

-PA ——— Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

May 19, 2008

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Brubaker, Musto: Senate Infrastructure Bill Should Be Expanded – Video Blog

At a meeting of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week, Sen. Mike Brubaker (R-Lancaster) and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) said [Senate Bill 2](#) (Earll-R-Erie), a Senate Republican infrastructure proposal, should be expanded to help fund nutrient reduction by farmers and at wastewater plants and to eliminate combined sewer overflows.



Senate Bill 2 was introduced just last Thursday and reported out of the Committee on Tuesday. The legislation would provide \$750 million for drinking water, wastewater, flood control and high hazard dam projects outside Pittsburgh and Philadelphia over ten years funded by gaming revenue.

Sen. Brubaker said the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) should be added to the legislation to make state government a partner in helping sewer system ratepayers and farmers pay for nutrient reduction mandates. To date the state has provided little or no funding to help communities and farmers comply with new nutrient reduction requirements.

Video Blog: [Sen. Brubaker's Remarks During the Committee Meeting](#)

Sen. Brubaker also moderated the Water Resources Forum attended by more than 2,000 members of the PA State Association of Township Supervisors, a supporting organization of the Fair Share Plan, and said he would be working hard to see the Plan is adopted by the General Assembly.

A coalition of environmental, farm, businesses and municipal groups developed the Fair Share Plan to help wastewater plant ratepayers and farmers finance improvements needed to address Chesapeake Bay and statewide water quality improvement mandates while preserving economic opportunity for future homeowners and businesses.

The groups include: PA Municipal Authorities Association, PA Farm Bureau, PA Builders Association, PA Association of Conservation Districts and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. In addition, the PA Association of Realtors, the Federation of Sportsmen Clubs, local government and other groups have voiced their support for the plan.

The seven-year plan includes \$500 million to help finance a portion of the upgrades needed by 184 wastewater treatment plants in the region and \$390 million to help farmers install conservation practices.

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Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) said communities in his and other areas of the state are also facing significant costs for dealing with combined sewer overflows that allow raw sewage to flow into rivers and streams during periods of wet weather.

Sen. Musto has introduced [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) authorizing a \$1 billion bond issue for the repair and upgrade of drinking water and wastewater treatment systems.

Senate Bill 2 was later referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The Committee also reported out [Senate Resolution 283](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) recognizing the accomplishments of Franklin & Marshall Professors Robert Walter and Dorothy Merritts on their research into legacy sediments. The resolution is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) serves as Majority Chair and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) serves as Minority Chair.

For more information on the Pennsylvania Fair Share Plan for Clean Water, visit the [Fair Share Plan webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Lawmaker Proposes Using Slots Money for Water Projects](#)
[Chesapeake Bay Compliance Could Cost \\$11.7 Million](#)
[Senate Committee OKs Slots Cash for Water Issues](#)
[Where are \\$\\$\\$ for Watershed Cleanup?](#)
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Links: [Coalition Proposes Fair Share Clean Water Funding Plan](#)

[16,000 Miles of Polluted Streams Add Urgency to Call for Clean Water Funding](#)
[CBF, Other Groups Ask State to Be a Partner in Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Plan](#)
[40,000 More Acres of Corn, Soybeans Increase Conservation Needs](#)

Link: [Franklin & Marshall Professors Announce Legacy Sediments Article in Science](#)

Video Blog: [Legacy Sediments, Floodplain Restoration](#)

Phosphate Detergent Ban Expanded to Help Improve Water Quality

Gov. Rendell this week signed legislation sponsored by Sen. Mike Brubaker (R-Lancaster) to expand the ban on phosphate detergents statewide to improve water quality.

“Pennsylvania is part of the multi-state Chesapeake 2000 agreement to remove the Chesapeake Bay from the federal list of impaired waters by 2010,” Sen. Brubaker said, noting that under the agreement, the state must reduce its levels of nitrogen going into waterways by 34 percent, phosphorus by 31 percent, and sediment by 11 percent. These reductions are required by both point sources, such as sewage treatment facilities, and nonpoint sources, including farmland and stormwater runoff.



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“More often than not, the reductions required by wastewater treatment plants require large capital investments to install nutrient reduction technology,” Sen. Brubaker said.

However, Sen. Brubaker continued, approximately seven to 12 percent of the phosphorus entering such a plant comes from automatic dishwashing detergents.

The new law requires that the phosphate in household automatic dishwashing detergents be reduced from 8.7 percent by weight as allowed under current law to 0.5 percent by weight by July 1, 2010. This is consistent with the detergent industry’s goal to reduce phosphate in these detergents nationwide on the same timeline, which provides time to develop formulas that meet consumer satisfaction for performance and allows for a smooth transition to the new standard.

“Phasing out the level of phosphate in these detergents will help our communities make progress toward their phosphate reduction goals in a small but significant way that is also cost-effective,” Sen. Brubaker said, adding that a similar phase-out has already occurred in liquid hand dish detergents and laundry detergents. “In fact, calculations show that the elimination of phosphorus from automatic dishwashing detergents will reduce total chemical and sludge costs by 23.8 percent, resulting in an average savings for Pennsylvania of about \$7 million each year.”

“Passage of this legislation lets every household become part of the solution to reducing pollution going into Pennsylvania’s waterways and we want to thank Senator Brubaker for his leadership on this issue,” said Matthew Ehrhart, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Office of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. “Environmental groups, wastewater plant operators, farmers, county conservation districts and builders are working together to support fair share efforts to reduce pollution and sediment runoff and we welcome leadership from the state and federal government to help with these efforts.”

A coalition of environmental, farm, businesses and municipal groups developed the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) to help wastewater plant ratepayers and farmers finance improvements needed to address Chesapeake Bay and statewide water quality improvement mandates while preserving economic opportunity for future homeowners and businesses.

The groups include: PA Municipal Authorities Association, PA Farm Bureau, PA Builders Association, PA Association of Conservation Districts and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. In addition, the PA Association of Realtors, the Federation of Sportsmens Clubs, local government and other groups have voiced their support for the plan.

The seven-year plan includes \$500 million to help finance a portion of the upgrades needed by 184 wastewater treatment plants in the region and \$390 million to help farmers install conservation practices.

“I am very pleased that my colleagues also recognized the value of this measure and overwhelmingly supported [Senate Bill 1017](#) as it moved through the legislative process,” Sen. Brubaker said. “As a member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission and part of the Lancaster County Task Force on the Chesapeake Bay Strategy, I will continue to monitor this situation and to work with stakeholders to develop ideas that will help Pennsylvania address its role in the Strategy.”

Senate Bill 1017 is now Act 15.

For more information on the Pennsylvania Fair Share Plan for Clean Water, visit the [Fair Share Plan webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Gov. Rendell Signs Bill to Limit Phosphate in Water](#)

[Where are \\$\\$\\$ for Watershed Cleanup?](#)
[Woodward Township Pledges More Work to Meet DEP Mandates](#)
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New Federal Farm Bill Promises Aid, But PA Farmers Need \$600 M for Cleanup



Congress this week passed a new federal Farm Bill that would provide \$440 million in additional farm conservation funding divided between the three states in the Chesapeake Bay region, but Pennsylvania farmers alone will need an estimated \$600 million to comply with nutrient reduction requirements, according to the Department of Environmental Protection.

“The bill provides the federal government’s largest single contribution ever to reduce pollution and restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay, a national treasure,” said Chesapeake Bay Foundation President William C. Baker. “This region’s farm families have demonstrated they are willing to put their sweat and equity into conservation practices but can’t shoulder the burden alone.”

“In Pennsylvania, CBF applauds the efforts of Congressman Holden, Senator Casey, and the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation for their leadership and support for this critical legislation,” said CBF’s Pennsylvania Executive Director Matt Ehrhart. “This legislation, along with passage of the Pennsylvania Fair Share Plan, will bring the Commonwealth much closer to achieving its pollution reduction goal.”

A coalition of environmental, farm, businesses and municipal groups developed the [Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) to help wastewater plant ratepayers and farmers finance improvements needed to address Chesapeake Bay and statewide water quality improvement mandates while preserving economic opportunity for future homeowners and businesses.

The groups include: PA Municipal Authorities Association, PA Farm Bureau, PA Builders Association, PA Association of Conservation Districts and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. In addition, the PA Association of Realtors, the Federation of Sportsmen Clubs, local government and other groups have voiced their support for the plan.

The seven-year plan includes \$500 million to help finance a portion of the upgrades needed by 184 wastewater treatment plants in the region and \$390 million to help farmers install conservation practices.

The federal legislation provides \$188 million over the next 4.5 years for a new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program, plus more than \$252 million is expected as the

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regional share of national conservation program increases to be split among the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia.

CBF estimates that the funding could reduce nitrogen pollution by as much as 40 million pounds annually to local rivers, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay, depending on the number of farmers who request the money, the practices they use and state and private matching funds.

The new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program will distribute funding through existing U.S. Department of Agriculture programs, with reference to the “tributary strategy” plans already developed by the states and with priority consideration given to the Susquehanna, Patuxent, Potomac, and Shenandoah river basins.

Cost-share agreements between farmers and the USDA will fund conservation practices such as cover crops, fencing cattle out of streams, and manure management. While the program makes \$188 million in new funds available through 2012, it could continue into the next Farm Bill and be worth as much as \$438 million over 10 years.

“Like many other groups, we believe that several provisions of the bill could be improved,” said CBF Federal Affairs Director Doug Siglin. “However, from the perspective of the Bay, the Farm Bill makes real improvements to current law, and the benefits to water quality in this region will be clear and measurable.”

The historic appropriation comes after many years of efforts by CBF, its members and partners. That work picked up considerable steam three years ago with the release of “Vital Signs,” a CBF report on the state of agriculture in the Chesapeake region.

The report, and others that followed at CBF, documented the critical need for additional federal funds to support conservation practices that ensure healthy farms and healthy streams. CBF staff, trustees, member, and friends worked diligently with members of Congress, farmers, farm organizations, and federal and state officials to rally support for the conservation funds now contained in the Farm Bill.

“CBF has been working with our partners to achieve meaningful federal funding for the Bay and the farm bill for three years,” Baker said. “This is a great day for the Bay, and we thank all the elected officials and CBF member who worked so hard to make this happen. Better water quality will be the result.”

For more information on the Pennsylvania Fair Share Plan for Clean Water, visit the [Fair Share Plan webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Lawmaker Proposes Using Slots Money for Water Projects](#)
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[Much for PA to Like in Federal Farm Bill](#)
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Rep. Perry, 40 Co-Sponsors, Introduce Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Reduction Plan

Rep. Scott Perry (R-Cumberland) and 40 bipartisan co-sponsors introduced legislation this week to make state government a partner in helping sewer system ratepayers and farmers meet federal and state mandates to reduce nutrients going into Pennsylvania's streams and rivers.

The bill is [House Bill 2441](#) known as the Chesapeake Bay Strategy Improvement Act.

"This bill calls for greater accountability, organization and cohesiveness in the deployment of the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy developed by the Department of Environmental Protection," Rep. Perry said. "Over the past few months, I have heard from a number of constituents, local governments, and many organizations impacted by the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy. This legislation addresses many of their concerns and ideas."



Rep. Perry said the Commonwealth entered into an agreement with several other states to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay. These agreements outline certain standards for states to curtail pollution to the bay, and from these agreements, DEP put together a Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy.

To help limit pollution to the bay and fulfill the goals and standards set in the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy, many wastewater treatment plants around the Commonwealth will need to be upgraded, costing local governments millions of dollars.

"While the Tributary Strategy has a laudable environmental goal, its practicality in terms of implementation costs, especially to local governments, is proving to be very problematic," Rep. Perry said. "Businesses and homeowners are already seeing double digit increases in their sewer bills."

The proposed legislation would:

- Provide an appropriation of up to \$500 million over a period of seven years to help local governments fund the needed plant upgrades to reduce nutrient discharges;
- Appropriating up to \$250 million over a five-year period to help fund agricultural best management practices to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff;
- Create the Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Trading Board. The board will be made up of stakeholders in the nutrient trading process. Its overall mission will be to provide for a more reliable and viable nutrient trading process through independent oversight and management. The legislation also outlines a general process for the review, approval, acquisition, and trading of nutrient credits; and
- Establish in statute the Chesapeake Bay Advisory Council as an advisory body to the department.

The proposed legislation would also task the Council and the Citizens' Advisory Council with the responsibility to review the results of the department's annual evaluation and to report the results of their analysis to the Senate and House Environmental Resources and Energy committees.

The measure also requires the DEP to conduct an annual evaluation of the progress made toward meeting nutrient and sediment reduction goals, and provide an annual estimate of the overall costs and benefits related to compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy.

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Finally, the bill provides for a more appropriate and realistic phase-in schedule for wastewater treatment plant compliance, and requires that nutrient and sediment reduction, storm water control, and other water quality requirements be encompassed in legislation subject to review and approval by the General Assembly.

The bill contains many elements recommended in the [Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) developed by a coalition of environmental, farm, businesses and municipal groups developed the [Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) to help wastewater plant ratepayers and farmers finance improvements needed to address Chesapeake Bay and statewide water quality improvement mandates while preserving economic opportunity for future homeowners and businesses.

The groups include: PA Municipal Authorities Association, PA Farm Bureau, PA Builders Association, PA Association of Conservation Districts and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. In addition, the PA Association of Realtors, the Federation of Sportsmens Clubs, local government and other groups have voiced their support for the plan.

The seven-year plan includes \$500 million to help finance a portion of the upgrades needed by 184 wastewater treatment plants in the region and \$390 million to help farmers install conservation practices.

For more information on the Pennsylvania Fair Share Plan for Clean Water, visit the [Fair Share Plan webpage](#).

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Participants Urged to Register for Upcoming Water Infrastructure Meetings

The [Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) is encouraging residents, business owners, farmers and local government officials to pre-register to provide comments at an upcoming series of public meetings to hear about their water infrastructure needs.

Those farmers, communities and sewer ratepayers affected by federal and state mandates to reduce nutrient discharges that will require wastewater plants and farmers to install over \$1.6 billion in nutrient reduction practices are especially urged to participate.

The meetings will be held--

- May 19 – 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Connan Room, University Center (Building #28), Carnegie Mellon University, 500 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh;

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- May 21 – 1 p.m.-3 p.m., Rhoades Auditorium, Robert W. Rhoades Center, Clarion University Venango Campus, 1801 W. First St., Oil City;
- May 22 – 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Terrace Room, Clarion Hotel DuBois, 1896 Rich Highway, DuBois;
- May 27 – 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Crown Room, Convention Hall, 1073 Oak St., Pittston;
- May 28 – 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., Town Hall Room, Bethlehem City Hall, 10 E. Church St., Bethlehem; and
- May 29 – 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Mazie Gable Elementary School, 100 E. Prospect St., Red Lion.

Public testimony from past Task Force meetings and these hearings will be posted on the [Task Force webpage](#).

The Task Force is asking any person interested in testifying should register in advance by sending email to: RA-sitaskforce@state.pa.us . Testimony will be accepted in person or by e-mail.

The Task Force has outlined issues of primary concern for which it is seeking feedback, including needs assessment, innovative measures, financial resources, financial sustainability and legislative and regulatory issues.

A coalition of environmental, farm, businesses and municipal groups is recommending the Task Force adopt the [Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) to help wastewater plant ratepayers and farmers finance improvements needed to address Chesapeake Bay and statewide water quality improvement mandates while preserving economic opportunity for future homeowners and businesses.

The groups include: PA Municipal Authorities Association, PA Farm Bureau, PA Builders Association, PA Association of Conservation Districts and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. In addition, the PA Association of Realtors, the Federation of Sportsmens Clubs, local government and other groups have voiced their support for the plan.

The seven-year plan includes \$500 million to help finance a portion of the upgrades needed by 184 wastewater treatment plants in the region and \$390 million to help farmers install conservation practices.

For more information, visit the [Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force webpage](#) or contact Marcus Kohl, DEP, 717-783-7404 or send email to: mkohl@state.pa.us.

For more information on the Pennsylvania Fair Share Plan for Clean Water, visit the [Fair Share Plan webpage](#).

Video Blog: [Remarks By Coalition Partners on the Fair Share Clean Water Plan](#)

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On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Session Schedule/Bills Introduced

Here's what's coming up on the Senate and House agenda for next week, as well as the voting session schedule through June 30.

Session Schedule

The Senate and House will return to voting session on June 2.

House 2008 Session Days—

June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30

Senate 2008 Session Days--

June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30

You can watch the [Senate Floor Session](#) and [House Floor Session](#) live online.

Calendars/Committees

The Senate and House published committee schedules for next week and floor Calendars for June 2--

Calendars

House (June 2): [House Resolution 546](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to investigate gas and energy prices; [House Resolution 627](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging federal government to provide more heating assistance funding; [House Bill 934](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) authorizing counties to impose up to a \$4/ton solid waste management fee to support local recycling, anti-litter programs; [House Resolution 712](#) (Hutchinson-R-Venango) re-establishing the Forestry Task Force; [House Resolution 719](#) (George-D-Clearfield) endorsing request for federal funding for PA river basin commissions.

[Special Session House Bill 13](#) (Bennington-R-Mifflin) amends the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to provide for increased use of energy efficiency, extends the compliance period from 15 to 21 years and provides additional milestones for the use of alternative energy; [Special Session House Bill 17](#) (McIlvaine Smith-D-Montgomery) excluding purchase price of hybrid electric vehicles from sales and use tax; [Special Session House Resolution 6](#) (Thomas) designating November 15 as “Pennsylvania GIS Day” and the week of November 11-17 as “National Geography Awareness Week.”

Senate (June 2): [Senate Resolution 283](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) recognizing the accomplishments of Franklin & Marshall Professors Robert Walter and Dorothy Merritts on their research into legacy sediments.

Bills Introduced

These environmental bills of interest were introduced this week—

Nutrient Reduction Program: [House Bill 2441](#) (Perry-R-Cumberland) providing for a Nutrient Reduction Program for wastewater plants, assistance to farmers to reduce nutrient runoff and providing for a Nutrient Credit Trading Bank.

Infrastructure Funding: [House Bill 2450](#) (Levdansky-D-Allegheny) providing for a transfer of \$200 million from the Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund to the PENNVEST Fund to finance infrastructure improvements.

Timber Damage: [House Bill 2514](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) providing for restitution for theft of timber.

Elk Damage: [House Bill 2515](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) providing for payment of claims for damages caused by elk.

Royalty Payments: [House Bill 2534](#) (Causer-R-Cameron) requires 10 percent of all revenues received by the Game and Fish and Boat Commissions from the sale of timber and mineral royalties to be paid to the county in where the royalties are generated to be split with the county, local school districts and municipalities.

Flood Control Projects: [House Bill 2539](#) (Seip-D-Schuylkill) and [Senate Bill 1409](#) (Wozniak-D-Cambria) authorizing DEP to complete non-structural and structural stream improvement projects and flood protection and prevention projects and [Senate Bill 1408](#) (Wozniak-D-Cambria) and [House Bill 2546](#) (Conklin-D-Juniata) providing DEP additional authority in the acquisition of property for non-structural and structural flood protection and stream improvement projects.

On the Governor's Desk

The Governor signed the following environmental bill into law this week—

Phosphate Ban Extension: [Senate Bill 1017](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) extending the Phosphate Detergent Ban to dishwashing detergent was signed into law by Gov. Rendell as Act 15. ([See separate article](#))

Senate and House Bills Moving

These bills of interested were the subject of action by the Senate and House this week—

Senate

Appalachian Trail: [House Bill 1281](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) requiring municipalities to protect the Appalachian Trail through land use controls was amended on Third Consideration, passed by the Senate and returns to the House for a concurrence vote.

NewsClip: [Senate Approves Plan to Protect Appalachian Trail](#)
[Editorial: House Must Take Next Step on Bill to Protect Trail](#)

Cellulosic Ethanol: [Senate Bill 1317](#) (Waugh-R-York) providing incentive payments for cellulosic ethanol production was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Infrastructure Funding: [Senate Bill 2](#) (Earll-R-Erie) that would provide \$750 million for drinking water, wastewater, flood control and high hazard dam projects over ten years from the Gaming Fund was amended and reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Gaming Fund Distributions: [Senate Bill 1286](#) (Wozniak-D-Cambria) no Gaming Funds shall be distributed to Pittsburgh and Philadelphia for economic development projects until such time as an equal amount is available to the remainder of the state was amended and reported from the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Legacy Sediments: [Senate Resolution 283](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) recognizing the accomplishments of Franklin & Marshall professors Robert Walter and Dorothy Merritts on their research into legacy sediments was reported out of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

House

Deep Mine Safety: [Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) updating the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act was amended on the floor of the House and passed by a vote of 182-13. It now goes back to the Senate for a concurrence vote. The bill is designed, in part, to prevent accidents like the one that occurred in the [Quecreek Mine in 2002](#). (*See separate article*)

Flood Assistance: [House Bill 1989](#) (Wansacz-D-Luzerne) providing for flood relief grants by imposing a 20 cents per \$100 paid on property insurance surcharge was amended and reported from the House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee by a party-line vote (Democrats supporting) and then referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

Landfill Siting: [House Bill 1242](#) (Goodman-D-Schuylkill) establishing additional siting criteria for municipal and residual waste landfills was reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and referred to House Appropriations Committee.

Conservation Districts: [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) updating the conservation district law was reported from the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and then referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

Forestry Task Force: [House Resolution 712](#) (Hutchinson-R-Venango) re-establishing the Forestry Task Force was reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is now on the House Calendar for action.

River Basin Funding: [House Resolution 719](#) (George-D-Clearfield) endorsing request for federal funding for PA river basin commissions was reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is now on the House Calendar for action.

PA Hiking Week: [House Resolution 744](#) (Everett-R-Lycoming) designating May 24 to June 1 “Pennsylvania Hiking Week” was adopted by the House.

Bill to Improve Deep Mine Safety Approved By House, Returns to Senate

The House this week voted 182 to 13 to approve [Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) updating the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act to, in part, prevent accidents like the one that occurred in the [Queecreek Mine in 2002](#).

It now goes back to the Senate for a concurrence vote.

“It has been more than 40 years since those who toil within the earth’s recesses have had improvements made to the law which governs their daily safety. Since the Bituminous Coal Mine Act was last updated in 1961, the mining industry has changed immensely. These operations employ state-of-the-art equipment and technology that was never conceived as possible by the authors of the 1961 law. The legislature’s intent should be to provide the hardworking miners of the Commonwealth with the best mine safety law in the nation,” said House Majority Leader Bill DeWeese (D-Greene).



Rep. DeWeese said Senate Bill 949, as passed by the Senate, contained many advancements in coal mine health and safety; however, it lacked the language necessary to offer miners the best protections possible.

“Considering the impact the 1961 law had not only on miners of the Commonwealth, but also miners across the nation, it is essential to ensure the new legislation achieve such a standard. We have a duty to protect those miners who travel underground to provide light above for Pennsylvanians and Americans,” he said.

As amended by the House, the improved legislation would:

- require a pre-operational check of trailing cables;
- provide walk-around rights for the representative of miners, which allows the representative of miners to accompany the state mine inspector during an inspection of the mine;
- provide more stringent qualifications for certification reflecting the 1961 Bituminous Coal Mine law;
- require a mine examination to be conducted three hours before the start of any shift, defined as “the scheduled period of work assigned to four or more miners by the operator;”
- require miner transport systems to be maintained within 500 feet of the working face of the mine; and
- require no fewer than two separate and distinct intake openings or outlets to the surface from every seam of coal being worked and include distance requirements for the openings and outlets.

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“Without the guidance and leadership of Rep. DeWeese at the helm of this important legislation, the amendments to Senate Bill 949, which are so critical to the safety of underground miners, would not have been a part of this mine law reform,” said UMWA International District 2 Vice President Ed Yankovich Jr.

Generally, Senate Bill 949 would:

- create a Coal Mine Safety Board to promulgate regulations and continually review and recommend the use of new mine safety technologies. The board would be composed of representatives from the coal industry, labor and the state Department of Environmental Protection;
- provide the specifications of emergency shelter chambers in bituminous underground mines;
- better ensure the availability and transfer of maps to the DEP, as well as give the DEP statewide authority to copy all mine maps; it also enables the DEP to establish a central map repository database;
- bring state law more in line with federal standards where appropriate and
- provide greater responsibility on mine operators to ensure safety.

“We look forward to working with the Senate to ensure swift passage of the best mine safety law in the nation,” Rep. DeWeese said.

House Committee Approves Landfill Siting, Forestry, River Basin Bills

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week reported out legislation establishing additional landfill siting criteria, reestablishing the Forestry Task Force and requesting federal funding for river basin commissions.

Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) serves as Majority Chair and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) serves as Minority Chair.

The bills included:

- [House Bill 1242](#) (Goodman-D-Schuylkill) establishing additional siting criteria for municipal and residual waste landfills was reported out and then referred to House Appropriations Committee;
- [House Resolution 712](#) (Hutchinson-R-Venango) re-establishing the Forestry Task Force, and is now on the House Calendar for action; and
- [House Resolution 719](#) (George-D-Clearfield) endorsing request for federal funding for PA river basin commissions, and is now on the House Calendar for action.

"The federal government has provided no direct funding for the last decade to the three basin commissions - known as Mid-Atlantic Commissions - even though it promised its fair share of funding when it helped to create these interstate compacts," Rep. George said. "Congress also required funding when it enacted the Water Resources Development Act of 2007."

The Susquehanna, Delaware and Potomac river basin commissions are seeking \$1 million to establish flow targets so major withdrawals from the Susquehanna River can be better managed, \$715,000 for flood mitigation along the Delaware, and \$650,000 to protect drinking water resources in the Potomac basin.

NewsClip: [House Bill Would Shield Watersheds From Landfills](#)
[George Asks Feds to Follow Through on Water Funding Commitments](#)

Senate Committee Holds Hearing on Energy Efficiency, Demand Side Management

The Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee held a hearing this week on energy efficiency and demand side management programs, how they should be paid for and how to measure their effectiveness.

[Liz Robinson](#), Executive Director of the non-profit Energy Coordinating Agency, supported [House Bill 2200](#) (George-D-Clearfield) and [Special Session House Bill 1](#) (DePasquale-D-York), but said it was important to include an expanded weatherization program in any energy conservation strategy.

“Energy conservation and efficiency are often overlooked in discussions about alternative and clean energy,” Robinson said. “Somehow they’re not as sexy as wind or solar. However, what energy conservation lacks in sex appeal, it more than makes up for it in sheer abundance and low price.

“In fact energy conservation is the cleanest, cheapest and most abundant clean energy resource in America. Conservation costs 2.5 to 3 cents per kilowatt hour, compared to more than 5 cents for coal and 15 cents for nuclear. It can also be deployed in a very short timeframe.”

The Senate also passed legislation to promote renewable energy in [Special Session Senate Bill 1](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango).

The Department of Community and Economic Development [will hold a public hearing](#) on the state’s Weatherization Assistance Program Plan on May 29 in Harrisburg.

[John Hanger](#), President and CEO of PennFuture, said Pennsylvania has no effective electricity conservation program for businesses and consumers and the state needs to begin an aggressive program of energy conservation now and diversify how electricity is made.

[Michael Love](#), President and CEO of the Energy Association of PA, said the state should immediately undertake an extensive effort to encourage energy conservation and energy efficiency to lower peak demand. He noted the price of electricity is the most critical aspect to encouraging reduction, saying, “if people are to drastically change their usage patterns of electricity... they need to pay the actual price of electricity.”

[Frank Lacey](#), Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs at Direct Energy, said he largely agreed with Mr. Love, except noted that competitive electric suppliers could provide a better product to customers to meet their needs.

[David Ellis](#), Senior VP of Business Develop at Comverge, Inc., expressed his support for House Bills 2200 and 2201, but said there are different approaches needed for commercial and residential markets.

Sen. Robert Tomlinson (R-Bucks) serves as Majority Chair of the Committee and Sen. Lisa Boscola (D-Lehigh) serves as Minority Chair.

Budget and Finance Committee Audit of Fish & Boat Commission Released

The [Legislative Budget and Finance Committee](#) this week officially released the results of its performance audit of the Fish and Boat Commission saying the agency was implementing the strategic plan it developed and made recommendations for some changes to law and procedures.

Among the recommendations were:

- Strengthening the strategic planning process by providing regular reports to the Commission Board;

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- Amending the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act to provide better legal protection to landowners opening their land for recreation;
- Providing a special report to the House and Senate on its annual hatchery production/trout purchase program and finalize a state hatchery production and cost tracking system;
- Working with the PA Emergency Management Agency to provide water and ice rescue training to emergency workers; and
- Authorizing the Commission to make license vouchers available through the automated licensing system.

The Committee's report contains a wealth of information on the Fish and Boat Commission and its programs, funding and operation.

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

The Committee is chaired by Sen. John Pippy (R-Allegheny) and the co-chair is Sen. Gerald LaValle (D-Beaver).

May Issue of Environmental Synopsis Now Available

The [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) May [Environmental Synopsis newsletter](#) is now available online.

This month's edition includes stories on: forest pests, climate change, spending on pollution abatement and building green.

The next Environmental Issue Forum will be June 16 and will feature a presentation on the Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program.

Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) serves as Chair of the Committee and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) serves as Vice-Chair.

Other News

RC&D Councils, Terry Rightnour Receive 2008 Karl Mason Award

The [PA Association of Environmental Professionals](#) presented the 2008 Karl Mason Award to the [PA Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils](#) and Terry A. Rightnour of [Waters Edge Hydrology, Inc.](#) during their annual conference last week.

Pictured in the photo are Mark Radell, PAEP, Susan Parry and Jo Ellen Litz of PARC&D, Terry Rightnour and Jason Minnick, PAEP President.



The [Karl Mason Award](#) is presented to meritorious nominees selected by the Board from two general categories: an individual who has demonstrated exemplary leadership in the field of environmental management and an organization, project or program that has

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made a significant contribution toward maintenance or restoration of Pennsylvania's environmental quality.

Karl Mason believed and put into practice the notion that environmental protection is primarily the business of professionals who have the skills by virtue of their scientific training to manage the technical and scientific complexities of maintaining a safe, healthy and clean environment. He was committed to the belief that continuing education was an essential part of the career of every environmental professional.

PA Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils: The PARC&D was recognized for the work its nine regional RC&D Councils are doing to enhance the environment and quality of life in local communities throughout the state.

PAEP commended the PARC&D Councils for their “outstanding service and support of resource conservation and development in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through innovate and dynamic leadership and by nurturing partnerships among public and private agencies, corporations, organizations and citizens to protect, restore, and enhance the environment” during the presentation of this prestigious award.

The PA RC&D Program and regional non-profit Councils develop projects based on regional needs identified and provide technical and/or financial assistance necessary to bring various projects to fruition. The focus of the national RC&D program includes land conservation, water management, environmental enhancement, and community development.

There are 375 RC&D Councils nationally receiving assistance through the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

“With the support and collaboration of our partners within the USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service, we bring together local citizens at a regional level to plan and implement projects that not only address natural resource concerns, but also address the need for community and economic development within our important rural communities,” stated Lebanon County Commissioner Jo Ellen Litz during her acceptance of the award on behalf of the PARC&D Councils.

Terry A. Rightnour, Waters Edge Hydrology, Inc.: Rightnour is the President and Principal Hydrologist of Waters Edge Hydrology, Inc. He has more than 25 years of experience in the field of environmental consulting.

He is most recognized for his innovative work in developing and applying natural designs and ecology-based technologies to meet water resource protection, restoration, and management needs. His technical expertise in passive wetland treatment for the electric utility industry has led to award winning sustainable designs to treat wastewaters from coal combustion byproduct landfills.

His work with the mining industry has included sustainable solutions for mine drainage abatement, reclamation plans, abandoned mine land restoration, and mine drainage water treatment.

His experience in stream restoration and wetland mitigation includes high profile projects employing new and emerging technologies for riparian habitat creation, natural channel design, wetland mitigation banking, and the abatement of acid deposition on a watershed scale.

As a guest instructor and advisor for Penn State's Environmental Resource Management Program, Rightnour actively participates in university-based environmental

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programs and educational seminars on environmental management topics and has developed and taught related workshops for industry and government.

Rightnour is a charter member of the PA Association of Environmental Professionals and an active member of American Institute of Hydrology and Society of Wetland Scientists.

He was awarded the Game Commission's Wildlife Conservation Award for his work with acid rain mitigation and wetland habitat creation in the Mosquito Creek watershed and has been selected as an Outstanding Alumnus by the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences for his accomplishments in the field of environmental management.

The Karl Mason Awards program is administered by the PAEP Conservation Heritage Committee as part of its Conservation Heritage Program.

In collaboration with PAEP, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is producing an array of projects over the next several years to increase conservation heritage awareness in the Commonwealth.

For example, the PAEP and the Karl Mason Family jointly funded the Karl Mason Conservation Project, which includes research into the life and work of the late Karl Mason, regarded as the Commonwealth's first environmental administrator. This research provides a pilot project for developing a template for including some of the state's many conservation leaders in future exhibits, web sites, and public symposia.

During the 2008 Karl Mason Award ceremony luncheon Walter Lyon, one of Karl Mason's employees, was present with his wife Ann. Walter spoke briefly about Karl Mason's historical efforts to professionalize the Commonwealth's resource agencies, and the need to maintain qualified professional environmental staff in the field of environmental management and regulation.

Barbara Franco, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and Beth Hager, PHMC Development Officer, were also on hand to welcome conference attendees.

For more information on PAEP's Conservation Heritage Program, contact Wayne Kobe by sending email to: wwkpa@hughes.net.

PA CleanWays Westmoreland County Cleanup Nets 6.5 Tons of Trash

On May 3 volunteers organized by [PA CleanWays](#) and [PA CleanWays of Cambria County](#) cleaned up over 6.5 tons of trash along Patterson Road in Barr Township, Cambria County.

Eighteen volunteers from the community, including local property owners, BSA Troop 115 from Hastings, Pa, the Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Abandoned Mines, and Barr Township participated in the cleanup.

The group worked throughout the morning bagging daily trash and dragging old carpeting, broken toilets, rotting vehicle seats, mattresses, and construction debris up the slope while trying to avoid decaying deer carcasses and poison ivy as best as possible.



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They stopped only to drink water and Gatorade and to get more garbage bags. Several large ‘pockets’ of heavily concentrated dumping were encountered near the top of the road and much time was spent on these as layer upon layer of garbage was revealed.

Barr Township used their large front-end loader to loosen buried debris and to load the collected waste into their dump trucks. Two full-size Mack tandems and one single-axle dump truck were packed tightly and additional waste was staged along the roadside for Monday pickup.

The boy scouts kept the metal scrap separate from the trash and filled three stake-bed trucks for recycling.

Donations from Bi-Lo, Fox’s Pizza, Giant Eagle, and Sheetz helped round out the lunch of pizza, soda, and chips. Laurel Highlands Landfill donated waste disposal and Barr Township not only worked side by side with the volunteers and loaded and hauled the waste, they reinforced an access gate by building up earthen berms to deter dumping off road.

Much progress was made but it will take at least two more cleanups to finish this site. BSA Troop 115 will collect the remaining 50+ tires, which will bring their total to nearly 450 from this site, and also the metal scrap on an ongoing basis until all is recycled.

Funding has been provided by the Richard King Mellon Foundation, Penelec Fund for the Future of Greater Johnstown Fund, the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, and the Robert S. Waters Charitable Trust.

Donations to help in this large-scale cleanup effort are being accepted by PA CleanWays at 105 W. Fourth St., Greensburg, PA, 15601, or toll-free at 1-877-772-3673.

For more information or to volunteer for future cleanups, contact Sue Urchek using the toll-free number at extension 23.

All local residents are being asked to assist with helping maintain the site once it is cleaned by reporting any illegal dumping activity to Mark Stockley at PA CleanWays of Cambria County at 814-472-2120.

DEP Invites Comments on Upper Wissakickon Creek Management Plan

The Department of Environmental Protection is inviting comments on the proposed management plan for the Upper Wissakickon Creek Watershed in Montgomery County. (*PA Bulletin page 2335*)

DEP is holding a public meeting on the plan May 28 at the upper Dublin Municipal Building, 801 Loch Alsh Ave., Fort Washington, Pa.

DEP said the plan will be posted on its [Public Participation Center webpage](#).

Contact leslie Sarvis at 717-772-5634 or send email to: lsarvis@state.pa.us for more information.

Learn How to Save Energy at Outdoor Lighting Workshops for Municipal Planners

The [Pennsylvania Outdoor Lighting Council](#) and the departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources are sponsoring two additional workshops on reducing the impacts of outdoor lighting.

The workshops will be held: May 29 at the Lower Macungie Township Community Center at 3400 Brookside Rd., in Lehigh County and June 25 in Potter County at the Gospel Tabernacle Church, 420 Route 6 West, in Coudersport.

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Workshops begin promptly at 7 p.m., running until 8:30 p.m.

These workshops will help define good and bad outdoor lighting, showcasing equipment to help reduce glare and light pollution, and provide tools for communities to protect themselves against irresponsible lighting practices.

There will also be an important discussion on the elements of an effective lighting ordinance and the process of getting such an ordinance enacted and enforced in your community. Participants will be provided information on energy waste, light trespass and ways to save on utility bills.

Although workshops will focus mainly on the needs of municipal officials, they are also open to interested members of the general public.

To register for either event, contact DEP's Jim McTish at 484-250-5180 or send email to: jmctish@state.pa.us

Energy Management Workshop May 22 in Northampton County to Help Businesses

On May 22 the Department of Environmental Protection will sponsor a free workshop in Northampton County to help business owners find ways to reduce energy costs.

The workshop will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the [Electrotechnology Applications Center](#), Northampton Community College, 3835 Green Pond Road, Bethlehem.

Although open to the public and businesses of all sizes, the workshops will focus on small- and medium-sized businesses—or those with fewer than 100 employees. Typically, these companies do not have the resources to employ or retain an energy management expert.

Business owners will receive information on energy-supply options, and learn how to identify energy-saving opportunities and develop an energy action plan.

The workshop will also offer attendees information on financial and technical resources that are available for energy-efficiency upgrades, including easily implemented, cost-effective changes for manufacturing facilities.

The workshop is sponsored by DEP's Office of the Small Business Ombudsman in partnership with the Electrotechnology Application Center, the Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program, the PAEP Pollution Prevention/Energy Efficiency Roundtable and the Lehigh University Small Business Development Center. Funding for the Energy Management Workshop is provided through a U.S. Department of Energy grant.

DEP's Office of the Small Business Ombudsman provides assistance to small businesses needing help with environmental issues and helps owners realize the potential cost savings of pollution prevention and energy conservation strategies.

Registration for the workshops is free, and the session is open to the public. Similar workshops are being held statewide this spring.

For more information or to request a registration form, contact DEP at 717-783-8411 or visit the DEP [Ombudsman Coming Events webpage](#).

Motor System “Best Practices” Workshop, Energy Reduction Grants Available

Businesses, institutions and municipalities can learn to reduce energy use while improving system reliability by attending the U.S. Department of Energy's full-day Motor System

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Management workshop June 11 at Northampton Community College’s Alumni Hall Room 130D in Bethlehem, Lehigh County.

Eligible workshop participants may also apply for a \$1,000 [Energy Use-Reduction Grant](#). Attendees of each DEP-cosponsored workshop are encouraged to implement a “best practice” from the workshop during a four-month window following the class. Project reports selected as “best in class” by DEP staff will receive a \$1,000 grant award. Grant application packets will be available at each workshop.

The deadline for grant applications is June 30.

Motor-driven systems account for 64 percent of industrial energy use, consuming nearly 290 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. Motor intensive businesses can achieve dramatic reductions in energy usage through sound energy management practices. DOE’s “Best Practices” workshops provide the latest technical support available and are taught by highly trained and experienced DOE-qualified system specialists.

Plant managers, maintenance staff, engineers, and operations personnel attending the event will improve their understanding of electric motor systems and learn the skills necessary to improve system reliability and efficiency.

The evaluation and selection of the optimum motor for specific applications, motor inventory maintenance and tracking, guidelines for motor repair and rewind, and more will be presented. Electric power systems and management of power transmission and driven loads are also covered relative to motor operation.

In addition to Northampton Community College, event sponsors include the Chester County Economic Development Council, The Electro-Technology Applications Center, the Department of Environmental Protection’s Office of Energy & Technology Deployment, and the U.S. Department of Energy.

The registration fee includes all workshop training materials, DOE’s Save Energy Now CD containing the full suite of Industrial Technology Program software tools and technical literature, and lunch.

To register for the June 11 Motor System Management Workshop, call Karen Costello at 610-458-5700 ext. 219 or send email to: kcostello@cceconomicdevelopment.com.

For more information, visit the [DOE workshops schedule](#) on DEP’s website. Questions about the workshops, information on the Energy Use-Reduction Grant project or information about sponsoring your own workshop contact Richard Illig in the DEP Office of Energy and Technology Deployment at 717-772-5834, or send email to: rillig@state.pa.us.

Lehigh County Plan to Cut Energy Consumption, Reduce Carbon Footprint

[Lehigh County](#) this week announced a major plan to reduce energy consumption and improve the county’s carbon footprint by County facilities.

County Executive Don Cunningham said the plan helps fulfill his commitment to the U.S. Conference of Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement, which Cunningham signed along with representatives of cities and counties across the nation.

An intensive review of energy consumption by the nursing home facilities will be undertaken with recommendations made on where the greatest energy savings exist.

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"The time has come for all residents, businesses and governments to find ways to reduce their energy consumption," Cunningham said. "It is the right thing to do for the environment and it is the necessary thing to do from a cost perspective."

In total, Lehigh County spends about \$4 million a year on the cost of energy and utilities. About 35 percent of that, or \$1.3 million, is spent on energy at the nursing home facilities.

Phase One of the energy upgrade would involve Cedarbrook/ Allentown, Fountain Hill Annex, Cedar View Apartments, and Cedar Village, and would begin during 2008. Phase Two would include the Government Center, the Hamilton Financial Center, the Prison, County garage, and Agricultural Center, with work beginning in 2009. The county is working with a certified energy saving consultant to identify specific changes at the nursing home facilities to reduce energy consumption there by about 30 percent.

"We will make the changes using operational dollars that would otherwise be used to pay utility fees," explained Cunningham. "This is a budget neutral initiative that over time will result in reduced energy usage and costs."

Under the program, the energy savings company guarantees the energy savings. If the expected savings are not realized, the company pays the difference.

Projects will range from changing light bulbs and lighting layouts to possibly replacing windows, the roof, upgrading steam systems and changing the heating and cooling systems.

"The intent is to take pro-active action now to reduce consumption and to reduce current energy costs increases and, hopefully, to avoid the full affect of large increases in the future," Cunningham said.

Lehigh County's energy savings initiative is modeled on Pennsylvania's successful upgrade of many Commonwealth facilities, which utilized this same process.

NewsClip: [Lehigh County Moves to Stem Energy Price Shock](#)

DEP Reminds Pennsylvanians to Stay Out of Mines, Quarries



The idle equipment, steep cliffs, serene pools of water and mysterious shaft openings of active and abandoned mines can be alluring for adventure seekers, but many times are deadly, according to Department of Environmental Protection.

"There are thousands of abandoned sites just like this across Pennsylvania with steep cliffs, hidden underground mine openings and dangerous water bodies," said DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty. "Mines are not safe places for swimming, exploring or off-road riding. When you venture into these sites, you put your life and the lives of emergency personnel who conduct the search and rescue operations at risk."

Secretary McGinty's remarks kicked off the 2008 "[Stay Out - Stay Alive](#)" campaign to warn people about the dangers of trespassing in mines and quarries.

Since 2000, 31 people have died trespassing in mines and quarries in 19 Pennsylvania counties. The U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration reports that 249 people have died nationally during that same period.

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To combat this problem, DEP has partnered with MSHA, other mining states and the mining industry to promote the Stay Out - Stay Alive program.

"Pennsylvania has been blessed with great mineral resources, and mining has been a cornerstone of our economy for more than 200 years, but the unregulated mining practices of the past have left us with one-quarter million acres of dangerous and deadly mine lands," said Secretary McGinty. "Every year we hear of more tragic accidents: swimmers drowning in abandoned water-filled pits where water temperatures drop dramatically just below the surface; people entering abandoned mines or dilapidated structures and getting lost or trapped; and all-terrain vehicle riders breaking through brush on the crest of an old mine site and rolling down a hillside.

"Be safe this summer. Mines and quarries are not playgrounds; they can kill you. Stay out and stay alive."

DEP recently began airing 30-second radio and television messages across the state as part the campaign to underscore the dangers of abandoned mine sites and quarries. The department conducts educational programs for community groups and distributes Stay Out - Stay Alive information to those receiving hunting and fishing licenses through the Game Commission and the Fish and Boat Commission.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources also distributes Stay Out – Stay Alive information with all off-road vehicle and snowmobile registrations and to users of state parks and forests.

Additionally, DEP works with state and local police and emergency responders to identify and limit access to dangerous sites.

For more information, visit the [Stay Out Stay Alive webpage](#).

Abraham Lincoln to Attend Professional Recyclers of PA Conference in July

The [Professional Recyclers of PA](#) will be hosting one of Gettysburg, Pa's "most recognized" residents in nationally-renowned Lincoln actor and Lincoln historian, James A. Getty during the 18th Annual Recycling and Composting Conference- "Three (almost as) Famous Days" in Gettysburg.

The Recycling and Composting Conference will be held July 31 to August 1 at The Wyndham Hotel in Gettysburg, Pa.

PROP is excited to have Abraham Lincoln join conference goers July 30 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Presidential Picnic on the Terrace sponsored by Greenstar. This annual picnic will feature presidential trivia from our exhibitors and sponsors.

Jim Getty will also motivate and inspire you with unique insights into the leadership decisions Lincoln made during his lifetime at a session to be held August 1 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. entitled "Lincoln and his Leadership."

Audiences nationwide have been enlightened and entertained by Getty, a noted Lincoln Historian who has been the voice of Abraham Lincoln in the A&E biography "Abraham Lincoln: A Biography" and "The Assassination of President Lincoln." He also portrayed Lincoln in the Turner Network film "The Ironclads," as well as portraying Lincoln for various tours, books and museum exhibits.

The Sarasota Herald Tribune states that "In movies and plays, many actors have played the part. Yet Getty is more believable than most, if not all, of the others. He doesn't just know his lines. He doesn't just imitate Lincoln's mannerisms and oratorical style. He knows the man, thoroughly."

For more information regarding the annual conference or PROP in general, please visit the [PROP website](#) or contact the staff at 1-800-769-PROP.

LCL Industries, Inc. to Recycle Glass Into Water Filtration Media

30,000 tons of recycled glass will be used to make an advanced water filtration media by LCL Industries, Inc., a Schuylkill County business that just announced its operations this week.

At full production, this \$6 million project will create approximately 25 jobs while using 30,000 tons of recycled glass per year. Additionally, the advanced processing technology uses 75 percent less energy than conventional glass processing equipment.

The company will primarily use triple mix container glass, the color mixed fraction of clear, brown, and green glass that is a consequence of many recycling programs to manufacture grit abrasives and potable water filtration media.

The project was developed with the help of the [Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center](#) and a \$500,000 [Recycling Markets Infrastructure Development Grant](#) from the Department of Environmental Protection.

The RMC facilitated negotiations between LCL Industries, Inc. and Krysteline Group Ltd., resulting in LCL also being recognized as Krysteline’s sole North American headquarters of the Krysteline technology.

“Krysteline has proudly partnered with LCL Industries and the Recycling Markets Center to make this project a reality. Without involvement of RMC, it is likely our efforts to invest in Pennsylvania would not have occurred and certainly, would not have occurred as rapidly in the States,” said Stefan Michal, Managing Director at Krysteline. “Further, we have received a very warm reception from the Department of Environmental Protection in Pennsylvania.”

LCL’s keystone product will be expendable blast abrasives. Although many benefits exist in using recycled, sharp-free glass as a blasting abrasive, the primary benefits include 25 – 30 percent reduction in pneumatic blasting pressure when applying the abrasive material, which significantly reduces energy consumption during use; recycled glass abrasive does not cause silicosis as a breathing hazard unlike natural sands; recycled glass abrasive does not typically contain heavy metals similar to many mineral slags which are used domestically as blast abrasives.

LCL has been recognized by Krysteline as the North American contact for the entire range of glass Implosion equipment, ranging from high performance industrial systems to smaller commercial size units. In Europe, the smaller commercial units are frequently used in taverns and restaurants.

“We are excited to launch our business at a time when Pennsylvania has been so supportive of our manufacturing effort. Had it not been for the persistence of RMC, we would not be at this stage in our development. We are thankful for our continued DEP support,” said Laura Baranko, Vice-President and Partner, LCL Industries, Inc.

“Pennsylvania recognizes that there are innovative companies out there that are working hard to find new, novel ways to preserve our natural resources by recycling existing materials and creating other products,” said DEP Deputy Secretary Thomas Fidler. “With this project, just as with other exciting recycling projects across the commonwealth, we’re investing our resources to help build demand on the part of manufacturers for recovered glass, metal, plastic, paper and other recyclable materials. That leads to a

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stronger recycling market in Pennsylvania, a stronger economy, and a cleaner environment.”

To produce the grit abrasives and water filtration media, LCL will be the first company in the western hemisphere to utilize Krysteline’s advanced glass processing Implosion equipment.

Krysteline, a European Company based in Wimborne Dorset, England, has patented a technology which Implodes glass to size reduce the material rather than traditional processes that pulverize, mill, or grind the glass.

This technology utilizes principles of Implosion, similar to that of an opera singer, to shatter the glass. Because of the unique and innovative process, mechanical wear and operating cost of the equipment is significantly reduced. Typically, the resulting glass products are more geometrically uniform than recycled glass products produced from other traditional equipment.

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center](#) or call 717-948-6660.

DEP to Hold Compliance Workshop for Scrap Metal, Automotive Recyclers

The Department of Environmental Protection will conduct a free environmental compliance workshop for scrap metal recycling businesses and automotive recyclers on May 20 in Philipsburg, Centre County.

The workshop will start at 7 p.m. at the DEP Moshannon District Mining Office, 186 Enterprise Drive, Philipsburg.

“We hope scrap metal and automotive recyclers will take advantage of this workshop to learn more about our solid waste regulations and understand their compliance obligations,” said DEP Northcentral Regional Director Robert Yowell. “This will help to protect the environment and avoid civil penalties for violations.”

The workshop will present information on DEP’s solid waste regulations related to waste tires, oil, batteries, antifreeze and other wastes, as well as the proper storage and disposal of such items.

In addition, the workshop will include information on the National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program, which provides \$1 for every mercury switch recycled through the program.

Pre-registration is required for the workshop. Those planning to attend should call DEP Recycling Coordinator Michelle Ferguson at 570-321-6533 or send email to: miferguson@state.pa.us and provide their name, phone number, and the name of their business.

DCNR to Hold Informational Session on New Nature Inn at Bald Eagle State Park

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will hold an open house on May 28 to provide information about the 16-room nature inn to be built at [Bald Eagle State Park](#) in Centre County.

The event will be held from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Beech Creek Fire Co. social hall.

"The first nature inn in our state park system will highlight the fabulous birding opportunities in Bald Eagle because of its ridges, valleys and diverse habitat that attract

many bird species," DCNR Bureau of State Parks Director John Norbeck said. "The facility will provide a unique, modern inn setting with an outdoor recreation and stewardship focus; make maximum use of green building technologies; and serve as a premier interpretive facility for bird watching."

Every spring, songbirds like warblers, flycatchers and swallows display courtship rituals and sing enchanting melodies while searching for nesting spots in the park. Boaters and beachgoers commonly see herons, gulls, geese and osprey around the lake. In the fall, you can find migrating mergansers, cormorants, and buffleheads on the lake.

Green features of the building will include a high efficiency geothermal heating and cooling system; solar collectors to heat water for showers and laundry; rainwater will be collected and used for flushing toilets; low water use plumbing fixtures and high efficiency lighting throughout; Pennsylvania hardwoods from forests certified as using sustainable forestry for structure, finishes and furnishings; and direct access to hiking and biking trails to enable and encourage healthy interaction with the park resources.

Partnerships with conservation and artisan groups are being pursued to maximize the inn's educational and community benefits. In cooperation with Audubon Pennsylvania, guest rooms will feature limited edition prints of John James Audubon's paintings of birds found in Pennsylvania.

The inn will feature artwork by artisans participating in the Pennsylvania Wilds Artisans Workgroup created in the northcentral region of the state.

There will be 11 informational stations at the open house that will include details about the park, the design of the inn, the interpretive plan and recreational opportunities. The public will have the opportunity to interact with staff and provide comments on the new inn.

Groundbreaking for the inn is expected this fall.

Network of Trails, Walkways Beckon Pennsylvanians During Hiking Week

Hikers have more than a 100 choices to pick their path and pace to get exercise and explore Pennsylvania's bountiful outdoors during the statewide [Hiking Week celebration](#), May 24 to June 1.

"Thanks to the work of the [Keystone Trails Association](#), our bureaus of state parks and forestry, and hiking enthusiasts across the state, this increasingly popular event continues to meet its 100-hike goal, while providing activities for all ages and abilities," said Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. "We hope novices will join the trail-hardened veterans in this annual salute to healthy exercise and the serenity of those very special places found outdoors at so many of our state parks, forests and municipal greenways."

"Pennsylvania Hiking Week is a great time to explore Pennsylvania's numerous hiking trails," said Curt Ashenfelter, executive director of the Keystone Trails Association. "Whether you like to hike alone or with a group, spring is a beautiful time of year in Penn's Woods. Before or after anyone hikes, I encourage joining a hiking club because they offer numerous benefits for beginning and experienced hikers."

Special events planned by DCNR and the Keystone Trails Association will take place in parks, forests, cities and towns across the state. All of the scheduled hikes have leaders and include a variety of lengths and terrain - from easy strolls along urban greenways to strenuous treks in some of Pennsylvania's rugged mountain areas.

Special hikes include night hikes, wildflower walks, hikes for people with disabilities, pet walks, geology walks, and more.

In a related action, the House passed [House Resolution 744](#) (Everett-R-Lycoming) designating May 24 to June 1 “Pennsylvania Hiking Week.”

Organized in 1956, Keystone Trails Association is a 1,100-member umbrella organization made up of 50 hiking and outdoors organizations in and around Pennsylvania.

A list of hikes already planned can be found on [DCNR’s Hiking Week 2008 webpage](#) or visit the [Keystone Trails Association website](#).

Game Commission Opens Wildlife Media Resource Center, Business Center

The Game Commission opened two new sections on its website this week, a [Wildlife Media Resource Center](#) and an [online Business Center](#).

Looking for the perfect photo of a porcupine for your school report? Interested in changing your computer screen-saver to highlight Pennsylvania wildlife? Then check out the latest addition to the Pennsylvania Game Commission's website the Wildlife Media Resource Center.

"This resource center provides information, photographs and streaming videos that showcase Pennsylvania's amazing wildlife resources," said Carl G. Roe, Game Commission executive director. "The reference materials and photographs may be used to promote and/or learn more about wildlife. They are available to news media, students and others interested in wildlife and may used in articles, school reports and as a desktop display or screen-saver on your computer."

The website offers visitors 46 photos that can be used as screen savers; as well as 60 bird and 60 mammal photos. There also are more than 50 video downloads featuring information about various wildlife species, hunting safety tips and important Game Commission programs to promote hunting, trapping and wildlife education.

The Media Resource Center also links to the Game Commission's news releases, research reports and statistics, the popular Wildlife Note series and information about the state's wildlife on the endangered and threatened birds and mammals.

In an effort to save money, increase the competitive bidding process and meet the public's expectations for open government, the Game Commission also launched its online "PGC Business Center" to serve as a one-stop shop for companies looking to do business with the state wildlife agency.

"This new business center will reduce our postage and printing costs while, at the same time, enable more companies to become aware of opportunities to submit bids to do business with the Game Commission," said Carl G. Roe, agency executive director. "Additionally, this new site will provide the public with information about those companies awarded contracts, and reduce the time our employees spend on the telephone talking to bidders and potential bidders."

Information about various Game Commission procurement and service contracts can be viewed, from the purchase of herbicide used on State Game Lands to road-killed deer removal from local roads. Companies also may view timber, oil and gas bid packages being offered by the Game Commission.

The PGC's Business Center also provides links to the Department of General Services' surplus equipment, forms, procurement handbook, supplier registration and PA Supplier Portal.

Citizens Advisory Council to DEP Spring Advisory Newsletter Now Online

The Citizens Advisory Council to the Department of Environmental Protection this week published its [Spring 2008 Advisory newsletter](#) outlining Council initiatives.

The newsletter includes stories on public outreach on mine reclamation, response to concerns raised about waste program changes, statements supporting anti-idling and other air quality regulations and announced the availability of the Council's [2007 Annual Report](#) and a report on its [regional hearing in Bedford](#).

For more information, visit the [DEP Citizens Advisory Council webpage](#).

DEP Employees Recognized By Governor For Excellence

Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty this week congratulated [William Feher](#), of Luzerne County, and [Richard Beam](#), of Somerset County, for winning a Governor's Award for Excellence.

The annual awards recognize the exemplary accomplishments of Commonwealth employees and were presented by Gov. Rendell during a ceremony in Harrisburg.

"I am continually amazed and impressed by the dedication and tireless efforts of our state employees, both on the job and in their communities," said Secretary McGinty. "The initiative and leadership shown by these two men is to be commended. I congratulate them for their tremendous efforts and their commitment to exceptional public service."

Feher, an environmental program specialist in the waste management program at DEP's Northeast regional office in Wilkes-Barre, was the winner of the Community Service Award for his work with the Wyoming Valley Children's Association. For the past 12 years, Feher has helped organize the Wyoming Valley Motorcycle Show to benefit the Wyoming Valley Children's Association—a nonprofit organization that provides therapy and early childhood education for children age five or younger who demonstrate developmental and neurological disabilities.

The motorcycle show is held at the Kingston Armory in Luzerne County, and, with the help of Feher's hard work and dedication, has generated nearly \$67,000. Feher has been recognized with the Golden Apple Award for Volunteer Excellence by the association.

Richard Beam, a geologist with DEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation's Cambria office, was this year's recipient of the Initiative/Innovation Award. The award recognizes employees whose work results in increased productivity or efficiencies through innovative ideas that clearly surpass expectations and goals.

Beam used a drilling technique that is common in the mine industry to control discharges from two abandoned mine pools that were damaging homes and could have risked the loss of life, impacted nearby infrastructure, or caused a catastrophic mine blowout.

For more than 10 years, Beam has made noteworthy contributions to the commonwealth with his in-depth knowledge of coal geology, hydrogeology and mining technology. Those qualities were evidenced in his conceptualization of how the directional drilling technique could address high-priority problems.

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This innovative application also earned Beam the 2007 Federal Office of Surface Mining Eastern Regional Award.

The awards are presented as part of Public Employee Recognition Week, which is celebrated during the first week of May. During the week, state employees are recognized for their efforts to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars as they continue to address complex problems with innovative solutions that maximize public services and minimize costs.

For more information on the [state employee awards](#).

Grants & Awards

This section gives you a heads up on upcoming deadlines for grants and financial assistance as well as nominations for awards and other recognition programs. **NEW** means from last week—

- **May 20** – PennVEST [Infrastructure Loans/Grants for April 15 Meeting](#).
- **May 21**—[EPA Small Business Innovation Research Grants](#)
- **May 28**— [ConocoPhillips Energy Prize](#)
- **June 13**— [EPA Clean Diesel Program Grants](#)
- **June 15**—[Merck Wissahickon Creek Water Quality Improvement Grants](#)
- **June 15**—[EPA Region 3 Environmental Achievement Awards](#)
- **June 15**— [Northeast Environmental Partners Environmental Awards](#)
- **June 16**— [Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest](#)
- **June 20**— DEP [Section 902 Recycling Development Grants](#)
- **June 20**—[DEP PA Energy Harvest Grants](#)
- **June 20**— [DEP Biofuels Subsidy Grants](#)
- **June 20**—[PEDA Innovative, Advanced Renewable Energy Grants](#)
- **June 20**—[PEDA Duquesne Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy Grants](#)
- **June 30**—**NEW**. [DEP Energy Use Reduction Grants](#)
- **June 30**—**NEW**. [Dept. of Agriculture Healthy Farms, Healthy Schools Grants](#)
- **June 30**—[DCNR Wild Resources Conservation Grants](#)
- **June 30**—[Appalachian Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency Grants](#)
- [RC&D Grants for Improving Livestock Operations](#)
- **July 18**— [DEP Composting Infrastructure Development Grants](#)
- **September 20**— [Fish & Boat Commission Boating Facilities Grants](#)
- **September 24**— [Coca-Cola, NRC Recycling Bin Grants](#)
- **October 15**—[PPL Project Earth Environmental Education Grants](#)
- **October 31**—[PA Resources Council Lens On Litter Photo Contest](#)

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

Quick Clips

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

[Pike/Wayne Envirothon 2008](#)
[Clinton County Envirothon Winners to Compete at State Event](#)
[Bald Eagle Students Clinch Win at Centre County Envirothon](#)
[Warren Students Recognize Earth Day](#)
[Hanover Thanks Youths for Cleanup](#)
[18,000 Pounds of Junk Removed by Shikellamy Students](#)
[Education the Key to Slow Global Warming](#)
[State Getting Wal-Mart's Help in Cutting Its Energy Costs](#)
[Ready? Electric Bills Going Up, Just a Question of How Much](#)
[Op-Ed: Rate Caps on Electricity Need to Expire](#)
[Electric Bills Gong Up, Just a Question of How Much](#)
[Editorial: Looming Leaps in Electric Rates as Caps Come Off](#)
[Editorial: How to Avoid Electrical Shock](#)
[Green School Plans Bring Praise](#)
[The New College Green](#)
[Meet Philadelphia's New Mr. Green](#)
[Schuylkill Chamber Offers Ways for Businesses to Get Greener](#)
[CleanTech Network Launched to Promote Local Companies](#)
[It's Not Just a Landfill, It's a Gas Factory Too](#)
[Column: Lawmakers Look at Bioenergy](#)
[Proponents Say Fill Your Tires With Nitrogen](#)
[Erie Bike-to-Work Week Begins](#)
[As Fuel Prices Rise, Berks Drivers Turn to Soybean Blend](#)
[High Gas Prices Spawning Songs, Signs, Symbolic Acts](#)
[Editorial: Time to Get Serious About Saving Fuel](#)
[Column: Post-Petroleum Awakening](#)
[Governor Says There's No Need for Gas Tax Holiday](#)
[Natural Gas to Run Vehicles Cleanly](#)
[Natural Gas Rights Could Create Unexpected Windfall for Hughesville](#)
[Coal Region County Mulls Unthinkable, Switch to Gas](#)
[Landowners Urged to Negotiate Gas Drilling With Care](#)
[Expert: Schuylkill County Switch From Coal to Gas Makes Sense](#)
[BP Wind Project Moves Forward](#)
[Editorial: DOE Report Hypes Wind Energy](#)
[Editorial: Discreet Wind Siting Policy Would Be a Benefit](#)
[Schuylkill County Business Promotes Glass Recycling](#)
[Long-Burning Mine Fire in Northeast PA Is Finally Contained](#)
[Mine Subsidence Insurance Not a Top Priority for Residents](#)
[Editorial: Put Financing of 2 Commissions in General Fund, Not Sales Tax](#)
[Column: Increased Funding for PGC Small Price to Pay for Benefits](#)
[Festival in Erie Focuses on Fine Feathered Friends](#)
[Aviary Theater Plan Gets \\$2 Million Boost](#)
[Wild Hogs a Hot Topic in PA](#)
[PPL to Use Coal Ash Mix at New Recreation Site](#)
[Litter Cleanup Worth the Weight](#)
[Women Unite to Mother the Earth](#)
[Lansdale Company Creates Green Packaging](#)

[Historic Preservation Groups Make Wish List of Sites to Be Saved in Pittsburgh](#)
[20 Homes Planned at Former Textile Site](#)
[Bethlehem Panel Votes to Protect Tract](#)
[Adams County Cleans Up Green Space Guidelines](#)
[Auditor General: Don't Cut Lifeguards at State Park Beaches](#)
[Onorato Pitches Merger to Smaller Municipalities](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Chesapeake Bay Compliance Could Cost \\$11.7 Million](#)
[Editorial: Chesapeake Cleanup, Large Costs for Small Municipalities](#)
[Where are \\$\\$\\$ for Watershed Cleanup?](#)
[Woodward Township Pledges More Work to Meet DEP Mandates](#)
[Much for PA to Like in Federal Farm Bill](#)
[Students Help Plant Buffer on Conewago Creek in Warren County](#)
[Students Learn About Water Quality Testing in Webcast](#)
[Student Project Targets Loyalhanna Tributary](#)
[Students Using Beetles to Keep Wetlands Healthy](#)
[Filtration, Conservation May Be Keys to Bay Conundrum](#)
[Stinky Run Watershed to Get Upgrade](#)
[First Perkiomen Creek Sojourn Will Let Residents Explore Stream](#)
[Cure for Storm Runoff to be Work of Art](#)
[Flood Policy Rates Could Rise Sharply](#)
[Fulton County Growing Greener Projects Come to Light](#)

Regulations

The Department of Environmental Protection gave notice this week on the emission reduction credit amnesty [deadline of May 19](#), proposed Phase I [nontradable mercury allowance allocations](#) and changes to list of companies certified to perform radon-related activities ([PA Bulletin page 2331](#)). The Environmental Quality Board published final amendments to [Radiological Health regulations](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – May 17, 2008](#)

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 guidelines were 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. **NEW** indicates new from last week. [Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

- **NEW.** [Revised Schedule of meetings for DEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Recycling Fund Advisory Committee.](#)
- **May 20**—**CANCELLED.** Environmental Quality Board meeting. Next scheduled meeting is June 17.
- **May 20**—DEP [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#), Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring Technical Work meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **May 21**—[Capital Region Water Board](#) meeting and plant tour. Lebanon Authority Office, 2311 Ridgeview Road, Lebanon. 11:00. Contact: Cindy Rock, Cindy.L.Rock@comcast.net.
- **May 28**—DEP [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#), Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring Technical Work meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **May 28**—DEP Mine Families First Response and Communications Advisory Council meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. Contact: Allison Gaida 724-439-7289 or send email to: agaida@state.pa.us.
- **May 28**—[Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards Program](#). Pittsburgh.
- **May 28**—**NEW.** DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **May 29**—**NEW.** DCED [Weatherization Assistance Program State Plan Hearing](#). Conference Room 4 West, Fourth Floor, Keystone Building, Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **May 29**—DEP [Radiation Protection Advisory Committee](#) meeting. 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **June 5**—DEP Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators. Rescheduled to a conference call. Contact: Cheri Sansoni 717-772-5158 or send email to: csansoni@state.pa.us.
- **June 9**—Joint State Government Commission Task Force meeting on the Kilbuck Township Landslide pursuant to [House Resolution 897](#). Room 108 Finance Building. 12:00.
- **June 10**—DEP [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#), Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring Technical Work meeting. 10th Floor Training Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **June 16**—Environmental Issues Forum, hosted by the [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#), presents a program on the services provided by

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the [Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program](#) (PennTAP). Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.

- **June 17**—[Environmental Quality Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **June 24**—DEP [Small Systems Technical Assistance Center Advisory Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **July 9**—**CANCELLED**. DEP Water Resource Advisory Committee meeting. Rescheduled for July 22.
- **July 15**—House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee hearing on the Clean and Green Program. G-50 Irvis Building. 1:00.
- **July 22**—DEP [Water Resource Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 1:00.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

You can watch the [Senate Floor Session](#) and [House Floor Session](#) live online.

Helpful Web Links

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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

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

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

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

Stories Invited

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

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