

# — PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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**Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci**

**July 31, 2006**

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## **Ohio River Celebration Set for September, Watershed Groups Can Win \$500 Grants**

The 5th Ohio River Watershed Celebration gets underway on September 21 and will focus on the efforts and impacts that small local watershed organizations have had on the restoration of the Three Rivers in Pittsburgh.

These groups are run by dedicated volunteers addressing local issues, but are a very important “cog” in the overall Ohio River Watershed recovery. However, many watershed organizations are usually run on the proverbial “shoe string” budget.

The ORWC Organizing Committee is celebrating these committed groups and will award four of them with \$500 grant awards to be used to meet their organizations goals.

How can your group be a recipient of an award? Register and bring a poster display to the Celebration in September. Your display will be judged and voted on by all participants before and during the trip.

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.

To be eligible, organizations must: be from the Ohio River Watershed in Pennsylvania or West Virginia; 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 Celebration will again be held aboard the Gateway Clipper’s Majestic Riverboat and depart from Station Square in downtown Pittsburgh.

Pre-trip activities include games and activities for everyone, supervised fishing from the dock, live fish and bird exhibits, key environmental speakers, and an awards ceremony. Approximately 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 and air thus improving our “quality of life.”



Pittsburgh’s Three Rivers. *Photo by: C.R. Green*

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The Clipper will cruise the Allegheny River this year with an exciting and informative narrative about sites along the way. The Clipper will lock through the Highland Park Lock and Dam where you can learn about the past, present and future of how our rivers impact our lives.

There will be several short environmental presentations from distinguished speakers, including Edwin Pinero, Federal Environmental Executive in the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (and former Deputy Secretary for Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance at DEP) and George Watzlaf of the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory.

Come along and enjoy the cruise and find out why the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources named the Three Rivers (Allegheny River, Monongahela River, Ohio River) the "[Rivers of the Year](#)" for their role in spurring economic growth, shaping the city's urban renewal, and providing more water-based recreation!

[Register for the Celebration online.](#)

Download the [2006 Ohio River Watershed Celebration brochure](#) .

**Links:** [2005 Ohio River Celebration Attracts 800, Awards Presented](#)  
[2004 Ohio River Celebration Attracts Over 600](#)

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### Session Schedule

The Senate returns to session September 19 and the House on September 25.

### On the Hill

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### See & Hear

- Learn About Pennsylvania's Eviro-Pioneers

### Photo Feature

- State Historical Marker Dedicated at Quecreek Mine Rescue Event

### Opinion

- Comments on DEP's Proposed Rule Regulating Mercury Emissions from Power Plants  
*By Victor Fiore, President Local 29, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*

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

## On the Hill

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### Bills Introduced

Two bills on environmental topics were introduced this week. Here are some quick links...

**Reactor Fees:** [House Bill 6](#) (Tigue-D-Luzerne) increasing reactor and nuclear material transportation fees.

**Electronics Recycling:** [House Bill 7](#) (Ross-R-Chester) requiring manufacturers and retailers to establish an electronics recycling program.

### In Other News

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#### DEP Rule Could Reduce Electric Generating Capacity to Respond to Heat Waves

Electric generators met the record demand for electricity caused by the heat wave last week, but that may not be the case in the future if a rule proposed by the Department of Environmental Protection is not changed to prevent the premature retirement of power plants needed to meet that demand, according to Douglas L. Biden, President of the Electric Power Generation Association (EPGA).

Biden, Locals 29, 459 and 1600 of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the Pennsylvania Coal Association and other environmental groups presented comments at three hearings this week by the Environmental Quality Board on a rule proposed by the DEP to reduce mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants.

"People used air conditioners and fans to cope with the heat wave last week," said [Douglas L. Biden](#), President of the Electric Power Generation Association. "Now imagine trying to meet that record demand with 20 percent less coal-fired generating capacity."

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That’s how much capacity is threatened with closure because of the way DEP wants to reduce mercury emissions from power plants.”

“The issue is not whether to significantly reduce mercury emissions, but how to do it,” said Biden. “We, and a coalition of labor and business organizations, support a change in DEP’s rule to include the mercury reduction plan in bipartisan Senate and House legislation that would reduce mercury emissions from power plants by 86 percent through a cap-and-trade program, while protecting the public health and the environment.

“The legislation reduces and then caps mercury emissions,” explained Biden. “It provides incentives to power plant owners to over-control mercury emissions at plants where it would be cost-effective and trade the extra mercury reductions to other plants where maximum reductions may not be economically feasible.”

The rule proposed by DEP does not include a trading program, but mandates mercury reductions in a way that threatens some plants with closure because it requires all plants to achieve the same level of reductions.

“Pennsylvania has more than 30 smaller generating units that are at risk of premature retirement because it may not be economically feasible to install advanced mercury controls at these facilities,” said Biden. “Unfortunately, these plants represent 20 percent of Pennsylvania’s coal-fired generating capacity and are the same plants that give electric generators the ability to produce more electricity during periods of peak demand, like the heat wave last week.

“Without this capacity, there is considerable doubt whether we could have met the record peak demand experienced during the heat wave without emergency load curtailments,” said Biden. “Because it can take five years or more to replace coal-fired generation, these are serious reliability and public safety issues that have not yet been addressed by DEP.”

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Chairman Wendell F. Holland has also expressed concerns about the cost implications of DEP’s rule saying the proposed rule has the potential to cause a reduction in electric generating capacity in the state which could have a negative effect on an already volatile energy market.

PJM, the operator of the regional electricity grid, made similar comments when it noted that “new limits on mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants now under consideration ... may be an important factor in potential future (plant) retirements.”

“In the last few months, Pennsylvania electric generators have announced they will install almost \$3 billion worth of air pollution controls to reduce sulfur dioxide, mercury and other pollutants,” said Biden. “All we are asking for is a responsible mercury reduction plan that allows us to make cost-effective investments in advanced controls without jeopardizing electric reliability, and without causing significant electric cost increases or the loss of family-sustaining jobs. These goals can be achieved without compromising public health or the environment.”

Three representatives of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers also testified this week.

“The bottom line is this – we need a cap and trade program in this regulation to help electric generating companies recover their investments in the advanced air pollution controls they need to reduce mercury emissions,” said [Victor Fiore, President of IBEW Local 29](#), “If they cannot recover their investments, they have to make up their budgets

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one way or another at these plants and in that process the most expendable items are employees, benefits and the smaller power plants.

“I’ve done my homework on this issue. I met with DEP Secretary McGinty twice, talked to my companies and went to one of the hearings held by Sen. Mary Jo White in Harrisburg,” said Fiore. “When you listen to all the testimony and talk to the people I have, several facts are clear—

- Studies show there is no difference in the environment between zeroing out ALL mercury emissions from ALL U.S. power plants and adopting the federal Clean Air Mercury Rule with a cap and trade program;
- Companies will not put advanced air pollution controls on small, old plants and if they cannot put these controls on in a cost-effective way they will be shut down and we lose jobs;
- Companies will bring power in from other states to make up the difference and that means jobs will move to those other states; and
- Companies will switch to burning coal from other states because it has less mercury than the coal we have here in Pennsylvania and that means we lose jobs again in our coal mines and the drivers in the trucks that haul the coal to our power plants.”

[Robert Ashbaugh, Business Representative of IBEW Local 459](#), said power plants statewide have already reduced mercury emissions by 33 percent between 1999 and 2004 and plants that he represents – Keystone, Conemaugh and Homer City—have reduced their mercury emissions by 47 percent since 2000.

“While our plants had a 47 percent reduction in mercury emissions, those reductions did not show up at a monitoring station at Portage in Cambria County, directly down wind from our plants,” said Ashbaugh. “In fact, the 33 percent reduction in mercury emissions from power plants across the state did not make any difference to DEP’s mercury monitors.

“The reason is simple—mercury emissions from power plants make up only 1 percent of global mercury emissions and mercury travels hundreds of miles before it falls to the ground. Mercury is a national and international problem that should be treated that way. We can’t put a dome over Pennsylvania and adopt our own regulations thinking that will clean up the air.

[Andrew R. Wolfe, President-Financial Secretary for IBEW Local 1600](#), told the Board, “DEP’s efforts will put Pennsylvania’s industry and consumers at a disadvantage without any measurable improvements in public health or the environment. Surely a rule that would have such profound impacts on the economy and quality of life in Pennsylvania should at least produce benefits for Pennsylvanians that match or outweigh the costs.

“The DEP has not been able to produce any credible evidence that a state-specific rule will achieve any additional benefits beyond the federal rule.”

The Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs, PennFuture and individuals testified at the three hearings.

[Melody Zullinger, of PFSC](#), said, “Today, Pennsylvania’s mercury warnings cover every lake and stream in the state – warning people to limit or avoid eating certain species of fish because of the dangers of mercury exposure. DEP is on the right track to address this serious issue, and has developed a strong plan for requiring the local reductions in mercury pollution that are needed to protect our treasured fish and wildlife species.

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“We want a guarantee that mercury pollution is going to go down significantly in our own backyards, right here in Pennsylvania.”

The public comment period for the [proposed mercury regulation](#) ends August 26.

**NewsClips:** [Speakers Back Proposal to Cut Back Mercury Emissions in PA State’s Mercury Reduction Plan Debated at Public Hearing](#)  
[Mercury Restrictions Draw Mixed Reactions](#)  
[State Mercury Plan Draws Support](#)

### Expedition Susquehanna Team Successfully Concludes Journey



#### **We Did It!**

After 30 days and more than 400 miles, the [Expedition Susquehanna](#) team has completed its journey to explore the Susquehanna River and the communities that connect to it.

Starting at the headwaters in Cooperstown, NY on June 18th the group paddled their way to CBF’s headquarters in the Chesapeake Bay, reaching shore on July 18th to a crowd of cheering family, friends and CBF staff.

These remarkable students and CBF crew shared a once-in-a-lifetime experience, which none will forget. Not many people can say they’ve gone on a 30-day paddle trip, but Team Susquehanna can!

The team learned about nature, wildlife, mining, water quality, macro invertebrates, farming, snorkeling, and so much more. But they also accomplished a major feat they persevered through one of the worst flooding events in recent history.

At the end of the first week, the team was greeted into Pennsylvania with several days of pounding rains that washed away their campsites, and resulted in wet sleeping bags, wet tents, wet everything! The rains were heavy, consistent, and lasted for several days. The result; flooding that kept them off the water for more than a week.

Rather than pouting at their misfortune, the team took the high road and instead lent a hand to communities impacted by the flood. One of their days was spent in the Bloomsburg area cleaning out basements and helping families that had been impacted by the flood.

As a testament to their character, the students said they didn’t mind getting dirty and helping out, and that they really enjoyed helping others and making a positive difference.

In addition, these students helped to celebrate the efforts of local volunteers across the watershed that are working in their own backyards to help restore and protect the rivers and streams in their own communities, these streams upon which the health of the Bay so vitally depends.

Watershed Expo events were held in Sunbury, Harrisburg, and Lancaster County. Expos brought together watershed stakeholders from local conservation and restoration groups, watershed groups, anglers farmers and other agricultural interests, as well as state and local decision makers.

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Local group representatives brought displays and prepared presentations on recent initiatives and projects.

Special guests included Skip Wieder from Geisinger Health Services and convener of the Susquehanna Heartland Coalition, Cindy Dunn, Brook Lenker and Amy Hill from DCNR, Kelly Over and Tyler Rice from PA Future Farmers of America, Dr. Doug Austin of the Fish and Boat Commission, Dave Myers with the Governor's Office, and Secretary Dennis Wolff, Department of Agriculture.

Once back on the water, the students were ready to explore the river and some of the local waterways as well. One day was spent paddling down the Conestoga River in Lancaster County to see first-hand how agriculture can negatively impact water quality, both by pollutants entering the stream from run-off, and by allowing cows access to creeks and streams.

From there they spent another day or two in Pennsylvania, and then paddled off into Maryland, visiting the Susquehanna Flats, the city of Baltimore, and spending a day out on the waters of the Chesapeake Bay to fish for Rockfish and meet with watermen who make their living from the Bay.

Finally, on day 30, the team paddled into the beach of the Merrill Center to parents, friends, and CBF staff who anxiously awaited their arrival. 30 days away from home is a long time, but Travis Stotelmyer of Halifax said it best:

“In the beginning it was hard to say goodbye to our families. Now, today, it's hard to say goodbye again. We've spent 30 days together, and together we've created our own new family. So now today it's again hard to say goodbye.”

For a look back at the exciting adventures, including blogs, photos and videos, visit the [Expedition Susquehanna webpage](#).

### **NRCS Assists In Repairing Watershed Damage From Recent Flooding**

The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service announced this week that Pennsylvania has received \$600,000 in emergency funds from the USDA's Emergency Watershed Protection Program.

The Department of Environmental Protection is also providing an additional \$100,000.

These funds will provide urgent disaster assistance to Eastern Pennsylvania residents who face serious threats to life and safety, including homes that were severely damaged by stream bank erosion from recent flooding.

NRCS and other state officials have identified seven extreme emergency conditions in Luzerne, Wyoming, Wayne, Bradford, Susquehanna, and Pike counties that pose serious threats to lives and safety.

The EWP Program provides assistance to help restore natural resources from the devastating effects of severe storms and other natural disasters. NRCS, working with County Conservation Districts and other partners, will provide funding to local project sponsors for work that will include stream bank stabilization and protection measures.

Under EWP, NRCS provides 75 percent of the repair costs, while a local sponsor will pay the remaining 25 percent of the project's cost. DEP is providing design, contracting, and construction inspection to fulfill this local portion.

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Construction of these projects began this week and is expected to be completed in August.

“We are committed to do the work that needs to be done to restore watershed damages and respond to the needs of our Commonwealth,” said Craig Derickson, Pennsylvania State Conservationist with NRCS. “Because of the wide-spread damage, there is still much more work to do. NRCS has requested an additional \$4.2 million to restore another 130 sites in 14 counties and is waiting for legislative funding to become available.”

For more information, contact a [county NRCS Service Center](#) near you.

### Managing Rural PA’s Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Capacity

The [Center for Rural Pennsylvania](#) just released a new report entitled, “[Rural Pennsylvania’s Water and Wastewater Infrastructure](#),” by Penn State’s Dr. Beverly A. Cigler analyzing the capacity of rural communities to meet their water and wastewater needs.

Citizens sometimes take for granted the running water and efficient wastewater systems that are critical to their communities. Until problems arise, water and wastewater systems may be easy to ignore. Like all communities statewide, Pennsylvania’s small, rural communities rely on the continuous health of their water and wastewater systems to maintain the quality of life that their residents have come to expect.

Agricultural and residential waste, industrial discharges, construction runoff, and changing regulatory and financial environments can threaten water and wastewater systems. In some cases, water and wastewater infrastructure needs require immediate repair or replacement due to age, condition, capacity, safety, or permitting.

If such needs are ignored, more infrastructure will reach the end of its useful life, and rural communities will ultimately bear the cost of repair or replacement. Infrastructure shortcomings can threaten system viability, hinder development, negatively impact public safety, and adversely affect quality of life.

This study, which was conducted from 2002 to 2004, examined the system capacity of a sample of Pennsylvania’s small water and wastewater systems to assess their ability to meet challenges to their systems.

System capacity includes the technical, managerial, and financial ability to achieve, maintain, and plan for compliance with applicable standards, given the available resources and characteristics of a system’s service population.

Results from the study offer much needed baseline data that may help lay a foundation for actions needed to meet funding challenges and to enhance the infrastructure needs of rural water and wastewater systems over the coming decades.

The following considerations were developed from the study’s findings:

- Enhance water and wastewater operators’ managerial, technical and financial skills to reduce the need for infrastructure funding;
- Encourage further cooperation in planning for future needs among local governments, state and federal regulatory agencies, funding agencies and legislators;
- Collect systematic information on community infrastructure systems;
- Enhance coordination among agencies for program information, which would include funding access to allow communities to better address future needs;



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- Devote more attention to evaluating and possibly integrating technical training opportunities for plant operators;
- Consider alternative strategies for communities of various sizes to develop capacity-building activities, especially financial capacity;
- Provide capital improvement planning assistance to communities of all sizes; and
- Encourage citizen participation in water conservation and provide information on the growing needs of water and wastewater systems and the options for reducing costs and financing in water and wastewater to help reduce the demand for infrastructure.

Copies of [Rural Pennsylvania's Water and Wastewater Infrastructure](#) are available online.

The [Center for Rural Pennsylvania](#) is a bipartisan, bicameral legislative agency that serves as a resource for rural policy within the General Assembly. The Center Board is currently chaired by Sen. John Gordner (R-Columbia).

### Volunteers Needed for Rain, Snow Monitoring Network

The [Penn State Master Well Owner's program](#) will hold a training session for anyone interested in joining the program on August 2 in Summit Hill near Jim Thorpe.

The program will start at 6:30 p.m. and will be held at the [Carbon County Environmental Education Center](#), 151 East White Bear Dr., Summit Hill, at the west end of Mauch Chunk Lake Park. ([map](#))

It can be fun to monitor the precipitation that falls in your own backyard and then compare it to other places in Carbon County, and even the entire state.

During the period of June 20 through June 29, when the destructive flooding occurred, Frank Waksmunski, one of the founders of the Carbon County Groundwater Guardians and a Penn State Master Well Owner, measured 11.26 inches of rain. There were higher amounts recorded at other sites.

Penn State University's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences has set up a network of volunteers across Pennsylvania who monitor rain and snow amounts. The program is called FROST. It is administered by the Pennsylvania State Climatologist.

Volunteer opportunities are open to all Pennsylvania residents, who will take daily observations (when possible) of rain and snow measurements. These observations will then be reported through a user-friendly web entry form. It is also sent automatically to the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) at the Colorado Climate Center at Colorado State University.

The information collected by Pennsylvania volunteers during the recent heavy rain was used by the National Weather Service to predict the crest of local creeks and rivers. This data collected on the ground is much more accurate than Doppler radar estimates. Paul Knight, senior lecturer and Pennsylvania State Climatologist at Penn State University, will be on hand to explain the program.

Everyone is welcome and you do not need to live in Carbon County to join. Youngsters can join too, but need to come with a parent or guardian. There is no fee for this training session, but registration is necessary to insure enough material is on hand.

To register, call the center at 570-645-8597 or e-mail [frank@carbonwaters.org](mailto:frank@carbonwaters.org) .  
For more information, visit the [Carbon County Groundwater Guardians website](#)

### **Remining Permit Issued for Westmoreland Abandoned Mine**

DEP's Greensburg District Mining Office issued a remining permit that will result in the reclamation of 8.7 acres of abandoned mine lands and restore the health of a stream in the Yougiogheny River watershed.

By permitting the mining companies to mine remaining coal reserves and reclaim these sites in return for the value of the coal, these projects will save the Commonwealth approximately \$60,000 in abandoned mine reclamation costs.

Earlier this month, Albert Stiffler received the permit to remine and reclaim 8.7 acres of abandoned mine lands in the Pittsburgh coal seam in Mt. Pleasant Township, Westmoreland County.

The company will daylight, or expose, extensive underground mine workings that are contributing to surface and groundwater pollution in the area, and remove the remaining coal reserves. The site will then be graded to approximate original contours as required under modern mining regulations, and vegetated with grasses specially formulated to grow on abandoned mine lands.

For more information, visit DEP's [Remining Incentives webpage](#).

### **Builders for the Bay Roundtable Promotes Watershed-Friendly Development**

Communities in Blair County will now have guidance on how to protect their region's natural resources in the face of new commercial and residential development.

On June 7, representatives from seven municipalities, local engineers, local builders, environmental groups and government agencies released the "[Recommended Model Development Principles for Blair County, Pennsylvania](#) – Consensus of the Local Site Planning Roundtable."

This guidance document is the result of a 12-month roundtable consensus process to revise local building regulations to promote development that is sensitive to the area's watershed resources.

The report includes a series of recommended changes to subdivision and land development and zoning regulations that will better manage stormwater, preserve and enhance existing natural areas, and reduce pollution in the streams that ultimately reach the Chesapeake Bay.

This roundtable is the latest in a series of roundtable efforts called Builders for the Bay. Established in 2001 by the Center for Watershed Protection, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and the National Association of Home Builders, Builders for the Bay roundtables are designed to promote sound land use development throughout the Bay watershed.

The timing for this process in Blair County is crucial as improvements to Interstate 99 in the northern region of the county will bring additional growth and development along this corridor in the near future.

Reliance on small reservoirs for public water supplies makes protecting the recharge area to these supplies an important consideration in land use planning and development. Builders for the Bay facilitators worked with Allegheny, Blair, Frankstown, Logan and Snyder townships, boroughs of Duncansville and Hollidaysburg, Blair County

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Builders Association and representatives from local conservation and planning organizations to:

- Adapt national model development principals to local development codes and ordinances;
- Examine changes and recommendations that would increase flexibility in site design standards; and
- Foster development that better protects environmental resources while remaining economically viable for the development community.

“A key element in these roundtables is the educational value,” explains Pat Devlin, director of Policy and Protection for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. Diverse stakeholders such as developers, environmental organizations, landscape architects, zoning officials, conservation districts, fire officials and builders benefit from a rare opportunity to come together and discuss changes that will benefit their own communities.

“Once the members talk through the issues related to site design and site plan reviews, they more often than not come to agreement on how local ordinances can be changes to both protect local water quality and produce a marketable product.”

According to Bob Buddenbohn, executive officer of the Blair County Builders Association, the recommendations “are environmentally-friendly and seek to conserve the natural resources that are valued by all Blair Countians. At the same time, the recommendations offer builders, developers and engineers practical and cost-effective options that result in low impact development.

When implemented, some of the recommendations might actually result in reduced development costs, which can translate into a more affordable home for new buyers. The roundtable should be congratulated for producing a set of recommendations in which everyone is the winner!”

The Blair County Builders for the Bay roundtable was made possible by the generous support of the Chesapeake Bay Program, Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program through the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, and the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program.

[Copies of the consensus guidelines are available online.](#)

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania webpage for Builders for the Bay](#) or contact the [Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#), 3310 Market Street, Suite A, Camp Hill, PA 17011; telephone 717-737-8622; or send e-mail to: [pdevlin@acb-online.org](mailto:pdevlin@acb-online.org)

### **Sponsor An Event for the 4th Annual York County Watershed Weekend**

The [Watershed Alliance of York](#) (WAY) will be sponsoring its [4th Annual Watershed Weekend](#) in York County on September 23 and 24.

There will also be a Conference on the Sustainability of York County on September 23.

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.

For example, a stream cleanup, riparian buffer planting or any activity 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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New this year-- anybody sponsoring a stream cleanup is eligible for a grant to cover expenses of equipment, materials and supplies.

Individuals and families are encouraged through multi-media Public Service Announcements to tour one or more of their local watersheds and attend the specific activities being hosted by each group.

WAY will prepare and distribute beforehand a self-guided tour brochure listing all of the planned activities, a brief description and directions to your location.

Partnering organization 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's responsibility will be to get as many organizations and people involved in the tour as possible.

What type of venue should you sponsor? Experience shows us that people want to learn and engage in most hands on activities.

Some examples to consider are: litter cleanups, tree plantings, invasive species removal, hiking, biking and boating. WAY recommends that you keep it simple, fun and safe.

To sponsor an event, please notify WAY by August 15 and provide the following information: Organization Name, Venue Title, Venue Description (1 paragraph), Date(s) & Time(s), Watershed, Contact Person & Information

For more information about how to get involved in Watershed Weekend 2006 or the York Sustainability Conference, contact Gary R. Peacock of WAY by sending email to: [gpeacock@yorkccd.org](mailto:gpeacock@yorkccd.org) or call 717-840-7430.

### **PA Invasive Species Council Seeking Input on Developing Management Plan**

The [Governor's Invasive Species Council](#) is in the process of developing an aquatic invasive species management plan and is asking for input into shaping the potential contents of the plan, according to Sarah N. Whitney, Chair of the Council's AIS Management Plan Committee.

The goal of the plan is to minimize the harmful ecological, economic and human health impacts of AIS through the prevention and management of their introduction, expansion and dispersal into, within and from Pennsylvania.

One component of the AISMP will be a section of management actions to address the most immediate and pressing problems. The Council is seeking input to help identify the specific strategies and tasks that will make up this section.

The management actions section will be broken into the following categories: Leadership, Coordination and Policy; Prevention; Early Detection; Rapid Response; Monitoring and Inventory; Control and Management; Research and Risk Assessment; and Education and Outreach

Each category will have an overall objective, as well as more specific strategies and tasks to meet that objective. You can see examples of these strategies in the [Hawaii AIS Management Plan](#), starting on page 4-2 and the [Maine AIS Management Plan](#), starting on page 19.

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[A draft of potential action items](#) for dealing with AIS in Pennsylvania is available online. This draft document was created by reviewing AIS plans for other states and pulling out the concepts that might be applicable to Pennsylvania.

This is just the beginning of the plan development process. Once the Council has a complete list of potential management actions, they will ask for more help to prioritize the actions so the Council can determine what activities should be tackled first.

Please submit your ideas for additional action items or questions to Sarah Whitney, who is with the Pennsylvania Sea Grant Program, by email to: [swhitney@psu.edu](mailto:swhitney@psu.edu) or call 610-304-8753 by August 7.

### **Lehigh University Selected to Assess Industrial Energy Efficiency**

[Lehigh University in Bethlehem](#), Northampton County, is one of 26 universities across the country selected for negotiation of award to set up and operate [regional Industrial Assessment Centers](#).

The centers will employ faculty and students to assist small-to-medium sized American manufacturing plants to use energy more efficiently.

The IAC program is intended to train young engineers to better understand how the role of energy efficiency and renewable energy can play in manufacturing and industrial processes. Participating students gain practical experience and hands-on training in energy engineering.

The IAC program also helps America's small- and medium-sized manufacturers and industrial processors receive comprehensive, energy assessments of their operations, performed at no cost.

For purposes of the assessments, the U.S. Department of Energy defines small and medium-sized manufacturers as those with annual energy costs between \$100,000 and \$2.5 million.

[A list of IAC Best Energy Practices is also available online.](#)

More information, visit the [Lehigh University Industrial Assessment Center webpage](#).

### **PA's Annual Green Power-Turn It On! Awards Luncheon in September**

On September 21, PennFuture will honor people, businesses and institutions that are blazing the trail towards a cleaner and healthier Pennsylvania by purchasing green power, advancing policies that develop the renewable energy market and taking the lead in creating new renewable energy supplies.

The annual Green Power-Turn It On! Awards this year will recognize these award winners: Messiah College; Episcopal Academy; Haverford College; Westtown School; Three Sisters Farm; W.D.Wells Nursery; Elmwood Park Zoo; Monk's Café; Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority; Kiehl's Since 1851; REI; Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia; Lower Makefield Township; Solar Power Industries; Turkey Hill; Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS); AFC First Financial Corp (AFC); Green Building Alliance; Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency; Felician Sisters, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Province; Bradley Builders & Developers, Inc.;

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Worley & Obetz; Keystone BioFuels; Penn State University; Rabbittransit & York County; the City of York.

The event will be held at the Hilton Inn at Penn, Philadelphia.

To register for this unique event, visit the PennFuture [online registration webpage](#) or call 1-800-321-7775.

### National Renewable Energy Conference Set for October



On October 10-12, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Energy will co-host a national renewable energy conference to help create partnerships and strategies necessary to accelerate commercialization of renewable energy industries and distribution systems

The “[Advancing Renewable Energy: An American Rural Renaissance](#),” will be held in St. Louis, Missouri.

From Wall Street to Main Street, investors are seeking to understand potential markets. This conference will focus on elements of President Bush's Advanced Energy Initiative, specifically biomass, wind and solar research and commercialization.

USDA and DOE expect the conference to identify major impediments, review challenges and make recommendations to help accelerate renewable energy technology development; examine key incentives that would help promote certainty and reduce risk for investors and developers in the marketplace; review challenges of developing new distribution systems; and raise public awareness.

USDA and DOE expect conference attendees to cover a broad spectrum of interests, including: agriculture, energy, transportation, financial and investment, federal and state government, and elected officials.

For the past several years, USDA Rural Development has provided renewable energy grants. During FY 2005, 154 grants totaling over \$22 million were awarded.

Since the start of the Bush Administration, Rural Development has funded more than \$356 million in renewable energy and energy efficiency ventures through various programs.

For more information, visit the [Advancing Renewable Energy: An American Rural Renaissance Conference webpage](#).

### Maria Elvia Zavala Wins Sue Wiseman Scholarship from PA Cleanways



PA CleanWays announced this week that Maria Elvia Zavala of Chester County, has been named recipient of the 2006 Sue Wiseman Scholarship.

The [Sue Wiseman Scholarship](#), an annual \$1,000 award, honors youth who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication to reducing littering and illegal dumping.

Maria received the award for the initiation of a community project she named, “Loving Our

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Community.” The mission of the project was to clean up all polluted areas in the community, as well as to paint over graffiti, in some instances with an artistic mural.

“This was an important project,” Maria said, “because of the example we were setting for others about keeping our environment clean and respecting other people’s property as well as ourselves.”

As a board member of Mexican American National Association, Maria, age 19, hopes to promote positive attitudes toward the Mexican community and will continue to develop, organize, and participate in the “Loving Our Community” project. Maria attends Penn State University.

Applicants were judged on initiative and self-motivation, ability to demonstrate leadership, commitment to the environment, use of local resources, partnerships formed, and the project’s ability to educate the public.

PA CleanWays extends many thanks to our judging team: Sue Wiseman, founder of PA CleanWays; Leanne Griffith, Westmoreland Conservation District Education Coordinator; and Shelly Radomski, Certified Elementary Educator.

The scholarship is named for Sue Wiseman, whose own commitment and dedication to a cleaner environment led to the founding of PA CleanWays, a statewide nonprofit organization that helps people who are ready to take action against littering and illegal dumping in their communities.

Since 1990, [PA CleanWays](#) has been dedicated to empowering people to resolve and prevent these destructive problems. PA CleanWays community-based approach has resulted in the removal of 561 illegal dump sites statewide. More than 28,786 volunteers helped remove and properly dispose of nearly 9,000 tons of trash and over 300,000 tires.

The Sue Wiseman Scholarship is open to Pennsylvania youth, ages 16-21, who have initiated and carried out personal project(s) that address littering, illegal dumping, recycling, proper disposal, beautification, or education. An education project must address one of the other topics listed.

Applications and project requirements are due May 1, 2007. PA CleanWays is currently [accepting scholarship applications](#).

### **Save the Date - State College Hosts East Coast Soil Builders Conference in 2007**

The East Coast Soil Builders Conference will be held September 20-21, 2007 in State College, sponsored by the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania and the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service.

This conference was formerly known as the PA Manufactured Soils Conference.

The program includes workshop sessions on topics like: manufactured soils for water quality improvement at the watershed scale, policy and regulation, the science of manufactured soils, marketing and economics and manufactured soils and integrated water management.

The 2007 event will feature equipment demos for composting and soil manufacturing.

For more information and exhibitor information, watch the [www.PROPRecycles.org](http://www.PROPRecycles.org) website.

## **Register Now for Land Conservation Appraisers Workshop At Tom Ridge Center**

Register today for the Land Conservation Appraisals Seminar to be held on September 18 from 9:00 a.m - 5:00 p.m. at the [Tom Ridge Environmental Center](#) located directly outside the entrance of the Presque Isle State Park.

The goal of this seminar is to educate those working in land conservation to make the best decisions throughout the appraisal process. The seminar is intended for land conservation and agricultural preservation staff, board members and volunteers as well as appraisers, attorneys and government officials.

Legal and appraisal continuing education credits available.

[To register online](#) or for more information contact Nicole Faraguna by sending email to: [nfaraguna@conserveland.org](mailto:nfaraguna@conserveland.org) or call 717-909-1298.

## **Who Needs the French Countryside When You Can Bike in PA?**

Who needs the French countryside and the Tour de France when you can bike in Pennsylvania?

[Cycling in Pennsylvania](#), where the varied terrain, extensive trail systems and scenic beauty, make for some of the best biking anywhere.

Novice and professional bikers alike can discover dozens of bike trails in this region along with hundreds more across the state by logging onto [www.visitPA.com](http://www.visitPA.com) to search for biking trails across the Commonwealth.

Pennsylvania offers a wide variety of bicycle adventures. Rocky trails and steep ascents will delight experienced bikers while gentler trails welcome novice riders. The state's Rails-to-Trails program has converted more than 800 miles of former railroad beds into trails for biking pleasure. Don't have a bike? Outfitters located throughout the state can supply rental bikes and equipment.

Biking roadtrips featured on [www.visitPA.com](http://www.visitPA.com) include Rugged Roadways, Southern Biking Trek, Bike Southwestern PA, Mountain Roadways, Pennsylvania Wilds and Route 6. The Southern Biking Trek takes cyclists through a region rich in cycling history, the Alleghenies and her Valleys region, named one of the "five top bicycle areas in the country" by Bicycling Magazine.

How seriously does Pennsylvania take biking? Follow along online again this year as the [www.visitPA.com](http://www.visitPA.com)'s mountain bike racing team competes throughout the season. Read the latest updates, team blogs and rider race reports, and see the detailed race schedule.

And who can forget the primer biking event in Pennsylvania— the [International Tour De Toona](#).

For more information, visit the [biking webpage](#) on [www.visitpa.com](http://www.visitpa.com) , or call 800-VISIT PA.

## **Antlerless Deer License Application Process Now Open to Hunters**

The Game Commission announced this week that hunters can begin applying for regular antlerless deer license applications August 7 for resident hunters and August 21 for non-residents.



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Antlerless deer license applications must be sent to the Game Commission via 22 different Post Office boxes and the agency, in turn, will forward them to county treasurers for processing. All applications for antlerless deer licenses - regular, as well as unsold - must be submitted through the U.S. Mail (first-class only). Express and priority mail will not be accepted.

After August 7, the Game Commission will launch the popular "[Doe License Update](#)" page on its website to provide hunters with updates on the availability of antlerless deer licenses. Notices for Wildlife Management Units that have sold out will be posted as soon as possible.

The Game Commission also reminded hunters that those looking for new antlerless deer hunting opportunities are encouraged to review the list of [Deer Management Assistance Program \(DMAP\)](#) properties now available on the Game Commission's website.

[The complete antlerless deer hunting announcement is available online.](#)

### **75 State Forest, Parks Enrolled In Deer Management Assistance Program**

More than [874,000 acres of state forest and parkland](#) have been enrolled by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in the Game Commission's Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP).

The DMAP program, offering landowners the chance to request additional antlerless deer permits to be made available to hunters, enables DCNR and others to more effectively manage white-tailed deer and curb damage to crops and forestland.

This year, DCNR is requesting the Game Commission issue 17,642 coupons to hunters to pursue deer on 63 state forest sites and 12 separate state park sites. In 2005, 21,561 coupons were sought to hunt in 58 state forests.

In one notable change this year, Tuscarora State Forest will not participate in the DMAP program. Managers of the district encompassing sections of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry and Cumberland counties were satisfied with a recent surge of forest regeneration measured on their tracts, and no longer believe additional doe harvests through the DMAP program are needed.

Other areas of state forests were removed, including DMAP Area No. 44, the "Pennsylvania Grand Canyon" region of Tioga State Forest in Tioga County.

Other tracts were added to the program as a result of vegetation and browsing impact analyses. Susquehannock State Forest, in Potter, Clinton and McKean counties, added several tracts south of Coudersport and Denton Hill State Park in Potter County.

State Forester Dr. James W. Grace noted the DMAP changes follow the recent completion of "the most intensive survey of forest regeneration and browsing impact ever done in Pennsylvania."

On August 7, the Bureau of Forestry will begin accepting applications by mail only. Beginning August 21, the bureau will accept applications from walk-ins, and by mail, telephone, and its online application page.

To obtain applications for state forest or parkland on or after August 1, hunters can visit [DCNR's DMAP webpage](#).

For more DMAP details contact Merlin Benner, wildlife specialist, Bureau of Forestry at 570-724-8140 or send email to: [jobenner@state.pa.us](mailto:jobenner@state.pa.us).

## See & Hear

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### Learn About Pennsylvania's Enviro-Pioneers

Many people know Rachel Carson as the pioneer of the modern environmental movement, others may know John James Audubon or J.I. Rodale, but you may not know Maurice Goddard or Rosalie Edge. Together they all had a profound affect on how we look at our environment and how we protect it.

Learn about these and many other environmental leaders from Pennsylvania in the [GreenTreks Network, Inc.](#) online video production, [Enviro-Pioneers](#).

The Department of Environmental Protection also produced a series of 18 [Environmental Hero trading cards](#) and learning activities that introduce you to even more of Pennsylvania's environmental leaders.

## Special Photo Feature

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### State Historical Marker Dedicated at Quecreek Mine Rescue Event



Ed Popernack (right), father of rescued miner Mark Popernack and Russell Hess, father of then DEP Secretary David Hess, unveiled the Marker.

A crowd of more than 150 helped the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation dedicate an official State Historical Marker to commemorate the efforts to rescue nine miners trapped in the [Quecreek Mine](#) in July 2002.

[A special photo feature of the dedication ceremony is available online.](#)

Participants in the dedication included Laura Fisher, Commissioner Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Rep. Bob Bastian, Sen. Richard Kasunic, Joe Scaffoni, DEP Directory of Deep Mine Safety, James Marker, Somerset County Commissioner, David Hess, former Secretary DEP and Bill Arnold, President of the Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation. Bill Brown, WJAC-TV morning anchor, was master of ceremonies.

Four of the nine rescued miners also attended the event: Ron Hileman, Tom Foy, Blaine Mayhugh and Robert Pugh.

“There was unanimous agreement in the Marker Committee that this extraordinary event that meant so much to so many people should be recognized through our Marker program,” said Commissioner Laura Fisher. “The Commission is very pleased to be able to help tell the public about this extraordinary event.”

“We were honored the state Historical and Museum Commission approved a State Historical Marker this year to remember the efforts of all those involved in the Quecreek

Mine Rescue,” said Bill Arnold, President of the Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation. “This is the fourth anniversary of the rescue and each year more and more people want to learn about what happened here and this marker will help us tell the story.”

The text on the blue and gold historic marker reads--

### QUECREEK MINE ACCIDENT AND RESCUE

On July 28, 2002, nine coal miners, trapped for four days due to flooding of the Quecreek Mine, were saved via a rescue shaft drilled here. Combined efforts of local, state, and federal agencies, mining and other industries, local mine workers, emergency responders, and community members led to the rescue. The incident prompted changes in mine safety, mapping, and drilling methods. It roused national media and public attention.

The Historical Marker was unveiled by Ed Popernack, father of rescued miner Mark Popernack and Russell Hess, father of then DEP Secretary David Hess.

The PHMC Historical Marker Program began in 1914 to commemorate a person, event or site that has a meaningful impact on its times and is of statewide or national, rather than only local significance. Nominations for markers are reviewed and approved by a panel of independent historical experts from across the state.

The next project to be undertaken by the Foundation is the construction of a visitors’ center at the Rescue Site that will be modeled on the Sipesville Fire Hall where family and friends of the trapped miners gathered to comfort each other and hear updates on rescue operations from Gov. Mark Schweiker and state and federal mine rescue officials.

Plans to move the entire fire hall to the Rescue Site had to be abandoned because of structural problems with the building after the fire company built a new fire hall, but the Foundation hopes to bring portions of the original building to the site to be used in the new visitors’ center.

The Rescue Site is located on a farm owned by Bill and Lori Arnold that continues in operation while the Arnolds and volunteers host bus and car loads of visitors that tour the site every year.

The Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation depends on donations from the public and sponsors to underwrite projects like this and to educate the public about the Rescue Site. Contact the Foundation by writing: 151 Haupt Road, Somerset, PA 15501 or calling 814-445-4876 or by visiting: [www.QuecreekRescue.org](http://www.QuecreekRescue.org) .

**NewsClips:** [Quecreek Mine Rescue Commemorated with Historic Marker](#)  
[Quecreek Mine Rescue Site Dedicated as Historic Site](#)  
[Editorial: Quecreek Four Years Later](#)

**Links:** [Special Photo Feature on July 2002 Quecreek Mine Rescue](#)  
[Original Photos from the 2002 Quecreek Mine Rescue](#)  
[“Nine for Nine” Commemorative Quecreek Mine Rescue Booklet](#)

Register Now For  
[Pennsylvania Conference on Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#)

## Opinion

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### **Comments on DEP's Proposed Rule Regulating Mercury Emissions from Power Plants**

By

Victor Fiore, President Local 29  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

My name is Victor Fiore and I am here today representing the 1,800 members of Local 29 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Allegheny and Beaver Counties.

We have 168 members who work in two coal-fired power plants in our area—Cheswick, Elrama, and Brunot Island a gas-fired power plant. We also work with three electric generating companies Reliant Energy, First Energy and Duquesne.

Statewide the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers represents 32,000 members in the electric generating, construction, telephone and other industries. Over 8,786 work in the electric utility industry -- 2,496 in coal-burning power plants.

I like to keep things simple, but controlling mercury emissions from power plants is not a simple issue. But, the bottom line is this – we need a cap and trade program in this regulation to help electric generating companies recover their investments in the advanced air pollution controls they need to reduce mercury emissions.

If they cannot recover their investments, they have to make up their budgets one way or another at these plants and in that process the most expendable items are employees, benefits and the smaller power plants.

I've done my homework on this issue. I met with DEP Secretary McGinty twice, talked to my companies and went to one of the hearings held by Sen. Mary Jo White in Harrisburg.

When you listen to all the testimony and talk to the people I have, several facts are clear—

- Studies show there is no difference in the environment between zeroing out ALL mercury emissions from ALL U.S. power plants and adopting the federal Clean Air Mercury Rule with a cap and trade program;
- Companies will not put advanced air pollution controls on small, old plants and if they cannot put these controls on in a cost-effective way they will be shut down and we lose jobs;
- Companies will bring power in from other states to make up the difference and that means jobs will move to those other states; and
- Companies will switch to burning coal from other states because it has less mercury than the coal we have here in Pennsylvania and that means we lose jobs again in our coal mines and the drivers in the trucks that haul the coal to our power plants.

In my opinion we need the answers to these basic questions before we can even consider adopting a rule that does not include a cap and trade program—

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1. Why do we need to go beyond the federal Clean Air Mercury rule? I have not seen any information that convinces me that we should do something different than the federal rule or that we have a health crisis involving mercury emissions from power plants.

2. What are the benefits to us in Pennsylvania if we go beyond the federal rule? Again, we have not seen any more benefits on either the health side or for the economy if we adopt the DEP rule over the federal rule. I only see that our members will lose jobs if the DEP rule is adopted without a cap and trade program.

3. What will happen to our jobs and our economy if these plants do shut down? And how many plants will close? And how will that affect the price of electricity? I would like to see the studies that DEP has done on these potential impacts.

We recognize we have to reduce mercury emissions, everyone knows that, but we have to do it in a balanced way that does not have a negative impact on jobs and our economy.

The federal Clean Air Mercury Rule already requires Pennsylvania power plants to reduce mercury emissions by 86 percent. Using a cap and trade program, the larger plants can install scrubbers and other pollution controls that can remove mercury in a more cost-effective way. Those extra credits can then be sold to smaller plants who cannot install those controls.

Just last week, Reliant Energy announced they will invest over \$250 million in new air pollution control equipment at one of the plants I represent—Cheswick. Power plant owners will make the investments in equipment, they just have to be sure they can get that investment back through the competitive electricity market we have here in Pennsylvania.

Some of the plants we represent were the first ones in the United States to have scrubbers installed in the 1970s. At that time the environmental people got together with the power plant owners and gave them special financing to help them install that equipment.

Today we should all be looking for ways of cooperating to help reduce mercury emissions so that everyone wins.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers was founded in 1891 in St. Louis, Missouri by electric linemen who were concerned about their safety. At that time one out of every two linemen were killed on the job.

We are very proud of our record on health and safety issues and would not jeopardize that record by recommending something that would put our workers, our families and our communities in danger.

If you adopt this regulation without a cap and trade program, you will put our livelihoods, our families and our communities at risk for no benefit to the environment or our economy.

Thank you for allowing me to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Victor Fiore** is President – Local 29, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He presented these comments to the Environmental Quality Board on July 25 in Pittsburgh.

He can be contacted by calling 412-922-6969 or sending email to:  
[IBEW.VIC@verizon.net](mailto:IBEW.VIC@verizon.net)

## Quick Clips

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

[Tests Show First Human Case of West Nile Virus](#)  
[Luzerne County Collection Nets 14,000 Tires](#)  
[Chance to Say Thanks to Montour Trail Leader](#)  
[Water Trails Planned for Butler County](#)  
[County Eyes Freezing Tax on Farms](#)  
[Nature Center Is In Search of An Audience](#)  
[Tracking Pennsylvania's Elusive Barn Owls](#)  
[Cracking the Avian Code](#)  
[Mill Grove A Haven for Birds of Prey](#)  
[Growth Plan Backers in Quandary](#)  
[State Judges Tell Trail Opponents to Take a Hike](#)  
[Pollution Prevention Loan Helps Company Reduce Energy Costs, Material Waste](#)  
[Energy Plan Could Save Money for Warrior Run School Board](#)  
[Energy Conservation Expands Across PSU](#)  
[Affordability of Hydroelectric Dam Explored](#)  
[Editorial: State Energy Plan](#)  
[Pennsylvania Ranked 13th in Wind Energy Capacity](#)  
[Electric Power Research Institute Launches Biomass Fuel Research Project](#)

## Watershed NewsClips

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

[Catawissa Creek – No Longer Dead In the Water](#)  
[Bassmasters Coming Back to Pittsburgh](#)  
[Water Quality Study Gives Perkiomen Clean Bill of Health](#)  
[Wyoming County Lends Support to Abandoned Mines Fund](#)  
[Santorum Pushing Abandoned Mines Fix](#)  
[Tunkhannock Creek Protections Supported](#)  
[Conococheaque Watershed Study to Help Officials Plan for Future](#)  
[Status of Bowman & Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Assessment](#)  
[Gone With the Dams](#)  
[Northumberland County Talks of Breaching Dam](#)  
[Dead Fish Polo](#)  
[Dangers Lurk in Flowing Streams](#)  
[Toby Creek Groups Looks to Secure Grants for Flood Damage](#)  
[Editorial: Cooperate on Water](#)  
[Outdoors: Train Derailment Highlights Environmental Dangers](#)

## Regulations

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The Department of Community and Economic Development published final-omitted rules [changing building conservation standards](#) and the State Board of Landscape Architects [published proposed changes](#) to its rules governing the practice of landscape architecture.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – July 29, 2006](#)

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

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

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

## Technical Guidance & Permits

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No new guidance documents were published this week.

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

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

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **August 3** – DEP [Critical Water Planning Area Subcommittee](#) meeting. 10th floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **August 7** – House Consumer Affairs Committee holds an informational meeting on [House Bill 2658](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) prohibiting the sale of thermostats that use mercury. Room 140 Capitol Building. 1:00.
- **August 8** – DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 112, Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Erie. 7:00 p.m.
- **August 22** – House Local Government Committee public hearing on [House Bill 2564](#) (Maitland-R-Franklin) amending the Municipalities Planning Code to provide for local impact fees. Chambersburg Administration Building. 10:00.
- **August 29** – **Change, This Call Will Occur.** [State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators conference call.](#)
- **September 13** – [DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **September 19-20** – [State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators.](#) 10th Floor Rachel Carson Building. 10:00 and 8:30 respectively.

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- **October 31-November 5** – [National Historic Preservation Conference](#). National Trust for Historic Preservation. Pittsburgh.

### [DEP Calendar of Events](#)

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

### [Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

### **Helpful Web Links**

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[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**

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Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to **PA Environment Digest** - [DHess@HolstonCrisci.com](mailto:DHess@HolstonCrisci.com) or go to [www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com](http://www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com) .

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