

— PA — Environment Digest



Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

July 3, 2006

Final State Budget Restores Some Environmental Funding Cuts, Not Big Ones

About 2:00 a.m. Sunday, the General Assembly passed and Gov. Rendell signed the new 2006-07 state budget. The final version restored some of the environmental funding cuts Gov. Rendell proposed to county conservation districts, Chesapeake Bay Education, Nutrient Management Programs, agricultural research and other smaller programs, but \$82 million was still diverted to other programs and to help balance the General Fund.

Here some of the detail—

- \$52.7 million diverted from DCNR's Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund to the General Fund for 2006-07 fiscal year only (Governor's recommendation). The amount of grants given out by DCNR for 2006-07 would not be affected, although these funds are lost for environmental purposes;
- \$30 million diverted from the Environmental Stewardship (Growing Greener) Fund to fund the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund (DEP). Up to this amount was authorized in the legislation implementing the Growing Greener II bond issue;
- \$6.1 million for the Barnes & Tucker agricultural consumptive water use project for the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (DEP);
- \$4 million reduction in the repayment amount to the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund that finances cleanups of underground storage tanks;
- \$3 million for the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program;
- \$2 million cut in DCNR's State Parks and Forest facility from the Environmental Stewardship (Growing Greener) Fund;
- \$2.1 million increase in DCNR State Park Operations;
- \$190,000 increase in general funding for county conservation districts; and
- \$18,000 increase for Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education.

Also passed and on the Governor's desk is [Senate Bill 1224](#) (Wenger-R-Lancaster) creating the Conservation District Fund that will make it easier for conservation district to manage the state grants and program support they receive.

A tax change included in [Senate Bill 300](#) would change inheritance tax provisions for land held under conservation easements created by the Agricultural Area Security Act so that the value was 50 percent of the value it otherwise would have under tax law.

The state budget is in [House Bill 2499](#) and the related tax bills implementing budget agreements are in [House Bill 859](#) (Tax Code), [Senate Bill 300](#) (Tax Code), [House Bill 1992](#) (Fiscal Code) and [House Bill 185](#) (Education).

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

Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to session on September 25.

On the Hill

- On the Senate, House Agenda
- Senate/House Bills Moving/Introduced
- Final State Budget Restores Some Environmental Funding Cuts, Not Big Ones
- House Committee Approves Mine Families First Legislation

Other News

- Weather Doesn't Dampen Spirit of Team Susquehanna
- Groups Urged to Join Letter of Support for Federal Mine Reclamation Funding
- Join the 2006 Great Secchi Dip-In, Check Your Lake's Water Quality
- DEP Certifies First Proposals for Generating, Trading Nutrient Credits
- ¡No Llame De Más Su Tanque De Gasolina!
- EPA Region Posts Assessment of Land Use, Reuse at Cleanup Sites
- Small Business Pollution Prevention Grant Applications Due December 15
- July 20 Rachel Carson Forum to Examine Sustainable Energy Options
- July 7 Energy Savings Workshop Supports Saving Energy Now
- Attorney General Moves to Strike Down Illegal Restrictions on Farming
- 'Ag Ventures' Summer Camp Helps Students Reconnect with Life on the Farm
- Guided Tours of Regal Fritillary Butterfly Habitat Slated at Fort Indiantown Gap
- 21st Annual Wildlife Art Show Set For August 4-6
- Help Wanted: Watershed Manager

See & Hear

- How Communities Deal with Stormwater Woes

Feature

- Bald Eagle Nests Top 100 For First Time in More Than a Century

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

On the Hill

On the Senate, House Agenda

See you in September! The Senate and House return to session September 25 and will celebrate the July 4 holiday this week, so they don't have anything much planned for the week ahead.

Bills On the Governor's Desk

Bills containing the state budget, an increase in in-lieu of tax payments, changes to the storage tanks cleanup insurance program, conservation district funding, oil and gas leases, non-native fish possession and sale and others reached the Governor's desk this week. Other bills moved this week as well. Here's the rundown....

State Budget/Tax Changes: The state budget is in [House Bill 2499](#) and the related tax bills implementing budget agreements are in [House Bill 859](#) (Tax Code), [Senate Bill 300](#) (Tax Code), [House Bill 1992](#) (Fiscal Code) and [House Bill 185](#) (Education).

Environmental Capital Budget: [House Bill 2317](#) (Feese-R-Lycoming) establishing the 2005-2006 Capital Budget for flood control, Keystone Recreation, Environmental Stewardship projects was concurred in by the House and now moves to the Governor for his action.

Conservation District Funding: [Senate Bill 1224](#) (Wenger-R-Lancaster) creating the Conservation District Fund was amended on Second Consideration and passed by the Senate, amended and passed by the House and now moves to the Governor for his action.

Storage Tanks: [House Bill 1195](#) (Yudichak-D-Luzerne) that makes changes to the program to help underground tank owners upgrade tanks was amended to add support for tank cleanups involving MTBE and passed the Senate, concurred in by the House and now goes to the Governor for his action.

In-Lieu of Tax Payments: [Senate Bill 868](#) (Scarnati-R-Warren) increasing the in-lieu of tax payments for State Forest and Game Lands from \$1.20 to \$3.60, funded by gaming revenues, was passed by the House, concurred in by the Senate and went to the Governor for his action.

Oil and Gas Leases: [Senate Bill 594](#) (MJ White-R-Venango) establishing the Dormant Oil and Gas Act to create trusts for prior oil and gas well owners was reported from the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, referred to and from House Appropriations, passed by the House without change and now goes to the Governor for his action.

Penalties for Non-Native Fish: [House Bill 1320](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) establishing penalties for the sale, transport, possession or release of non-native injurious fish was passed by the House, concurred in by the Senate and now goes to the Governor for his action.

Senate/House Bills Moving/Introduced

Other bills moved this week as well and new bills were introduced. Here's the rundown....

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Senate

Open Space: [House Bill 183](#) (Ross-R-Chester) providing more local taxing options for preserving open space was amended and reported out by the Senate Local Government Committee.

Historic Preservation: The Senate Community and Economic Development Committee reported out [Senate Bill 1232](#) (Piccola-R-Dauphin) establishing the Historic Preservation Incentive Grant Program and was then referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

House

State Energy Office: [House Bill 2253](#) (George-D-Clearfield) which would create a State Energy Office and Energy Advisory Council within the Department of Environmental Protection was passed by the House and now moves to the Senate. **NewsClip:** [House Approves Creation of PA Energy Office.](#)

Open Space Bond: [House Bill 2793](#) (Petri-R-Bucks) proposing a \$150 million bond issue for voter approval to fund open space preservation and flood hazard mitigation projects was amended and passed by the House and now goes to the Senate.

Purchasing Flood Hazard Properties: [House Bill 2795](#) (Petri-R-Bucks) authorizing the Commonwealth and local government to purchase property subject to flood hazards was passed by the House and now moves to the Senate.

Disaster Assistance: [House Bill 2794](#) (Petri-R-Bucks) establish a disaster assistance program to provide low-interest loans to victims of natural and manmade disasters was passed by the House and now goes to the Senate.

Fluoridation: [House Bill 1588](#) (Tigue-D-Luzerne) providing for the fluoridation of public water was amended and passed by the House and now moves to the Senate.

Flood Insurance: [House Bill 243](#) (Sommel-R-Berks) to provide premium assistance for property owners eligible for federal flood insurance was amended and passed by the House. **NewsClip:** [Bill Seeks to Lower Flood Insurance Costs](#)

Mine Families First: [House Bill 2619](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) establishing the Mine Families First Program was reported out of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and was referred to House Rules Committee.

Reducing Mercury Emissions: [Senate Bill 1201](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango, Musto-D-Luzerne) that would reduce mercury emissions from power plants in Pennsylvania by 86 percent by 2018 was referred to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Bills Introduced

Methane Recovery: [House Bill 2836](#) (Yewcic-D-Cambria) amends the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act to require agreements for compensation between a landowner and potential extractor of methane or other gas found in a coal formation.

Weatherization Tax Credit: [House Bill 2841](#) (George-D-Clearfield) establishing a Weatherization Tax Credit for public utilities providing weatherization assistance.

Geospatial Council: [House Bill 2871](#) (Fairchild-R-Union) establishing the Geospatial Coordinating Council and the Pennsylvania Mapping and Geospatial Technologies Fund.

Mineral Rights Purchase: [House Bill 2882](#) (Yewcic-D-Cambria) provides surface rights owner right of first refusal in purchase of mineral rights.

Hunting & Fishing Day: [House Resolution 746](#) (E.Taylor-R-Chester) designating September 23 as National Hunting and Fishing Day.

Coal Miner's Day: [House Resolution 795](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) designating December 19 as Coal Miner's Day.

Gasoline Price Investigation: [House Resolution 815](#) (Barrar-R-Chester) establishing a task force to conduct an in-depth investigation into gasoline prices, oil companies' pricing formulas and profits.

Flood Maps: [House Resolution 819](#) (Hanna-D-Clinton) urging the Federal Emergency Management Agency to review and update flood maps every ten years.

Rail Transportation Preparedness: [House Resolution 824](#) (Gannon-R-Delaware) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of rail transportation preparedness in the event of a natural disaster, terrorist attack or hazardous materials incident.

National Energy Policy: [House Resolution 826](#) (M.Wright-R-Bucks) memorializing Congress to adopt a federal energy policy to reduce dependency on foreign oil and increase use of natural or alternative fuel sources.

Home Energy Assistance: [Senate Bill 1270](#) (Robbins-R-Mercer) establishing the Home Energy Assistance in Time of Need Program to provide home heating energy help.

Recycling Tax Credit: [Senate Bill 1275](#) (Browne-R-Lehigh) exempts the salvaging, recycling or reclaiming of used materials to be recycled in a manufacturing process from state Sales and Use Tax.

Nuclear Reactor Fees: [Senate Bill 1276](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) amending the Radiation Protection Act to increase fees on nuclear reactors.

House Committee Approves Mine Families First Legislation



The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week reported out [House Bill 2619](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) that establishes the Mine Families First Program to care for the families of miners involved in mine accidents.

The legislation is based on the lessons learned from the Quecreek Mine Rescue in 2002 where Gov. Schweiker required that mine families be continuously briefed on rescue efforts before the media and made sure that questions asked by mine families were answered.

House Bill 2619 directs the Department of Environmental Protection to develop a Mine Families First Program, including a communications plan to outline the steps the agency, mine owners and operators are to take to make sure the families of miners are kept informed of rescue efforts, kept secure and their needs taken care of. It also directs DEP to appoint a specific individual responsible to act as liaison between the agency and miner families.

The bill now moves to the full House for consideration.

In Other News

Flooding Causes Disaster Emergency in 46 Counties, Drought Watch Lifted

Heavy rains in the central and eastern parts of Pennsylvania this week caused severe, localized flooding and nine deaths prompting Gov. Rendell to declare a state disaster emergency in 46 counties and to ask for federal disaster relief in 34 counties.

The counties covered by the request for federal aid included: Adams, Armstrong, Berks, Bradford, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Indiana, Jefferson, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe, Montgomery, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Philadelphia, Pike, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne, Wyoming and York counties.

[President Bush declared eight counties federal disaster areas](#) so far: Bradford, Bucks, Columbia, Luzerne, Northampton, Northumberland, Susquehanna and Wyoming.

In addition, Bedford, Blair, Centre, Clinton, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, Potter, Snyder and Union counties were declared state disaster areas.

Nearly 1,000 rescues were performed by National Guard and State Police during the initial response to the flooding that quickly trapped many victims in small towns and developments throughout the affected areas.



Flooding in Norristown, on the Schuylkill River (DEP Photo)

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Dam safety inspectors with the Department of Environmental Protection confirmed one dam failure in Luzerne County – Mountain Springs #2 Dam, which was a low-hazard dam and does not present a threat to any downstream communities.

In order to help reduce the cost of flood debris disposal, DEP is [temporarily waiving the \\$6.25 per ton fees](#) on waste going to landfills and incinerators. DEP is also temporarily waiving the waste truck registration requirements as well for vehicles hauling flood debris.

For the five-county Philadelphia area, DEP is offering to pump and remove heating oil tanks as well as compressed gas cylinders damaged during flooding. [Click Here for Details](#).

Flood Recovery Advice

DEP has a variety of fact sheets available for residents affected by flood waters on a [special Flood Recovery webpage](#).

Information is available on disinfecting private wells, debris disposal, recovering electric motors and heating equipment and safe flood cleanup.

Warning on Flood-Related Scams

Attorney General Tom Corbett this week warned consumers to be on the lookout for possible flood-related scams including unscrupulous contractors or phony charity appeals that claim to assist victims and families in the hardest hit areas.

Corbett offered the following tips and advice to consumers seeking home repair work after the recent flooding:

- Beware of repair personnel who claim to be certified or affiliated with any state or federal emergency program;
- Do not allow a contractor, utility company or "inspector" into your home without confirming their identity;
- Contact your homeowners' insurance agent to inspect your property to determine if the damage is covered by your existing policy;
- Get several estimates for the same work to avoid possible price gouging;
- Do not sign a contract for repairs until you and your insurance company have agreed on the exact costs;
- Never agree to repairs until you have a written contract stating the type and quality of work to be done, the costs for labor and supplies and a start and completion date for the project;
- Do not give a contractor a large down payment. In many instances, a down payment of one-third the total cost may be appropriate, with future payments due as the work progresses;
- Check county, city or local licensing rules or requirements for various contractors including plumbers or electricians;
- Never hire a contractor who doesn't have a local business, phone number or address, or who refuses to provide references. Check customer satisfaction with the Better Business Bureau;
- Inquire about the contents of "disaster relief kits" that are available for sale; and

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

- Report any suspicious activity to the police or the Attorney General's Office.
Flood victims seeking additional information are asked to call the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection at 1-800-441-2555. [Complaint forms are available by calling the number or online.](#)

Drought Watch Lifted

The Department of Environmental Protection this week [lifted the drought watch](#) the agency imposed in April due to the heavy rains throughout the Commonwealth over the last few weeks.

NewsClips: [Flood Death Toll At 9](#)
[When You Live By the River, Floods Are Part of Life](#)
[Are Floods Getting Worse?](#)
[After Flooding, Trying to Find Normal](#)
[Floods and Fear](#)
[Flooding in Eastern PA Worse](#)
[Attention Turns to Delaware After Susquehanna Dodges Bullet](#)
[Those Along Delaware River Getting Used to Flooding, Cleanup](#)
[Quick Look at the Impact of Flooding Throughout PA](#)
[Disaster Scenes Play Out Across Region](#)
[Air Crews Lift Close to 1,000 People from Peril](#)
[River Towns Face Wrath of Nature](#)
[Too Soon to Declare Drought Over, State Says](#)

Weather Doesn't Dampen Spirit of Team Susquehanna

Despite heavy rains and potential flooding, soggy socks and blistered hands – [Expedition Susquehanna](#) continues on their 30-day journey from New York to the Chesapeake Bay via the Susquehanna River.

With the first week of the journey under their belts, Team Susquehanna sees these rainy days as an opportunity for exploration and to learn more about the surrounding towns and communities in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton region.

"Safety is our first concern on this trip, so we will wait until the river returns to a safe paddling level before getting back out onto the water." said Don Baugh, CBF's Vice

President of Education. "In the mean time, students took advantage of a teachable moment and visited a waste water treatment plant that was experiencing sewage overflows due to flood waters. They plan on conducting additional water quality tests, interviewing residents that have been affected by the flooding, and have offered to roll up their sleeves and volunteer to assist some of the relief efforts helping flood victims."



Drying Out in Scranton

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

“While this wasn’t in our original plan, it provides us an additional opportunity to learn about how communities connect to their local creeks,” said Deidra Cervenak, CBF Expedition Trip Leader. “The students are very resilient. I’m amazed at their ability to adjust and just go with the flow.”

The first week of the Expedition was a tremendous success. The students set off in Cooperstown, New York after two days of camping, paddling, and safety instruction. Once reaching Pennsylvania, the group paddled into Sayre and was greeted by the local FFA chapter.

Spending two days in World’s End State Park proved to be a big hit – the students snorkeled in the Loyalsock Creek, learned about and even touched Hellbenders, a prehistoric salamander that lives in only high quality streams, got a lesson on fly-fishing from nationally-known experts, learned about stream systems, and how to determine water quality by studying macroinvertebrates.

As part of their learning experience the students are writing daily journals and taking photos to document their journey. These materials are then uploaded onto a web server for CBF staff to use on the Expedition website and to share with the public.

The following journal entry was taken from Day 4, June 22, from Jerikah Hite:

“As my mother always says, “You learn something new everyday.” Well today, I did learn something new, something prehistoric. As we went under the pavilion to eat our breakfast, Deidra, our group leader, was waiting for us with an excited look on her face and a small stack of papers in her hand. It was right then when she announced,

“Today...we are ...hunting for hellbenders!” At that time we were all wondering what hellbenders were so we read the article. The article said that hellbenders are prehistoric creatures that can weigh up to 5 pounds and grow to be up to 29 inches long. What kind of creatures? Salamanders.

“A few hours later we arrived at the Loyalsock River. Waiting for us was a professor from Lycoming College, ready to introduce us to hellbenders. All of the sudden, he pulled a towel off the top of a fish tank sitting on the shore. In that fish tank floated 5 hellbenders.”

Upcoming Expedition events include two public “Connecting Communities to Creeks” Watershed Expos/Cook-outs.” The first will be held at Shikellamy State Park, July 1 from 4 to 7 pm.

The second will be held in Harrisburg on July 6th from 4-7 pm. These events are free and open to the public. Please check the expedition website for venue information.

To follow the journey and find out what the students are learning, visit the [Susquehanna Expedition website](#).

NewsClip: [River Trekkers Moving Toward Sunbury Location Expedition Susquehanna Continues](#)
[High Water Keeps Paddlers Off River](#)
[Flood Adds Element of Excitement to River Expedition](#)

Groups Urged to Join Letter of Support for Federal Mine Reclamation Funding

The PA AML Campaign, a coalition of more than 30 environmental, conservation and sportsmen’s groups, are inviting other groups to join them in working to support legislation sponsored by U.S. Senator Santorum to restore federal mine reclamation funding.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

S. 2616 would deliver \$1 billion to Pennsylvania alone over the next sixteen years to clean up abandoned mine lands and fill in mine entries and shafts.

Groups are invited to sign on to this letter—

Dear Senators Santorum and Specter:

On behalf of community leaders and citizen organizations in 46 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, we are writing to thank you for your leadership and to express our support for your legislation, S.2616, which would re-authorize the Abandoned Mine Lands program and help bring economic opportunity and environmental restoration to communities and resources damaged by abandoned coal mines.

As you well know, since 1977 the coal industry has paid a small fee, no more than 35 cents per ton, for all coal mined in the U.S., in order to fund the environmental restoration of lands and waters damaged by the thousands of abandoned coal mines left unreclaimed by the mining industry prior to passage of the Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

While the industry has paid into the Abandoned Mine Lands fund, over the years Congress has not allowed all the money in the fund to be spent by Pennsylvania and other historic production states still dealing with the deaths, injuries and degraded lands and waters harmed by abandoned mines. Although the AML program was set to expire in 2004, Pennsylvania still has more than 3,000 miles of streams and rivers that are biologically dead from pollution caused by abandoned mines, and more than 184,000 acres of unreclaimed AML sites.

Through your hard work with Senate leadership from both parties, the AML program was extended to June 30th of this year – only weeks away -- so Congress could have the opportunity to re-authorize the program and make sure that Pennsylvania and other states damaged by abandoned coal mines can finish the cleanup. Among other priorities, many economically depressed communities in Pennsylvania have little hope of revitalization until their water supplies are made safe and usable again by stopping the pollution that continues to pour from abandoned mines.

The guaranteed funding of your legislation is the best hope for all our communities trying to plan the multi-year job of reclaiming AML sites. The funding assured by S.2616 means that state and community leaders can devise cost-effective strategies for using limited funds to hire contractors to engage in the long, difficult work of reclaiming the sites. And as we all recognize, these are local jobs that can't be outsourced.

We recognize that you and other Pennsylvania leaders felt pressures from Wyoming and the coal industry that had to be accommodated, or there might be insufficient Congressional support for re-authorizing the AML program. The PA AML Campaign does not agree with any reduction in the fee. We appreciate the fact that the reduction has been phased in for the first five years through your efforts. We still hope that the fees which have not been adjusted for inflation in 29 years, can at minimum, be held at current levels to provide more revenue to the fund. We would also hope that an important environmental tool now eliminated by the bill, the General Welfare provision which is of particular value to some communities trying to deal with waters contaminated by AML sites, could be restored.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

To be clear, while in our judgment it would be best to keep the fees at the current levels, and not eliminate any of the AML Program's environmental provisions, we believe the opportunity for the specific and guaranteed funding of AML cleanup efforts provided in S.2616 may be more difficult to achieve in the future. This means that it is very much in the interest of Pennsylvania and other historic coal production states that your legislation become law as soon as possible. Again, we are deeply grateful for your leadership, and we are in strong support of your efforts to bring help to coalfield communities through S.2616.

With appreciation and respect for your diligence in helping Pennsylvania try to deal with our enormous abandoned mine lands problems, thank you for working so hard on behalf of our lands, waters and communities.

Sincerely, R. John Dawes, Chairman, PA AML Campaign

If you would like to sign on, contact John Dawes by sending email to: rjdawes@aol.com or call 814-669-4847.

NewsClip: [Northumberland Commissioners Support AML Fee Renewal](#)

Link: [Groups Rally to Support Santorum Bill to Restore Mine Reclamation Funding](#)

Join the 2006 Great Secchi Dip-In, Check Your Lake's Water Quality

The [2006 Great Secchi Dip-In](#) is now underway all across the United States and you can be part of this annual event that encourages people to check water quality in lakes and ponds.

This year's Dip-In is from June 24-July 16, and is a time where volunteers, schools, and any other organization can gather at their local lake to monitor the clarity and health of the lake.

Lakes are a vital ecosystem throughout the United States and the world. They provide a habitat different than that of flowing streams or wetlands. They also have unique characteristics that require different monitoring techniques than those typically performed.

One such parameter most commonly monitored in lakes is clarity. A lake with more clarity is healthier because it allows sunlight to penetrate to a deeper depth. With more sunlight penetration, the plants found at the bottom of the lake can undergo photosynthesis, supplying the rest of the organisms in the lake with oxygen. Clearer water provides benefits to plants, which means healthier ecosystems in and around the lake.

Lake clarity is measured by a device called a Secchi Disc that is lowered into the water. Observations are made on the clarity of the water as it is lowered into the lake.

Data collected from all over the U.S. will be entered into the [data table at the Kent State University website](#). Pennsylvania volunteers are also encouraged to enter their data into [PA's watershed data warehouse](#).

For questions about the Dip-In, contact Barb Lathrop at the Department of Environmental Protection, 717-772-5651 or blathrop@state.pa.us.

DEP Certifies First Proposals for Generating, Trading Nutrient Credits

The Department of Environmental Protection this week certified two proposals that could generate nutrient reduction credits for sale to developers and dischargers with nutrient reduction obligations.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

The Mount Joy Borough Authority trading proposal brings together local sewage treatment plant representatives, developers and other sources potentially needing nutrient reduction credits with the farm community to identify and implement agricultural best management practices that will result in the generation of nutrient load reductions.

In partnership with ARRO Consulting Inc., the borough developed a process to quantify nutrient reductions associated with converting approximately 930 acres of conventionally tilled farmland to continuous no-till which could result in 5,859 nitrogen reduction credits.

The Red Barn Trading proposal offers a different approach to market-based trading by providing a brokering service aggregating farm-produced credits and offering them to regulated wastewater dischargers, developers and others to assist with achieving the pollution reduction needed for compliance.

Red Barn, together with McNees, Wallace & Nurick LLC, developed the proposal to generate nutrient reduction credits by exporting poultry manure out of the watershed to nutrient-starved lands, which could result in 8,246 nitrogen credits generated per year.

These are the first two proposals certified by the department in the nutrient trading program designed to achieve cost-effective water quality improvement in the Susquehanna and Potomac river basins, and to send cleaner water to the Chesapeake Bay.

DEP's certification allows the proponents to market the credits generated by these certified proposals to those in need of credits, with the assurance that the credits are acceptable to the department for compliance purposes.

Pennsylvania and other states in the 64,000-square-mile Chesapeake Bay Watershed now must meet new, federally-established requirements for nutrient and sediment reduction to remove the nation's largest estuary from the U.S. Clean Water Act's list of impaired waters by 2010.

To achieve the targeted reductions, DEP is requiring tougher water quality standards for farming operations and major point sources. Sewage facilities and other industrial dischargers are examining a slate of options that include adopting operational changes, installing nutrient-reduction technology or securing offsets through a new "trading" program that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has recognized for its innovation.

For more information on DEP's [Nutrient Trading Program webpage](#).

¡No Llene De Más Su Tanque De Gasolina!

Region 3 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has posted a Spanish language webpage covering air quality protection issues and tips on how to individuals can reduce air pollution.

Visit: [¡No Llene De Más Su Tanque De Gasolina!](#)

EPA Region Posts Assessment of Land Use, Reuse at Cleanup Sites

Region 3 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has posted a special [Hazardous Waste Cleanup Sites Land Use & Reuse Assessment Report](#) on its website.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

It is a comprehensive review of land use occurring on hazardous cleanup sites in the Mid-Atlantic region. The report's results serve as a baseline from which the region can better evaluate trends in the reuse of cleanup sites.

Brownfield News, a national publication targeted at developers, has also published an article on the highlights of the report in their June issue.

Small Business Pollution Prevention Grant Applications Due December 15

The Department of Environmental Protection is now accepting applications for pollution prevention and energy efficiency grants under the [Small Business Advantage Program](#).

Grants of up to \$7,500 are available for energy efficiency or pollution prevention projects or changes in processes. An eligible project must save the business at least 10 percent annually in energy or pollution related expenses. A 50 percent match is required.

For more information visit the [Small Business Advantage Grant Program webpage](#) or contact Dave Barnes, Small Business Ombudsman, 717-783-8411.

July 7 Energy Savings Workshop Supports Saving Energy Now

Lehigh University's Industrial Assessment Center will present a no-cost "[Energy Savings Workshop](#)" for industrial, commercial and institutional businesses on July 7.

The full-day event will address assessment methodology for the identification and quantification of energy savings in process heating, compressed air, steam, and pump/motor systems as well as common and plant-specific recommendations for reducing energy costs.

High energy costs, an increased need for assessment resources, and limited government resources are common issues affecting many businesses today. This workshop will highlight the individual experiences of participating businesses and explore general solutions that may apply to all.

Toward this end company representatives are requested to complete and submit the Facility Background Information form at the time of registration so that plant-specific energy management issues can be addressed. Company-specific data will be kept confidential and only used to identify common areas for energy savings and related group discussion topics.

Opportunities to privately discuss confidential company information may also be arranged during the workshop.

Lehigh and West Virginia University Industrial Assessment Centers provide services to small and mid-sized industries throughout Pennsylvania as part of a nation-wide network of 26 university-based IACs centered at [Rutgers University](#) in New Jersey.

The mission of the IAC is to work with industries to improve productivity through increased energy efficiency and reduced waste generation. More information about the [Lehigh IAC](#) and their role in [DOE's Save Energy Now Initiative](#) is available online.

Visit the "[PA Industrial Energy Resources](#)" for more information.

Visit the [Professional Services Directory](#) and [Events Calendar](#)

July 20 Rachel Carson Forum to Examine Sustainable Energy Options

The July 20 Rachel Carson Forum will examine a host of challenges and opportunities in moving toward sustainable energy in Pennsylvania with a particular emphasis on ethanol issues and the use of biorefineries.

This program will be in the Rachel Carson auditorium starting at noon.

Dr. Said S.E.H. Elnashaie, Quentin Berg University Chair in Engineering, Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg will be the featured speaker. Dr Elnashaie, is heading a new sustainable engineering center at Penn State Harrisburg and is a chemical engineer by training with extensive experience in sustainable energy issues.

Questions about the forum can be directed to Will Delavan in the DEP Office of Policy at wdelavan@state.pa.us .

Attorney General Moves to Strike Down Illegal Restrictions on Farming

Attorney General Tom Corbett this week announced the filing of four lawsuits challenging four municipal ordinances in Berks, Chester and Columbia counties that he said illegally restrict farming operations.

These are the first lawsuits filed under Pennsylvania's [Agricultural, Communities and Rural Environment \(ACRE\) law](#), which was enacted to help protect Pennsylvania agriculture from unauthorized municipal regulation.

The ACRE law gives farmers the right to ask the Attorney General's Office to review local ordinances that they feel unlawfully restrict normal agricultural operations or ownership. The ACRE law gives the Attorney General's Office the authority to file lawsuits in Commonwealth Court to challenge local ordinances that, in its judgment, violate state law.

Before the ACRE law was passed, the only recourse farmers had to address illegal ordinances was to file their own lawsuits -- a time-consuming and expensive process.

Below is a summary of the four ACRE lawsuits filed by the Office of Attorney General:

Richmond Township - Berks County: According to the Attorney General's lawsuit, the Richmond Township Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance in August 2000 to define and regulate "intensive agriculture," placing a series of restrictions on mushroom, poultry and livestock production.

The lawsuit states that Richmond Township has no legal authority to define, differentiate or regulate "intensive agriculture," and that the definition used in the ordinance is arbitrary, vague and unreasonable and invites discriminatory enforcement.

According to the lawsuit, the local ordinance violates the Nutrient Management Act, the Domestic Animals Law, the Right to Farm Law, the Agricultural Area Security Law and the Municipalities Planning Code.

The Attorney General's lawsuit asks the Commonwealth Court to declare the Richmond Township ordinance null and void, prevent the township from enforcing the illegal ordinance, and grant such other relief as the court finds necessary.

Locust Township - Columbia County: According to the Attorney General's lawsuit, the Locust Township Board of Supervisors amended the township's zoning ordinance in August 2001 to define and regulate "intensive animal agriculture," placing a series of restrictions on the housing, raising, feeding, production and maintenance of livestock or poultry.

The lawsuit states that Locust Township has no authority to define, differentiate or regulate "intensive agriculture," and that the township zoning review process is arbitrary, vague and invited discriminatory enforcement. According to the lawsuit, the local ordinance violates the Nutrient Management Act, the Water Resources Planning Act, the Right to Farm Law, the Agricultural Area Security Law and the Municipalities Planning Code.

The Attorney General's lawsuit asks the Commonwealth Court to declare the Locust Township ordinance null and void, prevent the township from enforcing the illegal ordinance, and grant such other relief as the court finds necessary.

Heidelberg Township / North Heidelberg Township / Robesonia Borough / Womelsdorf Borough - Berks County: According to the Attorney General's lawsuit, Heidelberg Township, North Heidelberg Township, Robesonia Borough and Womelsdorf Borough adopted a joint zoning ordinance in January 2004 to define and regulate the "intensive raising of livestock or poultry," placing a series of restrictions on the raising and keeping of livestock and poultry.

The lawsuit states that the townships and boroughs have no authority to define, differentiate or regulate "intensive agriculture," and that the local ordinance violates the Nutrient Management Act, the Domestic Animals Law, the Water Resources Planning Act, the Right to Farm Law, the Agricultural Area Security Law and the Municipalities Planning Code.

The Attorney General's lawsuit asks the Commonwealth Court to declare the Heidelberg Township, North Heidelberg Township, Robesonia Borough and Womelsdorf Borough ordinance null and void, prevent the townships and boroughs from enforcing the illegal ordinance, and grant such other relief as the court finds necessary.

Lower Oxford Township - Chester County: According to the Attorney General's lawsuit, the Lower Oxford Township Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance in March 2004 which defines a "commercial composting processing operation," placing a series of restrictions on mushroom compost preparation.

The lawsuit states that Lower Oxford Township has no legal authority to regulate mushroom compost preparation, which is a normal agricultural operation under state law. According to the lawsuit, the local ordinance violates the Nutrient Management Act, the Water Resources Planning Act, the Right to Farm Law, the Agricultural Area Security Law and the Municipalities Planning Code.

The Attorney General's lawsuit asks the Commonwealth Court to declare the Lower Oxford Township ordinance null and void, prevent the township from enforcing the illegal ordinance, and grant such other relief as the court finds necessary.

For more information, visit [Attorney General Corbett's website](#).

NewsClips: [Attorney General Files Suites Under Law to Protect Farmers](#)
[Attorney General Sues Townships Over Farming Restrictions](#)

‘Ag Ventures’ Summer Camp Helps Students Reconnect with Life on the Farm

This week, students are learning how food travels from the farm to the table during a three-day agriculture summer camp sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension Program.

“Most of today's students are two or three generations removed from farm living, and we want to help them reconnect with the important role agriculture plays in modern society,” said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff. “Ag Ventures Camp teaches children how farmers produce nutritious food, contribute to the economy, and help protect and preserve the environment for future generations.”

Students participate in a series of hands-on activities, workshops and games during the three-day program. Campers learn what cows eat, how to make butter, how wool is produced and how grain is grown, plus many other facts about food production, farm animal care and natural resource conservation.

The camp offered is free of charge and is open to students from Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York counties who have completed grades 4-6.

Ag Ventures Camp is part of Governor Edward G. Rendell’s agriculture education initiative launched in 2003. The initiative encourages agricultural learning by placing an emphasis on early education and teacher preparedness.

For more information about Ag Ventures Camp, contact either the Dauphin County Cooperative Extension office at 717-921-8803 or the Lebanon County office at 717-270-4391.

To learn more about the Department of Agriculture’s education initiative, visit www.marketplaceforthemind.com or contact Dr. MeeCee Baker at c-mebaker@state.pa.us

Guided Tours of Regal Fritillary Butterfly Habitat Slated at Fort Indiantown Gap



Nature Conservancy Photo

The public will have the opportunity to see the only colony of the [Regal Fritillary butterfly habitat](#) in the Eastern U.S. during free, guided tours July 6, 10, 12, 11 and 13 at Fort Indiantown Gap.

"This is a great opportunity for people to see this amazing, natural spectacle," said Carl Magagna, environmental program manager for Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. "Our guided butterfly tours promise to be an exciting and educational afternoon because our biologists are knowledgeable not

only about butterflies, but birds, plants and other insects."

In addition to the Regal Fritillary, Fort Indiantown Gap provides habitat for 36 species of mammals, 102 breeding species of birds, 34 species of reptiles and amphibians, 25 species of fish, notable species of invertebrates and 792 species of plants. This includes excellent populations of deer, turkey, bear, bobcat, rabbit, squirrel, wild trout, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals and songbirds. The installation covers more than 17,000 acres, including over 3,000 acres of prime, native grassland habitat.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Tours will leave from the Fort Indiantown Gap Community Club, located at the intersection of Fisher and Clement Avenues (Rt. 934), at 3 p.m. each day and will last two to three hours.

For more information call the DMVA environmental office at 717-861-2449 and visit the Nature Conservancy's [Fort Indiantown Gap Regal fritillary webpage](#).

21st Annual Wildlife Art Show Set For August 4-6



Middle Creek on a Busy Day.

The Game Commission's [Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area Visitor Center](#) will feature hundreds of original paintings and fine art prints from the best-known wildlife artists in the state during its annual Wildlife Art Show from August 4-6.

The show is free, and the hours are: Friday, 1-6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

In addition to the artists' sales, the art show will sell tickets for \$2 each or 3 for \$5 for a drawing that will be held at 4 p.m. on Sunday,

August 6. Four prizes will be awarded.

First prize is the annual Remarque Board, which features a small original painting by the participating artists in the show. The small paintings, which normally are done as part of a limited edition print, are assembled, matted and framed as a single collectible piece of artwork.

Second prize is "Spring Morning Along Segloch Run," by Karl Eric Leitzel, from Spring Mills, Centre County. This special Executive Edition print, which is signed and numbered in gold with a gold foil insert, features two deer along Segloch Run at Middle Creek.

Third prize is "Chipmunk and Autumn Mushrooms," also by Karl Eric Leitzel. This special Executive Edition print, which is signed and numbered in gold with a gold foil insert, depicts a chipmunk about to enjoy one of its favorite meals.

Proceeds from the drawing will benefit The Wildlands Preservation Fund land acquisition program. The [Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area Visitor Center](#) is along Hopeland Road, two miles south of Kleinfeltersville, Lebanon County.

Help Wanted: Watershed Manager

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has an opening for a Watershed Manager to manage WPC's freshwater conservation activities for the Juniata and Potomac tributaries watershed.

The successful candidate will have a master's degree or equivalent work experience in watershed science, wetlands ecology, or biohydrology. Three to five year's experience with hands-on projects to remediate threats to freshwater conservation targets is required. Familiarity with watershed assessment and planning and conservation action planning

(CAP) desired. The individual must be able to raise program funds from both private and public sources.

This is a full time position offering a competitive salary and excellent benefits.

If you are interested please send a letter, resume and salary requirements to:
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Senior Director, Human Resources, Box R, Mill Run, PA 15464 or by email to: nbassett@paconserve.org.

See & Hear

How Communities Deal with Stormwater Woes

Heavy rain and flooding are timely topics this week as many parts of Pennsylvania are recovering from just that. While extraordinary rains can overwhelm any stormwater management system, there are ways to reduce their severity.

The GreenTrek's Network's "[Stormwater Woes](#)" is an online video designed to introduce communities to the concept of stormwater management and how communities have dealt with this problem.

See and hear how you could be addressing many of the stormwater headaches your community has.

Link: [DEP Stormwater Management Homepage](#)
[Villanova Stormwater Management Partnership](#)

Feature

Bald Eagle Nests Top 100 For First Time in More Than a Century

The bald eagle, as symbolic of American freedom as the Fourth of July and Old Glory itself, is nesting in more than 100 locations across the Commonwealth for the first time in more than a century, the Game Commission announced this week.

The Game Commission started Pennsylvania's bald eagle reintroduction program in 1983, when three nesting pairs remained in the Commonwealth. The agency sent employees to Saskatchewan to obtain 12 eaglets from wilderness nests in the first year.

With financial assistance from the Richard King Mellon Foundation of Pittsburgh and the federal Endangered Species Fund, the project spurred the release of 88 Canadian bald eagles into the wilds of Pennsylvania at Haldeman Island in Dauphin County and Shohola Falls in Pike County.

"Pennsylvanians have every right to be excited and proud about the bald eagle's comeback, because their increasing presence in the Commonwealth symbolizes that wildlife conservation is working here and that Pennsylvanians care," noted Game



Game Commission Photo

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe. "We have reason to believe this remarkable story will continue to get better in subsequent years, because our state still has plenty of unoccupied bald eagle habitat.

"It's entirely appropriate that we celebrate the bald eagle's historic milestone of more than 100 nests in Pennsylvania as we prepare to commemorate our country's birthday. America will be 230 years old on the Fourth of July, and the bald eagle has symbolized America for most of that time, as per our forefathers' wishes. Bald eagles imbue that rugged spiritedness that characterizes our United States and Keystone State."

The Game Commission, partnering with other states and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, helped to bring bald eagles back from the brink of extinction with reintroductions throughout the Northeast in the 1980s.

The effort dovetailed with important gains made in improving water quality, which led to increases in the quality and quantity of freshwater fish, a staple in the eagle's diet. Pennsylvania's eagle resurgence also was likely stimulated by young eagles dispersing from the Chesapeake Bay, which now has more than 600 nesting pairs, and neighboring states that also reintroduced eagles.

Bald eagles are nesting in at least 31 of the state's 67 counties, according to preliminary census tabulations. There are at least 106 active nesting pairs (99 confirmed in 2005), and an additional 20 pairs appear to have established territories, which typically is a prerequisite task to nest-building. New nests have been confirmed in Bucks, Columbia, Fulton and Sullivan counties. Field staff also is looking into reports of new nests in Adams, Lawrence, Luzerne, Mercer, Montour and Wayne counties.

"I fully expect to add more eagle nests to our preliminary total, because there are plenty of unanswered questions about a substantial number of nests," said Doug Gross, Game Commission ornithologist. "Agency Wildlife Conservation Officers are following up reports from birders, many participating in the 2nd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas, about eagle nests, but their ability to confirm eagle nesting is compromised by the camouflage of leaf-out and the rugged, hard-to-reach areas nesting eagles use."

Following is a county-by-county breakdown of active nests - nests that the Game Commission is aware of and the adult eagles are incubating eggs or brooding young - along with the number of known active nests from 2005: Crawford, 14 (14 in 2005); Pike, 13 (12); Lancaster, 10 (9); Warren, 7 (5); York, 6 (6); Mercer, 5 (5); Chester, 4 (4); Tioga, 4 (3); Venango, 4 (4); Berks, 3 (3); Dauphin, 3 (2); Erie, 3 (3); Huntingdon, 3 (2); Lycoming, 3 (3); Wayne, 3 (3); Armstrong, 2 (2); Butler, 2 (1); Forest, 2 (3); McKean, 2 (1); Northumberland, 2 (2); Bradford, 1 (1); Bucks, 1 (0); Cameron, 1 (1); Centre, 1 (1); Columbia, 1 (1); Fulton, 1 (1); Luzerne, 1 (2); Montgomery, 1 (1); Northampton, 1 (1); Sullivan, 1 (1); and Westmoreland, 1 (1). Also, in 2005, Monroe had one active nest, but no active nests were identified this year.

The bald eagle is listed as a "threatened species" by the federal government and Pennsylvania. Bald eagles were upgraded from "endangered" to "threatened" nationally in 1995; the Board of Game Commissioners upgraded them on October 4, 2005. The USFWS recently closed a public comment period to remove the bald eagle from federal threatened species list. However, bald eagles still would be protected by the Bald Eagle Protection Act and other federal and state laws, even if it is delisted.

"The best available scientific and commercial data available indicates that the bald eagle has recovered," the USFWS reported in the February 16 edition of the Federal

Register. "The bald eagle population in the lower 48 States has increased from approximately 487 active nests in 1963, to an estimated minimum 7,066 breeding pairs today."

The return of the bald eagle in both Pennsylvania and the contiguous United States is directly related to reintroductions and nest site protection. But, the species future hinged on the banning of DDT and other organochlorine pesticides.

Eagles, as well ospreys, peregrine falcons and a multitude of songbirds, were rendered reproductively incapable by DDT and the like, because the birds were bio-accumulating the contaminants the pesticides contained through prey consumption. DDT - banned nationally in 1972 - rendered the shells of birds' eggs so brittle, they broke when sat upon.

Rachel Carson wrote in *Silent Spring*, "The history of life on earth has been a history of interaction between living things and their surroundings." She referred to the interdependencies -that often aren't easy to identify or interpret - of organisms on each other and the environment.

When America was sprayed and dusted repeatedly and for decades with DDT, the environment was slowly loaded with toxins that eventually devastated the very existence of eagles and many other creatures that had thrived for centuries. Without emergency and sustained special assistance from wildlife conservation agencies, bald eagles would have perished.

"Given their plight, magnificent appearance and historical significance, bald eagles have certainly captured the hearts and imaginations of Pennsylvanians," Gross noted. "Some observers have adopted nests for watching, keeping an eye on the eagles and for any threats to the nest. We frequently receive phone calls and emails from excited individuals who just saw their first bald eagle in the wild. We also hear from anglers, canoeists and birders who are taking the time to report what they believe is a new bald eagle nest or active nesting pair. We sincerely appreciate this assistance. After all, we cannot provide eagles with the special attention they sometimes require if we don't know where their nest is located."

Gross noted that eagles still are not nesting on some of their more historic nesting grounds, such as Presque Isle and the Susquehanna River's West Branch, but they surely have experienced a resurgence that has filled a long, noticeable void in Pennsylvania's wildlife community. If their progress continues, bald eagles one day likely will inhabit the quieter sections of every major waterway and impoundment in the Commonwealth.

"Bald eagles are moving into a lot of new places, particularly along the North Branch of the Susquehanna River," explained Gross. "I believe we're missing some established nests there and at remote municipal reservoirs, along steep mountainsides and river banks and on islands elsewhere in the state. In fact, I suspect we're missing one on a Susquehanna River island near Harrisburg."

Last year, 118 eaglets were fledged from 99 Pennsylvania active nests. The state's eagle nests are expected to fledge just as many or more in 2006. This trend illustrates the bald eagle is back in the Commonwealth and their future looks brighter than it has for many decades.

The state's largest concentrations of bald eagles are found in three geographic areas: the expansive wetlands of Crawford, Mercer and Erie counties; along the lower Susquehanna River in Chester, Lancaster and York counties; and the Poconos and Upper

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Delaware River region. For years, Crawford County - particularly the Pymatuning region - had represented the state's last stand for and largest concentration of bald eagles. This year, Crawford has at least 14 active nests (14 in 2005); lower Susquehanna River, 20 (16). In the Poconos, there are 21 nests (15).

To commemorate Pennsylvania's 100-nest milestone in bald eagle conservation, the Game Commission currently is developing a special-edition embroidered wildlife patch. Depicting a bald eagle with two eaglets and designed by award-winning artist Bob Sopchick, the patch is six inches in size and will sell for \$20. There will be a one-time production run of 3,000 patches.

Each year, about 20 percent of Pennsylvania's eagle nests fail for reasons such as disturbances, predators and harsh weather. This year was no exception, as at least four nests have fallen down, three with fatal consequences to the eaglets.

To learn more, visit the [Bald Eagle webpage](#).

Quick Clips

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

[Lyme Disease Rise Troubles Victims, Doctors](#)
[Rothrock Revisited](#)
[Outdoor Work Lures Volunteers to Preserve](#)
[Overhead Deer Counts Complete, Results Debated](#)
[Op-Ed: All Should Share in Funding Wildlife Management](#)
[Natural Areas Inventory Presented to Tioga County](#)
[Editorial: Preserving Open Space](#)
[Pittsburgh Council Considers Green Building Incentives](#)
[Architects Set Out to Make "Green" Row House](#)
[\\$1 Billion, 240 Mile Transmission Line Project Approved](#)
[As Coal Prices Rise, Mining Growing](#)
[Using Their Beans: Firm Makes Diesel Fuel from Soy](#)
[Area Biofuels Plant Pending on Study - Bedford](#)
[PA Waste Association Wins Honors](#)
[Game Commission Confirms More Than 100 Bald Eagle Nests in PA](#)
[Bald Eagle Population Soars](#)
[Hawk Mountain's Vistas, Trails Shine Through All Seasons](#)
[Audubon Tour Highlights Lush, Private Gardens](#)
[New Composting Plant in East Allen Township](#)
[Recycling Efforts at Bottom of Barrel](#)
[State Mine Subsidence Insurance Underused](#)
[Cause of Sago Mine Blast Still Eluding Investigators](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Reduced Stream Access Worries Anglers](#)

[State Funding, Volunteers Reclaim Local Waterways](#)
[When You Live By the River, Floods Are Part of Life](#)
[Floods and Fear](#)
[Attention Turns to Delaware After Susquehanna Dodges Bullet](#)
[Those Along Delaware River Getting Used to Flooding, Cleanup](#)
[Quick Look at the Impact of Flooding Throughout PA](#)
[Disaster Scenes Play Out Across Region](#)
[Air Crews Lift Close to 1,000 People from Peril](#)
[River Towns Face Wrath of Nature](#)
[Shedding Some Light on Watersheds](#)
[Editorial: Bullet Dodged](#)
[Storm Provides One Thrill- White-Water Rafting](#)
[Dam in Distress](#)
[DEP Funding Helps Reclaim Abandoned Mine in Centre County](#)
[DEP OKs Dredging on Allegheny, Ohio Rivers](#)
[DEP Issues Dredging Permit with Fish, Mussel Habit Protections](#)
[Bill Seeks to Lower Flood Insurance Costs](#)

Regulations

The Governor's Office published its [twice-a-year Regulatory Agenda](#) of regulations pending and anticipated to be adopted in the future. The Department of Environmental Protection extended the [comment period for New Source Review regulations](#) and the Department of Agriculture [published final CHEMSWEEP Pesticide Disposal Program rules](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – July 1, 2006](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The State Conservation Commission published its annual [policy dispersing funding under the Dirt and Gravel Roads 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. [Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

- **July 5-6** – **CANCELLED** – DEP Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board meeting.
- **July 6** – [Independent Regulatory Review Commission](#) meets to consider regulations setting Building Energy Conservation Standards and changes to Emissions Inspection Program regulations. 14th Floor Conference Room, 333 Market Street. 10:30.
- **July 10** – [Southwest PA Air Quality Partnership](#) meeting. Schenley Park at Camp David Lawrence Pavilion. Pittsburgh. 11:30 to 1:30.
- **July 12** – DEP [Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board meeting](#). DEP California District Mining Office, California, PA. 1:30.
- **July 12** – **CANCELLED**. DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting.
- **July 12** – DEP [Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Advisory Board](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **July 18** – Environmental Quality Board meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **July 19** – [Governor’s Invasive Species Council](#) meeting. Agriculture Building, 2301 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg.
- **July 25** – [DEP Stormwater Manual Oversight Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **August 29** – **CANCELLED**. State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators conference call.
- **September 13** – [DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **September 19-20** – [State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators](#). 10th Floor Rachel Carson Building. 10:00 and 8:30 respectively.
- **October 31-November 5** – [National Historic Preservation Conference](#). National Trust for Historic Preservation. Pittsburgh.

DEP Calendar of Events

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

Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar

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

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

Helpful Web Links

[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@HolstonCrisci.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 Holston & Crisci and the public. Holston & Crisci is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Holston & Crisci call 717-234-1716.

All rights reserved.

Visit the [Professional Services Directory](#) and [Events Calendar](#)