

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

June 13, 2005

Budgets, Bills and Barnyards

The Senate and House returned this week to figure out how to approach getting a budget done by July 4. The only thing they seem to agree on is they all want to be done by July 4.

Growing Greener implementing legislation continues to be talked about as a Fall issue.

Meanwhile the Rendell Administration's ACRE proposal to set up an Agricultural Review Board was introduced as [House Bill 1646](#) and is due to be considered in the House Agriculture Committee June 14.

The Joint Legislative Budget and Finance Committee issued a special report this week that concluded county conservation districts play a critical role in protecting and improving Pennsylvania's environment, but have been under funded and subjected to recent budget cuts.

Budget Clock Ticking

- 11 voting days are scheduled through the June 30 budget deadline in the House
- 11 voting days in the Senate

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Winning poster design by John-Paul Heil, 5th Grader from Immaculata Academy Home School in Camp Hill, Cumberland County. See *Poster Contest Article* for more winners.

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On the Hill

On the Senate, House Agenda

Senate and House Calendars and Committee schedules have a variety of bills on their agendas for this week. Here’s a quick rundown--

In the Senate

Senate Calendar: On the Senate Calendar to begin the week are bills on several environmental topics-- increasing home energy assistance ([Senate Bill 12](#)), creating the PA Center for Environmental Education in law ([Senate Bill 410](#)), providing financing for security improvements to water and sewage systems ([House Bill 612](#)), expanding the Agricultural Area Security Law to include horse training and stabling areas ([House Bill 619](#)), designating a new scenic byway in Wyoming County ([Senate Bill 721](#)) and

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resolutions urging the release of federal funds for state storage tank programs and for the Governor to form a flood damage reduction task force.

In Committee: The Senate Appropriations Committee will consider legislation extending the sunset date on the small heating oil tank cleanup program.

In the House

In Committee: The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will consider legislation to fund water and wastewater laterals, tax credits for animal recycling facilities and resolutions urging release of federal funds for state storage tank programs and to form a sewage management issues task force; and Agriculture will consider the Administration's ACRE proposal to create an Agricultural Review Board.

Senate Environmental Committee Moves Tank, Energy, Water/Sewer Measures

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week unanimously reported out—

Flood Damage Reduction: [Senate Resolution 123](#) (Boscola-D-Lehigh) urging the Governor to create a task force on flood damage reduction;

Federal Tank Funds: [Senate Resolution 125](#) (MJ White-R, Musto-D) urging Congress to provide more funding to the states for leaking underground storage tanks. Action on this measure is aimed at helping to stave off a proposed tank fee increase by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Heating Oil Tank Cleanup: [Senate Bill 722](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) extending the sunset date for the small heating oil tank program. The bill was then referred to Senate Appropriations;

Energy Assistance: [Senate Bill 12](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) providing home energy assistance to certain persons;

Dormant Gas Wells: [Senate Bill 594](#) (MJ White-R-Venango) relating to dormant oil and gas leases and court jurisdiction; and

Funding Security Projects: [House Bill 612](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) authorizing PennVEST water and sewage projects that improve system security.

Joint Budget-Finance Committee Releases Evaluation of Conservation Districts

The Joint Legislative Budget and Finance Committee this week released its [evaluation of county conservation districts](#) saying the state needs to give districts more resources to carry out their existing responsibilities and streamline their interactions with state agencies.

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The objectives of the report were to review the authority, role and funding of county conservation district, evaluate the oversight and direction given districts by state agencies and determine whether the role of districts should be enhanced to better deal with land and water resource issues.

“This report sets forth a comprehensive roadmap that will bring our conservation districts into the 21st Century and keep them in the vanguard of environmental stewardship,” said Sen. Rob Wonderling (R-Montgomery) a member of the Committee. “It’s incumbent upon the General Assembly to adopt these findings to make sure the conservation districts have the tools they need to carry out their complex mission.”

Wonderling said the expansion of local, state, and federal environmental protection laws and land use planning requirements over the years has greatly increased the conservation districts’ role to serve the growing needs of our communities.

Districts advise county and local governments on land development issues, work with farmers to comply with land management laws, assist non-profit environmental organizations with watershed protection and conservation efforts, and review and process land development plans and permits for builders and contractors.

The [Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts](#) welcomed the report. “We are extremely pleased that the General Assembly has conducted this important study of our conservation districts and their efforts to protect our water and natural resources,” said PACD President Jarrett Miller. “The study confirms what conservation districts and the PACD has been saying for years – Pennsylvania’s conservation districts are under-funded.”

Miller noted the fiscal year 2004-05 budget in DEP included \$3.55 million as its share for the Erosion and Sedimentation Program. However, the Governor’s proposed budget for 2005-06 provides only \$3.1 million for the program. The actual need for this program in 2005-06 would be \$4.83 million for DEP to meet its commitment to fund half the costs of the program as recommended in the Committee’s report.

The legislative study also recognized that DEP has stopped funding the efforts of county conservation districts in assisting applicants with permits under the Waterways and Encroachment Program. That left conservation districts with no alternative but to stop managing the program or pay for it themselves. PACD is asking DEP to provide \$825,000 for this program in next year’s budget.

Both Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff and Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty indicated their support for the Committee’s report.

The Committee recommendations include:

- Add the Secretaries of Conservation and Natural Resources and Community and Economic Development to the State Conservation Commission;
- Integrate the administration of conservation and protection efforts now handled by the State Conservation Commission and the departments of Agriculture, Environmental Protection and DCED;
- Provide one appropriation to providing basic funding to conservation districts instead of two – one in DEP and one in Agriculture;
- Fund conservation district managers, first and second technicians at 50 percent of actual costs (would add \$1 million to current appropriation);
- Provide for a continuing appropriation so funds do not lapse year to year;

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- Consider alternative funding sources for the Nutrient Management Program since the current fund is being depleted;
- Districts should consider applying for Land Use Planning Technical Assistance Grants from DCED;
- District reporting requirements should be streamlined and standardized to take advantage of the current eGovernment initiative underway;
- State Conservation Commission should streamline the local district board appointment process;
- DEP should: work to establish fair and appropriate erosion and sedimentation review fees, develop a training program to certify E&S plan review and inspection personnel, improve standardization of DEP regional offices dealing with E&S activities, review staff vacancies in regional offices in district field office representative positions, allow districts to charge fees for Chapter 105 encroachment general permits, reevaluate the effectiveness of training programs related to the Chesapeake Bay Program; and
- Provide the State Conservation Commission with program review information on district performance.

For more information on the Committee's study, contact [Philip Durgin](#), Executive Director at 717-783-1600 or visit the [Committee's website](#).

Senate Hears Comments on Eco-Terrorism Legislation

The Senate Judiciary Committee heard testimony on the damage caused by domestic terrorist groups in the United States and Pennsylvania during a hearing on [House Bill 213](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) this week.

The FBI said groups like the Animal Liberation Front and the Earth Liberation Front are the worst domestic terrorist groups. These groups have caused over \$9 million in damage targeting research labs, restaurants, new homes, forestry service buildings and SUV dealerships.

Representatives of two Pennsylvania organizations—Peonyland and the PA Society for Biomedical Research— detailed how these groups damaged property and threatened facilities.

The Director of the American Civil Liberties Union testified the legislation goes too far and will discriminate against individuals based on their point of view.

The Gaia Defense League and Erie County Environmental Coalition said the bill would discourage grassroots lobbying efforts and law abiding protestors from expressing their opinions.

NewsClips: [Fighting Eco-Terrorism](#)
[Bill Would Toughen Penalties for Eco-Terror](#)

Quick Updates on Legislation Moving

Here's a quick rundown on environmental bills moving in the House and Senate.

Stormwater Management: [House Bill 88](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) authorizing certain counties and municipalities to develop stormwater management plans was reported from House Appropriations, amended and passed by the House.

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"As we know, storm water does not follow municipal boundaries," said Rep. Steil. "Comprehensive storm water plans, especially in counties with urbanized areas, are becoming more and more necessary for public safety. My bill gives a county, or counties, the option to develop and participate in such plans."

NewsClip: [Bill Allows Stormwater Tax](#)

Project Hold Harmless: [House Bill 86](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) providing for a hold harmless on Corps of Engineers projects was passed by the House.

Downtown Revitalization: [House Bill 965](#) (Hickernell-R-Lancaster) expanding the definition of downtown area in the Main Street Program and [House Bill 218](#) (Reed-R-Indiana) redefining "downtown area" both passed the House.

Emissions Inspection: An amendment to House Bill 489 by Rep. Casorio (D-Westmoreland) to put a moratorium on the vehicle emissions inspection program was defeated by a vote of 127 to 68. A vote last year on the same amendment was defeated 140 to 60.

Appliance Energy Standards: [House Bill 1461](#) (McIlhinney-R-Chester) providing energy efficiency standards for certain appliances was referred to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Water/Sewer Shutoffs: [House Bill 893](#) (Semmel-R-Berks) changing procedures for shutting off water and sewage services was reported from House Consumer Affairs Committee.

Waste Tires: [House Bill 1114](#) (Yudichak-D-Luzerne) further providing for the cleanup of waste tires was referred to House Appropriations.

Farmland Preservation: [House Bill 619](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) expands the state Farmland Preservation Program to land used for boarding, training or riding horses reported from Senate Agriculture Committee as amended.

Used Computer Donations: [House Bill 472](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) providing a tax credit for the donation of used computer equipment was reported out of the House Finance Committee.

Scenic Byway: [Senate Bill 721](#) (Lemmond-R-Luzerne) designating a portion of State Rout 6 in Wyoming County a scenic byway was reported from Senate Transportation Committee.

Bills Introduced

ACRE Farm Project Review Proposal: [House Bill 1646](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) establishing an Agricultural Review Board for certain agricultural projects.

Oldest Garden Club: [House Resolution 336](#) (Major-R-Susquehanna) Honoring the 100th anniversary of the Garden Club of Montrose, the oldest existing garden club in the Commonwealth.

In Other News

Electric Group Foresees Adequate Summer Power Supplies, But Issues Caution



The mid-Atlantic region should have adequate, even surplus, power supply for the summer months, the President of a power generation group told the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission this week.

Douglas L. Biden, president of the [Electric Power Generation Association](#), listed a number of variables that affect reliable supply. “Obviously, we need adequate generating capacity, transmission and distribution facilities, as well as adequate fuel and water supplies. We also need viable markets, including a forward looking capacity market, market-based demand response, equitable and predictable environmental regulations, and investor confidence to invest.”

However, Biden cautioned that new generation construction is rapidly declining, older units are being retired faster than new generation is being constructed, and forced outage rates of existing generating units is on the rise in PJM, increasing from 4.8 percent to 8.0 percent from 2001 to 2004.

In addition to market rules, Biden cited pending environmental initiatives and the impact they could have on future generating plant retirements. These include the U.S. EPA's March 2005 Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), the Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR), the Northeast Ozone Transport Commission's "CAIR-Plus" proposal, and Pennsylvania's decision to adopt a "go-it-alone" strategy with respect to controlling mercury emissions.

The "CAIR-Plus" proposal, Biden said, "is so stringent, that it would virtually eliminate SO₂ trading, and would require retro-fitting nearly all coal-fired generating units in the Ozone Transport Region (OTR) with capital-intensive flue gas desulfurization (FGD) and/or selective catalytic reduction (SCR) technologies. Dozens of units and many thousands of megawatts would likely be forced to retire or dramatically reduce their operating hours."

Compounding this situation for generation owners, Biden said, are at least three factors: capacity market prices at or near \$0/MW Day (and not expected to recover soon), many generating companies in the OTR have below investment grade bond ratings and thus limited access to capital markets, and the recent entry of regulated entities into PJM with the ability to rate-base environmental investments. On this last point, Biden cited a study which showed that a regulated generator enjoyed as much as a \$10/MWH advantage over a merchant generator.

Biden also focused on Pennsylvania's recent decision to adopt a state mercury rule, rather than participate in the federal CAMR and its cap and trade program. The details of the Pennsylvania regulations have not yet been released.

However, Biden cautioned that "Pennsylvania has more than 22,000 megawatts of coal-fired generating capacity. If the rest of the nation can participate in a cap and trade program and Pennsylvania cannot, that will be a significant source of competitive disadvantage for electric generators in this state, and a likely cause of more plant retirements here."

Although Biden stressed that physical generation, fuel and water supplies certainly appeared adequate for summer 2005, he urged that "investors in generation need a stable, predictable forward price signal, "Without it," he cautioned, "they will wait for that politically untenable combination of sustained shortage and very high prices before investing in the next round of capacity expansion."

He also encouraged PJM, the PUC or the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) to study the potential impacts of the multitude of environmental issues facing the generation sector on future reliability and fuel diversity.

EPGA is a regional association of electric power generators comprising Allegheny Energy Supply, Cogentrix Energy, Exelon Generation, FirstEnergy Generation, Midwest Generation, Mirant Corporation, PPL Generation, Reliant Energy and UGI Development Company.

EPGA members own and operate more than 122,000 MW of generating capacity, half in the Mid-Atlantic Region, and approximately one-third in Pennsylvania.

For more information visit the [Electric Power Generation Association website](#) or call 717-909-EPGA.

BP Solar, Sun Edison LLC Launch \$60 Million SunE Solar Fund

[Sun Edison LLC](#) this week launched "SunE Solar Fund I", a \$60 million fund to support the installation of up to 25 solar electric systems in the United States. The systems will be supplied by [BP Solar](#) as part of the BP Solar Energy Solutions offer and will be installed at facilities owned or leased by national retailers and state entities.



According to Mary Shields, president of BP Solar North America, "Part of our strategy to bring solar into the mainstream is to work with the large commercial market. The SunE Solar Fund gets us in front of this market allowing us to provide a clean energy source that competes with traditional utility power."

The first three projects utilizing the fund will be installed this summer on three Staples facilities in Rialto, and Ontario California and Englewood, New Jersey. At a total of 680 kilowatts, these three systems will collectively generate about enough electricity to power 135 homes per year.

The fund will pay for the upfront capital costs of installing and operating the solar systems for companies and municipalities that qualify for the fund. Such entities pay only a fixed, often below-market, rate for the electricity generated from the solar system for a 10 to 20 year term.

[BP Solar](#) Energy Solutions includes the solar system hardware and support products that ensure the systems are easily operated and monitored. BP Solar's use of proven system designs and materials along with their 25-year product warranty gives

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them the ability to guarantee the energy output of the solar system making possible the offer of a fixed energy price to the end customer.

PA Recycling Conference “Quality Does Matter!” July 27-29, Training Courses

The Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania will hold their annual conference in State College July 27-29 with the theme of “Quality Does Matter!”

The program will feature special tracks on recycling, businesses and institutions and composting throughout the three day event with field visits, speakers, exhibitors and panel discussions.

Also available at the conference will be training and certification course for the Professional Recyclers Certification Program. Visit the [Certification webpage](#) for more on available courses.

For more information visit the [2005 Conference brochure](#).

Also watch for the Mid-Atlantic Composting Association Conference and Expo on September 21-23 and the 2005 Plastics Summit on October 11 in Harrisburg.

Visit the [PROP webpage](#) for more information on all these events.



Green Building Training Courses Set for June 23, July 13

Take advantage of two green building technical and construction review workshops coming up in Selinsgrove and Pittsburgh.

The [Green Building Association of Central Pennsylvania](#) and the U.S. Green Building Council are sponsoring a special LEED for new Construction Technical Review workshop at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove on June 23.

To learn more on cost and content, visit the [USGB webpage](#), click on LEED-NC Technical Review and then look for the June 23 program.

The [Green Building Alliance](#) in Pittsburgh is helping to sponsor a similar workshop in Pittsburgh on July 13. For more information visit the [USGB training webpage](#).

It Takes a Village to Grow A Park, Ask the Students of Village Park Elementary

The students of [Village Park Elementary School](#) have teamed up with the [Bucks County Audubon Society](#) and [Waste Management, Inc.](#) to create a very special park area that not only beautifies the school grounds, but serves as an educational tool for students, teachers and the community.

The project is based on the “[Guide to Gardening for Life in Southeastern Pennsylvania](#),” that offers gardening tips on how to create safe places for birds, insects and other wildlife. The Guide was funded through a grant from Waste Management.



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Students in the school participated in the project to build the park and will use it as an outdoor classroom. The Audubon Society will provide educational resources to support the project. The goal is to use the area and the Guide to help students meet the state's environmental education curriculum standards.

Students in the first grade and kindergarten will focus on understanding the interrelationship of living things, and that plants, air, and water are natural resources that must be protected and conserved. They will learn the essential elements of an ecosystem, to identify the organisms that can live together and the effects of a healthy environment on ecosystems. They will also study organic waste and discover its use, on-site value, and how it is managed in their community.

Grade two will identify and classify plants and animals in the ecosystem and adaptations necessary for survival. They will explore differences in living things and how these differences help or hinder survival and identify beneficial and harmful effects of pests. They will also determine the value of using organic waste as a renewable resource and experience the “how-to” of composting and identify the decision-makers in environmental protection.

Grades three through five will learn the concept of cycles and identify the changes that occur in an ecosystem that are both natural and human induced. They will identify and compare different types of pests, pest controls and integrated pest management practices used in their “on-site laboratory” and at their homes. They will also identify different types of waste and disposal options of each and examine laws for environmental protection and understand their importance using their school as a means of comparison.

The project also includes a community outreach component.

Senior citizens from the Falls Township Senior Center, members of the Parent Teacher Organization and the community at large are invited to become “Grand-gardeners” or “Community Gardeners” to serve as volunteers, sharing experiences and assisting students.

The volunteer mentors will be trained and produce an educational kiosk that will promote conservation and stewardship.

The Audubon Society will also provide a series of in-service programs for teachers that will expand their resources for using the site for problem solving, critical analysis and skills building.

Regular updates on the progress of the project will be posted on the [Village Park Elementary School webpage](#) .

For more information contact [Judy Archibald](#), Waste Management, Inc..

NewsClip: [Students Revive Area's Ecology](#)

First Air Quality Action Day Declared in the Lehigh, Susquehanna Valleys

The [Lehigh and Susquehanna Valley Air Quality Partnerships](#) and the Department of Environmental Protection this week announced the first air quality action days of the season for ozone.

Air quality action days occur when fine particulate matter or ground-level ozone concentration during the summer reach unhealthy levels and exceed federal health-based air quality standards.

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Residents can receive early warnings about bad air days by signing up to receive DEP's [free daily ozone forecasts by e-mail](#). Those who do not have Internet access can call the partnerships' toll-free ozone hotlines at 1-877-517-2969 (Lehigh) and 1-888-772-1306 (Susquehanna).

On air quality action days, young children, the elderly and people with respiratory problems such as asthma, emphysema and bronchitis are especially vulnerable to the effects of air pollution and should limit outdoor activities.

To help keep the air healthy, residents and businesses are encouraged to voluntarily limit certain pollution-producing activities by taking the following steps:

- Ride the bus or carpool to work;
- Refuel vehicles carefully – do not top off your tank;
- Wash dishes and clothes with full loads;
- Postpone mowing lawns until evening; and
- Save energy — do not overcool your home.

For more information, visit the [Air Quality Partners webpage](#).

NewsClips: [First Air Quality Action Day Declared in Lehigh Valley](#)
[First Air Quality Action Day Declared in Susquehanna Valley](#)

Partnership Advocates Commuting Options for Employers

As increasing traffic congestion and record gasoline prices spur greater interest in commuting options, the Susquehanna Regional Transportation Partnership this week launched services that promote alternatives to commuting alone.

The unique private/public partnership is promoting alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle commuting in Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York counties – where more than 90 percent of the 732,000 commuters now drive alone. This year, while these regional commuters sit in traffic, they will waste enough gasoline to fill more than 5,000 gasoline tankers.

Employers and commuters can contact the Partnership at 1-866-579-RIDE (1-866-579-7433) to receive information about alternatives and programs.

NewsClip: [Partnership Announces First Director, Toll-Free Hotline](#)

Ozone and You Teacher Workshops Set in Southwest



[Click Here](#) for
Ozone Action
the Video

Teachers are invited to attend a special “Ozone and You” workshop to learn about air pollution and conserving energy on July 26 in Greensburg and August 9 in Pittsburgh. The workshop is a collaboration of the [Southwest Pennsylvania Air Quality Partnership, Inc.](#), The [Group Against Smog and Pollution, Pennsylvania Resources Council](#) and the Department of Environmental Protection.

The workshop will include introductory material on ozone and particulate pollution, hands-on activities, lessons plans and resources, demonstration of student activities and an energy audit by [Conservation Consultants, Inc.](#) and take home resources.

Teachers will receive Act 48 credits for attending. There is a \$10 fee.

For more information see the [Ozone and You Workshop brochure](#).

Falcon Watch and Rescue to Get Underway



Inching toward the edge

This week the falcon watch and rescue effort by dozens of volunteers will begin as the peregrine falcons nesting on the Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg take their first tentative steps toward flight.

In the wild a young falcon may end up in a tree or bush, where it can rest before making another try. But in the city the young birds often end up on the tops of parking garages or even on the street, where they are in danger of colliding with vehicles.

The Watch and Rescue volunteers monitor the young birds with binoculars. When a fledgling takes the plunge, the volunteers try to keep track of it. This often means one volunteer scurrying through downtown streets or to the tops of neighboring buildings and garages, relaying information via radio to a fellow volunteer or Jack Farster, DEP's Environmental Education Director.

Injured birds are generally handled by Farster, though if he is unavailable, willing volunteers may don heavy gloves to wrap the birds in a blanket and deposit them in a box. The birds are examined by experts and either taken back to the nest or treated professionally.

To volunteer for the falcon watch, contact Sandy Lockerman of Dauphin County Parks' Wildwood Lake Sanctuary at 717-221-0292 or by email to:

slockerman@dauphinc.org .

NewsClip: [Falcon Watch and Rescue Begins Next Week](#)

Con. Peterson Introduces Reauthorization of Federal Mine Reclamation Fee

Congressman John Peterson (R-Venango) was joined by a bipartisan coalition of 16 House Members from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Tennessee and Maryland to introduce legislation that would reauthorize the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program and speed up the reclamation of thousands of hazardous abandoned coal mines across the country.

The bipartisan bill would greatly reduce the health, safety and environmental hazards of abandoned coal mines left over from decades of coal mining that took place before Congress passed mining reforms in 1977.

Under the current AML program, mine reclamation dollars are raised through a per-ton fee on coal and are allocated to states based on their current level of coal production. As a result, the majority of funds are directed to states like Wyoming which only recently began mining coal as the industry moved west.

Since Wyoming has been certified since 1982 to have no abandoned mine problems, the state has used the millions of dollars they receive from the AML program for building construction, road paving and other miscellaneous projects. Consequently, only 52 percent of AML program funding is currently being used to clean up hazardous abandoned mines.

At the same time, states like Pennsylvania and West Virginia are still decades away from completing reclamation work on thousands of hazardous abandoned coal

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mines. At least 40 people have been killed and many more injured at abandoned mines in Pennsylvania alone over the past 15 years.

More than \$1 billion is still needed to clean up the 4,600 mines that are dangerous or environmentally harmful, and more than 1.6 million Pennsylvanians live less than a mile from a dangerous mine. Over 3,000 miles of streams and rivers in the Commonwealth are polluted with acid mine drainage. Many of these same hazards exist throughout Appalachia.

Under the Peterson bill, future AML funding would be directed to areas that need it, providing reclamation dollars to states based on their number of abandoned mines that present a public health and safety risk.

By refocusing the AML program on its intended purpose of cleaning up abandoned coal mines, the Peterson proposal would clean up all high-priority mine sites in 25 years instead of the 50-60 years that is estimated under the current AML program.

According to Peterson, "This common sense legislation simply asks that the AML program be used for its intended purpose of cleaning up abandoned coal mines, and not to pave roads or fund other 'rainy-day' projects. This proposal will greatly improve states' ability to clean up hazardous abandoned mines in a timely manner. Families in Pennsylvania and throughout Appalachia have lived for too long with the health, safety and environmental hazards resulting from abandoned coal mines, and this bill will finally refocus the AML program on mine reclamation."

The Peterson bill would raise the minimum state AML program grant from \$2 to \$3 million, benefiting Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee and several other 'minimum program' states. In addition, the bill increases funding for the 17,000 retired mine workers covered under the Combined Benefit Fund (CBF) by removing the \$70 million cap which currently exists on the amount of interest transferred annually into the fund. The bill also makes interest earned on the account available for transfer as needed, including \$76 million in "stranded" interest from prior years.

Under Peterson's proposal, Wyoming would be fully reimbursed for the \$465 million in fees paid into the AML program by companies that mine coal in Wyoming, fulfilling a commitment made under the current AML program. This is despite the fact that 96 percent of Wyoming's coal is mined on federal land, and 93 percent of the coal mined in Wyoming is sold in other states where American consumers - not Wyoming producers - end up paying the fee.

While the Peterson bill would re-focus the AML program on cleaning up high-priority abandoned coal mines, a competing proposal, the Cubin-Rahall bill, would continue to neglect current mine reclamation needs in favor of maintaining and increasing the 'rainy day' fund for Wyoming.

In addition to protecting the multi-million dollar funding stream which currently flows to Wyoming, Cubin-Rahall creates an entirely new \$1 billion pot of money for non-reclamation projects, the vast majority of which would also end up in Wyoming.

At the same time, Cubin-Rahall bill would cut \$120 million from the Federal operations budget which is used for abandoned mine emergencies, drinking water contamination, watershed cooperative agreements, supplemental grants to minimum program states, and the Clean Streams Initiative which is used to clean up acid mine drainage in streams, rivers and watersheds across the country.

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According to an analysis by the U.S. Office of Surface Mining (OSM), Cubin-Rahall would steer more than \$1.2 billion in non-reclamation funding to Wyoming over the next 25 years, while leaving a shortfall of more than \$1 billion for priority mine reclamation projects in states like Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kansas and Oklahoma.

After 25 years, Pennsylvania would still need \$566 million and West Virginia would still be \$256 million short of completing high-priority mine reclamation projects under the Cubin-Rahall proposal.

The Peterson bill, which would clean up all current high-priority abandoned mines within the next 25 years while saving the program several billion dollars, has already been endorsed by Trout Unlimited and the PA Audubon Society. A similar bill introduced by Peterson last year was endorsed by the Bush Administration, Pennsylvania's Democratic Gov. Rendell, and numerous organizations including the PA Environmental Council.

According to Peterson, "This bill represents the combined efforts of a broad coalition of interests and ideologies - all coming together to do what is necessary to clean-up and reclaim abandoned mines before these sites cause even more damage to our citizens' health and communities. As this discussion moves forward, we will have to decide whether the Abandoned Mine Lands program is going to be used for abandoned mine reclamation, as was originally intended, or whether it will continue to be a multi-million dollar slush fund for Wyoming."

In their new endorsement, the PA Audubon Society stressed the importance of mine reclamation, citing our "unique responsibility and cost-effective opportunity to take a leadership role in abandoned mine reclamation, while simultaneously contributing to the survival of imperiled bird populations."

The endorsement continued, "We are particularly pleased that you have acknowledged the need to finish the job of repairing the enormous problems that remain in states like Pennsylvania that fueled this country's industrial past. To that end, we wholeheartedly agree with your recommendation to distribute funds to states based upon their historic production."

[H.R. 2721](#), the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program Extension and Reform Act of 2005, was officially introduced by Peterson and a bipartisan coalition of House Members on May 26th.

Letters of support can be sent to Congressman Peterson at: john.peterson@mail.house.gov.

Protect Our Watersheds Art Contest Winners Announced

[Pennsylvania American Water](#) announced the winners of its fourth annual [Protect Our Watersheds Art Contest](#) for fifth-grade students across Pennsylvania.

Winners were selected from 174 entries received from Pennsylvania American Water service territories, with two finalists recognized in both the eastern and western regions of the state and one state grand-prize winner. The theme for the art contest was Protect our Watersheds.

The grand-prize winner is John-Paul Heil, a fifth-grade student at Immaculata Academy Home School in Camp Hill. John-Paul will receive a \$500 educational savings bond for his winning entry. In addition, his winning design will be printed on thousands

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of "Bloomer" cards that Pennsylvania American Water will distribute. "Bloomer" cards are biodegradable, seed-filled cards that can be planted to produce a variety of wildflowers.

The company also gave out first and second place awards. The first-place winners Kaysie Cleveland from West Branch Elementary, Morrisdale, Pa. (eastern Pennsylvania winner) and Andrew John Shymchyk, a student at John F. Kennedy School in Washington, Pa. (western Pennsylvania winner) receive a \$500 savings bond.

Second-place winners are Markie Lynn Collum, Memorial Elementary, Hanover Township (eastern Pennsylvania) and Luke Mingrone, St. Valentine School, Bethel Park (western Pennsylvania) receive a \$250 educational savings bond.

The contest provides an opportunity for students to utilize their creative and artistic talents while learning about the importance of protecting our watersheds for future use. The contest also serves as a springboard for teachers to introduce or elaborate on a water curriculum.

Entries were judged on creative vision, artistic talent, understanding of watershed protection and the ability to communicate that message. All students who entered the contest will receive certificates of achievement for recognizing the importance of protecting Pennsylvania's watersheds.

[Pennsylvania American Water](#) owns and operates 38 water treatment facilities, three wastewater facilities and approximately 8,900 miles of pipeline to serve customers in 370 communities in 35 counties.

Attachment: [Award Winning Poster Designs - PDF](#)

Historic Codorus Creek Boat Parade Set for August 27

The [Codorus Creek Improvement Partnership](#) is reviving 100-year-old tradition-- the Codorus Creek Boat Parade in York County.

A century ago the Codorus was alive with boaters, and in the summer months they had a festive boat parade. Here is a description from Raymond J. Sechrist's boyhood memories as recorded in his book *Skinny Dipping in The Codorus* (thanks for permission to the [York Heritage Trust](#)).

"In summer months, they would have boat parades. They'd start where Penn Street crosses the creek. They'd decorate these boats, mostly canoes, with pennants and roman candles and jack-o-lanterns and the girls, one at each end, would have parasols.

"They'd paddle down the creek from the Boat Club, which was part of the old York Athletic Club grounds at Richland Avenue. At King's Dam, they had to get out and lift the canoe around the dam to get to the lower water so they could come down through town.

"When they got down to George Street and Laucks Dam, they'd turn around and come back up. There would be prizes for the best decorated boat, you know. When they'd come down the creek, the bridges would be lined with people."

On August 27 at 2 p.m. this tradition will be revived (parasols optional). The parade will follow the original route from what is now Bantz Park to the dam below Philadelphia Street. Participants are asked to decorate their boats and prizes will be awarded for the most creative, most historic, and CCIP favorite.

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There is no fee. Join the parade by meeting before 1 p.m. at Bantz Park, at the south end of S. Belvidere Ave.

If you have any questions, would like to register, or would like to be a prize sponsor, call the [Codorus Creek Improvement Partnership](#) at 717-848-1900.

Center for Environmental Education June Newsletter Available

The [June “EE Connections” newsletter](#) of the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education is now available online.

This month’s edition features news for a variety of educational interests-- general, K-12, Higher Education and Professional Development. Here’s a sampling of the headlines-

General EE News: Quality Deer Management Association Meeting, Green Building Alliance Education Meeting Materials Available Online, Saving Kids from “Nature Deficit Disorder,” More Volunteers Needed for the Second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Survey, PAEE Has a New Name

K-12 News: www.Learningscience.org, Facing the Future's New Global Issues Textbook, ITest Program in Philadelphia, Nature Lore at Gifford Pinchot State Park

Higher Education: Global Environment Outlook Available, International Professors Project, New Offerings in Environmental from Muhlenberg College

Professional Development: Air Quality and You Workshop, Energy and the Environment, Wolf Workshop for Educators, Master Naturalist Conference, Flying WILD

If you know anyone who would benefit from receiving [EE Connections](#), please complete the [on-line form](#) or call 724-738-4555. To see all the resources available, visit the [PCEE website](#).

Primer: Future Fuel? On the Road to a Hydrogen Economy

It's the most abundant element in the universe, but can it meet Earth's energy needs for the 21st century? For clean, renewable hydrogen to replace oil, some tough hurdles-- technological and economic--have to be overcome.

For a quick primer on hydrogen and its potential as the next fuel source, visit a [special multimedia report on hydrogen](#) prepared by Penn State’s online Research magazine.

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The Nature Conservancy Names William Kunze Pennsylvania State Director

William Kunze has been named the new state director for [The Nature Conservancy in Pennsylvania](#). A Keystone state native, Kunze is “coming home” after six years with the Federal Communications Commission.

Kunze was chief of the Spectrum & Competition Policy Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Prior to his time at the FCC, Bill was a management consultant with McKinsey & Company. He also held several positions as an attorney after graduating from Yale Law School in 1993.

A Fulbright Scholar, Kunze completed a fellowship at the University of Bochum in Germany. He also received a master’s degree from the University of Chicago and a bachelor’s degree from Yale College, both in history.

Technical Information Exchange

Sharing information among watershed groups is an important function we provide through the *Digest*. We invite your feedback on this article to the authors to see if others are identifying the same problems.

Documenting Stream Channel Erosion – Bigger Problem Than Originally Thought

Watershed assessments funded by the Growing Greener Program and other programs have begun to document stream channel erosion as a much more serious source of non-point source pollution in watersheds than previously thought.

Studies in Adams, Armstrong, Chester, Lancaster, Susquehanna, and York counties and in Maryland have documented sediment loads from stream channel erosion that are orders of magnitude more than those documented in published studies that measured lateral bank erosion in stream channels around the world, including Pa.

In addition, studies show that 50 to 90 percent of the sediment load generated in a watershed is not coming from overland flow as previously thought, but from the stream channel banks themselves.

Some examples of stream channel sediment load versus what published studies by Prosser et al (2000), Rutherford (2001), and Green et al. (1999) would predict for “problem areas” –



Legacy sediments in the Conestoga Watershed, Lancaster County.

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Measured vs. predicted “problem area” erosion rates from stream banks in various areas of Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Creek (County or State)	Length of Stream Studied (feet)	Measured Erosion Rates (tons per year) for study area	Predicted “Problem Area” Erosion Rates* (tons per year) for study area
Choconut (Susquehanna)	7,920	50,000	110 – 1,097
Codorus - East Branch (York)	5,410	2,070	90 – 897
Codorus Creek- South Branch Granary Rd. (York)	2,200	2900	56 – 561
Codorus Creek- South Branch SBCC 026 (York)	400	450	9 – 90
Codorus Creek- South Branch SBCC 015 (York)	550	578	8 – 80
Codorus Creek- South Branch SBCC 025 (York)	600	1200	15 – 150
Codorus Creek- South Branch Phase I (York)	1,770	1,083	15 – 152
Codorus Creek- South Branch Phase II (York)	2,050	500	15 – 149
Codorus Creek- South Branch Phase III (York)	4,170	2,180	33 – 327
Conewago (Adams)	800	8,000	20 – 200
Cowanshannock (Armstrong)	80	31	1 – 10
Cowanshannock (Armstrong)	50	52	1 – 10
Crabby (Chester)	400	1,444	4 – 40
Long Draught Branch (Maryland)	1,607	427	19 - 190
Octoraro -West Branch (Lancaster)	1,650	1,200	4 – 42
Meetinghouse Creek	43,058	4,764-5,928	188 – 1,883
Nickel Mines Run	53,704	5,195-6,438	206 – 2,055
Stewart Run	60,429	4,415-5,459	187 – 1,872
Total for Octoraro WBR Headwaters (Lancaster)	157,191	14,374-17,825	573 – 5,729
Santo Domingo (Lancaster)	193	80	2 – 20
Spencer Run (Blair)	16,250	3,200-3,900	133 – 1,333
Stony Run (Maryland)	1,392	912	12 – 119
Trout Run (Chester)	50	20.5	1 – 10

* Calculations based on studies by Prosser et al., 2000; Rutherford, 2001; and Green et al., 1999 that suggest stream bank erosion rates of between 1×10^{-2} and 1×10^{-1} may be typical of “problem areas” within highly erodible stream channels.

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These sediments also carry with them nutrients—nitrogen and phosphorus – that contribute to nutrient loading in bodies of water downstream.

Soil sampling revealed stream channel erosion in a 193-foot portion of the Santo Domingo Creek Watershed in Lancaster County, resulting in an estimated 104 pounds of phosphorus and 289 pounds of nitrogen per year going to the Chesapeake Bay – more significant than any other source, yet one that has not been documented thoroughly until now.

The origin of the problem in many areas apparently stems in part from the history of land use, in particular, the location of grist mills by the hundreds that dotted the landscape in the 18th and 19th Century.

Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster has documented many of the impacts of these old mills can have. Sediment from land clearing and poor agricultural practices accumulated behind the mills dams from just a few feet thick to more than 20 feet thick on top of the original floodplains.

As dams were removed or fell into disrepair, the streams began cutting down through the sediments and carrying those sediments downstream.

The policy impact of this more thorough understanding of the role stream channel erosion plays today in sediment and nutrient loading might be two-fold:

1. Programs such as Chesapeake Bay nutrient reduction strategies, modeling work done for water quality credit trading programs, the proposed Stormwater Management Manual, the Generalized Watershed Loading Function Model and TMDL planning that assign relative weights to pollution sources may need to be updated.

At worst, underestimating stream channel erosion in some areas may result in improper burdens being placed on agriculture or other sources of non-point and point pollution to cleanup their contributions to a stream's pollution problem.

2. Evaluating potential remedies for water pollution problems involving restoration, particularly in more developed areas, should include floodplain restoration, if these results hold. Thought should be given to developing a specific floodplain restoration best management practice.

Franklin & Marshall College and LandStudies, Inc. have established a [special Legacy Sediments webpage](#) to provide additional background on their findings so far and to solicit information from other watershed groups and consultants on this topic to see if findings are similar in other areas.

“This is a good opportunity to learn from each other how significant the stream channel erosion issue is and its policy implications in a number of areas,” said Mark Gutshall, LandStudies, Inc.. “We look forward to sharing technical information with our colleagues all over Pennsylvania.”

To offer feedback visit the [special Legacy Sediments webpage](#) or email: land@landstudies.com .

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Feature

Tyrone Company Reduces Hazardous Waste, Takes 725+ Trucks Off the Road



A typical Macro Porous Polymer Extraction System Installation.

[Albemarle Corporation](#), a chemical manufacturer in Tyrone, Blair County is an environment innovator. They won a Governor's Award for [Waste Minimization in 1994](#) for recycling and reusing waste chemicals and were the [first company in Pennsylvania](#) to adopt an environmental management system to become ISO 14001 certified in 1996 and were recertified this year. So, what do you do for an encore?

How about use new technology to treat 3.4 million gallons of liquid waste, eliminating the hazardous part, removing 728 trucks from local roads and saving \$800,000 a year in the process?

Albemarle Corporation, formerly Quality Chemicals, Inc., employs over 155 people in Tyrone and is one of the area's largest employers.

The plant generates about \$50 million a year in sales of fine organic chemicals for the pharmaceutical,

photographic, agricultural and general chemical industries.

"We constantly look for new technologies to make us more competitive," said Ivan Riggle, Site Compliance Manager for Safety, Environment and Quality Assurance at Albemarle. "Hydrocarbons in some of our aqueous waste streams were costing us a lot of money to truck for treatment as a hazardous waste. We knew we had to do something."

It cost Albemarle about \$2,000 a truck to have the liquid hazardous waste hauled to New Jersey for treatment; on average about 725 trucks a year.

After some research, Riggle found a European technology from [Akzo-Nobel](#) -- a [macro porous polymer extraction system](#) -- that treated the aqueous waste to fix the hydrocarbons in a way that allowed them to be removed and incinerated leaving the remaining non-hazardous liquid. The liquid could then be safely discharged into the Tyrone wastewater treatment system for further treatment.

"Akzo-Nobel brought in a trailer mounted test unit for us to try," said Riggle. "We also brought in folks from DEP and Tyrone early with the pilot system to make sure we were doing everything properly, meeting all the requirements, and so they could see how it worked."

The final installation cost about \$800,000 for the equipment and another \$600,000 for a building to house the unit.

"From a sustainability point of view, all those trucks are not going through Tyrone and fuel is not being used to truck that waste," said Riggle. "Yes, we pay a higher sewer bill, but we don't have to pay to truck the waste out-of-state. Those dollars stay in our community and help the Tyrone system."

The system Albemarle installed paid for itself in less than 18 months.

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In addition to these savings and the environmental improvement created by the project, Albemarle just this week won the 2005 Industrial Waste Excellence Award from the [PA Water Environment Association](#) for this project.

What's next?

"We're looking at other ways to apply similar technologies to treat other waste streams in our facility, including phenols," said Riggle. "Our focus has always got to be on finding new ways to keep our costs down."

"We think this is one way to be more competitive," said Riggle, "But it's also the right thing to do."

For more information contact Ivan Riggle at 814-684-7225 or send email to: Ivan.Riggle@Albemarle.com.

Award Winning Performances

Catasauqua Wins National Award for Pretreatment Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presented the [Borough of Catasauqua](#) in Lehigh County a national award this week for protecting local waterways with its pretreatment program for industrial wastewater.

Specifically, the borough received the first place award for small publicly owned treatment facilities for its pretreatment program, which ensures that industrial wastewater is properly treated before the water reaches the borough's treatment facility.

This phase of treatment is important because sewage treatment plants are not usually designed to treat large volumes of industrial waste. If industrial wastewater is not properly pretreated, it can be harmful to a treatment plant, and damaging to the environment.

The borough's pretreatment program is based on site-specific needs to control industrial and commercial discharges. The program goes beyond the basic regulatory requirements, and also focuses on educating sewer users about the impact that releases have on local watersheds.

To protect treatment plants and the environment, the pretreatment program requires industrial dischargers to use treatment techniques and management practices to reduce or eliminate the discharge of harmful pollutants to sanitary sewers.

For more information, visit the [EPA Pretreatment webpage](#).

Carnegie Science Center Awards for Excellence Presented

The [Carnegie Science Center](#) Awards for Excellence each year recognize individuals for their outstanding contributions to science and technology in education, research, entrepreneurship and commerce.

This year a number of awards went to individuals for the contributions they made for excellence related to the environment—

Margaret H. Dunn: Margaret Dunn has worked with the coal mining industry for over twenty years providing geologic services and addressing water quality issues. In 1992 she co-founded the [Jennings Water Quality Improvement Coalition](#), where she was

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involved in some of the earliest work on the passive treatment of acid mine drainage in western Pennsylvania. The knowledge learned from this experience revolutionized the development of passive treatment technology.

Bethany Foster-Wilhelm: Over the past two years, Bethany Foster-Wilhelm has exposed many Pittsburgh Public School students to unique learning opportunities related to the environment. Her sixth grade classes are currently designing two outdoor classrooms which they plan to start building this year. This activity ties in with their curriculum called “Models and Designs.” So far, they have support from Conservation Consultants, the Pennsylvania Resources Council and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.

James G. Rutkowski: James Rutkowski recently received a grant to coordinate his latest venture, [SCUBA DO’s](#). This project allowed for students to go through the training to become SCUBA NAUI certified. The purpose of the grant is to study the sediment that is flowing into Presque Isle Bay from the Cascade Creek Watershed. As part of the Remediation Action Plan, the students will place sediment collection devices and retrieve the devices at periodic times to monitor the sediment flow into the Bay.

Megan Conroy: As a student, Megan was fascinated with acid mine drainage in coal mining areas and the damage it causes to streams. She initiated a project with the intent of finding natural means for AMD cleanup by raising the pH and removing aluminum from an AMD stream. She tested various substrates and found that mushroom/compost mixture neutralized acid water and drastically decreased iron.

For a complete list of Excellence Award winners, visit the [Carnegie Science Center website](#).

Friendship Park, Household Hazardous Waste Project Involve Community

The [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) announced the winners of the [Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards Program](#) which were included in the [May 30 Digest](#). But, the finalists selected in that program also deserve recognition for their good work.

The *Digest* will publish articles on the finalists over the next few weeks to help inspire others to take positive action to improve Pennsylvania’s environment.

The Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and [Dominion](#), celebrate the achievements of nonprofit organizations, businesses, schools, individuals, governments, and community groups that have made significant environmental contributions in the western Pennsylvania region.

Neighborhood Watch #13 - Snoops Association Friendship Park



[Neighborhood Watch #13](#) in Erie focuses on community volunteer activities for land use enhancement and protection. For the past two years, community members have worked together with sponsors to create “Friendship Park” in a vacant 100-year-old inner-city lot once used to store coal for residents’ heating needs.

Watch #13 conducted fundraising to purchase the land from the city and utilized volunteer time to convert the lot into a community park and garden. The 100’ by 100’ space was transformed by volunteers who worked one night per week over two years.

Their Park now boasts flower beds, trees, a community garden, a storage shed, benches, a bird house, an underground watering system, and volunteers who are responsible for its maintenance.

Friendship Park has indeed fostered friendships and partnerships and has reunited the inner-city neighborhood by providing a means for neighbors to work together to improve their quality of life. *(Photo by Peter Argentine)*

Southwestern Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Task Force

The improper and illegal disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW) negatively impacts the region and its residents by creating environmental and public health hazards.

In order to address this growing problem, the [Southwestern Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Task Force](#) was formed in 2002 to secure funding, organize HHW collection events, and educate the public.



It is comprised of members from non-profit, academia, government, and environmental organizations across southwestern Pennsylvania. Their mission is “To facilitate proper collection and disposal of HHW and minimize its generation through education in southwestern Pennsylvania.”

As part of their two-pronged mission, the Task Force organizes HHW collection programs to give homeowners a safe, economical, and environmentally-sound means to dispose of dangerous products, and they promote ongoing public awareness through brochures, posters, displays and street banners.

In 2004, five collection events were held across southwestern PA and 255,396 pounds of HHW were collected from 3,205 vehicles in five counties.

PA Water Environment Association Recognizes Environmental Excellence

The [Pennsylvania Water Environment Association](#) this week recognized individuals, companies and organizations with an outstanding record of environmental excellence at their annual conference in Somerset. Among those recognized were—

Larry M. Fair, Myerstown-Elco Wastewater Treatment Facility: Received the William D. Hatfield Award for outstanding treatment plant operation.

Richard Taylor, Valley Forge Sewer Authority: Received the Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award for outstanding performance, professionalism and contributions to the water quality analysis profession.

City of Harrisburg Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility: Received the George W. Burke, Jr. Safety Award presented to recognize outstanding municipal and industrial facility safety programs.

Thomas J. Brown, Department of Environmental Protection: Received the David A. Long Memorial Educational Service Award for developing DEP's Wastewater Outreach Technical Assistance Program.

Daniel B. Slagle, Nicholas & Slagle: Received the Ted Haseltine Award for significant contributions to the design and operation of wastewater treatment processes.

ALCOSAN, Allegheny County: Received the Plant Operations and Maintenance Excellence Award for facilities of more than 2 million gallons per day of capacity.

Chippewa Township, Beaver County: Received the Plant Operations and Maintenance Excellence Award for facilities of less than 2 million gallons per day of capacity.

Taylor Run Wastewater Plant, Borough of West Chester, Chester County: Received the Facility Safety Award—Class I.

City of Harrisburg Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility, Dauphin County: Received the Facility Safety Award- Class II.

Albemarle Fine Chemistry Services, Tyrone, Blair County: Received the Industrial Waste Excellence Award.

Spring-Brenner-Walker Joint Authority, Centre County: Received the Collection System Safety Award.

Edward H. Treat, Myerstown Borough, Lebanon County: Received the Roy F. Weston award for his contributions to the field of industrial waste management.

John G. Gerberich, City of Reading, Berks County: Operator Research Award.

Dr. YueFeng Xie, PE, DEE, Pennsylvania State University: Professional Research Award.

For a complete description of each award winner and their accomplishments, please see the attached 2005 PWEA Awards program. For more information on the association, visit the [PWEA webpage](#).

Attachment: [2005 PWEA Awards Program - PDF](#)

Quick Clips

[More Utilities Rely on Consumers to Produce Power](#)
[Energy Generators Want Federal Greenhouse Gas Rules](#)
[DEP Issues Air Quality Warning](#)
[Middle School Students in Allegheny County Recognized for Radon Awareness](#)
[Greenhouse Gas Rules Would Hurt Pennsylvania](#)
[Wind Power May Blow Into Washington County](#)
[Study: Bats Killed at Wind Farms](#)
[Penn Hills Bus Retrofits Cut Exhaust](#)
[Green Roof Coming to Asbury Woods Nature Center in Erie](#)
[Horseradish May Alleviate Manure Stench](#)
[Phipps Conservatory Growing Green](#)
[Westmoreland County – Farmland Becomes Suburbs](#)
[Pike Obtains Grant for Planning, Open Space Network](#)
[Insects Used to Ease Aggressive Plant Spread](#)
[Students Revive Area’s Ecology](#)
[Students Learning About the Environment](#)
[Op-Ed: Hunting Focus Hurts Deer Management](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[Non-Fisherman’s Guide to Bassmasters Classic](#)
[Plan hopes to find more use for Allegheny River](#)
[Sojourners Dock at Lock 60 on the Schuylkill](#)
[Historical Society Educates River Visitors on Waterway’s History](#)
[Derbies Hook Kids on Fishing](#)
[Watershed Group Has Much to Show for Efforts – Part I](#)
[Plugged wells help bring Gilmore Run back to life – Part II](#)
[The Bad – Trout Run – Part III](#)
[Beaver Conservation District Now Part of Wetlands](#)
[Lessons Learned from Flooding](#)
[A Day on the Susquehanna](#)
[Senior Environment Corps Works for Cleaner Streams](#)

Regulations

No new regulations published this week. The Environmental Quality Board [meets on June 21](#) to consider regulatory packages on lake and stream redesignations and concentrated animal feeding operations. Here's more on the agenda—

- Petition to Redesignate Tunkannock Creek, Monroe County
- Final Rule – Lakes Redesignations Package (Berks, Bucks, Snyder counties)
- Proposed Rule – Stream Redesignations, Newtown Creek, et al (Bucks, Chester, Clearfield, Fayette, Lancaster and Warren counties)
- Final Rule – Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

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Comment Deadlines: [Regulations](#) [Technical Guidance](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#)

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

No new policies published this week.

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance](#)

[For copies of Final Technical Guidance](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Upcoming conferences, meetings, workshops, plus links to other online calendars. [Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

- **June 13** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution and Conservation Committee](#) Environmental Issues Forum on Philadelphia's new [RecycleBank](#) incentive based recycling program.
- **June 13** – Senate Appropriations Committee to consider [Senate Bill 722](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) extending the sunset date on the small heating oil tank cleanup program.
- **June 14** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee to consider [House Bill 1108](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) providing loans and grants for water and waste water laterals, [House Resolution 326](#) (Adolph-R, George-D) urging Congress to release more funds to states for storage tank administration, [House Resolution 88](#) (Hutchinson-R-Venango) establishing a sewage management issues task force, [House Bill 1413](#) (Caltagirone-D-Berks) establishing a tax credit for qualified animal recycling facilities and limited tax exemptions,
- **June 14** – House Agriculture Committee will consider [House Bill 1646](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) that establishes an Agricultural Review Board (the Administration's ACRE proposal).

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- **June 21** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee informational meeting on global climate change.
- **June 21** – [Environmental Quality Board](#) meeting.
- **June 21** – Chesapeake Bay Found Sponsors [Advanced Public Outreach Workshop](#). Harrisburg.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

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

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

Stories Invited

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

PA Environment Digest is edited by David E. Hess, former Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and is published as a service to the clients of Holston & Crisci and the public. Holston & Crisci is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Holston & Crisci call 717-234-1716.

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