounting tool for tracking the success of the many emerging global warming emission reduction initiatives that are blossoming across the country."

"We believe a credible reporting system of greenhouse gas emissions is the first step in developing government policy and corporate programs that will change behaviors, spark innovation and deliver reductions of greenhouse gas emissions," said Bob Malone, Chairman and President of BP America.

Organizers say this week's announcement signals the launch of an unprecedented cooperative effort in North America. By working together, registry members are laying the foundation for climate actions that will benefit generations to come.

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

Energy Efficiency Workshop for Universities, K-12 Schools June 19

The Department of Environmental Protection will host an energy efficiency workshop in Cranberry Township, Butler County on June 19 for universities and K-12 school districts.

The workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Regional Learning Alliance, 850 Cranberry Woods Dr., Cranberry Township, PA.

Featured speakers include:

- Key Fraizer, Energy Management Coordinator, Pittsburgh School District;
- Guy McUmbur, DEP and Doreen Petri, Northwest Collegiate Academy on the Northwest PA Collegiate Building Assessment;
- Roy Sierleja, GE Lighting, on lighting efficiencies and energy management;
- Sr. Mary Christopher on "It's Not Expensive Being Green;"
- Carl Luisi, Local #95 International Union of Operating Engineers, on technology and maintenance opportunities; and
- Dana Ferry, California University, on how energy conservation will save you money;

To make reservation send email to: gmcumber@state.pa.us or call 814-332-6352 by June 14.

PUC Finalizes Overall Strategy for Addressing Electric Rates After Caps

The Public Utility Commission this week approved the final regulations and policy statement that will establish the rules for default service for electric generation as well as a plan to mitigate and prepare Pennsylvania electricity customers for potential significant price increases that included the possibility of a \$5 million consumer-education campaign.

As part of this overall strategy for preparing consumers for potential increase in generation costs, the Commission voted 4-0 to approve [a motion](#) by Commissioner Terrance Fitzpatrick that included initiating consumer-education efforts regarding energy efficiency, conservation and demand side response and low-income programs. Chairman Wendell F. Holland issued a concurring and [dissenting statement](#) on the plan.

The Commission also voted unanimously to adopt the final rulemaking and policy statement that governs how electric generation service is provided to customers who choose not to obtain generation service from an alternate electric generation supplier.

The default service regulations are one of the most important rulemakings for the Commission since the restructuring of the electric industry. The Commission reopened the public comment period for the regulations in November 2005 to address conditions in the wholesale market and the relationship between the default service rulemaking and the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act of 2004.

Rulemaking

In developing the [final rulemaking](#), the Commission attempted to craft rules that represented a balanced approach to acquiring reasonable priced supply in a manner that balanced the interest of all stakeholders, while meeting the requirements of the 1996 electric competition law. The law requires electric distribution companies, or a Commission approved alternative supplier, to provide default electric generation service to customers who have not selected an alternative electric generation supplier. The final rulemaking addresses: competitive safeguards; program terms and conditions of service; procurement and implementation plans; standards for transferring customer accounts; rate design including the “price to compare;” and recovery of costs.

The rulemaking now goes before the state’s Independent Regulatory Review Commission, the Office of Attorney General, Governor’s Budget Office and the standing committees in both houses of the General Assembly for review. Once that review is completed, the regulations would become file one published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Policy Statement

The [policy statement](#) contains guidelines for the default service providers in the areas of procurement, rate design and cost recovery.

The Commission recognized that some elements of the default service rules should be addressed in a policy statement rather than a rulemaking because changes in markets and technology may result in an approach that is too narrowly tailored or too unresponsive to serve the state’s interests.

The policy statement includes:

- Addresses retail market issues;
- Recommends that default service providers give customers the option to defer paying some portion of a rate increase for a period of time under certain conditions;
- Addresses interim price adjustments and cost reconciliation;
- Allows default service providers to craft an approach for electric generation supply procurement that is best suited to its own territory; and
- Includes an array of guidelines intended to improve competitive solicitation processes.

The policy statement also establishes a Retail Markets Working Group to develop policy recommendations, which are aimed at removing barriers to retail market development including rate-ready billing, customer referral programs, uniform statewide supplier tariffs and a retail choice ombudsman at both the Commission and Electric Distribution Companies.

The policy statement will become effective when published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. The policy statement may be revised based on experience gained from future proceedings. The Commission also may move some elements of the policy statement to the default service regulations in the future.

Policies to Mitigate Potential Electricity Price Increases

The Commission [developed policies](#) to mitigate and prepare Pennsylvania electricity customers for potential significant price increase that included a \$5 million consumer-education campaign.

“This represents an important milestone in the Commission’s efforts to respond to the potential for significant electricity price increases as generation rate caps expire,” said Commissioner Fitzpatrick. “I agree with the policies established in the Order for consumer education by utilities, energy conservation and reduction in peak demand, alternatives to abrupt price increases, assistance to low-income customers, and the relationship between wholesale energy markets and retail rates. Together with the policies that will soon be established in related proceedings, such as those involving default service rules and demand side response, the Commission is establishing a reasonable, comprehensive framework to help consumers in Pennsylvania deal with the potential for higher electricity prices.”

Many of the comments filed in the proceeding said that consumer education is a vital element of any plan to mitigate price increases. To be consistent with the Public Utility Code, the Commission will include the \$5 million in funding in its 2008-09 budget request to be submitted to the General Assembly and the Governor.

The consumer-education campaign assessment will be paid only by electric utilities as electric generation prices will be the focus of the information presented. These costs may be recovered from customers similarly to the way they recover other costs assessed by the Commission. The Commission’s Office of Communications is to convene interested stakeholders within 60 days to begin developing the campaign.

Under the plan, the state’s Electric Distribution Companies (EDCs) also will implement consumer-education plans for their service territory that will help mitigate the impact of price increases or educate customers about energy conservation and efficiency, and demand side response. The plans would be subject to Commission approval and be tailored to each service territory.

The Commission also will:

- Conclude its Investigation of Conservation, Energy Efficiency Activities, and Demand Side response by Energy Utilities and Ratemaking Mechanisms to Promote Such Efforts;
- Consider proposals to avoid large, abrupt retail electric rates on a case-by-case basis;
- Initiate a rulemaking process to modify its Customer Assistance Programs (CAPs) policy statement and regulations to address funding levels and cost recovery;
- Actively participate in the Universal Service Task Force and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Advisory Committee to secure state funding for low-income energy customers;
- Address specific requests for Low Income Usage Reduction Program (LIURP) funding increases when opportunities arise; and
- Continue its policy of active participation in federal and regional proceedings that impact electricity prices.

The PUC [final rulemaking order](#), [policy statement on default service](#) and [policy statement on mitigating potential electric rate increases](#) are available online.

NewsClip: [PUC Acts to Prepare for Electric Rate Hikes](#)
[PA Issues Policy Statement, Rules on Future Default Service](#)
[Duquesne Light Power Rate Plan Advances](#)
[WV County Opposes PA to VA Power Line](#)

[Group Recommends Grid Operator Back 2 Massive Power Lines](#)
[DeWeese Sponsoring Anti-Power Line Resolution](#)
[PUC Member Defends Electric Competition](#)
[PUC Approves PPL 2010 Power Purchase Plan](#)
[PPL Bills Headed Higher](#)

Competition Working in Electric Industry in Pennsylvania Expert Says

The cost of electricity, which has been capped at the retail level in Pennsylvania for the past 11 years, would have to increase more than 40 percent when the caps come off over the next few years to outpace inflation over the same period, the President of the Electric Power Generation Association, Douglas L. Biden, told Pennsylvania's largest industrial users this week in Harrisburg.

Speaking before the Industrial Energy Consumers of PA, Biden added that Pennsylvania consumers pay 12 percent less for electricity today than they paid in 1996 (adjusted for inflation). "Clearly, consumers have benefited greatly from those price caps," Biden said.

"People look to the future knowing the rates are going to increase when the caps come off and tend to blame it on the restructuring of the market," Biden said. "So they recoil from the market and reach for 'solutions' that will make things worse. But the truth is the market is working very well, and has helped to mitigate cost increases, which are almost entirely due to the recent increases in fuel costs, and the increased expenditures for environmental compliance."

Biden cited that the cost of coal more than doubled between 2000 and 2005 before declining slightly in 2006. The price of natural gas, which powers many of the newer power plants, increased almost four-fold between 1999 and 2005, before moderating in 2006.

Moreover, Biden told the group that environmental regulations impact the generators choice of fuel, capital and operating costs, and even unit retirements.

"We must meet our responsibilities to adhere to the federal Clear Air Interstate Rule, stringent state mercury emissions regulations, the Clean Water Act and other current regulatory requirements as well as ones coming down the road," Biden said. "Complying with all of these requirements adds significantly to the cost of generation." In addition, Biden said that compliance can also force generators to retire older capacity. Replacing that capacity with new state-of-the-art generation requires higher wholesale prices to support the investment.

"EPA estimates that 5,000 MW will retire because of the CAIR and the Clean Air Mercury Rule," Biden said. "Consultant estimates are more than double that amount." Biden said that the generating industry fully supports working with the Public Utility Commission, industry, and other consumers of electricity to mitigate electric rate increases when the caps come off over the next few years. But he cautioned against changes to the competitive market.

"Without competition, the prospect of even higher energy costs would be much greater," Biden said.

A full copy of the presentation [is available online](#).

For more information visit the [EPGA](#) or [PA Energy News](#) websites or call 717-909-EPGA.

Recycled Tire Economic Development Forum to be Held May 21

The [Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center](#) will hold a Recycled Tire Rubber Economic Development Forum on May 21 in the Harrisburg.

The focus of the forum is to strategically evaluate economic development opportunities for recycled tire use in the Commonwealth.

As sustainable tire recycling continues to be a challenge for both supply and demand side proprietors, the RMC is poised to enhance use of tires as a RMC priority commodity. Cooperation in the Economic Development Forum will assist the RMC to create sustainable action items and programmatic activity for expansion of this pivotal recycling industry in the Commonwealth.

For this engagement, invited guests and RMC partners will be requested to participate in a facilitated roundtable on demand-side tire recycling challenges. These challenges not only limit the pathway to further beneficial uses of recycled tire rubber, but ultimately result in lost opportunities for job creation and expansion in the Commonwealth.

Anticipated discussion outcomes from the event include refinement of process development initiatives, strategic partnering opportunities, tire rubber use and manufacturing innovations, review of tire rubber supply chain logistics, and deployment of workforce development initiatives.

Approximately 12.5 million used tires are generated in Pennsylvania each year. The three largest scrap tire markets include: tire derived fuel, civil engineering applications and ground rubber applications.

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center website](#) or contact Bob Bylone, Executive Director at rjb128@psu.edu or 717-948-6660.

PennVEST's Paul Marchetti Receives James McGirr Kelly Award

Paul K. Marchetti, executive director of the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority was presented with the James McGirr Kelly Award for Excellence from the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Water Companies at the organization's annual meeting and awards luncheon this week in Harrisburg.

The award is presented annually to the resident of Pennsylvania who most exemplified dedication to promoting the availability of safe drinking water in the Commonwealth.

"Director Marchetti has been very active in advancing the quality and delivery of safe drinking water in the Commonwealth and has played a leadership role in providing financial incentives for the repair and replacement of aging water and wastewater infrastructure" said NAWC-PA chairman John Hollenbach, vice president and manager, United Water Pennsylvania.

PENNVEST is the largest source of grants and loans in Pennsylvania for water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure. Since 1988, PENNVEST has invested \$4.3 billion, including \$4.2 billion in loans and \$105 million in grants, to undertake 2,114 water and wastewater infrastructure improvement projects across Pennsylvania.

In accepting the award, Marchetti pointed out that the award is the result of hard work and many contributions by his staff, the PENNVEST Board of Directors and Governor Rendell. He noted that, under Governor Rendell's leadership, PENNVEST has

redirected funding to distressed systems, to promote the economic revitalization of established areas. The funding is used to upgrade systems to protect the health and safety of citizens and encourage job growth, without putting too much of a burden on ratepayers.

Marchetti was appointed executive director of PENNVEST in 1988. He previously served as a fiscal policy specialist in the Governor's Office of Budget; senior economist, U.S. Government Accountability Office; and staff economist to the director of the Office of Noise Abatement and Control in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, he served as president of the Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities from 1994 to 1996.

Marchetti holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Massachusetts, and earned his Masters of Arts and Ph. D. in Economics from the University of Maryland where he specialized in public finance and social policy.

The annual award for excellence was named for the late James McGirr Kelly, Senior United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Judge Kelly was a former member of the Public Utility Commission and former vice president of American Water Works Service Company, Inc. He was the first recipient of the award in 1983. The recipient of the award is chosen by the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Water Companies.

Other award recipients have included educators, engineers, members of the Public Utility Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection, legislators, citizen activists and three governors. They include: Rep. Carole Rubley, Terrance J. Fitzpatrick, Fredrick A. Marrocco, David E. Hess, John M. Quain, Sen. Raphael J. Musto, Walter A. Lyon, Michael D. Klein, David A. Long, PhD, Gov. Tom Ridge, Sen. David J. Brightbill, Wendell F. Holland, William R. Shane, William R. Lloyd, Edith D. Stevens, Dr. Ruth Patrick, Gov. Robert P. Casey, Sen. D. Michael Fisher, George I. Bloom, Clifford L. Jones, Dr. Maurice K. Goddard and Gov. Dick Thornburgh.

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy Appoints Thomas D. Saunders as New President

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy announced the selection of Thomas D. Saunders as President and Chief Executive Officer this week to lead the 75-year old nonprofit land and water conservation organization.

Saunders succeeds Dennis McGrath, who served as CEO until December of 2007. Thomas Saunders comes to the Conservancy from Gainesville, Florida where he was Community Development Director for the City of Gainesville for the past ten years. In that role, Saunders directed planning, growth management, redevelopment, housing, historic preservation, neighborhood planning and other duties.

His approach to planning is noted for its careful growth management, protection of tree canopies and environmental qualities, and enhancement of public and open spaces in areas needing revitalization. Saunders also served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Florida School of Law.

Prior to that, Saunders was director of the Maryland Environmental Trust, a statewide land trust that also serves as the parent organization for 40 local land trusts across the state. As one of the largest conservation and voluntary preservation easement-holding organizations in the country, the Maryland Environmental Trust works with property owners across the state on planning and conservation efforts.

[The complete announcement is available online.](#)

DEP Names New Small Business Ombudsman, Director of Communications

Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty today announced the appointment of Julien Gaudion as the department's new small business ombudsman and Michael Smith as its director of communications.

Gaudion has served as Secretary McGinty's executive assistant since 2003 and will replace Jeanne Dworetzky, who will focus exclusively on her duties as executive director of the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority.

Smith joins the department from the Governor's communications office, where he served as communications manager. Prior to that, he worked in the press office at the state Department of Agriculture.

Help Wanted: Fish & Boat Commission, PA Healthy Waters Campaign

The Fish and Boat Commission and American Rivers are looking to fill positions in the near future. Here are the details....

The **Fish and Boat Commission** is seeking an [Environmental Education Specialist](#) for Southwestern Pennsylvania. This position assists the Southwest Aquatic Resources Program Specialist in the coordination, development, implementation, and presentation of aquatic resource learning and interpretive programs to the general public, Commission personnel, other state agency personnel, and other professional organizations and associations. Applications are due May 24.

The **Fish and Boat Commission** is seeking applicants for a [Fishing and Boating Access Improvement Coordinator](#) to be responsible for the development, planning and administration of the Commission's statewide Fishing and Boating Access Improvement Program. Applications are due June 15.

American Rivers is looking for an Associate Director for the Pennsylvania Healthy Waters Campaign to represent the [American Rivers' Healthy Waters Campaign](#) in Pennsylvania. The job focuses primarily on promoting natural stormwater management and reducing sewage pollution by working with local and state leaders to reform use of state clean water funds to direct more funding towards non-structural solutions. This position also involves working in collaboration with local officials to initiate non-structural projects on the ground. The position is located in Harrisburg. For more information, contact Katherine Baer, Director, Healthy Waters, American Rivers, 1101 14th St. NW, Suite 1400, Washington, DC 20005 or send email to: kbaer@americanrivers.org.

Quick Clips

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

[Cedar Cliff, Carlisle Teams Earn State Envirothon Berths](#)

[CCEEC Envirothon Slated for Next Week](#)

[Suspended for Class: Students Enjoy Alternative Lessons for Earth](#)

[Water Pollutants Concern Mt. Lebanon High School Students](#)
[Youth Outdoor Possibilities Grow](#)
[Students Put Environmental Lessons to Work](#)
[Campus Dumpster Diving Seen As Way to Recycle](#)
[Cedar Cliff Plans Belated Earth Day](#)
[Heinz Endowments Gives \\$5 Million to Create Environmental Center](#)
[Volunteers Clean Up Canal Site](#)
[Volunteers Pick Up 11 Million Tons of Roadside Rubbish](#)
[Editorial: Federal Fund to Improve Landscape is Underused](#)
[Nature Has Voice in Bethlehem Housing Plan](#)
[Gamesa Says Wind Farms Safe Despite PA Mishap](#)
[Gamesa Seeks to Build More Wind Turbines in Central PA](#)
[Group Cautious on Wind Turbines](#)
[Op-Ed: Energy Independence Will Lower Our Bills](#)
[PUC Member Defends Electric Competition](#)
[Group Recommends Grid Operator Back 2 Massive Power Lines](#)
[DeWeese Sponsoring Anti-Power Line Resolution](#)
[Ethanol Taking Roots in Westmoreland Corn Fields](#)
[Biodiesel Group Seeks State Tax Credit](#)
[Editorial: New Energy Policy Would Aid State Businesses, Homeowners](#)
[Duquesne Light Power Rate Plan Advances](#)
[WV County Opposes PA to VA Power Line](#)
[House Panel Advances Illness-Cluster Bill](#)
[Wildwood Park Canoeists See Lake From New Angle](#)
[Boat Launch Offers Birders Prime Viewing](#)
[Game Commission President Gets Boost](#)
[A Butterfly Oasis](#)
[Mine Rescuers Train in PA for Danger](#)
[Bill Will Provide Support of Mining Families](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

- [POWR Strategic Survey Results Posted](#)

[Students Recognized for Testing Wissahickon Creek](#)
[Revitalized Habitat Attracting More Wildlife to Lititz](#)
[Somerset Conservation District Holds Public Tour](#)
[PA Farm Aid Program Ripe for Change?](#)
[Keeping Creek Going With the Flow](#)
[Green Roof Project Largest in Region](#)
[Group to Restore Bushkill Creek Damaged by Flooding](#)
[Schuylkill Partnership Celebrates Drinking Water Week With School Awards](#)
[Bedford Springs Reports Restoration of Classic Golf Course Design](#)
[Mercer County Awards Growing Greener Funds](#)
[DEP Joins Great Lakes States in Case on Ballast Water](#)

[York Springs Water Judged Best in State](#)

Regulations

The Environmental Quality Board meets May 16 to consider several rulemaking packages and published for comment a list of proposed stream redesignations. The Department of Environmental Protection is inviting comments on an Ozone Transport Commission MOU and an update radon contractor certification list ([PaB 2253](#)). Details below....

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold a meeting on the Ozone Transport Commission [MOU on High Energy Demand Days](#) (*formal notice*) on May 30 and is seeking comments by June 1.

The [Environmental Quality Board](#) meets May 16 to consider action on drinking water, mine safety and alternative fuel incentive grant program as well as a petition on idling diesel engines (details below).

Proposed Rulemaking - Public Notice on Drinking Water Systems: DEP is proposing changes to the Safe Drinking Water regulations to strengthen the public notice requirements for imminent threats and situations (known as Tier I incidents). Tier 1 incidents include situations that have the significant potential to cause serious adverse effects on human health as a result of short-term exposure to the affected water.

Proposed Rulemaking - Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA Consistency): This proposed rulemaking updates the safety requirements in Chapter 209 (relating to coal mines) to be consistent with the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration regulations.

Final-Omitted Rulemaking - Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Regulations: This final-omitted rulemaking will repeal the current regulations to eliminate conflicting requirements in the out-dated regulations. Repealing the out-dated regulations will enhance the effective administration of the AFIG program, since the AFIG program can be adequately and effectively administered utilizing the instructions contained in the act, as amended.

Proposed Rulemaking - Hazardous Waste Amendments: The proposed amendments remove obsolete provisions and correct inaccurate references currently in the regulations; delete the outdated co-product transition scheme; and simplify the reporting requirements for hazardous waste manifests and universal wastes to eliminate unnecessary reports and to reduce paperwork requirements. The rulemaking also proposes the addition of two new categories of universal wastes, including oil-based finishes (paint, varnishes, stains, etc.) and silver containing spent photographic solutions. Universal wastes are managed under reduced requirements in order to encourage recycling and proper management.

Report on Petition to Adopt a Regulation: Pursuant to the EQB's acceptance of the petition for further study on January 17, 2007, the DEP prepared a report evaluating the petition. In the report, DEP concluded it is authorized by the Air Pollution Control Act to

adopt and enforce a statewide anti-idling regulation and recommends that the EQB direct the department to develop such a rule.

For copies of the agenda items, visit the [Environmental Quality Board webpage](#) or contact DEP Regulatory Coordinator Michelle Tate at 717 783-8727 or e-mail at mtate@state.pa.us .

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – May 12, 2007](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

No new technical guidance published this week.

[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](#)

- **May 14** – Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Listening Session. Mercer County Conservation District, 747 Greenville Road, Mercer. 10:00.
- **May 15** – Primary Election Day.
- **May 15** – Department of Community and Economic Development [public hearing](#) on the state Weatherization Assistance Program. Conference Room 4W-1, 4th Floor, Keystone Building. 10:00.
- **May 16** – [Environmental Quality Board](#) meets to consider proposed and final rulemakings. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **May 17** - Rachel Carson Forum on Legacy Sediments. Auditorium, Rachel Carson Building. Noon.
- **May 17** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center Advisory Board](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is August 16.
- **May 21** – Environmental Issues Forum. [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) meets to hear a presentation on the federal Abandoned Mine Land Fund. Hearing Room 2, North Office. 12:00.
- **May 22** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee public hearing on coal bed methane property rights issues. Room 8E-B East Wing. 9:30.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

- **May 22** – House and Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee hearing on dairy pricing. Hearing Room 1, North Office. 9:00.
- **May 23** – DEP [Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board](#) Applicability and Attainment Subcommittee meeting. 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00 a.m.
- **May 23** – DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **May 24** – House Game and Fisheries Committee public hearing on [House Bill 251](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) Amending Title 34 related to game feeders. Hearing Room 1, North Office. 9:00.
- **May 30** – DEP meeting on Ozone Transport Commission [MOU on High Energy Demand Days](#). (*formal notice*) 6th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 11:30.
- **June 5** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure joint committee hearing on energy policy in Pennsylvania. Majority Caucus Room. 10:00.
- **June 12** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure joint committee hearing on energy policy in Pennsylvania. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 10:00.
- **June 21** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Sewage Task Force Meeting. Penn Stater Hotel, State College. 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

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

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

All rights reserved.

Supporting Member PA Outdoor Writers Association

PA Environment Digest is a supporting member of the [Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association](#).