



PA Environment Digest

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DEP Secretary Hanger: Timely Permit Decisions Are More Difficult With Cuts



Department of Environmental Protection Secretary John Hanger told the Senate Appropriations Committee this week his agency's ability to make timely permit decisions is getting more difficult because of the budget cuts made this fiscal year and expected for next year.

[Secretary Hanger](#) said "these are not good times" for the agency, "we've been cut to the bone," but the "core functions" of the agency are being accomplished. He said the cuts mean certain things will not get done. He added even with the loss of 258 positions this fiscal year, enforcement and inspection functions were preserved in the agency.