

# — PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

August 7, 2006

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## PA's Team Takes Second Place in 2006 Cannon Envirothon Competition



Team members (l to r): Michelle Henry, Vic Janmey, Aimee Davis, Teresa Slifer, and Emily Moberg. Advisors not pictured: Mark Samilenko and Chrissa Kuntz.

The [Penncrest High School](#) Envirothon Team from Delaware County took second place honors at the [2006 Cannon Envirothon](#) competition in Winnipeg, Canada last weekend.

Team members included: Michelle Henry, Vic Janmey, Aimee Davis, Teresa Slifer, and Emily Moberg and advisors Mark Samilenko and Chrissa Kuntz.

More than 250 teenagers from 44 U.S. states and eight Canadian provinces studied environmental issues and resource conservation, while competing for a share of more than \$90,000 in college scholarships and prizes.

The Pennsylvania team will receive a total of \$20,000 in scholarships along with

Canon photo equipment.

A team from Virginia took top honors, with Texas coming in third, California fourth and Ohio fifth.

Organized in cooperation with the National Association of Conservation Districts in the U.S. and The Canadian Forestry Association, the Canon Envirothon tests teams on their knowledge of soil/land use, forestry, aquatic ecology, wildlife and natural resources, among other topics.

The theme of this year's competition was Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate, and focused on the role water plays in our lives now and in the future, including aspects such as water quality, supply, use and allocation, and conservation and management.

The [23rd Annual 2006 Pennsylvania State Envirothon](#) was held at Penn State Mont Alto, near Chambersburg in Franklin County on May 22 and 23. High school students from 64 Pennsylvania counties participated in this year's event.

At the state level, the Envirothon is sponsored by Pennsylvania's sixty-six conservation districts, the State Conservation Commission, and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

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The program is managed by a board of directors representing those sponsors. Technical expertise is provided by the following agency partners: Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Game Commission, Fish & Boat Commission, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Financial sponsors of the 2006 Envirothon are Air Products and Chemicals, PPL Corporation, PA Outdoor Writers Association, Nestle Water North America, the PA Department of Education, the PA Fish and Boat Commission, PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, and the PA Growing Greener Program.

In 2006, The Hershey Company, Dwight Lewis Lumber, Lewis Lumber Products, and Cargill joined the Envirothon as Corporate Station Sponsors.

Pennsylvania has won the North American event in 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2003 and 2005. More than 45 states and seven Canadian provinces have initiated Envirothon contests based on the program that was originally developed by Pennsylvania's conservation districts.

For more information on the [Pennsylvania Envirothon](#) program, contact your local county conservation district or Lorelle Steach, Program Coordinator, at the Pennsylvania Envirothon by phone 814-623-7900 ext. 111 or send email to:

[paenvirothon@pennswoods.net](mailto:paenvirothon@pennswoods.net) .

**NewsClip:** [PA Team Comes in Second in National Envirothon Competition](#)

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### Session Schedule

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

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### See & Hear

- Where the Rubber Makes the Road, Recycling Waste Tires in a New Way

### Opinion

- Comments on DEP Proposal to Regulate Mercury from Power Plants, *by Robert Ashbaugh Business Representative Local 459, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*

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## On the Hill

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### Ross Bill Requires Collection, Recycling of Electronic Devices

Rep. Chris Ross (R-Chester) has introduced legislation—[House Bill 7](#) --to establish a program to recycle electronic devices such as television and computer monitors in Pennsylvania.

"Electronic manufacturers and recyclers alike agree that a common multi-state initiative is needed to develop markets for recyclables and avoid a confusing patchwork of legislation in the absence of action on the federal level," Ross said.

Computers and television screens can contain hazardous materials, such as lead, mercury and fire-retardant plastics.

"In addition to protecting the environment, recycling electronic devices allows them to be either reused or broken down into useable parts," Ross said.

Ross said that he and several lawmakers met over a period of 14 months under the auspices of the Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments to address this issue.

"We crafted a model bill, which is currently being introduced in substantially the same form in many northeast and Mid-Atlantic States as well as the Midwest," Ross said.

Ross' legislation requires the Department of Environmental Protection to take competitive bids for the collection, transportation and recycling of the covered electronic devices.

The costs of the program will be paid by the manufacturers and apportioned based on their previous year's market share. A manufacturer can choose to meet its obligation by operating its own recycling program and earn credits if it recycles more than its share.

"There will be no fees paid directly by consumers," Ross said.

## In Other News

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### Bay Foundation Promotes Tax Credits to Help Farmers Protect Water Quality



The [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) is promoting a recently introduced legislative proposal that would give tax credits to farmers and businesses that sponsor farm projects to help reduce water pollution across Pennsylvania.

These credits would help farmers install proven water pollution control practices while remaining profitable.

CBF will be kicking off public promotion of the legislation to the farming community and the general public at this year's [Ag Progress Days](#)

held in State College.

The bipartisan Resource Enhancement and Protection Act of Pennsylvania (REAP) would provide unprecedented assistance to farmers in the form of state tax credits to install best management practices to reduce water pollution.

The proposal was introduced as [Senate Bill 1286](#) by Sen. Noah Wenger (R-Lancaster), Sen. Mike Waugh (R-York) and Sen. Michael O'Pake (D-Berks) and as [House Bill 2878](#) by Rep. Jerry Stern (R-Blair), Rep. Art Hershey (R-Chester) and Rep. Peter Daley (D-Washington) and others.

"Farmers have long recognized the need to be good stewards of the land, but to be good stewards farmers need the right tools and the funding to improve their operations," said CBF's Pennsylvania Executive Director Matt Ehrhart. "This unique program would be the first of its kind in the country to provide farmers transferable tax credits for installing best management practices to reduce pollution and sediments coming from farms."

The bills provide personal and business state tax credits ranging from 25 to 75 percent of the cost to install best management practices like barnyard improvements, riparian buffers, stream fencing and other practices. The development of manure management plans on farmlands, and forested buffers on non-farm lands, would also be eligible for credit.

"The program gives higher tax credits for those BMPs that provide the greatest benefit to our water quality, wildlife and fisheries—practices that provide the biggest bang for the buck," said Ehrhart. "This prioritization is critical because the demand for financial assistance under traditional conservation programs far exceeds available funds from either the state or federal government."

"Strengthening the private sector's role in promoting farm conservation is another key goal of the legislation," said Ehrhart. "REAP creates a sponsorship program that

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allows businesses to sponsor projects on farms in exchange for tax credits in a way that minimizes the government’s role in the program.”

Applicants are eligible for tax credits up to a total of \$150,000 over the life of the program. Businesses can sponsor an unlimited number of projects on farms.

To provide flexibility, tax credits under REAP may be sold by a taxpayer that does not have a tax liability of their own to another taxpayer that does. This allows farmers with minimal tax liability to participate in the program. Taxpayers can also roll tax credits forward to cover future tax liabilities for up to 15 years.

These and other features of REAP are based on the successful Educational Improvement and Research and Development Tax Credit Programs already enacted in Pennsylvania.

The legislation caps the number of tax credits that can be issued over the five year life of the program. The first year up to \$50,000,000 can be issued and \$100,000,000 in each of the successive four years. The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue would administer REAP as it does other tax credit programs.

“Finding new ways to help farm families deal with the financial squeeze of farming today is a challenge,” said Ehrhart. “This legislation provides farmers with new resources to improve the environment—a clear win for everyone—and we want to congratulate all the Senate and House sponsors for introducing this legislation.”

The REAP Program will help Pennsylvania meet its obligations under the 2000 Chesapeake Bay Agreement to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution going to the Chesapeake Bay by over 38 million pounds a year by 2010.

CBF will be speaking to the farming community about the legislation at Ag Progress Days, Pennsylvania’s largest outdoor agricultural exposition. [Ag Progress Days](#) are being held August 15 to 17 at Rock Springs, nine miles southwest of State College on PA Route 45.

For more information, visit the [CBF Pennsylvania webpage](#) or call 717-234-5550.

### Conservation Districts Support Tax Credit Proposal, Give Out Awards



PACD President Victor Cappucci (R) presenting the Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation District Director Excellence Award to Malcolm Crooks.

The [Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts](#) held their 59th annual meeting last week in State College honoring several members and partners with [conservation awards](#) and endorsed [a series of position statements](#) on the PA Resource Enhancement Tax Credit legislation, the federal Farm Bill and legacy sediments.

The PACD gathering was part of an 11 state meeting that attracted over 350 people. The State Conservation Commission also held its summer meeting at the same time.

The policy position statements adopted by PACD included:

- Endorsing the PA Resource Enhancement and Protection Tax Credit proposal ([Senate Bill 1286](#) and [House Bill 2878](#)) that would give farmers and

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- landowners tax credits for installing best management practices;
- Recommended additional funding for the Natural Resources and Conservation Service and conservation districts in the 2007 Farm Bill to assist landowners and land users with conservation practices;
- Opposed a mandatory matching requirement under the Growing Greener Program because it would prohibit a significant number of organizations from participating;
- PACD acknowledged the impact of legacy sediment on water quality in the Commonwealth and supported adequate funding to address legacy sediment removal and the restoration of streams; and
- Supported the Second Phase of the Farmers First Agenda for vocational agriculture education, centers for agricultural excellence and education, school nutrition programs, and funding for an agricultural consumptive water use project.

The Ann Rudd Saxman Conservation District Director Excellence Award was given this year to **Malcolm Crooks**, director at the Bucks County Conservation District. The Award is given to a conservation district director or associate director for his or her outstanding volunteer efforts that have furthered the activities and accomplishments of conservation districts on a statewide basis.

The Conservation District Employee Excellence Award was given to **Dan Greig**, manager of the Chester County Conservation District for his outstanding efforts furthering the activities and accomplishments of conservation districts on a statewide basis.

The PACD President's Award, selected by PACD President Victor Cappucci, was presented to the Harrisburg office and technical center staff.

The Harrisburg Office includes **Kathleen Banski**, director of administration and education; **Molly Burns**, administrative assistant; **Susan Marquart**, executive director; **Kim Mumper**, education specialist; **Brenda Shambaugh**, government relations/policy specialist; **Lisa Jo Suhr**, office manager; and **Shannon Wehinger**, communication specialist.

PACD also employs six engineering staff in technical centers across the state. They include: **Justin Griebel**, conservation technician in the Clarion office; **Eric Robertson**, conservation engineer and **Phillip Gardner**, conservation technician in the Somerset office; **John Coleman**, conservation engineering specialist and **Owen Hess**, conservation technician in the Bloomsburg office; and **Frank Harvatine**, conservation technician in the Lebanon office.

The PACD President's Award is given to an individual, organization, or agency for their outstanding efforts that have resulted in furthering the accomplishments of PACD.

Patricia Sueck, from York County, was re-elected as Chair of the National Association of Conservation Districts NE Region at the meeting and said "I'm thrilled to again represent Pennsylvania as chair of the NE region."

Conference participants had the opportunity to attend a number of tours and workshops on various topics including legacy sediment which is sediment collected in stream beds over hundreds of years, environmentally sound maintenance of dirt and gravel roads, nutrient management, stormwater management, air quality/odors, and acid rock drainage.

The following PACD officers were re-elected for another term: Victor Cappucci (*Wyoming*) – President, Larry Kehl (*Northampton*) – 1st Vice-President, Irvil Kear

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(*Schuylkill*) – 2nd Vice-President, George Hildenbrandt (*Centre*) – Secretary, Porter Duvall (*Jefferson*) – Treasurer

For more information, visit the [PACD website](#) and look at [more photos of the award winners online](#).

### Mifflin's Dan Dunmire Receives Regional Conservation District Honor



Timothy M. Riley, NACD District Coordinator (L) and Dan Dunmire, Mifflin County.

The Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees gave its 2006 NACDE Conservation Award to Dan Dunmire, Manager of the Mifflin County Conservation District, last week.

The Conservation Award recognizes professionalism and dedication in the people behind the Northeast Region's conservation programs.

Dan Dunmire has served as Manager in Mifflin County for nine years and in that time developed a 5-year strategic plan, established a district committee structure and doubled the number of district employees. A credit to his

management is the high retention rate among employees-- no employee has left the district since he became manager.

Dan encourages employees to take the initiative to get additional education and training and in one circumstance gave an employee the opportunity to join a Master's Program at a local university.

Dan, congratulations! [More information is available online about Dan](#).

### Job Not Done to Reauthorize Federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fee

Provisions reauthorizing the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fee were put into a controversial federal tax/minimum wage bill by the U.S. House this week and sent to the U.S. Senate on a take-it-or-leave-it deal. They left it and went home on summer break.

"Citizens throughout the state – from County Commissioners to Conservation Districts to anglers and hunters to public health officials and environmental activists – have worked ceaselessly to get permanent clean up funding for our terrible legacy of damage from coal mining," said John Dawes of the Pennsylvania AML Campaign and the Western PA Watershed Program. "And we profoundly appreciate the exceptional leadership of Senator Santorum, supported by Senator Specter, in moving the issue this far.

"But the progress Senator Santorum made on our behalf is endangered because the House deliberately placed the AML legislation in a highly controversial tax relief bill, knowing that it may be rejected by the Senate," Dawes added.

The legislation-- HR 5970-- contains provisions to increase the minimum wage, decrease the estate tax and grant other tax breaks to specific industries, in addition to permanent funding for AML clean up through an assessment on current mining operations,

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paying states their unpaid balances on the current funding and providing for retired miner health benefits.

**NewsClips:** [Abandoned Mines Legislation Stalls in U.S. Senate](#)  
[WY Senator Says Mining Legislation Still Has Hope](#)  
[Job Not Finished on Reauthorizing Abandoned Mine Fund Fee](#)  
[Petersons Lauds Passage of Abandoned Mine Bill](#)  
[Editorial: Pass Abandoned Mine Bill](#)

**Link:** [Groups Rally to Support Santorum Bill to Restore Mine Reclamation Funding](#)

### **Environmental Organizations, Local Artists, Host the First “Anthrascapes Art Show”**

The [Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#) , [Luzerne Conservation District](#), and the [federal Office of Surface Mining](#) announced a unique collaborative art show called “[Anthrascapes](#)” that will be held at Arts YOUiverse in Wilkes-Barre from August 6 through 19.

Arts YOUiverse is located on 156 South Franklin Street.

The pieces included in the gallery showing have incorporated iron oxide pigment recovered from Abandoned Mine Drainage from many abandoned mine discharges, not only located in the Wyoming Valley, but throughout Luzerne County.

The gallery showing will be a blend of art and the environment, using art to express and help highlight the environmental impacts in the region created by past mining practices, while at the same time allowing the artists to showcase their talents on various canvasses and with alternative art forms.

This show will be of interest to local artists, community members, college students interested in art and the environment, the environmentally conscious, local historians, mining buffs, and art enthusiasts.

Devon Rother, EPCAMR Anthracite Art Education Intern, and Robert Hughes, EPCAMR Regional Coordinator for the Luzerne Conservation District’s Abandoned Mine Land Program have been taking local artists from up and down the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valley to the locations of where the iron oxide deposits are located and have discussed ways to remediate the sites, improve the water quality, and reuse the orange water deposits as a resource for artists as a pigment medium.

“It’s also another way to get some foot traffic back in the Downtown Area of Wilkes-Barre”, says Robert Hughes, a recent graduate of the 2006 Leadership Wilkes-Barre and area native. “There isn’t a better place for us to present this inaugural showcase of local talented artists and committed active environmentalists than in the City of Wilkes-Barre, right now.”

“When you visit an AMD impacted site, it’s a very stimulating experience of the mind, because not only do you get to take a hike off a few beaten paths of lush greenery and old abandoned railroad grades, you get to take in the spectrum of colorful wetland vegetation, hydrogen sulfide gas (rotten egg smell) venting from the mines, the damp smell of the coal silt and black culm located in these areas after a morning dew, the sounds of the mine water splashing about from the boreholes or air shafts like fountains, and of course, last but not least, the almost neon-colored hues of oranges, reds, and yellows, of the iron oxide deposits that make many of our waterways, polluted.”



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Some of the art work displayed will focus on abandoned mine features and their impacts on the land in the Wyoming Valley, particularly in the areas of South Wilkes-Barre, City of Nanticoke, Hanover Township, Newport Township, and Honey Pot. Art work will include images such as abandoned water-filled stripping pits, abandoned air shafts, boreholes, passive treatment systems, and local streams polluted with Abandoned Mine Drainage.

More works of art and additional artists are joining the effort as the Summer continues and future Art Shows are being planned for the AfA Gallery in Downtown Scranton and at the Luzerne Conservation District's Environmental Education Center and Nature Trail leading into the Fall of 2006 and Spring of 2007.

The Pocono NE Resource Conservation & Development Council is working with the Lackawanna Valley Heritage Center to try and secure some space in their atrium in Mayfield as well.

This endeavor has been supported locally with great enthusiasm by the local art community as a way to recycle what is commonly considered a pollutant to aquatic and insect life to our streams.

However, recently, due to the hard work and creative thinking of the staff from the Luzerne Conservation District's AML Program, EPCAMR, and OSM, this same pigment is now more commonly being accepted as a valuable resource to the art world as an alternative pigment with value.

Future grants have already been applied for by the Luzerne Conservation District, EPCAMR, and area artists to continue to pursue this exciting opportunity to work with mine drainage in a positive way to restoring our environment.

The Earth Conservancy has also allowed EPCAMR to tour their lands to evaluate their mine drainage sites and are willing and active partners who are looking for ways to remove the years of iron deposits from their AMD treatment wetlands along Dundee Road and this might serve as a possible option.

This iron oxide pigment will be used in a variety of mediums such as watercolor, acrylic, pastel, oils as well as in pottery, wood stains, ceramics, photography, papermaking, ink paintings, plastics, tie-dying t-shirts, chalk, and fabric dyeing. It's going to be a must see for the community! Join us and open your eyes to a new world of AMD Resource Recovery Potential in Northeastern PA.

Devon's internship is partially funded through a federal grant Summer Watershed Internship Program supported by the Office of Surface Mining, EPCAMR, and the Luzerne Conservation District.

For more information, visit the "[Anthrascapes](#)" webpage or the [EPCAMR website](#).

### **Rising Nation River Journey 2006 Moves Down the Delaware August 4 to 17**

The [Rising Nation River Journey 2006](#), a three-week canoe/paddle trip down the Delaware River, will again link the culture of the Lenape Indian Tribe, the people and communities along the Delaware and culminate in a reenactment of the signing of Penn's Treaty of Renewed Brotherhood on William Penn's estate in Bucks County.



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The first Rising Nation River Journey was held in August of 2002, and like last time, the 2006 Journey will begin in Hancock, New York and end in Morrisville, Bucks County.

The mission of the Journey is “to bring like-minded groups and communities together from the Upper Delaware River Region and the Lower Delaware River region; and to work in conjunction with those groups to form partnerships, projects and programs that move us toward our common goals of protecting and celebrating Pennsylvania’s cultural identity, natural resources and beauty; and to acknowledge our place in this Great Life as Human Beings and as caretakers of this land, keeping in mind what is in the best interest of the next seven generations.”

The canoe/paddle trip portion of the Journey will last from August 7 to 17. The Treaty of Renewed Brotherhood will be signed at [Pennsbury Manor](#) at noon on August 19.

The Treaty will again be signed by the Lena’pe, environmental groups, churches, historical societies, and sincerely committed individuals, who wish actively to support the Lena’pe culture and to help sustain their people, language, and way of life.

Sponsors of the Rising Nation Journey this year include: Judy Wicks - White Dog Café, David E. Hess - Former Secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsbury Manor, John James Audubon Center, Cecilian Center for Earth, Arts and Spirit, First Student Inc., Richard McNutt, Suzanne Forbes and Marion Kyde.

Other support was provided by: Virginia Kennedy, Marianne Barbaro, Al Nelson, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Andy Smith, Central Baptist Church from Wayne PA, Buck County Native American Alliance, David Tersenson and Door to Door Organics.

For information on sponsorship opportunities, registration for the canoe trip, schedule of activities along the Journey and more, visit the [2006 Rising Nation River Journey webpage](#) or call the Lena’pe Nation Council at 215-257-0389.

### **Dents Run Renewal Celebration Set for August 9 in Elk County**

The [Bennett Branch Watershed](#) Association is sponsoring a “Dents Run Renewal Celebration” on August 9 to recognize the progress that has been made in restoring the Dents Run and Bennett Branch watersheds in Elk County.

The celebration will be held on the Gilbert Farm on Winslow Hill Road near the Elk Viewing Area outside of Benezette starting at 11:00 a.m. Signs will point the way to the event from Route 555 in Benezette.

A total watershed restoration project is underway in this tributary of Bennett Branch. The effort is the result of a partnership between the Bennett Branch Watershed Association, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources and the Game Commission.

About 34 percent of the acid mine drainage affecting the main stem of the Bennett Branch creek comes from the lower part of its Dents Run tributary. Currently the Association, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DEP and other partners have projects underway to reclaim 160 acres of abandoned mine lands and treat discharges into the Creek using 12 passive treatment facilities costing about \$12 million.

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DEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation is completing two surface mine reclamation projects with alkaline addition and an alkaline acid mine drainage treatment trench. DEP funds are also providing local match for Corps of Engineers projects.

For more information contact Kim Lanich, Watershed Specialist, Elk County Conservation District at 814-776-5373 or send email to: [klanich@elkoes.ncentral.com](mailto:klanich@elkoes.ncentral.com).

**Link:** [Dents Run Receives \\$1,300,000 Growing Greener Grant](#)  
[Game Commission Approves Lease to Improve Water Quality in Dents Run](#)  
[Dents Run TMDL Report](#)

### NRCS Now Accepting Changes to Conservation Security Contracts

The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service will accept requests through September 15 from 2004 and 2005 [Conservation Security Program](#) participants who want to add conservation enhancements or newly-acquired land to their original contracts.

NRCS has also scheduled four public meetings to answer questions about changing CSP contracts:

- August 9: Bedford County NRCS Office, 702 West Pitt St., Bedford, 10 a.m.
- August 10: Perkasie Field Office, 1000 E. Walnut St., Suite 705, Perkasie, 10 a.m.
- August 10: Penn State Cooperative Extension, 1120 Claremont RD, Carlisle 7 p.m.
- August 11: Berks County Ag. Center, 1238 County Welfare RD, Leesport, 10 a.m.

This request period applies to CSP participants in the Raystown, Lower Susquehanna-Swatara, Schuylkill, and Chester-Sassafras watersheds who wish to advance tiers. Those who currently hold 2004 or 2005 Tier III contracts may also add enhancements or newly acquired land to their stewardship plan.

All affected producers were sent a letter informing them of the upcoming request period. Pennsylvania has 267 active CSP contracts from the 2004 and 2005 CSP signups.

NRCS field office staff work with producers to develop a CSP stewardship plan when they first sign a contract with the agency. Often, these plans include new enhancements and/or additional acres for coverage in future years.

Once the conservation practice requirements for a tier are met, the participants may request to modify their contracts to advance to a higher tier and receive additional funds associated with the increased stewardship and/or acres covered. The improvements must be completed and operational before payments are awarded.

Following is a list of the contract modifications that will be accepted during this CSP modification request period:

- advancing tiers on land already identified in the original contract that is still under the operator's control;
- adding newly acquired land to Tier III contracts or those advancing to Tier III during the modification request period; and
- adding enhancements that have been established or planned for Tier III contracts or those advancing to Tier III. Common enhancements can include soil quality improvements, use of integrated pest management and managing sensitive areas.

All land added to a contract by modification must meet the minimum level of conservation practice requirements and the criteria for the lowest enrollment category funded in the sign-up announcement from the year the contract was approved.

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CSP is a voluntary program that supports ongoing conservation stewardship on private agricultural working lands and enhances the condition of the nation's natural resources. Under this program, the agency rewards producers who practice good stewardship on their agricultural lands and offers incentives for those who want to do more.

Producers may contact their local NRCS office to receive information about the CSP contract modification procedures or attend one of the following workshops.

For more information, visit the [Conservation Security Program PA webpage](#).

### Registration Open for First Annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum

Watershed organizations and local governments are invited to the first annual [Chesapeake Watershed Forum](#) on November 17-19 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

The Chesapeake Watershed Forum will become a yearly event, held to assist watershed organizations and local governments in watershed planning, protection and restoration.

"Restoring the Bay requires new approaches, creative thinking and innovative implementation strategies to get the job done," said David Bancroft, President of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. "An annual Watershed Forum will help accomplish that."

Goals of the regional forum are to strengthen the capacity of watershed organizations, highlight new tools and techniques, stimulate effective partnerships between watershed groups and local governments, and to build capacity for more effective communication with the public about the importance of watershed stewardship.

To fulfill these goals, the Forum will feature seven tracks over three days, including forty one sessions, three computer labs, eight facilitated discussions, two field trips and multiple networking opportunities.

Forum Track titles will be: Emerging Issues; Watershed Science; Communicating the Message; Watershed Planning and Policies; Collaboration; Organizational Development; and Fundraising. The keynote speaker will be Peter Forbes, Executive Director of the Center for Whole Communities.

The Chesapeake Watershed Forum will provide an opportunity for watershed groups and local governments across the region to come together to learn new tools and techniques as well as share best practices.

Registration materials, Forum schedule and session descriptions are available at the [Watershed Forum webpage](#).

### Workshop Set on Using Compost as Low Cost Fertilizer

On August 11, the [Chester County Conservation District](#) and the American Mushroom Institute will sponsor a workshop entitled, "Compost as a Low Cost Fertilizer" in Honey Brook, Pa.

Paul Hepperly, Research Manager for the [Rodale Institute](#), will teach participants how to get increased nutrient holding and increased yields from their fields by using mushroom compost.

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Funding for this program was provided by the Department of Agriculture.  
For more information call 610-925-4920.

### York to Host Live-Demonstration Recycling Trade Show

The York Fairgrounds will host a first-of-its-kind [recycling trade show](#) on August 16-17, sponsored by Waste Handling Equipment New.

The show, which is being marketed to companies that recycle materials ranging from construction and demolition, wood waste /land clearing, concrete and asphalt, composting and scrap metal, will feature live demonstrations of recycling equipment from many different vendors.

The exhibits will feature screening equipment, wood grinders, recycling attachments, coloring equipment, crushing equipment, trailers, shredding equipment, material handling equipment, and support equipment such as loaders, and excavators.

For more information, visit the [WHEN Recycling Trade Show webpage](#).

### 132,000 Volunteers Collected 6.7 Million Pounds of Trash During Great PA Cleanup



More than 132,000 Great PA Cleanup! volunteers removed 6.7 million pounds of trash from roads, parks, schools, waterways, wildlife areas and communities statewide to [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#).

The [Great Pennsylvania Cleanup](#) is a statewide effort to remove litter and trash and to beautify the commonwealth through efforts such as planting trees and building playgrounds that coincides with Earth Day to encourage Pennsylvanians to appreciate the environment

with their hands as well as their hearts.

This year's cleanup included a focus on Audubon Pennsylvania and its [Important Bird Area program](#). Audubon Pennsylvania has identified 82 Important Bird Area sites encompassing more than 2 million acres of the state's public and private lands. The voluntary IBA program combats threats to the most essential and vulnerable bird habitats through proactive habitat conservation measures.

Statistics of the 2006 Great Pennsylvania Cleanup include the following:

- 5,689 cleanup events;
- 132,245 volunteers;
- 312,396 bags of collected trash, weighing 6,247,917 pounds;
- 460,000 pounds of illegally dumped trash and 11,000 tires collected by volunteers in DEP's Clean up Our Anthracite Lands and Streams (COALS) program.
- 13,811 miles of road, railroad track, trails, waterways and shorelines cleaned, and 2,470 acres of park and or wetlands.
- 1,068 communities involved, and all 67 counties in Pennsylvania.
- Additionally, volunteers planted 22,270 trees, bulbs and plants in an effort to keep Pennsylvania beautiful.

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The Great Pennsylvania Cleanup is supported and sponsored by the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful alliance, a wide range of businesses, trade organizations, civic and environmental groups, and local and state governments.

The Department of Transportation and its [Adopt-A-Highway](#) volunteers again played a key role in making the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup a success. Other key partners include the Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, whose members donated free landfill space for the trash collected, and the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association and the Pennsylvania Soft Drink Association, whose members provided refreshments at many of the events.

The list of sponsors for the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup includes: AAA Mid-Atlantic, Audubon Pennsylvania, Best Buy, Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources, Environmental Protection and Transportation;

The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, Cities: Allentown, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, [GreenTreks Network](#), Home Depot, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Keep Lancaster Beautiful, Keep Philadelphia Beautiful, Keystone Sanitary Landfill, PA CleanWays;

The Pennsylvania Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus, Pennsylvania Builders Association, Pennsylvania Downtown Center, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Pennsylvania Host Municipal Inspectors, Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers, Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, Pennsylvania Resources Council; and

The [Pennsylvania Soft Drink Association](#), Pennsylvania State Association of Borough Managers, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau, Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania, Schuylkill Keep It Pretty, Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, The Steel Recycling Institute, United States Steel, Waste Management.

The 2007 Great Pennsylvania Cleanup feature day tentatively is scheduled for April 21 on Earth Day next year.

For more information, visit the [Great Pennsylvania Cleanup webpage](#) or [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#).

### DEP Accepting Nominations for Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence



The Department of Environmental Protection is now accepting nominations for the [2007 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence](#). The deadline for nominations is October 30.

The award is open to any Pennsylvania business, governmental agency, educational institution, nonprofit organization, individual or farm that has created or participated in the development of a project that promotes environmental stewardship and economic development in the state.

Eligible projects for the 2007 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence must have been completed between August 1, 2005, and July 31, 2006. The project categories for consideration include, but are not limited to: Environmental Technology Innovation; Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency; Community Revitalization;

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Environmental Education and Outreach; Watershed Stewardship; Mine Safety; and Clean Energy Innovations and Environmental Market Development.

Projects will be evaluated on the following criteria: environmental protection, teamwork, public service, environmental education and outreach, pollution prevention, economic impact and innovative technology.

Winners of the 2007 Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence will be presented with a unique award at a press event at the winner’s location. In addition, the winners’ projects will be showcased in numerous DEP publications and editorials and highlighted on the department’s website.

To download an application, visit DEP’s [“2007 Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence” webpage](#).

### **EPA Awards Grant to Reduce Environmental Footprint of Hospitals in Southeast**

The Region 3 office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded a \$78,500 grant to the Southeast Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Protection to reduce the environmental footprint of hospitals in the 5-county Philadelphia area.

The grant was made under the auspices of [EPA's Resource Conservation Challenge](#) which will provide funding to the Delaware Valley Healthcare Council and the Women's Health & Environmental Network to hold workshops, provide waste audits, provide training on toxic substances, environmentally preferable purchasing, and sustainable buildings.

### **Susquehanna Health System Joins Healthy Environment Program**

Susquehanna Health System, located in Williamsport, Pa., has joined the [Hospitals for a Healthy Environment Program](#) as a partner.

By becoming a partner a health system commits to setting priorities and goals to reduce its environmental impact on patients, workers, and the surrounding community.

The [Susquehanna Health System](#) has eliminated 95 percent of the mercury in its facilities. Its priorities over the next year include further elimination of mercury, waste reduction, pollution prevention, proper management of hazardous chemicals and pollutants, and increased recycling.

[Thirty-three hospitals and health facilities](#) have joined the Hospitals for a Healthy Environment Program in Pennsylvania.

### **Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference September 21 & 22**

Don’t miss this opportunity to hear how you can successfully reuse existing sites for your next project at the Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference in Harrisburg.

Get the tools you need to start projects, market your site, meet state officials, private investors and developers, risk management professionals and other key players in Pennsylvania’s brownfields market.

The conference is sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection, Governor’s Center for Local Government Services, National Brownfield Association, Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen LLP.

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There is a registration fee of \$100 for public officials and \$150 for all others.

For more information, exhibit and sponsorship information, contact Kelly Lougee at the Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors 717-763-0930 or send email to: [klougee@psats.org](mailto:klougee@psats.org).

### DCNR to Develop Carbon Management Plan, Update Greenhouse Gas Inventory



The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week convened a Pennsylvania Carbon Management Advisory Group that will help the agency develop a [Carbon Management Plan](#) by June 2007.

The Group also [discussed a draft update](#) of the [2003 Pennsylvania Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#) which makes projections of what those emissions would be by 2020 if state policies did

not change.

The carbon management plan is intended to achieve specific estimated greenhouse gas reductions and co-benefits in the near and mid term through a range of specific new policies and programs, including expansion of existing efforts and the development of “learn as you go” pilots and demos, all focused on activities associated with DCNR.

The ultimate goal of the advisory committee is to make recommendations for specific actions that can be adopted and implemented solely by DCNR, or in partnership with other agencies and institutions.

“Global warming is perhaps the single biggest long-term threat to Pennsylvania’s existing natural heritage,” said DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. “Our stewardship mission demands that we rise to the tasks of understanding and addressing it within the context of our work in a serious, thoughtful and creative manner.”

The key components of DCNR’s Carbon Management Initiative include:

1. Development of assessments to evaluate forestry and geologic sequestration and coal bed methane baselines and best practices;
2. Development of a forest carbon management plan for DCNR;
3. Development of a geologic carbon management plan for DCNR including geologic sequestration and coal bed methane recovery; and
4. Identification of demonstration projects and pilots.

DCNR already has several carbon management projects underway within the agency including participation in the [Midwest Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership](#), identification of [potential geologic sinks](#) for carbon and a white paper “[Terrestrial Carbon Sequestration](#)” and its application to State Forest Lands.

The [draft Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#) reviewed with the Group projects an increase in greenhouse gas emissions from 300 to 335 million tons between 1990-2020 from electric generation, transportation (the two largest sources), industrial processes, residential, commercial, agriculture and waste management in Pennsylvania, if current policies are not changed.

To help put the increase of just over 1 million tons a year in Pennsylvania greenhouse gas emissions in perspective, 1 ton of coal emits from 3,500 to 4,400 pounds of



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greenhouse gases, 1 cord of hardwood sequesters about 1,830 pounds and 1 gallon of gasoline emits about 20 pounds.

Pennsylvanians use about 6.2 billion gallons of gasoline and diesel fuels a year and electric generators burn 52 million tons of coal a year, 34 million tons from Pennsylvania.

The inventory includes carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride. Black carbon was considered separately.

The Group was specifically asked to review and comment on the inventory and be in position to give a recommendation on the inventory by the next meeting in October.

Discussion by several Group participants during the meeting echoed comments by Dan Desmond, DEP Deputy Secretary, who said developing recommendations for DCNR on greenhouse gas reduction and opportunities for sequestering carbon cannot be done without considering other public policy changes that need to be made to encourage new technology for removing carbon dioxide emissions from power plants and the market price mechanisms needed to provide power generators with the incentives to install advanced coal-burning technologies.

John Quigley, from DCNR, said it would be appropriate for the Group to “T-up” policy issues for others to follow through on, but the focus of the Group were steps that DCNR can take.

There are several bills and resolutions pending now in the General Assembly on the climate change issue. Among them—

- [House Bill 500](#) (Vitali-D-Delaware) requiring a report on global warming impacts and economic opportunities for the Commonwealth, a greenhouse gas inventory and a greenhouse gas action plan;
- [House Bill 2744](#) (Vitali) providing grants for municipal climate change action plans;
- [Senate Bill 1213](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) requiring a report on global warming impacts and economic opportunities for the Commonwealth, an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, creating a global climate stakeholder process, a registry of greenhouse gas emissions and for a climate change action plan; and
- [House Resolution 692](#) (Ross-R-Chester) directing the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to report on methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Membership on the DCNR Advisory Group includes representatives of the Departments of Agriculture, DCNR, DEP as well as: Dr. William Harbert, University of Pittsburgh, Elizabeth Martin Perera, Natural Resources Defense Council, John Hanger, PennFuture, Ronald Ramsey and Dylan Jenkins of The Nature Conservancy, Paul Lyskava, Pennsylvania Forest Products Association, Keith Craig, Pennsylvania Hardwoods Development Council, Will Price and Al Sample, Pinchot Institute for Conservation, Ken Manno, Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Dr. Coeli Hoover, Rich Birdsey and Jim Smith, USDA Forest Service, Greg Socha, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Blaine Puller, Kane Hardwood and Dr. Klaus Keller, Brent Yarnal, Robert McKinstry, William Easterling and Marc McDill from Penn State University.

The [Center for Climate Strategies](#), a policy center of [Enterprising Environmental Solutions, Inc.](#), and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council are providing facilitation and staff support services for the project.

The next meeting of the Group is October 23. At least two other meetings of the Group are planned, along with a public input session and conference calls for members between the scheduled meetings.

A copy of the agenda, the 111-slide presentation made to the Group and handouts from the meeting this week are all available at [DCNR's Carbon Management Plan webpage](#).

### **Pennsylvania College Students to Build Solar Array at Bucknell University**



DEP Cambria Office with Solar Panels.

College students from all over the state will participate in the first-in-the-nation [Solar Scholars Program](#) at Bucknell University August 7 to 11, an intense, weeklong program where they will design and build a solar array to generate electricity and energy.

While the debate continues over rising gas prices, global warming and concerns about an impending energy crisis, some dedicated and talented Pennsylvania college students are doing their part towards developing alternatives to fossil fuels. It is sponsored by the Sustainable

Energy Fund of Central Eastern Pennsylvania, which created Solar Scholars.

The SEF is a non-profit, private organization dedicated to renewable energy, clean energy technologies, energy conservation and education, based in Allentown, Pa.

Solar Scholars provides university-level students in Pennsylvania in-depth, hands-on study, training and research in photovoltaics - the use of solar cells to convert sunlight into electricity.

It offers funding and incentives for students to design, build, operate and maintain a "solar system of significant impact" on their campus, as part of an overall academic curriculum in renewable and sustainable energy.

Bucknell University is among the six Pennsylvania colleges and universities selected for the Solar Scholars pilot program. The other five selected are: Clarion University (Clarion, Pa. - Clarion County); Mercyhurst College (Erie - Erie County); Messiah College (Grantham - Cumberland County); The Pennsylvania State University (University Park - Centre County); and Villanova University (Villanova - Delaware County).

The training is being led by [Solar Energy International](#), a leading provider of education and training in renewable energy technologies. Equipment is being provided by [Mesa Solar](#), a Pennsylvania-based (Malvern) and woman-owned energy and environmental services company.

The SEF created Solar Scholars to help "jumpstart" Pennsylvania's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard, set forth by Act 213. Act 213 mandates that a certain percentage of electric energy in Pennsylvania be derived from clean, renewable sources, and sets ambitious goals for solar energy, in particular.

"Solar Scholars is a way "to begin building thought leadership and the foundation for a sustainable market for PV technology right here in Pennsylvania," explains Dr. Rex A. D'Agostino, President & Executive Director of The SEF.

"We're in the midst of a global energy crisis and will all be faced with some very important and perhaps difficult decisions about our energy choices," D'Agostino says. "It's

critical that those decisions are informed by science, and business- and technology-based. That's why Solar Scholars is targeting college students - they are in the best position to make an immediate impact and will drive those important energy policy and technology decisions upon entering the workforce."

Each of the six schools is a member of the [Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy](#), an alliance of 56 Pennsylvania colleges and universities that works with the departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources on sustainable development issues.

PCIEP Director Donald A. Brown says: "Pennsylvania colleges and universities are providing a model for national leadership in developing alternatives to fossil fuels, moving the U.S. towards energy independence, and reducing the environmental impact of current energy practices."

Solar Scholars' goal is for a PV solar installation on each of the Commonwealth's 152 campuses.

For more information, visit the [Solar Scholars Program webpage](#).

### **PJM Set Third Record for Electricity Use This Summer**

PJM Interconnection successfully met another new peak demand record for electricity use - the second record in two days and the third for the summer. The new record demand of 144,796 megawatts (MW) occurred Wednesday at 5 p.m. PJM's previous record demand of 144,000 MW was set Tuesday.

**NewsClip:** [Electricity Use Sets Records During Heat Wave](#)

[PJM Region Sets Summer's Third Energy Use Record](#)

[PPL Seeks Boost Generating Capacity at Nuclear and Hydro Plants](#)

[PPL Planning to Boost Hydro Dam Output](#)

[Record Demand Strains Electricity Grid](#)

[Nuclear Plant Cuts Power to Cool Water](#)

[Rural Electrics Turn Off Water Heaters to Save Electric](#)

**Link:** [DEP Mercury Rule Could Reduce Generating Capacity to Respond to Heat Waves](#)

### **PPL Proposes Transition Plan for End of Electric Price Rate Caps in 2010**

A proposal made by PPL Electric Utilities to the Public Utility Commission this week will help smooth a transition to competitive electricity markets that is scheduled to begin in 2010 for PPL customers.

Under the proposal, which applies to customers who do not choose an alternative electricity supplier, PPL Electric Utilities would buy power needed for 2010 by entering into wholesale-market contracts over the next three years.

Based on current prices for future power, PPL believes customer bills could increase on the order of 20 percent to 30 percent. Prices for the energy would simply be passed through to customers; PPL Electric Utilities would make no profit on these sales.

"Under this proposal, we'll spread out our power purchases and make them well in advance — a process that would significantly lessen the likelihood that customers would

be overly exposed to price spikes in the wholesale markets,” said John Sipics, president of PPL Electric Utilities.

Rate limits on the electricity generation portion of customer bills, which have been in place since 1999, expire at the end of 2009. This means that starting in 2010, customer bills will begin to reflect the cost of power purchased by PPL on the open market.

The precise impact on customer rates in 2010 is impossible to predict at this time, Sipics said, because no one knows exactly what market prices will be in the future. He said increases in wholesale electricity prices in recent years have been driven primarily by increases in the price of the fossil fuels burned to make electricity.

“The prices PPL Electric Utilities customers pay for generation supply have increased less than 9 percent since 1986,” Sipics said. “In fact, inflation has far outpaced the increase in generation rates over the past two decades. If generation rates had matched inflation over the past 20 years, customers would be paying over 60 percent more than they are today for generation supply.

“The rate limits on generation have provided a significant benefit to customers by keeping electricity rates well below market prices for the past several years,” Sipics said. “And those low prices will continue for another three years.”

PPL also proposes to expand consumer education, increase funding for low-income customer assistance and expand programs that help customers manage their electricity usage and costs. The proposal was filed with the PUC and requires the commission’s approval.

“An important part of PPL’s proposal is to provide customers with education and information that will enable them to better manage their usage and costs,” Sipics said.

**NewsClip:** [PPL Submits Rate Stabilization Plan to Deal with 2010 Cap Removal Ruling May Increase Some PA Residential Electric Bills](#)

### **PUC Releases Summer Issue of Keystone Connection Newsletter**

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission this week released the summer edition of the [Keystone Connection Report](#). The quarterly report represents the PUC’s efforts to provide beneficial information to the public about important developments in the electric, natural gas, transportation, telecommunications and water markets.

The publication's format contains coverage of all utilities under the PUC’s jurisdiction, including news on consumer issues and general information on Commission happenings.

[The Keystone Connection Report is available online.](#)

### **Preliminary Results Show No Tritium Leaks at Exelon Nuclear Plants**

Preliminary results of an environmental study of tritium at 11 Exelon Nuclear stations show no active leaks of tritium at any of the generating plants and no detectable tritium beyond the plant boundaries other than from permitted discharges, except for known historical releases at the Braidwood Generating Station in Illinois.

The study is continuing and final results are expected in six to eight weeks.

Additional wells are being installed for long-term monitoring programs across the company and to gather additional data, in particular from two stations that have unusually

complex hydrogeology requiring a more extensive array of wells. Those two stations are the Dresden Generating Station in Illinois and Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania.

None of the tritium concentrations registered in the Exelon Nuclear assessment pose a health or safety hazard to workers or the public.

The only station at which tritium is known to have migrated off plant property is the Braidwood Generating Station in Illinois, where past accidental tritiated water spills have been widely reported and a state-approved cleanup has begun.

Exelon's 11 nuclear energy plants include six operating plants and one closed plant in Illinois, three operating plants in Pennsylvania and one in New Jersey.

The assessment also determined that:

- No radioactive substances other than tritium and those that occur naturally – such as potassium-40 – were detected above background levels in any of the more than 1,800 ground water samples taken to assess tritium at the stations.
- Low but detectable levels of tritium exist in groundwater within site boundaries of most Exelon plants. All either measured near background levels or were from past leaks or spills and show no signs of moving offsite. These will be monitored continuously. None pose a hazard.
- One plant, the Oyster Creek Generating Station in New Jersey, showed no traces of tritium in the environment.

Tritium is a weak radioactive isotope of hydrogen found naturally in virtually all water in small concentrations and produced in higher concentrations in water used in nuclear energy plants.

Tritium is a normal byproduct of commercial nuclear power production and is discharged into the environment under strict federal guidelines. Eventually, all tritium decays into helium, a natural part of the earth's atmosphere.

Specific results for the 11 locations will be released at completion of the project.

**Link:** [EXIT Signs Trigger Radiation Monitors, Leak Tritium into Landfills](#)

### **Rabies Vaccination of Wildlife in Western Pennsylvania Beginning**

The Department of Agriculture this week announced that the annual oral rabies vaccination baiting program, which helps control rabies in wild animals, will begin on August 7.

The operation will cover all or parts of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Crawford, Erie, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

Wildlife rabies accounts for almost 93 percent of the reported rabies cases in the U.S., and raccoons account for more than 50 percent of this total. Although the primary focus is to vaccinate raccoons, other animals such as dogs, cats, cattle, horses, skunks and foxes also benefit from the program.

Starting August 7, trained employees will spread bait sachets to densely populated areas by hand. On Sept. 5, low-flying aircraft will drop sachets in sparsely populated areas. The vaccine sachet is placed inside fishmeal bait, or coated with a flavored substance. When the raccoon punctures the sealed plastic package, the vaccine is released into its mouth.

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The vaccine contains only a small, non-infective portion of the rabies virus that cannot cause rabies. The bait does not pose an immediate health risk to humans or pets, but anyone finding the baits should avoid handling them unless they are found where children or pets play. Baits can be moved or disposed of with gloves or a paper towel if they are found in these areas.

Six agencies - the state departments of Agriculture and Health, the Game Commission, Erie County Health Department, Allegheny County Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control – are collaborating with USDA's Wildlife Services for this program.

For more information about the ORV baiting program, contact one of the following agencies; USDA Wildlife Services 1-866-487-3297, Department of Agriculture 717-783-9550, Department of Health Information Line 1-877-PA-HEALTH, Erie County Department of Health 1-814-451-6700 or Allegheny County Department of Health 412-687-2243.

### **Rendell Nominates Erie County Resident to Game Commission**

Gov. Rendell this week nominated H. Daniel Hill III, 51, to continue as a member of the [Game Commission](#) to fill the vacant District 1 seat, which includes Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango and Warren counties.

An Erie resident, Hill associated with the Erie law firm of McCarthy, Martone and Peasley, specializing in the areas of business, real estate and estate planning. From June 1997 to December 1999, he was founder and managing partner of Miller-Hill Consulting.

Hill graduated from the Dickinson School of Law in 1983 with his juris doctorate. Before that, he earned his M.P.A. from the University of Georgia in 1979 and his bachelor's degree from Mercyhurst College in 1976.

An avid outdoorsman, Hill serves on the boards of the Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education and the Erie County Cooperative Extension Service. He is a member of Trout Unlimited, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, the Ruffed Grouse Society, the Pennsylvania Steelheaders Association, Pheasants Forever, and SONS of Lake Erie. He is also a founding member of the Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum, and belongs to the American Society for Public Administration.

### **Help Wanted: Western Pennsylvania Conservancy**

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has three watershed program related positions to fill. Here are the details—

**Watershed Manager - Juniata and Potomac Tributaries:** Will manage WPC's freshwater conservation activities for the Juniata and Potomac tributaries watershed. Must be able to raise program funds from both private and public sources. Position will be based in a strategic location in central Pennsylvania. The successful candidate will have a Master's degree or equivalent work experience in watershed science, wetlands ecology, or biohydrology. Three-five years experience with hands-on projects to remediate threats to freshwater conservation targets is required. Familiarity with watershed assessment and planning and Conservation Action Planning desired.

**Watershed Planning Specialist:** Develops and writes River Conservation Plans as well as all components required in carrying out the DCNR planning process. Delivers watershed-related assistance in areas including water quality, watershed restoration, remediation of pollution from abandoned mine drainage and agriculture runoff, volunteer training, organizational development, project implementation and monitoring. Minimum of a bachelor's degree in watershed science, stream ecology, environmental planning or geography required. 3-5 years of experience in completing river conservation plans and participating in the DCNR planning process preferred. Familiarity with hands-on projects to remediate watershed problems caused by non-point source pollution beneficial.

**Director of Aquatic Science:** Leads scientific elements of WPC's freshwater conservation strategies and projects. Delivers watershed program elements to local and statewide constituents. Provides technical input on watershed science related to assessment, restoration, and protection issues including at large scales. Participates in extensive field evaluations and provides guidance on data collection for various watershed conservation projects conducted by WPC. Prepares and assists with the preparation of technical documents, including protection plans, restoration plans, Conservation Action Plans (CAP), and monitoring plans.

The successful candidate will have a master's degree in watershed science, stream/river ecology, fluvial hydrology, zoology, conservation science, or a related field. 5-7 years experience with hands-on projects to remediate watershed problems, and a broad familiarity with the ecology of aquatic systems and ecosystems of Pennsylvania and the mid-Atlantic region required. Expertise in taxonomic groups (e.g. fishes, aquatic invertebrates, insects) and experience with aquatic fauna is required. Excellent communication and public presentation skills are required; experience with GIS desired.

Compensation: All positions provide a competitive salary and excellent benefits package.

If you are interested, please send a letter, résumé and salary requirements to: Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Senior Director, Human Resources, PO Box R, Mill Run PA 15464-0167 or send email to: [nbassett@paconserve.org](mailto:nbassett@paconserve.org).

## See & Hear

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### Where the Rubber Makes the Road, Recycling Waste Tires in a New Way



What happens to old car tires? Pennsylvania has recycled nearly 26 million of them in the last eight years, but there are millions more to go.

[Penn State's Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies](#) is helping to lighten the load. With a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection, the Center, under the direction of Kevin Abbey, is baling old waste tires to use as fill for rural roads across the Commonwealth.

Learn how roads are made of rubber, improving environmental conditions and decreasing maintenance costs by [watching this online video](#) or view a slide show of this new method of recycling waste tires.

**Link:** [Information on 2006 Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Workshops](#)

## Opinion

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### Comments on DEP Proposal to Regulate Mercury from Power Plants

by **Robert Ashbaugh**  
**Business Representative Local 459**  
**International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers**

My name is Robert Ashbaugh and I am here today representing the 1880 members of Local 459 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Indiana County and surrounding area.

We have about 800 members who work in five coal-fired power plants in our area—Keystone, Seward, Conemaugh, Shawville and Homer City. Our members work primarily with two generating companies.—Edison Mission and Reliant Energy.

In Pennsylvania the IBEW has 2,496 members who work in coal-burning plants and over 8,786 who work in the utility industry. Total membership for the IBEW in Pa is 32,000.

The plant where I work (Homer City) has 250 employees and burns 5 million tons of coal annually and gets the bulk of coal supplies from within a 60 mile radius.

We believe this regulation will result in the premature closing of the smaller, older power plants that make up 20 percent of Pa.’s coal-fired generating capacity because it does not include a cap and trade program like the federal Clean Air Mercury Rule.

One of the plants I feel is at risk of closing is the Shawville plant I represent and that would mean the lost of family-sustaining jobs, not only at the plant, but the hundreds of other that drive coal trucks, run gas stations, work in stores and restaurants.

A cap and trade program allows power plant owners to install advanced air pollution controls on larger plants where it is more cost effective and recover part of their investment by selling the extra mercury reduction credits to smaller plants where it may be cost-prohibitive or not possible to install controls.

Cap and trade programs have been very successful at reducing air pollution that causes acid rain and ozone pollution in a cost-effective manner that protects jobs at power plants and in the coal industry. In Pa., even lead is controlled using a cap and trade program. I think it is important to point out that Pennsylvania’s power plants have already made large reductions in mercury emissions, in particular, at the power plants I represent.

The mercury emissions from Homer City, Keystone and Seward have been reduced by an average of 47 percent since 2000.

I include a table in my testimony showing the reductions.



**Mercury Reductions at Local 459 Power Plants\***  
(in pounds of mercury)

	Start	Most Recent	Difference	Reduction
Seward ('01-'04)	175	3	172	98%
Homer City ('00-'04)	1,369	658	711	53%
Keystone ('01-'04)	1,300	832	468	36%
Conemaugh**				
Total Reduction 3 Plants	2,844	1,493	1,351	47%
Total State EGUs ('99-'04)	9,958	6,640	3,318	33%

\* Based on U.S. EPA and Toxic Release Inventory numbers.

\*\* Information not available.

In addition to these reductions, the owners of Keystone just announced this month they will be investing another \$350 million in air pollution controls to reduce mercury and sulfur emissions. Statewide, mercury emissions from power plants in Pennsylvania fell by 33 percent between 1999 and 2004.

I mention these reductions in mercury because one of the reasons the Department of Environmental Protection has given for not including a cap and trade program in this regulation is because they believe mercury emissions from power plants cause “hot spots” of mercury around the plants.

Based on the experience we have at our plants and on information from DEP mercury monitors near our plants, we find this not to be true.

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. 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 Pa. and adopt our own regulations thinking that will clean up the air.

I think we need the answers to a couple basic questions concerning any regulations to regulate mercury emissions from power plants—

1. What are the real health and environmental benefits of adopting a rule like DEP proposed versus the federal rule with a cap and trade program?

2. What are the costs of adopting a rule like DEP’s to electric generators, in lost jobs at power plants and in our communities and to the price of electricity versus the federal program?

During the heat wave last week we were all reminded how important electricity is.

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We saw one of the highest demand ever for electricity in Pa. and the region last Monday and Tuesday. Now imagine that 20 percent of our coal-fired power plants were not available to meet that demand for electricity because of the mercury rule proposed by DEP.

There are three things that greatly concern those of us in power generation that we feel that DEP should re-evaluate:

1. State regulation on percentage of reduction of 90% versus Fed regulation of 70 percent.
2. The lack of a cap and trade program under the state proposal.
3. The time allotment to meet standards of the state versus federal requirement.

As members of the IBEW we are very proud of the work we do and are very conscious of the public's health and safety. We, too, live in these areas with our children and grandchildren.

This is a complicated issue, but we have to work together to find a solution that cleans up the environment, without threatening jobs, and in a way that allows us to meet our demands for electricity when needed.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify. Thank you.

**Robert L. Ashbaugh** is the Business Representative for Local 459, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

### Quick Clips

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

[Soaking Up the Sun](#)

[Energy Projects in State Drew Attention in 1973](#)

[Editorial: Solar Panels](#)

[Editorial: Energy Choices](#)

[Microbes Gobble Corn and Spit Out Electricity](#)

[PA School District to Receive Hybrid School Bus](#)

[DOE Awards Grants for Cutting Edge Energy Research Projects in PA](#)

[State Handing Out Potassium Iodide Tablets Near Nuclear Plants](#)

[DEP Staffer Wins Award for Mercury Collection Efforts](#)

[Swann Hops on the Biodiesel Bus](#)

[Youngsters Go Back to Earth](#)

[Ride Bike, Ruin the Environment](#)

[Bioblitz Aims to Identify Moth, Butterfly Species](#)

[Editorial: Let's Make Green Selfish](#)

[Outdoors: Black Bears on the Prowl](#)

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

## **Watershed NewsClips**

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

[Weed Whackers Needed to Control Invasive Plants in Blairsville](#)

[Three-Day Water Adventure Planned for the Three Rivers](#)

[Editorial: States Left to Complete Bay Cleanup](#)

[Group Urges Averting Floods](#)

[Groups Unite to Study, Protect Brook Trout](#)

[DEP OKs Hazleton Creek's Use of Fill at Abandoned Mine Reclamation Site](#)

## **Regulations**

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The Department of Environmental Protection published notice of [three Section 111\(d\) public hearings](#) on regulating mercury emissions from power plants, a change and a hearing on the [Tioga County Ozone Nonattainment Area Designation](#) and proposed [changes in coal mine reclamation fees](#) for comment.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – August 5, 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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The Department of Environmental Protection published a [notice of wetland replacement projects](#), Fish & Boat Commission list of [2006 Wild Trout Streams](#) and [2006 Class A Wild Trout Waters](#), an updated list of policy documents by agency ([PA Bulletin page 4337](#)) and an [updated list of Governor's Executive Orders](#) now in force.

[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](#)

## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

- **August 7 – CANCELLED.** 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 15 – CANCELLED.** Environmental Quality Board meeting. Next scheduled meeting in September 19.
- **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** – [State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators conference call](#).
- **September 6** – DEP [Section 111\(d\) hearing on plan to control mercury emissions](#) from power plants in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and Norristown.
- **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.
- **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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