

—PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Video Blog Feature – DCNR to Release Draft Carbon Management Plan

At the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council's](#) annual member meeting this week, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis announced his agency would be releasing a draft [Carbon Management Plan](#) designed to identify opportunities within DCNR to combat global climate change.



At the same time, Secretary DiBerardinis said a more comprehensive climate change strategy would probably be forthcoming from the Rendell Administration within the next six months.

Video Blog: [Secretary DiBerardinis' Complete Remarks](#)

In addition to Secretary DiBerardinis, the meeting featured a number of other speakers on climate change and the economic opportunities presented to states developing plans to meet this challenge.

PEC President and CEO Brian Hill provided an introduction and an overview of the stakeholder-drive [Climate Roadmap for Pennsylvania](#) the Council released in June making 38 recommendations on how to reduce climate-changing emissions in the state.

Video Blog: [Overview and Introduction by Brian Hill](#)

Dr. Lew Ziska, a Plant Physiologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, spoke about the potential impact of climate change on Pennsylvania agriculture, including the types of crops grown, the potential changes in yields for the dairy industry and the not insignificant increase in weeds that will challenge farmers.

Video Blog: [Dr. Ziska Talks About the Impact of Climate Change on PA Farmers](#)

Attorney Robert McKinstry, of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, outlines the results of litigation he was involved in against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that resulted in a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that carbon dioxide could be regulated under the federal Clean Air Act.

Video Blog: [Robert McKinstry and the Impact of Massachusetts v. EPA](#)

Tom Peterson, Executive Director of the [Center for Climate Strategies](#), talks about the important role states, including Pennsylvania, are playing in driving national policy on climate change.

Video Blog: [The Role of States in Climate Policy – Tom Peterson](#)

NewsClip: [PEC Hosts Climate Change Forum](#)

[PA Has Place in Global Climate Concerns](#)

[Exelon Joins U.S. Climate Action Partnership](#)

[World Resources Institute Say States Can Take Steps on Climate Change](#)

Links: [PEC Releases a Climate Roadmap for Pennsylvania DCNR Carbon Management Advisory Committee](#)

Video Blog: [PEC Press Conference Releasing Climate Roadmap](#)

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Session Schedule

The Senate will return to voting session on September 17. The House is in non-voting

session the weeks of September 10 and 17. Both will return to voting session on September 24.

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On the Hill

- On the Senate/House Agenda
- Governor's Address to Open Special Session on Energy to be Set for September 24
- House Committee Hears Comments on Electric Rate Cap Expiration

Other News

- Exelon Joins U.S. Climate Action Partnership
- Coca-Cola to Recycle/Reuse 100% of Its Bottles, RecycleBank Partnership Expanded
- 26 Counties Removed From Drought Watch, But Remains for 32
- DEP Accepting Coastal Zone Management Grant Applications
- Gov. Rendell Proclaims September National Preparedness Month
- Game Commission Offers Advice on Avoiding Bear Conflicts
- Youth Hunting Seasons Just Around the Corner
- Pymatuning Waterfowl Expo Scheduled for September 15-16
- Middle Creek to Host Wildfowl Show September 15-16
- DCNR, ClearWater Conservancy Permanently Protect 423 Acres
- Game Commission to Hold State Game Land Tours for Public
- PA Center for Environmental Ed September EE Connections Newsletter Now Online
- Environmental Literacy: A Critical Part of Every Child's Education
- Opportunities Abound to Support 2008 Environmental Education Conference
- Southcentral PA Commuter Services Expands Free Emergency Ride Home
- Forestry Workshop Set in Westmoreland for September 29
- DCNR Names Daniel Devlin New State Forester

Spotlight

- Recovering Attorneys' Fees in Environmental Litigation, *By Terry R. Bossert, Post & Schell*

Opinion

- Pennsylvania’s Energy Bill, *By Sen. Rob Wonderling (R-Montgomery)*

Feature

- Mining Operations’ Legacy a Mother Lode of Acid Drainage, *By Lara Lutz, Chesapeake Bay Journal*

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

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda

The House has scheduled the following Committee meetings and hearings for the coming week and the House Calendar was published for September 10 (a non-voting session week)—

Committees

House: the Consumer Affairs Committee holds a public hearing on the state of utility infrastructure in PA; and the Health and Human Services Committee scheduled a hearing on [House Bill 798](#) (Phillips-R-Northumberland) establishing a Lyme and Tick Borne Disease Education Program.

Calendars

House: [House Bill 1201](#) (George-D-Clearfield) making changes to Title 66 (Utility Code) consistent with Gov. Rendell’s Energy Independence Proposal, including the proposed system benefit charge; [House Bill 1649](#) (Barrar-R-Chester) requiring the fluoridation of public water supplies; [House Resolution 112](#) (Mann-D-Lehigh) directing DEP to implement policies that encourage electronic waste recycling; [House Resolution 268](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study Game Commission forestry and mineral development policies; [House Resolution 180](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) establishing a commission to study the Commonwealth’s fragmented system of local government.

Bills Introduced

Brownfield Redevelopment: [Senate Bill 1062](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) establishing the Brownfield Site Reimbursement Fund to reimburse developers for certain costs in redeveloping brownfield sites.

Developments of Regional Significance: [House Bill 1812](#) (Gillespie-R-York) would amend the Municipalities Planning Code to establish provisions for evaluating developments of regional significance.

Tax Increment Financing Act: [House Bill 1813](#) (Gillespie-R-York) requiring the reporting of municipal tax increment financing programs to DCED.

Governor’s Address to Open Special Session on Energy to be Set for September 24

The Special Session on Energy called by Gov. Rendell will open on September 17, and the Governor’s address to formally open the session will be on September 24 when both the Senate and House are back in session.

Gov. Rendell said the session will consider “any and all legislation regarding funding for and the making of investments in clean and renewable energy, energy conservation, and economic development efforts relating thereto, and the establishment of requirements regarding the renewable energy content of liquid fuels.”

House Committee Hears Comments on Electric Rate Cap Expiration

The House Consumer Affairs Committee held a hearing this week on electricity procurement, rate caps and electric price mitigating strategies.

Public Utility Commission Chairman [Wendell Holland](#) said the PUC has no jurisdiction over setting wholesale prices for electricity in Pennsylvania’s competitive electricity market, but said the PUC is taking aggressive action to reduce demand and working to develop a program designed to reduce the potential shock of a transition when the rate caps expire.

[Sonny Popowsky](#), Consumer Advocate of Pennsylvania, said the future of electricity prices and the procurement of electric generation resources when rate caps expire is the most critical issue facing electric consumers today. He recommended the General Assembly adopted changes in [House Bill 1201](#) and [House Bill 697](#) to help mitigate the impacts of electricity price increases.

[William Lloyd](#), Small Business Advocate, said the conventional wisdom is that consumers will face major increases in electricity rates when the rate caps expire at the end of 2010, but the actual impact will depend on the underlying price of electricity at that time. No one can predict with confidence what the price will be at that time, he said.

[Douglas Biden](#), President of the Electric Power Generation Association, said several major factors will influence electricity prices in the future: fuel prices, the cost of complying with environmental regulation and public policies like implementation of the Alternative energy Portfolio Standard, demand response and regulatory uncertainty.

[J. Michael Love](#), President & CEO of the Energy Association of PA which represents the electric distribution companies, said his industry is committed to using conservation and energy efficiency to help offset the rising cost of electricity.

[Stephen Feld](#), Associate General Counsel of FirstEnergy, said he believes competitive markets will provide customers with the most favorable prices over the long-term and recommended multiple, competitive procurement policies to reduce the rate of electricity cost increases.

[Lisa Crutchfield](#), Senior Vice President for Regulatory and External Affairs for the PECO Energy Company, said her company believes Pennsylvanians want assistance in conserving power and want to use renewable power as part of the generation mix.

[Doug Krall](#), Manager of Regulatory Strategy for PPL Electric Utilities, said he believes consumers will have more choices in electric suppliers once the rate caps come off and his company has installed automated meter reading on 1.4 million customers service to help customers better understand the cost of electricity.

[Frank Lacey](#), of the Retail Energy Supply Association, said his group supports the goals of Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Strategy, in particular, conservation efforts, renewable energy and the incentives for renewable energy sources.

[John Hanger](#), President & CEO of PennFuture, said time was growing short to adopt policies that would moderate the inevitable and necessary increases in electric rates that are scheduled to occur now through 2010.

[David Turner](#), Senior Vice President for Geslalt, provided an overview of smart meter technology.

In addition to these comments, [Duquesne Light](#) provided written comments to the Committee.

Rep. Joe Preston (D-Allegheny) serves as Chair of the House Consumer Affairs Committee and Rep. Robert Godshall (R-Montgomery) serves as the Republican Chair.

For more information, visit the PUC's [Electric Price Mitigation webpage](#).

Links: [House Committee Hears Comments on Changes to Electric Competition](#)
[PUC Chair Tells Committee "Conserve, Conserve, Conserve" Electricity](#)

Other News

Exelon Joins U.S. Climate Action Partnership



The [Exelon Corporation](#) has joined the [United States Climate Action Partnership](#), the landmark business-NGO alliance which has called on Congress to quickly enact national economy-wide legislation to address climate change, now comprises 33 organizations, including 27 of the world's largest corporations and 6 highly respected non-governmental organizations. <http://www.exeloncorp.com/>

Exelon, one of the nation's largest electric utilities, has a long history of support for action on climate change, and has established its own voluntary emissions reductions.

"Exelon was an early and vocal advocate for mandatory, economy-wide carbon regulation. By joining other industry leaders in USCAP, we add our very strong voice to those who are working with Congress to enact climate change legislation as soon as possible," said John W. Rowe, Exelon chairman, president and CEO. "We support USCAP's call for a cap-and-trade program to provide regulatory certainty and create economic opportunity. And in the meantime, as a member of the U.S. EPA's Climate Leaders program we are on track to meet our voluntary goal of reducing our own greenhouse gas emissions by 8 percent from 2001 levels by the end of 2008."

Collectively, USCAP companies now have total revenues of nearly \$2 trillion and a combined market capitalization of more than \$2.2 trillion.

USCAP members also represent a broad cross-section of the U.S. economy, including: the transportation sector, financial services, metals, oil and gas, manufacturing, chemicals, energy and electric power, agribusiness, healthcare, food and beverage, pharmaceuticals, buildings, and construction equipment.

Driven by top executives of the member organizations, USCAP operates on a high-level consensus approach; this practice continues with the addition of the new members.

The group has sought to balance interests across industries and regions to create the best economic path to reducing global atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations. In

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

January, USCAP issued its solutions-based report, titled [A Call for Action](#), laying out a blueprint for an economy-wide, market driven cap-and-trade program.

The recommendations embodied in the report are based on the following six key principles: account for the global dimensions of climate change; recognize the importance of technology; be environmentally effective; create economic opportunity and advantage; be fair to sectors disproportionately impacted; and, recognize and encourage early action.

U.S. leadership is essential for establishing an equitable and effective international policy framework. The coalition urges policy makers to act quickly to slow, stop and reverse the growth of greenhouse gas emissions over the shortest period of time reasonably achievable.

To that end, USCAP has recommended that Congress establish short- and mid-term emission reduction targets; a national program to accelerate technology research, development and deployment; and approaches to encourage action by other countries, including the developing world. USCAP hopes these policies will minimize the large-scale adverse impacts of climate change for humans and the natural environment.

The founding members of USCAP are Alcoa, BP America, Caterpillar, Duke Energy, DuPont, FPL Group, Inc., General Electric, PG&E, and PNM Resources, as well as Environmental Defense, Natural Resources Defense Council, Pew Center on Global Climate Change and World Resources Institute.

Twenty additional organizations have joined the partnership this year: American International Group (AIG), Alcan, Boston Scientific, ConocoPhillips, Deere & Company, The Dow Chemical Company, the Exelon Corporation, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Corp., Johnson & Johnson, Marsh, NRG Energy, PepsiCo, Rio Tinto, Shell, Siemens, The Chrysler Group, The Nature Conservancy, the National Wildlife Federation and Xerox.

Coca-Cola to Recycle/Reuse 100% of Its Bottles, RecycleBank Partnership Expanded

Coca-Cola has announced it has set a comprehensive goal to recycle or reuse 100 percent of the company's PET (polyethylene terephthalate) plastic bottles in the U.S. In addition, the company announced it will expand its relationship with Philadelphia-based [RecycleBank](#) in an effort to boost consumer recycling rates.

Coca-Cola is also investing more than \$60 million to build the world's largest plastic-bottle-to-bottle recycling plant and support recycling in the U.S.

Coca-Cola and United Resource Recovery Corp. will build its new recycling plant in Spartanburg, S.C. The plant will produce approximately 100 million pounds of food-grade recycled PET (polyethylene terephthalate) plastic for reuse each year - the equivalent of producing nearly two billion 20-ounce Coca-Cola bottles.

The new 30-acre Spartanburg plant will open in 2008 and will be fully operational in 2009. Over the next 10 years, the Spartanburg recycling plant is expected to eliminate the production of one million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions - the equivalent of removing 21,500 cars from the road.

Coca-Cola has been focused on PET recycling and reuse since introducing the first beverage bottle made with recycled material in 1991. Since then, Coca-Cola has worked with URRC and other partners to accelerate the development and commercialization of environmentally-efficient and sustainable recycling technologies throughout the world.

Today, The Coca-Cola Company uses recycled content in more than 17 countries, including the United States.

RecycleBank currently operates in southern New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania and will be launching service in upstate New York, Vermont and Massachusetts in the fall of 2007.

RecycleBank plans to be in 100,000 homes by the end of 2007. The additional investment will support a national rollout of the RecycleBank program by 2009.

RecycleBank leverages new technology and innovative consumer incentives to substantially increase household recycling participation and rates. Since its launch in 2003, RecycleBank has driven recycling rates in Philadelphia from 15 percent to more than 50 percent, and household participation from 30 percent to 90 percent.

“RecycleBank makes recycling easier and more convenient for consumers,” said Scott Vitters, director of sustainable packaging, The Coca-Cola Company. “While consumers reap the rewards of recycling through RecycleBank incentives, businesses also benefit through the increased collection of valuable, reusable materials like PET.”

Link: [Philadelphia/RecycleBank Triple Recycling in Pilot Areas](#)

26 Counties Removed From Drought Watch, But Remains for 32

The Department of Environmental Protection this week removed 26 counties from the drought watch declared August 6. The state’s drought task force also recommended that 32 counties remain in drought watch status as concern lingers over groundwater levels in some areas of the Commonwealth.

“Many counties received above-normal precipitation in August and the groundwater and surface water levels in those counties have returned to normal for this time of year,” Environmental Protection Kathleen A. McGinty said. “In many of the counties that remain under a drought watch, the groundwater levels, while improving, have not completely recharged, so we’re asking people to continue to conserve water.”

The 26 counties removed from the drought watch include: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Carbon, Clarion, Crawford, Fayette, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Lebanon, Mercer, Mifflin, Northumberland, Perry, Pike, Susquehanna, Tioga, Warren, Wayne, Westmoreland and York.

The drought watch remains in effect for: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Bradford, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Elk, Erie, Franklin, Forest, Fulton, Greene, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Monroe, Montour, Potter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Somerset, Sullivan, Union, Washington, Wyoming and Venango.

A drought watch is the first level — and least severe — of the state’s three drought classifications. It calls for a voluntary 5 percent reduction in non-essential water use. DEP monitors precipitation totals, groundwater levels, streamflows, soil moisture and water supply storage when deciding whether a drought declaration is needed.

“It’s important to note this is typically the driest time of the year in Pennsylvania. So, while the voluntary 5 percent reduction in non-essential water use is no longer officially in effect for some counties, and reservoirs are in good shape, conserving water is always a good idea,” Secretary McGinty said.

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She noted that individuals and water suppliers who rely on groundwater wells should be particularly aware of any drops in groundwater levels.

Visit DEP's [Drought Information Center](#) for more information.

DEP Accepting Coastal Zone Management Grant Applications

The Department of Environmental Protection [published a notice](#) that it is now accepting applications for Federal Fiscal Year 2008 Coastal Zone grants.

Applications are due October 22.

Eligible applicants include political subdivisions, authorities, 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations and educational institutions located with defined coastal zone geographic areas of this Commonwealth. Proposals must support the Coastal Zone Program's mission to protect and enhance this Commonwealth's coastal resources.

These Federal grants require a match (cash or in-kind services) on a one-to-one basis by the applicants.

DEP said more information about the grants will be posted on the [PA Coastal Zone Program webpage](#) or by contacting the Department of Environmental Protection, Water Planning Office, 2nd Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, P. O. Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063, 717-772-4785, fax 717-783-4690.

Gov. Rendell Proclaims September National Preparedness Month

Gov. Rendell this week encouraged all Pennsylvanians to recognize National Preparedness Month in September in three simple ways: be prepared, be aware and volunteer.

“Most Pennsylvanians know that preparing for emergencies is important, but they haven’t actually taken steps to prepare,” said Gov. Rendell. “Disasters don’t plan ahead. That’s why every resident, family, business owner and community must start preparing today.”

Gov. Rendell will remind Pennsylvanians to be prepared, be aware and volunteer in a series of television and radio public service announcements airing statewide in September. In addition, state officials will appear on Comcast Newsmakers throughout the month to talk about preparedness.

All Pennsylvanians should prepare to care for themselves and their families for a minimum of 72 hours after an emergency. They should have a plan to communicate with loved ones; know when to evacuate or stay in their home or building; and have a disaster kit with essential supplies for every person and pet who lives or works with them.

Gov. Rendell also asks Pennsylvanians to be aware of their surroundings and report activities that are dangerous or seem suspicious. When disaster strikes, pay attention to news reports and follow instructions given by state and local officials. Important information will be broadcast using the emergency alert system.

Individuals of all backgrounds, professions and levels of expertise can help their community during the next emergency by signing up as a volunteer through [SERVPA](#), the state emergency registry of volunteers in Pennsylvania, in advance of a disaster. There are no training, educational or professional requirements and there is no obligation to respond to an emergency if called.

Pennsylvanians are also encouraged to consider becoming a member of their community emergency response team or citizen corps. Training is available by contacting

county emergency management agencies. Local American Red Cross chapters also teach a variety of preparedness courses.

“Local organizations and volunteers are the heart of any disaster response,” said Gov. Rendell. “Volunteer to do whatever you can do – give medical care, do electrical work, cook or just listen when someone needs help. Knowing what to do could make the difference for you and others.”

For more information about preparing for an emergency, get the [Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness Guide](#). Information about National Preparedness Month is available from the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#).

Game Commission Offers Advice on Avoiding Bear Conflicts



With autumn fast approaching, many Pennsylvanians will be spending increasing amounts of time outdoors. This also is when black bears become more active, setting the stage for an increase in bear sightings and possibly encounters.

Mark Ternent, Game Commission black bear biologist, noted that, as fall progresses, bears will begin to increase their food intake to prepare for the upcoming denning season, which begins in mid- to late-November. For some bears, the search for food may lead them closer to people or homes.

Ternent offered suggestions on how to reduce the likelihood that your property will attract bruins and how to best react when a bear is encountered.

"Bear activity can increase during the fall as bears try to consume as many calories as possible from any source they can find in preparation for denning," Ternent said. "As a result, sightings of bears can increase, particularly if natural nut and berry crops are below average.

"While Pennsylvania bears are mostly timid animals that would sooner run than confront people, residents should know a few things about how to react if they encounter a bear, or better yet, how to avoid an encounter altogether by reducing the likelihood of attracting bears in the first place."

Ternent stressed there are no known records of a Pennsylvania black bear killing a human, and there have been fewer than 25 reported injuries resulting from black bear encounters during the past 10 years in the state. However, deaths caused by black bears have occurred elsewhere in North America.

Pennsylvania's bear population currently is estimated at 15,000 animals, and reports of problems because people failed to keep food away from bears are not uncommon.

"Pennsylvanians need to understand that when bears become habituated to getting food from people, it can lead to conflicts, property damage and the possibility of injury or eventual destruction of the bear," Ternent said. "Feeding wildlife, whether the activity is intended for birds or deer, can draw bears into an area. Once bears become habituated to an area where they find food, they will continue to return, which is when the bear can become a real problem for homeowners and neighbors.

"Even more disturbing are the reports we receive about people intentionally feeding bears to make them more visible for viewing or photographing."

Since March 2003, it has been illegal to intentionally feed bears in Pennsylvania. Also, the unintentional feeding of bears that results in nuisance complaints filed with the Game Commission can result in a written warning that, if ignored, could lead to a citation and fine.

"We recognize that people enjoy viewing wildlife, and we are not attempting to impact that activity," Terner said. "But, the agency has an obligation to reduce conflicts when and where we can. All too often, human complaints about bears can be traced back to intentional or unintentional feeding. To protect the public, as well as bears, we need to avoid the dangers of conditioning bears to finding food around homes. It would be irresponsible to do otherwise."

[A complete list of recommendations](#) on how to avoid encounters with black bears is available online.

More information, visit the Game Commission's [black bears webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Landowners Encouraged to Avoid Deer Baiting Violations](#)

Youth Hunting Seasons Just Around the Corner

As hunters take time to prepare for upcoming seasons, Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe is encouraging adults to promote the state's hunting and trapping heritage by introducing youngsters to the great outdoors during the variety of youth hunting seasons.

A list of youth seasons and requirements for the various opportunities are outlined on page 15 of the 2007-08 Pennsylvania [Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations](#), which is provided to each license buyer.

"Part of the Game Commission's overall vision is to promote our state's rich hunting and trapping heritage," Roe said. "The future of hunting and trapping is directly related to the continuing participation of young Pennsylvanians in our hunting and trapping seasons. The challenge is to successfully compete with all the other activities and recreational opportunities that vie for a young person's time. It won't be easy for the Game Commission or Pennsylvania's more than a million hunters. But the future of wildlife conservation - and the \$4.8 billion economic impact hunters provide to the state annually - is directly related to hunter recruitment. We will continue to do our best to improve the situation."

Those youth under the age of 12 were permitted to begin hunting groundhogs July 1, as part of the Mentored Youth Hunting Program, which is in its second year. Under the program, a mentor is defined as a properly licensed individual at least 21 years of age, who serves as a guide to a youth while engaged in hunting or related activities, such as scouting, learning firearm or hunter safety and wildlife identification. A mentored youth is an unlicensed individual less than 12 years of age who is accompanied by a mentor while engaged in hunting or related activities.

The regulations require that the mentor-to-mentored youth ratio be one-to-one, and that the pair possess only one sporting arm when hunting. While moving, the sporting arm must be carried by the mentor. When the pair reaches a stationary hunting location, the mentor may turn over possession of the sporting arm to the youth and must keep the youth within arm's length at all times.



PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

The Mentored Youth Hunting Program does not require the youth purchase any license or pass a Hunter-Trapper Education course. Mentored youth can participate in any legal season for woodchucks (groundhogs), and antlered deer, as well as squirrels and spring gobbler, including the youth-only seasons.

Mentored youth can abide by the same antler restrictions as junior license holders, which is an antler at least three inches in length or one antler with at least two points. Mentored youth can participate in season in which antlered deer are legal, which are: the archery deer season (September 29-November 10), the firearms deer season (November 26-December 8) and the late flintlock muzzleloader season (December 26-January 12). However, as mentored youth are not permitted to harvest antlerless deer, they may not participate in the three-day firearms deer season, October 18-20, as that season is for antlerless deer only.

The Mentored Youth Hunting Program also requires that both the mentor and the youth must abide by any fluorescent orange regulations, and that the mentored youth must tag and report any antlered deer or spring gobbler taken by making and attaching a tag that contains his or her name, address, date, WMU, township, and county where it was taken. A sample of the field tag to be used by mentored youth is available on page 33 of the Digest. The youth must submit a harvest report card, which also is available on page 33 of the Digest, within five days for any antlered deer or gobbler he or she takes.

Starting on September 22, young hunters - age 12-15 years old - are able to take part in a special day of waterfowl hunting. Later this year is the "youth only days" at the Middle Creek and Pymatuning controlled waterfowl hunting areas. The Middle Creek day is November 17. The Pymatuning day is November 24.

For more information on the waterfowl seasons and bag limits, visit the Game Commission's website and download the "[Waterfowl Brochure](#)."

Youth between the ages of 12-16 may participate in youth squirrel and pheasant hunts October 6-12. Under the youth squirrel and pheasant hunts, participants are not required to purchase a junior hunting license, but they must pass a Hunter-Trapper Education course. As with all junior hunting, those participants 12 and 13 years old must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or other family member 18 years or older, and those 14 and 15 years old must be accompanied by a person 18 years or older. Also, all bag limits apply, including areas for harvesting male and female pheasants.

On October 6, a number of sportsmen's clubs from across Pennsylvania will host mentored pheasant hunts for youth. As part of these hunts, club members will provide specific instructions on pheasant hunting, and many of the clubs have either purchased pheasants from private breeders to release for their hunts or will share in nearly 1,700 birds provided by the Game Commission for mentored hunts. Also, prior to the youth pheasant hunt, the Game Commission will release 15,000 pheasants on public lands throughout the state. Details on where these birds will be stocked are included on pages 26-28 of the Digest.

Information about the youth pheasant season is posted on the Game Commission's [Ring-Necked Pheasant webpage](#).

"These youth seasons take into account that students are off school on October 6, and most are off on October 8, the Columbus Day holiday, as well," Roe said. "The remainder of the youth squirrel season takes place before the change of daylight savings time. This gives students an opportunity to go home after school and have two hours or so to hunt, which is a long-standing tradition in many rural parts of the state."

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

In addition to the youth waterfowl, squirrel and pheasant hunts, other youth events created by the Game Commission include: a youth spring gobbler season, initiated in 2004; special antlerless deer harvesting opportunities, created in 1998 and expanded in 2001; and youth field days, established in the early 1990s.

Facts about the Pennsylvania Game Commission: Did you know that the junior resident hunter's license for those 12 through 16 years of age was created in 1963, and cost \$3.20 at that time?

NewsClip: [Landowners Encouraged to Avoid Deer Baiting Violations](#)

Pymatuning Waterfowl Expo Scheduled for September 15-16

The Game Commission's [Pymatuning Wildlife Learning Center](#) is gearing up for the 2007 Pymatuning Ducks Unlimited Waterfowl Expo on September 15-16, in and around Linesville, Crawford County.

A highlight of the two-day event is the selection of the 26th Annual Pennsylvania Waterfowl Management Stamp from entries by many of the Commonwealth's most accomplished wildlife artists, which will be held at 1 p.m. on September 15, at the Linesville High School, 302 West School Drive.

At 10 a.m., on September 15, the Game Commission will conduct its annual public drawing to select those who will be afforded an opportunity to use one of the blinds for waterfowl hunting at Pymatuning. The drawing will be held at the Game Commission's Pymatuning Administration Building, 9552 Hartstown Rd.

At 11:30 a.m. on September 15, Kevin Jacobs, Game Commission waterfowl biologist, will hold a waterfowl information and banding program, with the opportunity for children to assist in the release of wild ducks, at the Learning Center, 12590 Hartstown Road. The Learning Center also will be open on Saturday and Sunday for visitors.

Following conclusion of the Expo, the Learning Center will close for this year's visitor season. However, the nature trail will remain open.

Middle Creek to Host Wildfowl Show September 15-16

The Game Commission's [Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area](#) will host its 21st Annual Middle Creek Wildfowl Show on September 15-16.

The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Admission is free, but donations are graciously accepted and benefit the Wildlands Preservation Fund to preserve wild lands.

Middle Creek is along Hopeland Road, two miles south of Kleinfeltersville, on the Lebanon-Lancaster county line.

The show features wildfowl carvings and carving supplies, artwork, collectibles, dog training supplies and hunting items from more than 60 vendors.

Retriever demonstrations will be at 10 a.m. and noon on September 15, and at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on September 16. Two different retriever clubs will display their dogs' abilities, both with water retrievals and upland retrievals. Demonstrations on Saturday will



be performed by the [Keystone Retriever Club](#), and on Sunday, by the Northern Piedmont Retriever Club.

Decoy competitions will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, and winners will be announced at 4 p.m. Carvers may enter their creations into different categories to include decorative, working and shorebird gunning rigs. Each year, a different duck is chosen for the decorative competition. This year, the gadwall was selected.

Pennsylvania State Duck and Goose Calling Championships will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday. The winner of the duck calling competition will likely go to the world duck calling championship in Stuttgart, Arkansas, and the winner of the goose calling competition will likely go to the world goose calling championship in Easton, Maryland.

In 2006, Darvin Gebhart, of Hanover, won the Pennsylvania goose calling competition, and Jeremy Finan, from Milton, won the Pennsylvania duck calling competition.

Food vendors will be selling throughout the show. For further information or directions, call 717-733-1512.

Since its inception in 1973, the [Wildlands Conservancy's](#) Wildlands Preservation Fund has helped to preserve more than 46,000 acres in an 18-county area in eastern Pennsylvania, including more than 1,200 acres at Middle Creek.

DCNR, ClearWater Conservancy Permanently Protect 423 Acres

The deed for 423 acres of prime watershed, agricultural and forestland in Centre County is being transferred from the [ClearWater Conservancy](#) to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The land will be added to Rothrock State Forest.

“By conserving this land, we are protecting much more than trees and open space,” DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said this week at a ceremony set against a backdrop of expansive woodlands. “These 423 acres will help protect groundwater recharge, important bird and wildlife habitat and improve access to Rothrock State Forest for hikers and bikers.”

To acquire the land from a private owner who planned to develop it, the state invested about \$1.5 million of Growing Greener II and Keystone funding. Additional support came from the State College Borough Water Authority; Ferguson, College, Harris, Halfmoon and Patton townships; State College Borough; and several other sources. ClearWater Conservancy facilitated the purchase with financing assistance from Omega Bank.

“Musser Gap is part of a noted flyway for raptors, such as golden eagles and hawks, and is a nesting spot for Neotropical migratory birds,” said Secretary DiBerardinis. “As an added benefit, this land will provide new access to the existing trail systems in Rothrock State Forest for people interested in bird watching, hiking, biking, horseback riding and hunting.”

Musser Gap is a mountain gap on Tussey Ridge between Shingleton Gap and Pine Grove Mills. The gap recharges the groundwater in the vicinity of the well fields that supply drinking water to 38,000 residents in the State College area.

“Our community’s identity is closely linked with open valleys cradled by forested ridges that provide the backdrop to our lives,” said ClearWater Conservancy Executive Director, Jennifer Shuey. “By protecting this part of the Tussey Mountain viewscape, we hold onto a piece of what makes central Pennsylvania such a beautiful place to live.”

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

“This is a terrific example of the ClearWater Conservancy, state and local governments and non-profit organizations working together to conserve something of great value to nearby communities, and we congratulate them on their success and thank them for their hard work on this project,” Secretary DiBerardinis said.

With this recent addition, Rothrock State Forest now encompasses about 80,000 acres in parts of Centre, Huntingdon and Mifflin counties.

In 1903, the forested area now known as [Rothrock State Forest](#) was virtually stripped bare of trees to provide wood to make charcoal for the iron furnaces located at Greenwood Furnace in Huntingdon County. Today it is managed to provide recreational opportunities for thousands of visitors each year while making a significant contribution to Pennsylvania’s economy with its high quality timber production.

Game Commission to Hold State Game Land Tours for Public

As part of the Game Commission's efforts to highlight its ongoing habitat improvement initiatives, the public is invited to take part in upcoming tours of several State Game Lands between September 22 and October 21. All tours are free.

"State Game Land tours provide the opportunity for those who enjoy nature to come out and talk with our employees - the people who are directly responsible for managing and protecting these lands," said Carl G. Roe, Game Commission executive director. "With autumn nearly here, these tours will provide a chance to see some of the best scenery the Commonwealth has to offer. These tours afford hunters and trappers and others who appreciate wildlife the opportunity to see how the Game Commission is spending hunting and furtaker license fees to acquire and manage these lands for wildlife."

Roe noted that staff shortages and limited financial resources forced a reduction in the number of State Game Land tours this year.

"Recognizing the benefit of the tours, the agency has maintained some tours," Roe said. "It was a difficult decision to scale back on the number of tours we offer this year. However, the agency's current financial situation required that we make tough choices."

During the 2005-06 license year, the number of resident and nonresident licenses sold totaled 906,084. Antlerless deer licenses sold during the same time period totaled 860,826. This mandated that a minimum of \$5,572,509 be expended for habitat improvement. The actual amount spent during the fiscal year for these purposes was \$7.5 million, an excess of \$1,927,491 over the requirement.

Also during 2005-06, Game Commission Food and Cover Corps, Land Managers and Foresters planted 3,020 acres of grain and 1,961 acres of grasses and legumes to benefit wildlife. There were 368 acres planted or converted to warm season grasses. In addition, 1,338 acres of field and administrative road borders were cut to provide nesting and escape cover. Wetland restoration work was completed on 17 sites across the state through the efforts of food and cover employees and various habitat partners. There were 8,803 trees pruned to improve fruit and seed production, and finally, 425 new nest boxes and 363 waterfowl nest structures were erected.

The agency's Howard Nursery in Centre County produced and distributed 1,796,500 tree and shrub seedlings for wildlife food and cover plantings, and 424,300 of the seedlings distributed were sold for \$59,564. Seedlings also were available for purchase to the general public during the 2006-07 season. The nursery propagated 31 species of important food and cover plants. Deciduous trees and shrubs accounted for 871,500; the

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

remaining being 925,000 evergreens for thermal cover. Native species continue to be added annually.

The Howard Nursery wood shop produced and shipped 2,698 bluebird/chickadee/wren boxes; 5,492 bluebird box kits; 475 wood duck boxes and kits; 141 squirrel, kestrel, barn owl and bat boxes; and almost 3,100 signs and back boards for use on game lands and cooperative access properties. An additional 65 "non-standard" nesting devices, such as mallard and turkey rocket boxes, also were produced. Wood products are also available for purchase by the public on the agency's website.

In an attempt to offset overhead costs associated with seedlings and forest wood products, the agency implemented a cost/item program. This caused a net reduction in free seedlings distributions and thus habitat enhancement values on private lands.

Maintaining optimum habitat diversity on State Game Lands is an important goal of our Habitat Management Program. There were 5,961 acres offered for bidding for commercial timber harvest operations during the past fiscal year.

There were 2,558 acres treated with herbicide to remove ferns, striped maple, spicebush and low quality beech brush hampering the establishment of more beneficial tree species. Contractors erected 8-foot-high woven wire fences around 584 acres of recently harvested habitat areas to protect the susceptible new growth from excessive browsing by deer.

The Upland Vegetation Management machine was used to treat 201 acres by cutting and shearing advanced growth of woody vegetation so it could revert to an earlier successional low ground cover stage.

In 1919, the Game Commission was granted authority to purchase lands for the protection, propagation and management of game and wildlife, and to provide areas for public hunting and trapping. Since that time, the Game Commission has acquired more than 1.4 million acres in 65 of the state's 67 counties (Philadelphia and Delaware counties being the exceptions).

With few exceptions, State Game Lands were purchased using revenues from hunting and furtaker license sales; State Game Lands timber, coal, oil, gas and mineral operation revenues; the state's share of a federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, known as the Pittman-Robertson Program; from Working Together for Wildlife artwork and patch sales; and from the Pennsylvania Waterfowl Management stamp and print sales.

A complete list of [tour dates and directions is available online](#).

Facts about the Pennsylvania Game Commission: Did you know that, in 1920, the Game Commission purchased the first State Game Land, SGL 25, containing 6,288 acres, in Elk County. The agency paid \$2.75 per acre.

PA Center for Environmental Ed September EE Connections Newsletter Now Online

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

- **General News:** Celebrate Southeastern Pennsylvania Coast Day, Reminder: Richard Louv to Speak at St. Vincent's College, Reminder: 6th Annual Ohio River Watershed

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Celebration, Pennsylvania Green Business Guide, Celebrate National Public Lands Day;

- **K-12:** Environmental Literacy and Environmental Education Defined, Welcome to Tox Town, Climate Classroom;
- **Higher Education:** Muhlenberg College Guide to Sustainable Living;
- **Professional Development:** Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Summit, Hawk Mountain to Host International Raptor Meeting, Green Building Alliance's September Programs, Reminder: Energy from Biomass and Waste Conference, Pennsylvania Green Growth Forum, Global Warming: Rising to the Challenge by Acting Locally, Greenways & Trails Workshop, Wetland Professional Development Opportunities, The Great Cape Escape, Chesapeake Watershed Forum; and
- **Grants/Awards:** Nominations for Governor's Environmental Excellence Award Now Accepted, Lehigh River Watershed Photography Contest, Annie's Sustainable Agriculture Scholarship Program, Healthy Sprouts Awards,

Contributions welcome! The Center receives news and information from a variety of sources across Pennsylvania and beyond and appreciates all of the organizations, agencies and individuals who provide EE services and share their relevant information.

If you would like to contribute to future issues of EE Connections, please submit your article before the 15th of the month. Articles should be of statewide interest and are subject to space availability.

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

Environmental Literacy: A Critical Part of Every Child's Education

An opinion piece by Kathleen Paul, Director of the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#), and Ruth Roperti, President of the Pennsylvania Association for Environmental Educators, that appeared in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on August 26 discussed the need for teachers who can enlighten students about the natural world.

The article focused on the growing trend of young people losing touch with the environment and the need to take steps to reverse this emergency situation. One possible solution is to increase funding for teacher training and the development of model programs through the No Child Left Inside Act.

“We’re proud to say that Pennsylvania is a leader in environmental education, one of the few states that have created specific instructional standards related to the environment,” state Paul and Roperti. “Nationally, though, environmental education is at a critical crossroads.”

[The entire Post-Gazette article is available online.](#)



Opportunities Abound to Support 2008 Environmental Education Conference

“[LEEAP IN! – A Conference Linking Environmental Education and Play in Nature](#)” will be the theme of the 2008 PA Association of Environmental Educators Conference that will

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

be held from February 29 to March 2 at the Antiochian Village Camp and Conference Center, located in Bolivar, Pa, near Ligonier.

For over 30 years, PAEE has attracted environmental educators, teachers, interpreters, and other environmental professionals from across the state to participate in its conferences.

Although it is coordinated entirely by unpaid volunteers, the conference's necessary costs—venue rental, room and board, professional speaker fees, printing charges, postage, educational materials—can make attending a conference expensive.

PAEE relies on community supporters to assist in providing a professional, engaging, and beneficial experience that is also affordable for its attendees.

There are many opportunities to be a PAEE 2008 Conference Sponsor. By supporting the conference, you and your company will demonstrate its commitment to quality environmental education and conservation across Pennsylvania. And since PAEE is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization, donations are completely tax-deductible.

For more information on sponsorships, contact Trisha O'Neill at PAEE by calling 412-963-6100 x24 or send email to: toneill@aswp.org at any time. Or, complete and [return the response card](#) on the PAEE website.

Southcentral PA Commuter Services Expands Free Emergency Ride Home

[Commuter Services of South Central Pennsylvania](#) this week announced it has expanded its free Emergency Ride Home Program to cover all enrolled commuters.

Commuter Services will reimburse qualified emergency rides home for workers who use commute options (transit, carpooling, vanpooling, bicycling or walking to work), rather than driving alone.

To qualify, the worker must: use a commuting option at least twice a week, register in the confidential Commuter Services RideMatch database, have a qualified emergency, live or work in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry or York counties.

“Commuters consider their ability to get home in an emergency as one of the biggest barriers to using a commuting option, like carpools or transit,” said Brandy Heilman, director of the Commuter Services program.

“Emergency ride home programs are similar to homeowners’ insurance,” Heilman said. “You hope you never have to use it, but it is reassuring to know it’s there if you need it.”

Until today, Commuter Services offered the free emergency ride home program only if the employer as well as the employee were registered.

“Across the nation, emergency rides have shown to be important to allow people to use commuting options,” Heilman said. “Now, all commuters have to do is register in the commuter database at www.PaCommuterServices.com, or complete and submit a paper application.”

The rider or the participating employer decides how the commuter is transported, for example by taxi or by a co-worker. Reimbursement is based on the receipted fare or the equivalent of the IRS rate for mileage reimbursement – 48.5 cents per mile for 2007.

If the employer is enrolled, the employer pays for any emergency rides home and is reimbursed by Commuter Services. If the employer isn't participating, the employee pays

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

for the ride, and then is reimbursed by the program. A reimbursement form is available on line.

Qualified emergencies include unexpected personal illness/emergency, an unexpected immediate family illness/emergency, a carpool driver's emergency, or unscheduled overtime at the supervisor's request.

Commuters can choose from appropriate destinations that best serve their emergency needs, such as home, their vehicle (if parked at a transit station or park 'n ride lot), a child's school or daycare, or a medical facility. The trip can include more than one stop, for example taking the commuter to a child's school, a doctor's office, and then home.

Commuter Services promotes alternatives to commuting alone to commuters and employers in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York counties, where there are an estimated 823,00 commuters.

Visit the Emergency Ride Home page on the [Commuter Services of South Central Pennsylvania website](#) for more information.

Forestry Workshop Set in Westmoreland for September 29

Landowners, woodlot owners, and others interested in learning more about forestry are invited to attend an introductory workshop, led by [Westmoreland Conservation District](#) Forester Tony Quadro, on September 29, from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

This "Forestry I" workshop will be held at the Westmoreland Conservation District on Donohoe Road in Greensburg and in the adjacent, natural wooded area of Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park.

Participants will be introduced to basic tree identification, common forestry terms, and methods for measuring timber. No prior experience or knowledge of forestry is necessary, but registration by September 27 is required.

This workshop is sponsored by the Westmoreland Conservation District and the Westmoreland Woodlands Improvement Association. A nominal fee (reduced rate for WWIA members) will be charged.

For more information, contact the Westmoreland Conservation District at 724-837-5271, ext. 210 or send email to: christie@wcdpa.com.

DCNR Names Daniel Devlin New State Forester

Daniel A. Devlin, a veteran of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resource's Bureau of Forestry, has been appointed state forester and will serve as director of the bureau.

Devlin, who has worked for 26 years in various positions in the Bureau of Forestry, will succeed Dr. James Grace, who is now DCNR's deputy secretary for state parks and forestry.

"Dan Devlin brings to this position enthusiasm, energy and a deep knowledge of the bureau and Pennsylvania's more than 2 million acres of state forest land," DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said in announcing the appointment. "I look forward to tapping his breadth of knowledge and his vision to address new and challenging forest issues that include deer management, invasive species, private forest stewardship,

improving recreational opportunities on the public land, and emerging policy issues such as wind power and sequestering carbon.”

Devlin, 54, takes over the reins of Pennsylvania’s forest system — the largest in the nation that is certified as sustainably managed to ensure its future health and that of the vibrant timber industry it supports.

“I am truly excited and honored to be able to build on the many successes that the Bureau of Forestry has achieved and I will strive to do more to connect people to the outdoors, manage the state forests entrusted to us and promote economic development, particularly in the Pennsylvania Wilds region, through nature tourism,” said Devlin.

Devlin lives in Duncannon, Perry County, with his wife and daughter.

He has served in a variety of positions since joining the Bureau of Forestry in 1981, including serving as director of forest planning and stewardship, division chief of resource planning and information, program manager and a wildlife biologist. He started his career as a reservation forest manager for the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs in Minnesota.

Devlin graduated from Penn State University with a bachelor’s degree in forest science and a minor in forest resources. He also received a master’s degree in wildlife management from Penn State.

Spotlight

Recovering Attorneys’ Fees in Environmental Litigation

By Terry R. Bossert
Post & Schell

A recent decision of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court may foreshadow a significant shift regarding the recoverability of attorneys’ fees and costs in environmental litigation.

In *Solebury Township v. Department of Environmental Protection, et al.*, decided August 20, 2007, the Court construed Section 307 of the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law (“CSL”) (35 P.S. § 691.307) which gives the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board (“EHB”) the authority to award fees to a party participating in a permit appeal. The Court noted that Section 307 gives the Board broad discretion to award fees to a party based on what the Court called “Pennsylvania’s strong policy to justly compensate parties who challenge agency actions by liberally interpreting feeshifting provisions.”

In reaching the original decision to deny fees to appellants, the EHB had applied a test known as the Kwalwasser test which was derived from an earlier EHB decision affirmed by the Commonwealth Court.

That test requires that in order to award fees, the Board has to find that (1) a final order has been issued; (2) the applicant for the fees was the prevailing party; (3) the applicant achieved some degree of success on the merits and (4) the applicant made a substantial contribution to a full and final determination of the issues.

These criteria were derived federal statutory provisions relating to fees in mining cases and federal decisions interpreting those provisions. Although the Supreme Court did not specifically reject the Kwalwasser test, it did not endorse it either.



Since Section 307 of the Clean Streams Law merely provides that the EHB “may in its discretion order the payment of costs and attorneys’ fees it determines to have been reasonably incurred by such party. . . .”, the Court held that it was not improper for the EHB to adopt some standards or criteria, similar to the Kwalwasser test by which this broad discretion would be channeled. However, the Court specifically held that those criteria could not be controlled by federal provisions which were narrower than the language of Section 307.

The Court also rejected the contention that a party, in order to be “prevailing”, needed to necessarily obtain a formal judgment in its favor after litigating the matter to conclusion on the merits. In the case under consideration, the appellants had sought the revocation of a Section 401 certification issued by DEP. During the course of the litigation, DEP voluntarily rescinded the certification it had previously issued and the appeal was dismissed as moot. The Supreme Court indicated that this may, in fact, have been adequate to satisfy the language in Section 307.

Since the EHB had not developed a factual record and had relied upon criteria now disfavored by the Court, the matter was remanded to EHB for further proceedings.

Presumably the EHB will establish criteria and reevaluate the fee request, if the parties do not reach a settlement. However, since the Court stressed more than once in its Opinion that Pennsylvania had a public policy favoring liberal construction of fee shifting provisions, it can be assumed that the Board’s criteria will not be as narrowly drawn as the Kwalwasser Test.

Although Section 307 of the Clean Streams Law is one of the few provisions allowing for the recovery of attorneys’ fees in actions before the EHB, nearly all of the environmental statutes contain provisions allowing litigants to request attorneys’ fees in litigation commenced in the courts.

While the statutory provisions do not use language identical to Section 307, the language is very similar. One can easily foresee the argument that these statutory provisions likewise grant broad discretion to the courts. While one would expect that plaintiffs bringing “citizens’

Terry R. Bossert is an environmental attorney with Post & Schell, Harrisburg, and is the former Chief Counsel for the Department of Environmental Protection. He can be contacted at 717-612-6018 or send email to: tbossert@postschell.com .

Opinion

Pennsylvania’s Energy Bill

By

Sen. Rob Wonderling (R-Montgomery)

I recently spoke to a constituent from Montgomery County who expressed concern about the increasing cost of her electric bill. I share her concern. In the coming years, rate caps placed on electric utilities across the Commonwealth will be statutorily removed and price increases in the range of 25 to 35 percent are expected. To make matters worse, the removal of rate caps is only one aspect of



a price forecast that may include increases in generation rates and costs due to needed environmental air quality improvement requirements.

As a public servant, I believe we must ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to reliable and affordable energy. I believe we must also be looking at ways to promote energy that is clean and minimizes the harm to our environment.

Today some 55 percent of Pennsylvania’s electricity comes from coal. Another 35 percent comes from nuclear power, roughly 5 percent from natural gas, and the remainder comes from so called “alternative energy”, such as hydro, wind, and solar. Alternative energy is defined as renewable energy sources, such as wind, flowing water, solar energy and biomass, which create less environmental damage and pollution than fossil fuels, and offer an alternative to nonrenewable resources.

This fall, the Pennsylvania legislature will be discussing the increasing cost of energy and the need to use more alternative energy sources.

The Rendell Administration has put forth a proposal to issue \$850 million in new debt to promote selected alternative energy businesses, primarily focusing on solar energy. To pay for the new debt, the Governor proposes to impose a tax, termed a “systems benefit charge”, on consumers’ energy bills, ranging from roughly \$6 a year for residential consumers to an average of \$85 per year for small businesses, with a cap of \$10,000 for large industries.

Since being elected to office in 2001, I have not voted for a tax increase and do not intend to support this tax in the face of upcoming rate increases. I also have grave concerns about issuing more debt on the backs of our kids, and unfairly driving the market into one direction (solar) at the expense of other potential future energy sources. Pennsylvania should diversify its energy portfolio, not choose one sector over another.

I believe government should establish, through investment and legislation, ways to stimulate new alternative energy research and development in the private sector as well as create incentives that promote promising technologies to commercialization.

Historically, Pennsylvania has been an energy net exporter, principally of power produced by coal. Thanks to the latest technology, today’s new coal plants are 90 percent cleaner than those built in 1970, when the Clean Air Act was enacted.

Notably left out of the Governor’s proposal was any mention of clean coal technology. I believe any discussion of Pennsylvania’s energy future must include coal and ways to promote emerging clean coal technology.

Pennsylvania’s businesses and families can also play a role in reducing energy prices by increasing our energy efficiency. Adopting some simple efficiency measures in our homes and business can help conserve energy and save money.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has some simple steps citizens can take to make a real difference in their energy bills each month. I encourage you to visit them at www.depweb.state.pa.us .

Sen. Rob Wonderling represents the 24th Senate District which includes parts of Bucks, Lehigh, Montgomery and Northampton counties and can be contacted through his website at: www.SenatorWonderling.com.

Feature

Mining Operations' Legacy a Mother Lode of Acid Drainage

By Lara Lutz

Chesapeake Bay Journal

There are places in the Chesapeake Bay watershed where bright orange streams go largely unnoticed.

No one living among these rural towns and country roads can recall anything else. The rush of pumpkin-colored water, a legacy from long-abandoned coal mines, has washed away any hope of a fishing hole or swimming spot for so long that few people imagine anything different.

The odd color signals a host of problems. The orange hue, and its many variations, comes from the presence of heavy metals that often make the water too acidic for fish and leave the streambed void of important insect life.

In the mountainous regions of the Bay watershed, some streams have run orange for more than a century. Generations of people have come to not expect clear water, much less fish.

So when the orange fades and the fish return, it's a show-stopper.

The fish in [Babb Creek](#), a northern Pennsylvania stream, have enjoyed such a comeback. Not long ago, the creek was the victim of heavy mining operations, most of which closed a century ago.

"There were about 13 miles of the mainstem and four tributaries that were totally dead," said Bill Beacom of the Babb Creek Watershed Association. "There were no fish, no insect life, nothing. Most people said there's nothing you can do about it, it's such a big problem."

Aggressive cleanup efforts began in the 1990s. The first signs of reproducing trout appeared by 2000. Last year, Babb Creek was reclassified as a wild trout stream.

"People just can't believe it," Beacom said. "I fish there all the time. It's great."

Efforts to clean up the damaged streams have delivered similar results in select areas of the Bay region. Some recent research suggests they may be helping the Bay cleanup as well. The success stories, though, pale against the scope of the problem.

Acid mine drainage has devastated at least 1,100 miles of streams in the Bay watershed, and at least 5,000 miles of streams in Pennsylvania as a whole. At least 450 miles of streams are impacted in Maryland.

According to a 1999 report from the [Chesapeake Bay Program](#), "Acid mine drainage from abandoned coal mines has been considered the most severe and extensive water pollution problem in western Maryland, West Virginia, and northeast, north central and western Pennsylvania."

Most Virginia streams impacted by mine pollution are not in the Bay watershed.

Repairing the full extent of damage is difficult for many officials to imagine. The effort would require billions of dollars and could take a century or more of ongoing treatments.

Yet some local level results deserve celebrating. In a painstaking, site-by-site crawl along targeted streams and rivers, state, federal, and local groups have stretched limited



funds into a chain of treatment projects that have succeeded in reviving these once-dead waterways.

And more help is on the way. Recent changes in the federal [Surface Mining and Control and Reclamation Act](#) have increased the funds available for these projects and raised hope that more success stories lie ahead.

The act, first passed in 1977, collects fees from coal companies to clean up mine-related damage to landscapes and waterways. The bulk of the funds have removed high walls, drainage pits and other features of old mine lands that threaten public health and safety. Only 10 percent of the money could be used to address water quality problems.

In 2006, an aggressive multi-year campaign led by the Pennsylvania Foundation for Watersheds (formerly the [Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program](#)) helped to raise that allowance to 30 percent. The change will bring millions of additional dollars to ailing streams in the Bay watershed.

"This was citizen-based action that affected national public policy," said campaign chairman John Dawes.

The revised act also calls for mandatory spending of the funds, which better ensures that the money will reach the states as intended. Previously, advocacy groups endured an annual, time-consuming approval process with congressional committees that met with varying success. Funds were often withheld or diverted to other projects.

"In recent years, Pennsylvania received an average of only \$22 million per year to deal with a multibillion dollar problem," Dawes said.

The revised act promises Pennsylvania approximately \$1.4 billion dollars over the next 14 years. Up to 30 percent of each year's funding can be used to treat acid mine drainage.

"The passage of this legislation at the federal level is one of the most important environmental acts for Pennsylvania in the last two decades," said Brian Hill, president of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. "The 30 percent set-aside is essential for Pennsylvania."

Maryland, with far fewer coal mines than Pennsylvania, will see funds for acid mine drainage increase from roughly \$60,000 to \$180,000 per year.

The broth that clouds the water and coats the bottom of Chesapeake tributaries is found mostly in two areas. The first is in the Susquehanna River basin, especially along the West Branch. The second is in the Potomac River basin, along the North Branch in western Maryland.

Water leaking and sometimes gushing from the old mines carries a toxic mix of metals such as iron, aluminum and manganese. The metals make the water acidic and smother the streambed with thick residue. This creates the disturbing orange hue and its many variations, known as "yellow boy" or "red boy." When aluminum dominates, the water may turn milky white or remain clear. But the results are the same: a biological wasteland.

Because the impacts of acid mine drainage (AMD) are felt mostly upstream of the Bay, it hasn't been a priority for regional cleanup efforts. No one knows how much of the metals from AMD reach the Bay itself or the level of threat they pose.

The Bay benefits from its location-the farther away from the mine sites, the more likely that natural processes will dilute and neutralize metals in the water. Meanwhile, a 1999 report from the Chesapeake Bay Program called for more research on the subject.

"Acid mine drainage isn't a significant concern for the Bay," said Richard Eskin, of the Maryland Department of the Environment, and the former chair of the Bay Program Toxics Subcommittee, "but it's not something we should ignore either, not if we want to talk honestly about fixing watersheds."

AMD is the legacy of mining operations from before 1977, when federal regulations began to hold the coal mining industry accountable for preventing and repairing the problems left in its wake.

Most of the mines causing today's problems closed in the late 1800s and early 1900s, but thousands of miles of underground tunnels still exist. Water accumulates in the tunnels and rises to the surface. It might trickle from spring-like openings in a hillside or seep down an exposed rock face as a thin sheet. It might also erupt violently from the mouth of a mine tunnel. The [Jeddo Tunnel](#) in Luzerne County, PA, spews 40,000 gallons of water per minute into the local creek.

Robert Runowski, a senior scientist with the EPA, said the problem is almost impossible to overstate.

"It's not just big. It's convoluted," he said. "Underground accumulations of water can go virtually anywhere. You end up with discharges eight, 10, 12 miles from the mine site. In areas like northeastern Pennsylvania, where the industry has been going since the 1850s, you have 150 years of environmental impact to deal with."

The treatment of AMD is a game played with many moving and uncertain pieces. The goal is to neutralize the acid content of the water and remove the metals. But the treatment process must be adapted to the specifics of each site-not just one solution for each mine, but a series of solutions tailored to each outflow point at the site.

The amount and type of metals in the water shape the treatment options, as well as the rate and volume of the flow. The choice also depends on the physical space available for the project, the degree of landowner cooperation and the amount of money available.

"You have a goal, to sequester the metals and elevate the pH (a measure of acidity)," Runowski said, "but it's a very involved process in trying to tailor the treatment to the community's problem. No one size fits all."

Diverting streamwater over beds of limestone is one of the simpler options. The natural properties of limestone neutralize the acid in the water before returning it to the stream. The water can also be flushed through limestone in pipes, chambers and wells.

Settling ponds and constructed wetlands can also treat AMD. They retain the water for longer periods of time, allowing plants and bacteria to play a role in neutralizing the acid and providing time for the metals to drop out of suspension.

Costs for individual treatment projects sometimes total tens of thousands of dollars, but often reach \$200,000 or \$300,000. Settling ponds slated for the Bear Creek watershed near Harrisburg are projected to cost \$350,000. Large or technically complex systems cost millions. The physical removal of an 18-acre pile of coal waste in the [West Branch](#) headwaters is expected to cost approximately \$4.4 million.

Once in place, treatment systems need ongoing maintenance. This might mean a weekly visit to replenish limestone or the monthly flushing of metallic sludge from a piping system. It might also mean the occasional scouring of a constructed pond or wetland, where metals have dropped out of the water and begun to coat the bottom. Partners in the Babb Creek watershed spend approximately \$50,000 each year on maintenance.

The source of acid from a particular outflow can eventually be exhausted, but may take decades-or even centuries-to happen.

"Treatment is expensive and perpetual," Runowski said.

As a result, officials say the total cost of constructing and maintaining systems to neutralize all AMD discharges in the region would easily reach billions of dollars. Despite the challenges, the need to address AMD has drawn increasing attention, in part because of the multi-state campaign that renewed the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. People are also pointing to AMD sites for the potential benefits that treatment can bring to both the environment and the economy.

Restoring AMD waters, for example, could support the public water supply. Restoration on Swatara Creek, an eastern tributary to the Susquehanna, was driven for decades by the need for clean lake water in a proposed state park.

On the West Branch, the state and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission have partnered on a \$6.1 million project that will treat 10 million gallons of AMD water per day. The treated water will be used to make up for river water used by farmers during drought.

Dredged material from shipping channels or fly ash from coal-burning power plants could possibly plug up old mine tunnels. This would support other industries and might also stabilize the land for development.

Approximately 150 Pennsylvania community groups have made AMD their primary focus, helped by regional organizations such as the [Eastern](#) and [Western](#) Pennsylvania Coalitions for Abandoned Mine Reclamation.

"Citizens in the coal field communities have paid the price for coal extraction that took place during the Industrial Revolution," Dawes said. "They have been owed this in terms of their health and safety and also in terms of property value. It's difficult to attract new residents and businesses to a degraded environment."

Restored AMD streams could also return a range of ecosystem functions to the watershed, such as reducing nitrogen pollution and providing fish habitat. Most AMD streams are located in forested areas with excellent potential for fisheries-good not just for wildlife, but for tourism.

"We're looking at 4,600 miles of dead streams in Pennsylvania," Dawes said. "It's pretty important as a revenue source to bring those streams back to life."

Recreational revenue is a major driver of AMD efforts on the West Branch. The West Branch runs through more than 2 million acres of public land with stunning mountains, dark nighttime skies and the largest elk herd this side of the Mississippi. But the area, marketed to tourists as "[Pennsylvania Wilds](#)," also has significant problems from AMD. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission estimates that more than \$16 million dollars of potential recreational revenue are lost there each year because of AMD.

In 2004, a major West Branch restoration initiative led by Trout Unlimited linked up with Gov. Edward Rendell, who is working to boost outdoor recreation and ecotourism. "The governor visited the area and learned about AMD," said Amy Wolfe of Trout Unlimited. "He saw the potential."

Trout Unlimited and Pennsylvania state agencies are now among the 13 partners spearheading restoration plans for the West Branch. Projects and assessments are under way in at least a dozen West Branch tributaries, supported by watershed groups and conservation organizations. "One of the really good things about the West Branch is that

most of the instream habitat is already intact," Wolfe said. "That's phenomenal. You just don't find that in other areas. Water quality is the only limiting factor."

Babb Creek was one of the first West Branch watersheds to see the return of native brook trout after AMD treatments. Good results are starting to show in Kettle Creek, too. Treating one AMD drainage site restored water quality in 2,500 feet of the stream. Brook trout and aquatic insects returned within a year.

Wolfe hopes that some of the new federal dollars will be put to work on the West Branch. And while comprehensive restoration costs are estimated at \$279 million to \$464 million, targeted efforts can deliver clean water in the mainstem and several tributaries for much less.

"It's important for people who have grown up here and accepted these nearly dead streams as a way of life to understand that it doesn't have to be that way anymore," Wolfe said. "Remediation technology has come a long way, and we have more hope now than ever to restore this region's potential."

Joe Mills, who works with the Maryland Bureau of Mines, offers direct testimony to the highs and lows of AMD restoration. For 15 years, he has studied, repaired and nurtured AMD streams feeding the North Branch of the Potomac.

Georges Creek is among his charges. Beginning in the 1990s, a series of treatment projects lowered acidity in the creek, with the Georges Creek Watershed Association as an active partner.

Their efforts brought both native and stocked fish into waters where aquatic life is said to have vanished by 1907.

"The old timers can't remember ever catching fish here until five to seven years ago," Mills said.

One stretch of the creek was notoriously acidic but was responding to treatment. Then, water flowing through the underground tunnels played the worst trick of all: It moved. Out of sight, deep within the old workings of the mine, something shifted. Mills will never know what caused it, but the results were clear.

A modest outflow erupted-downstream of the treatment station.

"We went from 60 gallons per minute to 250 gallons per minute," Mills said. "The water was like tomato soup. The metals were floating by in chunks."

The burst occurred when the creek was extremely low, which intensified its effects. Two days earlier, the watershed association recorded a pH reading of 7.5. Afterward, the level fell to an acidic 3.0-about the same pH as vinegar.

"It was a shock to the system," Mills said. "We had four miles of dead stream and dead fish, from here to the Potomac."

The outflow has slowed slightly since then, but still averages 200 gallons per minute. Stocking was stopped until Mills adjusted the treatment strategies to deal with the higher flow and increased acidity.

Morale suffered over the incident, but Mills touts a broader perspective. "In an odd way, we should be proud of that fish kill," Mills said. "Ten years ago, there were no fish here at all. Ten years ago, nobody would have noticed it happened."

The complexities of AMD mean that the successful efforts must draw on a wide range of groups and funding sources.

Community groups that tackle AMD projects need help from technical experts at government agencies or larger conservation organizations. In return, local groups add

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resources that government agencies can't offer-they raise and accept grant money, rally community support and provide volunteers.

Funds may come from the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, but not always. The EPA and U.S. Geological Survey also fund AMD projects, as do state initiatives such as Pennsylvania's Growing Greener program. Private grant makers and businesses also contribute. The Pennsylvania Foundation for Watersheds is a major source of matching funds for restoration grants awarded in Pennsylvania.

The modern coal industry also enables restoration projects, both through fees that support the Reclamation Act and by conducting restoration projects in lieu of fines. Sometimes they support local projects just to be a good neighbor.

"It's a delicate balance among public, private, local and government entities," said the EPA's Runowski. "No one entity can address this issue well. You need public education, monitoring, resource management and technical assistance."

When the partnerships combine well, they can produce an impressive recovery. The [Swatara Creek watershed](#), just north of Harrisburg, is one of the lucky ones. Restoration there was led by Pennsylvania state agencies, which at one time hoped to tap the watershed for a new public reservoir. The upper 43 square miles of the watershed, though, were polluted by AMD.

"The Swatara was solid orange," said Dan Koury of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. "The Lorberrry Creek tributary was black from silt, and a solid line formed where they met. Habitat was dead."

Efforts to improve water quality converged on the Swatara beginning in the mid-1990s. The projects drew approximately 50 partners, including the USGS, EPA, U.S. Department of Energy, Schuylkill Conservation District and a newly formed watershed association.

Twelve treatment systems now operate there. The most critical water quality projects drew on approximately \$4 million from state, federal and private sources. Since 2000, an additional \$6 million in reclamation work has been supported by the Reclamation Act.

There have been challenges, including an outburst like the one at George's Creek that washed support timbers from a mine tunnel onto Interstate 81. There are persistent problems from the two largest discharges in the watershed. Yet the Swatara has made a comeback.

"You'll still see orange in the headwaters, but a lot of systems are in place to neutralize it," Koury said.

USGS scientists have documented more than 20 fish species living in the Swatara near the mined part of the watershed-none existed in the 1980s.

"A lot of people said that fish would never live in there," Koury said. "Then we got a call that someone caught an 18-inch fish in the creek behind their house, and the calls kept coming in. It was a big deal."

Partnerships and volunteers were critical. Several government agencies provided cleanup money. The local watershed association launched its own hatchery. A landfill operator helped with equipment and materials. Sportsmen's clubs, private citizens and even the National Guard donated labor, supplies and technical advice.

"You always need something you didn't factor in," Koury said. "If a storm wipes something out, the funding may not be there to fix it. Hurricane Ivan started carving away one of the main treatment systems near I-81. My heart dropped when I saw it. Then one of

the township folks came out with a backhoe and fixed the problem. There was no charge. He did it because people appreciate what's been done out there."

Koury looks forward to seeing the new federal funds support AMD work across the state, and possibly boost work on the Swatara. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is scheduling a series of public meetings to help decide where and how the money should be used. "Everybody has ideas on how to spend it," he said.

Air, Pyrite & Water: Recipe for Disaster

Pyrite, also called fool's gold, is commonly found in coal seams and neighboring rocks. Mining breaks open the rock, exposing pyrite to air and water.

Pyrite reacts with air and water to create sulfuric acid. Naturally occurring bacteria in coal waste products, left behind as refuse piles, speed the acid-forming process. The acid can dissolve heavy metals such as iron and aluminum and leave them suspended in the water.

As the stream becomes more acidic, it supports fewer fish, plants and insects. As iron and other metals drop out of the water, they coat the streambed in a thick layer of rusty orange paste that damages or destroys aquatic life.

AMD is mainly associated with abandoned mines that were developed before regulations to control pollution. The mine tunnels, once pumped free of groundwater, have become huge underground waterworks, often unmapped and unpredictable. The discharge of water from these tunnels can be as large as the streams they enter.

Acid Mine Drainage & The Chesapeake

Acid mine drainage is a major pollutant in some Chesapeake Bay tributaries, but not in the Bay itself. Because of this, AMD has traditionally played little to no role in regional Bay cleanup strategies.

But a study in northern Pennsylvania may challenge that logic.

[Matthew McTammany](#) of Bucknell University and [Steven Rier](#) of Bloomsburg University are working with the [Stroud Water Research Institute](#) to explain how restoring AMD streams may help the Bay—not by reducing metals in streams, but by restoring stream systems that in turn reduce nutrient pollution entering the Bay.

Healthy streams are highly effective at storing and filtering nutrients. Their floodplains and buffers are filled with trees, plants and bacteria that take up nutrients that would otherwise enter the waterway.

When AMD destroys stream life, it also wrecks the natural processes that reduce the movement of nutrients downstream. McTammany, Rier and Stroud researchers are exploring how well restored AMD streams recover their ability to process nutrients.

"It's an exciting possibility that remediating mine drainage might restore ecosystem functions in streams," McTammany said. "If we fixed up all the AMD up here, what would it mean to the nutrient load for the Chesapeake Bay? It might become another tool in the portfolio of nutrient reduction strategies."

Mixed Bag Of Tricks Used To Treat Acid Mine Drainage

Treating acid mine drainage hinges on two factors: neutralizing the acid and coaxing the metals out of the water. One step might be needed, or both. It depends on what's in the outflow.

"The science on treatments isn't perfect yet," said Charles Cravotta of the U.S. Geological Survey. "There's a lot to be studied, discovered and documented. And funding is limited."

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Limestone is often used in treatment systems because it neutralizes acid. Polluted water is directed over beds, channels, wells and drains lined with limestone. The limestone dissolves as the water passes through it, producing alkalinity and reducing the acid. Limestone sand can also be loaded directly into the stream. These projects are less costly, but the stone and sand need to be replenished regularly. Also, large outflows require large treatment areas, which don't always exist at the treatment site.

Caustic soda, soda ash and ammonia can also help to reduce acidity, but these substances must be handled very carefully in contained environments. Constructing and maintaining such systems can be expensive.

Over the last 15 years, treatments have focused not only on limestone but on constructed wetlands and settling ponds that treat AMD through natural processes. These systems collect and slow the water, so that nature has more time to work.

An aerobic wetland is used for removing metals from water that does not have major acidity problems. The plants and increased levels of oxygen make the metals drop onto the wetland floor while cleaner water slowly exits the wetland and rejoins the stream. The metals must be occasionally cleaned from the wetland floor.

Settling ponds, or compost wetlands, are deeper than aerobic wetlands and lined with a thick layer of compost. The water is moved through the bottom of the pond, where microbes in the compost work to remove iron and other metals.

Lara Lutz is a writer and editor who lives on the South River in Mayo, MD. (Reprinted with permission from [the Chesapeake Bay Journal](#))

Quick Clips

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

[Cleanup Funds in Jeopardy](#)

[Penn State Wilkes-Barre Will Open New Green Commons](#)

[PNC Sees Green Beyond Greenbacks](#)

[Radnor Opens Middle School of the Future](#)

[Under Green Roof, Radnor's Retooled School](#)

[Habitat Loss Vanquishes Familiar Bird Species](#)

[Landowners Encouraged to Avoid Baiting Violations Before Deer Hunting Season](#)

[Lancaster County Has Plan for Gypsy Moths](#)

[Springfield Will Borrow \\$5 Million for Open Space](#)

[PECO Grants \\$30Gs for Open Space](#)

[Bucks County's \\$87 Million Open Space Question Heads to Voters](#)

[Palmer to Dedicate Nature Reserve to Memory of Late Wife](#)

[Butterflies Transform Children's Awareness](#)

[Nature Preserve Wants to Blossom](#)

[Op-Ed: Lower Macungie Threat Would Harm Wildlands Conservancy](#)

[Editorial: Lower Macungie Should Stop Land-Grab](#)

[Wildlands Conservancy Has 60 Days to Save Farm](#)

[Somerset Wind Farm Proposal Generates Tempest Over Birds](#)

[Study Needed on Turbines, Environment](#)

[Library Studying Power from Wind Turbine](#)

[Harrisburg Mayor Cools on Idea of City-Owned Wind Farm](#)
[Editorial: Bucks County Solar Station Only First Step](#)
[P&G Could Benefit from Wind Turbines](#)
[Editorial: Ethanol Claptrap](#)
[Tax Credits for Some Hybrid Vehicles About to Expire](#)
[McGinty Addresses Bioenergy Conference at University Park](#)
[Experts Discuss Alternative Fuels](#)
[Worthy Waste? Energy in Waste](#)
[Electricity Costs Straining Residents](#)
[Philadelphia Recycling Chief Steps Down](#)
[Consol: Industry Can Make Mines Accident-Free](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Mapping the Susquehanna](#)
[Ethanol Production Could Threaten Chesapeake Bay](#)
[Report: Ethanol Threatens the Bay](#)
[Cleanup Planned to Remove 1,000 Tires from River](#)
[Volunteers Needed for Mehoopany Tire Cleanup](#)
[\\$20 Million Needed to Upgrade Sewer Treatment](#)
[Waterways Are Cleaner Thanks to Volunteers](#)
[Local Dredging Companies Question Fish Surveys](#)
[New Park to Reduce Water Runoff](#)
[Editorial: Pittsburgh Doesn't Need Another River](#)
[Group Plants Ideas for Fixing Monocacy Creek Banks](#)
[Environmental Fund Will Boost Local Projects in Clinton County](#)
[Farmers Compete With Government](#)
[Partnership Promotes Compliance on PA Farms](#)

Regulations

The Delaware River Basin Commission [published proposed regulations](#) making changes to the operation of New York City Delaware Basin Reservoirs. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved the [ozone redesignation of Berks, Blair and Cambria counties](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – September 8, 2007](#)

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 notice it is extending](#) the NPDES General Permit #13 covering Stormwater Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) and the NPDES General Permit for [Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction](#).

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **September 10** – DEP [Great Lakes Regional Water Resources Committee](#) meeting. Erie County Conservation District. 10:00. *(This meeting was set for August 7.)*
- **September 11** – **CANCELLED**. DEP Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee meeting. Rescheduled to October 16.
- **September 12** – House Consumer Affairs Committee public hearing on the state of utility infrastructure in PA. Room 418. 9:30.
- **September 13** – DEP [Recycling Fund Advisory Committee](#) and [Solid Waste Advisory Committee special meeting](#). Room 105 Rachel Carson Building.
- **September 14** – House Health and Human Services Committee hearing on [House Bill 798](#) (Phillips-R-Northumberland) establishing a Lyme and Tick Borne Disease Education Program. Room 140. 1:00.
- **September 14** – DEP [Potomac Regional Water Resources Committee](#) meeting. Franklin County Administrative Annex, Chambersburg. 10:00. *(This meeting was set for August 17)*
- **September 18** – [DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 11:00.
- **September 19** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee public hearing on proposed alternative fuels mandate included in [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) and [Senate Bill 789](#) (Dinniman-D-Chester). Hearing Room 1, Capitol North Office Building. 9:00 or 717-633-7959.
- **Septmeber 19** – Capital Region Water Board Planning Committee meeting. Susquehanna River Basin Commission, 1721 N. Front St., Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Cindy Rock at: cindy.l.rock@comcast.net or 717-633-7959.
- **Septmeber 19** – Capital Region Water Board meeting. Susquehanna River Basin Commission, 1721 N. Front St., Harrisburg. 1:00. Contact: Cindy Rock at: cindy.l.rock@comcast.net .
- **September 19** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is December 4.
- **September 21** - DEP [Chesapeake Bay Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.

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- **September 24** – **NEW**. Gov. Rendell’s formal address to open the Special Session on Energy. 1:00.
- **September 24** – **NEW**. Environmental Issues Forum Presentation on Clean Up Our American Lands Program by the [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#). Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.
- **September 25** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee public hearing on proposed alternative fuels mandate included in [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) and [Senate Bill 789](#) (Dinniman-D-Chester). Room 8 E-B, Capitol East Wing. 9:30.
- **September 27** – **NEW**. House Game and Fisheries Committee hearing on legislation creating a junior fishing license. Hub Cira Centre, 2929 Arch St., Philadelphia 7:00.
- **October 4** – Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee hearing on electronic waste recycling. Room 8E-A, East Wing. 9:00.
- **October 10-11** – [DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting on on October 10 from 7-9 p.m. and October 11 from 9:30 to 12 p.m. at the Best Western Inn.
- **October 13** – Schuylkill River Festival. Pottstown. Contact: Carolyn Brunschwyler, Montgomery County Community College, 610-718-1847, or send email to: cbrunsch@mc3.edu
- **October 16** – **CANCELLED**. [DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting on October 16 was cancelled in favor of a regional meeting in Bedford on October 10 from 7-9 p.m. and October 11 from 9:30 to 12 p.m. at the Best Western Inn.
- **October 16** – [DEP Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 206 Bureau of Laboratories building, 2575 Interstate Dr., Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **October 23** – DEP [Nonpoint Source Liaison Workshop](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00. Contact: Steven Lathrop, 717-772-5618 or send email to: slathrop@state.pa.us .
- **October 25** – **NEW**. Sewage Task Force, [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#). Penn Stater Conference Hotel, State College. 10:00.
- **October 25** – [DEP Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#) meeting. DEP Cambria District Mining Office, Ebensburg.
- **October 27** – [Global Warming: Rising to the Challenge by Acting Locally](#). Gwynedd Mercy College, Gwynedd Valley, Montgomery County. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **November 1** – DEP [Low-Level Waste Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **February 22-23** – 2008 [Keystone Coldwater Conference](#). State College.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

[Daily NewsClips](#) [Daily DEP Update](#) [GreenTreks Network](#) [Watershed Weekly](#)

[DEP Press Releases](#) [DEP Advisory Committee Meetings & Agendas](#)

[DCNR Resource Magazine](#) [DCNR Press Releases](#)

[Fish & Boat Commission Press Releases](#) [Game Commission Press Releases](#)

Stories Invited

Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to *PA Environment Digest* - DHess@CrisciAssociates.com or go to www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com .

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