

-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 OKs Another Part of Fair Share Clean Water Plan, Budget Talks Continue

While there is no state budget settlement yet, the Senate this week unanimously approved [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) authorizing a \$400 million bond issue voter referendum that includes provisions for funding nutrient reduction projects to help meet federal Clean Water Act mandates.

The bill is part of a package of bills included in the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) to help sewer system ratepayers and farmers meet federal and state mandates to reduce nutrient pollution.

Budget talks are ongoing at press time and final decisions have not been made on environmental or other funding. *PA Environment Digest* will do a special budget issue when the General Assembly and the Governor adopt the budget, hopefully before next Friday.

"This investment in our clean water infrastructure is desperately needed," said Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne), Minority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. "Combined sewer overflows and the lack of funding to fix old water systems pose a major water pollution concern that we must deal with immediately."

"If we do not address this problem now, there will be costly implications on future generations," Sen. Musto said. "I am hopeful that the voters will approve the referendum."

The bills with provisions from the PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan include:

- **Wastewater Plant Funding:** [Senate Bill 2](#) (Earll-R-Erie), provides a priority for funding for nutrient reduction projects at wastewater treatment plants and [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne), authorizes a \$400 million bond issue referendum to fund drinking water and wastewater projects, including nutrient reduction projects are now in the House;
- **Farmer Support:** [Senate Bill 1449](#) (Madigan-R-Bradford) and [House Bill 2656](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) would provide conservation districts with \$10 million, increase the REAP farm conservation tax credit to \$35 million, establish a new \$15 million 50-50 farm conservation practice grant program and restore \$10 million cut the Department of Agriculture budget related to farm conservation (these items can also be reflected as line items in the bills needed to pass the state budget);
- **Nutrient Credit Trading:** [Senate Bill 1493](#), introduced by Sen. Pat Vance (R-Cumberland), provides enhancements to the state's Nutrient Credit Trading program that will drive down the cost of meeting clean water mandates; and
- **Entire Fair Share Plan:** [House Bill 2654](#), introduced by Rep. Mike Hanna-D-Centre establishing the entire Fair Share for Clean Water Nutrient Reduction Program, farm and wastewater infrastructure and [House Bill 2441](#) (Perry-R-Cumberland).

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The [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) would invest \$170 million in 2008-09 in several ways to reduce the financial burden on ratepayers and farms:

- \$100 million to help wastewater plants finance required improvements;
- \$50 million in direct cost share aid to farmers to install conservation practices (\$35 for REAP farm tax credits and \$15 million in cost share grants);
- \$10 million to county conservation district to expand technical assistance to farmers;
- \$10 million to restore cuts to the Department of Agriculture budget in farm programs; and
- Proposes reforms to the state's nutrient credit trading program that will help to make it a viable alternative to provide for both environmental improvements to the Bay and sufficient future sewage capacity for new development.

Over the course of seven years the Fair Share for Clean Water Plan will invest up to \$890 million in upgrades to sewage treatment plants and agricultural practices for nutrient reduction efforts for the Chesapeake Bay and cleaning up streams statewide.

Add Your Support

To add your support, you can send an email or fax from the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan website](#) to your House and Senate member and to Gov. Rendell.

NewsClips: [Budget Talks Drag Toward Deadline](#)
[Williamsport: Bay Cleanup to Cost \\$140 Million](#)
[Williamsport Residents Can Prepare for Sewer Rate Hikes](#)
[Funding for Public Works Could Add Jobs](#)
[Budget Might Include Water, Sewer Projects](#)
[Editorial: Bay Cleanup Costs Too Great, Voices Too Quiet](#)
[Editorial: Spread the Costs of Clean Water](#)

Links: [Coalition Proposes Fair Share Clean Water Funding Plan, Original Announcement](#)
[16,000 Miles of Polluted Streams Add Urgency to Call for Clean Water Funding](#)
[CBF, Other Groups Ask State to Be a Partner in Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Plan](#)
[40,000 More Acres of Corn, Soybeans Increase Conservation Needs](#)
[Brubaker, Musto Say Senate Infrastructure Bill Should Be Expanded](#)
[New Federal Farm Bill Promises Aid, But PA Farmers Need \\$600 M for Cleanup](#)
[Rep. Perry, 37 Co-Sponsors Introduce Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Reduction Plan](#)
[New House Bill Opens Debate on How to Fund Nutrient Pollution Cleanup](#)
[Support for PA Fair Share For Clean Water Plan Grows, New Website Open](#)
[Task Force Hears Support for Fair Share Clean Water Plan – Video Blog](#)
[PA Fair Share Coalition Ask Gov. Rendell to Keep Commitment on Bay Cleanup](#)
[Bills Including Fair Share for Clean Water Plan See Action in Senate, House](#)
[Agriculture Committees OK Fair Share Clean Water Plan for Farmers](#)
[Spotlight- REAP Gives Eby Farm the Opportunity to Expand No-Till Farming](#)

Fair Share Plan Gathers More Support, And You Can Too, Go to Fair Share Website

The number of groups supporting the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#) has now grown to 43 environmental, local government, business and sportsmens groups.

To add your support, send an email or fax from the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan website](#) to your House and Senate member and to Gov. Rendell.

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Typical of the kinds of supporting statements issued by these groups is this from [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#)--

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council this week announced its support for the Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Plan, a comprehensive funding package that would dramatically reduce nutrient pollution from wastewater plants and farms across the state.

PEC joins more than 30 other agriculture, environmental, local government and business groups in endorsing the Fair Share Plan.

"PEC has been an active participant in the development of the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy and the Pennsylvania Nutrient Credit Trading Program, and recognizes that significant additional resources are needed to help municipalities and farmers meet federal mandates to reduce nutrient and sediment loading," said Scott Van de Mark, with PEC. "Maryland and Virginia have agreed to provide over \$1.6 billion to support wastewater treatment facility upgrades. Pennsylvania should do the same to help municipalities meet federal water quality mandates and support our farmers as good stewards of the land.

"PEC supports the Fair Share Plan as a balanced approach to both municipalities and farmers by providing needed support for upgrading wastewater treatment facilities and for conservation practices to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff from agricultural operations," said Van de Mark. "PEC also supports the creation of a nutrient trading credit bank which can provide offsets for new development and to help municipalities meet short term nutrient reduction offset needs for publically owned treatment works."

The list of supporting groups includes: Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Pennsylvania Builders Association, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Pennsylvania Association of Realtors, Juniata Valley Audubon, PA Federation of Sportsmen Clubs, American Farmland Trust, Environmental Defense Fund, Middletown Twp. Land Conservancy, Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper, Northumberland Co. Conservation District, Brubaker Farms, PA State Assoc. of Boroughs, Lancaster Farmland Trust, County Commissioners Assoc of PA, PA State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS), Tioga County Conservation District, PA Landscape and Nursery Association, Chester County Economic Development Council, Tioga County Concerned Citizens Committee, Inc., PA Project Grass, GreenTrek Network, Inc., Warwick Township Municipal Authority, PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture, PA No-Till Alliance, PA State Grange, Cedar Meadow Farm, Somerset County Conservation District, Dover Township, Chester County Conservation District, York County Conservation District, Coldwater Heritage Partnership, Westmoreland County Conservation District, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Sullivan County Conservation District, Lancaster County Conservation District, Manheim Borough Authority, Union County Conservation District and McKean County Conservation District

For more information, visit the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan website](#).

Online Video Features

Audubon PA's Sarah Sargent Leads Volunteer Effort in Bird Banding

Sarah Sargent, Important Bird Area Coordinator for [Audubon Pennsylvania](#), leads a group of volunteers as they band birds at [Presque Isle State Park](#) in Erie, Pa in this video story by the *Erie Times*.

The songbird migration is in full swing now and Sargent's group sets nets in the brush to catch the birds.

Sargent measures the birds and places a band on the bird's leg. Sargent is collecting data to track the birds migration patterns as well as their general health. Sargent is looking for volunteers to help with the program.

For those interested in more information, send email to: ssargent@audubon.org .

Online Video: [Sarah Sargent Bird Banding](#)

Stormwater Retrofit Project Helps Reduce Flooding, Recharges Groundwater

Liz Feinberg, Watershed Programs Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, takes viewers onsite in Rutledge Borough, Delaware County to a stormwater retrofit project under construction.

One of the most difficult challenges to managing stormwater in an already built up area is to find locations for installing best management stormwater practices.

Feinberg shows how one community used their creativity to install a stormwater storage/infiltration facility under basketball court in Triangle Park in Rutledge.

Video Blog: [Rutledge Borough Stormwater Retrofit Project](#)

Link: [PEC Water Resources Projects](#)

On the Hill

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

The Senate and House committee meeting schedules and floor Calendars will be in a state of flux due to the need to move budget bills and other legislation, but this is the snapshot we have at the moment--

Session Schedule

The Senate and House will be working in more or less continuous voting session until the state budget is done.

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

Calendars/Committees

The Senate and House committee meeting schedules and floor Calendars as we have them now due to state budget sessions--

Calendars

House (Next Voting Day): [Senate Bill 356](#) (M.White-R-Venango) establishing the PA Center for Environmental Education in law; [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) updating the 1945 Conservation District Law; [House Bill 2549](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) authorizing funding for unsafe high hazard dam repairs; [House Resolution 546](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to investigate gas and energy prices; [House Resolution 627](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging federal government to provide more heating assistance funding; [House Bill 934](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) authorizing counties to impose up to a \$4/ton solid waste management fee to support local recycling, anti-litter programs; [House Resolution 712](#) (Hutchinson-R-Venango) re-establishing the Forestry Task Force; [House Resolution 719](#) (George-D-Clearfield) endorsing request for federal funding for PA river basin commissions.

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

Senate (Next Voting Day): [Senate Bill 1134](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) providing for a transition period after rate caps come off in 2010; [Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) update to the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act; [House Bill 1329](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) further providing for appeals and challenges to zoning ordinances; [House Bill 221](#) (Tangretti-D-Westmoreland) establishing an Historic Preservation Incentive Program; [House Bill 1742](#) (Pashinski-D-Luzerne) prevention of scrap material thefts; [House Bill 1280](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) amending the Municipalities Planning Code to further define traditional neighborhood development.

Committees

The Senate and House will schedule meetings as needed to move budget and other legislation.

House Labor Relations Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2445](#) (Eachus-D-Luzerne) providing for neighborhood blight reclamation and revitalization

Bills Introduced

The following legislation of interest was introduced this week—

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Official Butterfly: [House Resolution 810](#) (Eachus-D-Luzerne) memorializing the Governor to proclaim the Regal Fritillary butterfly as the Pennsylvania State Butterfly.

Fisheries Guiding Principles: [House Bill 2672](#) (Staback-D-Schuylkill) establishing a guiding principle in fisheries and aquatic resource management decisions. *(The bill was reported out of the House Game and Fisheries Committee this week.)*

Biodiesel Standards: [Special Session House Bill 3](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) setting biodiesel standards.

State Building Standards: [Special Session Senate Bill 45](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) requires new and renovated buildings used by state and local government to comply with Energy Star high performance building efficiency standards.

Ag Security Areas: [Senate Bill 1514](#) (Dinniman-D-Chester) removing language providing the condemnation approval shall not be required for an underground public utility in Agricultural Security Areas.

Senate/House Bills Moving

These bills of interest saw action in the House and Senate this week as of Friday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m. Due to the volume of bills moving, additional details of action are included under listed bills, rather than individual stories—

Senate

PUC Nominations: The Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee held a hearing and then unanimously recommended Senate approval of Gov. Rendell's two nominees for the Public Utility Commission—Robert Powelson and Wayne Gardner. The nominations will be reported to the Senate Rules Committee and then the full Senate for action.

Water Infrastructure: [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) authorizing a \$400 million bond issue voter referendum for water, wastewater and stormwater projects (part of the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#)) was amended, passed by the Senate and is now in the House for consideration.

"This investment in our clean water infrastructure is desperately needed," Sen. Musto, ranking member of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, said today. "Combined sewer overflows and the lack of funding to fix old water systems pose a major water pollution concern that we must deal with immediately."
"If we do not address this problem now, there will be costly implications on future generations," Sen. Musto said. "I am hopeful that the voters will approve the referendum."

Energy Assistance: [Senate Bill 352](#) (Robbins-R-Mercer) providing for a Low-Income Energy Assistance Program allocation of funds was passed by the Senate and now goes to the House for action.

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The House Health and Human Services Committee is scheduled to consider this legislation on June 28.

"With energy prices skyrocketing, it is imperative that all LIHEAP funds be appropriated expeditiously and responsibly to assist the growing number of Pennsylvanians who will be struggling this coming winter to pay their heating bills," Senator Robbins said. "With home heating oil running at almost \$5 per gallon more Pennsylvania households are looking at troubling financial times ahead and it is important that we maximize the efficiency, accountability and effectiveness of Pennsylvania's LIHEAP program," Sen. Robbins said.

Last year, state Auditor General Jack Wagner reported that a special performance audit found serious deficiencies in the Department of Public Welfare's administration of LIHEAP.

Specifically, Auditor General Wagner noted that inadequate policies and procedures, insufficient supervision, and inadequate oversight resulted in fraud and abuse in all six counties -- Philadelphia, Allegheny, Lancaster, Lehigh, Perry and York -- examined during the audit period of July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2006.

Senate Bill 352 provides for additional oversight that Auditor General Wagner deemed to be needed under the current system and directs the Department of Public Welfare to take appropriate actions if it discovers any false, misleading or inaccurate statements by applicants, participating energy vendors or state employees.

Brownfields: [Senate Bill 1062](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) providing for the reimbursement of developers for reuse of brownfield sites was amended and reported from the Senate Appropriations Committee, passed by the Senate and is now in the House for further consideration.

"Restoring brownfields to productive use carries with it enormous benefits to local communities. Money invested in brownfields cleanups pays big dividends for taxpayers and the environment. In the 24th Senatorial District there are hundreds of brownfields sites waiting to be remediated. Sites such as the Bushkill Creek Corridor Revitalization Project in Easton, the former Ashland Specialty Chemical Company in Glendon; the Krupp Foundry in Quakertown; and the Mutter and Stauffer Auto in East Greenville, to name a few. Unfortunately, these sites no longer create jobs for residents or tax dollars for the municipal government. All that remains is an eyesore. My legislation will further help private entities in the redevelopment of these abandoned properties," said Sen. Wonderling.

Coal Bed Methane: [Senate Bill 1330](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) establishing the Coal Methane Review Board was passed by the Senate and now goes to the House for consideration.

"Under a 1983 Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling, coal bed methane is considered part of the property rights transferred under coal agreements. Now, with energy prices rising, methane extraction is becoming more and more attractive to developers," Sen. Don White said. "As a result, many landowners who previously entered into coal agreements subsequently gave up their rights to coal bed methane and are confronted with mineral estate development on their property. Senate Bill 1330 is not intended to change the respective rights and obligations of either party, but rather to create a timely, less expensive process."

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Senate Bill 1330 calls for the creation of a three-member Coal Bed Methane Review Board to consider objections and attempt to reach an agreement on issues such as the location of coal bed methane wells and/or access roads.

Electric Rate Cap Transition: [Senate Bill 1134](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) providing for a transition period after rate caps come off in 2010 was amended and reported out of the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee and is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

Neighborhoods: The Senate Local Government Committee amended and reported out [House Bill 1280](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) amending the Municipalities Planning Code to further define traditional neighborhood development and is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

Scrap Metal Thefts: [House Bill 1742](#) (Pashinski-D-Luzerne) prevention of scrap material thefts was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

House

Nonstructural Alternatives to Flooding: [House Bill 2539](#) (Seip-D-Schuylkill) and [House Bill 2546](#) (Conklin-D-Centre) authorizing nonstructural alternatives to control flooding were passed by the House and now go to the Senate for consideration.

"We have had significant flooding issues in Pennsylvania throughout our state's history," Rep. Conklin said. "But with traditional 100-year and 500-year flood plains becoming more like 15- or 20-year flood sites – which is what we are seeing across the Midwest -- it is very important to take steps to make sure we are doing what we can to improve and update our flood control projects here in Pennsylvania."

Rep. Conklin said his proposal is a part of the state's Rebuild PA economic development initiative contained in the latest budget proposal. He said investing in Pennsylvania's aging and deteriorating infrastructure, including updating inadequate and outdated flood control projects, is not only critical in protecting residents, but also in attracting business development to Pennsylvania.

"Part of encouraging businesses to set up shop in our area is showing that we are willing to invest in projects that improve our overall business climate," Rep. Conklin said. "This includes protecting roads, bridges, dams and infrastructure from potentially dangerous floods."

Capital Budget Bills: [House Bill 2522](#) (Evans-D-Philadelphia) providing for the 2008-09 Capital Budget was and [House Bill 2542](#) (Evans-D-Philadelphia) providing for the Rebuilding PA Capital Budget were both passed by the House and now go to the Senate for consideration.

Funding Dam Repairs: [House Bill 2549](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) authorizing funding for unsafe high hazard dam repairs was passed by the House and now goes to the Senate for consideration.

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Planning Code: [House Bill 1525](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) amending the Municipalities Planning Code relating to comprehensive plans and compliance by counties was passed by the House and is now in the Senate for consideration.

Infrastructure: [House Bill 2638](#) (McCall-D-Carbon) a \$760 million infrastructure program administered by the Commonwealth Finance Agency for financing capital projects related to tourism development, independent institutions of higher education, hospital facilities, vital community assets (water, wastewater, et al) and economic development projects, funded with Gaming revenues was amended to include high hazard dams and flood protection projects and reported out by the House Finance Committee and then referred to the House Rules Committee.

Infrastructure II: [House Bill 2621](#) (D.Evans-D-Philadelphia) providing for a \$1 billion bond issue referendum on natural gas, water and wastewater pipeline replacement was amended and reported from the House Consumer Affairs Committee, referred to and reported from the House Rules Committee and was then referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

Biomass Credit: The House Finance Committee amended and reported out [House Bill 664](#) (George-D-Clearfield) providing for a Sales Tax exemption for biomass projects and was then referred to the House Rules Committee.

Biodiesel Subsidy: [Special Session House Bill 64](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) that would provide a 75 cent per gallon subsidy for the production of biodiesel was reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. The bill was then referred to the House Rules Committee

AEPS Energy Mandate: [Special Session Senate Bill 64](#) (Waugh-R-York) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to include paper making liquors as a Tier I alternative energy source was amended to increase the solar energy set aside in Tier I, reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and then tabled.

Littering Fines: [House Bill 1319](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) increasing penalties for scattering rubbish and including an acknowledgement of littering laws on learner's permit was amended to increase penalties for certain forms of littering was reported out of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and referred to the House Rules Committee;

Organic Farming: [House Bill 2347](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) creating an Organic Agriculture Development Fund Program was amended and reported from the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, referred into and out of the House Rules Committee and then re-committed to the House Appropriations Committee.

"This bill would be a major step forward on achieving two objectives -- making farming more profitable and improving the environment," said Rep. Kessler. "This would help to preserve farmland. Organic food is the fastest-growing sector of the food industry

and provides a net return to farmers much higher than for conventionally raised farm products.

"In addition, all Pennsylvanians would benefit from being able to buy food produced close to home -- local food requires much less fuel to get to market than out-of-state or foreign products."

Fisheries Guiding Principles: [House Bill 2672](#) (Staback-D-Schuylkill) establishing a guiding principle in fisheries and aquatic resource management decisions was reported from the House Game and Fisheries Committee, the referred to the House Rules Committee.

Beneficial Use of Sludge: [House Resolution 763](#) (R.Miller-R-York) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to review the program for beneficial use of sewage sludge by land application was reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Adopt-A-River: [House Bill 328](#) (Sturla-D-Lancaster) establishing the Adopt-A-River Program within DCNR was reported from the House Rules Committee and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

Oil Speculation: [House Resolution 788](#) (Longietti-D-Mercer) urging Congress to investigate the role of speculators related to rising oil prices was adopted by the House.

House Environmental Committee Considers Litter, Energy, Sludge Legislation

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meet several times this week for discussion on several bills and reported out legislation dealing with a subsidy for biodiesel production and reviewing the program for land application of sewage sludge.

The bills included:

- [Special Session House Bill 64](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) that would provide a 75 cent per gallon subsidy for the production of biodiesel. The bill was then referred to the House Rules Committee;
- [Special Session Senate Bill 64](#) (Waugh-R-York) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to include paper making liquors as a Tier I alternative energy source was amended to increase the solar energy set aside in Tier I, reported out and then tabled;
- [House Bill 1319](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) increasing penalties for scattering rubbish and including an acknowledgement of littering laws on learner's permit was amended to increase penalties for certain forms of littering and referred to the House Rules Committee;
- [House Resolution 763](#) (R. Miller-R-York) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to do a review of the program regulating the land application of sewage sludge.

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

Other News

Delaware Estuary Watershed Grants Program Requests Proposals

The [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#) announced a Request for Proposals for approximately \$700,000 in funding under the [Delaware Estuary Watershed Grants Program](#).

Full proposals are due August 1.

The priorities of this grant program include habitat restoration, species conservation, invasives control and watershed planning.

Eligible applicants include public or nonprofit agencies, institutions and organizations, educational institutions, and local and state government. Under DEWGP 2008, grants of \$20,000 to \$75,000 will be awarded on a competitive basis.

Major financial support for this program is provided by "Clear into the Future: A DuPont Delaware Estuary Initiative" as an ongoing commitment to maintain and improve the Delaware River Estuary.

For more information, go to the [Delaware Estuary Watershed Grants Program webpage](#) or contact Lynn Dwyer, NFWF by sending email to: lynn.dwyer@nfwf.org.

Atlantic States Fisheries Commission Hearing on Shad Management Plan July 1

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has scheduled a public hearing on July 1 at 6 p.m. at the Fish and Boat Commission headquarters in Harrisburg to provide an update on the Interstate Fishery [Management Plan for shad and river herring](#) and to seek public comment on how the plan should be changed.

Interested citizens are encouraged to attend and provide public comments. Comments will be used to develop a draft amendment to the plan, which will then be available for the public to review. The ASMFC is hosting the meeting, but PFBC staff will be on hand to answer state-specific questions.

Federal and state fisheries scientists are developing an update to the plan following a 2007 stock assessment which indicated that American shad are at all-time lows and do not appear to be recovering.

A public information document is available on the [ASMFC website](#) that provides a broad overview of the factors affecting American shad.

The PFBC headquarters is located at 1601 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, near the state Farm Show complex.

Anglers Reminded to Report Tagged Smallmouth Bass To Help With Study

The Fish and Boat Commission is reminding anglers to report [tagged smallmouth bass](#) in order to help the agency with a population assessment on a section of the lower West Branch of the Susquehanna River.

The Commission is currently conducting the assessment and an angler survey on about seven miles of the lower West Branch of the Susquehanna River from the vicinity of Muncy downstream to Montgomery, Lycoming County.

“The population assessment portion will evaluate smallmouth bass population size and size structure, while the angler survey portion will measure angler catch and harvest

for the period of June through September 2008,” said Dave Miko, chief of the Division of Fisheries Management. “Creel clerks are collecting the angler survey data by interviewing anglers at access areas. The results of the study will provide important information that will help guide future management efforts on the river.”

Biologists are using a mark-recapture method to estimate the smallmouth bass population. During this process, biologists tag and release a large number of smallmouth bass.

A toll-free telephone number and unique serial number are printed on each tag. The tags resemble an orange strand of “plastic spaghetti” located on the fish’s stomach area (see photo below). The tag strand contains a tag number and a toll-free telephone number where tags can be reported. It is not necessary to harvest fish to report the tags. The tag numbers simply need to be recorded and anglers can release tagged bass unharmed.

Anglers should not pull the tag out of the fish because doing so may injure the fish. The tags are specially designed so that bass which are caught multiple times can be reported. Each tag contains two sets of serial numbers.

The first time a tagged bass is captured, and an angler intends to release the fish, the angler can clip off the outermost portion of the tag at the dark separator mark and leave the inner portion of the tag containing duplicate information. If the bass is captured a second time, the remainder of the tag can be removed and the fish released.

Anglers harvesting bass should look for both the spaghetti tag as well as a small anchor button under the skin when filleting, as they may have taken a bass that was caught and released twice before and no longer bears an external tag. Those finding anchor buttons should also call the toll-free phone number printed on the button.

This study will complement two large-scale river angler surveys that the PFBC has undertaken on large rivers in the past decade. In 2007, the PFBC partnered with Penn State and Colorado State universities to conduct angler surveys on about 130 miles of the Susquehanna and Juniata rivers. The survey was designed to measure catch, harvest, economic expenditures and angler opinions associated with fishing on sections of the two rivers for the period April through October.

In 2002, Pennsylvania partnered with New Jersey, New York, and Delaware to measure catch and harvest of all fish species on the Delaware River and Delaware Estuary. That survey revealed significant recreational activity on that river. The Delaware River survey documented that approximately 120,000 angling trips occurred on the tidal and non-tidal portions of that river combined from March 17 through October.

Visit the Commission’s website to see a [photo of the tag](#).

Major Abandoned Mine Drainage Treatment Facility Dedicated in Allegheny County

The [Montour Run Watershed Association](#) this week dedicated the North Fork Montour Run Restoration Facility in Allegheny County, the third of four major mine drainage treatment facilities funded in the watershed.

This remediation system will improve the health of nearly two miles of the North Fork of Montour Run, a stream that has been identified on DEP’s 303(d) List as impaired by abandoned mine drainage but having high potential to sustain a trout fishery.

The North Fork Montour Run project includes the siting, design, permitting, and construction of an eight-acre passive treatment system. The facility includes a collection system with alkaline drain, three oxidation ponds, two vertical flow ponds and a one-third

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acre aerobic wetland. Wetland plantings will be completed with the help of MRWA volunteers to complete re-vegetation of the site and will help to enhance the treatment system.

An estimated 25 tons of acid and 22 tons of iron compounds entering Montour Run each year from this site alone will be eliminated. The resultant improvement in water quality will go far toward improved survival of fish and the aquatic life forms that support them in the main trunk of Montour Run.

In addition, the wetlands habitat has been expanded and enhanced, increasing the potential for wildlife utilization.

“The treatment of mine discharges in the vicinity of the North Fork should prove to be a significant enhancement to water quality in the Montour Run Watershed,” noted Steven R. Kepler, Biologist with the Fish and Boat Commission.

“We are the sponsors of a trout fishing contest held each spring along the main trunk of Montour Run,” said Dennis Earley, Board Chairman of the Forest Grove Sportsman's Club. “With improvements in the quality of water in Montour Run, the stocked fish and the organisms they feed on will be better able to survive over the months that follow.”

Construction of the North Fork Montour Run Restoration Facility is an outgrowth of the Montour Run Watershed Assessment and Cleanup Plan Project performed under MRWA sponsorship and funded by the Growing Greener grant program of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Conducted in the 2001-2003 time period, the assessment project sought to identify environmentally harmful discharges of contaminated groundwater from abandoned coal mines in the 37-square-mile Montour Run Watershed. It included a year-long program of monthly sampling of these discharges, leading to recommendations for treatment approaches for the most damaging.

The discharges along Route 30 between Imperial and Clinton, Pa ranked high in the list and were cited as major sources of pollution of the North Fork of Montour Run due to significant levels of acid, iron, and other dissolved metals.

The \$674,281 total cost of the North Fork Montour Run project has been funded with \$337,367 from the DEP's Growing Greener program and \$100,000 from the Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program of the OSM. In addition, in-kind services valued at \$189,120 for the construction of an anoxic limestone drain, two sediment ponds, and associated piping were provided by the TPC in conjunction with the building of the Southern Beltway's Findlay Connector.

Also, matching cash, goods, and services valued at \$47,794 have been provided by the prime contractor, [BioMost, Inc.](#), and its partners Quality Aggregates Inc., Stream Restoration Incorporated, and G&C Coal Analysis Lab.

“What is tremendously exciting is the positive environmental impact this partnership effort has made,” said Tim Danehy, BioMost's system designer. “The untreated water has very high levels of iron, over 180 mg/l, and the concentration of acid is even higher. This is a testament to the positive impacts a dedicated group can have.”

“The Allegheny County Airport Authority is pleased to partner with the MRWA. The airport is one of the headwaters of the watershed, and this project will continue our dedication in helping to improve the environment and local water quality,” stated Kevin Gurchak, Manager of Environmental Compliance of the Allegheny County Airport Authority, which provided site access and project support.

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“From our perspective, BioMost and Quality Aggregates have been outstanding performers,” said MRWA President Mark Fedosick. “They have completed the entire scope of work on time and within budget.”

The new facility is located on Pittsburgh International Airport property in Findlay Township.

Invited speakers included Deputy Secretary for Mineral Resources Management J. Scott Roberts of the Department of Environmental Protection; David Hamilton, Clean Streams Coordinator for the U.S. Department of Interior’s Office of Surface Mining; David Sheridan, Construction Engineering Manager for the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission; Chairman of Findlay Supervisors Tom Gallant; and other officials of state and Federal agencies involved in the project.

The MRWA is a non-profit organization chartered in the year 2000, which seeks to protect and improve water resources in the Montour Run Watershed.

Other projects completed or in the planning stages include the Boggs Road, Clinton Road, and McCaslin Road Mine Drainage Treatment Projects. These projects implement recommendations of the River Conservation and Land-Use Plan for the Montour Run Watershed, established in 1998 by the Montour Valley Alliance, forerunner coalition to the MRWA.

For more information, visit the [Montour Run Watershed Association website](#).

Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Coal Mining Heritage Come Together At Conference

The [Pennsylvania Statewide Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference](#) celebrates its 10th consecutive year in 2008.

Aimed at grassroots efforts in abandoned coal mine reclamation and organized by a number of conservation-minded organizations and agencies, the conference provides networking and educational opportunities to those in the reclamation community.

This year, the conference’s lead organization is the [Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#).

“Pennsylvania continues to suffer through the legacy of past unregulated coal mining. Nearly 5,000 miles of our streams are polluted by abandoned coal mines and over 180,000 acres of land remain scarred from the bad old days of coal mining,” said Andy McAllister, WPCAMR’s Watershed Coordinator.

“We have far more problems from abandoned coal mines than any other state. Our annual conference is a great way for watershed groups, conservation districts, and others involved in abandoned mine reclamation at the grassroots level to share information on new technologies and to learn how to be more effective,” said McAllister. “The first day and a half, starting Tuesday August 12th will emphasize ‘new approaches’ in abandoned mine reclamation and a number of ‘timely topics.’”

“This year, we’ve added a component that will definitely appeal to a broader audience. We’re emphasizing Pennsylvania’s coal mining heritage,” McAllister added.

On Wednesday afternoon August 13th, the presentations will take on a decidedly historical flavor and will continue through Thursday August 14th. Current preservation efforts throughout Pennsylvania’s coal regions will be showcased along with historical presentations on our coal mining past.

“It’s amazing to think that at one time, Pennsylvania was the epicenter of the world’s energy production as well as its cultural melting pot. The confluence of

technology and cultures spurred the industrial revolution and enabled winning two world wars. Sadly this proud heritage is so quickly slipping away,” said Bruce Golden, WPCAMR Regional Coordinator. “This conference is a great opportunity to learn about and become involved with history and heritage preservation activities going on throughout the state.”

The 2008 Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Reclamation and Coal Mining Heritage Conference will be held August 12-14 at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College, Pa with an optional bus tour of abandoned mine reclamation sites on Monday afternoon, August 11.

To find out more about the conference and to register online, go to the [Pennsylvania Statewide Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference webpage](#).

Federal Appeals Court Makes Decision Favorable To Abandoned Mine Fund

Proponents of funding for abandoned mine reclamation breathed a sigh of relief last week following a court decision which protected the government's ability to collect a reclamation fee on exported coal.

A number of coal operators had previously sued the U.S. government to discontinue the collection of the abandoned mine reclamation fee on coal produced in the U.S. then exported. Based on an argument that the fee was unconstitutional as applied to exported coal, the coal operators were successful in a lower court decision that agreed with their argument. The U.S. government appealed the decision to federal appeals court which last week overturned the lower court's decision, in essence preserving the ability to collect the fee.

The fee itself supports reclamation efforts to fix coal mining problems that were created before the enactment of adequate environmental laws prescribing environmental standards. Currently assessed at 31.5 cents per ton for surface mined coal and 13.5 cents per ton on deep mined coal, the abandoned mine reclamation fee is distributed to coal mining states to fix health and safety problems on abandoned mine lands and remediate streams and rivers degraded by acid mine drainage. Pennsylvania has the dubious distinction of having far more problems from the days of unregulated coal mining than any other state, with about a quarter of a million acres of abandoned mine lands and over 5,000 miles of polluted streams.

In December 2006, Congress reauthorized the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) to, among other things, continue the collection of the reclamation fee through 2021. Optimistically, as much as \$1.4 billion will be returned to Pennsylvania derived from reclamation fees with the express purpose of addressing abandoned mine problems. While significant and as good as Pennsylvania could have pragmatically hoped for from the SMCRA legislation, this figure falls far short of a daunting estimate of \$15 billion needed to fully address the legacy of unregulated coal mining.

Currently something over 4 percent of the coal mined in the U.S. is exported. Had the court decided in favor of the coal operators, the cessation (and possible refunding) of reclamation fees on exported coal would have eroded already inadequate reclamation funding, thus reducing Pennsylvania's share of reclamation funding by tens of millions of dollars over the lifetime of the reauthorized SMCRA.

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The appellate court's decision was based solely on the interpretation of the language of the law. In particular, that a reclamation fee is imposed upon "coal produced" in the United States. The court's decision came down to the meaning of "coal produced" as used in SMCRA.

The following is a fairly readable excerpt from the court's decision--

If "coal produced" refers solely to coal extracted then the disputed portion of the statute does not render the statute unconstitutional under the Export Clause. If, however, "coal produced" is interpreted to include the entire process of extracting and selling coal - if it is a tax on extraction and sale - then, as it applies to sales that occur in the export process, it is an unconstitutional violation of the Export Clause. Where a possible construction of a statute would render the statute unconstitutional, courts must construe the statute "to avoid such problems unless such construction is plainly contrary to the intent of Congress. ... This canon of constitutional avoidance is subject only to the qualification that the interpretation that "save a statute from unconstitutionality" must be reasonable-that is, the saving construction must not be "plainly contrary to the intent of Congress" ... "The elementary rule is that every reasonable construction must be resorted to, in order to save the statute from unconstitutionality.

Our interpretation of the interpretation is court was obligated to choose the only alternative that would have preserved the constitutionality of the portion of SMCRA in question, that coal production only meant coal extraction, thus allowing the imposition of a reclamation fee.

Even though the decision was based on "a fine point", it does represent a victory for abandoned mine reclamation. However, it may not be over yet. This case may include another level of appeal.

(Written By Bruce Golden, Regional Coordinator, [Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#))

Link: [Abandoned Mine Posts By WPCAMR](#)

Reminder: West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium IV July 18-19

The fourth annual [West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium](#) will be held July 18-19 at the Nittany Lion Inn, State College and will be hosted by Trout Unlimited and the [West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition](#).

All registrations should be received before or on Monday, July 7. Last minute registrations may be accepted on Monday, July 7 by calling Amy Wolfe at 570-726-3118 with registration and payment information. Otherwise a \$10 late fee will be charged for all registrations received after July 7.

The purpose of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium is to promote the [West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Initiative](#), which is aimed at the cleanup of abandoned mine drainage throughout the West Branch Susquehanna watershed.

This event serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas regarding AMD abatement in the region and provides an excellent opportunity for networking among volunteers, policy-makers, technical experts, students, and others interested in restoring land and water impacted by AMD - the largest source of pollution to the Commonwealth's waterways.



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This year's special guest speaker will be [Tim Palmer](#) with his program on Rivers of America.

Workshop programs will feature presentations on: Restoring the Bennett Branch, Fishes of the West Branch, CSI-Helpful Tool for Restoring Trout Streams, Water Quality Study on the West Branch, the Role of Land Conservancies and AMD, Linking the Burden of Abandoned Mine Lands to Community Health and Economic Benefits Analysis of Acid Mine Drainage Remediation.

The Saturday session will feature a tour of [Bennett Branch Acid Mine Drainage Projects](#).

A limited number of scholarships are available to help defray the cost of registration, travel and/or lodging.

[Trout Unlimited](#) is also providing organizational support to the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition, a group that represents the collective efforts of watershed groups, Trout Unlimited chapters, county conservation districts, businesses, and others that are working to address AMD problems throughout the West Branch Susquehanna River basin.

For more information on scholarships or the Symposium, [download the registration brochure](#), or contact Amy Wolfe, Trout Unlimited, at 570-726-3118 or send email to awolfe@tu.org

Links: [West Branch Susquehanna Symposium Attracts Over 140](#)

Video Blog: [Amy Wolfe Talks About West Branch Restoration Projects](#)

Registration Deadline for Youghiogheny Sojourn Extended to July 3

The [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) this week announced the registration deadline for the [Youghiogheny River Sojourn](#) has been extended until July 3.

The Youghiogheny River is this year's DCNR River of the Year and has played a dominant role in Western Pennsylvania history. Its rebirth from a threatened past to a promising recreational future will be highlighted during a four-day sojourn from July 17-20 offering events for rafters, bikers, anglers and other outdoors enthusiasts.

Full details and registration information can be found at the [Youghiogheny River Sojourn webpage](#).



EPA Proposes Standards for Water Efficient Homes

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is promoting and enhancing the market for water efficient products through the [WaterSense program](#) and proposed water efficiency standards for homes.

This latest draft specification for water-efficient new single-family homes will create standards that new homes must meet to be certified and labeled as WaterSense homes.

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“WaterSense is a common sense ethic of efficiency for protecting water, America’s most important liquid asset. WaterSense certified homes will help homeowners save water, money and energy, and communities will have an important new tool for sustainable growth and water efficiency,” said Donald S. Welsh, regional administrator for EPA’s mid-Atlantic region.

The specification is designed to ensure sustainable, efficient water use, as well as a high level of performance and customer satisfaction. WaterSense labeled new homes will combine with other water efficient fixtures and practices to reduce water usage by approximately 20 percent.

Homes earning the WaterSense label must meet criteria for indoor water use, outdoor water use, and homeowner education. Third party inspectors will certify that homes meet all the required criteria.

EPA is inviting public comment on the draft specification. The comment period will end July 21. Please send any comments or suggestions to watersense-newhomes@erg.com.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the draft specification for water efficient single-family new homes, go to EPA’s [WaterSense webpage](#).

Pennsylvania Amphibians and Reptiles Teacher Workshop August 7-8

The Fish and Boat Commission and [Stroud Water Research Center](#) will be offering a two-day Pennsylvania Amphibians and Reptiles Workshop for teachers and other educators on August 7 and 8.

The workshop will take place from 9:00 - 3:00 on both days. The deadline to register is July 31.

Participants will receive the Pennsylvania Amphibians and Reptiles Curriculum Guide, Frog and Toad Calls of Pennsylvania CD, PA Amphibians & Reptiles reference book, and other workshop materials. The curriculum is suitable for grades K-12 and indoor or outdoor classrooms.

The PA Amphibians and Reptiles Curriculum covers awareness, identification, habitat, and responsible human action. Participants will also get an introduction to the biology, ecology and identification of PA’s reptile and amphibian species.

Upon completion of the workshop, participants will be eligible to receive ten Act 48 hours. There is no fee for the workshop.

To register for the workshop please contact Mandy Smith, SE Region Fish and Boat Commission educator at 215-968-3631.

To Eliminate Mosquitoes at Home: Dump It, Drain It, Treat It

After discovering the first positive mosquito sample of the year in Luzerne County, the Department of Environmental Protection and Luzerne County’s [West Nile Virus program](#) this week reminded residents of simple steps they can take to control mosquitoes in their own yards—an important effort in combating the spread of the West Nile virus.

“DEP and local coordinators are working to keep mosquito populations under control, but residents can also play a big role in managing these insects,” said DEP Northeast Regional Director Michael Bedrin. “Remember: dump it if it has water in it; drain it if it can be drained; and treat it if it has standing water.”

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“These are easy measures that everyone can take in their own back yards to help protect themselves and their family from the West Nile virus.”

DEP staff and Lackawanna County West Nile Coordinator Mike Chisdock were on hand today at McDade Park to show how homeowners can eliminate standing water. DEP offers the following tips to eliminate mosquito-breeding sites around the home: Identify and eliminate standing water that collects on your property. Mosquitoes will breed in any puddle that lasts for more than four days.

Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water holding containers, including those that have become overgrown by aquatic vegetation.

- Empty water that may accumulate in discarded tires;
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left outside;
- Have clogged roof gutters cleaned annually, particularly if the leaves from surrounding trees tend to block the drains;
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use;
- Turn over wheelbarrows and do not allow water to stagnate in birdbaths;
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish; and
- Keep swimming pools clean and chlorinated, and prevent water from collecting on swimming pool covers.

DEP and county West Nile coordinators monitor the type, location and population of immature (larvae and pupae) and adult mosquitoes. This information is then used to treat those areas where high populations of mosquitoes that are known West Nile carriers are found.

Pennsylvania’s aggressive approach has contributed to a drop in the number of human West Nile virus cases. The West Nile virus can cause West Nile fever and encephalitis—an infection that can cause inflammation of the brain and death—when transmitted to people.

Last year, the West Nile virus was found in 25 Pennsylvania counties. Ten state residents contracted the virus, but no deaths were reported. In 2006, two of the nine Pennsylvanians who contracted West Nile virus died and in 2005, 25 residents contracted the disease, with no deaths attributed to the virus.

Most people bitten by an infected mosquito will never develop any symptoms, and only one in 150 with symptoms will develop the more serious West Nile encephalitis. Because mosquitoes acquire the virus from infected birds, residents are reminded to report dead crows, blue jays and hawks. Residents who discover dead birds and would like to submit them for testing should call the local West Nile county coordinator.

When handling dead birds, use rubber gloves. If you do not have gloves, insert your hand into a plastic bag, grasp the bird carefully and invert the bag over the bird. Each bird should be placed in a tied plastic bag and then placed inside a second tied bag.

If you are not submitting the bird for testing, place the bagged bird in the trash. Wash your hands with soap and water.

For more information, visit the [West Nile Virus website](#) and register for updates via e-mail, or call 1-877-PA-HEALTH for information.

Westmoreland Pasture Management for Horse Owners Workshop Set For July 22

On July 22 the [Westmoreland Conservation District](#), Penn State Cooperative Extension Westmoreland County, the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, and

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Lindwood Farm are joining together to present a “Pasture Walk,” in which speakers and a visit to a local horse farm will give attendees specific examples of how to create safe and healthy horse pastures.

The workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Westmoreland Conservation District headquarters on Donohoe Road in Hempfield Township.

Horse boarders, horse-barn owners, stable managers, and anyone who keeps horses on their property knows that keeping a healthy pasture area for their animals can be a real challenge. Over-grazing, mud, and manure not only turn pastures into eyesores, but also create chore-keeping challenges and potentially unhealthy conditions for the animals where insects can breed, digestive disorders can arise, and accidents can occur.

The first hour of the event will feature speakers on the topics of nutrient management, pasture quality, fencing, pond quality, and soil tests and soil amendments. Speakers include: Dan Griffith, nutrient management specialist/agricultural conservation technician with the Westmoreland Conservation District; Dana Rizzo, water quality educator with the District and Penn State Cooperative Extension; and Tom Sierzega, district conservationist with the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The second hour will involve a field trip to nearby Lindwood Farm, a member of the Standardbred Breeders Association of Pa., and a farm with a national reputation for producing champions. At Lindwood, participants will see best management practices that maintain pasture quality, control mud, and manage stormwater runoff.

Cost of the Pasture Walk is \$5, and space is limited to 20 participants.

To register, send your check, payable to the Westmoreland Conservation District, to that organization at 218 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA 15601, or contact Christie at the District, 724-837-5271 or send email to: christie@wcdpa.com.

Please note that participants will need to provide their own transportation from the Westmoreland Conservation District to Lindwood Farm, a distance of approximately 3-1/2 miles.

Game Commission Approves Proposed Additional Urban Deer Management Options

The Game Commission this week took steps to propose additional strategies for controlling deer herds in more urban areas.

Board of Game Commissioners gave preliminary approval to a regulatory change to allow homeowners associations and nonprofit land-holding organizations to apply for a Deer Control Permit under the same process provided for political subdivisions, such as boroughs and townships.

"In developed landscapes, lower deer populations result in fewer deer human conflicts," said Carl G. Roe, Game Commission executive director. "And, although we prefer to use hunting to manage deer populations, hunting is not always feasible in an urbanized setting due to safety zone restrictions. We must, therefore, consider alternative herd reduction tools for communities to address their growing deer populations.

"Recognizing that urban deer issues do not always affect an entire township or borough, the Board is proposing to expand the list of authorized Deer Control Permit applicants to include homeowners associations and nonprofit land-holding companies. This does not change the requirements of the review process, but it does make this tool

available to more groups experiencing unacceptable levels of deer-human conflicts in developed areas."

The Board must approve the proposal at its next meeting, which is scheduled for October 24, before it can take effect.

The Board also gave final approval to a regulatory change to allow hunters in special regulation areas counties (Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia) to harvest more than one deer at a time without first tagging previous harvested deer, provided all deer harvested are lawfully tagged immediately thereafter.

This change is part of the agency's continuing efforts to find solutions to the high deer-human conflicts in these urban counties. For all other areas, hunters must continue to tag the first deer harvested before attempting to harvest a second. This measure will take effect for the 2008-09 deer hunting seasons.

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

NewsClip: [Game Commission Expands Mentored York Hunting Program](#)
[State Takes Steps to Control Urban Deer](#)
[Groups Cleared for Deer Kill License to Control Deer](#)
[Hunting Regulations Could Be Loosened to Control Deer](#)
[Game Commission Considers Expanding Deer Control Program](#)
[Deer, Coyote Management Top Agenda](#)

Emerald Ash Borer Found in Mercer County, Citizens Urged To Take Precautions

Adult [Emerald Ash Borers](#), invasive beetles that destroy ash trees, were identified in West Middlesex, Mercer County, Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff announced this week.

The beetle was detected for the first time in Pennsylvania last summer and the Commonwealth imposed a quarantine for Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, and Lawrence counties to help slow the spread of the beetle. That quarantine will be expanded to include Mercer County.

"Our survey crews are assessing the extent of the infestation in Mercer County and surrounding areas," said Secretary Wolff.

Survey crews have been hanging purple panel sticky traps in 35 counties across the commonwealth since the end of May. The traps are designed to attract the adult beetles and help surveyors determine the spread of the invasive beetle.

"We remind consumers to heed the quarantine when traveling and camping this summer in western Pennsylvania to prevent any further spread of the beetle," Secretary Wolff said.

State and federal Emerald Ash Borer quarantines restrict the movement from the quarantine area of ash nursery stock, green lumber and any other ash material, including logs, stumps, roots and branches, and all wood chips.

Due to the difficulty in distinguishing between species of hardwood firewood, all hardwood firewood—including ash, oak, maple and hickory—are considered quarantined. Since many species of wood-boring insects, including the Emerald Ash Borer, can be spread through transport of infested firewood and logs, campers and homeowners are encouraged to use only locally harvested firewood, burn all of the firewood on-site, and not carry it to new locations.

Emerald Ash Borer is a wood-boring beetle native to China and eastern Asia. The pest likely arrived in North America hidden in wood packing materials commonly used to

ship consumer and other goods. It was first detected in July 2002 in southeastern Michigan and neighboring Windsor, Ontario, Canada. The beetle has since been blamed for the death and decline of more than 20 million ash trees in Ohio, Indiana, Maryland, Virginia and Illinois.

Typically, Emerald Ash Borer will kill an ash tree within three years of the initial infestation. Adults are dark green, one-half inch in length and one-eighth inch wide, and fly only from early May until September. Larvae spend the rest of the year beneath the bark of ash trees, and when they emerge as adults, leave D-shaped holes in the bark about one-eighth inch wide.

There is no known practical control for this wood-boring pest other than destroying infested trees.

People who suspect they have seen Emerald Ash Borer should call the department's toll-free pest hotline at 1-866-253-7189.

For more information about the quarantine, contact Walt Blosser at 717-772-5205, and for more information about Emerald Ash Borer, contact Sven-Erik Spichiger at 717-772-5229, or visit the [Emerald Ash Borer webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Emerald Ash Borer's Range Extended to Mercer County](#)

Game Commission Approves Revised Mine Reclamation Lease, Land Donations

The Board of Game Commissioners this week approved a change to the coal mining lease on State Game Lands in Lycoming County and accepted donations of land in Carbon, Indiana and Westmoreland counties.

The Game Commission agreed to amend the agency's existing 159-acre mining lease on State Game Land 75 with Fisher Mining Inc., of Montoursville. The amended lease will permit Fisher Mining to remove coal from an additional 32.3 acres on SGL 75 in Pine Township, Lycoming County. The mining is expected to produce an estimated 311,490 tons of coal.

The advance royalty will be paid to the Game Commission upon final execution of the lease. In addition, the agency will assess and be reimbursed for all merchantable that is cut or impacted by this mining.

As part of this amended lease, Fisher Mining will reclaim 600 feet of abandoned high-wall on the Flatiron surface mine about 1,500 feet west of the leased area. The reclamation will eliminate an existing safety hazard on the SGL and create a five-acre herbaceous food plot.

All mining will be regulated the state's surface-mining regulations, and the agency's surface mining lease agreement. In addition, all proposed mining has been reviewed and approved in accordance with the state Department of Environmental Protection's surface mining regulations.

Additionally, the Board reported that, by notational vote, it unanimously approved leasing 2,615 acres of SGL 75 in Pine Township, Lycoming County, to Chesapeake Appalachia LLC, of Charleston, West Virginia, for oil and gas development. SGL 75 is comprised of 27,437.6 acres in Lycoming County

Two Land Donations Accepted By Board

The Board approved a land donation from Eugene and Nancy Dunlap, of Blairsville, of 20.7 acres near SGL 328 in Derry Township, Westmoreland County. The forested tract provides about 2,000 feet of shoreline along Conemaugh River.

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SGL 328 currently is comprised of 516 acres in neighboring Indiana County.

The Board also approved the donation of a right-of-way about 400-feet by 20-feet in Penn Forest Township, Carbon County, that provides access to SGL 141 from State Route 1002. This donation, from John and Mary Enck, of Jim Thorpe, is an important acquisition because it allows the agency to perform important habitat work on a portion of SGL 141 that had become inaccessible.

It also will provide public access to a new parking area that is planned. SGL 141 is comprised of 17,047 acres in Carbon County.

Land Exchanges Approved By Board

The Board approved a land exchange with Ann Higdon, of Cullowhee, North Carolina, that involves a 16-foot wide easement allowing access and utility support only - not subdivision, through 1,912 feet of SGL 82 in Northampton Township, Somerset County, in exchange for 11 acres adjacent to SGL 82.

The tract being transferred to the Game Commission is comprised of mature hardwoods with some hemlock. As part of the exchange, Higdon has agreed not to build any structures within 150 yards of her property's boundary with SGL 82, which is comprised of 6,760 acres in Somerset County.

In another land transaction, the Board agreed to a land exchange in which Steve Petersheim, of Gap, will receive a permanent easement over a portion of SGL 88 in Northeast Madison Township, Perry County, for eight forested acres adjacent to SGL 88, also in Northeast Madison Township. SGL 88 is comprised of 6,930 acres in Juniata and Perry counties.

In Other Business

In other action from the Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management, the Board took the following actions:

- Approved an extension in a deadline to allow Trout Unlimited more time complete construction of AMD ponds that were bankrolled by Growing Greener grant received from the state Department of Environmental Protection.

The AMD ponds, being constructed on private property, would provide lasting environmental relief to Morgan Run and the watershed. The original agreement was approved August 27, 2007, and called for Trout Unlimited to complete its work by June 30, 2008.

- The organization not could meet that deadline and sought an extension to December 31, 2009, which the Board granted. In the original deal, Trout Unlimited provided a 68-acre interior parcel to SGL 158 in Reade Township, Cambria County in exchange a 50-foot by 1,000-foot parcel of SGL 51 in Dunbar Township, Fayette County. SGL 51 is comprised of 16,700 acres in Fayette County; and
- Finalized two land acquisitions in Horton Township, Elk County, for two parcels - one 4,968 acres, another 1,555.6 acres - that adjoin or are near SGL 44. The lands were originally to be purchased with monies from the land exchange with Pennsylvania State University on SGL 176.

However, since the timing of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service approval for the deal may exceed the transaction closing date, other funds were approved - if needed - to complete the acquisitions. Prior to the acquisitions, SGL 44 contained 24,854 acres in Elk and Jefferson counties.

PennDOT Orders 10 Hybrid Buses From Azure Dynamics

[Azure Dynamics Corporation](#), a leading developer of hybrid electric and electric powertrains for commercial vehicles, announced this week it has received an order from PennDOT for 10 hybrid buses with an option for 15 additional buses at a later date.

PennDOT has ordered the eighteen passenger Azure/StarTrans Hybrid Para-transit CitiBus for delivery in 2008.

"Azure's hybrid technology continues to gain traction with proactive fleet managers who value our performance, significant fuel economy improvements, emissions reductions and long-term maintenance cost savings," said Scott Harrison, Azure Dynamics' Chief Executive Officer. "We see the PennDOT order as further validation that our technology answers stringent market demands."

The Azure Series-Hybrid CitiBus system specified by PennDOT has unique attributes like engine-off driving while electronically supporting key ancillary functions like air conditioning, power steering and braking. The powertrain, with a GM Vortec 4.8L engine, offers over a 40 percent improvement in fuel economy, and a 30 percent reduction in carbon emissions in city conditions.

The powertrain also offers a 25 percent reduction in engine maintenance and a 75 percent reduction in brake maintenance versus conventionally equipped competitors.

"The only way to secure our energy future is to take steps now that allow Pennsylvania to be more energy efficient and conserve our natural resources," said Gov. Rendell. "We cannot reduce our dependence on foreign oil unless we make better use of the alternative transportation options and invest in our own home-grown fuel resources as proposed by the PennSecurity Fuels Initiative."

The Governor added, "Energy independence begins at home, and commuters can do their part to help reduce energy consumption and reduce Pennsylvania's dependence on foreign oil by relying more on public transit or car pooling."

The first ten Azure Dynamics Para-transit hybrid buses ordered by PennDOT will be operated by Rabbit Transit in York County, Pa and will expand its shared-ride program.

The PennDOT contract was awarded via Arcola Bus Sales. The Azure bus purchase advances PennDOT's strategic focuses of balancing social, economic and environmental concerns in transportation programs for optimal effectiveness and efficiency of services offered.

DEP Accepting Applications for \$500 Hybrid Vehicle Rebates

The Department of Environmental Protection is now accepting applications for a \$500 rebate on the purchase or lease of hybrid vehicles under its [Hybrid Electric Vehicle Rebate Program](#).

The program, authorized through the Alternative Fuel Incentive Act provides \$500 rebates to assist with the incremental costs of purchasing or leasing a new hybrid electric vehicle. The total of both the EPA city miles per gallon (MPG) and the EPA highway MPG must meet or exceed 55 MPG to achieve the fuel efficiency requirements.

The hybrid vehicle must also have a carbon footprint of less than 7.0 tons/year of CO₂ as posted on the [federal Fuel Economy website](#). A list of eligible vehicles may be obtained from the [Department's website](#)

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To qualify for the \$500 rebate, the hybrid electric vehicle must be registered in Pennsylvania and primarily operated within the Commonwealth. The rebates will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis as long as funds are available.

A total of \$1.5 million is available for allocation under the program. Rebate request forms and required documentation must be postmarked no later than 6 months after the vehicle is purchased or leased.

Rebate forms, along with additional information about the program, are available on the [Hybrid Electric Vehicle Rebate Program webpage](#) or by contacting the Hybrid Electric Vehicle Program at 866-294-3854 or 717-214-3492 or by sending email to: epafiginfo@state.pa.us.

PA Recycling Markets Center to Host Forum on Disposal Bans

The [Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center](#), in collaboration with the [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#), will host an Economic Development Forum on August 7 in Harrisburg.

The forum will focus on the markets impact of disposal bans recently proposed by DEP as part of anticipated revisions to the Commonwealth's Municipal and Residual Waste Regulations.

RMC Economic Development Forums are coordinated to strategically outreach to industry leaders, bridging the supply chain while identifying barriers and opportunities in the utilization of secondary commodities generated in Pennsylvania.

The RMC will facilitate interactive demand-side discussion regarding materials markets impacts of the proposed disposal bans, given the proposed bans may ultimately provide additional raw materials to Pennsylvania manufacturers through substitution of recycled materials for conventional feedstocks.

Anyone interested in attending should contact the RMC for details at 717-948-6660 or send email to: info@parmc.org.

WPXI-TV Pittsburgh Presents “Going Green: Staying Safe” June 28

Did you know a dog could be a homeowner's best defense against mold? Find out how a specially trained canine can help protect you from mycotoxins and other poisonous substances in the third segment of Channel 11's “Going Green” series.

“Going Green: Staying Safe” will air Saturday, June 28, at 7:30 pm on [WPXI-TV](#). Channel 11 News Anchor Peggy Finnegan and Channel 11 News Reporter Vince Sims will host the special. The 30-minute program will identify household hazards that often go unnoticed; environmental safety issues that can literally hit home whether you live in the city or a Western Pennsylvania farm.

David Mazza from the [Pennsylvania Resources Council](#) will be interviewed as part of the program.

Issues like lead in children's toys made in China. The county health department reports that about seven percent of children likely have higher than normal levels of lead in their blood.

From hazardous waste stored in garages, to countless chemicals used for lawn care, who is ultimately responsible to protect us from toxic products? Viewers will learn why it's important to be vigilant about the chemicals they bring into their homes.

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As Peggy Finnegan reports, “Home, it’s clearly where the heart is but today, it can also be where the hazards are if we don’t pay attention to the environment around us.” The program will also air on PCNC, June 28th at 9:30 pm and Sunday June 29th at 4:00 pm.

Once aired, this Going Green segment should be available on the [WPXI-TV website](#).

Ronald Weaner Joins Game Commission Board

Ronald Weaner, of Biglerville, Adams County, was welcomed as the newest member of the Board of Game Commissioners at this week’s meeting, making this the first time since June of 2006 that the Board has been seated with its full complement of eight members.

District 6 is comprised of Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Mifflin, Lebanon, Lancaster, Perry, Snyder and York counties.

"I have been interested in the workings of the Game Commission for most of my adult life and feel that my varied wildlife-related experiences will enable me to serve on the Board," Weaner said. "I have been a lifelong hunter and a student of the Game Commission. My teaching emphasis in recent years has been wildlife management and forestry. Working with FFA members, in wildlife management related activities, has given me insight into hunter retention and youth recruitment. I have been a full-time dairy farmer for many years and understand a farmer's perspective on wildlife management and related issues. Also, being a local school board member has prepared me for a position with an organization such as the Pennsylvania Game Commission."

After graduating from Penn State with a degree in Agriculture Education, Weaner taught vocational agriculture in Snyder County for five years. Following that, he moved to Lancaster County and taught for two years.

In 1985, Weaner joined his father's dairy farming operation in Adams County and was a full-time dairy farmer for more than 10 years.

In 1996, after the dairy herd was sold, Weaner resumed teaching agriculture in York County. During his teaching career, he has taught courses in hunter responsibility, wildlife management and forestry, along with other traditional agriculture science and agriculture mechanics courses in grades seven through 12. In recent years, the wildlife management and forestry courses have been his prime area of interest.

"My classes work each year with the Game Commission and local sportsmen's groups, planting trees and wildlife foods on the State Game Lands near our school," Weaner said. "I have attended the Safari Club International's American Wilderness Leadership School in Wyoming, and have sent several students to the same program over the years. My Dover High School students have participated in the Youth Hunter Education Challenge program at the Scotia Range many times over the last ten years."

Weaner noted that Dover is one of the only public schools in Pennsylvania to sponsor a YHEC team, and has a very active FFA chapter that competes each year in local and state wildlife management Career Development Events.

Weaner has been the chairman of the state level CDE for at least eight years. During this time, he worked closely with Game Commission personnel at the state and regional levels, as well as local Wildlife Conservation Officers.

In the fall of 2006, Weaner completed a half-year sabbatical leave from teaching. His educational plan included more than one week of time working directly with Game Commission personnel in a variety of learning activities.

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"I worked with the deer research team in Perry County, trapping and tracking deer," Weaner said. "I did a ride-along with the Cumberland County WCO for a few days, and spent time with foresters and land managers evaluating several local State Game Lands. "These experiences gave me a much better understanding of Game Commission's operations and wildlife management techniques. I now have more wildlife management background and instruction materials to share with my students."

In 2002, Weaner was named the York County Conservation Educator of the Year by the York County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. He was appointed to the Wildlife Management Unit 5A deer management Citizen Advisory Committee, and began serving in February.

Weaner is a life member of the NRA and a member of Quality Deer Management Association. While living in Gettysburg, he served as a Gettysburg School Board member for 16 years, including a term as board president.

Help Wanted -- Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education

The [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) seeks a full-time [Communications Coordinator](#) to manage and develop the PCEE website, develop and coordinate online educational materials, manage databases and coordinate all PCEE technological and online resources.

Qualifications include a bachelor's degree or master's degree in environmental education or an education-related field; certification or extensive experience in website management; and successful performance in an on-campus interview are required.

Preference will be given to individuals with a master's degree or experience in the field of environmental education; a degree in web-based technologies; experience in the development and maintenance of robust websites; experience in the development of online educational programs; and experience working with diverse populations.

Review of the applications will begin July 24 and continue until the position is filled. Background investigation required for employment.

To apply, send letter of interest outlining qualifications for the position, resume, transcripts (official transcripts are required prior to appointment) and the names, addresses and phone numbers of three references to: Communications Coordinator Search Committee, PCEE Director, Search # 08-114, 164 S. Main Street, Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Grants & Awards

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

- **June 30**—[DEP Energy Use Reduction Grants](#)
- **June 30**—[Dept. of Agriculture Healthy Farms, Healthy Schools Grants](#)
- **June 30**—[DCNR Wild Resources Conservation Grants](#)
- **June 30**—[Appalachian Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency Grants](#)
- [RC&D Grants for Improving Livestock Operations](#)

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- **July 7**— [DEP Coastal Zone Land Acquisition Grant Proposal](#)
- **July 18**— [DEP Composting Infrastructure Development Grants](#)
- **August 1**—**NEW**. [NFWF Delaware Estuary Watershed Grants Program](#)
- **August 1**—[NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Grants](#)
- **August 4**— [Start Submitting REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Applications](#)
- **August 29**—[DEP Local Government Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grants](#)
- **First Come, First Served-- NEW**. [DEP \\$500 Hybrid Electric Vehicle Rebate](#)
- **September 9**— [EPA Water Quality Trading Funding Proposals](#)
- **September 20**— [Fish & Boat Commission Boating Facilities Grants](#)
- **September 24**— [Coca-Cola, NRC Recycling Bin Grants](#)
- **October 15**—[PPL Project Earth Environmental Education Grants](#)
- **October 31**—[PA Resources Council Lens On Litter Photo Contest](#)

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

Quick Clips

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

[State Seeks Way to Ease Jump in Electricity Rates](#)
[A Positive Outcome Is In the Air – Wind Energy](#)
[Consumers In for a Double Shock on Electricity Prices](#)
[Clearfield County Laundromat Uses State Program to Reduce Energy Costs](#)
[With Wind, Solar Power, Why Are Electric Rates Rising?](#)
[Businesses, Consumers Await New Energy Strategy](#)
[Obama Leads Panel on Energy, Innovation at CMU](#)
[Power Plant in Cumru Township to Cut Mercury Emissions](#)
[High Gasoline Prices Changing Lawn Mowing Habits](#)
[Politicians: Ethanol No Longer a Good Idea](#)
[Feed Costs Worry Franklin County Dairy Farmers](#)
[Heating Oil Customers Warned of Record Winter Prices](#)
[Energy Costs Push Interest in State's Natural Gas Reserves](#)
[Gas Royalties Linked to More State Jobs, Spending](#)
[Midstate Mixed on Environment, Oil Drilling](#)
[Column: The Real Debate Over Climate Change](#)
[Editorial: Climate Action – Pittsburgh Has a Plan](#)
[Erie Filmmaker Puts Nature in a Starring Role \(Online Video\)](#)
[The Benefits of Trees Literally Stretch to the Sky](#)
[Chestnut Trees Given a Second Chance](#)
[Nonprofit Aims to Sell Locally Grown Produce to Restaurants](#)
[Local Pocono Builder Goes Green](#)
[Pittsburgh Getting Blueprint for Going Greener](#)
[Editorial: Pittsburgh Invests in Better Eco-Choices](#)
[Pittsburgh Arts Festival Recycling Wasn't a Waste](#)
[Western PA Conservancy Gardens in Full Bloom](#)
[Home Depot Lauded for Fluorescent Light Bulb Recycling](#)

[Land Trust Offers Advice to Keep Lands Natural](#)
[Editorial: Bring Back State Park Lifeguards](#)
[Decompose This: Rot, Decay Benefit Nature](#)
[State Takes Steps to Control Urban Deer](#)
[Groups Cleared for Deer Kill License to Control Deer](#)
[Hunting Regulations Could Be Loosened to Control Deer](#)
[Game Commission Considers Expanding Deer Control Program](#)
[Deer, Coyote Management Top Agenda](#)
[Peregrine Chicks Hatch on PPL Tower \(Online Video\)](#)
[Conservation Mini-Grants Awarded in Lehigh Valley](#)
[DEP Accepting Bids to Reclaim Abandoned Mine That Claimed 6 Lives](#)
[DEP Awards Final Starr Tire Pile Cleanup Contract](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Hilltown Man Honored for Wetlands Work](#)
[Couple Honored for Monitoring Creeks](#)
[Juniata Sojourn Put Paddlers In Touch With Nature](#)
[Lehigh River: A Wilderness In Our Midst](#)
[Presque Isle Bay Cleans Up Its Act](#)
[Editorial: Clean Presque Isle Bay Worthy of Celebration](#)
[Pymatuning Habitat Improvements](#)
[Delaware River Dredging Plan Moves Forward](#)
[Upper Delaware River Temperature at Crisis](#)
[Williamsport: Bay Cleanup to Cost \\$140 Million](#)
[Williamsport Residents Can Prepare for Sewer Rate Hikes](#)
[Funding for Public Works Could Add Jobs](#)
[Budget Might Include Water, Sewer Projects](#)
[Editorial: Bay Cleanup Costs Too Great, Voices Too Quiet](#)
[Editorial: Spread the Costs of Clean Water](#)

Regulations

No new regulations were published this week. [Pennsylvania Bulletin – June 28, 2008](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published interim final guidance on increasing the capability of drinking water systems and the Department of Public Welfare made available for comment its [Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program Plan](#).

DEP ID: 383-0400-114. [Pennsylvania Capability Enhancement Program](#). This document provides guidance to all community, nontransient, noncommunity and transient drinking water systems, as well as the Department's staff on the guidelines and implementation of Pennsylvania's Capability Enhancement Program.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **NEW.** [Revised Schedule of meetings for DEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Recycling Fund Advisory Committee.](#)
- **July 1**— **NEW Location.** House Labor Relations Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2445](#) (Eachus-D-Luzerne) providing for neighborhood blight reclamation and revitalization. Room 140. 10:00.
- **July 9**—**CANCELLED.** DEP Water Resource Advisory Committee meeting. Rescheduled for July 22.
- **July 9**—DEP [Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 206 Bureau of Laboratories Building, 2575 Interstate Dr., Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **July 9**—DEP Solar Work Group meeting. Second Floor Training Room, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Libby Dodson, 717-772-8907 or send email to: ldodson@state.pa.us.
- **July 15**—House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee hearing on the Clean and Green Program. G-50 Irvis Building. 1:00.
- **July 17**—**NEW.** [DCNR Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **July 22**—[Governor's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **July 22**—**NEW.** House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee hearing on lifeguards at State Parks. Room 140. 1:00.
- **July 22**—DEP [Water Resource Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 1:00.
- **July 24**—[DEP Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#) meeting. DEP Pottsville Office, 5 West Laurel Blvd., Pottsville. 1:00.

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- **August 7**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **September 3**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **September 18**—Joint Conservation Committee Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force. Penn Stater Conference Center, State College. 10:00.
- **September 23**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

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

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. All rights reserved.

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