

# -PA ——— Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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## Premier of “Hope for Polluted Waters” Attracts 250 at Bucknell



More than 250 enthusiastic movie-goers lined up outside the College Theatre in Lewisburg, just off the Bucknell campus, to see “Hope for Polluted Waters,” an inspiring documentary on the efforts of watershed groups to cleanup abandoned mine discharges in Pennsylvania.

The documentary is the third in a series of programs produced by [WVIA-TV](#) in Wilkes-Barre that focus on issues of concern in the middle and upper Susquehanna River. “[Looking to the River](#)” was produced in 2005 to give an introduction to the river and its

watershed. “[Expedition Susquehanna](#)” follows [11 high school students](#) and Future Farmers of America in 2006 as they traveled the length of the Susquehanna by canoe.

Producer Kelly Donaldson said “Hope for Polluted Waters” tells the personal stories of volunteers working throughout the coal-mining regions of Pennsylvania to clean up pollution from abandoned coal mines.

“Historic coal-mining practices have polluted over 4,600 miles of once pristine waterways, left over 200,000 acres of land scarred and barren, and have left communities with the burden,” Donaldson said. “While the problem seems overwhelming, and might make most people accept defeat — that’s not what’s happening in Pennsylvania. People are turning this problem around, and in many cases, returning life to streams that have been dead for over 50 years.”

Donaldson, who works for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, also produced the [Watersheds.tv](#) online video website for [GreenTreks Network, Inc.](#) which won the [2002 Governor’s Award for Watershed Stewardship](#) for its weekly stories about people making a difference cleaning up their watersheds.

Featured in the production were examples of watershed restoration in both the anthracite and bituminous coal areas. They included:

- [Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance](#): Jim Koharski and Leanne Bjorkland from the Alliance and Albert Mabus, Eastern Industries;
- [Eastern Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#): Ed Wytovich;
- [Avondale Mine Reclamation Project](#), Nanticoke, Luzerne County: Julie McMonagle, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and Rep. John Yudichak;

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- [Blackleggs Creek Watershed](#): Art Grgurie and Ed Trexler of the Blackleggs Trout Nursery, Nick Pinizzotto, [Western Pennsylvania Conservancy](#);
- [Indian Creek Watershed](#): Beverly Braverman, Mountain Watershed Association, and Dean Brant, Stoy Excavation;
- West Branch of the Susquehanna: Carl Undercofler, co-organizer of the [West Branch Triathlon](#), Susan Buda, Aquatic Biologist for the [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#);
- [Babb Creek Watershed](#): the late [Robert McCullough](#), founder of the Babb Creek Watershed Association, and Bill Beacom, current chairman; and
- [Pennsylvania AML Campaign](#): John Dawes, [Pennsylvania Watershed Program](#).

Also featured are [Amy Wolfe](#), Trout Unlimited Abandoned Mine Program, Dan Koury, Department of Environmental Protection, Bob Hedin, [Hedin Environmental](#), [Dr. Carl Kirby](#), Bucknell University, and Dave Rothrock a professional flyfisherman.

“Hope for Polluted Water” was produced with funding from the [Allegheny Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#), [Chesapeake Bay Commission](#), [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#), [Degenstein Foundation](#), [Geisinger Health Systems](#), [Keith Campbell Foundation](#), [The Clayton Foundation](#), Trout Unlimited and the [Pennsylvania Watershed Program](#).

The [Bucknell Environmental Center](#), [Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies](#) and [Geisinger Center for Health Research](#) were the co-sponsors for the premier and the second annual Susquehanna River Symposium the following day that attracted over 100 people.

This new documentary will premier on WVIA-TV on October 18 at 8 p.m. and will be made available to other public television stations in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

**Video Blog:** [2006 Susquehanna River Symposium](#)

**Links:** [Skip Wieder Receives Susquehanna River Basin Excellence Award](#)  
[Heartland Coalition Works to Heal Middle/Upper Susquehanna Watershed](#)

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### Session Schedule

The Senate and House will return to session October 15.

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- PUC Disappointed With Federal Ruling on Transmission Corridors
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- Grants Available for Installation of Energy Efficient Traffic Signals
- New Deer Management Brochures Available on Game Commission Website
- Motorists to Watch for Deer When Driving This Fall
- Pennsylvania Soil Surveys Now Available on NRCS Website
- Speaker O'Brien Hosts Pennsylvania Geospatial Policy Symposium
- Black Bear Film Festival's Free ENVIROFEST at Grey Towers Historic Site
- Help Wanted: Forest Entomologist, Green Building Intern, Watershed ED

### Spotlight

- End of Summer Does Not Mean End of Drought, *By Paul Swartz, Susquehanna River Basin Commission*

### Opinion

- Keep the Heat on and the Venom Out, by Rep. Camille "Bud" George

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## Video Blog

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### Prompted by the Quecreek Mine Rescue, Mine Families First Act Signed Into Law

Gov. Rendell, former Gov. Mark Schweiker, Joseph Scaffoni, DEP Director of Deep Mine Safety, and Rep. Bob Bastian (R-Somerset) participated in a formal bill signing ceremony this week for the Mine Families First Act.

**Video Blog:** [Mine Families First Act Signed Into Law House Bill 483](#), sponsored by Rep. Bastian and passed by the General Assembly unanimously and without changes, establishes the Mine Families First Program modeled after policies adopted by Gov. Schweiker during the [Quecreek Mine Rescue](#) in Somerset County.



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This is the first state legislation passed in response to the accident that occurred in 2002. Legislation making changes to the deep mine safety law as recommended after the accident has yet to be introduced this session. In 2006 legislation was introduced to make changes and the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee held a hearing on the bill, but no action was ever taken by the House or Senate.

“Over 51,000 miners have perished in Pennsylvania, it’s a dangerous occupation,” said Gov. Schweiker. “But nothing is more troubling for those families than to find out they have trouble down below and then find out the families are an afterthought. They need to be a central thought. They need to be at the top of the list of concerns. That’s how we operated in 2002.”

“As we learned firsthand at Quecreek, mine accidents can capture the attention of an entire nation, even the world,” said Gov. Rendell. “Families are confronted with fear and incredible uncertainty during mine disasters. One of the great lessons learned in Somerset County five years ago is that tending to the needs and concerns of these parents, spouses, children and siblings is extremely important during the rescue operation.”

“I am very grateful for the unanimous passage of this legislation by both the House and Senate and to the governor for signing it,” said Rep. Bastian. “After careful work was put into the crafting of this bill, we will now have an effective assistance plan in place should another mine emergency take place similar to the one at Quecreek in July of 2002.”

Under the Mine Families First Program established in House Bill 483, the Department of Environmental Protection would be required to establish a plan outlining steps to be taken by DEP and mine owners and operators during emergencies. The plan would include:

- immediate notification of mine family members in the event of a mine emergency;
- transportation to the physical location for mine families to gather and obtain information about the mine emergency and rescue efforts;
- security provisions to ensure privacy of mine families at the designated location;
- ensuring that mine families are briefed regularly, before the news media, about the progress of the emergency response;
- a mine families first liaison to serve as a 24-hour point of contact for mine families;
- coordinating the participation of nonprofit and public social service organizations that provide counseling and other social services to mine families; and
- notification and transportation of miner families to medical facilities when miners rescued from mines are given medical care.

A Mine Families First Response and Communications Advisory Council also would be created to help DEP establish the communications plan. The council would include representatives of mine owners, mine labor unions, local emergency response professionals, mental health professionals, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and two members of the public.

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

**Video Blog:** [Mine Families First Act Signed Into Law](#)  
**NewsClips:** [Schweiker Honored at Capitol](#)  
[New Law Aids Families of Trapped Miners](#)

Link: [Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation](#)

## On the Hill

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### On the Senate/House Agenda

The House published its voting Calendars for October 15—

**House:** [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 Bill 1519](#) (McGeehan-D-Philadelphia) providing penalties for illegal posting of signs and depositing penalties in a new TreeVitalize Program Fund was reported from the House Appropriations Committee.

### Bills Introduced

**Phosphate Detergents:** [House Bill 1875](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) removing the exemption for household dishwashers from the Phosphate Detergent Act.

**Clean Taxis:** [Special Session House Bill 18](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) providing for “clean air taxis” in Philadelphia was referred to House Consumer Affairs Committee.

**Small Wind Energy Fund:** [Special Session House Bill 23](#) (Sturla-D-Lancaster) redistributing Growing Greener II bond funds to create a Small Wind Energy Assistance Fund.

**Dishwasher Soap:** [Senate Bill 1017](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) removing the exemption for dishwasher detergent in the Phosphate Detergent Act (*will be considered by the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee October 16*).

### Senate/House Bills Moving/Governor’s Desk

Gov. Rendell this week signed [House Bill 483](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) establishing the Mine Families First Act prompted by the 2002 Quecreek Mine Rescue in Somerset county into law as Act 57.

### House

**Medical Sharps:** [House Bill 1320](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) establishing a program for the disposal of home-generated medical sharps was amended and reported from the House Appropriations Committee, passed by the House and now moves to the Senate for action.

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**Change A Light:** [Special Session House Resolution 5](#) (McIlvaine-D-Montgomery) designating October 3 as “[Change a Light, Change the World Day](#)” was adopted by the House.

**Illegal Signs:** [House Bill 1519](#) (McGeehan-D-Philadelphia) providing penalties for illegal posting of signs and depositing penalties in a new TreeVitalize Program Fund was reported from the House Appropriations Committee and is on the House Calendar for action.

**Compact Fluorescents:** [Special Session House Bill 8](#) (Leach-D-Montgomery) excluding compact fluorescent light bulbs from sales tax was amended, reported from House Finance Committee and re-referred to House Appropriations Committee.

**EnergyStar Appliances:** [Special Session House Bill 11](#) (Parker-D-Philadelphia) excluding certain EnergyStar compliant appliances from sales tax was amended, reported from House Finance Committee and re-referred to House Appropriations Committee.

**Hybrid Vehicles:** [Special Session House Bill 17](#) (McIlvaine Smith-D-Montgomery) excluding hybrid electric vehicles from sales tax was reported from the House Finance Committee and re-referred to House Appropriations Committee.

**Hybrid Task Force:** [House Bill 690](#) (Cohen-D-Philadelphia) establishing a Plug-In Hybrid Task Force was referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

### Senate

**Schuylkill River Day:** [Senate Resolution 184](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) designates October 13 as “Schuylkill River Day” was adopted by the Senate.

### Senate Special Session Committee on Energy, Website Tracks Energy Bills

The Senate this week appointed a 15-member Committee on Energy Policies for the Special Session on Energy to make recommendation to the full Senate on energy-related legislation.

Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) also announced the creation of a website to track legislative information on the special session.

The Republican Chair of the Committee is Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and the vice chair is Sen. Robert Tomlinson (R-Bucks). The Democratic Chair is Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) and vice chair is Sen. Lisa Boscola (D-Lehigh).

Republican members of the Committee include: Sen. Patrick Browne (R-Lehigh) Sen. Mike Brubaker (R-Lancaster), Sen. Ted Erickson (R-Delaware), Sen. Mike Folmer (R-Lebanon), Sen. Charles McIlhinney (R-Bucks), Sen. Don White (R-Indiana), Sen. Rob Wonderling (R-Montgomery).

The Democratic members include Sen. Andrew Dinniman (D-Chester), Sen. Jim Ferlo (D-Allegheny), Sen. Wayne Fontana (D-Allegheny) and Sen. Leanna Washington (D-Philadelphia).

[The Special Session website on energy is available online.](#)

## DEP Supports Ban on Electronic Waste Going to Landfills

The Department of Environmental Protection this week said it would support a ban on electronics waste—TVs, computers and monitors—going to landfills as part of an effort to promote recycling this growing segment of waste.

The remarks were made at a special hearing on electronics waste recycling held by the [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) this week. The Committee chair is Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) and the vice-chair is Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne).

[Thomas Fidler](#), DEP Deputy Secretary for Waste, Air and Radiation Management, told the Committee his agency supports a ban saying, “In order to meet the demand of managing future growth in electronics discards, it is time to establish a more comprehensive approach through legislation.

“In further defining how eCycling would be instituted in the Commonwealth, the department is specifically interested in a shared responsibility model where manufacturers and retailers take ownership of eCycling and financially support the development of new and retention of existing recycling infrastructure involving either a third part organization, or a program where retailers serve as the drop-off point for electronics that they sell.

“The department is not funded or staffed at levels needed to further develop the infrastructure required to meet the expected obsolescence of electronic equipment,” Fidler said.

Meggan Ehret, representing the Electronic Manufacturers Coalition for Responsible Recycling, said the Federal Communications Commission directive that all broadcast media change to digital signals by 2009 will bring about a significant increase in the disposal of TVs as consumers replace their old models for new ones capable of receiving digital broadcasts.

Her group favored legislation requiring consumers to pay an advanced recovery fee, like California has, be adopted for each new television that would finance a system for recycling old TVs.

[Bob Erie](#), CEO of E-World Recyclers, outlined the advanced recovery fee system California has in place for televisions and computer monitors, but noted while the system has promoted e-waste recycling, California’s system that pays both the collectors and recyclers of electronic equipment has led to a bidding war where collectors hold material hostage as they demand higher payments from recyclers.

Erie also noted the complexity of California’s system that requires collectors and recyclers to have a manifest showing the name, address and phone for each television and monitor collected so no out-of-state electronics were included in the program. These manifests are then audited by a state agency to ensure there is no cheating.

[Joanne Soneshine](#), Environmental Policy Manager for the Consumer Electronics Association, recommended a national system for recycling e-waste saying the “ever-growing web of differing state laws” presents real problems for electronics manufacturers.

Rep. Chris Ross (R-Chester) said a recent conference by the Council of State Governments concluded that model state legislation was needed for e-waste, recommending an approach that made producers responsible for recycling the products they make.

He noted a state-operated advanced recycling fee system was complex to administer and would be considered a tax by the public. Rep. Ross also recommended

against adopting a landfill ban which could result in a dramatic increase in illegal dumping of e-waste in rural or other areas.

Also presenting testimony were [Joseph Nardone](#), Amandi Services, Inc., a glass recycler, [Rona Cohen](#), Council of State Governments, and [Bob Bylone](#), Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center.

## Other News

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### Schuylkill Conservation District Recognized for Audenreid Mine Water Project

The Schuylkill County Conservation District was recognized for winning the [Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence](#) for its innovative approach to treating acid mine drainage through the [Audenreid Mine Tunnel](#) in Schuylkill County.

“The Audenreid Mine Tunnel is an example of how activities from long ago can affect our environment and quality of life today,” said DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty. “Eight-five years ago, this tunnel was built to lower the groundwater level of nearby strip-mining areas. More recently, however, it was responsible for severely debilitating the water quality and killing all aquatic life. But, thanks to the unique approach by the Schuylkill County Conservation District, this creek is experiencing a comeback.”



The Audenreid Mine Tunnel accounts for 84 percent of the acid composition over Catawissa Creek’s 36-mile span. Based on numerous samplings over the past 20 years, the district determined that the average flow rate of the discharge was 8,500 gallons per minute or 12.24 million gallons a day.

This extremely high volume of acid mine drainage threatened to make treatment expensive and technically difficult.

To remediate the Audenreid Mine Tunnel discharge and to restore aquatic life to Catawissa Creek, the Schuylkill Conservation District worked with a contractor to design a passive acid mine drainage treatment system. The final innovative design has proven to treat the high discharge volumes and presence of dissolved aluminum effectively.

In the short time the system has been in operation, it has tripled the creek’s acid-neutralizing capacity, removed two-thirds of the aluminum in the mine drainage, and converted virtually all the dissolved aluminum into non-toxic precipitate. The treatment system increases the Catawissa Creek’s pH by 1.13 standard units for a distance of more than 30 miles.

Now, native brook trout are being caught in places that have not historically shown signs of aquatic life.

The Audenreid Mine Tunnel acid mine drainage remediation project is the largest passive acid mine drainage treatment system of its kind ever undertaken and successfully completed in Pennsylvania. The project was estimated to cost \$2 million but it came in under budget at \$1.8 million.

The Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence honors Pennsylvania businesses and organizations that undertake projects that tackle environmental problems,



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help build new businesses, enhance the bottom line and engage residents in a renewed commitment to investing in communities.

Applications are now available for the 2008 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence. The award is open to any Pennsylvania business, government agency, educational institution, nonprofit organization, individual or farm that has created or helped to develop a project that promotes environmental stewardship and economic development in the state.

The deadline to submit projects is October 15.

To download an application, visit the [2008 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence webpage](#).

**NewsClip:** [Restored Catawissa Creek Given Recognition Polluted Creek on the Mend](#)

### Coldwater Heritage Partnership Accepting Grant Applications



The Coldwater Heritage Partnership announced the opening of the [Coldwater Conservation Grants Program](#) to protect and conserve the health of Pennsylvania's coldwater ecosystems.

Applications are due December 14.

The CHP is a cooperative effort of Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Fish and Boat Commission, and the Foundation for Pennsylvania's Watersheds.

The Coldwater Heritage Partnership urges watershed groups, conservation districts, municipalities and local chapters of Trout Unlimited to apply.

The grants are designed to help develop conservation plans that identify the values and threats to the health of our coldwater ecosystems that have naturally reproducing trout. The collected information can be used as a catalyst for more comprehensive planning or for development of watershed improvements projects.

The Coldwater Heritage Partnership was formed to provide technical assistance and funding support for the evaluation, conservation and protection of Pennsylvania's coldwater streams. The partnership will award grants of up to \$5,000 to organizations to outline strategies that best conserve and protect our coldwater fisheries.

Besides offering grants, CHP works to: foster greater public understanding of watershed characteristics and how they affect coldwater ecosystems; identify special areas of concern, such as areas with exceptional water quality and high potential for impacts; and provide technical assistance and financial opportunities to organizations dedicated to protecting our coldwater ecosystems.

For more information, contact PATU Coldwater Resource Specialist Deborah Nardone at 814-359-5233, send email to: [dnardone@coldwaterheritage.org](mailto:dnardone@coldwaterheritage.org) or visit the [Coldwater Heritage Partnership website](#).

### PA Trout Unlimited Awards 13 Trout in the Classroom Grants



The [Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited](#) this week announced the award of 13 grants to local Trout Unlimited Chapters and their partner schools around the state to support [Trout in the Classroom](#) projects.

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Trout in the Classroom is an environmental education program in which students in grades K-12 raise trout from eggs to fry, monitor tank water quality, engage in stream habitat study, learn to appreciate water resources, begin to foster a conservation ethic and grow to understand ecosystems.

Most programs end the year by releasing their trout in a state-approved stream near the school or within a nearby watershed. A summary report after the project is required.

During the year each teacher tailors the program to fit his or her curricular needs. Therefore, each program is unique. TIC has interdisciplinary applications in science, social studies, mathematics, language arts, fine arts, and physical education.

Each chapter is expected to work hand-in-hand with the teacher and the students to implement the program. The grant will provide the Chapter / School with all of the gear and training necessary to start the program. Chapters will be expected to cover half the cost of the setup, approximately \$500.

The Trout Unlimited chapters awarded grants are:

- Cornplanter Chapter of TU, school partner St Joseph's School;
- Doc Fritchey TU, school partner Cathedral School;
- Ken Sink TU, school partner Indiana Area Senior High School;
- Bucks County TU, school partner William Tennent High School;
- Tulpehocken TU, school partner Oley Valley High School;
- Mountain Laurel Chapter of TU, school partner Berlin Brothersvalley Middle School;
- Art Bradford Northern Tier TU, school partner Mehoopany Elementary School;
- Valley Forge TU, school partner Avon Grove Charter School;
- Iron Furnace TU, school partner Boundary Street Elementary;
- Cumberland Valley TU, school partner Cumberland Valley High School;
- Penn's Woods West TU, school partner McKnight Elementary School;
- Fort Bedord TU, school partner Northern Bedford Middle School; and
- Forks of the Delaware TU, school partner Nazareth Middle School.

For more information, contact Deborah Nardone, PA Council Trout Unlimited by calling 814-359-5233 or by sending email to: [dnardone@coldwaterheritage.org](mailto:dnardone@coldwaterheritage.org) .

### **Game Commission Board Approves Tioga County Mine Reclamation Project**

The Game Commissioners this week approved a deep-mine daylighting and acid mine drainage abatement project and lease requested by the Department of Environmental Protection on a 30.8-acre parcel of State Game Land 268 in Morris Township, Tioga County.

The underground mine, known as the "Rattler," extracted from the Bloss Coal seam from 1903 to 1959. The operation caused severe acid mine discharges that impacted the water quality of biodiversity of Paint Run, Stoney Fork and Babbs Creek.

DEP, working with the Babb Creek Watershed Association, from 2001 to 2003 constructed passive treatment systems for acid mine discharges and reclaimed about 75 acres of abandoned mine spoils. But the treatment systems were overtaxed by the discharge. Paint Run remains impacted.

To resolve the acid mine drainage issues, DEP proposes to daylight up to 15.3 acres of the deep-mine complex in a two-step process, first daylighting 8.2 acres and then

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evaluating whether the additional 7.1 acres should be mined. In addition, the plan calls for the recovery any coal reserves and application of 2,500 tons of lime or waste lime.

Next, the mine spoils will be replaced and graded to the landscape's original contour, sub-surface drains will be constructed, erosion and sediment controls will be established and wildlife habitat will be restored. The project will require 15.5 acres of support area. DEP will award a contract to carry out the project.

The Game Commission will contribute its royalty - projected to be \$42,500 for an estimated 12,000 tons of coal - from the first phase of the project to offset the cost of the lime additive, the subsurface drainage system and surface reclamation. Upon completion of the first phase, the Game Commission and DEP will evaluate whether a second phase - daylighting the additional 7.1 acres of deep-mine complex - is needed.

An estimated 10,224 tons of coal, valued at about \$36,800, is recoverable in the project's second phase. These royalties would be deposited in the agency's Game Fund.

The project will be regulated by state's surface coal mining regulations and the Game Commission's standard lease agreement.

SGL 268 currently contains 3,050 acres in Tioga County.

### DEP Invites Public Comments on TMDLs in Butler, Clarion, Venango Counties

The Department of Environmental Protection is inviting comments on Total Maximum Daily Load Plans for two creeks in Butler, Clarion and Venango counties—

- **Leaterwood Creek and Town Run Watersheds**, Clarion County: DEP will hold a public meeting October 30 at 9:00 a.m. at the DEP Knox District Office on the proposed plan. Contact Ely Heferle, DEP, at 814-797-1191 or send email to: [ehferle@state.pa.us](mailto:ehferle@state.pa.us) for more information. Comments due October 29.
- **Scrubgrass Creek Watershed**, Butler & Venango Counties: DEP will hold a public meeting October 30 at 10:30 a.m. at the DEP Knox District Office on the proposed plan. Contact Ely Heferle, DEP, at 814-797-1191 or send email to: [ehferle@state.pa.us](mailto:ehferle@state.pa.us) for more information. Comments due October 29.

For a copy and more information, visit [DEP's TMDL webpage](#).

### Volunteers Needed to Help Plant Trees Along Plymouth Creek

The Montgomery County Conservation District is seeking volunteers to help plant trees and shrubs – a riparian buffer – along [Plymouth Creek](#) in Montgomery County between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. October 12 and 13. Partial day help is welcome.

Volunteers will help with a variety of assignments, ranging from tending to the trees to handing out bottles of water. The Goldenberg Group, manager of the Metroplex shopping center, will provide lunch and refreshments during the work hours.

Project organizers will prepare holes for large trees ahead of time to facilitate the planting. However, volunteers are encouraged to bring a shovel to plant smaller trees and shrubs. Parking is available near the Pet Smart and Rooms Today stores in the Metroplex shopping center on Chemical Road in Plymouth Township.

A riparian buffer is an area along a stream or river that is vegetated with trees and shrubs that helps to filter pollutants from stormwater, reduces the stream water's temperature, stabilizes the soil against erosion and sedimentation, and provides habitat for aquatic wildlife. Together, these measures improve water quality.

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Riparian buffers can also provide aesthetic benefits to a stream such as Plymouth Creek, which flows through highly developed portions of the Philadelphia suburbs.

This volunteer event is part of the [TreeVitalize project](#), which is spearheaded by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources with many public and private partners. The \$8 million program aims to plant 20,000 shade trees in neighborhoods, create 1,000 acres of stream buffers, and educate 2,000 citizens on tree care and planting in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties.

Those interested are encouraged to register online by visiting the [Montgomery County Conservation District website](#) or call the conservation district's Susan Harris at 610-489-4506 for more information.

### 2007 PA River Sojourn Season a Great Success

The 2007 [PA River Sojourn](#) season has come to an end, marking the conclusion of the 7th year where POWR has successfully managed this extremely valuable program with 12 events that hosted approximately 1,400 participants.

PA River Sojourns are multi-day paddling excursions that attract participants from over 12 states and provinces surrounding the Commonwealth.

Focusing on environmental conservation, outdoor recreation, and paddling safety, PA River Sojourns provide an entertaining and educational opportunity for thousands of people each summer. Sojourns provide paddling opportunities for all skill levels from canoeing calm streams, to whitewater rafting, and sea kayaking.

Sojourns are a great opportunity for people to get out and experience the rivers around Pennsylvania from a new perspective.

"The PA River Sojourns provide an opportunity for people to connect with the river," commented Angie McCracken, Program Coordinator at POWR. "Each year the program continues to grow because of the value it provides on both a recreational and conservational level."

Planning for the 2008 PA River Sojourns is underway. The Program is expecting to continue to grow in 2008, with as many as 18 events planned to occur between May and September.

The PA River Sojourn Program, coordinated by the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers, is made possible by the generous support by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, American Canoe Association, event organizers, and hundreds of local event sponsors.

Updated information for the 2008 Program can be found by visiting the [official PA River Sojourn homepage](#). (Courtesy [PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers](#))



### DEP Expands Drought Watch to 53 Counties

The lack of significant rain over most of the Commonwealth during September and this month has prompted the Department of Environmental Protection to expand its [drought watch declaration](#) to 53 counties.

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Clinton County was placed in a drought warning because numerous water suppliers are having problems meeting demand.

The expanded declaration was recommended following a meeting this week of the state's drought task force.

“We are asking everyone in the affected counties to be diligent in conserving water since long-range forecasts are not predicting the kind of slow, steady, soaking rain needed to break the drought,” said DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty. “In addition, reducing demand at this time of year is more challenging since most of our water use is associated with indoor activities.”

A drought watch is the first and least severe of the state's three drought watch declarations. It calls for a voluntary 5 percent reduction in non-essential water use. A drought warning — also a voluntary measure — asks users to reduce water consumption by 10 to 15 percent.

Following an unusually dry summer, DEP declared a drought watch on Aug. 6 for 58 counties. On September 5, 26 counties were removed from the drought watch following storms in late August.

Nine new counties were placed in watch status this week, including Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton and Philadelphia. Additionally, 13 counties re-entered drought watch status, including Armstrong, Butler, Carbon, Clarion, Juniata, Lawrence, Lebanon, Mercer, Northumberland, Perry, Susquehanna, Tioga and York.

“Unfortunately, many counties have had below-normal precipitation over the last several weeks, causing record-low stream flows in some cases and continued decline of groundwater, surface water and reservoir levels,” said Secretary McGinty. “Currently, there are approximately 80 public water systems in the state under voluntary or mandatory restrictions.”

Areas hardest hit are in Clearfield and Clinton counties where several public water suppliers are purchasing water from other systems or trucking in water to meet demand. In Lock Haven, Clinton County, mandatory water restrictions are in place due to low reservoir levels caused by drought and the draw down of the reservoir for repairs. Several streams located predominantly in the north central portion of the state are at or near record low flows.

For the latest on conditions, visit [DEP's Drought Information Center](#).

**NewsClips:** [Counties Added to Drought Watch During Dry Autumn](#)  
[Dry, Dry Season in Central Susquehanna Valley](#)  
[Devastating Drought](#)  
[Water Woes Leaving Farmers High and Dry](#)  
[Carbon, Schuylkill Among 17 in USDA Disaster Declaration](#)

### **Interstate Agreement Improves Flood Protection, Public Water Supply**

New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania have come to an apparent agreement that modifies New York City's reservoir operations under a new [Flexible Flow Management Plan](#).

The Flexible Flow Management Plan is designed to provide greater flood protection, improve fisheries management and allow for greater flexibility to address future

water needs without compromising the reliability of the public water supply for New York City and Philadelphia.

Specifically, the plan calls for moving to flows for fisheries that are more gradual, and based on available storage, not the so-called “banks” that had been used under the previous system. Instead, the new program bases releases on a comparison with normal flow levels for the time of year, while also taking into account drought situations and drinking water needs.

“Following the devastating floods of the last couple years, Pennsylvania immediately went to work to improve public safety and flood response and deliver on Gov. Rendell’s promise to do as much as we can, as quickly as possible, in all of our flood prone communities,” said DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty. “With this new agreement, we’re building on that effort by improving reservoir operations with measures that are based on sound science and don’t threaten the public’s water supply or fisheries.”

Last year, Gov. Rendell called for a task force to examine broader flood mitigation issues along the 330-mile river and its 216 tributaries. In July, the task force presented a report outlining 45 recommendations showing the need to analyze the entire New York City and lower river basin reservoir operations, examine our land use practices in flood corridors and provide flood-proofing and buyout options for those currently in harm’s way.

At the Governor’s direction, these recommendations are being prioritized and the resources needed for implementation are being estimated in an effort to develop a long-term solution to better flood protection along the Delaware.

The flexible flow management plans went into effect on Monday but, Secretary McGinty said, that was a temporary move while and the Delaware River Basin gathers public comment as part of its formal rulemaking process over the next several months.

“The flexible flow management plan is not the final answer to the problem, rather it is an added measure of protection for downstream communities until a more comprehensive program can be developed and adopted,” said Secretary McGinty. “Improvements to the New York City reservoir operations are ongoing and we’re taking steps to ensure that careful attention is given to the fact that many Pennsylvanians depend on these reservoirs for their drinking water. In the meantime, this agreement offers a technically feasible option today that protects citizens downstream from undue risk.

While structural solutions may not contribute as greatly to lower basin flood protection as non-structural measures, the request by flood victims to leave 20 percent voids in the New York City reservoirs year round are being considered thoroughly.

The Philadelphia Water Department has stated that during the last drought, leaving a 20 percent void would have compromised the Delaware intake for Philadelphia due to lack of water. In addition, the New York City reservoirs infrastructure currently is not capable of moving water adequately to create such a void.

For more information, visit [the flexible flow management plan webpage](#).

**NewsClip:** [DRBC Starts Wheels Rolling on Flexible Flow Management Plan](#)  
[Flooded Homeowners Criticize Latest Plan to Lower Reservoirs](#)

### **Applications Available for 2008 Environmental Education Grants**

The Department of Environmental Protection said this week said applications are now available for the 2008 [Environmental Education Grants Program](#).

The deadline to apply is December 14.

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The grants support projects and programs that increase environmental awareness, understanding and stewardship. Any school, university, non-profit group or county conservation district in the commonwealth may apply.

Significant changes were made to the 2008 grant program, including:

- An increase in the amount mini-grants from \$2,000 to \$3,000;
- The addition of a new grant track category—school outdoor learning resources; and
- Teacher preparation programs that meet “Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology and Science and Technology” may apply for funding under the “Conservation and Education Organizations and Institutions” open track. The academic standards are state-mandated and provide a roadmap for what students must know about the environment by the end of 4th, 7th, 10th and 12th grades.

Grant amounts vary from \$3,000 for mini-grants to \$20,000 in areas designed specifically to cover timely and critically important topics, including:

- Sustainable energy sources and technologies including solar, wind, hydro, biomass, geothermal and alternative transportation fuels;
- Air quality including ground-level ozone, transportation and electric generation issues; and
- Watersheds including acid mine drainage, non-point source pollution and water conservation.

Since the program’s inception, DEP has awarded more than \$6 million in grants to support the environmental education efforts of schools, county conservation districts, and other non-profit organizations throughout Pennsylvania.

The program was established by the Environmental Education Act of 1993, which mandates that 5 percent of all pollution fines and penalties collected annually by DEP be set aside for environmental education.

To download an application, visit the [DEP Environmental Education Grants Program webpage](#) or write P.O. Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063; or call 717-772-1828.

### October EE Connections Newsletter Now Online, Enviro Question of the Week Starts

The [October issue](#) of the EE Connections newsletter from the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) is now available online and the Center starts its popular “Question of the Week” for students and teachers.

The PCEE "[Question of the Week](#)" in October will cover topics such as "Integrated Pest Management," "Adaptations" and "Recycling Regulations." Each Question deals with Pennsylvania's environmental issues and aligns with Pennsylvania's Environment and Ecology Standards.

The highlights of this month’s newsletter include—

- **General News:** Schuylkill River Festival, "Creating Sustainable Community Parks," Green Energy TV;
- **K-12 News:** Marketplace for the Mind Expands Its Resources, Celebrate Earth Science Week!, ActionBioscience.org, Magazine Seeking Enviro-Active Youth;
- **Professional Development:** PRC Fall Environmental Workshops, Regional Science Consortium's October Visiting Scientist, Regional Waste, Storage Tank and Clean Air Conferences, Green Building Alliance's Upcoming Programs, Tree Planting Training in

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Southeast Pennsylvania, Regional Science Consortium Research Symposium Call for Papers, Making Large Shade Trees Sustainable, Earth Force New Educator Training, Solar Panel Installation Workshop, Stormwater Management Symposium, Come to a Pest Fest!, GASP Fall Teacher Workshops, Adult Eco-Series: Leopold Education Project, Sustainable Energy Teacher Workshop Series, Outdoor Lighting Workshop, Submit a Proposal for the PA Land Conservation Conference, Submit a Proposal for the Schuylkill Watershed Congress, Spirit and Nature Conference, Reminder: 'Financing Renewable Energy on Campus' Web Conference, Wildlife Habitat Council's CLL Workshop and Annual Symposium, The Great Turning;

- **Grants/Awards:** Agriculture and Rural Youth Grants, Enter a Contest to Fight Global Warming, The Buckminster Fuller Challenge, Project Learning Tree GreenWorks! Grants, P3 Student Design Competition

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](mailto:info@pcee.org) or visit the [EE Connections sign-up webpage](#).

### Entires Invited to National Student Radon Poster Contest

Department of Environmental Protection this week encouraged Pennsylvania students, ages nine to 14, to enter a [National Radon Poster Contest](#) designed to help raise [awareness of radon](#).

The deadline for submissions is October 15.

“Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer deaths in the United States, killing an estimated 22,000 people each year,” DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty said. “Many areas of Pennsylvania have high levels of radon and we need to do everything we can to encourage people to test their homes for this odorless, colorless gas. There is no way to know the radon level in your home without testing.”

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas produced by the breakdown of uranium in rocks and soil. It enters homes through tiny cracks in basements and foundations, but home mitigation systems can quickly and significantly reduce radon levels.

The national radon poster contest is sponsored by the National Safety Council in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The contest is open to all children who are enrolled in a public, private, Department of Defense or home school. Students involved with a sponsoring art, computer, science or 4-H club, or scouting organization may participate.

The national winner, along with parents and a sponsoring adult, will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. to participate in the contest's awards ceremony in January. A winning submission and runner-up will be chosen from each state and U.S. territory for entry into the national contest.



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“Radon is a major public health issue in Pennsylvania. This contest is an excellent way for students to learn about this issue, and to raise awareness of the need for testing homes among the general public in our state,” Secretary McGinty said.

Information on the requirements for the posters, submission and release forms and other information, visit [National Radon Poster Contest webpage](#) or call 202-293-2270.

### Philadelphia Group Wins EPA Environmental Justice Grant

The Northern Liberties Neighborhood Association was among the 20 community-based groups nationwide to share in \$1 million in [Environmental Justice Grants](#) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week.

The organizations will receive \$50,000 grants each for projects aimed at addressing environmental and public health issues as exposure to toxins, farm worker pesticide protection, fish consumption, indoor air quality, drinking water contamination, and pollution from shipping ports.

"From Anchorage, Alaska to Boston, Massachusetts, engaged communities across the country are seizing the opportunity to clean up their own backyard," said Granta Nakayama, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "These grants provide necessary resources for local communities to take an active role in creating solutions to our nation's environmental problems."

Financial assistance under the environmental justice small grants program is available to all non-profit organizations designated by the IRS or recognized by the state, territory, commonwealth or tribe in which it is located.

The purpose of the funding is to assist affected communities so that they can develop proactive, strategic, and visionary approaches to address their environmental justice issues and to achieve community health and sustainability.

Since 1994, EPA has provided more than \$31 million in funding to more than 1,100 community-based organizations.

### More Than 1,100 Acres Acquired by Game Commission

The [Game Commission](#) this week approved the acquisition of more than 1,100 acres in Clearfield, Cambria and Somerset counties.

In Covington Township, Clearfield County, the Board approved the purchase of 926 acres adjoining State Game land 100 for \$926,000. The monies for this purchase will be paid from the Penn State escrowed funds, and will require approval of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. About 20 percent of the property is grasslands and reverting fields with the remaining portions consisting of woodlands.

In Karthaus Township, Clearfield County, the Board approved the purchase of 68 acres also adjoining SGL 100 for \$136,000. The monies also will be paid from the Penn State escrowed funds, and will require approval of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The majority of the property is forested.

In Blacklick Township, Cambria County, the Board approved the purchase of 41.5 acres adjoining SGL 79 for \$31,000. The amount to be paid from the Game Fund will be \$15,592, being part of a \$30,000 donation from Stephen Szabados for purchase of lands in the Southwest Region. The remainder will be paid from an escrow account set up by TJS Coal with regard to mining taking place on SGL 153. Gas has been reserved for 15 years

from the date of conveyance. The property is mostly forested with cherry, oak, maple and birch. About seven acres of the property have been previously mined and reclaimed to Department of Environmental Protection standards.

In Shade Township, Somerset County, the Board approved accepting the donation of 100 acres near to SGL 93. This is a donation from Consol Coal Company, which was made possible through The Conservation Fund. A township road bisects the property and provides good public access to the tract. The entire property is forested with young pole-size cherry, red oak, maple and aspen. Only five percent of the tree species are in a mature saw timber class.

### **PUC Disappointed With Federal Ruling on Transmission Corridors**

The [Public Utility Commission](#) this week expressed disappointment in the decision by the U.S. Department of Energy to finalize its National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor for the Mid-Atlantic region and include 52 out of the state's 67 counties.

"I am saddened that the Department of Energy has chosen to ignore the input from the affected states in making their final decision on this very important issue," said Commission Chairman Wendell F. Holland. "This determination has the potential to strip the decision-making power from local officials who are charged with serving Pennsylvanians and putting it in the hands of federal regulators."

"A designation that stands to place unbounded authority in the hands of the federal government and takes away the rights of states to make choices that will be in the best interest of their citizens troubles me," said Commissioner Tyrone J. Christy. "I believe that this decision may lead to undue federal involvement with state transmission siting proceedings that may or may not have fully considered the best interests of Pennsylvania citizens."

The PUC has taken an active role in representing the interests of Pennsylvania before the federal government filing comments on the issue and participating as a party in this case. The Commission is considering its options which include petitioning DOE for a rehearing or seeking to overturn the designation as being beyond the scope intended by Congress by filing before the U.S. Court of Appeals.

On July 6, 2007, the PUC filed comments with the DOE calling the plan overly broad and unreasonable. The PUC called for the proposal to be withdrawn and asked for a new designation that has more narrow scope and better reflected the Congressional intent in establishing NIETC.

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

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

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

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

**NewsClip:** [Feds Push Power Line Areas in Mid-Atlantic States, Southwest](#)

### **Penn State, Chevron Launch Energy Alliance to Study Coal Technology**

Penn State's expanded initiative in energy sciences and engineering is launching a major research alliance with one of the world's leading integrated energy companies, Chevron Energy Technology Company, to research coal conversion technologies.

"Penn State has been involved in energy-related research and graduate training for more than a century, beginning with one of the first formal schools of mining engineering in the U.S.," said Penn State President Graham Spanier. "Since that time, Penn State has evolved its coal-related research streams in many directions including conversion of coal to liquid fuels, direct coal liquefaction, modeling and simulation of coal conversion, and carbon dioxide capture and sequestration."

Building upon this historical strength, in 2006, the [University Energy Task Force](#) published a report in which it proposed a bold new roadmap and strategic vision to enhance the existing energy sciences, engineering and policy within the University's academic colleges and institute. To promote the energy initiative, the University has committed funds for the creation of 24 new faculty positions to strengthen the teaching and research efforts.

Penn State will target key strategic areas: state-of-the art coal conversion and carbon dioxide management technologies; materials and nanotechnology for energy efficiency; biofuels, bioenergy and biomaterials; hydrogen production, storage and transportation for fuel cells; public and social discussions of nuclear power; and conversion of light to do work.

"When Chevron visited Penn State a year ago to learn more about our initiative," said Eva Pell, senior vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School. "They recognized our commitment to areas of interest to them, and became convinced that an alliance would be mutually beneficial."

The joint research initiative with Chevron will focus on coal chemistry and conversion technology, advanced fuels, combustion, analysis methods, reactor science, separations, process technology, and CO<sub>2</sub>/greenhouse gas management and conversion.

This alliance will also integrate research with educational and career opportunities for students and graduates specializing in coal conversion and energy technologies. Under the alliance, Chevron will provide up to \$17.5 million over the next five years to the University.

"Chevron values technological excellence and R&D capability and is impressed with the quality of coal research done at Penn State over the last century. Chevron also has a rich history in coal through our Chevron Mining Company and its predecessor P&M Coal. We will draw on the deep expertise of both institutions to push the front edge of technology and innovation into the 21st century," said Don Paul, vice president and chief technology officer, Chevron Corporation. "We look forward to a highly productive research relationship that will contribute to the technical innovation of clean coal and coal-to-liquid technology."

Penn State and Chevron have enjoyed an important partnership for some time, with gifts and grants of more than \$6 million in gifts and \$1.68 in research contracts. As of a year ago, Chevron has employed 223 Penn State alumni.

"Rapid growth of global energy consumption has brought the challenge of sustaining national and global energy security into sharp focus," Spanier said. "With the help of partners such as Chevron, Penn State will continue to step up to the challenge of training new generations of experts in energy, developing fundamental new knowledge and innovative applications, and educating the public about energy issues and options."

**NewsClip:** [Chevron to Provide Millions for Coal Use Study](#)

### Grants Available for Installation of Energy Efficient Traffic Signals

The Appalachian Regional Commission is accepting proposals from governmental entities at the state, local and regional levels, located within the ARC Region, for replacing incandescent traffic signal lights with energy-efficient LEDs (light emitting diodes) in Appalachian distressed and at-risk counties.

[A copy of the request for proposal is available online.](#)

### New Deer Management Brochures Available on Game Commission Website

The Game Commission has developed eight new brochures to help Pennsylvanians learn more about why and how the agency manages deer, and the factors, variables and intangibles that influence this evolving management process.

"These brochures provide another way for Pennsylvanians to increase their knowledge of deer and why and how we manage them," explained Dr. Christopher Rosenberry. "We're hopeful that people whose lives are influenced by deer will take the time to read them and that it will help improve their understanding of the whole process."

The following is a brief overview of the brochures:

- **Deer Management For Everyone: Is it Mission Impossible?** - Managing deer across the Commonwealth is no small chore and has tremendous influence on the lives of other wildlife and people, as well as habitat.
- **Pennsylvania's Deer Management Goals: Measuring Progress** - The Pennsylvania Game Commission uses three goals to manage the Commonwealth's whitetails: healthy forest habitat, healthy deer, and acceptable levels of deer-human conflicts.
- **How Many Deer Are There?** - Managing deer based solely on deer density objectives is a thing of the past. The Pennsylvania Game Commission monitors population trends and makes management decisions based on the impacts of deer on themselves, the forest and Pennsylvanians.
- **A Keystone Species of the Keystone State** - Deer are a keystone species - one with tremendous influence on other species - because their foraging can harm a forest ecosystem.



- **A New Tradition: Concurrent Seasons** - Combining the firearms antlered and antlerless deer hunting seasons was done to improve the efficiency of hunters and provide them more opportunity.
- **Harvest Estimates: Why Can't We Just Count Them?** - Every year, the Pennsylvania Game Commission commits money and manpower to collect data from hunter-harvested deer and from hunters to estimate the state's annual deer harvest.
- **Where Are the Deer?** - The answer isn't as simple as some might believe. There are fewer deer today in many areas than there were 10 years ago, but that's not the only reason deer might be hard to find.
- **Hunters: Customers, Partners, Stakeholders** - The Pennsylvania Game Commission recognizes the important contributions deer hunters have made and continue to make to wildlife conservation in the Commonwealth.

The brochures, available in PDF files only, can be accessed by visiting the [Game Commission's website](#).

### Motorists Urged to Watch for Deer When Driving This Fall

Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe warned motorists to slow down after sundown and before sunrise to reduce their risk of having a close encounter with a white-tailed deer.

Pennsylvania has the highest number of deer-vehicle collisions of any state—over 39,000 annually—resulting in over \$78 million in property damage.

Deer collisions are an annual occurrence that will continue through Thanksgiving week and begin to slow down in mid-December. For the sake of public safety, the Game Commission is urging motorists to drive cautiously after dark for the next several weeks.

"The personal tragedies and property losses that are caused by deer-vehicle collisions touch the lives of Pennsylvanians statewide," Roe said. "It's an unfortunate and often painful consequence of living with white-tailed deer.

"It's also a shame to see whitetails killed on highways in the weeks before our biggest deer seasons. Obviously, many of these accidents are unavoidable because deer do step into the path of fast-moving vehicles. But driving defensively, or, at the very least, alertly, can give a motorist an edge in many instances."

Roe noted that being knowledgeable about deer can help Pennsylvanians stay out of harm's way. He said that some deer aren't paying close attention to what's going on around them during the fall breeding season, commonly referred to as the "rut."

"During the rut, deer are moving about more than usual," Roe said. "It's a time when deer become preoccupied with finding the opposite sex or staying a few steps ahead of rival suitors. It's a time when this summer's fawns - left alone while does follow nature's calling - sometimes naively wander into troublesome predicaments. It's a time, quite frankly, when deer don't seem to maintain that invisibility and distance that typically keeps them from dangerously interacting with Pennsylvania motorists."

Roe also noted that drivers shouldn't assume trouble has passed completely when a deer successfully crosses the road.



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"Deer frequently travel in family groups and single file," Roe said. "Just because one has crossed, doesn't mean the threat is over. Its crossing could be a signal that others may follow, which they sometimes do blindly."

Some bucks are beginning to chase does. Sometimes these bucks follow closely; other times they pursue with their heads to the ground nosing a scent trail. Also, research conducted by the Game Commission and Penn State University indicates many yearling bucks will be traveling more during the fall.

"After tracking hundreds of radio-collared bucks, we know that half or more of the yearling bucks will be wandering away from the areas where they were born," said Bob Boyd, Game Commission Bureau of Wildlife Management assistant director. "These animals will travel four to five miles on average, but some may travel as far as 25 miles or more. Most of this movement occurs from mid-October through the breeding season in mid-November."

Roe also noted that with the end of daylight savings time scheduled for late October, more motorists will be driving to and from work at the peak hours of deer activity: dawn and dusk.

Those who are enjoying the outdoors during this colorful time of year, including hunters, also play a role in moving deer during daylight hours. Hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders and hunters moving through fields occasionally flush deer from briar thickets and windbreaks and forested areas.

"If you see people in the vicinity of the road you're traveling, it's probably a good idea to slow down," Roe said. "Since most hunters are wearing fluorescent orange clothing, they're usually very visible to motorists."

Motorists also should slow down whenever farmers are harvesting cornfields because deer are often flushed from fields as farm equipment approaches them.

Drivers who hit a deer with a vehicle are not required to report the accident to the Game Commission. If the deer dies, only Pennsylvania residents may claim the carcass. To do so, they must call the Game Commission region office representing the county where the accident occurred and an agency dispatcher will collect the information needed to provide a free permit number, which the caller should write down. A driver must call within 24 hours of taking possession of the deer.

A passing Pennsylvania motorist also may claim the deer, if the person whose vehicle hit it doesn't want it. Again, the motorist must report taking possession of the deer within 24 hours to the Game Commission.

Antlers from bucks killed in vehicle collisions must be turned over to the Game Commission.

If a deer is struck by a vehicle, but not killed, drivers are urged to stay their distance because some deer may recover and move on. However, if a deer does not move on, or poses a public safety risk, drivers are encouraged to report the incident to a Game Commission regional office or other local law enforcement agency. If the deer must be put down, the Game Commission will direct the proper person to do so.

Other tips for motorists include:

- Don't count on deer whistles or deer fences to deter deer from crossing roads in front of you. Stay alert;
- Watch for the reflection of deer eyes and for deer silhouettes on the shoulder of the road. If anything looks slightly suspicious, slow down;

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- Slow down in areas known to have a large deer population; where deer-crossing signs are posted; places where deer commonly cross roads; areas where roads divide agricultural fields from forestland; and whenever in forested areas between dusk and dawn; and
- Deer do unpredictable things. Sometimes they stop in the middle of the road when crossing. Sometimes they cross and quickly re-cross back from where they came. Sometimes they move toward an approaching vehicle. Assume nothing. Slow down, blow your horn to urge the deer to leave the road. Stop if the deer stays on the road; don't try to go around it.

For more information, visit the Game Commission's [Deer Management webpage](#).

### **Pennsylvania Soil Surveys Now Available on NRCS Website**

Soil Information for the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is now available through the [Web Soil Survey](#), thanks to cooperative efforts lead by USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service and included Penn State University, Department of Environmental Protection and many local governments.

The more than 20 year effort to compile and digitize the county soil survey maps, capture the soil property and interpretation data, complete quality control and post the data to the Web Soil Survey was completed on September 27.

“Capturing all the soil resource information that was contained in county Soil Survey reports will be of great benefit to all the residents and agencies in Pennsylvania,” said Craig Derickson, NRCS State Conservationist for Pennsylvania. “Through the Web Soil Survey, information about our most valuable natural resource- the soil- can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Digital data will also allow us to easily update and enhance the soil information as new knowledge is gained and new information is needed. Having all the information now available on the Web Soil Survey is an important milestone in our continuing efforts to help people help the land.”

Soil Survey information is highly used for state, federal and local programs that include conservation planning and application, stormwater management, nutrient management, farmland preservation, watershed planning, and community planning to help people make the right choices to improve productivity, protect the environment and conserve natural resources.

Pennsylvania is one of the highest states in [Web Soil Survey](#) use and the demand for soil survey information from landowners and agencies is rapidly increasing as environmental and productivity issues continue to increase.

Three easy steps are needed to generate soils information for anywhere in Pennsylvania: Define your Area of Interest, view your Soil Map, and Explore Your Soil Information.

For additional information contact Ed White, State Soil Scientist at 717-237-2207.

### **Speaker O'Brien Hosts Pennsylvania Geospatial Policy Symposium**

“Pennsylvania is at the leading edge of geospatial technology,” Speaker of the House Dennis M. O'Brien said when he welcomed more than 80 national experts, business leaders, geospatial practitioners, and county and municipal officials to the first Pennsylvania Geospatial Policy Symposium at the Capitol this week.

The symposium, sponsored by the Speaker in partnership with The Pennsylvania State University and the Legislative Office for Research Liaison, focused on policy questions related to the opportunities afforded by the expanding use of global positioning systems, geographic information systems and other geospatial hardware and software tools in business, government and academia.

These powerful general-purpose technologies are used to create and analyze data about the location of people, places and things. Private businesses across Pennsylvania, schools, universities and government agencies at all levels create and collect vast quantities of data in the course of their daily operations.

Over 90 percent of these data are referenced by location – where people live or work, where roads go, where political, zoning and property boundaries lie, where crime occurs, where floods threaten, where customers reside, and the like.

These data, when appropriately shared and integrated into an overarching statewide geospatial data infrastructure, have far-reaching implications for the future of the Commonwealth.

Speaker O’Brien said the state has world-class geospatial software firms, internationally renowned geospatial research programs at universities, and cutting-edge geospatial service providers, and many mature and centrally integrated GIS applications are used by municipal, county and state agencies.

"The synergies linking geospatial technology deployment in the public and private sectors and in our colleges and universities will lead to more jobs, economic growth and greater government efficiency and effectiveness in Pennsylvania," Speaker O’Brien said.

Participants in the symposium include: Jim Geringer, former governor of Wyoming who implemented GIS data sharing and enterprise-wide solutions while governor; David Schell, president and CEO of the Open Geospatial Consortium Inc., a non-profit, international organization that is leading the development of standards for geospatial and location-based services; James Knudson, Pennsylvania Deputy Chief Information Officer, Environmental Community of Practice; and Dr. Theodore R. Alter, professor of agricultural, environmental and regional economics and former associate vice president of Penn State.

### **Black Bear Film Festival’s Free ENVIROFEST at Grey Towers Historic Site**

The eighth annual [Black Bear Film Festival](#) will be held from October 11 to 14 will host a smorgasbord of environmentally-focused films and talks in three venues on the grounds of the [Grey Towers Historic Site](#) in Milford, Pa.

In keeping with the Black Bear Film Festival’s mission—to support innovative and independent films while recognizing Pike County’s history as the birthplace of the American conservation movement—BBFF presents the free ENVIROFEST, this year co-sponsored by Grey Towers Heritage Association and located at Grey Towers National Historic Site, in Milford.

Regional conservation organizations will be in attendance with informational booths to educate and enlighten audiences on the current conditions of the natural world. A free trolley will be available all day to shuttle filmgoers between BBFF’s main venue—the Milford Theatre in downtown Milford—and ENVIROFEST at Grey Towers. Environmental film enthusiasts not attending BBFF’s main venue movies may use Grey Towers’ free parking area.



No reservations or tickets are needed for ENVIROFEST. There is no charge to attend. For more information visit the [ENVIROFEST webpage](#) at call 570-409-0909.

**Help Wanted: Forest Entomologist, Green Building Intern, Watershed ED**

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is seeking a forest entomologist, the Green Building Alliance in Pittsburgh is seeking a graduate student intern and the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association is seeking an executive director. Details below.

**Forest Entomologist:** The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry is recruiting for the position of Forest Entomologist, which will serve as the expert resource person for the statewide forest health program headquartered in Middletown, Pa.

This position plans, supervises, and coordinates the statewide implementation and evaluation of integrated forest pest management projects; conducts applied research and coordinates with other Commonwealth and Federal agencies, university researchers, and the forest pest industry; provides training in the proper operation and maintenance of a variety of instruments, equipment and safety gear; and supervises and coordinates the handling, rearing, and evaluation of forest pest host organisms.

This is a civil service position, a job announcement and required application material must be obtained by contacting Jason Rothermel, DCNR Human Resources, at 717-772-4230 or 1-800-654-5984 (TT#) through the PA AT&T Relay Service; or by sending an e-mail to [dcnrjobs@state.pa.us](mailto:dcnrjobs@state.pa.us).

Completed Civil Service application and supplement must be postmarked by October 26.

**Graduate Intern:** The Green Building Alliance is seeking a graduate student intern in Public Affairs or Business with knowledge of sustainable and environmental issues and experience with creating a full-scale business or marketing plan.

The individual filling this position will work with Education Manager to develop business plan for the development, operation and promotion of educational courses.

Please contact Diane Bossart at [diane@gbapgh.org](mailto:diane@gbapgh.org) with resume, qualifications and dates available.

**Watershed Executive Director:** The Nine Mile Run Watershed Association in Pittsburgh is seeking an executive director to guide this non-profit organization. For details, visit: [Watershed Weekly Employment Opportunities](#).

**Spotlight**

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**End of Summer Does Not Mean End of Drought**

By Paul Swartz

Susquehanna River Basin Commission

Fall is a time of change when our thoughts shift from swimming and backyard barbecues to foliage, pumpkins and cooler, refreshing

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temperatures. One thing that did not change from summer [is the drought](#) that continues to develop and impact many areas of the Susquehanna River Basin.

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission urges citizens and businesses to remain mindful of the drought and heed existing calls for voluntary water conservation. Drought declarations remain in effect for many counties in Pennsylvania, and several private and public water supplies have mandatory or voluntary conservation requirements in affect.

With outdoor water usage on the decline this time of the year, some examples of indoor household water conservation measures and their benefits include:

- Repairing a leaking toilet will conserve up to 200 gallons per day.
- Repairing a leaking faucet will conserve up to 11 gallons per day.
- Installing a low-flow toilet will conserve nearly 2 gallons per flush.
- Installing a low-flow shower will conserve from 1 to 7.5 gallons per minute.

In many areas of the Susquehanna basin, conditions are declining, not improving. As evidence, the Commission received requests in late September for emergency water withdrawal approvals from two Pennsylvania municipalities – Lock Haven and Houtzdale – facing potential water supply shortages if additional supplies are not secured. A few rivers and streams in Pennsylvania and Maryland are teetering near critical low flow thresholds at which modified drought operations kick-in at several facilities regulated by the Commission. In Maryland, the central region, which includes counties in the Susquehanna basin, are designated as “drought watch” on the Maryland Department of the Environment web site. In New York, groundwater and surface water levels continue to decline, especially in the Chemung subbasin region.

Unfortunately, the outlook for the rest of the year, according to the National Weather Service in State College, does not indicate a shift to a wetter weather pattern. Whereas past droughts have often ended by the influences of tropical storms, current weather patterns indicate the Susquehanna basin is not likely to receive much in the way of tropical moisture.

During the last prolonged drought that spanned from 1997 through early 2002, several important lessons were learned. Drought declarations are only effective if the public is aware of and understands them. To that end, the Commission heads an important drought coordinating committee comprised of water management officials from New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland and the federal government.

Committee members convene when drought conditions emerge and remain active for the duration of a drought. As in past drought years, members follow a set of established drought indicators and protocols identified in the Susquehanna River Basin Drought Coordination Plan. They exchange technical information on drought conditions in their respective jurisdictions and discuss if drought response actions should be activated.

For more information on the committee, the coordination plan and links to important hydrologic information, I invite you to [visit the Commission’s website](#).

*Paul Swartz* is Executive Director of the [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#).

**NewsClips:** [Dry, Dry Season in Central Susquehanna Valley](#)  
[Devastating Drought](#)  
[Water Woes Leaving Farmers High and Dry](#)  
[Carbon, Schuylkill Among 17 in USDA Disaster Declaration](#)

## Opinion

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### Keep the Heat on and the Venom Out

by Rep. Camille "Bud" George

In one month, Pennsylvania's [Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#) will begin accepting applications for the heating season.

That's the good news. The bad news includes:

- Chronic under-funding by the federal government;
- Zero funding by Pennsylvania;
- A suspect campaign to besmirch LIHEAP under the guise of "welfare reform;" and
- Record prices for heating oil and propane.

LIHEAP income guidelines this season will be \$15,315 for an individual, adding \$5,220 for each additional household member.

The minimum cash grant -- to help families pay heating bills -- will remain at \$100. The maximum crisis grant -- for heating emergencies like utility shutoffs, fuel shortages and equipment failures -- will remain at \$300.

Applications will be accepted beginning November 5 at county assistance offices. Applications also can be made online for cash grants only at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us) . The statewide, toll-free LIHEAP hotline is 866 857-7095.

Energy prices, meanwhile, continue rising.

According to the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association, heating oil will be the most expensive fuel this winter. The average, oil-heating family is projected to pay \$1,834 this season -- up 28 percent or \$402 from last year.

Propane costs are projected to average \$1,732, up 30 percent or \$384 from last season.

Earlier this year, an audit of the state Department of Public Welfare's administration of LIHEAP found "serious deficiencies" resulting in "potential applicant and employee fraud and abuse" in six counties studied.

The state auditor general correctly noted that, "Every dollar wasted is a dollar that could have been used to reduce a needy family's heating bill."

However, the "potential" for fraud quickly became fact among those whose political lives depend on demeaning the very government that signs their paychecks.

The chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee proclaimed, "The fraud allowed by DPW in its administration of the LIHEAP program is inexcusable."

Patience and fairness are not in the partisan playbook.

According to DPW's continuing review, it has been able to exclude 54 percent -- 1,304 of the 2,431 situations -- of the potential fraud and abuse cases. The 2,341 "situations" amounted to 1 percent of the cases handled by the six counties.

The DPW found that in 176 cases flagged because the LIHEAP recipient used the Social Security number of someone who had died, the applicant was the surviving spouse or child, and use of the Social Security number was appropriate.

Other early findings include:



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- More than 93 percent of the cases cited where public housing residents received LIHEAP payments were found appropriate because the residents were required to pay for their heat;
- Many of the cases involved data-entry errors, such as transposed numbers;
- The 14 applications for crisis grants found without signatures all were rejected; and
- Applicants rejected for LIHEAP were not incorrectly referred to Weatherization programs.

Our tax dollars demand constant vigilance. However, irresponsibly demeaning a program that served more than 12,600 households in Clearfield and Centre counties last year is probably many times more damaging than whatever mistakes may have been made in the program.

The LIHEAP program needs angels not an ambush. Considering the energy prices and the political landscape, a cold winter is in store.

**Rep. George** is Chairman of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and can be contacted [through his website](#).

### Quick Clips

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

[Editorial: Our 5-Cents' Worth: PA Should Resist Deposit Law](#)

[Editorial: Funding for HSCA Must Be Restored by Lawmakers](#)

[Conservancy Opens New Home On Revitalized Island](#)

[Environmentally Friendly Projects Catch On](#)

[Editorial: Going Green is the Future, No More Excuses](#)

[Green Ideas Adopted by Bucks County Commissioners](#)

[Penn State Wins Race for First LEED-Certified Stadium](#)

[Green Building Set for Brownfield](#)

[Will Rachel Carson's Ethic Prevail?](#)

[Who's going to Pull the Plug on Rising Use of Electricity?](#)

[Interest in Energy Conservation Starting to Grow](#)

[State, Utilities Differ on Ways to Cut Use of Electricity](#)

[Montgomery County Adds \\$200,000 for Wind Power](#)

[\\$1 Energy Fund Kicks In, Record Demand Expected](#)

[Editorial: A Special Session on Energy](#)

[Op-Ed: Find Out What Works Ahead of Energy Plan](#)

[New Plant Turns Trash into Power](#)

[Ethanol's Boom Stalling as Glut Depresses Price](#)

[PA's Strategy in Quest for Energy Ideas](#)

[Exeter Landfill to Speed Trash Decomposition](#)

[Columbia Gas to Spend Megabucks on Pipeline in Beechview](#)

[Raptors Rely on Updrafts Along the Kittatinny Ridge](#)

[County Parks Funding Plan Welcomed](#)

[Foundation Gives \\$250,000 to Great Allegheny Passage](#)

[ATV Riders Feel Squeeze of Limited Places to Ride](#)

[Fish & Boat Commission Considering Youth Fishing License](#)  
[Local Communities Offer Range of Deer Control](#)  
[Editorial: Sportsmen’s Lawsuit a Waste of Time, Money](#)  
[Deer Winning Battle with Hunters](#)  
[Oh Deer! Fall is the Peak Time for Car-Deer Crashes](#)

## **Watershed NewsClips**

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

[Restored Catawissa Creek Given Recognition](#)  
[Polluted Creek on the Mend](#)  
[Help Might Be On the Way for Brook Trout](#)  
[Dry, Dry Season in Central Susquehanna Valley](#)  
[Devastating Drought](#)  
[Water Woes Leaving Farmers High and Dry](#)  
[Carbon, Schuylkill Among 17 in USDA Disaster Declaration](#)  
[Cow Manure is Going High Tech](#)  
[Improvements to Mill Creek Taking Shape](#)  
[DRBC Proposes Permanent Designation to Protect Lower Delaware Water Quality](#)  
[Editorial: Chesapeake Bay’s Status Continues to Deteriorate](#)  
[Gypsy Moths Taking Bite out of Bay Watershed’s Forests](#)  
[Sustainable Living Topic of Cooks Creek Meeting](#)  
[Global Warming Could Cause Rise in Sewer Bills](#)  
[Pace of Dam Removals Accelerating Across Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#)  
[Making Cocalico Creek a Class Act](#)  
[Beaver Creek Wetlands Project Due \\$3 Million Grant](#)  
[Septic Maintenance Mandate Considered in York County](#)  
[PA Submits Coastal Resource Protection Plan to Feds](#)

## **Regulations**

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The Environmental Quality Board published a [final-proposed rulemaking](#) omitted regulation changing the Alternative Fuels Incentive Fund Program and published notice of public hearings on proposed changes to volatile organic compound air quality limits for certain consumer products ([PA Bulletin page 5379](#)).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – October 6, 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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No new guidance documents were published this week.

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

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

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **October 9** –House Consumer Affairs Committee hearing on [House Bill 824](#) (Preston-D-Allegheny) relating to procedures for utility shutdowns. University of Pittsburgh, William Pitt Union Building. Pittsburgh. 1:00.
- **October 9** – **NEW**. House Republican Policy Committee hearing on nuclear energy. Susquehanna Nuclear Power Plant, Berwick. 1:00.
- **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 12** –House Local Government Committee hearing on [House Bill 904](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) providing for temporary moratoriums on development. Buckingham Township Offices, Buckingham, Pa. 10:00.
- **October 13** – Schuylkill River Festival. Pottstown. Contact: Carolyn Brunschwyler, Montgomery County Community College, 610-718-1847, or send email to: [cbrunsch@mc3.edu](mailto:cbrunsch@mc3.edu)
- **October 15** –[Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **October 15** – **NEW**. Governor’s Renewable Ag Energy Council meeting. Room 309 Agriculture Building. 1:00.
- **October 15** –Environmental Issues Forum by [Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) to hear a presentation by Brian Hill, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, on its stakeholder-driven [Climate Roadmap for Pennsylvania](#). Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.
- **October 16** – **NEW**. Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 305](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) amending the Solid Waste Management Act relating to repeat violations, [Senate Bill 1017](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) removing the exemption for dishwasher detergent in the Phosphate Detergent Act; [Senate Bill 1068](#) (M.White-R-Venango) requiring fines and penalties to be deposited in the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act, [Senate Bill 1069](#) (M.White-R-Venango) requiring an annual report on the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund, [Senate Bill 1086](#) (Regola-R-Westmoreland) amending the Flood Control Law to further provide for contracts and acquisition or property, [House Bill 43](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) providing for uniform environmental covenants for brownfields projects. Hearing Room 1, North Office. 11:00.

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- **October 16** – **NEW**. Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee hearing on nuclear issues. Room 461. 11:00.
- **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 16** – **NEW**. Capital Region Water Board Planning Committee meeting. Susquehanna River Basin Commission, 1721 N. Front St., Harrisburg. 1:00. Contact: [Cindy.L.Rock@comcast.net](mailto:Cindy.L.Rock@comcast.net) .
- **October 18** – **NEW**. House Republican Policy Committee hearing on transportation infrastructure. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 10:00.
- **October 18** – **CANCELLED**. House Commerce Committee hearing on [House Bill 1742](#) (Pashinski-D-Luzerne) requiring scap and recycling facility operators to collect information on scrap material. City Hall Counsel Chambers, Wilkes-Barre. 10:30.
- **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](mailto:slathrop@state.pa.us) .
- **October 23** – **NEW**. [DEP, PennVEST public meeting](#) on proposed FY 2007 Intended Use Plans for drinking water, wastewater treatment and pollution abatement under federal Drinking Water and Clean Water Revolving Fund. Auditorium, Rachel Carson Building. 1:00.
- **October 25** – 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.
- **November 2** – House State Government Committee hearing on [House Bill 397](#) (Petri-R-Bucks) providing for development impact fees. (LTA). 10:00.
- **November 8** – **NEW**. House Health and Human Services Committee hearing on [House Bill 798](#) (Phillips-R-Northumberland) creating a Lyme Disease Task Force. Room 205 Ryan Building. 11:30.
- **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**

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[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**

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Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to *PA Environment Digest* - [DHess@CrisciAssociates.com](mailto:DHess@CrisciAssociates.com) or go to [www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com](http://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 Crisci Associates and the public. Crisci Associates is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Crisci Associates call 717-234-1716.

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