

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

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Yes, We're All Still Here in Harrisburg Dealing With the Budget

Yep, everyone is still here talking about the budget and on the verge of a state government shutdown on July 9. Here's a quick budget update.

Some of the first real talks between Senate Republicans and the Governor's Office started on Thursday, but they don't seem to have made much progress at press time. The issues are about the same as they were-- Senate Republicans say they want the state budget passed; the Governor still wants his transportation and energy package done first or he'll furlough 25,000 "non-essential" state workers July 9.

House Democrats have not had the votes to pass the system benefit fee on residential and commercial electric bills to support the Governor's energy plan nor the votes for the \$2.25/ton fee to fund the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program at this point.

Without that support, passage of the energy plan is doubtful on its own and alternatives for funding HSCA are being discussed-- as in which other existing environmental fund do they pull the money from on a temporary basis like was done the last two years or do they restore the earmark from the Capital Stock and Franchise tax?

Over 65 farm, business, environmental and sportsmens' organizations are still pushing hard for the adoption of the [Resource Enhancement and Protection Program](#) (REAP) that would give farmers tax credits for installing conservation practices to meet federal Clean Water Act and Chesapeake Bay cleanup commitments.

The Rendell Administration and some legislators have opposed the proposal saying it was a great program, but there was no room in the budget for it.

However, a new proposal in [Senate Bill 97](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) and [House Bill 1528](#) (Sturla-D-Lancaster) surfaced this week in the House that would give tax credits to Hollywood companies that film movies in Pennsylvania. A minimum of \$50 million in credits was proposed, although the Rendell Administration said they favored a plan putting no caps on the amount of credits that could be issued.

"Officials from the Rendell Administration have repeatedly indicated that REAP is a great idea, but that there is no room in the budget for it," said Matthew Ehrhart, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Office, Chesapeake Bay Foundation. "This week, however, we learned the Administration is supporting an unlimited tax credit program that would promote film production in Pennsylvania."

"Pennsylvania's family farmers are caught between low prices for their products and increasing environmental mandates," said Matthew Ehrhart, Executive Director of CBF's Pennsylvania office. "REAP will assist farmers in helping to improve water quality in our rivers and streams while meeting Pennsylvania's commitment to cleaning up

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waterways all across Pennsylvania, and the Chesapeake Bay. It's about setting priorities for the future."

"We think Pennsylvania's number one homegrown industry—agriculture—deserves the support of the Rendell Administration," said Joel Rotz, State Governmental Relations Director for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. "We call on Gov. Rendell to support REAP and help our family farms become better environmental stewards."

"We are gratified that the bipartisan REAP proposal has enjoyed the support of more than 65 farm, business, environmental and sportsmen's groups all across the state," said Rotz. "It is rare that any legislative proposal enjoys this kind of broad support and we hope Gov. Rendell will join our efforts."

Rep. Stern (R-Blair) and other legislators supporting REAP proposed amendments to the bills that would provide at least \$25 million for REAP tax credits in the coming year, but at week's end the bills have not yet been considered.

Also of concern in environmental funding is the deletion of language in the state budget that would earmark \$250,000 to fund the [Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps](#) for the next year. PaSEC just celebrated its 10th anniversary. **NewsClip:** [Seniors Form Vast Pool of Waterway Monitors](#)

Interestingly, the Department of Revenue reported the state's budget surplus for the just closed 2006-07 fiscal year is now an estimated \$649 million.

Keeping the casinos open has become more of a concern for some legislators than the potential general furlough of non-essential state employees.

The Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee Thursday voted along party lines to issue subpoenas to the Secretary of Revenue and Administration to explain the impact of a potential shutdown of state government on the gaming industry at a hearing Saturday after they declined to attend a hearing Thursday. It was the first subpoena issued by the Senate since 1994 in the impeachment trial of then Supreme Court Justice Rolf Larson.

Late Friday, Senate Republicans asked a state court to enforce the subpoenas and five of Pennsylvania slot casino operators also went to court to prevent the state from closing them down.

The bottom line is the Senate and House will probably stay the weekend to see what gets done, but mechanically it is unlikely the budget will be done, even with an agreement today, for at least three or four days or so because of the way they have to move bills.

NewsClips: [Legislature Still Mired in Budget Disputes](#)
[State Worker's Union Vows Lawsuit to Halt Planned Furloughs](#)
[PA Casinos Go To Court to Stop Possible Shutdown](#)
[Updates on the PA Budget Stalemate](#)
[Governor's Aides Refuse to Testify on Layoffs](#)
[Budget Talks Switch Into Higher Gear](#)
[State on Brink of Shutdown](#)
[Stopgap Budget Could Keep Government Running](#)
[Agencies Scramble to Alert Public About Furlough Effects](#)
[Rendell Aides Subpoenaed Over Casino Closing Plan](#)
[PA Casinos Get Caught in Middle of Budget Stalemate](#)
[John Baer: In Budget Fight, Isn't There a Way to Keep Casinos Open?](#)

What Happens If “Non-Essential” State Employees Are Furloughed July 9?

If there is no budget settlement by Monday, July 9, Gov. Rendell has promised to close down state government by furloughing 25,000 “non-essential” state employees. But, what does that really mean to the average taxpayer?

All this week state agencies issued press releases telling the public what services they would or would not offer if employees were furloughed. Here’s a sampling—

- 2,000 of 2,300 employees in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will be furloughed closing all 117 State Parks and state forest land. Campers and cabin occupants will be required to leave by midnight July 9;
- 1,349 of 2,849 employees of the Department of Environmental Protection will be out of work and the department's review of applications for new land development, waste, mining, oil and gas, water and air permits and licenses will cease as well as effectively shutting down other funding for conservation districts, municipal recycling, mine reclamation projects, oil and gas well plugging, and environmental education activities. The state’s black fly spraying program was already shutdown;
- 273 of the Department of Agriculture’s employees will be furloughed, meaning those offices which oversee plant-related diseases and pests as well as conservation issues, pesticide certification and regulation of all feed products in the state and all marketing and farmland preservation efforts will be suspended;
- 10,928 PennDOT employees will be furloughed. All PennDOT Driver License and Photo License Centers will be closed and there will be no mail processing of any driver or motor vehicle applications and no on-road driver’s license testing until the budget impasse is resolved, although PennDOT’s online services will still be available;
- Only 1,900 of the Department of Public Welfare’s 19,000 employees will be furloughed and services to low-income citizens will continue through the budget impasse;
- 87 percent of employees in the Department of Community and Economic Development are to be furloughed, meaning DCED will not be able to process applications, execute contracts or disperse funds through any of the programs administered by the department. Funding and assistance provided through business assistance, international business development, technology investment, tourism, community development and local government services departments will cease;
- 55 of the Department of Aging’s 102 employees will be furloughed, although key services including homemaker assistance, personal care help, home-delivered meals, family caregiver support and ombudsman assistance will continue;
- 139 of the Banking Department’s 161 employees would not have to report to work, bank and financial service provider examinations would be suspended, license renewals will not be processed and mergers, acquisitions and various transactional matters, some of which are keyed to Securities and Exchange Commission filings or have specific designated dates, will not be reviewed or approved; and
- Only 202 of the Department of Revenue’s 1,682 employees will be reporting to work, shutting down oversight of casino operations and Revenue’s taxpayer service call center and district offices.

NewsClip: [Campers Hold Their Breath](#)

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Session Schedule

The Senate and House is scheduled to be in session July 7 and 8 and will probably be in session next week.

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- Zebra Mussels Discovered in Susquehanna River Basin for First Time
- Legendary Higbee Waterways Map Updated for Canoeists, Kayakers
- Middle Creek Hosts 22nd annual Wildlife Art Show August 3-5
- PA Center for Environmental Ed July EE Connections Newsletter Now Online
- EPA's New Go Green! Newsletter Helps Consumers Make a Difference
- PUC Urges Withdrawal of DOE Electric Transmission Corridor Designations
- Chester County Seeking Companies That Are In the Business of Recycling

In the Spotlight

- Former Gov. Mark Schweiker to Speak at 5th Anniversary of Quecreek Mine Rescue

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

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced

The Senate and House are scheduled to be in voting session July 7 and 8 and most of next week because of unresolved budget issues, so Calendars and Committee schedules are in a state of “flux.” Here’s what we know at the moment...

House

Calendar: [House Bill 1201](#) (George-D-Clearfield) making changes to Title 66 (Utility Code) consistent with Gov. Rendell’s Energy Independence Proposal, including the proposed system benefit charge; [House Bill 1320](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) establishing a program within DEP for the disposal of home-generated medical sharps; [Senate Bill 97](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) providing a tax credit for film production and changing tax requirements for banking shares; [House Bill 1649](#) (Barrar-R-Chester) requiring the fluoridation of public water supplies; [House Bill 1329](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) further providing for the jurisdiction of common pleas court in reviewing challenges to land development ordinances; [House Bill 1530](#) (Dermody-D-Allegheny) providing for electric supplier long term contracts; [House Resolution 112](#) (Mann-D-Lehigh) directing DEP to implement policies that encourage electronic waste recycling; [House Resolution 122](#) (George-D-Clearfield) petitioning the President and Congress to increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; [House Resolution 268](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study Game Commission forestry and mineral development policies; [House Resolution 180](#) (Yudichak-D-Luzerne) establishing a commission to study the Commonwealth’s fragmented system of local governments

Senate

Calendar: [House Bill 1295](#) (Hanna-D-Clinton) restoring the State System of Higher Education allocation from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2006-07 and including other budget implementing language for fiscal year 2007-08.

Bills Introduced

Several more environmental bills were introduced this week...

Planning Code: [House Bill 1525](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) providing for comprehensive plans and compliance by counties and making other changes to the Municipalities Planning Code.

Wildlife Funding: [House Bill 1676](#) (Levdansky-D-Allegheny) introduced legislation that would dedicate a portion of the state Sales Tax to help support the Game and Fish and Boat Commissions. **NewsClip:** [Use Part of Sales Tax for Fish, Game Agencies](#)

Great Lakes Compact: [House Bill 1705](#) (Harkins-D-Erie) authorizing Pennsylvania to join the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

Waste Coal: [House Resolution 363](#) (George-D-Clearfield) designating August 29 “Environmentally Beneficial Use of Waste Coal as an Alternative Energy Source Day.”

Electric Rates: [House Resolution 369](#) (George-D-Clearfield) request the Public Utility Commission to identify possible solutions for impending rate crisis.

Conservation Districts: [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderline-R-Montgomery) making changes to the Conservation District Law designing conservation districts as the primary local government unit responsible for conservation.

On the Governor's Desk

The following bills reached the Governor's Desk so far this week...

Landowner Liability: [House Bill 13](#) (Readshaw-D-Allegheny) relating to landowner liability and opening land to recreation was signed into law and is now Act 11.

House Bill 13 amends the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act, which for more than four decades, has provided liability protection for actions that occur on a landowner's property as a result of recreational activity -- such as hunting, fishing, swimming and hiking -- as long as the landowner does not charge a fee.

The need to amend RULWA was sparked by a 2006 court case in which the owner of a Lehigh County orchard was found partially liable for injuries caused by a hunter's stray bullet, which struck a woman a half-mile away.

House Bill 13 had widespread support, as the House and Senate unanimously passed the measure. The Farm Bureau specifically recognized Rep. Readshaw (D-Allegheny), who was the prime sponsor of the legislation, and Sen. Wonderling (R-Montgomery), who sponsored legislation in the Senate.

NewsClip: [New PA Shield in Hunting Accidents](#)

Storage Tanks: [Senate Bill 815](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) extending the storage tank pollution prevention programs through 2012 was signed into law and is now Act 20.

The new law authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to direct up to \$500,000 from the UST Environmental Cleanup Program for the "Heating Oil Cleanup Program." This program reimburses the owners of underground storage tanks, with a capacity of 3,000 gallons or less, up to \$5,000 for corrective action. The tanks must be used for storing heating oil needed for use on the premises where it is stored.

In many cases, the program helps homeowners in cleaning up heating oil releases. Since July 1998, DEP has invested more than \$1.4 million to support nearly 400 Heating Oil Cleanup Program grants.

The UST Environmental Cleanup Program also provides DEP with funding to conduct site investigation and remedial action activities at state-lead and special project sites. In December 2001, the UST Environmental Cleanup Program was expanded to fund work addressing "catastrophic" releases that pose a significant risk to human health and the environment.

Since July 1998, DEP has invested more than \$24 million to address approximately 66 state-lead, special projects, and "catastrophic" release projects that protect human health and the environment

Under the UST Pollution Prevention Program, commonly called the "Pump and Plug" program, DEP provides grants to encourage small tank owners to remove the

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environmental threat posed by unused and unsafe tanks that have not been updated to meet current federal and state technical requirements.

Since the program began in July 1998, more than 900 grants have been approved and nearly \$4.6 million have been awarded through the Underground Storage Tank Pollution Prevention Program.

Nuclear Plant Fees: [House Bill 496](#) (George-D-Clearfield) that would increase fees on nuclear power plants and for transportation escorts was concurred in by the House and was sent to the Governor for his action.

Under the bill, nuclear power plant fees collected by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency will fund interagency coordination and county emergency preparedness. The new amendments to Act 147 also allow the Pennsylvania State Police to escort certain large shipments of radioactive material and waste transported through the state.

Among those fees included or amended in Act 147 are:

- A one-time fee of \$100,000 per site to DEP from any entity that holds, or has applied for, a nuclear power reactor operating license from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and an increased annual fee of \$400,000 to \$550,000 per site;
- A one-time fee of \$150,000 per site to PEMA from any entity that holds or has applied for a nuclear power reactor operating license from the NRC, and an increased annual fee from \$200,000 to \$350,000 per site;
- Fees to DEP, PEMA and PSP that cover oversight and escort expenses incurred by the commonwealth to ship spent nuclear fuel and other large quantity radioactive materials through the state; and
- Continued fees under Act 147 that allow DEP and the Environmental Quality Board to regulate radiation sources users (e.g., x-ray or radioactive materials).

After 2009, two working groups of DEP and PEMA personnel, with representatives of the state's nuclear facilities, shall review program expenses and issue a report to the General Assembly recommending any fee changes deemed appropriate.

Deer Management: [House Bill 881](#) (Haluska-D-Cambria) expands the authority of the Game Commission to issue permits to individuals to protect agricultural crops and making other changes to the Game Code was concurred in by the House and sent to the Governor for his action.

Senate/House Bills Moving

Here's a summary of Senate and House bills moving this week as of the close of business July 6. Some of the descriptions show just how fast legislation moves in and out of committee this time of year...

Senate

Keystone Fund: [House Bill 1295](#) (Hanna-D-Clinton) restoring the State System of Higher Education allocation from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2006-07 was amended on Third Consideration with language designed to implement the fiscal year 2007-08 budget and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

Transportation Funding: [House Bill 1590](#) (Markosek-D-Allegheny) providing for highway and transit funding was amended by the Senate Appropriations Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action. (*See links to [Senate Transportation Funding Plan](#)*)

House

Deer Management: [House Bill 881](#) (Haluska-D-Cambria) expands the authority of the Game Commission to issue permits to individuals to protect agricultural crops and making other changes to the Game Code was concurred in by the House and sent to the Governor for his action.

Historic Preservation Grants: [House Bill 221](#) (Tangretti-D-Westmoreland) establishing an Historic Preservation Incentive Grant Program was passed by the House and sent to the Senate for action (*See separate story.*)

Elk Fencing: [House Bill 1078](#) (Hanna-D-Centre) providing for an Elk Damage Fund and for an elk fencing program was passed by the House and is now in the Senate for consideration.

Capital Budget: [House Bill 1589](#) (Evans-D-Philadelphia) providing for a Capital Budget for environmental, recreation, transportation, economic development and other projects was amended and passed by the House and now goes to the Senate for action.

Keystone Fund: [Senate Bill 728](#) (Scarnati-R-Jefferson) restoring the State System of Higher Education allocation from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2006-07 was recommitted to House Appropriations Committee.

Electric Distribution: [House Bill 1530](#) (Dermody-D-Allegheny) providing for electric supplier long term contracts was reported from House Appropriations Committee and is on the House Calendar for action.

Appeal of Land Use Plans: [House Bill 1329](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) further providing for the jurisdiction of common pleas court in reviewing challenges to land development ordinances and [House Bill 1330](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) also providing for appeals from land use resolutions and maps were reported out of House Rules Committee. House Bill 1329 is on the House Calendar for action.

Fluoridation: [House Bill 1649](#) (Barrar-R-Chester) requiring the fluoridation of public water supplies was reported from the House Rules Committee and is on the House Calendar for action.

Export of Mercury: [House Resolution 136](#) (Josephs-D-Philadelphia) that would ban the export of elemental mercury was adopted by the House.

House Passes Tangretti Historic Preservation Grants Proposal

The House this week passed [House Bill 221](#), sponsored by Rep. Tangretti (D-Westmoreland) that would create a state grant program for the restoration and commercial or residential use of historic properties.

“These grants would represent a significant economic development tool in Pennsylvania’s older downtown residential and commercial neighborhoods,” Rep. Tangretti said. “Beyond revitalizing residential and commercial neighborhoods and getting many of these properties back on the tax rolls, this program would reinvigorate downtowns with new residents and businesses and help preserve farmland and open space outside our cities and boroughs from development.

Under the program, the state Department of Community and Economic Development would work with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to approve and provide the grants. The criteria used to designate properties in Pennsylvania as historically significant also would be used to determine if the owners of those properties qualify for the state grants.

Owners restoring commercial properties would be eligible for grants up to \$500,000; owners restoring residential properties would be eligible for grants up to \$15,000. The grants would be used to reimburse owners for up to 70 percent of the costs of exterior rehabilitation or restoration work that meets the criteria for historic properties.

To be eligible, properties would have to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, be located in a National Register historic district, or be located in a designated local government historic district.

Restoration would have to be followed by use as an income-producing business in the case of commercial properties or the primary residence of the owner in the case of residential properties.

The legislation stipulates that at least 31 percent of the total grant money reserved for the program be used for residential applicants, and that DCED take into consideration the geographical distribution of grant funding when making awards. It also would allow for properties in Elm Street, Main Street, enterprise zones and local government historic districts to be given priority.

Legislation Seeks to Increase Deer Herd in Pennsylvania

Rep. Tim Mahoney (D-Fayette) has introduced [House Bill 1667](#) aimed at increasing the deer population in Pennsylvania.

The bill would require the state Game Commission to implement new policies and procedures for sports enthusiasts.

“The tradition of hunting on state game lands is popular in Pennsylvania,” said Rep. Mahoney, a member of the House Game and Fisheries Committee. “My proposal would increase the deer population so more deer would be available for hunters to harvest.”

The legislation has four major provisions:

- Establish citizen task forces for every wildlife management unit across the state. The game warden in each unit would be required to hold biannual town meetings where interested sports enthusiasts would be able to meet and discuss the deer population in their area. The warden would then forward suggestions and recommendations to the Game Commission;

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- Return the antler requirements to pre-2003 status by requiring that a buck would only have to have two points on an antler or a spike at least three inches long to be harvested;
 - Require the Game Commission to adopt policies to increase the deer population on game lands and to submit an annual report on the status of those policies; and
 - Require the Game Commission to collect mandatory harvest report cards from hunters.
- Rep. Mahoney’s legislation has been referred to the House Game and Fisheries Committee for consideration.

Link: [Sportsmen, Farm, Environmental Groups urge Open Look at Deer Program](#)

Other News

Ohio River Watershed Celebration Features 8 Watershed Grants for Participants



Eight lucky watershed groups who participate in the 6th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration on September 20 will receive one of four \$500 or four \$250 grants to support local watershed restoration efforts.

How can your group be a recipient of an award? Register and bring a poster display to the Riverboat Cruise. Your display will be judged and voted on during the trip by a panel of judges.

The award categories are: Community Outreach and Education, Most Innovative and Cutting Edge Projects, Best Overall Display and Best Example of Partnership Group. The results will be announced at the end of the cruise and checks awarded at that time.

Grant eligibility requirements include: organizations must be from the Ohio River Watershed; work on a local watershed issue; be a formal or informal association, alliance, conservancy, hunting or fishing club, school group, environmental group, FFA, 4H or other like minded organization; and not be a local, state or federal agency or private consulting firm.

The Ohio River Watershed Celebration will be held aboard the Gateway Clipper’s Majestic Riverboat. Departure will be from Station Square in downtown Pittsburgh.

Most of us cross our rivers and streams on bridges without the opportunity to see a river and its scenic sights and landmarks from a boat. Here is the opportunity to do that and much more. Our pre-trip activities include games and activities for everyone, supervised fishing from the dock, macroinvertebrate, fish, bird and mammal exhibits, key environmental speakers, and an awards ceremony.

Over fifty watershed and environmental groups will have poster displays on board that tell the stories of what is being done to improve the quality of water, land and air thus improving our “quality of life”.

We will depart Station Square on the Gateway Clipper Majestic and sail up the Monongahela River through the new Braddock Locks and Dam and back to the Point during the three hour cruise.

Many points of interest, current and historical, will be highlighted with a very informative narration provided by Celebration Committee members. The Celebration

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schedule offers opportunities for everyone of all ages to learn about and celebrate the recovery of our rivers and watersheds.

There will be several short environmental presentations on-board from distinguished speakers representing business, industry, agencies and watershed organizations who are working with new and exciting technologies.

[Watch this webpage](#) on how to register for the Ohio River Watershed Celebration.

Volunteers Needed for Spring Creek Habitat Improvement Project

[Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#), Fish and Boat Commission, Penn State, Centre County Conservation District, and ClearWater Conservancy are partnering with Penn State University to restore the reach of Spring Creek that flows through the Penn State sheep farm in August.

Construction is scheduled for August 20 - August 24 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The project includes the construction of habitat structures, the relocation of stream fencing to increase the width of the riparian zone, and riparian zone planting.

The Fish and Boat Commission will supply equipment, operators, supervision, design, construction oversight and some labor. Volunteers are needed to help drill holes in logs for rebar, nail planking, anchor bank matting, weed whack, etc. Some work will be in stream. The Fish and Boat Commission has requested at least 12 volunteers per day.

This is a great way learn about habitat improvement and installation of devices, but most importantly, to help Spring Creek.

If you can volunteer, please e-mail Joe Boston at joeboston1959@comcast.net with date or dates that you are available. If you have questions, feel free to call Joe at home at 814-861-5566 or on his cell 610-745-3129.

Schuylkill River Festival Set for October 13 in Pottstown

Mark your calendars for this year's Schuylkill River Festival on October 13 adjacent to the campus of the Montgomery County Committee College in Pottstown.

The Festival is not only an opportunity to learn more about the Schuylkill River and its watershed, it includes an arts and crafts show along with food vendors and professional and amateur entertainment.

Organizations interested in participating or for more information about the Festival, contact: Carolyn Brunschwyler, Montgomery County Community College, 610-718-1847, or send email to: cbrunsch@mc3.edu .

5th Annual York County Watershed Weekend September 29-30

The [Watershed Alliance of York](#) is sponsoring its 5th Annual Watershed Weekend in York County on September 29 and 30.

The purpose of the Watershed Weekend is to increase public awareness about the importance of their watersheds. The idea is to encourage as many WAY partner organizations as possible to plan and sponsor one activity locally that will draw people to your watershed and allow them to participate in some manner while learning more about your organization and watershed.

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Watershed groups, local governing agencies, for-profit and nonprofit organizations, and other interested parties will be responsible for planning, staffing and implementing their sponsored activity.

WAY will serve a central coordinating role, handling advertising and promotion and provide technical assistance for the venue.

WAY is also looking for event/project sponsors.

Experience shows that people want to learn and engage in most hands on activities. Some examples for you to consider are educational workshops, litter cleanups, tree plantings, and outdoors recreational activities.

If you would like to sponsor a local cleanup of a stream, park or natural area, WAY can provide your organization with financial and technical assistance to ensure success.

If you or your organization would like to sponsor a venue in your watershed, let WAY know. Registrations are due July 31.

For more information about how to get involved in Watershed Weekend 2007, contact Gary R. Peacock of WAY by calling 717-840-7430 or send email to: gpeacock@yorkccd.org.

Applications Due for National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grants September 1

The mission of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is to sustain, restore, and enhance the nation's fish, wildlife, plants, and habitats through its [Keystone Initiatives Grants Program](#).

The next preproposal deadline is September 1.

The Foundation awards matching grants in the categories of bird conservation, fish conservation, marine and coastal conservation, and wildlife and habitat conservation. Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Foundation staff prior to submitting a pre-proposal to discuss the applicability of a project to the Foundations priorities.

For more information, visit the [Keystone Initiatives Grants Program webpage](#).

Three Roundtable Discussions on Nutrient Trading Program Set for July

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold a series of meetings in July on the benefits of [Pennsylvania's Nutrient Trading Program](#).

Trading allows developers and sewage treatment plants to take credit for pounds of nutrients they remove anywhere in the target watershed. Investing in farm best management practices, planting trees along streams and sharing in an upgrade in another municipality are just a few ways to earn credits.

Municipal officials may be able to keep sewer rates in check through serious consideration of the trading option as an alternative to facility upgrades, or in combination with a smaller or deferred upgrade.

The dates for the meetings are:

- July 16-- 10a.m. to 12 p.m., Conference Room, DEP Lab Building, 2575 Interstate Dr., Harrisburg;
- July 19-- 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Susquehanna Room B, DEP North East Regional Office Building, 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre; and

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- July 20-- 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Goddard Room, DEP North Central Regional Office Building, 208 West Third Street, Suite 101, Williamsport.

For more information, contact Ann Smith of the Water Planning Office at 717-772-4785 and visit the [Pennsylvania's Nutrient Trading Program webpage](#).

PENNVEST, DEP Set Public Meetings on Clean Water Revolving Fund

The [Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority](#) and the Department of Environmental Protection have scheduled four public meetings between now and April for the purpose of advising the public on changes to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund intended use plan and priority list.

The meetings will be held on the 11th Floor Conference Room B, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. on July 17, October 23, January 22 and April 15. (*PA Bulletin July 7*)

For more information on the meetings, when available, visit the [Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority website](#).

Great Green America Fest Kicks Off July 13-15 in Lancaster County

The [Great Green American Fest](#) will be held July 13-15 on the grounds of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, and is designed to highlight current green practices in all manner of life, and to give participants strategies to help keep green.

Activities, displays and presentations will be for the whole family. The Festival will deliver messages of education and awareness through the active participation of popular entertainers, environmentally conscious groups and businesses, their displays and participatory events.

Co-presented by Ducks Unlimited, the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Protection, AmeriGreen Biofuel, York College of Pennsylvania, the PA Academy of Science, Rodale Institute, E~The Environmental Magazine, Department of Agriculture PA Preferred program, PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture, New Holland Concrete, Fairie Festival, Kreider Dairy, ERA Bikes, Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, WGAL-TV 8, 101 the ROSE, ELA Landscape Architects, MM Architects, and Waste Management, The Great Green America Fest will fill all 35-acres of the festival site, home of the annual PA Renaissance Faire and the Celtic Fling & Highland Games. More than 150 “green-friendly” vendors and artisans will offer their products along with displays.

A Friday night kickoff concert by a highly popular national performer begins the weekend. The 8 p.m. concert is just the beginning of three days of important messages of the need to conserve and protect our environment and preserve our eco-system.

Most visible throughout the festival will be the presentations of the major sponsors. York College's Science Department is sponsoring a worldwide “Green Science Fair”, at the elementary school through senior high school level.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will set up interactive ecological activities for children along with the State's environmental mascots. DCNR will provide activities which support the agency's “Welcome to Pennsylvania ~~ Now Get Out” outdoor activities campaign.

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AmeriGreen Biofuels will erect a large tent entitled “Fueling The Future”, with all manner of working exhibits on heating and cooling homes, how and where the biofuel is grown, and how use of same saves money while protecting our air and water.

For its part, Waste Management will set up numerous working displays about their land reclamation and recycling endeavors in progress since the late 1960’s. Other green-minded organizations will be present to reinforce the “Green” message of the weekend.

In addition, the Swashbuckler Brewing Company Bike Racing Team is producing a 20-mile and 30-mile ride starting and ending at the festival. Festival sponsors expect many more such activities to be added as the weekend for the event draws closer.

More ecologically friendly organization and businesses are being recruited daily.

For more information, visit the [Great Green American Fest webpage](#).

A Handbook for Changing Development Rules in Your Community Now Available

The Center for Watershed Protection is making its [Better Site Design Handbook](#) available as a free download in an effort to ensure that every community is equipped with the tools it needs to facilitate environmentally-friendly growth.

This offering completes the comprehensive suite of guidance documents on Better Site Design produced by the Center, which were offered as free downloads earlier this year.

The other publications include: "*Consensus Agreement on Model Development Principles to Protect Our Streams, Lakes and Wetlands*" booklet, outlining nationally recommended design principles; the "Redevelopment Roundtable Consensus" document, designed to promote more environmental-friendly redevelopment and infill projects; and nine consensus documents resulting from various local site planning roundtables held in the Chesapeake Bay area over the last five years.

The Better Site Design Handbook outlines 22 guidelines for more environmentally-friendly development: changes to subdivision and land development and zoning regulations that will better manage stormwater, preserve and enhance existing natural areas, and reduce pollution in local streams.

It provides detailed rationale for each principle, everything from basic engineering principles to actual vs. perceived barriers to implementing Better Site Design; examines practices in local communities; details the economic and environmental benefits of Better Site Design; and presents case studies from across the country.

Download all of the free resources at the [Better Site Design webpage](#).

Westmoreland County “Weed” Workshop Scheduled for July 18

Weeds. They’re the bane of every backyard gardener’s existence. But when they invade farmland, stream buffers, and wildlife habitats, these unwanted culprits can be more than an annoyance.

They can cause serious trouble – from reducing crop yields and interfering with harvest operations (and so increasing food prices), to producing a significant change in the way an ecosystem works (which threatens our native wildlife).

The [Westmoreland Conservation District](#) and the Penn's Corner Resource Conservation and Development Council is sponsoring a day-



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long workshop and field trip on how to identify and control the worst members of the weed kingdom

-- invasive and noxious weeds -- on July 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Westmoreland Conservation District headquarters on Donohoe Road in Greensburg.

The workshop is geared for landowners who are participating in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and for those who commercially apply pesticides and weed control methods. However, anyone interested in this important topic is welcome to attend.

Topics include: encouraging wildlife habitat, weed management, animal issues, spraying tips (herbicide application), and biosecurity.

Speakers include: John Lohr, county executive director, Farm Service Agency; Tammy Colt, southwest region wildlife diversity biologist, Pennsylvania Game Commission; Eric Oesterling, extension educator/horticulture, Penn State Cooperative Extension Westmoreland County; Dan Griffith, nutrient management specialist/agricultural conservation technician, Westmoreland Conservation District; and Tom Sierzega, district conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

After a provided lunch, attendees will travel by bus to nearby Heinnickel Farms where they can see first-hand a buffer area, wildlife habitat, and weed control methods.

Cost of the event is \$15, and interested individuals are encouraged to register no later than July 13 by calling the Westmoreland Conservation District at 724-837-5271 or sending an email to christie@wcdpa.com. Registration is limited to 50 people.

The workshop is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Zebra Mussels Discovered in Susquehanna River Basin for First Time

[Zebra mussels](#), an invasive species that entered Pennsylvania through Lake Erie, has now been found in Cowanesque Lake, Tioga County, according to the Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Sea Grant Program and the Fish and Boat Commission.

This marks the first time zebra mussels, *Dreissena polymorpha*, have been discovered in a Pennsylvania waterway in the Susquehanna River watershed.

“The introduction of invasive species like zebra mussels can have a substantial and lasting impact on the balance of aquatic life in a waterway,” said Doug Austen, Fish and Boat Commission’s executive director. “Anglers and boaters should exercise great care when moving from one waterway to another that they don’t inadvertently move an aquatic nuisance species with them.”

Invasive species like zebra mussels pose serious threats because of their potential to foul industrial facilities and plug public water supply intakes that draw from infested waters. Invasive species also can interfere with the operation of locks and dams on rivers, or damage boat hulls and engines.

Zebra mussels threaten aquatic ecosystems because of their ability to filter about a quart of water per day. While water clarity is improved during this process, the zebra mussels disrupt the food chain by removing plankton, which supports the existence of native mussels and fish.

“Public education is key to preventing the spread of zebra mussel infestations, as well as for protecting the many unspoiled Pennsylvania waterways we all enjoy,” said

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Department of Environmental Protection Deputy Secretary for Water Management Cathy Curran Myers.

The Pennsylvania Zebra Mussel Monitoring Network first discovered the mussels in Cowanesque Reservoir on May 17 as part of a routine monitoring visit. Verification analyses were conducted by DEP and Pennsylvania Sea Grant to confirm the species of mussel. Since the discovery, Pennsylvania Sea Grant has worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to alert visitors and assess the degree of the mussels' presence in the lake.

Zebra mussels are prolific breeders and, since they are not a native species, have no natural predators, making control and clean-up methods difficult, very expensive and generally unsuccessful. The best control is to limit the spread of zebra mussels by cleaning boats and equipment before and after use.

Adult zebra mussels can be found in other Pennsylvania waters, including Lake Erie, the Ohio River and lower portions of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers. The mussels have also been reported in Edinboro and Sandy lakes in northwestern Pennsylvania, as well as upper French Creek in Crawford County.

The zebra mussel is native to the Black and Caspian seas region of Eastern Europe. They were introduced to this country around 1986 when ocean-going ships released infested ballast water into the lower Great Lakes.

The Pennsylvania Zebra Mussel Monitoring Network is sponsored by DEP, Pennsylvania Sea Grant and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Zone Management Program to help slow the spread of invasive mussels in the Commonwealth's rivers, streams and lakes.

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Sea Grant invasive species webpage](#).
NewsClip: [Invasive Mussels Found in Susquehanna River Basin](#)
[Zebra Mussels Found in Tioga County Lake](#)

Legendary Higbee Waterways Map Updated for Canoeists, Kayakers

Two years after it was first published, the Paddler's Edition of the Stream and Lake Map of Pennsylvania now is being made available for purchase.

The map, the first and only highly detailed map of its kind, illustrates 45,000 miles of streams and 300 lakes. The special edition features highlighted, navigable streams and rivers in addition to their degrees of difficulty, access points, dams and waterfalls.

Whether canoeing, kayaking or rafting, Pennsylvania paddlers should find the map to be valuable and convenient as they drift along the state's scenic waterways.

Developed by Pennsylvania State University Professor Howard Higbee, the legendary illustration of Pennsylvania's streams and lakes was once believed to be irreproducible when the original drawing and printing plates vanished after the maps printing company went out of business. Furthermore, because the existing copies had been printed in non-photographic blue ink, it was considered to have been impossible to create new printing plates from them.

Karl Ings and Larry Seaman of the Vivid Publishing Company in Williamsport, discovered the emergence of innovative printing technology that allows reproduction of non-photographic blue ink. After testing proofs, the duo was able to resurrect Higbee's 3-foot-by-5-foot masterpiece and make it available to Pennsylvania paddlers for their use and enjoyment.

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For more information and to order a Higbee map, visit the [PA Council of Trout Unlimited website](#).

Middle Creek Hosts 22nd Annual Wildlife Art Show August 3-5

The Game Commission's [Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area](#) Visitor Center will feature hundreds of original paintings and fine art prints from the best-known wildlife artists in the state during its annual Wildlife Art Show from August 3-5.

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

In addition to the artists' sales, the art show will sell tickets for \$2 each or 3 for \$5 for a drawing that will be held at 4 p.m. on August 5. Four prizes will be awarded. First prize is the annual Remarque Board, which features a small original painting by the participating artists in the show. The small paintings, which normally are done as part of a limited edition print, are assembled, matted and framed as a single collectible piece of artwork.

Art prints by Karl Eric Leitzel, from Spring Mills, Centre County, and Gerald W. Putt, Boiling Springs, Cumberland County, will be offered as second and third prizes, respectively.

Proceeds from the drawing will benefit The Wildlands Preservation Fund land acquisition program. The Game Commission's Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area Visitor Center is along Hopeland Road, two miles south of Kleinfeltersville, Lebanon County.

The Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area is a special tract owned and set aside by the Game Commission for the protection, propagation, management, preservation and controlled harvest of wildlife. This area of more than 5,000 acres provides habitat for waterfowl, forest wildlife and farmland wildlife and includes a 400-acre shallow water lake and a 70-acre impoundment.

Visitors to the wildlife area in November and from late February to late March are fortunate to witness and photograph the flocks of beautiful snow geese and tundra swans that stop in Pennsylvania during migration.

Contact the Middle Creek Visitor's Center at 717-733-1512 for more information or visit the [Middle Creek Management Area webpage](#).

PA Center for Environmental Ed July EE Connections Newsletter Now Online

The July issue of the [EE Connections newsletter](#) from the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education is now available online. The highlights from this month's issue include--

General News: Great Green America Fest, Western PA Environmental Award Winners Announced, Climate Change Roadmap Report for PA Released, WiserEarth Web Site Launched

K-12: EPA Looking for Pre-K through 4th-Grade Activities, 'Where the Buffalo Roam' Podcast, Radio Show Correlates to Project Learning Tree, New Field Guide for Educators: 'No Student Left Indoors', Sea Stories Online Journal

Higher Education: Pennsylvania Universities Sign Presidential Climate Commitment, Edinboro University Plans Campus-Wide Conservation Program, New Online Sustainability in Higher Education Course, Online Environmental Education Courses Available

Professional Development: PASA Professional Development Opportunities, Herbal Medicine Workshop, Electric Vehicle Conversion Workshop for Teachers, Creating Interactive Land Use & Air Quality Program, New Project Learning Tree Workshop at the REEC, 'Invasive Plant Species' Evening Forum, Land Retreat at Villa Maria Delaware River Watershed Workshop for Teachers, Visiting Scientist Lecture Series in Erie, Developing Teacher Training Course, Deploying Green Facilities Web Conference

Grants/Awards: Delaware Estuary Watershed Grants, Reminder - Cash Prizes Offered for Inspirational Photographs, Forest Restoration Working Partnership Grants, Focus the Nation Awards

Join the 11,300 people that receive EE Connections directly by email. To get your own copy, send an email to: info@pcee.org or visit the EE Connections [sign-up webpage](#).

EPA's New Go Green! Newsletter Helps Consumers Make a Difference

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency launched a [new electronic newsletter](#)-- Go Green! -- to provide "what you can do" information on activities and events that everyone can use to make a difference just about anywhere - in homes, workplaces, schools and communities.

The newsletter will include information on issues like how to calculate individual energy use, upcoming environmental activities and observances and recent news reports from EPA.

To subscribe, visit the [Go Green! newsletter webpage](#).

PUC Urges Withdrawal of DOE Electric Transmission Corridor Designations

Calling the plan overly broad and unreasonable, the Public Utility Commission this week called on the U.S. Department of Energy to withdraw its proposed National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor for the Mid -Atlantic region (NIETC).

The PUC comments were filed as part of the Department's considerations of two NIETC designations. Section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 directed DOE to conduct studies of electric transmission congestion every three years, and authorized the federal agency to designate NIETCs based on those studies.

The PUC said DOE "has misinterpreted and failed to follow the legal requirements set forth by Congress for NIETC designation, has failed to make the detailed factual findings required by Congress and should not be adopted by the Department."

The proposed NIETC includes 52 out of Pennsylvania's 67 counties in the corridor's Mid-Atlantic region. Cameron, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Lycoming, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Sullivan, Tioga, Venango, Warren counties are not included in the draft corridor designation. Besides Pennsylvania, the Mid-Atlantic region

encompasses all or portions of Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Virginia and West Virginia.

The PUC asked the federal agency to issue a new designation that has a more narrow scope and better reflects Congressional intent in establishing NIETC.

"It is evident that Congress, in drafting Section 1221 did not intend to indiscriminately 'federalize' the entire U.S. transmission grid. Congress' clearly expressed intent should carefully guide NIETC designation in a way that results in the least intrusion on tradition state siting authority," the PUC said.

The Commission urges the federal agency to define NIETCs as "true corridors with an entry point at the source, an exit point at the load and a congestion interface across which the transmission point crosses." The PUC points out that the DOE's overly broad "zone" designation currently being considered may result in "any transmission project (approved in that zone) may seek to avoid meaningful state review."

Chester County Seeking Companies That Are In the Business of Recycling

The [Chester County Solid Waste Authority](#) is seeking to add to its lists of companies that provide recycling services for its recycling directory.

Companies involved in the collection and/or processing of paper (including shredding and document destruction), cardboard, glass, aluminum, plastic, metal, computers, batteries, ink jet cartridges, cell phones, fluorescent tubes, tires and construction and demolition are eligible to be listed in the county's recycling directory.

These lists are provided as a public service at the [Chester County Solid Waste Authority website](#) for residents, businesses and institutions in need of these services. No companies are endorsed or recommended.

To add listings or to make changes, contact the Chester County Recycling Coordinator at 610-273-3771 ext. 226.

In the Spotlight

Former Gov. Mark Schweiker to Speak at 5th Anniversary of Quecreek Mine Rescue



Former Gov. Mark Schweiker will be the keynote speaker at the 5th anniversary celebration of the 2002 rescue of nine miners trapped in the [Quecreek Mine](#) in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Gov. Schweiker lead state rescue efforts during the four day ordeal that involved hundreds of state and federal mine rescue personnel, local first responders, private companies, volunteers and other miners.

"We are honored to have Gov. Schweiker return for the anniversary this year to recognize all those who were involved in the rescue effort," said Bill Arnold, President of the Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation. "Gov.

Schweiker's leadership during the rescue and the compassion he felt for the families of the trapped miners was a blessing for those families and our community."

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The anniversary celebration events will take place on Saturday, July 28 beginning at 9:30 at the mine rescue site on the Arnold Farm at 151 Haupt Road in Somerset.

Other speakers at the celebration will include Joseph Sbaffoni, Director of Deep Mine Safety for the Department of Environmental Protection, other state and local officials. Jim Burton of WJAC-TV will be the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Special music will be provided by the Milford United Methodist Children's Bell Choir, Cathi Casale as "Patsy Cline," and Dan & Galla – saluting the rescue with patriotic songs. "Mountain John" of Somerset will be reciting his poem "The Quecreek Mine Rescue"

On July 24, 2002 miners broke through into an abandoned, water-filled mine flooding the Quecreek Mine with over 50 million gallons of water. Nine miners scrambled to safety, but nine were trapped in a pocket of air in the dark, cold, water-filled mine. They were rescued four days later through the combined efforts of state and federal mine rescue agencies and hundreds of workers and volunteers.

Last year the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission officially recognized the mine rescue site as part of the state Historical Marker Program erecting a blue and gold historic marker at the Arnold Farm.

"The Quecreek Mine Rescue was a modern day miracle and a unique event in the history of Pennsylvania and the country," said Arnold. "Every year we get more and more visitors to our farm to see the rescue site and the rescue capsule and other equipment we have on display that was used in the rescue."

"The Foundation is now finalizing plans and a fundraising initiative for a visitors center at the site to accommodate the busloads of visitors who want to learn more about the rescue and coal mining in Pennsylvania," explained Arnold.

The Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization that relies on support from the public to educate the public about the rescue and to maintain and operate the mine rescue visitors' area.

Contact the Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation by writing: 151 Haupt Road, Somerset, PA 15501 or calling 814-445-4876 or by visiting: www.QuecreekRescue.org .

Quick Clips

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

[Use Part of Sales Tax for Fish, Game Agencies](#)
[Path Linking 5 Towns in Westmoreland, Fayette Already Well-Trodden](#)
[Applicants Find Wildlife Job Not Worth It](#)
[Rare, Endangered Species Define Nescopeck State Park](#)
[Indiantown Gap to Offer Look at Bug Royalty](#)
[Pittsburgh's Peregrine Falcons Kill Intruder from Cleveland](#)
[Editorial: Bald Eagles' Success is Exception to the Rule](#)
[Deer Management Issue Divisive Topic](#)
[Residents Asked to Collect Beetles Imperiling Ash Trees](#)
[Editorial: Time to Get Tough on Species Contamination](#)
[Gypsy Moth Stripping Acres of State's Forests](#)
[Legislative Approval of Energy Bills Slows Down](#)
[Salt Cavern Will Store Gas](#)

[Steel City to Solar City?](#)

[Souderton Grad Heating Up Solar House Competition](#)

[Panel Plans for Green Justice Center in Bucks County](#)

[Producers, Buyers Feel Pinch of Corn's Influence](#)

[Coal "Liquid Gold" Prospects High With Harmarville Studies](#)

[A Tax, Or Any Other Name, Would Raise Ire](#)

[Carnegie Science Center Goes Green for Live Earth](#)

[Green Construction Sites Flourish](#)

[Malls Getting a Little Greener](#)

[Growing Greener Ordinance Approved in Hamiltonban Twp.](#)

[A Plea to Preserve Lancaster Farmland](#)

[Guard, Game Commission Near Stony Valley Deal](#)

[Magazine Joins Altoona Man With Celebs on Global Green Team](#)

[Amishman Sees Future in Recycling Vinyl Siding](#)

[Zero Waste: Making Sure the Impact of Farmers Market is All Positive](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Seniors Form Vast Pool of Waterway Monitors](#)

[New Funds Attack Old Problem – Mine Reclamation](#)

[Heavy Rains Cause Flash Flooding in Western PA](#)

[Region Bears Ivan's Scars](#)

[Floodwaters Subside, But Fear, Worry Won't](#)

[Controversy Swirls in NY Reservoirs](#)

[Drought Watch Issued in East Stroudsburg](#)

[Recent Rains Turn Back Drought for Now](#)

[Sherwood Hailed for Conservation Partnership](#)

Regulations

The Delaware River Basin Commission will [hold a public hearing](#) on the proposed Flexible Flow Management Program for New York City Reservoirs on August 14. The State Board for the Certification of Sewage Enforcement Offices [published revised exam dates](#). The Independent Regulatory Review Commission [issued comments](#) on a proposed rule to streamline air quality permitting.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – July 7, 2007](#)

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 draft guidance documents on mine drainage treatment trusts and for the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program. Details below.

Draft: DEP ID: 560-5000-001. Mine Drainage Treatment Trust Real Property Disposition Guidelines. This guidance document describes the process to be followed when real property held in a mine drainage treatment trust is to be liquidated, including guidelines for the trustee and the Department to follow in the management and liquidation of real property assets in a treatment trust. Comments due: August 6.

Draft: DEP ID: 270-0810-005. Guidance Document for the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles (PCV) Program. The PCV Program, 25 Pa. Code Chapter 126, Subchapter D (relating to Pennsylvania clean vehicles program), and requires that all new automobiles and light duty trucks (8,500 lbs GVWR or less)(collectively referred to herein as light-duty vehicles) for model year 2008, and subsequent model years, are those certified by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Comments due: August 7.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **July 10-12.** [Emerging Leaders, Emerging Solutions](#): Taking Action on Climate Change and Global Warming. New Jersey Institute of Technology. Newark, NJ.
- **July 12** –DEP [Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#) meeting will be held in a new location – 16th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **July 17** – Premier of John James Audubon: Drawn From Nature Documentary and unveiling of planned improvements at the Audubon Hawk Watch At Waggoner’s Gap in honor of Cliff Jones. Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts, Harrisburg. 6:00. Contact: 717-213-6880
- **July 17** – **CANCELLED**. Environmental Quality Board meeting. The next scheduled Board meeting is August 21.
- **July 18** – Harrisburg Capital Regional Water Board Planning Commission meeting. Juniata Room, Susquehanna River Basin Commission Building, 1721 N. Front St., Harrisburg. 10:00. and Capital Regional Water Planning Directors meeting. 1:00 same location. Contact: Cindy Rock, 717-633-7959 or send email to: pweameetings@comcast.net .
- **July 19** – DCNR [Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.

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- **August 14** - The Delaware River Basin Commission will [hold a public hearing](#) on the proposed Flexible Flow Management Program for New York City Reservoirs. Trenton, NJ.
- **September 27** – **RESCHEDULED**. DEP [Low-Level Waste Advisory Committee](#) meeting has been rescheduled to November 1, Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **October 13** – Schuylkill River Festival. Pottstown. Contact: Carolyn Brunschwyler, Montgomery County Community College, 610-718-1847, or send email to: cbrunsch@mc3.edu
- **October 23** – DEP [Nonpoint Source Liaison Workshop](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Steven Lathrop, 717-772-5618 or send email to: slathrop@state.pa.us .

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)
(courtesy [PA Center for Environmental Education](#))

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

Helpful Web Links

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

[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@CrisciAssociates.com or go to www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com .

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