



*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

October 18, 2004

House, Senate Time Grows Short

The House is due to be in voting session on October 18, and nonvoting 19th and 20th and then break for the election, coming back the same day as the Senate – November 8.

Contents - On the Hill

- Members of Green Ribbon Commission to Identify Priorities by Oct. 20

In Other News

- Chesapeake Bay Foundation Proposal to Benefit Farmers, Environment
- Pfizer, Community Show Benefits of Nutrient Trading Efforts
- [3 Rivers Wet Weather Funds Projects to Help Reduce Future Floods](#)
- Largest Source of AMD on Quemahoning Creek to Be Eliminated
- Economic Prosperity & Biodiversity Conservation: Planning for PA's Future
- DEP Revises Increase in Underground, Aboveground Storage Tank Fees
- Coldwater Heritage Partnership Announces Grant Program
- Applications Accepted Now for Community-Based Restoration Program
- Tulpehocken & Quittapahilla Watersheds Receive Grants
- [Wind Power May Come to Southwest](#) [Wind Power Coming to PA](#)
- [New Guide to Purchasing Green Power Available](#)
- [Lancaster Home First to Use BioHeat](#)
- [EPA Urged to Consider Economic Impact of Air Designations in Pittsburgh Region](#)
- DEP Sets Meetings on Source Water Assessment, TMDL Proposals
- [EPA Awards Environmental Information Exchange Network Grants](#)
- [PA Receives EPA Grant to Decrease Truck Idling](#)
- EPA Grant Awarded to Penn State for Philadelphia Pesticide Risk Reduction
- [Region Gets \\$9.4 Million to Study Hydrogen Potential](#)
- \$1 Million to Digitize Mine Maps, MSHA Donates Quecreek Rescue Capsule
- Nominations Accepted for Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards
- National Environmental Technology Council Created
- Nelson Receives Civilian Executive of the Year Award
- [DEP Calls for Participants in New Project to Rethink Waste Policies](#)
- PennDOT Releases New Scenic Byway Guide

Taking Positive Actions

- Pennsylvania Resources Council Announces 2004 Award Winners

Watershed NewsClips

Technical Guidance & Permits

Calendar of Upcoming Events **Helpful Web Links** **Contributions Invited**

On the Hill

Members of Green Ribbon Commission to Identify Priorities by Oct. 20



Members of the Green Ribbon Commission this week were given their first assignment by Commission chairs Rep. Bill Adolph (R-Delaware) and Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) — prioritize the programs they would like to see expanded under a new environmental funding initiative and propose a way to pay for it by October 20.

Rep. Adolph reiterated the Commission’s charge from the July 4 letter from Senate Majority Leader David J. Brightbill (R-Lebanon) and House Majority Sam Smith (R-Jefferson) to Gov. Rendell setting up the Commission—

“The Commission, working with the Administration, will study state programs impacting the environment, as well as various proposals for enhanced funding to address environmental problems, preserving farmland and open space, reducing abandoned mines, and cleaning hazardous sites.

“This Commission will develop recommendations for possible program consolidation and improvements, along with possible legislation and the identification of necessary funding for environmental initiatives. Along with consideration of a dedicated funding source, the Commission will evaluate the benefits of a bond issuance and other funding vehicles.”

Program Updates: Adolph and White started the first meeting of the 26-member Commission by giving the Rendell Administration the opportunity to update members on its own Growing Greener II initiative entertain questions from members.

DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty surprised the group by saying more recent numbers show the Recycling Fund and the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund will “run out of money” by the end of this fiscal year.

McGinty said the agency was making contingency plans like preparing furlough lists for the more than 300 employees funded from the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund and putting cleanup projects in mothballs.

This represented a change from September 16 when DEP gave the Recycling Fund Advisory Committee a [spreadsheet showing the Recycling Fund](#) could be in trouble starting in fiscal 06-07 because the \$2 fee supporting the program was due to expire in 2008.

Previous estimates on the balance in the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund from the Governor’s Budget Office projected a \$18 million balance at the end of this fiscal year.

McGinty also noted the DEP programs funded under Growing Greener were under pressure due to increasing operation and maintenance costs for mine drainage treatment projects, the decision last year to expand the Crop Reserve Enhancement Program to the Ohio River Basin and by the Administration’s decision to pay off all the costs of the watershed grants issued to date by the end of 2006 earlier than they would need to be paid.

Roy Kienitz, deputy chief of staff to the Governor, noted legislative action this year on items like the \$250 million bond issue approved by voters in the Spring should be

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factored into changing the February Growing Greener proposal to eliminate any overlaps and reduce the impact of fees originally proposed by the Governor.

In February Gov. Rendell proposed \$152 million in new fees on waste produced by households and businesses to pay for an \$800 million bond issue and other environmental spending covering recycling, hazardous sites cleanup, farmland and open space preservation, brownfields redevelopment, infrastructure improvement, energy development and the existing Growing Greener program.

In her opening remarks, Sen. White also noted the General Assembly passed the sewer and water program as well as brownfields cleanup funding as part of the economic stimulus package, funded the Elm Street and Main Street programs to revitalize smaller communities and that the original Growing Greener Program is already set to spend over \$700 million between now and when it expires in 2012.

White said both the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund and the farmland preservation funding due to expire this year from the original Growing Greener Program represented pressing priorities for many.

DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis acknowledged the original Growing Greener program was a huge step toward addressing the funding needs of DCNR and communities, but also noted the demand for open space preservation, State Park, State Forest and local recreation funding far exceeds the available funds.

Kientz promised to get the Commission members the latest information available on the status of the Recycling and Hazardous Waste Cleanup Funds as well as the latest cost projections for debt service on the proposed bond issue.

Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne), Democratic Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, said members of the Commission need to face their responsibility to provide for a cleaner environment in Pennsylvania, but noted the short calendar of legislative days may make it impossible to take action by the end of November.

Rep. Kate Harper (R-Montgomery) noted the deadline for putting a bond issue question on the ballot was March 2005, if the General Assembly does not shorten the time period like it did for a \$250 million sewer and water ballot question this year.

Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield), Democratic Chair of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, told the group Pennsylvania was not getting enough done with the Growing Greener Program as it exists now. More funding is needed without “raiding existing funds” to get where we need to be on the environment.

New Issue – Flooding: During the discussions several members of the Commission added an issue to the agenda suggesting they deal with flood recovery and prevention, noting recent property and stream damage caused by several hurricanes going through Pennsylvania.

Kientz said the Governor was convening a Flood Task Force within the Administration to look at flood recovery and prevention needs and how the state could maximize the use of federal dollars available through the Corps of Engineers and other sources.

In response to a question from Rep. George about the need to clean out streams to accommodate more flood waters, McGinty said there was a “need to dredge streams in a responsible way” and that work done by local watershed groups was helping to reduce the potential for flooding.

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Both Sen. Robert Thompson (R-Chester) and Rep. David Argall (R-Schuylkill), chairs of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees, noted the state budget will be under significant pressure next fiscal year. Several billion dollars in potential funding gaps for existing programs like Medicare will have to be filled and they anticipate a planned Administration initiative on higher education. Any new spending program will have to be looked at carefully against this backdrop.

Chairs Adolph and White said they would schedule the next meeting of the Commission after Oct. 20 when priorities were due from members. They also said they would work to solicit environmental funding priorities from all the members of the General Assembly to feed back into the Commission.

NewsClip: [Governor's Appointees Stress Environmental Needs](#)

In Other News

Chesapeake Bay Foundation Proposal to Benefit Farmers, Environment

The [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) (CBF) this week proposed a new program, *Farming for Clean Water*, to provide critical funding to reduce pollution from agriculture. The new initiative calls for the annual investment of \$31 million to help farmers reduce pollution from animal waste.

The program is designed to support Pennsylvania's Growing Greener II proposal, which provides critical environmental funding that will expand and extend the Commonwealth's investments in environmental conservation, restoration, and community development.

Recently, the Green Ribbon Commission convened their first meeting to discuss the future of environmental funding in Pennsylvania, and specifically to evaluate the Growing Greener II proposal. While encompassing a critical set of programs, Growing Greener II fails to address pollution from animal waste, one of the top water quality issues for the state and the Chesapeake region. In response, CBF developed *Farming for Clean Water* to bolster efforts to protect water quality and maintain Pennsylvania's vibrant agricultural economy.

"*Farming for Clean Water* will provide farmers with assistance to implement the most cost-effective practices available to reduce pollution, and improve water quality in our streams and rivers," said CBF Pennsylvania Executive Director Matt Ehrhart. "Agriculture is one of the most important economic engines for the Commonwealth, and this program will help farmers reduce pollution while protecting the economic viability of our family farms."

In addition to Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) support and agricultural preservation funding currently proposed in the Growing Greener II initiative, the *Farming for Clean Water* proposal will reduce pollution from animal waste by: Promoting alternative use of manure; Improving livestock feed efficiency; Funding barnyard renovations for near-stream barnyards; Providing incentives for cover crops; Promoting rotational grazing conversion; and Providing grant program to support innovative agricultural technologies.

With nearly 4,000 miles of Pennsylvania streams impaired by agricultural pollution, CBF's *Farming for Clean Water* program will:

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- Provide clean water for recreation, municipal drinking water, and improved human and animal health;
- Assist farmers and the Commonwealth to maintain economic viability;
- Leverage federal and private funding for conservation and agriculture; and
- Help Pennsylvania meet Clean Water Act obligations and Chesapeake 2000 commitments.

"We strongly encourage legislators to support the *Farming for Clean Water* proposal as a critical component of the state's environmental protection needs and economic development initiatives," said Ehrhart.

"As the CEO of US Landcare Inc., I fully support efforts which recognize agricultural progress in conservation and sustainability, and in addition offer landowners technical resources to continue to make meaningful stewardship progress within a watershed strategic plan. Growing Greener has been and needs to continue to be an effective tool toward this end," said Michael Brubaker a respected leader and innovator in Pennsylvania agriculture.

The states of Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established a partnership in 1983 and entered into an agreement providing for the protection and restoration of local streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Chesapeake 2000, the latest agreement, provides a blueprint for the next decade, establishing goals and objectives that will ensure a system with abundant, diverse populations of living resources, healthy streams and rivers, and a sustainable quality of life for all those in the watershed

"Pennsylvania's role in achieving the goals set forth in Chesapeake 2000 must include bold restoration and protection initiatives and provide adequate funding for these initiatives," said Ehrhart. "With the *Farming for Clean Water* proposal, CBF is honing in on the most efficient and cost effective way to address agricultural water quality issues and to help keep agriculture as a viable part of Pennsylvania's economic landscape," said Ehrhart.

Pfizer, Community Show Benefits of Nutrient Trading Efforts

The Pfizer Inc Lititz plant announced this week at a dedication ceremony that the New Street Ecological Park restoration project is officially complete.

The project was part of a pilot program that aims to improve the environmental quality of the Conestoga River watershed in Lancaster County through voluntary pollution credit trading.

The [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) (PEC) has been participating in the groundbreaking Conestoga River Nutrient Trading Pilot Project with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, The Conservation Fund, Environmental Defense, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, [LandStudies Inc.](#), and Pennsylvania State University.

Recognizing the significant problem to Pennsylvania's rivers and streams caused by runoff from farms, storm water and dirt and gravel roads (runoff makes up more than 88 percent of the nutrient load in our waterways), PEC and partners are working to encourage farmers and other landowners to combat these problems through nutrient trading, a relatively new approach.

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Pfizer Inc Lititz took part in the pilot by funding the \$80,000 New Street Park restoration project, which was endorsed by the Council of Environmental Quality (a watch group established within the Executive Office of the President of the United States as part of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969).

The portion of the Santo Domingo Creek channel that runs through New Street Park was reshaped to return it to its historic elevation, and silt that built up in and around the stream after early residents dammed and straightened it was removed. This will both mitigate flooding and reduce sediment that washes downstream into the Conestoga and eventually, into the Chesapeake Bay.

For its contribution, Pfizer will receive pollutant reduction credits, which it can retire or trade to other dischargers, such as publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) or farmers, to offset nutrient loads in the Conestoga watershed.

“Pfizer is proud to fund the pilot restoration project,” said Dave Burton, Site Leader of Pfizer Inc at Lititz. “As corporate citizens in the local community, we felt a responsibility to help maintain the creek to manage the flooding in the area.”

The Council is working to set up more nutrient trades in the Conestoga watershed and hopes that the New Street Ecological Park restoration will serve an example for future efforts to emulate.

“Pfizer was already a leader in community stewardship. Today they have added to their outstanding reputation by leading a new model of water quality improvement,” said PEC President Andrew McElwaine. “If the trading pilot is successful it will become a model for Pennsylvania and for other states. This is a promising way to reduce pollution from the agricultural sector.”

Largest Source of AMD on Quemahoning Creek to Be Eliminated

The single largest abandoned mine drainage pollution source in the Quemahoning Creek watershed, Somerset County will be eliminated in the next several weeks when the Boswell AMD treatment system is brought online.

The construction of the [Boswell AMD Passive Treatment System](#) now underway through a contract with Commonwealth Stone will lead to the elimination of over 170,000 pounds of iron contamination into the stream that has destroyed aquatic life and degraded the Quemahoning Reservoir’s water quality for nearly a century.

A partnership of organizations made this project possible, starting with the local level through Jenner Community Sportsmen’s Club, the [Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#), the Somerset County Conservation District and the Southern Alleghenies Resource Conservation and Development Council and state and federal agencies-- the Department of Environmental Protection, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the federal Office of Surface Mining.

Phase I of the project consisted of the relocation of Beaverdam Creek, that had previously entered the wetland, in order to eliminate good quality water from mixing in with the AMD in the project site wetland. That phase was completed in late 2002.

Phase II, now under construction, consists of recontouring the existing wetland in order for the net alkaline discharge AMD laden water to circulate and increase its time in the wetland allowing the iron to settle out and remain in the wetland with clean water exiting back into Quemahoning Creek.

(contributed by Len Lichvar, Stream Improvement Chairman for the [Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#))

Economic Prosperity & Biodiversity Conservation: Planning for PA’s Future

The [2004 Pennsylvania Biodiversity Conference](#) will be held November 9-10 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Harrisburg. The theme of the conference, organized by the [Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership](#), is “Economic Prosperity and Biodiversity Conservation: Planning for Pennsylvania’s Future.”

In addition to a keynote address by Randy Cooley, President of Westsylvania Heritage Corporation, and a panel discussion by businesses that are dependent on natural resources, conference participants will be invited to review draft issues and recommendations for the statewide Pennsylvania Biodiversity Conservation Plan.

The early registration deadline is October 29.

For more information and registration materials, please visit the [Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership website](#) or contact Merewyn Boak at 412-481-4100 or email boak@pabiodiversity.org.

DEP Revises Increase in Underground, Aboveground Storage Tank Fees

The Storage Tank Advisory Committee’s Fee Subcommittee met for the second time this week to discuss a proposal by the Department of Environmental Protection to increase registration fees going into DEP’s Storage Tank Fund for underground and aboveground storage tanks.

DEP projects a deficit of over \$1 million in the Storage Tank Fund beginning in fiscal year 2006-07 if the current fees are not increased.

Based on the discussion of this same Subcommittee last month, DEP revised it’s fee proposal to better describe what the agency’s need is to support the storage tank program in terms of personnel and operating expenses.

As a result, DEP proposed a new fee structure for discussion that lower fees from its original proposed increase in each category—

Aboveground Tanks	Now	Original Fee Increase	New Proposed Increase	Increase
250 to 5,000 gallons	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$50
5,001 to 50,000	\$125	\$250	\$200	\$75
50,001 to 500,000	\$300	\$500	\$450	\$150
500,001 to 2,000,000	\$300	\$750	\$600	\$300
Over 2,000,000	\$300	\$1,000	\$750	\$450
Underground Tanks				
110 to 8,000 gallons	\$50		\$100	\$50
8,001 to 500,000	\$50		\$200	\$150

DEP noted the fees have not been changed since the Storage Tank and Spill Reduction Act was passed in 1989.

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At least one Subcommittee member said the federal storage tank cleanup program owed Pennsylvania millions of dollars in cleanup funds and suggested no state fees should be raised until the federal monies could be obtained.

As a result of the discussion this week, the Subcommittee voted to recommend the proposal be discussed by the full Storage Tank Advisory Committee.

Applications Accepted Now for Community-Based Restoration Program

[American Rivers](#) is seeking proposals for community-based river restoration grants as part of its partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) [Community-Based Restoration Program](#).

Applications are due November 12.

These grants are designed to provide support for local communities that are utilizing dam removal or fish passage to restore and protect the ecological integrity of their rivers and improve freshwater habitats important to migratory (anadromous) fish.

Eligible groups will demonstrate how their project: (1) will in a measurable manner successfully restore anadromous fish habitat, access to existing anadromous fish habitat, or natural riverine functions; (2) is the correct approach, based on ecological, social, economic, and engineering considerations; (3) will minimize any identifiable short- or long-term negative impacts to the river system as a result of the project; (4) has had community involvement in project decision making and may have community involvement in the implementation; and (5) will have the potential for public outreach and education. Successful applicants will be given non-renewable grants to assist in the technical application of fish passage or dam removal.

Potential applicants should contact American Rivers to discuss potential projects prior to submitting an application. They expect to notify applicants about funding by the first week of February 2005.

For a complete application and eligibility guidelines, please go to the [Community-Based Restoration Program webpage](#) or the [NOAA Restoration Center](#).

Coldwater Heritage Partnership Announces Grant Program

The Coldwater Heritage Partnership (CHP) has announced the opening of the Coldwater Conservation Grants Program to protect and conserve the health of Pennsylvania's coldwater ecosystems.

Applications for grants up to \$5,000 will be accepted through December 17. The Coldwater Heritage Partnership (CHP) urges watershed groups, conservation districts, municipalities and local chapters of Trout Unlimited to apply.

The CHP is a cooperative effort of Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited (PATU), the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and the PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC).

The grants are designed to help develop preliminary assessments that identify the values and threats to the health of our coldwater ecosystems that have naturally reproducing trout. The collected information can be used as a catalyst for more comprehensive planning or for development of watershed improvements projects.

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Besides offering grants, CHP works to: foster greater public understanding of watershed characteristics and how they affect coldwater ecosystems; identify special areas of concern, such as areas with exceptional water quality and high potential for impacts; and provide technical assistance and financial opportunities to organizations dedicated to protecting our coldwater ecosystems.

All three partnering organizations have contributed funds for the effort. Other groups have come forward to help fund the program, including the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program (WPWP). “Coldwater resources are a unique heritage that we should leave for the enjoyment of future generations,” said John Dawes of the WPWP. “It is my hope that this grant program will stimulate the desire to protect our coldwater fisheries and conserve these priceless ecosystems.”

For more information, contact PATU Coldwater Resource Specialist Deborah Nardone at 814-359-5233, or visit the [Coldwater Heritage Partnership website](#).

Tulpehocken & Quittapahilla Watersheds Receive Grants

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) announced four grants this week totaling \$17,500 for stream restoration, habitat enhancement, and recreational enhancement activities on waterways located in the Tulpehocken and Quittapahilla Creek watersheds in Berks and Lebanon counties.

The grants are funded through a settlement agreement between the PFBC and AES Ironwood, L.L.C. related to the operation of an electric generation facility located in South Lebanon Township, Lebanon County. The grant program will continue on an annual basis throughout the life of the AES Ironwood Power Plant.

A grant of \$10,000 to the Lebanon Valley Conservancy, Inc. will be used for stabilization of a portion of Snitz Creek in Cornwall Borough, Lebanon County. \$6,000 will go to the Berks County Parks and Recreation Department to address streambank erosion, stormwater runoff impacts, and aquatic habitat enhancement on approximately 1,400 feet of Tulpehocken Creek, Spring Township, Berks County.

A grant of \$1,000 went to the Marion Township Rod and Gun Club for fall stocking of trout in approximately 1.4 miles of Tulpehocken Creek in Jackson Township, Lebanon County and Marion Township, Berks County. A \$500 grant was made to the Izaak Walton League of America, Berks County Chapter for shoreline erosion control in Blue Marsh Lake.

DEP Sets Meetings on Source Water Assessment, TMDL Proposals

The Department of Environmental Protection gave notice of [two public meetings](#) this week.

DEP will hold a public meeting on October 26 on the Source Water Assessment for Mountain Water Association at the Association’s offices in Smithfield, Fayette County. The purpose of the meeting is to provide a review of the draft SWAP Report and an opportunity for the public to voice any additional concerns or make suggestions regarding the assessment of the groundwater source within the Brownfield Hollow Watershed. This watershed is the source of public water supplied by the Mountain Water Association.

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The Safe Drinking Water Reauthorization of 1996 required states to develop a SWAP to assess drinking water sources. For more information about the public meeting, contact Helen Humphreys-Short, Community Relations Coordinator, 412-442-4183.

The Department and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission are holding a public meeting on October 18 in Towanda, Bradford County for the purpose of discussing and accepting comments on the proposed TMDL developed for Long Valley Run in Bradford County. Several stream segments in the watershed have been identified as impaired due to high levels of metals, from acid mine drainage.

The proposed TMDL and information on the TMDL program can be viewed and printed on the [Department's TMDL webpage](#). Written comments will be accepted at the previous address and must be post marked by December 16.

EPA Grant Awarded to Penn State for Philadelphia Pesticide Risk Reduction

EPA announced that 13 states and state universities will receive grants to develop programs to reduce the risks associated with pesticide use in agricultural and non-agricultural settings in the United States.

A collaborative Integrated Pest Management Education and Outreach project in underserved row house communities in Philadelphia submitted by Pennsylvania State University won a grant in Pennsylvania.

For more information on the funded projects and the [PESP Regional Initiative Grant program webpage](#).

\$1 Million to Digitize Mine Maps, MSHA Donates Quecreek Rescue Capsule

The U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration this week gave a \$1 million grant to the Department of Environmental Protection to continue its efforts to digitize old mine maps implementing one of several recommendations made to prevent another Quecreek Mine flooding incident.

Nine miners were trapped in the Quecreek Mine in Somerset County in July 2002 after they inadvertently broke through an adjacent water filled mine they thought was hundreds of feet away.

MSHA also presented two other grants to Pennsylvania State University and D'Appolonia Engineering totaling another \$1 million for projects to find better techniques of detecting underground mine voids.

David Lauriski, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, also announced his agency was donating the yellow rescue capsule used to rescue the nine miners to the [Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation](#).

The Foundation is a nonprofit organization formed by Bill and Lori Arnold who own the farm on which the rescue shafts were drilled. The Foundation helps preserves the site and educates the over 100,000 people who have visited the farm since the rescue.

“For the nine men trapped underground for nearly four days, this capsule represented lives saved and prayers answered,” said Lauriski. “It is a testament to the fortitude and hard work of the men and women who never gave up until the last man was freed. I can't think of a more appropriate location to display this capsule than here at this site.

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David Hess, former Secretary of DEP, read a letter from Gov. Mark S. Schweiker to mark the special occasion. It said in part--

“Let me heartily thank Assistant Secretary of Labor Dave Lauriski and the Mine Safety and Health Administration for donating a true piece of history that lifed nine miners out of danger and brought them back to their loved ones. I would also like to commend MSHA for its continued dedication toward improving mine safety by awarding grants that will help Pennsylvania institutions study and develop additional enhancements.

“More than two years have passed since history was made on this small farm in Somerset County, but the Quecreek mine rescue continues to be a source of pride for many Americans. I know this to be true because nearly every day someone stops to ask me about those four incredible days when courage, ingenuity and teamwork came together to create the miracle at Quecreek.”

For more information on supporting the [Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation](#) visit [their webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Miners’ Capsule Donated](#)

[Grant will help assemble accurate mine maps](#)

[MSHA Donates Capsule](#)

[DEP Gets Grant For Mine Mapping](#)

Nominations Accepted for Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards

EPA is now accepting nominations for the [2005 Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards](#). These prestigious awards recognize innovative chemical technologies that incorporate green chemistry into chemical design, manufacture and use – and that have broad applications in industry.

Nominations must be postmarked by Dec. 31.

Green Chemistry strives to develop alternative ways to synthesize industrial chemicals in order to reduce or prevent the generation of environmental pollutants. Any individual, group or organization, both nonprofit and for profit, including academia, government and industry, may nominate a green chemistry technology for these awards. Self-nominations are welcome and expected.

Typically, five awards are given each year: one to an academic researcher, one to a small business, and the rest in specific areas of green chemistry. EPA has given 46 Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards. Each nominated technology must have reached a significant milestone within the past five years in the United States.

The 2005 awards, marking the 10th year of the Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge, will be presented at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., on June 20, 2005. More information, go to the [Green Chemistry Program webpage](#).

National Environmental Technology Council Created

EPA has formed a new [Environmental Technology Council](#) to apply new technologies to address complex environmental problems. This year, the Council will select at least 10 priority environmental concerns needing new technology approaches.

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As the United States continues to face difficult and costly environmental challenges, EPA has identified technology as key to developing more cost-effective, timely solutions. The Council will consist of representatives from EPA, the states and tribes.

For each problem, the Council will form an action team that may bring in experts from other federal agencies, industry and other stakeholders. Selection of problems will be based on risk, connection to regulatory requirements and potential for significant cost reduction.

One example the Council may address is the limitations and cost of conventional methods of emissions monitoring by states and private companies for regulatory compliance.

Remote sensing (RS) technology has greatly improved in the last decade, and now could supplement or replace older emission and pollution detection methods. Current RS technology can detect a number of pollutants simultaneously, thus reducing the amount of time and resources needed to accomplish monitoring objectives.

By focusing and combining existing resources from EPA, states, other governmental agencies and the private sector, the Council will achieve its goals without new resources.

More information, go to the [Environmental Technology Council webpage](#).

Nelson Receives Civilian Executive of the Year Award

Kimberly Nelson, former CIO of the Department of Environmental Protection now CIO of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, was honored as Civilian Executive of the Year by Government Computing News. For more, see [the profile of Kim Nelson on GCN](#).

PennDOT Releases New Scenic Byway Guide

Just in time for fall foliage trips, the Department of Transportation has issued a new [Pennsylvania Scenic Byways guide](#).

The brochure outlines Pennsylvania's 10 designated scenic byways. Each byway is highlighted on a separate page, with photos, a map locator and a description of the byway.

The brochure is also available at all Pennsylvania Welcome Center by calling 1-800-VISIT-PA (1-800-847-4872).

Taking Positive Action

[Business Leaders Recognized for Chesapeake Bay Protection Efforts](#)

Pennsylvania Resources Council Announces 2004 Winner of Fox Calhoun Award

The [Pennsylvania Resources Council, Inc.](#) (PRC) has selected Larry Schweiger, President and CEO of the [National Wildlife Federation](#) (NWF), to receive the prestigious Fox Calhoun Award named after two of PRC's founders – Hilda Fox and Cynthia Calhoun.

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Also being recognized as leaders in promoting sustainable practices are Patricia Vathis, [Environment and Ecology Education](#) Advisor in the Department of Education (Leader in Sustainable Education), the Engineering and Design Institute of Philadelphia University (Leader in Sustainable Building) and the nonprofit [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) organization (Leader in Sustainable Partnerships).

The awards are being presented at PRC's annual awards dinner on November 9 in Philadelphia.

Schweiger is being recognized for his exemplary career in environmental conservation that spans over three decades. During that time, he served as the Executive Director of Pennsylvania General Assembly's Joint Conservation Committee, worked with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and was Vice President of the NWF.

His environmental career is also being recognized for his leadership and achievements while serving as President and CEO of the [Western Pennsylvania Conservancy](#) from 1996 until April of this year when he accepted his current position with the NWF.

Under Schweiger's leadership, the Conservancy enhanced its community garden projects designed to revitalize urban spaces; renovated Fallingwater, the masterpiece home built by Frank Lloyd Wright in Mill Run, Fayette County; and preserved over 200,000 acres of land including the 11,000-acre H.J. Crawford Reserve in Venango County (the Commonwealth's largest private land conservation reserve), 3,500 acres of riverbank along the Clarion River, and, 4,448 acres of Tamarack Swamp in Clinton County.

His most recent achievement was preserving the 540-acre property known as the "Erie Bluffs" and turning it over to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to manage as a state park. In addition to one mile of shoreline with scenic views from 90-foot bluffs, the property also contains mature old growth forest; rare, endangered and threatened floral communities; a rare oak savannah sand barren ecosystem; wetlands; and archaeological sites spanning the entire cultural sequence known for the Commonwealth's Lake Erie shore.

Efforts to protect the property had been underway since 1998, when residents of the region came together to encourage protection because of the site's unique values. Schweiger has also been influential in influencing public policy on environmental issues throughout his career.

An active leader in his home town community, McCandless, Allegheny County, Schweiger has served on more than 40 boards, commissions and committees. He received the Distinguished Service Award for Special Conservation Achievement from the National Wildlife Federation in 1995. He was one of the Pittsburghers of the Year for 1998 and was selected as Pennsylvania's Environmental Professional of the Year in 2002.

The Fox Calhoun Award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated uncommon leadership and have made an exceptional contribution toward the conservation of natural resources and environmental protection in the Commonwealth. The award has been presented just sixteen times during PRC's 65-year history.

Previous recipients include Jim Seif and Art Davis, former Secretaries of the PA Department of Environmental Protection, Joanne Denworth, former Executive Director of 10,000 Friends of PA, and Senator Ted Erickson while serving as EPA Region III Administrator.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

For more information about PRC and the awards dinner please visit the [Pennsylvania Resources Council webpage](#). or call 610-353-1555 ext. 228.

Watershed NewsClips

[80 Meet to Discuss Dam Removal](#)
[Treevitalize Underway in Southeast](#)
[Big Fish in Great Lakes](#)
[\\$34 Million in Federal Flood Aid](#)
[Zebra Mussels ready to invade Susquehanna](#)
[Anglers Can Stop Invaders' Spread](#)
[Valley gauges offer little flood warning](#)
[Student Conservation Intern Works in Somerset County](#)

Regulations

The **Environmental Quality Board** will meet on October 19 to consider these items: Deer Creek Stream Redesignation Petition (York County), Little Falls Creek Stream Redesignation Petition (York County), [Final Hazardous Waste Facilities Plan](#), Proposed [changes to Hazardous Waste Regulations](#), an initial recommendation on whether to accept for study a petition to require power plants to reduce mercury emissions and a DOD airfield and municipal waste transfer station petition. Copies of agenda items are available on the [EQB webpage](#) under the October 19 meeting date.

The **Independent Regulatory Review Commission** meets November 4 to consider these two Environmental Quality Board regulations: #7-378: Final Small Sources of NOx, Cement Kilns and Large Internal Combustion Engines; and #7-386: Final Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards. For copies visit the [August 2004 Environmental Quality Board webpage](#).

Pennsylvania Bulletin – [October 16, 2004](#) [Comment Deadlines Open](#)
[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#) [Status of Regulations, 6-Month Calendar](#)

Technical Guidance & Permits

DEP published for comment one new draft technical guidance document:

DEP ID: 383-3301-106. Title: Turbidity Reporting Instructions for Public Water Systems Using Filtered Surface Water or Groundwater Under the Influence of Surface Water (GUDI) Sources. Comments due: November 15.

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance](#) [For copies of Final Technical Guidance](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **Oct. 18** – Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution & Conservation Committee meeting on PA Hardwoods Industry. Harrisburg.
- **Oct. 19** – House Transportation Committee meets on [House Bill 2696](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) requiring additional informational signs related to vehicle emissions inspection.
- **Oct. 19** – House Agriculture Committee meets to consider: [House Bill 2608](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) Amending the Agricultural Area Security Law further providing for purchase of agricultural conservation easements and [House Bill 2801](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) Amends the Agricultural Area Security Law further providing for definitions, for limitation on local regulations and for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements. **NEW** – followed by an informational meeting on State Conservation Commission/DEP Nutrient Management Regulations.
- **Oct. 19** – House Intergovernmental Affairs meeting on [House Resolution 882](#) (McIlhinney-R-Chester) GIS strategic planning . Harrisburg
- **Oct. 19** – House Urban Affairs Committee on [House Bill 970](#) (Reed-R-Indiana) amending the Downtown Relocation Act revising the definition of “downtown.”
- **Oct. 20** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee meeting on To consider: [House Bill 2804](#) (Hutchinson-R-Venango) Amends Coal & Gas Coordination Act re gas wells; [House Bill 2861](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) Providing for funding security measures for water and wastewater facilities; [House Bill 1077](#) (Scrimenti-D-Erie) establish a low-interest loan program for coastal erosion.
- **Dec. 5-8** – [Emergency Preparedness & Prevention Conference](#). Philadelphia.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

Helpful Web Links

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

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

Contributions Invited

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

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