

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Senate Committee Reports Out REAP Legislation, Coalition Urges Action

The Senate Finance Committee unanimously reported out [Senate Bill 690](#) (Waugh-R-York, O’Pake-D-Berks), the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act (REAP), that would give farmers tax credits for installing conservation practices.

The Committee amended the legislation to set the initial cap on tax credits for fiscal year 2007-08 at \$10 million.

Also this week, members of the General Assembly, the Chesapeake Bay

Foundation and representatives of 60 environmental, sportsmen and business groups held a press conference to call on the General Assembly and Gov. Rendell to enact the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act of Pennsylvania (REAP) as part of this year’s budget.

“Blessing,” a local dairy cow owned by the Michael Miller Family from Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, joined the event as a symbol of Pennsylvania agriculture and the vital role that dairy farming plays in our economy.

Video Blog: [Coalition Urges Action on REAP](#)

“Agriculture generates \$4.8 billion in farm production each year, with dairy farms leading the way,” said PA Executive Director of CBF, [Matthew Ehrhart](#). “By enacting REAP, the Governor and our legislators will be taking significant strides toward cleaning up our rivers and streams, providing cleaner drinking water, and creating healthier, more financially productive farms.”

“As a member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, I understand the need to clean up our rivers and streams and the role agriculture can play,” said Sen. Mike Waugh. “I also know farmers cannot do it on their own. REAP would give farmers a creative new tool that makes the private and public sectors real partners in achieving our water quality improvement goals.”

Attending the press conference were Democratic and Republican members of the General Assembly, including speakers Rep. Jerry Stern (R-Blair), Rep. Peter Daley (D-Washington) and Sen. Michael O’Pake (D-Berks).

Other legislators attending the event included: Rep. Michael McGeehan (D-Philadelphia), Rep. RoseMarie Swanger (R-Lebanon), Rep. Michele Brooks (R-Crawford) and Rep. Bob Bastian (R-Somerset).



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“Agriculture is Pennsylvania’s number one industry, but unfortunately we have lost farms and farmers over the last 10 years, 23 percent of dairy farms alone,” said [Sen. Michael O’Pake](#). “The REAP proposal gives farmers, particularly dairy operations, much needed assistance to install farm conservation practices that not only reduce nutrients and sediment runoff, but increase farm productivity and reduce costs. That means more usable income for our farmers at this critical time.”

“REAP will establish one of the most important programs to benefit agriculture and water quality in Pennsylvania’s history,” said [Rep. Jerry Stern](#). “This ground-breaking legislation will not only help our streams, but will also help the economic stability of our agricultural industry.”

“REAP will clean up the water that serves us all, without burdening our farmers with unmanageable debt,” said [Rep. Peter Daley](#). “It uses proven market mechanisms to connect farmers with a need with taxpaying businesses who can help out. It is an efficient, innovative solution that uses less bureaucracy to get the same job done in less time.”

Other speakers at the event included [Brian Hill](#), President and CEO Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC); [Joel Rotz](#), State Governmental Relations Director for the PA Farm Bureau; [Chad Forcey](#), Director of Business Development; PA Landscape and Nursery Association; and [John W. Brosious](#), Deputy Director, PA Municipal Authorities Association.

REAP would provide transferable state tax credits to Pennsylvania farmers who proactively plan and implement highly effective conservation practices to reduce runoff. Businesses that sponsor such conservation projects will also be eligible for corresponding tax credits. REAP will improve water quality and strengthen our agricultural communities and the economy statewide.

“The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau strongly supports REAP as a viable approach to increasing the return on the public’s investment in environmental stewardship by encouraging the private sector to help finance needed best management practices on farms,” said Joel Rotz, State Governmental Relations Director for the PA Farm Bureau. “The state budget is about public priorities and we believe this should be one of those included.”

The bill provides personal and business state tax credits ranging from 25 to 75 percent of the cost to install best management practices like barnyard improvements, riparian buffers, stream fencing and other practices. The development of manure management plans on farmlands, and forested buffers on non-farm lands, would also be eligible for credit. Each farmer enrolled in the program is eligible for up to \$150,000 in tax credits which can be extended over a period of 15 years.

The REAP proposal is included in [House Bill 100](#) and [Senate Bill 690](#).

To learn more, visit [CBF’s REAP webpage](#) and find Pennsylvania’s impaired waterways [on this webpage](#).

Video Blog: [Coalition Urges Action on REAP](#)

PA Environmental Council Unveils Stakeholder-Driven Climate Change Roadmap



Nearly 40 recommendations for reducing climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions were announced this week as part of the [Pennsylvania Climate Change Roadmap](#) developed with the help of business, farm, energy generation and environmental stakeholders convened by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

Video Blog: [PEC Unveils Climate Change Roadmap.](#)

“It’s time for Pennsylvania to help address a problem that is truly global in scale – climate change. The debate is over, science has spoken,” said [Brian Hill](#), President & CEO of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. “Climate change will affect the crops we raise, how much rain we get, the kinds of forests and wildlife we have, the amount of energy we use, and how we develop our land.

“Two years ago the Pennsylvania Environmental Council convened a group of stakeholders representing business, farm, energy generation and environmental interests to help us create a Climate Change Roadmap for our state,” said Hill. “It’s designed to show us the way to solutions and opportunities to address climate change in ways that work for Pennsylvania, and importantly, in ways our stakeholders could agree on.”

Using stakeholders from a variety of sectors to help shape environmental policy is a common approach for the Council.

“The Roadmap we’re announcing today lays out a state goal for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, makes available a series of tools to evaluate different emission reduction strategies and outlines nearly 40 specific steps we can take to achieve our reduction goals,” explained Hill.

Specifically, the Roadmap --

- Sets a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2025, from 2000 levels;
- Recommends capping greenhouse gas emissions and joining a nationwide system that allows the trading of credits to promote least-cost solutions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- Updates the state’s 2003 inventory of greenhouse gas emissions so we have a good foundation to work from;
- Establishes a model, based on the inventory, that will help us look at the impact of alternatives for reducing greenhouse gases and their impact on achieving our goal; and
- Makes 38 specific recommendations on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in several sectors: energy supply, transportation, residential, commercial and industrial buildings, agriculture, forestry, land use, on carbon sequestration and more.

“Pennsylvania alone generates about 1 percent of the world’s greenhouse gases, putting us in the same group with the top 25 emitting nations in the world,” said Hill. “If we don’t take action now, our projections show greenhouse gas emissions will increase to over 383 million metric tons by 2025.”

“Recognizing the importance of coal to Pennsylvania, we think there is a unique opportunity for the Commonwealth to be a leader in carbon sequestration – taking greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and locking them into underground geologic

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formations where they cannot harm the environment,” explained Hill. “We are now working with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the state’s Geologic Survey to identify these opportunities throughout the state.”

Joining in the announcement at the State Capitol were several members of the stakeholder group as well as Sen. Ted Erickson (R-Delaware), who along with Rep. Greg Vitali (D-Delaware), have introduced bipartisan legislation to create a climate change plan for Pennsylvania.

[Dr. Paul Hepperly of The Rodale Institute](#) noted during the event: “As interest and concern about climate changes intensifies, people around the world are scratching their heads and wondering how they might confront this trend. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is among the vanguard in mapping out strategies to counteract the production of greenhouse gasses. Among all economic sectors in this roadmap, agriculture can play a unique role through its potential to reduce its own fossil fuel dependence and to provide renewable fuels and resources. Agriculture also has the ability to capture significant amounts of greenhouse gases in the soil as organic matter, which provides multiple benefits for the environment and agricultural productivity and quality.”

[Joyce Ferris, Managing Partner for Blue Hill Partners LLC](#), noted: “U.S. and global carbon investors stand ready to invest billions of dollars in carbon credits and projects that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Current funds available globally exceed \$11 billion and are growing rapidly. Those states that develop clear, transparent public policies to address this issue, particularly policies that encourage market-based solutions, are likely to be early leaders in attracting private investment dollars for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other green technologies. Establishing an effective climate change strategy will allow Pennsylvania to build on its leadership position in renewable energy and become a magnet for national and international investors.”

[Nathan Wilcox](#), Energy and Clean Air Advocate for PennEnvironment remarked: “Global warming has quickly emerged as the most pressing environmental issue of our generation, and Pennsylvania – given that we create more global warming pollution than every state besides Texas and California – has a moral responsibility to be part of the solution. The Pennsylvania environmental Council’s Climate Change roadmap report will be a critical tool in helping Pennsylvania to make significant reductions in our global warming pollution levels.”

Both Sen. Erickson and Rep. Vitali said the recommendations made in the Roadmap are an important step in the consideration of climate change legislation in the General Assembly.

“Climate change is the most important environmental problem facing our planet,” said Rep. Vitali. “Pennsylvania has a responsibility to do more to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, because we are a larger source of the problem, and the Climate Roadmap provides a very helpful guide in taking those steps.”

“The fact that business, environmental, farm and other groups came together to develop the recommendations in the Climate Roadmap make them more creditable and useful as we move forward with legislation,” said [Sen. Erickson](#). “This is the next great opportunity for the economy and I believe Pennsylvania should be a leader, not play catch-up.”

The climate change legislation introduced by Rep. Vitali and Sen. Erickson includes House Bill 110 and Senate Bill 266.

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“We believe the Climate Change Roadmap for Pennsylvania offers a series of practical, stakeholder-driven recommendations on how Pennsylvania can contribute real world solutions to this problem, while benefiting our state economically,” said Hill. Pennsylvania has already taken an important first step by joining thirty one other states in the formation of The Climate Registry – a national greenhouse gas emissions reporting and management system. The Climate Registry will establish a set of common reporting protocols that businesses, governments, and others can use to track emissions and to develop an overall baseline for the evaluation of emission reduction policies.

Funding for the Climate Change Roadmap for Pennsylvania was provided by the Heinz Endowments, the Energy Foundation, and the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation, with staff support provided by the [Center for Climate Strategies](#), a subsidiary of Enterprising Environmental Solutions, Inc., a nonprofit organization.

The Climate Change Roadmap represents the views of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. The Pennsylvania Environmental Council convened a diverse group of stakeholders representing business, agriculture, energy generation, and environmental interests to help create the Roadmap report. Although all stakeholders do not necessarily agree with every statement or conclusion in the Roadmap report, their views, input, and analysis helped the Pennsylvania Environmental Council shape the final recommendations.

For more information and copies of the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council website](#) and click on the Climate Change Roadmap for Pennsylvania link or call 717-230-8044.

Video Blog: [PEC Unveils Climate Change Roadmap.](#)

NewsClips: [Group Offers Plan for Cutting Greenhouse Gases](#)
[Colleges Pledge to Back Climate Initiative](#)
[Global Warming Fight May Benefit Farmers](#)

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Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to voting session June 18. The House has added June 21 as a session day and the Senate has added it as a

“tentative” session day in addition to June 28 and 29. The budget push has begun!

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Other News

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- \$21 Million in Natural Resource, Open Space, Recreation Grants Announced
- USDA Offers Help With Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans
- EPA Spotlights Watershed Restoration Efforts in Bedford, Huntingdon Counties
- Judge’s Ruling Confirms Public’s Rights on Little Juniata River
- Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy Hosts Sojourn June 30
- June 16 River Sweep in Western PA Still Needs Volunteers
- Clinton County CleanScapes Project Announces Summer Cleanup Schedule
- Use It Again, PA! Website Expands Statewide to Promote Reuse of Products
- Shaver's Creek Environmental Center Birding Cup Raises \$11,000
- First West-Nile-Positive Mosquito of Season Discovered in Blair County
- Lancaster County Rolls Out Waste to Energy Message on Transfer Vehicles
- June 21 is “Dump the Pump” and Try Transit Day in Central PA
- Says Hybrid Vehicle Owners May Qualify for a Premium Discount on Insurance

Feature

- Disappearing Habitat, Disappearing Common Birds

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

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced

The Senate and Senate return to voting session June 18. Here’s what’s on the agenda this week--

House

Calendar: [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 Resolution 122](#) (George-D-Clearfield) petitioning the President and Congress to increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; [House Resolution 268](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study Game Commission forestry and mineral development policies; and [House Bill 496](#) (George-D-Clearfield) that would increase fees on nuclear power plants and for transportation escorts.

Committees: the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1320](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) establishing a program within DEP for the disposal of home-generated medical sharps and [House Bill 1331](#) (Carroll-D-Luzerne) extending the storage tank pollution prevention program through 2012; the Rules Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1200](#) (DePasquale-D-York) making changes to the responsibilities of

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the PA Energy Development Authority consistent with the Governor's Energy Independence Initiative, [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) requiring transportation fuels to have renewable content, and [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act in line with Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Proposal.

Senate

Calendar: [Senate Bill 715](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) amends the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act incorporating the Governor's Energy Independence Proposal changes; [Senate Bill 913](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) authorizing the transfer of certain excess fine and penalty revenues to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund; [Senate Bill 690](#) (Waugh-R-York, O'Pake-D-Berks) establishing the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act to give farmers tax credits for installing conservation practices

Committee: the Appropriations Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 752](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) requiring a description of data used to justify regulations before the Independent Regulatory Review Commission; the Game and Fisheries Committee meets to consider [House Bill 13](#) (Readshaw-D-Allegheny) relating to landowner liability and opening land to recreation

Bills Introduced

Several more environmental bills were introduced this week...

Tax on Biofuels: [Senate Bill 964](#) (Gordner-R-Columbia) clarifying existing law to say there should be a 9 cents per gallon tax for fuels containing renewable content.

Alternative Fuel Tax Credit: [Senate Bill 965](#) (Gordner) providing a tax credit for manufacturers of alternative fuel.

Keystone Fund: [Senate Bill 728](#) (Scarnati-R-Jefferson) restoring the State System of Higher Education allocation from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2006-07, a Senate companion to House Bill 1295 (Hanna-D-Clinton).

Transmission Lines: [Senate Resolution 129](#) (Stout-D-Washington) expressing opposition to the designation of national interest electric transmission corridors.

Sunday Hunting: [House Bill 1524](#) (Hanna-D-Clinton) authorizing Sunday hunting on commercial regulated hunting grounds.

Senate/House Bills Moving

Here's the rundown on environmental bills moving in the General Assembly this week....

Senate

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REAP: [Senate Bill 690](#) (Waugh-R-York, O’Pake-D-Berks) establishing the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act to give farmers tax credits for installing conservation practices was amended and reported from the Senate Finance Committee.

Alternative Energy Standards: [Senate Bill 715](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) amends the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act incorporating the Governor’s Energy Independence Proposal changes was amended and reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

Fee/Penalty Funds: [Senate Bill 913](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) authorizing the transfer of certain excess fine and penalty revenues to the General Fund was amended and reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

Regulation Justification: The Senate State Government Committee reported out [Senate Bill 752](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) requiring a description of data used to justify regulations before the Independent Regulatory Review Commission. The bill was then re-referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

House

Neighborhood Developments: [House Bill 1280](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) amending the Municipalities Planning Code to further define traditional neighborhood development was reported from the House Appropriations Committee and passed by the House. The bill now goes to the Senate for its consideration.

Main Street Program: [House Bill 420](#) (Hickernell-R-Lancaster) revising the definition of “downtown” under the Main Street Program to include mixed uses was reported from the House Appropriations Committee, passed by the House and now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Transmission Lines: [House Resolution 297](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) expressing opposition to the designation of national interest electric transmission corridors was adopted to the House.

Hybrid Vehicles: [House Resolution 106](#) (Cohen-D-Philadelphia) urging auto makers to develop and produce plug-in hybrid vehicles was adopted by the House.

Energy Efficiency: [House Bill 543](#) (Watson-R-Bucks) establishing an energy efficiency home assistance program in the PA Housing Finance Agency was referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

PA Energy Development Authority: The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee reported out [House Bill 1200](#) (DePasquale-D-York) making changes to the responsibilities of the PA Energy Development Authority consistent with the Governor’s Energy Independence Initiative.

Renewable Transportation Fuels: [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) requiring transportation fuels to have renewable content was reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Alternative Energy Standards: [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act in line with Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Proposal was reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Wind Farms: The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee reported out [House Bill 656](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) that would allow farms preserved under the state Clean and Green law to allow the development of wind farms after amending the bill to remove language that would have prohibit a municipality from denying a permit for any reason other than a failure to comply with permit procedures.

Nuclear Plant Fees: [House Bill 496](#) (George-D-Clearfield) that would increase fees on nuclear power plants and for transportation escorts was reported from House Appropriations Committee and is on the House Calendar for action.

Keystone Fund: The House Finance Committee reported out [House Bill 1295](#) (Hanna-D-Clinton) to amend the Keystone Recreitaion, Park and Conservation Fund Act to restore the allocation of funds for fiscal year 2006-07 to the State System for Higher Education.

Green Schools: [House Bill 894](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) authorizing the Department of Education to provide extra reimbursement for school building construction meeting LEED green building standards was amended and reported from the House Education Committee and re-committed to the House Rules Committee.

Electric Meter Loan Program: [House Bill 1297](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) establishing an electric meter lending program in local liabraries was reported out of the House Education Committee with a request the bill be referred to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

House Committee Reports 3 Bills in Governor's Energy Package

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee reported out three of the four bills in the Governor's Energy Independence Initiative without amendment. The bills include:

- **PA Energy Development Authority:** [House Bill 1200](#) (DePasquale-D-York) making changes to the responsibilities of the PA Energy Development Authority consistent with the Governor's Energy Independence Initiative.
- **Renewable Transportation Fuels:** [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) requiring transportation fuels to have renewable content.

- **Alternative Energy Standards:** [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act in line with Gov. Rendell’s Energy Independence Proposal.

The House Consumer Affairs Committee has scheduled a meeting to consider [House Bill 1201](#) (George-D-Clearfield) making changes to Title 66 (Utility Code) consistent with Gov. Rendell’s Energy Independence Proposal on June 19.

Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) serves as Chair of the House Environmental Resources and Energy and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) is the Minority Chair.

NewsClip: [Rendell’s Energy Plan Progressing in House, But Not Senate](#)

Alternative Energy, Fee/Penalty Use Bills Move Out Of Senate Committee

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee reported out two bills this week, one of the bills in the Governor’s Energy Independence Initiative and legislation on the distribution of penalties collected by the Department of Environmental Protection. They were:

- [Senate Bill 715](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) amends the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act incorporating the Governor’s Energy Independence Proposal changes was amended to deal with issues related to the ownership of renewable energy credits, net metering and the solar energy requirements.
- [Senate Bill 913](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) authorizing the transfer of certain excess fine and penalty revenues to the General Fund was amended to transfer excess funds to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.

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

NewsClip: [Rendell’s Energy Plan Progressing in House, But Not Senate](#)

Freeman Bill to Promote Alternative to Sprawl Passes House Unanimously

[House Bill 1280](#), introduced by Rep. Bob Freeman (D-Northampton) to promote traditional neighborhood development as an alternative to sprawl, was approved unanimously in the House of Representatives and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

“Traditional Neighborhood Development is an excellent alternative to the type of sprawl development that consumes vast amounts of farmland and creates traffic congestion nightmares,” Rep. Freeman said. “TNDs are a more compact form of development that use less land, are pedestrian-friendly and provide for a mix of uses and housing options that foster a greater sense of community than conventional suburban developments. A TND creates an actual village or neighborhood rather than a subdivision.”

In the 1999-2000 session of the legislature, Freeman authored the Traditional Neighborhood Development provisions, known as Article VII-A, to the state’s Municipalities Planning Code. Since then, a number of communities pursued the TND alternative, but provisions in the 2000 law proved somewhat cumbersome to implement.

Freeman said House Bill 1280 would make significant changes to the TND provisions to make it easier for municipalities to use as an alternative to sprawl.

Under current law, a TND that is in the form of a new development must be in the form of an overlay zone rather than a designation “by right.” The bill would allow municipalities the option of either designating a TND “by right” or to continue to offer the overlay zone approach.

“By allowing municipalities to make an outright TND designation in their zoning codes, it would be a lot easier to create TNDs,” Rep. Freeman noted. “Municipalities could ensure that this more compact form of development would be utilized, rather than simply suggesting it to a developer as an alternative. With this added tool in their planning toolbox, local officials would be in a much better position to manage growth more effectively, preserve more open space and reduce people’s dependency on the automobile for everyday needs.”

The bill also would allow municipalities to incorporate a design guideline manual for TNDs as part of their zoning and subdivision and land development ordinances in order to ensure quality design.

Senate Committee Hears From Electric Generators, Distributors on Energy Policy

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Consumer Protection Committees held their [second public hearing](#) on energy policy this week taking comments from representatives of the electric generating and distribution industry.

The witnesses included Douglas Biden, Electric Power Generation Association, David Kleppinger, Industrial Energy Consumers of PA, Michael Love, Energy Association of PA, Richard Rathvon, Retail Energy Supply Association and Michael Kormos, PJM Interconnection.

[Douglas Biden](#), Electric Power Generation Association, told the Committee electric generators have assumed the financial risk of building new power plants under Pennsylvania’s competitive electricity market instead of ratepayers under the hold regulated system. As a result, few new power plants are being built because they cannot be assured of a return on their investment.

In addition rate caps have stifled retail competition and have restricted the development of demand response and energy efficiency programs because consumers are not getting the appropriate price signals when they use power at peak use times, the time at which power is most expensive.

Biden noted that more than 96 percent of the average PJM Interconnect wholesale price for electricity in 2006 was comprised of fuel (76 percent), environmental costs, other variable operating and maintenance expenses and congestion costs. Only 2.9 percent of the average wholesale price was contributed by generator markup.

On the pending energy policy bills, Biden had this to say, “The procurement provisions in the proposed amendments to the Competition Act codify the selection of winners and losers and interfere with the market by substituting a legislative preference for demand side and alternative energy resources, and creating a special test that some generation sources (such as coal and nuclear) must pass before they can be included in capacity plans. Given the time and resources required to plan and build adequate generation capacity, this provision could have serious adverse consequences for electric reliability and prices if government decisions turn out to be wrong.”

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[Michael Love](#), Energy Association of PA, commented that legislators are facing priorities that are not always complementary, noting that electric system reliability (keeping the lights on) is of great concern while at the same time there are priorities for increasing renewable sources of energy which do not provide steady, reliable power all the time. For example, wind generators work about 25 percent of the time while solar units produce electricity about 15 percent of the time.

Love also expressed concern for electric reliability provisions in the pending legislation that would require increased electrical demand be met first by demand side management and energy efficiency, which is a voluntary program, while mandating the use of renewable sources of energy that do not operate all the time.

Love recommended more should be done to address energy conservation efforts in Pennsylvania's housing stock, 30 percent of which was built before 1939 and 80 percent before 1979, the first energy crisis. Many older homes still lack insulation, energy efficient windows and have inefficient water heaters.

He noted his Association supports long-term contracts, as long as other ratepayers do not subsidize the lower prices in these contracts.

[David Kleppinger](#), of the Industrial Energy Consumers of PA, represents 24 large commercial and industrial electricity and natural gas users. Kleppinger said without changes, economic development and employment will suffer in Pennsylvania when electric rate caps expire in 2010 and offered support for long-term energy contracts.

He noted the system benefit charge proposed by Gov. Rendell to fund an \$850 million bond issue to promote new and renewable energy resources will “undeniably increase prices to customers in the short-term with a promise of lower prices in the future.” He recommended the legislative language be clarified to set a firm cap of \$10,000 per year for each company affected.

[Richard Rathvon](#), Retail Energy Supply Association, said they agree with the goals of Gov. Rendell's energy initiative, but does not agree that legislation affecting Title 66 and provisions related to electric competition is necessary to accomplish those goals.

“The Public Utility Commission has issued a set of policy guidelines and default service rules that will begin the transition (of electric rates) towards competitive markets and should be allowed to work,” said Rathvon. “Indeed, RESA believes that the legislation at issue is fraught with unintended consequences and could have a chilling effect on the progress toward a competitive electric market.”

For example, Rathvon noted that long term contracts shift financial risk to other ratepayers and would mute price signals to consumers to promote energy efficiency or participate in demand side management programs. Longer contracts could also increase the need for new power plants and transmission lines.

Giving authority to the PA Energy Development Authority to buy and sell power raises a number of conflict of interest questions, said Rathvon. He noted California hired consultants and trades during its electric crisis with “disastrous results” and conflicts occurred between the traders and consultants hired.

“The competitive market is the best pathway to deliver innovative products that allow consumers to meet their unique individual needs and reducing consumption thus helping the environment,” Rathvon said.

[Michael Kormos](#), PJM Interconnection, provided an overview of PJM responsibilities in maintaining a reliable electric transmission system and a regional market for electricity for 51 million people in 13 states from New Jersey to Illinois.

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Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Initiative is included in: [Senate Bill 716](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) making changes to Title 66, [Senate Bill 715](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act, [Senate Bill 661](#) (Wozniak-D-Cambria) giving additional responsibilities to the PA Energy Development Authority and [Senate Bill 789](#) (Dinniman-D-Chester) establishing the PennFuels Program to require renewable content in transportation fuels.

And in the House, [House Bill 1200](#) (DePasquale-D-York) making changes to the responsibilities of the PA Energy Development Authority, [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act, [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerger-D-Montgomery) establishing the PennFuels Program to require renewable content in transportation fuels and [House Bill 1201](#) (George-D-Clearfield) making changes to Title 66.

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).

To watch a video of the hearing and for copies of testimony, visit the [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee webpage](#)

NewsClip: [Energy Efficiency, Rate Caps on Collision Course](#)

House Committee Hears Comments on Changes to Electric Competition

The House Consumer Affairs Committee this week held a hearing on House Bill 1201 (George-D-Clearfield) that would make a number of changes to the Public Utility Code to implement, including electric competition, as recommended in the Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Initiative.

Presenting testimony were: John Hanger, President & CEO of PennFuture, PUC Commissioner James Cawley, Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty, Rebecca Bagley, Department of Community and Economic Development, Sonny Popowsky, PA Consumer Advocate, Bill Lloyd, PA Small Business Advocate, Michael Love, Energy Association of PA, Richard Hudson, Retail Electric Supply Association, Jack Crowley, Exlon Power – on behalf of the Electric Power Generation Association.

[John Hanger](#), President & CEO of PennFuture, said he supported legislation, saying, "Continuing business as usual, and not passing House Bill 1201 will also increase the chances of substantial electricity price increases in 2010 and 2011."

He said the bill targets electric consumption during the 100 hottest hours of the year, when electric demand is the greatest, noting PJM Interconnection estimates that for every 1 percent reduction in demand during these times reduces peak prices by as much as 10 percent.

PUC Commissioner [James Cawley](#), provided detailed comments on the legislation on behalf of the entire Public Utility Commission noting the legislation looks forward to the day when competitive suppliers will come back into Pennsylvania's electricity market.

[Kathleen McGinty](#), Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, provided an overview of the Governor's Energy Independence Initiative.

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[Rebecca Bagley](#), Department of Community and Economic Development, provided a summary of the elements of the Governor’s Energy Independence Initiative designed to promote the development of renewable energy resources.

[Sonny Popowsky](#), PA Consumer Advocate, provided an overview of Pennsylvania’s competitive market for electricity similar to the presentations he has given other committees over the past two years.

[Bill Lloyd](#), PA Small Business Advocate, said the provisions of the bill that shifts from the current “prevailing market prices” policy to a portfolio is like to produce electric rates that change too frequently and too dramatically. He noted small commercial and industrial customers were likely to see rates change four times a year.

[Michael Love](#), Energy Association of PA, again expressed concerns that House Bill 1201 and other proposed legislation to not adequately provide for electric reliability and offer, at times, conflicting priorities.

[Richard Hudson](#), Retail Electric Supply Association, urged the Committee to consider the advantages of a competitive electricity market that draws competing electric suppliers. The Association agrees with the goals of Gov. Rendell’s energy initiative, but disagrees that legislation is necessary to accomplish those goals.

[Jack Crowley](#), Exlon Power – onbehalf of the Electric Power Generation Association, said Pennsylvania needs to continue to pursue the development of a competitive retail and wholesale electricity market to ensure Pennsylvania’s energy needs.

Rep. Preston (D-Allegheny) serves as Chair of the House Consumer Protection Committee and Rep. Godshall serves as Minority Chair.

NewsClip: [Energy Efficiency, Rate Caps on Collision Course](#)

Other News

Joanne Denworth, Joseph Manko Recognized with PEC’s Curtin Winsor Award

The [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) honored Joanne R. Denworth and Joseph M. Manko with the Curtin Winsor award at its 37th Annual Philadelphia Dinner this week.

Though each is still active in environmental leadership positions today, Denworth and Manko are being honored for life-long achievement especially the important role they played in expanding the Council’s work statewide.

They helped the Council collaborate with businesses, communities and government to tackle critical environmental challenges facing the Commonwealth including hazardous waste, water quality, brownfields remediation, and land use.

“Individually, Joe and Joanne brought a wealth of experience and insight to their work with the Council. Collectively, they took the Council to another level, helping to make it Pennsylvania’s leading environmental organization,” said Brian J. Hill, President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Denworth is a land use and environmental lawyer, who works in the Governor’s Office of Policy, on state agency policy issues relating to land use, community development, environmental protection, conservation and recreation, transportation, water and sewer infrastructure, agriculture, and historic preservation.

Denworth served as president of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council for 12 years. She established four regional offices and spearheaded coalitions for land use

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reform, enhancement of urban environments, open space protection and resource-conserving development.

As a direct outgrowth of her work with the Council, she founded and became president of 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, a statewide organization dedicated to revitalizing cities and towns, conserving rural lands, and reducing sprawl.

Gov. Rendell had this to say about Denworth: “Joanne Denworth could truly be the Joan of Arc of the environmental movement. She has been an effective advocate for environmental progress who never lost sight of her goal of protecting and improving the environment whether working in or out of government. Every Pennsylvanian owes her a tremendous debt of gratitude.”

“It’s very special for me to receive the Winsor Award from PEC, an organization I nurtured and grew for so many years, and whose key staff I mostly hired and still love,” said Denworth. “I’m particularly proud of the project work we started in all regions of the state, which has been ably carried on and expanded by my successors. It was a treat to work with Joe Manko as Board Chair all those years, Curt and Eleanor Winsor, whom this Award honors, taught me a lot about fund raising, as well as statewide environmental issues, and enabled me to build on the organizational foundation they had laid.”

Manko is a founding partner of Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP. He joined the PEC Board almost 30 years ago, after serving as Regional Counsel for EPA’s Mid-Atlantic Region.

During his board membership, Manko served in numerous capacities, including the Legislative Committee, and played a major role with fundraising. Upon the retirement of Curtin and Eleanor Winsor and then Susie Montgomery, Manko was instrumental in convincing Joanne Denworth to leave her law practice and take over the reigns at PEC. He agreed to serve as Chairman of the Board with Joanne serving as Executive Director, then President.

For many years, Joe and Joanne ran PEC, greatly increased funding and staff, expanded the number of projects, and opened additional offices across the state. Together, they helped make PEC a major player in the environmental movement and a respected advocate for environmental progress with the legislature and the Governor’s office.

Gov. Rendell noted of Manko: “Joe Manko is as fine an environmental attorney as there is in the United States and has done a superb job as Chairman of the PennVest Board. He fights for environmental progress and justice every day and most often succeeds in a big way. His impact and effectiveness are unmatched.”

“Joe Manko helped build consensus on challenging issues facing the Commonwealth – addressing hazardous and solid waste, promoting land use reforms, encouraging the reuse of industrial sites and using market-based approaches to solve environmental problems, such as air pollution,” said Pennsylvania Environmental Council President Brian Hill. “Through his actions and leadership, he changed the course of the organization.”

In response to receiving the award, Manko said “Curt Winsor was one of my mentors. With his untiring work ethic and wonderful sense of humor, he helped launch me. I then had the pleasure of watching PEC grow from Curt’s original vision of having PEC serve as a mediator between, and partner with, the various organizations in the environmental movement, government and business, to its current position as an advocate for the protection and restoration of Pennsylvania’s natural and built environment that has

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garnered the respect of the community. Accordingly, I am honored to receive this award in Curt's name and memory from his Pennsylvania Environmental Council.”

Manko served as Commissioner to Lower Merion Township for 27 years until his retirement in July 2006, making him the township's longest serving elected official. He also serves as Director of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, as an Honorary Director of the Lower Merion Conservancy and is a member of the Montgomery County Greenhouse Gas Reduction Task Force.

Manko was recently elected by the Philadelphia Board of Judges to serve as a commissioner on the Fairmount Park Commission. While Chair of the Council, he served on Governor Ridge's 21st Century Environment Commission, and currently serves as Governor Rendell's designee to chair the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PennVest) Board of Directors.

The Winsor Award was established by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's board of directors in 1988 in memory of the Council's founder and longtime president, Curtin Winsor. Periodically, the Board has chosen to recognize exemplary individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to enhancing the Commonwealth's environment.

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council website](#).

\$21 Million in Natural Resource, Open Space, Recreation Grants Announced

Gov. Rendell this week announced \$21 million investment in grants for a variety of land conservation projects in 38 counties.

“This investment will fund 82 projects and help preserve more than 10,800 acres of land and enhance what we treasure in Pennsylvania — our beautiful fields, forests, waterways and natural areas,” Gov. Rendell said. “Across the state, we are investing in headwaters and watersheds, wildlife habitats, expanding and enhancing existing parks and open space, and creating new opportunities for people to get outside and enjoy nature.

Funding for the grants comes from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Growing Greener II and Keystone '93, a DCNR fund generated from a portion of the realty transfer tax.

Projects range from \$1.5 million to the Wildlands Conservancy for the purchase of more than 2,300 acres in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties for forest land and watershed protection and recreation, to \$24,000 to Scott Township in Allegheny County for the acquisition of two acres to preserve a natural area and greenway.

“Our local partners – including municipalities, counties, land trusts and conservancies – are critical to our successful efforts to protect our natural areas,” the Governor said. “Our grants help them meet the vision they have for their communities and regions.”

The statewide projects include:

- [National Audubon Society](#), \$150,000 to develop the biological design of individual Important Bird Areas throughout Pennsylvania and economic and community support to sustain them. Kim Van Fleet, 717-213-6880;
- [PA CleanWays](#), \$75,000 to provide technical assistance, promotion, training and education to establish a corps of volunteers to conduct greenway clean-ups; conduct an increased public awareness program about the Adopt-A-Greenway program; conduct up to six clean-ups at approved greenway sites; and begin phase 2 of replacing existing

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signage at 25-30 current and newly adopted greenway sites. Heidi Pedicone, 724-836-4121;

- [Pennsylvania Land Trust Association](#), \$185,000 to provide conservation education, training and technical assistance services for 2007-2008 including operation of the Conservation Easement Assistance Program, planning and implementation of the 2008 PALTA Conference, convening training opportunities and production of promotional materials. Andrew Loza, 717-230-8560;
- [Pennsylvania Parks and Forestry Foundation](#), \$150,000 to provide education, training and technical assistance services through a comprehensive program of outdoor recreation, event planning and implementation, develop a demonstration garden, launch a small events calendar and develop a matching grant program to leverage Friends groups' projects. Marci Mowery, 717-236-7644;
- [Natural Lands Trust](#), \$120,000 for continued development of educational materials and the training and technical assistance to municipal officials, planning consultants and community planners on the Growing Greener “Conservation by Design” Program. Ann Hutchinson, 610-353-5640;
- [Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council](#), \$50,000 to help revitalize metropolitan areas and make them more livable by planting of trees in urban sites; installation of landscaping, signs and related site improvements. Norman Lacasse, 717-652-4079;
- [Rails-to-Trails Conservancy](#), \$95,000 to produce the 2008 Greenway Sojourn; create a research report on the effect of rail-trails on adjacent real estate values in the commonwealth; administer a mini-grant program for trail improvement projects in the state; and carry out a trail user survey for one rail-trail in Pennsylvania. Susan Weaver, 717-238-1717;
- [Heritage Conservancy](#), \$7,500 to provide ongoing outreach and training on community open space investments. Michael Frank, 215-345-7020; and
- [Keystone Trails Association](#), \$69,000 for a sub-grant program to hiking organizations to purchase trail maintenance equipment and for materials and supplies for trail maintenance and construction activities such as brushing out trails, removing fallen trees, building and maintaining footbridges, building steps out of mountain stones, trail blazing, building and maintaining overnight shelters, privies and camp sites for use by backpackers. Norman Lacasse, 717-652-4079.

[A complete list of grants by county is available online.](#)

Shippenville Farm Regional Winner of 2007 Environmental Stewardship Award



Paul and Beth Wingard of Shippenville have been selected as regional winners of the 2007 [Environmental Stewardship Award](#) Program. Their farm, Sunrise Club Calves, is one of seven regional winners nationwide.

The prestigious program is sponsored by Dow AgroSciences L.L.C. and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The annual award program recognizes cattle producers across the nation, whose stewardship practices are inventive, cost-effective and contribute to environmental conservation. Administered by the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, the Wingards are the sole representative of NCBA’s Region I. They were nominated by the Pennsylvania Cattlemen’s Association.

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“This award program acknowledges cattle producers who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to preserve natural resources,” explains Stacey Katseanes, coordinator of the program. “People who devote their lives to working the land embody the true meaning of environmentalists and for this Pennsylvania family, conservation is a lifetime commitment that has greatly rewarded them. Sunrise Club Calves demonstrates how today’s cattlemen utilize creative technologies and innovations to operate a profitable and environmentally-friendly business.”

Sunrise Club Calves is a cow/calf operation located in Clarion County, Pennsylvania. The business specializes in producing club calves, which are calves purchased by 4-H and FFA members to be shown as their project animals. The farm consists of 125 acres of grass/clover pasture and about 25 acres of woodlots situated on gently rolling hills. The farm has four ponds and is crossed by several small streams.

Grass is the major crop produced on the farm. Pasture is intensely managed for increased productivity, profit, and environmental benefit. Management intensive grazing also reduces fuel and time used making and feeding hay and clipping pastures, and allows an increased stocking rate. In a good year, there will be surplus hay which may be marketed.

In addition to grazing, the Wingard’s have implemented many other conservation practices over the years. Fenced stream corridors keep cattle out of riparian areas and provide wildlife food and cover. Stabilized stream crossings made from concrete hog slats prevent soil erosion and down-stream sediment loading. Ponds are fenced to keep cattle out. Goats graze embankments to control weeds and brush. Woodlands, stream corridors, ponds and lush pastures supply food and cover for a wide range of wildlife including birds and fish.

Buffer areas along streams keep nutrients from entering streams during the grazing season. Livestock are provided drinking water in each paddock with a combination of pond and spring fed tire waterers, and a pressurized system using buried and above ground pipelines to supply hydrants and portable troughs.

The Wingards have worked diligently with conservation partners such as NRCS to implement these various conservation practices. In 2000, stabilized stream crossings were installed through the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program.

In 2004, the Environmental Quality Incentive Program was used to build a concrete feed pad and manure stacking area to reduce soil erosion, preserve pasture forage, collect manure and improve winter conditions for the cattle. A fenced and vegetated filter area below the manure storage prevents nutrient runoff to streams.

Included in this project was the stabilization of an area surrounding the feed pad using geotextile and crushed limestone. A nutrient management plan and a prescribed grazing plan were also developed. Water is available in all paddocks for more even grazing and manure distribution, and to eliminate traffic damage in laneways.

Other conservation partners include the Clarion County Conservation District, Northwest and Southwest Pennsylvania Project Grass, Game Commission, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

According to the Wingard’s, “our goal is to manage pasture, hay, and cattle to achieve maximum returns with minimum inputs, and improve the environment in the process.” The conservation practices they have implemented have not just preserved the farm’s natural resources, but have improved them and increased overall efficiency and productivity.

USDA Offers Help With Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans

Pennsylvania farmers and Technical Service Providers will now have an opportunity to work together to develop [Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans](#) under a new USDA initiative.

CNMPs have been developed through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program contracts for many years. What differs is the incentive for farmers to receive EQIP dollars through a contract that will then be used by the farmer to hire a private industry person to complete the plan rather than a USDA employee.

An information meeting for TSPs will be held in Harrisburg on July 13 to discuss this new program. For information about the meeting, please call Gary Smith at 717-237-2204.

This initiative is for the planning stages of a CNMP. Farmers will not only benefit from the value of the content in the CNMP, but it will also put farmers in a better position to apply for an additional EQIP contract that will go towards incentive payments to apply the practices shown in the CNMP. Funding for EQIP is limited, so farmers can take this step to make their EQIP applications more competitive in the ranking process.

According to USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist Craig Derickson, “TSPs stand to benefit from this program because it will put more dollars in the hands of the private sector that will do the planning work. It will help to build the capacity and expertise for doing conservation work for non-USDA employees. The more people we have involved in doing quality conservation work, the better it is for the farming community and the environment. NRCS welcomes TSPs to assist us in getting conservation work accomplished.”

Four issues are addressed in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan: 1) Manure and Wastewater Storage and Handling Plan, 2) Nutrient Management Planning, 3) Land Treatment Conservation Planning, and 4) Record Keeping. Nutrient Management Planning and some of the Manure Handling and Waste Water Storage can be accomplished through the State Conservation Commission’s Act 38 Nutrient Management Planning process.

There should be no duplication of services or confusion between the state and federal programs since the two agencies have worked together to make the programs compatible.

EQIP is a continuous sign up program so farmers who wish to participate can sign up now at their USDA Service Center for funding in 2008. Since TSPs need to be certified by NRCS to do the work, starting the process early will better ensure certification by the time farmers begin to receive contracts and are seeking qualified TSPs to do their CNMP plan.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

Additional information about USDA NRCS programs can be obtained through the [Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans Fact Sheet](#) or by contacting the local USDA Service Center. The Spanish/English toll free number is 1-866-232-0690.

EPA Spotlights Watershed Restoration Efforts in Bedford, Huntingdon Counties

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to promote watershed restoration projects were highlighted in a tour of two areas in Bedford County.

EPA and Department of Environmental Protection staff toured Broad Top Township, Pa.'s numerous abandoned mine drainage treatment projects. The tour revealed that the small community has successfully addressed soil and water pollution from a legacy of coal mining through state and federal funding, including more than \$900,000 from EPA.

This effort has improved the water quality and restored the dwindling populations of macroinvertebrates and fish to local waters, and has led to the construction of more than 28 acid mine drainage passive treatment systems (treatments relying on biological, geochemical, and gravitational processes rather than "active" chemical treatments).

The Shoup's Run Watershed Association in Huntingdon County, Pa. was created by Gracie Angelo who after she was flooded out of her home, created the Association.

SRWA addresses the region's soil and water pollution from a legacy of coal mining with the use of federal and state funds, including more than \$1 million from EPA. Projects completed to date include two passive acid mine drainage treatment systems, abandoned mine reclamation, stormwater retention, and gravel road maintenance.

These projects restored several miles of Miller Run (a tributary to Shoup Run) which now supports native brook trout formerly found only in the uppermost reaches of the stream.

Online Video: [Shoups Run Watershed Association Watershed Hero – Gracie Angelo](#)

Judge's Ruling Confirms Public's Rights on Little Juniata River

A Huntingdon County jurist has confirmed his prior ruling guaranteeing the rights of citizens to have access to the Little Juniata River for fishing, boating and other recreation - a move applauded by the state agencies participating in the case.

The ruling this week by Huntingdon County Court of Common Pleas Judge Stewart Kurtz denies the defendants' motion for post-trial relief filed after the original decision was handed down in January.

The Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Fish and Boat Commission had filed suit in 2003 against Donald Beaver and other defendants who had closed a 1.3-mile section of the Little Juniata River to the public and started a private fishing club.

In addition to upholding his findings that the Little Juniata River is navigable, and therefore public, Kurtz permanently enjoined the defendants "from interfering with the public's rights in the Little Juniata, including the posting and/or hanging of signs, advertising the Little Juniata River as private waters and threatening, harassing and otherwise attempting to exclude the public from fishing, boating, wading and/or recreating on and in the Little Juniata River and the submerged lands owned by the commonwealth."

The Commonwealth based ownership of the river on historical evidence of navigation and trade on the Little Juniata River dating from the 1700s and statutory designations of the river as a public highway dating to 1794, 1808 and 1822.

The Commonwealth's case drew the support of local residents and businesses and statewide organizations.

Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy Hosts Sojourn June 30

The [Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy](#), Montgomery County, will host a Perkiomen Sojourn June 30 to allow more people to spend some time on the Perkiomen Creek getting to know her character and personality. The Sojourn will begin at the PWC Headquarters in Schwenksville at 9:00 AM and is expected to arrive at the Lower Perkiomen Park in Oaks by mid afternoon. Pre-registration is required.

Thousands of people pass over or catch a glimpse of the Perkiomen Creek everyday as they travel throughout the Perkiomen Valley. Few have had a chance to get to know the “Perkie” up close and personally. But a renewed interest in creek and river sojourns is helping to change that.

Two local “watermen” will be acting as guides for the day. In addition, two informative stops are planned. Dr. Chris Kraft, retired Professor of Geology at the University of Delaware and local Schwenksville native, will discuss the geology of the Perkiomen Creek. Kelly Germann, Conservation Coordinator for the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, will provide some insights into the streambank restoration project completed by the PWC near the location of the deconstructed Collegeville Dam. A light picnic lunch will also be provided at the end of the day.

Those interested in joining the Perkiomen Sojourn should contact the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy to register and get additional information. A limited number of Heritage Featherlite 12s will be available from Hidden River Outfitters for use on the Sojourn. Sojourners can also use their own boats.

All participants must wear a personal floatation device while on the water. The fee for those needing a boat: \$40 Member / \$60 Non-member. For those using their own boat: \$30 Member / \$50 Non-member.

The Perkiomen Creek is the largest sub-watershed in the Schuylkill River system and drains more than 360 square miles of Montgomery, Bucks, Berks and Lehigh Counties. The Perkie also provides sourcewater for numerous public water systems. The Perkiomen Valley and tributaries of the Perkiomen Creek are also home to eight of the thirteen important natural areas identified in Montgomery County’s draft Natural Areas Inventory.

For more information, visit the [Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy](#) or contact the Conservancy at 610.287.9383.

June 16 River Sweep in Western PA Still Needs Volunteers

Residents can still participate in the [18th Annual River Sweep](#), the largest organized volunteer river cleanup effort in the country, set to take place from 8 a.m. to noon June 16 in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

“The key to making the River Sweep a success is community groups, churches, scout troops, sportsmen’s groups and concerned citizens, who volunteer their time to come out and join in the fight against pollution along the rivers and streams,” Pennsylvania River Sweep Coordinator Don Bialosky said. “Residents may come to one of the 26 cleanup sites Saturday and volunteer to help.”

River Sweep, an annual six-state effort to clean up litter and debris in the Ohio River watershed, is sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection, the Ohio

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River Valley Sanitation Commission and a number of Pennsylvania corporate sponsors including BASF, Duquesne Light, Dominion Foundation, Koppers, AK Steel, PPG Industries, Toyota, Neville Chemical Company and Babst, Calland, Clements and Zomnir, P.C.

The event winds through Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Indiana, West Virginia and Illinois, covering more than 2,400 miles of shoreline.

Last year, more than 1,100 volunteers collected trash and debris along the Ohio, Allegheny, Beaver, Monongahela and Youghiogheny rivers and their tributaries. Volunteers who participate receive trash bags and a souvenir T-shirt. Refreshments are provided at River Sweep sites by Giant Eagle and Walmart.

For more information, visit the [River Sweep webpage](#) or contact DEP's Don Bialosky at 412-442-4187 or via e-mail at epswritersweep@state.pa.us.

Clinton County CleanScapes Project Announces Summer Cleanup Schedule

The [Clinton County CleanScapes Project](#) has announced Summer Cleanup Events in Clinton and Lycoming counties for dates in June, July and August. Volunteers are needed for each of the events.

The events will be held--

- **June 23 - Grugan Twp., Clinton County.** Join CCC as they remove man-made debris from the West Branch Susquehanna River and from scenic Rt. 120 roadway starting at the PennDot Rest Stop on Rt. 120 West to Lazy Lane. Vehicle parking off of Rt. 120 at "Whetham Cut" pull-off. Canoe/kayak shuttle service and kayak rentals are available by calling Rock, River & Trail Outfitters at 570-748-1818. Pre-registration required by 12 noon on June 21.
- **July 28 - Woodward Twp., Clinton County.** Join CCC, Sunken Treasure Scuba Shop & Citizen Hose Co. Water Rescue members during the 4th Annual West Branch Susquehanna River & Roadway cleanup event. Boaters will launch from Farrandsville Rd. and hikers will cleanup scenic Farrandsville Rd. Canoe/kayak shuttle service and kayak rentals are available by calling Rock, River & Trail Outfitters at 570-748-1818. Pre-registration required by 12 noon on July 26.
- **August 11 - Jersey Shore Borough, Lycoming County.** Join CCC & Jersey Shore Borough as they remove man-made debris from the lower reach of Pine Creek to the West Branch Susquehanna River and end at the Jersey Shore boat launch. Canoe/kayak shuttle service and kayak rentals are available by calling Rock, River & Trail Outfitters at 570-748-1818. Pre-registration required by 12 noon on August 9. Updates forthcoming.

Photographers are encouraged to volunteer! If the volunteer does not own a camera, volunteers will be provided film, a disk or disposable camera. The cost of film developing will be paid through CCC with the understanding that one copy of the photographs will become the property of CCC and will be used for educational purposes.

Refreshment Coordinators will deliver lunches and drinks to the cleanup site, bake, and/or set up the picnic style luncheon.

Pre-registration for all events are required no later than two days prior to the cleanup event. Gloves, bags and safety vests will be provided. Long pants, shirts and closed toed shoes are mandatory. Youth 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

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Project funded in part by: CCC Members, DCNR's Shikellamy State Park & Sproul State Forest, Williamsport-Lycoming Community Foundation, PA CleanWays, Clinton County Commissioners, Wayne Twp. Landfill, PENNDOT, Avery Dennison & Dominion.

Questions about driving directions and event registrations should be sent to CCC Project Director Elisabeth Lynch at 570-893-4123 or elynch@clintoncountypa.com.

For more information, visit the [Clinton County CleanScapes Project webpage](#).

Use It Again, PA! Website Expands Statewide to Promote Reuse of Products

Whether you're looking for a place to drop off your old computer, a place to buy salvaged Victorian-era doors or a business that repairs watches, the [Use It Again, PA! website](#) has you covered.

The Use It Again PA! website features a statewide database of businesses that rent, repair or sell used products. Reuse is good for the environment and great for consumers looking to stretch their dollars. Reusing a product keeps it out of the waste stream and reduces the demand for resources required to make new products. And, used goods are usually a lot less expensive than new ones!

The website was recently expanded to move beyond its Philadelphia origins.

The site now allows searchers to specify 13 geographical areas and 30 product types. Also new on the site are dedicated sections for electronics reuse and recycling and for architectural salvage. The new sections contain loads of fun and educational information about the how's and why's of reusing these products.

The Use It Again, PA! website is also packed full of recycling information, from community specifics to general tips.

The website was created by the [Clean Air Council](#) in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Protection.

For more information, visit the [Use It Again, PA! website](#).

Shaver's Creek Environmental Center Birding Cup Raises \$11,000

Competitors in the 18th Birding Cup, hosted by Penn State's [Shaver's Creek Environmental Center](#), identified 175 bird species in the Centre Region in a 24-hour period last month. The Common Loons, a team comprised of Dan Ombalski, Dave Brandes, Mike Lanzone and Trish Miller, won the cup by identifying 144 species.

Fifty-four competitors formed a record-tying 13 teams to scour Centre, Huntingdon and surrounding counties for bird species to support the only annual fundraiser for Shaver's Creek. The center has raised more than \$11,000 in contributions toward animal care and educational programs thus far.

The County Cup, given to the top team that limited its search to a single county, went to Birding the Midnight Oil, which won the Birding Cup with a record 160 species in 2006. Team members Lewis Grove Tom Johnson, and Deuanne Hoffman identified 122 birds in Clearfield County.

The Potter Mug, awarded to the best novice team in the competition, went to the Phantom Inspectors. Paul Brigman, Brian Sedgwick, Yvonne Hatfield, Brad Perony, Matt Iwanec and Tesha Omeis identified 93 species.

The Birding Boot was a new category established this year to recognize the team that identified the most species without using motorized transportation. The Vagrants,

comprised of Josh Potter, Sarah Potter, Morgan Ilgen, Steve Back, Andy Back and Abbie Back, used bicycles and foot power to identify 94 species in the Raystown Lake area.

Donations and pledge fulfillments are still being accepted. For a complete listing of the bird species seen in this region during The Birding Cup, visit [Shaver's Creek Environmental Center](#) online.

First West-Nile-Positive Mosquito of Season Discovered in Blair County

State officials this week reported that the first mosquito sample of the 2007 season to have tested positive for the [West Nile Virus](#) has been found in Blair Township, Blair County.

They reminded residents of precautions they should take to lessen the chance of being bitten by an infected mosquito.

“Finding this West Nile Virus positive mosquito reminds us all that we need to take steps to reduce the risk of exposure,” Health Secretary Dr. Calvin B. Johnson said. “If you’re going to be outside, remember to use insect repellent containing DEET, especially around dusk and dawn, and wear long sleeves and light-colored clothing when possible.”

While most people do not get sick, a small percentage of those bitten will experience a fever, rash, headache, meningitis (inflammation of the tissue surrounding the brain), encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or even death, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Everyone is at risk, but older adults and people with compromised immune systems have the highest risk of developing severe illness because their bodies have a harder time fighting off disease.

“DEP staff is working with county West Nile Virus coordinators throughout the state to keep mosquitoes under control, but you can take some steps in your own back yard to help,” Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty said. “Remember: Dump it. Drain it. Treat it. Dump it if it has water in it; drain it if it can be drained; and treat it if it has standing water.”

A material known as Bti, which is available at many retail stores, can be safely used to treat standing water.

“As with people, animals become infected with the West Nile Virus only after being bitten by an infected mosquito,” Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff said. “Horses are most susceptible to illness after exposure, and we will continue to work with veterinarians and horse owners across the state to monitor horse populations.”

Secretary Wolff said horse owners should contact their veterinarians for vaccinations against the disease.

West Nile Virus cases occur primarily in late summer or early fall. In previous years, the first positive mosquito tests were reported on June 18, 2003; July 22, 2004; July 7, 2005; and June 28, 2006. Last year there were nine human cases of West Nile Virus in Pennsylvania, resulting in two deaths.

Mosquitoes will develop in any standing water or puddle that lasts more than four days. Tips to eliminate standing water include:

- Throw away tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers that have accumulated on property;
- Pay special attention to discarded tires;
- Drill holes in the bottom of outdoor containers;

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- Drainage holes that are located on a container’s sides allow enough water to collect for mosquitoes to develop;
 - Clean clogged roof gutters as needed;
 - Turn over plastic wading pools, wheelbarrows and birdbaths when not in use;
 - Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish;
 - Clean and chlorinate swimming pools that are not being used; and
 - Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property.
- For more information, visit the [West Nile Virus website](#).

Lancaster County Rolls Out Waste to Energy Message on Transfer Vehicles

A new fleet of [Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority](#) transfer trailers will be traveling on the county’s highways and roads. The unique feature is not the trailers themselves, but the message they carry.

The goal of the message is to inform residents that LCSWMA generates renewable energy from Lancaster County’s waste. Research indicated many people in the community don’t understand what actually happens to their non-recycled trash after it is collected; especially that energy is recovered from the waste.

In fact, trash is generating enough renewable energy at LCSWMA disposal facilities to power 1 in 6 Lancaster County homes.

After working with a marketing agency, a message was refined and two different graphics were created to turn the transfer fleet into rolling billboards. Jim Warner, LCSWMA Executive Director said, “Given today’s interest in renewable energy, we feel it is very important for Lancaster County residents to understand that LCSWMA is generating renewable energy from their trash and people should feel good about that. It is believed to be the first time truck “wraps” have been used on waste transfer trailers in the U.S.”

Within LCSWMA’s integrated solid waste management system, each transfer vehicle will average 6 trips a day on Routes 30 and 441 to deliver waste from the Transfer Complex on Harrisburg Pike in Lancaster, PA to either its 36 MWh Waste-to-Energy Facility in Bainbridge, PA or its Frey Farm Landfill in Conestoga, PA where a 3.2 MWh power plant generates renewable electricity by combusting landfill gas.

With the construction of the new 40,000 square foot transfer facility on Harrisburg Pike, LCSWMA purchased 13 new top-loading aluminum transfer trailers to replace steel compaction trailers. A benefit to the community is that each new trailer’s 20% increase in payload capacity results in a decrease of about 3,500 LCSWMA truck trips a year on the roads in Lancaster County communities.

Another benefit is the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the reduced number of truck trips. Additionally, LCSWMA’s diesel vehicles at all facilities are using a bio-diesel fuel blend which is expected to replace about 12,500 gallons of diesel fuel a year.

For more information, visit the [Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority website](#).

June 21 is “Dump the Pump” and Try Transit Day in Central PA



[Commuter Services of South Central Pennsylvania](#) and local transit agencies are urging commuters to “[Dump the Pump](#)” on June 21, and to plan to take transit instead of driving alone to work.

“With growing concerns about gasoline prices, foreign oil dependency and regional air pollution, there could not be a better time to try transit,” said Brandy Heilman, director of Commuter Services.

Transit agencies partnering with Commuter Services and “Dump the Pump Day” include: County of Lebanon Transit Authority; Red Rose Transit Authority (Lancaster); York County Transportation Authority; and Capital Area Transit in Cumberland and Dauphin counties.

Commuters can visit the [PaCommuterServices.com](#) website for links to the transit agencies in the region to see what routes are available. Or they can call Commuter Services at 1-866-579-RIDE or their local transit agency for help in identifying routes.

June 21 will be the second national “Dump the Pump” day, with agencies across the United States participating to focus on the cost savings and environmental benefits of transit use. The American Public Transportation Association, whose membership includes nearly 400 public transit agencies, sponsors National Dump the Pump Day.

For information about Dump the Pump, visit the [Commuter Services of South Central Pennsylvania website](#).

Says Hybrid Vehicle Owners May Qualify for a Premium Discount on Insurance

Pennsylvania motorists who own a hybrid vehicle may be eligible for a discount on their auto insurance premiums, according to the Pennsylvania Insurance Department.

The Insurance Department has approved a filing from GEICO to offer a five-percent discount to policyholders who insure hybrid vehicles. GEICO is the third insurer in recent months to file this type of discount, after Farmers and Travelers.

“I’m delighted to see that more insurance companies now offer these types of incentives to their policyholders,” acting Insurance Commissioner Randy Rohrbaugh said. “This is just one more way to reward Pennsylvanians who are making energy efficient decisions.”

Rohrbaugh said hybrid vehicle insurance discounts are only one factor for policyholders to consider when choosing among auto insurance providers.

“As with any insurance product, consumers need to explore the market, get at least three identical quotes from different insurance companies and make an informed decision about what company is best for them in terms of price, coverage and service,” he added. The Insurance Department offers a consumer brochure titled, “Your Guide to Auto Insurance Premiums.”

The Guide explains the different types of coverages associated with auto insurance, choices the consumers have and a rate comparison the top 20 carriers in central, eastern and western Pennsylvania.

The brochure can be downloaded free of charge at the department’s website at www.insurance.state.pa.us, or by calling the department’s toll-free automated consumer hotline at 1-877-881-6388 or any of the department’s Bureau of Consumer Services’ regional offices at: Harrisburg: 717-787-2317, Philadelphia: 215-560-2630, or Pittsburgh: 412-565-5020

Feature

Disappearing Habitat, Disappearing Common Birds

[A new analysis](#) by the National Audubon Society reveals that populations of some of America's most familiar and beloved birds have taken a nosedive over the past forty years, with some down as much as 80 percent.

The list of disappearing birds in Pennsylvania includes the golden-winged warbler, eastern meadowlark, wood thrush, American bittern and the ruffed grouse, Pennsylvania's state bird.

The dramatic declines are attributed to the loss of grasslands, healthy forests and wetlands, and other critical habitats from multiple environmental threats such as sprawl, energy development, and the spread of industrialized agriculture.

The study notes that these threats are now compounded by new and broader problems including the escalating effects of global warming. In concert, they paint a challenging picture for the future of many common species and send a serious warning about our increasing toll on local habitats and the environment itself.

"These are not rare or exotic birds we're talking about-these are the birds that visit our feeders and congregate at nearby lakes and seashores and yet they are disappearing day by day," said Audubon Chairperson and former EPA Administrator, Carol Browner. "Their decline tells us we have serious work to do, from protecting local habitats to addressing the huge threats from global warming."

Overall, agricultural and development pressures have driven grassland birds to some of the worst declines, followed closely by shrub, wetland and forest-dependent species.

"Direct habitat loss continues to be a leading cause for concern," said Audubon Bird Conservation Director and analysis author, Greg Butcher, PhD. "But now we're seeing the added impact of large-scale environmental problems and policies."

Butcher notes that global warming is damaging some key habitats and speeding the spread of invasive species that spur further declines. Mounting demand for corn-based fuels is expected to result in increased use of marginal farmland that currently serves as important habitat. The fate of species such as Eastern Meadowlarks and Loggerhead Shrikes could hinge on efforts to conserve these areas.

"People who care about the birds and about human quality of life need to get involved in habitat protection at home, in pushing for better state and national protections and in making changes in their daily routines," Butcher adds.

Public response will shape the long-term outlook for the listed species.

Unlike WatchList birds, these Common Birds in Decline are not in immediate danger of extinction, despite global populations as low as 500,000 for some species - the threshold for a "common bird" designation. But even birds with significantly higher overall populations are experiencing sharp declines, and with their populations down sharply, their



Ruffed Grouse

ecological roles are going unfilled and their ultimate fate is uncertain. Audubon leaders hope the multiple threats to the birds people know will prompt individuals to take multiple actions, both locally and directed toward state and national policies.

Audubon's Common Birds in Decline list stems from the first-ever analysis combining annual sighting data from Audubon's century-old Christmas Bird Count program with results of the annual Breeding Bird Survey conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey. "This is a powerful example of how tens of thousands of volunteer birders, pooling their observations, can make an enormous difference for the creatures they care the most about," said noted natural history writer Scott Weidensaul. "Thanks to their efforts, we have the information. Now all of us - from birders to policy makers - need to take action to keep these species from declining even further."

"Fortunately, people's actions can still make a difference," Audubon's Greg Butcher adds. "Average citizens can change the fate of these birds just as average citizens helped us confirm the trouble they face." Concerned individuals can visit www.audubon.org for important information on how to help keep common birds common and our shared environment healthy-suggested actions are also attached.

[State-specific lists](#) of the common birds in serious decline are available in select areas.

NewsClip: [The Disappearing Birds](#)

Quick Clips

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

[Midstate Invaders Find Much to Munch](#)

[Gypsy Moths on the Munch](#)

[Leaf-Eating Gypsy Moths Leaving Mark in Mid-Atlantic](#)

[Gypsy Moth Damage Devastating](#)

[An Unpredictable Invasion](#)

[South Londonderry Sets Up Environmental Council](#)

[Editorial: Schools Should Have Recycling](#)

[Editorial: On To the Envirothon](#)

[19 Students Who Kow Their Stuff Turn School Green](#)

[Group Offers Plan for Cutting Greenhouse Gases](#)

[Colleges Pledge to Back Climate Initiative](#)

[Global Warming Fight May Benefit Farmers](#)

[Flush SAP Goes Green](#)

[Op-Ed: Regaining the Lead on Renewable Energy](#)

[Sewage Could Yield Electricity in Milton](#)

[Editorial: Empowering New Power Sources](#)

[Sludge Fuel](#)

[PPL Eyeing New Reactor at Susquehanna Plant](#)

[Nuclear Power Companies Hunker Down As Uranium Prices Soar](#)

[Food Firms Raise Concerns About Using Corn for Fuel](#)

[Turnpike Installs First Public Use E-85 Fuel Pump](#)

[100% Biofuels Being Tested in Tractors From New Holland](#)

[Lawmakers Want Power to Block National Electric Lines](#)
[Power Line Opponents to Have Their Say](#)
[Rendell Administration Expresses Concerns Over Transmission Lines](#)
[Editorial: Prepare for Shock From PPL](#)
[Editorial: Take Steps to Ease Nasty Electricity Price Jolt](#)
[Students Push for Green Arena, Casino](#)
[Gas Drilling in Court's Hands](#)
[NRC Considering Request by PA to Become an Agreement State](#)
[Worried About Losing Land to Development, Farmers Start Preserving](#)
[Editorial: Fairmount Park](#)
[Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail Ultra Race Slideshow](#)
[Five PA Universities Pledge to Cut Climate Harmful Emissions](#)
[Editorial: Conference on Historic Interpretation is Important Event](#)
[New Book Stirs Up the Coals in Centralia](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Fishing Creek Fixes Make Old Friend Even Better](#)
[Fishing Popularity Declines in PA, But Enthusiasts Angle for New Fans](#)
[Watershed Group Urged for West Wyoming](#)
[Operation Will Remove Hughestown Culm Bank](#)
[Signs Along Buhl Farm Trail Explain How Wetlands Help](#)
[Camp to Focus on Water, Water Everywhere](#)
[Rendell Urges Congressional Action to Protect Coal-Waste Power Plants](#)
[New Red Shrimp Found in Lake Erie Could Threaten Food Chain](#)

Regulations

The Environmental Quality Board meets June 19 to consider drinking water, storage tank and air quality regulations (*details below*). The Game Commission published proposed changes to the [agricultural deer control permits \(red tag\)](#) regulations.

The Environmental Quality Board agenda for June 19 includes the following items:

Proposed Rulemaking – Chapter 109, Safe Drinking Water Rulemaking: This proposed rulemaking amends the department's Safe Drinking Water regulations through a general update to accomplish the four following goals: 1) Incorporate necessary federal requirements needed to obtain and/or maintain primary enforcement authority (primacy) for the Phase II/IIB/V Rule, Filter Backwash Recycling Rule, Lead and Copper Rule, and the Radionuclide Rule; 2) Amend several sections to improve data quality and streamline the reporting process, including mandatory electronic reporting via the department's secure web application called the Drinking Water Electronic Lab Reporting system; 3) Ensure consistency with analytical, monitoring and training requirements associated with Operator

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Certification and Environmental Laboratory Accreditation regulations; and 4) Clarify how the department determines compliance with the Maximum Contaminant Levels.

Proposed Rulemaking – Chapter 130, Subchapter B, Consumer Products: This proposed rulemaking amends the existing consumer products regulation in Chapter 130 by adding volatile organic compound (VOC) content limits for 11 additional categories of consumer products, including adhesive removers, antistatic product, electrical cleaner, electronic cleaner, fabric refresher, footwear or leather care product, graffiti remover, hair styling product, shaving gel, toilet/urinal care product and wood cleaner.

The VOC content limits in the proposed rule are more stringent than federal requirements, but will assure additional reductions in VOC emissions, which are reasonably necessary for achieving and maintaining the health-based eight-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard

Final Rulemaking – Chapter 245, Storage Tank Program Amendments: This final rulemaking includes comprehensive and minor editorial changes to the department's existing Storage Tank Program regulations contained in Chapter 245, Subchapters A-H.

These changes include new and revised definitional terms, new comprehensive tank registration provisions, re-regulation of previously de-regulated large aboveground storage tanks (AST) storing heating oil for on-site consumptive use, and additional training/qualifications/standards of performance provisions for certified tank installers, inspectors, and their companies.

Several changes are also included for storage tank permitting and technical requirements, including simplified permit applications for most tanks, routine withdrawal of operating permits for tanks in temporary closure, phase-in provisions for newly regulated tanks, additional leak detection provisions, and requirements for total secondary containment systems for new and replacement underground storage tank systems.

Record keeping and inspection provisions are also amended with third-party UST facility inspection intervals increased from every 5 or 10 years to once every 3 years. The total secondary containment and 3-year inspection interval for USTs correlate with UST compliance provisions in the Federal Energy Policy Act of 2005.

For more information about the agenda, contact DEP Regulatory Coordinator Michelle Tate at 783-8727 or by e-mail at mtate@state.pa.us .

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – June 16, 2007](#)

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

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

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

[Technical Guidance & Permits](#)

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The Department of Environmental Protection published changes to the list of individuals and companies [certified to perform radon-related testing and remediation](#) (*PA Bulletin*2765).

[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](#)

- **June 18** – Senate Appropriations Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 752](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) requiring a description of data used to justify regulations before the Independent Regulatory Review Commission. Room 461. 12:30.
- **June 18** – House Rules Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1200](#) (DePasquale-D-York) making changes to the responsibilities of the PA Energy Development Authority consistent with the Governor’s Energy Independence Initiative, [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) requiring transportation fuels to have renewable content, [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act in line with Gov. Rendell’s Energy Independence Proposal. Room 140. Call of Chair.
- **June 19** – House Consumer Affairs Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1201](#) (George-D-Clearfield) making changes to Title 66 (Utility Code) consistent with Gov. Rendell’s Energy Independence Proposal. G-50 Irvis Building. Call of Chair.
- **June 19** – Senate Game and Fisheries Committee meets to consider [House Bill 13](#) (Readshaw-D-Allegheny) relating to landowner liability and opening land to recreation. Room 8E-A East Wing. 10:30.
- **June 19** – [Environmental Quality Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **June 19** – [DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 11:30.
- **June 20** – House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1320](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) establishing a program within DEP for the disposal of home-generated medical sharps and [House Bill 1331](#) (Carroll-D-Luzerne) extending the storage tank pollution prevention program through 2012. G-50 Irvis building. 9:15.
- **June 21** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Sewage Task Force Meeting. Penn Stater Hotel, State College. 10:00.
- **June 21** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Statewide Water Resources Committee](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is September 20.
- **June 27** – DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

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- **July 7** – [Oil Spills and Wildlife Training Session](#). New Bolton Center. Kennett Square.
- **July 12** –DEP [Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#) meeting will be held in a new location – 16th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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

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

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

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

Stories Invited

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

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

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