

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

February 27, 2006

Did You Register Your Cleanup Event for the Great PA Cleanup?



The [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Alliance](#) wants to remind you to register your cleanup event for the third annual [Great PA Cleanup!](#) on April 22.

Last year, 140,000 volunteers cleaned up more than 11,000 miles of roadways, 12,000 acres of parkland and 3,500 miles of streams.

Groups that register their cleanup events through the Great PA Cleanup website will be eligible for free disposal of the trash they collect at participating landfills, get a supply of gloves and safety vests and are eligible for entry into reward contests in Pennsylvania and nationally to thank volunteers and groups for their participation.

Events must be registered by no later than April 20 to qualify.

For more information, visit the [Great PA Cleanup! website](#).

Session Schedule

The House returns to session on March 6 and Senate returns March 13, but both will be holding [budget hearings](#) over the next three weeks.

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On the Hill

On the Senate, House Agenda

The Senate and House hearings on Gov. Rendell’s 2006-07 budget proposal took center stage this week. Here’s the rundown...

Calendars

The House will start March 6 with this environmental bill on its Calendar-- [House Bill 2067](#) setting limits on state spending through a constitutional amendment.

The Senate will start March 13 with these items on their Calendar-- [House Bill 213](#) establishing penalties for eco-terrorism; and [Senate Bill 1063](#) providing additional funding to expand the PA Small Business Development Centers.

Committees

In the House, the Appropriations Committee will hold a hearing on the budgets for the departments of Agriculture and Environmental Protection.

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In the Senate, the Appropriations Committee will have a hearing with the Governor's Budget Secretary and on the departments of Agriculture, Environmental Protection and the Conservation and Natural Resources.

NOTE: If you have cable, check out the schedule on [PCN TV](#) to find when budget hearings will be broadcast.

House Environmental Committee Hears Comments on Mercury Emissions Reduction

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week held a hearing on the issue of adopting a Pennsylvania-only regulation to reduce mercury emissions from coal-burning power plants that is more stringent than the federal rule.

The Department of Environmental Protection Secretary [Kathleen McGinty](#) took the opportunity of the hearing to unveil its proposal for a Pennsylvania-only rule that she said would reduce mercury emissions about 800 more pounds in 2010 than the federal rule and an additional 700 pounds by 2015. (*See [Regulations Section of this Digest](#) for a more complete overview of the DEP proposal.*)

DEP said its rule would reduce more mercury because it requires all mercury reductions to meet the federal rule occur in state and would not allow emissions credit trading outside Pennsylvania.

Emissions trading allows power plants to over control mercury emissions at one plant where it was most cost effective and take credit for the extra reductions at another plant where controls may not be as cost effective. Emissions credits have been a success at reducing air pollution associated with lead, carbon monoxide, particulates, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds.

Testimony from the United Mine Workers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Pennsylvania Coal Association by [Eugene Trisko](#) and [Doug Biden](#) from the Electric Power Generation Association told the Committee there was no real demonstrated health or environmental benefit from going beyond the federal mercury reduction rule because of the nature of the mercury problem.

Trisko reminded Committee members the health threat from mercury comes from the consumption of fish, not direct inhalation of mercury in the air.

“Eighty percent of the mercury consumed comes from saltwater fish like tuna, cod and swordfish. Canned tuna alone accounts for 30 percent of U.S. mercury consumption. Any reduction in U.S. mercury emissions will not impact the mercury content of saltwater fish (or tuna) consumed in this country.”

“Reducing U.S. power plant mercury emissions by 70 to 90 percent is estimated to reduce U.S. deposition of mercury by 5 to 10 percent in the lower-48 states, and to reduce the average mercury content of domestic freshwater fish by 1 to 2 percent. There is no evidence that controls on U.S. power plants would reduce the number or prevalence of mercury-related ‘fish advisories’ in Pennsylvania or other states,” said Trisko.

Trisko said the 30 Pennsylvania coal-fired power plants that are 40 or more years old each generating less than 250 megawatt hours of electricity are “at risk” for a premature retirement if confronted with inflexible mercury control mandates.

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[Dr. Robert Wayland](#) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and others pointed to studies which showed virtually no difference between the impact of the existing federal mercury rule and zeroing out all mercury emissions from power plants in the U.S.

EPA noted that mercury emissions from U.S. power plants in total represent one percent of all mercury emissions affecting the United States. Sources of mercury emissions from outside the U.S. account for 97 percent, natural and other sources the remaining two percent.

[Dr. Terry Sullivan](#) from the Brookhaven National Laboratory summarized the results of three recent studies on whether there are so-called mercury “hotspots,” areas immediately around power plants where most mercury deposition occurs.

“Our results suggest that only a few percent of the mercury emitted deposits within 10 miles of the plant, larger regions of elevated mercury concentrations were not seen, and mercury concentrations did not match the predicted pattern.

“From a public health perspective, such a hot spot must be attributable to the power plant and it must affect water bodies large enough to support a population of subsistence fishers (because the health threat from mercury comes from eating fish).”

Doug Biden said the federal mercury reduction rule now in effect will reduce emissions by 86 percent in Pennsylvania, primarily because Pennsylvania coal has a higher mercury content.

Biden noted electric generators are already subject to the most stringent mercury reduction requirement in the nation because of the federal rule, to add a Pennsylvania-only rule without the ability to buy emission credits from power plants in other states adds to the competitive disadvantage generators already have. Generators cannot simply pass these costs on to customers. They have to sell their power in a competitive electricity market.

A number of Committee members noted DEP’s proposed rule would set up a closed emission credit system that would take emission credits away from power plants that over-controlled their emissions and give the credits to competitors that could not comply.

They questioned the fundamental fairness of a system that rewards non-compliers in-state who do not make emission reduction investments and restricts a Pennsylvania power plant from selling these extra credits out-of-state. They noted under this system there is no economic incentive to do more than the minimum to comply, unlike in the other existing credit trading systems.

[Jan Jarrett](#), of PennFuture which petitioned the Environmental Quality Board to set a Pennsylvania-only mercury rule, and [Nathan Willcox](#) of PennEnvironment both supported a mercury rule that was more stringent than federal requirements.

“We believe that EPA’s Clean Air Mercury Rule is illegal because the (federal) Clean Air Act requires mercury to be regulated like the toxic it is,” said Jarrett. “It would allow power plants to emit mercury pollution at high levels for more than a decade. It would also set up a trading system for mercury that would allow a power plant to buy credits rather than cut its emissions, a system that works well for sulfur dioxide, but is inappropriate for a toxic like mercury.”

“Beyond the public health threats posed by mercury pollution to humans through the consumption of mercury-contaminated fish, mercury pollution also poses a significant threat to our natural environment,” said Willcox. “Specifically, mercury contamination in

birds has been linked to a variety of negative reproductive (fewer eggs produced and reduced chick survival), behavioral (decreased likelihood of hunting and exaggerated response to fright stimulus), and neurological (brain lesions, spinal cord degeneration, weight loss, and difficulty flying, walking and standing) effects in the birds.”

For more information visit the [DEP Mercury Rule webpage](#) and see [this Digest's Regulations Section](#).

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee is chaired by Rep. Bill Adolph (R-Delaware) and Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield).

DCNR Answers Questions About Proposed Budget in House Appropriations



Department of Conservation and Natural Resources [Secretary Michael DiBerardinis](#) appeared before the House Appropriations Committee this week to answer questions about Gov. Rendell's 2006-07 budget request for his agency.

Secretary DiBerardinis noted the Bureau of State Parks received a \$2 million increase in funding and his agency is working hard to reduce costs without laying off staff. He said he did not anticipate having to close parks to make up for any budget shortfalls.

DCNR's [Pennsylvania Wilds](#) initiative to expand eco-tourism and quality recreational experiences in a 12-county area in Northcentral Pennsylvania has been a success, increasing hotel occupancy rates in 2005 by 5.7 percent.

In the coming year, DCNR should be able to offer \$65 million in community recreation, open space protection, rivers conservation, heritage tourism, greenways and trails grants. In addition, DCNR has announced an investment of \$31.5 million in Growing Greener II bond issue dollars to upgrade State Parks and improve State Forests.

Secretary DiBerardinis also highlighted the [TreeVitalize](#) initiative to restore tree cover in the five-county Philadelphia region, saying private and public partnerships resulted in tripling the investment made by DCNR in the initiative.

With respect to deer management, Secretary DiBerardinis said, "Simply stated, there are more deer than the habitat can support in many of our forests. And when we improve the habitat, we'll be able to carry more deer.

"To bring the deer herd into balance, we are going to need the help of hunters, since hunting remains the most effective tool to control deer. Our hunting heritage must continue, not only to protect a culture that helps define who we are, but also because the state desperately needs hunting as a wildlife management tool."

Secretary DeBerardinis mentioned the ongoing project with the Game Commission to get census information on the deer herd to help manage both the forests and deer effectively. (*See separate Aerial Survey article in this Digest.*)

The Secretary concluded by saying—

"During my visits to our beautiful natural areas and open spaces, I often reflect on the leadership and vision of the men and women who's enthusiasm and foresight built our legacy of 117 State Parks and more than two million acres of State Forests in Pennsylvania."

For more information, go to [DCNR's 2006-07 Budget webpage](#).

In Other News

State College Water Reuse Project Wins Award for Engineering Excellence

The University Area Joint Authority [Beneficial Wastewater Reuse project](#) has received statewide recognition by the Diamond Awards for Engineering Excellence Program sponsored by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania.

The project was designed by [Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.](#)

This unique wastewater treatment design, which is the largest Beneficial Reuse project of its kind in the Northeastern United States, won the top award in the water and wastewater category.

The Diamond Award Program "recognizes the outstanding contributions of Pennsylvania engineering firms for enhancing the social and economic welfare of the Commonwealth and its citizens." Representatives from HRG and UAJA were presented with the 2006 Diamond Honor Award at a banquet at the Hotel Hershey in Hershey, Pennsylvania on February 2.

"We are pleased that the exceptional efforts of those involved with this project are being recognized," said HRG's president Robert Grubic. "Keeping focused on the client's goals for their community's well-being along with implementing state of the art technology contributed to the overwhelming success of this complex innovative project."

HRG, serving as the lead engineering and project management firm, designed innovative water reuse system to provide additional wastewater treatment capacity to meet the future needs of the growing Centre Region of Pennsylvania while preventing an increase in the discharge of warm treated wastewater to Spring Creek, a High Quality Trout fishery.

UAJA currently provides advanced treatment of wastewater to 5 municipalities and approximately 74,000 people within the Centre Region comprised of the communities surrounding the Borough of State College and the Pennsylvania State University.

The rapid commercial and residential growth in the area resulted in UAJA's treated wastewater becoming the majority of flow in Spring Creek, the largest waterway in the region. Numerous studies concluded that Spring Creek had a limited ability to assimilate the thermal impacts of additional discharges without a severe impact on the native trout populations.

The Beneficial Reuse process was chosen for its positive environmental impact and the ability to use reclaimed water to create an ultra pure water resource from effluent traditionally "dumped" into Spring Creek.

This project involved expanding a 6.0 million gallons per day (mgd) wastewater treatment plant to 10.4 mgd with the addition of a biological nutrient removal treatment system to remove nitrogen and phosphorus. In addition, an advanced water treatment system was built to recycle a portion of the treated wastewater flow prior to discharge by producing up to 3.0 mgd of recycled potable-grade water.

UAJA's Beneficial Reuse project is the first of its kind in Pennsylvania, and treats wastewater to produce high-quality water that will be used for many applications, including process water by area manufacturers, to supply fire hydrants, for irrigation by local farmers and golf courses, and for groundwater recharge.

For more information, visit the [Beneficial Wastewater Reuse Project PaED story](#).

Call for Support to Reauthorize Federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund

On June 30 the fee supporting the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund will expire and a coalition of environmental groups in Pennsylvania are urging watershed groups and others to write emails and letters of support for its reauthorization.

Last September, the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#), representing the over 200 member groups in the [PA AML Campaign](#), testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in support of reauthorizing the reclamation fee.

Pennsylvania's Congressional Delegation has been very supportive of reauthorization efforts, but they need your help and encouragement to meet the June 30 deadline.

In addition, the Pennsylvania Senate and House passed a joint resolution – [House Resolution 382](#) (Frankel-D-Allegheny) on January 30 urging Congress to reauthorize funding for the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

The Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers and the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program are asking watershed groups, their members and other interested organizations to write key members of Pennsylvania's Congressional Delegation to support their efforts to reauthorize the reclamation program.

They are asking that four members be contacted: [Senator Rick Santorum](#) (Attention: Ashley Horning), [Senator Arlen Specter](#) (Attention: Tom Dower), [Congressman John Peterson](#) (Attention: Jeff Vorgerger) and [Congressman John Murtha](#) (Attention: Brad Clemenson), as well as your local member of Congress.

For a sample letter (or better yet email or fax), to local your member of Congress and other background information, go to the [POWR AML Reauthorization webpage](#). Contact your [Member of the U.S. House](#) or [U.S. Senator](#).

West Branch Susquehanna Symposium II Set for May 12

The second [West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium](#) will be held on May 12 at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College.

The Symposium will feature a keynote address by Paul Swartz, Susquehanna River Basin Commission and presentation by John Dawes, Western PA Watershed Program on reauthorization of the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

Also on the agenda are presentations on AMD impacts to fish and aquatic organisms, cold stream restoration, Slippery Rock Watershed – a decade of accomplishments and lessons learned, Beech Creek Watershed – the good, the bad and the ugly, water quality – a critical link for the Susquehanna Greenway, and several speakers on passive mine water treatment systems.

Registration deadline is April 21.

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

Black Bass Workshop Set for May 5-6 at Lake Wallenpaupack

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Fish and Boat Commission announced registration is now open for the sixth annual [Black Bass Workshop](#), May 5-6, at Lake Wallenpaupack in Wayne County.

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This year, "Assessing Black Bass Resources" will focus on black fisheries habitat management at national, state and local levels.

The workshop is designed to offer bass anglers, biologists, conservation officers, resource managers and facility managers a chance to exchange ideas, information, and knowledge pertaining to the management of bass fisheries, bass habitat, bass angling, and recreational facilities. Boat launches and weigh-in facilities also will be discussed.

Besides the PFBC and DCNR's Bureau of State Parks, other workshop co-hosts include PPL, Pa. Bass Federation Inc., N.Y. Bass Federation Inc., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the N.Y. Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Marsh Creek Bass Club Ltd.

In addition, discussions on black bass habitat management methods in lakes, impoundments and rivers in both Pennsylvania and New York are planned. Other topics to be discussed are: "Keeping Bass Alive," "Black Bass Health Issues," and "Fishing During the Spawn."

Started in 1999 and held at a different lake site each year, the workshop this year will be based at [PPL's Lake Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center](#). The workshop is open to anyone interested in black bass conservation. Organizers invite attendees to share their knowledge and experience with other bass anglers, tournament organizers, fisheries biologists, park managers, and state and federal agency administrators.

For registration information and other details, visit the [Black Bass Workshop webpage](#) or contact Denise Wenrich at Bureau of State Parks, 2808 Three Mile Run Road, Perkasié, Pa., 18944-2065; telephone 215- 453-5000; email dwenrich@state.pa.us .

Youth Bass Anglers Conservation School July 16-20

The [Youth Bass Anglers Conservation School](#), Pennsylvania's unique learning experience for young students with a passion for fishing and a thirst for warm-water fishery knowledge, will begin accepting registrations March 1.

Instruction will be offered Sunday through Thursday, July 16-20, on Lake Perez at the Pennsylvania State University's Stone Valley Recreation Area. The school is sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Fish and Boat Commission.

The five-day/four-night program will address topics like fishery biology, fisheries management, habitat improvement, boating safety, fishing skills and techniques, fish and boating law enforcement, fisheries and conservation careers and tournament angling. Other conservation-related and hands-on activities also are planned.

The Youth Bass Anglers Conservation School is a cooperative effort by DCNR's Bureau of State Parks, the PF&BC, PA Bass Federation Inc., U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Pennsylvania State University and Marsh Creek Bass Club.

Application and enrollment will begin March 1, for students ages 14-17. Applicants must submit a written one-page essay addressing "What fishing means to me;" the importance of conservation; and why they want to attend the school, as well as a letter of recommendation from a teacher or close associate. A total of 20 students will be selected.

A \$125 enrollment fee will be charged upon acceptance. Students are encouraged to seek organizational sponsorships through sporting, community or civic groups.

For enrollment applications and more details, visit the [Youth Bass Anglers Conservation School webpage](#) or contact Spring Reilly at 814-625-9369, or send email to: spreilly@state.pa.us.

Nature Conservancy Receives \$2.5 Million Gift to Protect PA Forests, World Parks

Longtime [Nature Conservancy](#) member and supporter Don Hamer recently donated \$2.5 million to the Conservancy to protect lands, waters, and natural areas in Pennsylvania and around the world.

The gift will provide funding for the creation of the chapter's Donald Hamer Pennsylvania Forest Conservation and Restoration Fund, help protect habitat at [West Branch Wilderness](#) in Pennsylvania's North Central Highlands, and support the Conservancy's international World Parks program.



[West Branch Wilderness](#)

“This is a significant gift that will have a long-lasting effect on our ability to protect the woods, waters and wildlife of Pennsylvania and elsewhere for generations to come,” said Bill Kunze, state director of [The Nature Conservancy in Pennsylvania](#). “Don is the kind of forward-thinking member who is crucial to the success of The Nature Conservancy. His support allows us to continuously seek new ways to restore balance between the needs of nature and the needs of people.”

“It gives me great pleasure to support The Nature Conservancy and help protect land in the West Branch Wilderness,” said Mr. Hamer. “This gift is a wonderful way to support my interests in conservation, as well as community and economic development. Creation of the Pennsylvania Forest Conservation and Restoration Fund will preserve this magnificent landscape and also offer local economic opportunities to the community.”

Home to the state's most rugged and wild lands, Pennsylvania's North Central Highlands is the most contiguously forested region between New York City and Chicago.

The Conservancy's West Branch Wilderness preserve near Williamsport consists of deep forested ravines, beautiful mountain views, and two excellent native trout streams. Vistas on the property afford an unspoiled view that stretches for approximately 50 miles across mountains to the northwest and southeast. Located beside [Hyner View State Park](#), a popular hang gliding area, this wilderness is a recreational paradise.

Partnering with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the [North Central Pennsylvania Conservancy](#), the Nature Conservancy is using forest restoration and land acquisition to protect these lands for future generations to enjoy.

Most of the forests in the region have been cut over and replanted several times. They have been further weakened by disease and invasive species, resulting in forests that are severely fragmented and degraded.

The Conservancy is working to restore the health of these forests and their historic composition. This includes planting hybrid American chestnut trees, which are resistant to

the blight, an invasive pathogen from Asia, which reduced this species to a fraction of its historic range. The American chestnut once covered millions of acres on the East Coast.

In addition to protecting the forests of Pennsylvania, this gift will be used to support The Nature Conservancy's World Parks program.

In 2004, governments of 188 nations around the world agreed to an ambitious pledge: to create a global network of parks and protected areas by 2012. As a result, the Nature Conservancy launched the World Parks & Protected Areas Fund to support these governments and communities in creating strong, sustainable regional and national park systems connected across the world.

By working with local communities, as well as national governments in efforts to conserve lands and waters, the Conservancy is forging close partnerships to ensure a future where people and nature thrive.

Born in Illinois and now a resident of Bellefonte, Don traces his family roots back 200 years to Huntington County, Pennsylvania. He earned engineering degrees from the University of Illinois and Penn State, as well as an MBA from the University of Chicago. Don founded his own company, State of the Art, Inc., based in State College, which manufactures microelectronics components.

For more information, visit [The Nature Conservancy – Pennsylvania webpage](#).

Schuylkill River Trail, Development Project Receives Land Recycling Grant

The Department of Environmental Protection announced the award of a \$400,000 grant to help develop a recreational trail and brownfield along the Schuylkill River as part of the Schuylkill and Delaware Riverfront revitalization project.

Partners in the project include the City of Philadelphia, Tacony Civic Association, Tacony Business Association and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council as well as Transactionable Property Solutions, George Deimer and George Deimer Jr., and K. Hovanian and Westrum Residential Development.

A related designation as a Brownfield Action Team for both the Schuylkill River and northern Delaware River sections of Philadelphia's River City Project will help accelerate redevelopment deals and gives investors the incentive they need to clean up contaminated industrial sites.

The grant was awarded to the Schuylkill River Development Corp., a nonprofit community organization that is redeveloping the Schuylkill River corridor with plans to create a 14-foot wide asphalt recreation trail along a section of the east bank of the river in the 34th Street/Grays Ferry Avenue area. The trail will provide recreational riverfront access that is now lacking.

Schuylkill River Development Corp. will use the funding to conduct environmental assessment and remediation on the land where the trail will be located. Grading and landscaping will be done on land adjacent to the trail, which ultimately will connect to the Schuylkill Trail and Schuylkill River Park and to Bartram's Garden on the west side of the river, about a quarter mile downstream.

The funding comes from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfield Revitalization Act, which provides money to states to pay for assessments and cleanups. Pennsylvania has received about \$1 million from EPA in each of the last three fiscal years.

Visit [DEP's Land Recycling webpage](#) for more information on BAT designations.
NewsClip: [State to Clean Up City Riverfront](#)

Apply Now for Rural Volunteer Forest Firefighting Grants

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced this week that \$560,000 is available to help Pennsylvania's rural communities better guard against the threat of fires in forested, undeveloped and unprotected areas.

Applications are due April 28.

Local firefighting forces in rural areas or communities with populations under 10,000 benefit from the grants. Last year, \$508,000 worth of grants helped 140 fire companies across the state.

The maximum grant considered from any fire company in 2006 is \$7,500. All items approved for purchase under the 2006 fiscal year program must be purchased between October 1, 2006, and November 30, 2007.

Priority will be given to those applications seeking funds for projects that include the purchase of wildfire suppression equipment and protective clothing. Grants also may be used for mobile or portable radios, installation of dry hydrants, wildfire prevention and mitigation, wildfire fighter training, and the conversion and maintenance of federal access vehicles received from the bureau for fire suppression use.

Grants for any project during a fiscal year cannot exceed 50 percent of the actual expenditures of local, public and private nonprofit organizations in the agreement.

Grants and other forms of assistance are offered annually through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, with funding supplied by the USDA Forest Service through the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978.

Grant applications and information may be obtained from [DCNR's Forest Fire Protection webpage](#) or contact Charles C. Choplick at 717-787-2925, or send email to cchoplick@state.pa.us .

Expanded Aerial Survey Underway to Better Gauge Deer Population Impacts

The Game Commission and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced this week they will be flying over more than 500,000 acres of Pennsylvania woodlands with an infrared camera-equipped plane to get a better grasp of the size of its white-tailed deer population.

Sections of six state forest districts, seven state Game Lands, and two wildlife management units will be surveyed in aerial flights continuing into early spring. Results will be compared to on-the-ground measures of deer density and habitat conditions to provide a clearer picture of deer browsing impact on the forest ecosystems. The over flights double the area covered last year.

Targeted acreage includes the PGC's doe and fawn mortality study areas, as well as portions of the state forestland enrolled in the Game Commission's deer management assistance program allowing hunters to kill additional deer.

"Until we have the best consensus around the deer population and habitat destruction, we will be forever locked in a battle of too few versus too many," DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said. "We are committed to working with the Game

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Commission and others to build a better understanding of how to both improve the health of the deer herd and restore forest habitat."

"It is important to remember that forward-looking infrared data represents those deer sighted on a particular parcel, on a given day and time," said Pennsylvania Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe said. "It represents the minimum number of deer that may be present and shows grouped deer numbers that are then used to calculate an average per square mile number for an area.

"In selecting which state game lands to include in these flights, the agency chose areas with differing sizes, topography, proximity to populated areas and regions," Roe said. "While the data is unable to be used to make deer management decisions across entire wildlife management units, we do believe that this data will help in demonstrating deer dispersion at the time of the flights and provide another source of information to help us understand deer and their activities."

In the 2005 survey, the highest concentrations of deer were found in the Promised Land area of the Delaware State Forest, Pike County, where 23.69 deer were found per square mile. The second highest whitetail concentration was 20.29 deer per square mile in the Denton Hill area of the Susquehannock State Forest, in Potter County. Lowest concentrations were in the Cedar Run section of Tioga State Forest, Tioga County, 9.64; followed by the southern section of Sproul State Forest, in Clinton County, 10.69.

The State forest districts, game lands, and acreage targeted in the survey include: Moshannon, Clearfield and Centre counties; Elk, Elk and Cameron counties; Tioga, Tioga and Bradford counties; Susquehannock, Potter and McKean counties; Sproul, Clinton and Centre counties; and Tuscorora, Juniata, Perry, Mifflin, Huntingdon, and Cumberland counties.

Game Lands: 13, Sullivan County; 14 and 311, both in Elk County; 37, Tioga County; 75, Lycoming County; 210, Dauphin County; and 211, Dauphin, Lebanon and Schuylkill counties. Also, a total of 2,773,415 acres in the Game Commission's wildlife management units 4B and 4D, in the north central section of the state.

For more information, visit the DCNR [Deer Population Aerial Survey webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Gov. Rendell – State Works to Protect Hunting State Expanding Aerial Deer Survey Program](#)

PUC, Energy Utilities, Consumer Advocates Launch Shutoff Education Program

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission this week announced that new statewide radio ads will begin running building on the successful "[Prepare Now](#)" campaign to inform Pennsylvanians about the availability of customer assistance programs and changes in the law related to utility shutoffs.

"It is not too late to 'Prepare Now,'" said Chairman Wendell F. Holland. "Some customers are receiving 60-day notices from their utilities in advance of April 1 terminations. And dollars still remain in utility customer assistance programs that could help families as winter bills arrive in their mailboxes through the spring. That's why we are enhancing the significant work already done by the PUC, utilities and consumer advocates to get the word out to consumers about high winter heating costs and their choices in preparing now. I want to thank the utilities who came forward to participate, and

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the Council for Utility Choice and the PUC’s Consumer Advisory Council for their expertise and support.”

Utilities providing voluntary contributions to the \$340,000 campaign include: Allegheny Power, Columbia Gas, Duquesne Light, Equitable Gas, Met-Ed, PECO, Penelec, Penn Power, PG Energy, PPL and UGI.

Higher natural gas prices, production concerns caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and changes in the law related to utility shut-offs created a need to continue the Commission’s successful “Prepare Now” campaign to educate Pennsylvanians, particularly those with low incomes on how to cope with higher winter heating costs.

Since the Commission began its education efforts in September, about 29 percent of the people who entered the winter without utility-related heating service have had their service restored, or the property has been verified to be vacant.

The Commission requested that electric and natural gas utilities with more than 100 consumers without service be resurveyed as part of its Cold Weather Survey process. As of February 1, 2006, the total number of off accounts for those utilities decreased to 14,533, or 29 percent.

The Commission voted at the December 15 Public Meeting to use voluntary contributions from electric and natural gas companies for a statewide consumer-education campaign on the availability of Universal Service programs and the changes in the law related to Chapter 14. The PUC partnered with the participating utilities and the Council for Utility Choice to produce the new radio spots.

The Council, a non-profit corporation affiliated with the Commission, directed the ads. Input was provided by the Energy Association of Pennsylvania, the PUC Consumer Advisory Council, the Community Action Association, the Telephone Association of Pennsylvania, the Office of Consumer Advocate and professional educators.

Chapter 14 was passed by the General Assembly as Senate Bill 677 and signed into law as Act 201 of 2004. It seeks to eliminate opportunities for customers capable of paying their bills to avoid doing so, and provide utilities with the means to reduce their uncollectible accounts.

The law changed the way regulated electric, water and major natural gas utilities handles cash deposits; reconnection of service; termination of service; payment arrangements; and the filing of termination complaints by residential customers.

For more information, visit the [Prepare Now webpage](#).

Stay Warm PA Workshops Set in Cambria, Somerset Counties

The Department of Environmental Protection, other state agencies and energy companies will sponsor two more [Stay Warm PA](#) workshops in Cambria and Somerset counties February 28.

The workshops will be held:

- 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. --- Second Floor Auditorium of the Central Park Complex, 110 Franklin St., Johnstown, Cambria County.
- 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. --- Community Room of the Somerset Borough Municipal Building, 340 W. Union St., Somerset Borough, Somerset County.

Representatives from the Department of Public Welfare’s Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and area utilities will provide information on

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energy assistance, weatherization programs and low-cost and no-cost ways to conserve energy and save money.

The Cambria County workshop is sponsored by Columbia Gas and Dominion Peoples Gas. The Somerset County workshop is sponsored by Columbia Gas and Allegheny Power.

For more information, visit the [Stay Warm PA website](#).

Cleaner School Buses Mean Healthier Kids, Grants Awarded

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will provide local communities around the country with more than [\\$7 million in grants](#) to reduce kids' exposure to harmful exhaust from their school buses, including two grants to Pennsylvania schools.

The grants will help fund the cleanup of more than 500 tons of diesel emissions from 4,000 school buses nationwide.

The grants in Pennsylvania include: the Chester County Intermediate Unit, which will install diesel particulate filters on 33 Ford Diesel mini-buses and the Great Valley School District, which will also install particulate filters on 33 buses.

EPA awarded 37 grants totaling \$7.5 million as part of the Clean School Bus USA program, which reduces children's exposure to diesel exhaust. The initiative encourages policies and practices to eliminate unnecessary school bus idling, the installation of effective emission control systems on newer buses and the replacement of the oldest buses with cleaner diesel or compressed natural gas powered buses. The grant recipients are contributing an additional \$13 million in matching funds and in-kind services.

For more information, visit EPA's [Clean School Bus webpage](#).

DEP Publishes Updated List of Available Emission Reduction Credits

The Department of Environmental Protection this week published a notice of availability of emission reduction credits, by company, in the state's Emission Credit Registry and a summary of recent transactions ([February 25 PaB 995](#)).

Included in the Registry are credits for nitrogen oxide, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, lead, sulfur oxides and particulate matter.

Credits in the Registry can be used to satisfy new source review requirements and to trade and sell to companies that need them or have an excess.

For more information contact DEP's Bureau of Air Quality, 717-787-4325 or go to DEP's [Emissions Credit Registry background paper](#).

High Energy Bills? Savings of up to 50 Percent Start at the Top with “Cool Roofs”

Most of the homes in Philadelphia have roofs coated with hot tar or black rolled asphalt. Sturdy material but it does nothing to cool down temperatures during a summer heat wave.

“[Cool Roof](#)” technology, in contrast, coats the roof surface with a reflective material that can lower the temperature of a building's roof by up to 100 degrees. This produces lower interior temperatures and reduces cooling costs by up to 50 percent.

Not only does the technology reduce energy costs, it also benefits the environment. Reduced energy demand means less burning of fossil fuels. That's a good thing because

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fossil fuels create the air pollution associated with smog, acid rain, and global climate change. By reducing the amount of energy needed to cool buildings, Cool Roofs help reduce these air pollutants.

On February 24 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Donald S. Welsh saluted retailer, Target, for its use of the Cool Roof technology on most of the chain's 1,397 stores in 47 states, including 20 in the Delaware Valley.

"Target is to be commended for its environmental leadership," said Donald S. Welsh at Target's new Bridesburg store. "Homeowners and businesses are starting to realize that there are economic benefits to protecting the environment."

Welsh added that there are health benefits, as well. "For the elderly and others who cannot afford air conditioning, the Cool Roof technology reduces the temperatures inside, which will help lower the number of people who suffer from heat stroke each year."

Target has a long history of energy conservation. In addition to using Cool Roof technology, Target also uses high-efficiency heating and cooling systems in all its stores, uses low water flow plumbing fixtures, uses redesigned light fixtures that use three fluorescent light tubes instead of the standard four, regularly recycles everything from cardboard to shopping carts.

Cool Roof coatings are white liquids – the consistency of thick paint – applied over an existing roof structure. They can be applied over a traditional roof to achieve energy savings, an extended life span, and protection from weathering and ultraviolet radiation.

The new surface can last 10 to 20 years, depending on coating quality and the thickness applied. Home and building owners should ensure that the underlying roofing is sound before a coating is applied because the coating is not intended to plug leaks or otherwise improve the structure of a roof.

Minneapolis-based Target serves guests at 1,400 stores in 47 states nationwide by delivering today's best retail trends at affordable prices. Target gives back more than \$2 million a week to its local communities through grants and special programs. Since opening its first store in 1962, Target has partnered with nonprofit organizations, guests and team members to help meet community need

For more information, visit [EPA's Cool Roofs webpage](#).

Green Roof Design 101 Introductory Course April 6

The [Green Roofs for Healthy Cities](#) association will hold a Green Roof Design 101 course in Pittsburgh on April 6.

This one-day course will teach participants the major functions and components of a green roof, identify the factors that influence costs, how to use an integrated design process in your project for maximum benefit under the LEED green building standards and much more.

For more information, download [the workshop brochure](#) or to register go to the [Green Room Design 101 webpage](#).

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

Free Web, CD Course Available to Help Students Learn About Agriculture

A brand new curriculum that uses music to teach young children about the importance of Pennsylvania's number one industry is now available through the state Department of Agriculture.

The "Agriculture is a BIG Word" CD, which includes six lesson plans aligned to state academic standards and 13 easy-to-learn songs about milk, farming, planting a garden and barnyard animals is being offered by the agency for free.

Children can learn about agriculture through hands-on projects that teach how grocers get their food, what types of animals are found on a farm and how to plant and grow vegetables.

Although the target audience for the album and accompanying curriculum is preschool through 3rd grade, children of all ages will enjoy the songs, including the old favorite, "B-I-N-G-O."

For more information, go to the [Hands on Learning](#) section of the Marketplace for the Mind website sponsored by the Department of Agriculture. The curriculum, songs and words can be downloaded for free.

To request a copy of the CD, contact Agricultural Education Coordinator Dr. MeeCee Baker at 717-705-9512 or c-mebaker@state.pa.us.

Help Wanted: Environmental Program Specialist, Summer Positions, More

The Pennsylvania Resources Council, Riverbend Environmental Education Center, PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and the Crow's Nest Preserve of the Natural Lands Trust are all seeking candidates to fill summer and a permanent position.

[Pennsylvania Resources Council, Inc.](#) is seeking a highly motivated, energetic, outgoing, self-starter capable of working independently for a 40 hour/week program specialist position in its Pittsburgh regional office.

The position would involve the design and implementation of a commercial recycling campaign targeting Downtown businesses.

The successful candidate must have a working knowledge of commercial recycling markets, laws, regulations and ordinances, excellent people, organizational, reporting and writing skills, be physically capable of lifting 30 pounds, working both in and out-of-doors and have own reliable transportation.

The candidate must be able to work with diverse groups, ranging from business owners/managers to recycling haulers/processors to establish sustainable commercial recycling programs for Downtown businesses.

A Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies, Business Management, or related program preferred, recycling/waste minimization experience a must. Salary and benefits package commensurate with experience. Position starts immediately.

Please submit a cover letter and resume to: David Mazza, Regional Director, Pennsylvania Resources Council, Inc., 64 S. 14th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203, or send via email to: davem@ccicenter.org.

[Riverbend Environmental Education Center](#) has 15 summer environmental educator, marketing, education, habitat intern positions available.

Visit the [Jobs Announcement webpage](#) to find out the details on summer environmental educator, summer camp, education, marketing and habitat management intern positions.

[Crow's Nest Preserve](#), Natural Lands Trust: is seeking a summer intern in Land Management and to assist with an environmental education summer day camp for children entering grades one through six. This is a paid position reporting to the Preserve Manager. Send resumes to Daniel Barringer, Preserve Manager, Crow's Nest Preserve, 201 Piersol Road, Elverson, PA 19520, call 610-286-7955 or send email to: dbarringer@natlands.org.

[PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs](#) seeks candidates for office assistant, accounting/bookkeeper, membership/fund raising coordinator.

See & Hear

Landscaping for a Healthy Planet in Your Backyard, City Block or Business



Still stuck inside by cold, snowy weather? Itching to start planning Spring projects? Here's one website you should visit if you're interested in environmental landscaping.

Audubon Pennsylvania and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay have teamed up to put together a unique "[Landscaping for a Healthy Planet](#)" website full of practical advice on how to landscape, garden and create healthy habitats for wildlife.

[Environmental Landscaping – Getting Started](#) lets you take inventory of your surroundings, helps you develop a plan for landscaping, choosing plants and offers tips on maintaining your landscape.

A picture, or in this case a video, is worth a thousand words and [the webcast section](#) of the site has more than a dozen online videos covering topics like an introduction of environmental landscaping, water conservation, landscaping commercial locations, creating forest buffers, landscaping with native plants, deer management, integrated pest management, managing wetlands, urban landscaping, invasive plants and energy conservation.

A [Conservation Practices section](#) offers tips on intelligent landscaping to reduce water and air pollution and health risks for visitors and neighbors.

A handy [Worksheet section](#) provides checklists on watchable wildlife, home landscape auditing, a pest management inspection record, habitat inventory and maintenance schedule.

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A [Specialty Gardens webpage](#) provides guidance on how to set up handicapped accessible gardens, developing wildlife meadows, container gardens and roof gardens.



A [Resources webpage](#) is chock full of links to a variety of other backyard wildlife, native plant and gardening webpages along with a list of nurseries where you can purchase native plant materials.

Gardeners can also find official [PA Preferred](#) nursery and landscape plant and materials providers through the [PA Landscape & Nursery Association website](#).

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay has also put together another resource on using native plants for landscaping called [Bayscapes](#) that provides even more information on environmental landscaping techniques.

Bayscapes includes sample landscaping plans gardeners can adapt to their own properties.

After your project is finished, you can register it as a [Pennsylvania Environmental Landscape](#) through an online form. Registered project sponsors will receive a certificate of registration and selected projects will appear on the website as examples for others to follow.

Special Event: [Bayscape Workshop and Tour, Washington, D.C. May 20.](#)

See & Hear

Building Green, An Online Video Guide to Saving Money, Energy, Water



Hear building owners, developers and users describe the benefits of green building techniques on the [Building Green video website](#) presented by the Governor's Green Government Council.

More and more business are finding out that using green building techniques saves them money, energy, water and results in a healthier work environment.

These online videos will take you step by step through the building green process with actual projects where you can hear the participants themselves talk about its benefits.

To learn more, visit the [Building Green website](#), a feature produced by the [GreenTreks Network](#).

Opinion

Afield: Habitat Restoration On the Upswing

By Mark Nale

As many regular readers (of the Centre Daily Times) know, I have not always been happy with the modus operandi of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

I have been frustrated with the design of the PFBC "ship," with its heavy emphasis on non-renewable stocked trout. I have not liked the direction of the organization's "compass," and at times I have been uncertain what course the agency was actually

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following. While "Resource First" might have been their motto, the agency's actions did not always reflect that. Things had been so bad by March, 2002, that I called for the captain, then-executive director Peter Colangelo, to resign.

It was like a breath of fresh air when I learned that Dr. Douglas Austen, a resource-oriented leader, had been chosen to replace Colangelo in January, 2004. I was optimistic, but patient. Change in a bureaucracy would not happen overnight.

I am thrilled to say that a major shift of funding and focus is underway at the PFBC. Executive director Austen and 12-year veteran agency employee Scott Carney will be at the forefront of those changes.

"The commission is committed to investing major resources in a new habitat focus. This will mark a change in the way in which the Fish and Boat Commission operates," said Carney.

The Fish Passage and Habitat Management Section is being removed from the Environmental Services division and elevated to a separate division in the Bureau of Fisheries. The new Division of Habitat Management will be under the direction of Carney, a DuBois native who now lives in State College. He previously led the PFBC section dealing with anadromous fish passage and dam removal, and those functions will be a part of the new division. The new Habitat Management division will be headquartered at the PFBC's Pleasant Gap offices.

Austen has been the head of the agency for two years, and this shift will mark the first major change since he took over in January, 2004.

"There will be a substantial investment in habitat and an increase in fish habitat enhancement with this new agency structure," said Austen. "Six regional biologists will be hired, and we are in the process of developing new plans and objectives for the division.

"Our change will be a part of a national effort called the National Fish Habitat Initiative, whose goal is to reverse the decline of the aquatic resources of the U.S. by harnessing the energies, expertise and existing partnerships of state and federal agencies and conservation organizations."

Austen will chair of the core committee of the National Fish Habitat Initiative. According to Carney, three of the six regional biologists will be hired by May and the agency is looking to fill the additional three positions by 2007. These biologists will function as habitat conservation specialists and work out of six of the PFBC's eight regional offices. Their focus will be entirely habitat -- streams, lakes, wetlands, public access and protecting land that is critical to one of the agency's trust species. That includes amphibians, reptiles, mussels, aquatic insects and, of course, fish.

Carney is a busy fellow during this transition period, for in addition to doing his old job, he is putting together the new division. When all positions are filled, he expects to have a total of 12 full-time employees and a seasonal staff of four within his division. The Division of Habitat Management should be operational by late May or early June.

"There is actually a lot of money out there, and most of the funds for habitat will not come from the commission's budget," said Austen. "For example, the Blair County Chapter of Trout Unlimited is sitting on \$500,000 that they received as part of environmental mitigation for a Blair County construction project. The new division's job will be to creatively put together packages of talent and funds and provide direction and guidance to get the job done."

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Carney added, "We want to maximize state dollars by pairing them with money from federal programs and private conservation organizations. No one is doing that on a large scale right now."

According to Carney, the agency's old concept of habitat improvement centered on physical improvements to streams and lakes, such as building deflectors in streams or submerged structures for lakes. You would need an enormous amount of staff, effort and money to accomplish much on a statewide scale.

"The Commonwealth has provided significant resources through Growing Greener to support the formation of watershed groups and completion of various planning documents, such as river conservation plans," Carney said. "The need is to focus on implementing on-the-ground, high quality projects that benefit aquatic habitat at the ecosystem level. That is the missing link."

While Habitat Management will still do some in-stream habitat work, under the new structure, the division will offer guidance to others, identify needed projects, coordinate the permitting process, obtain grant-funding support, form partnerships and recommend firms to do studies, design projects and complete the actual work. The division's scope will be broadened to include riparian lands, wetlands and access, and all of the species that the PFBC has guardianship over.

"I fully envision Pennsylvania becoming a national leader in fish habitat initiatives," said Carney.

Mark Nale, who lives in the Bald Eagle Valley, is a biology teacher and member of the [Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association](#). He can be reached at MarkAngler@aol.com.

This article is reprinted with permission from Mr. Nale and originally appeared in the [February 21, 2006 Centre Daily Times](#).

Quick Clips

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

[Rewarding Recyclers, and Finding Gold in Garbage](#)
[Wayne County Includes Electronics Recycling](#)
[Counties Mull How to Spend Growing Greener Funds](#)
[Allegheny Power Chief Pushes Power Transfer](#)
[Slippery Rock, Pine Look Windward](#)
[A Greener PSU](#)
[Schuylkill Could Fuel Ethanol Expansion](#)
[\\$500,000 Grant Completes Pittsburgh Trails Link](#)
[Gov. Rendell – State Works to Protect Hunting](#)
[Birds of the Feather Flock to Like Groups](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[PA Watersheds Data System Workshop in Central PA](#)
[Watershed Cleanup Reaps Benefits for Plymouth Twp.](#)
[Students Learn to Clean Up](#)
[Big Sewickley Creek Watershed District Seeks Funds](#)
[Earth Conservancy Will Develop Former Mine Site](#)
[Reclamation Plans OKd in Allegheny, Armstrong Counties](#)
[Editorial: Great Lakes Neighbors All In Same Boat](#)
[DEP Clears Up Misinformation on On-lot Septic System Management](#)

Regulations

DEP Unveils Mercury Emission Reduction Rule in Concept to Work Group

The Department of Environmental Protection this week briefed the [Mercury Work Group](#) and members of other advisory committees on the [outline of its proposed rule](#) for reducing mercury emissions from power plants.

(See also the article in this Digest on the [House Committee hearing on mercury.](#))

The proposed rule would go beyond [federal mercury emission limits](#) now in place by requiring earlier reductions (2015 versus 2018) and that all emission reductions needed to get to the federal mercury emission cap take place in Pennsylvania, rather than allowing Pennsylvania power plants to buy or sell emission reduction credits from utilities in other states as they do now under other air pollution credit trading programs.

Emissions trading would allow power plants to over-control mercury emissions at one plant where it was most effective and take credit for the extra reductions at another plant where controls may not be as cost effective. Emissions credits have worked successfully to reduce air pollution associated with lead, carbon monoxide, particulates, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds.

DEP did not propose reducing the overall federal cap on mercury emissions for Pennsylvania established under the EPA rule and is not requiring mercury-specific mercury emission controls. Under the federal rule, and now the DEP proposal, the mercury emissions budget or cap would drop from 4.9 tons now down to about 0.7 tons by 2015.

DEP estimates its proposed rule will mean that an additional 800 pounds of mercury will be reduced annually in Pennsylvania by 2010 over the federal rule reductions and another 700 pounds annually by 2015. These estimates are based on the prohibition against trading credits with utilities in other states and the decisions DEP assumes utilities would make in adding controls to existing power plants under the federal rule.

DEP's proposed rule does authorize a limited form of trading emission reduction credits any where within Pennsylvania from utilities that go beyond the minimum mercury reductions to those that may not achieve the required reductions. The credits would be owned and allocated by DEP, not individual utilities, unlike in the other air pollution trading programs.

Under DEP's limited credit trading program, DEP's assumes a power plant will be in compliance with its mercury reduction regulation if it installs certain air pollution control technologies. If the technologies do not actually perform to meet the mercury

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reduction requirement, DEP will allocate any available mercury emission reduction credits from those units that over-controlled to the units that is not performing.

DEP also provided an exemption in its proposal from Phase I mercury controls for utilities that replace older, existing coal-fired plants with new coal gasification plants that produce gas from coal that is then burned to generate electricity. There would be no exemption from Phase II.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency must approve DEP's mercury reduction plan and specifically the proposed "presumption" that a unit meets the mercury standard if it installs certain air pollution control equipment and the exemption from the Phase I regulation. At the meeting this week the representative from EPA said he was hearing these concepts for the first time, but would obviously review them closely as the regulation is considered.

DEP said it will meet March 6 and 13 with the Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee and DEP's Citizens Advisory Council to receive additional comment on the concepts they outlined. DEP is expected to have regulatory language at the March 13 meeting.

The regulation will then be sent to the Environmental Quality Board at the May 17 meeting for consideration with the goal of obtaining public comment over the summer and publishing a final rule in time to meet the federal deadline for having a mercury regulation in place in November.

For more information visit the [Mercury Work Group webpage](#).

NewsClip: [DEP Announces State-Specific Mercury Reduction Plan](#)

PUC Alternative Energy Rules - Interconnection Standards, Default Service

The Public Utility Commission published a [proposed set of interconnection standards](#) for customer generators under the state Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act for public comment. Comments are due March 28.

The PUC also published a notice saying it was [reopening the comment period](#) for proposed rules governing provisions for default service under the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act originally [published February 25, 2005](#) asking for input on a specific list of eight issues. [Comments are due March 8.](#)

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – February 25, 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 Department of Environmental Protection [published notice of two draft guidance documents](#) for public comment related to the Stormwater Management Program.

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Draft: DEP ID: 363-4000-003. Standards and Guidelines for Identifying, Tracking, and Resolving Violations of the Stormwater Management Act. This document provides guidance concerning the implementation and execution of compliance and enforcement activities employed by the Department for the Act 167, Stormwater Management Program. Comments due March 27.

Draft: DEP ID: 363-4000-004 Standards and Guidelines for Identifying, Tracking, and Resolving Violations for Operators of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s). This document provides guidance concerning the implementation and execution of compliance and enforcement activities employed by the Department for the Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program. Comments due March 27.

[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](#)

- [DEP's Annual schedule of board and advisory committee meetings for 2006](#)
- **February 27** – House Appropriations Committee budget hearing for the Department of Environmental Protection. Room 140. 2:30.
- **February 27** – DEP Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee [Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring Technical Work Group](#). 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **February 28** – House Appropriations Committee budget hearing for the Department of Agriculture. Room 140. 1:00.
- **February 28** – **CANCELLED** – DEP Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee meeting has been [rescheduled for March 17](#). See March 3 & 13.
- **March 1** – Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearing for the Department of Agriculture. Senate Majority Caucus Room. 1:15.
- **March 1** – [Delaware River Basin Commission meets](#) on State of the Basin Report and other issues.
- **March 2** – Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearing for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Senate Majority Caucus Room. 10:30.
- **March 2** – **CHANGE** - Senate Appropriations Committee budget hearing for the Department of Environmental Protection. Senate Majority Caucus Room. 2:45.
- **March 3** – DEP Tributary Strategy Steering Committee meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00 a.m.
- **March 3** – DEP Citizens Advisory Committee and Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee to discuss proposed mercury regulation. LTBA.

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- **March 9** – **CANCELLED** - DEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting due to the lack of agenda items from DEP. The next scheduled meeting is May 11.
- **March 13** – Governor’s Renewable Agricultural Energy Council meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **March 13** – DEP Citizens Advisory Committee and Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee to discuss proposed mercury regulation. LTBA.
- **March 15** – **CANCELLED** - DEP Radiation Protection Advisory Committee meeting has been [rescheduled for June 15](#).
- **March 16** – House Republican Policy Committee hearing on alternative energy. Room 140 Main Capitol Building. 10:00.
- **March 18-19** – [Fundamentals of Geology and Practicing Geology Seminars for Professional Geologists](#). Camp Hill (near Harrisburg).
- **March 21** – House Republican Policy Committee hearing on DEP Regulatory Process and Economic Development. Room 140 Main Capitol. 1:00.
- **April 18-19** - [Chamber Environmental Conference and Trade Show](#). Camp Hill (near Harrisburg).

[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 .

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