

# — PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

October 16, 2006

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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## Ed Wytovich Wins 2006 Chevron International Conservation Award



Ed helps plant “The Swamp” passive mine water treatment wetland.

Ed Wytovich is a student of nature. For his legendary volunteer efforts, which have led to the preservation of hundreds of miles of rivers and thousands of acres of habitat in Pennsylvania, Wytovich was named one of six winners of the [52nd annual Chevron Conservation Awards](#).

An eighth grade science teacher in Dauphin County, Wytovich has been a founding member of a myriad of watershed associations dedicated to treating abandoned mine drainage. This year, Wytovich, who serves as volunteer president of the Eastern Pennsylvania Collation

for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, celebrated the completion of the largest passive mine drainage treatment system in the state.

In 1998, his 100 mile “Riverwalk” along the state’s Schuylkill River raised funds for the Schuylkill Headwaters Association and generated awareness of the need to clean the River. He also helped start the Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn, a one-week canoe trip down the Schuylkill, to draw attention to habitat preservation.

In 2001, he convinced state lawmakers to designate May as Statewide Watershed Awareness Month, which lead to annual clean-ups at sites throughout Pennsylvania. “Ed instills within others the need to serve as stewards of the environment and community within which they live,” said Dave Zanis, a longtime friend.

U.S. Congressman Tim Holden wrote that Wytovich demonstrates “how optimism can build partnerships with government, the private sector, and community volunteers to achieve success in conserving and restoring our environment.”

Winners are selected by an independent panel of conservationists. Originally created by outdoors writer Ed Zern in 1954, the program has recognized more than 1,000 conservationists from around the world. A contribution of \$15,000 is made by Chevron to each winner’s conservation work.

Other 2006 Chevron Conservation Award winner are: California Trout, a nonprofit dedicated to protecting and restoring wild trout and steelhead waters throughout California; The late William H. Howard, president, Wildlife Habitat Council for his innovative approach to pairing industry and conservationists to find balanced solutions to natural resource protection; Iain Kerr, CEO, Ocean Alliance, for research and educational efforts

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to improve the health of the world's oceans; Jeunesse Park, founder of Food and Trees for Africa, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for disadvantaged South Africans through natural resource programs; Dr. Pilai Poonswad, for her work to save Asian hornbills and habitat in the forests of Thailand.

Chevron is committed to contributing to the social and economic development of the communities in which the company operates. In 2005, Chevron invested \$73 million in community initiatives around the world, nearly 65 percent of which was directed toward long-term, capacity-building projects.

For profiles of the winners and more information, visit the [Chevron Conservation Awards webpage](#).

**NewsClip:** [Local Man Earns Conservation Award](#)

**Online Video:** [Watershed Awareness Month](#)  
[The Swamp – Mine Drainage Restoration Project](#)  
[2001 Governor's Award for Watershed Stewardship](#)  
[Take a Walk – Experience Your Watershed](#)

**Links:** [Growing Greener – Watershed Stewardship](#)  
[If You Build It...](#)  
[EPCAMR President Testifies Before Congressional Committee](#)  
[Op-Ed: Taking the Next Step in Watershed Protection](#)  
[Audenreid Mine Drainage Treatment System Dedicated](#)  
[Catawissa Creek Watershed](#)

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### Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to session October 16. This is the Senate's last scheduled week in session before the November 7 election. The House is in session both the weeks of October 16 and 23 (at this writing).

The schedule for session after the election is beginning to become clearer. Good rumors this week have the Senate in just two days and the House three days after election.

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### [PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

- A Conversation with Tom Kerr on Conservation Challenges

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## On the Hill

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### On the Agenda/ Bills Introduced

There are several committee meetings on environmental bills next week and bills on the Senate and House Calendar of interest. Here's the rundown...

**In the Senate**, the Appropriations Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1232](#) (Piccola-R-Dauphin) establishing an historic preservation grant program, [House Bill 854](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) establishing the Terrorism Infrastructure Disclosure Protection Act prohibiting the release of certain infrastructure records; and the Environmental Resources & Energy Committee holds a public hearing on financing for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.

**On the Senate Calendar**, [House Bill 2042](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) that would increase penalties for water pollution under the Clean Streams Law; and [House Resolution 795](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) designating December 19 as "Coal Miner's Day."

**In the House**, the Consumer Affairs Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2658](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) prohibiting the sale and restricting the disposal of mercury thermostats and [House Bill 2954](#) (Evans-R-Erie) prohibiting revenue decoupling in setting rates for the sale of natural gas; the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2832](#) (Bunt-R-Montgomery) removing Project 70 restrictions from certain land; the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1209](#) (Waugh-R-York) Healthy Foods, Healthy Schools.

**On the House Calendar,** [House Bill 2067](#) (Allen-R-Schuylkill) setting limits on state spending through a constitutional amendment; [Senate Bill 884](#) (Brightbill-R-Lebanon) limitations on state spending; [Senate Bill 940](#) (Waugh-R-York) would set aside up to \$200,000 per year from the Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Fund to reimburse Land Trusts for expenses incurred in acquiring agricultural conservation easements; [House Resolution 692](#) (Ross-R-Chester) directing the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to study and report on the methods of reducing greenhouse gas emissions;

The [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) holds their monthly Environmental Issues Forum in Harrisburg this week featuring a presentation by Alison Shuler, Coordinator of the Environmental Training Center at Penn State’s Middletown Campus, and hosts a Forestry Task Force meeting in State College.

### **Bills Introduced**

**Tax Break for Alternative Fuels:** [House Bill 3005](#) (Petri-R-Allegheny) would reduce the state tax on alternative fuels by six cents a gallon.

**Stormwater BMP Tax Credit:** [House Bill 3018](#) (Gannon-R-Delaware) establishing a tax credit for the installation of stormwater best management practices.

**Solar Tax Exemption:** [Senate Bill 1338](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) excluding solar energy systems or any component from sales and use tax.

**Building Energy Conservation:** [Senate Bill 1349](#) (Regola-R-Westmoreland) reenacting the Building Energy Conservation Act, as part of a package repealing the state Uniform Construction Code.

**America Recycles Day:** [House Resolution 889](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) designating November 15, 2005 “America Recycles Day” in Pennsylvania.

**NOTE:** Links to Senate and House bills in past editions of the *PA Environment Digest* might not work because the webmasters of the General Assembly’s website changed the URLs. You can find bills by going to the [Pennsylvania General Assembly website](#) and putting in the bill number in the box at the top of the page.

### **Senate Committee Schedules Hearing on Hazardous Sites Cleanup Funding Gap**

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will hold a hearing October 16 to hear comments and alternatives for filling a \$40 million funding shortfall in the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund.

Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty is expected to testify.

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Gov. Rendell and the Senate and House put in place a stopgap measure for funding the Hazardous Sites Program over the last two fiscal years by taking money from the popular Growing Greener watershed, nutrient and sediment reduction and abandoned mine reclamation programs and putting it in the HSCA Fund. But that temporary measure ends July 1, 2007 and the Fund will be out of money.

Although some replacement funding was provided for watershed and abandoned mine reclamation programs through the \$625 million Growing Greener II, that funding is also due to run out in just four years.

Add to these funding dilemmas, the fact that starting July 1, 2007, the Rendell Administration expects to start paying back the Growing Greener II bond issue with funds taken from the Growing Greener watershed, nutrient and sediment reduction and abandoned mine reclamation program.

The Committee is also looking to schedule a hearing on the status of Growing Greener funding in the next few weeks.

Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) chairs the Committee and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) is Minority Chair.

### **Environmental Issues Forum to Feature Environmental Training Center**

The [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee's](#) October Environmental Issues Forum on October 16 will feature a presentation by Alison Shuler, co-director of the [Environmental Training Center and Small Public Water Systems Technology Assistance Center](#) at Penn State's Middletown campus.

The ETC is part of the university's Environmental Engineering Department and works with the federal Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Environmental Protection. The ETC provides a variety of training for water and wastewater operators and conducts research and academic programs regarding water quality and water systems.

The Forum will start at 12 noon in Room 205, Matthew J. Ryan Building, Capitol Complex, Harrisburg.

### **In Other News**

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#### **Watershed Mini Grants Available from Dominion, Western PA Conservancy**

Dominion and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's [Freshwater Conservation Program](#) is now accepting applications for the 2006-2007 Watershed Mini Grant Program.

The deadline to apply is December 15.

The program offers funding to watershed organizations in the following counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Somerset, Tioga, Venango, Warren, Washington, and Westmoreland.

Watershed Mini Grants may be used for expenses in three categories: operating costs, organizational promotion and outreach, and/or restoration projects. Cash or non-cash



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match is preferred, but not required. Grants of up to \$1,000 may be awarded for operating expenses. Up to \$2,500 is available for promotion and outreach or restoration projects.

[The grant application and proposal guidelines are available online.](#)

Grant applications can also be mailed to you by contacting the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, c/o Emily Warner, 246 South Walnut Street, Blairsville, PA 15717, by calling 724-459-0953, ext 103 or send email to: [emilywarner@paconserve.org](mailto:emilywarner@paconserve.org).

### Bear Creek Abandoned Mine Project Started in Dauphin County



L to R: Michael Hewitt, EPCAMR; Tim Wentzel, DCCD Board; Ron Kopp, DCCD Board Chair; Scott Bills, PA Game Commission; Dauphin County Commissioner Jeffrey Haste; Terry Schmidt, Skelly & Loy, Inc.; David Coble, DCCD Board.

The Dauphin County Conservation District hosted a groundbreaking October 5 for the [Bear Creek Abandoned Mine Drainage Treatment Project](#) located on State Game Lands No. 264 in Wiconisco Township.

This landmark effort, the first of its kind undertaken by the District, involves more than a dozen partners from government agencies and public organizations and aims to address conditions that, for more than a century, have stained Bear Creek's waters orange as a result of abandoned coal mining operations in the region.

Dauphin County Commissioner Jeffrey Haste, who serves on the conservation district's board of directors, applauded the efforts of all parties involved, stating, "This

project is a prime example of many different agencies working together to achieve a common goal. Without the full cooperation of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition of Abandoned Mine Reclamation and the Dauphin County Conservation District, this project would not happen."

The major impact to Bear Creek stems from a contaminated mine pool that discharges nearly 100 tons of iron into the creek annually. As iron particles settle out of the water, they coat the streambed with a rust-colored residue, leaving the creek lifeless.

This project, the first half of a two-phase approach to restoring the creek to its natural condition, will treat drainage flowing from the Lykens Water Level Tunnel.

The conservation district is concurrently exploring funding options that will subsidize a second stage of construction that will address related contaminated discharges located further downstream.

From the mid-nineteenth century through the mid-1930s, the coal mining industry was booming in the Lykens Valley, with production rates averaging 800,000 tons of coal annually.

Most of the mining in this area occurred before modern reclamation practices and regulations to protect the land were enacted. When the mine closed, the site was abandoned, without measures taken to address environmental damage caused by mining operations.

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As early as 1973, the state Department of Environmental Resources had collected data on Bear Creek, a tributary of Wiconisco Creek, to determine an effective strategy for improving degraded water quality conditions in both streams caused by mine drainage.

Additional studies performed by state and federal agencies in the mid-1980s through the late 1990s recommended construction of a passive treatment system that uses ponds to collect and detain the mine discharge flow in large pools, allowing time for the iron to settle out of the water. After the settling process, treated water is released downstream.

Dauphin County Conservation District became involved with the project in 1999, when it began work on the Wiconisco Creek Rivers Conservation Plan, funded by Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This plan identified future environmental remediation activities needed to improve the water quality throughout the Wiconisco Creek watershed.

A Growing Greener grant from the Department of Environmental Protection in 2000 supplied funds for DCCD to continue collecting water quality data on Bear Creek and to develop a site-specific remediation plan based on current data. The information gathered from this effort confirmed passive treatment as the most viable option for improving the condition of Bear Creek's waters.

In November 2003, DCCD was awarded funds through a U.S. EPA Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution grant for the construction of the passive treatment system. During the following two years, DCCD negotiated a land transfer agreement between the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the property owner of the proposed construction site that would place property maintenance under the control of PGC.

In early October 2006, John W. Gleim, Jr., Inc. of Carlisle was awarded the contract to install three settling ponds that comprise the first phase of the Bear Creek remediation initiative. Construction is scheduled to begin by early November, and is expected to be completed in late Spring 2007. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$350,000.

Ron Kopp, Chair of DCCD's Board of Directors remarked, "This is an exciting time for the Dauphin County Conservation District. After many years of planning, we look forward to getting this project underway and beginning the process of restoring this stream."

Following the completion of Phase I activity, DCCD will conduct post-construction monitoring of Bear Creek's water quality. DCCD plans to host a formal dedication of the project in early Summer 2007.

Project partners include: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, United States Geological Survey, federal Office of Surface Mining, DEP, DCNR, Commission, Department of Transportation, Wiconisco Township, Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Wiconisco Creek Restoration Association, John W. Gleim, Jr., Inc., Skelly and Loy, Inc., Medco Development Co.

For more information, visit the [Bear Creek Abandoned Mine Drainage Treatment Project webpage](#).

## Fish Commission Seeking Applicants for Youth Education Grants

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The Fish and Boat Commission this week invited organizations and local agencies involved in offering sportfishing and aquatic resource education programming to apply for grants under its [Fishing and Aquatic Education Grant Program](#).

The deadline for applications is December 31.

Grants of up to \$5,000 will be given to providers of fishing and aquatic resource education programs. Programs must occur between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008. The funding can be applied to the purchase of equipment, materials and costs associated with field trips.

Re-engaging youth in fishing and conservation is a major point of emphasis for the Commission. Statistics from the National Survey of Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife Recreation show that in 1980, 26 percent of Pennsylvania kids aged 6-15 fished. In 1995, that number climbed to 41 percent, but dropped to 35 percent in 2000.

“Re-engaging youth in outdoor activities is critical to the future of sportfishing and building a more environmentally connected citizenry,” says PFBC Executive Director Doug Austen. “Research clearly shows that good, well-structured youth fishing programs lead to kids increasing their interest in fishing more, their skills, and helping them build a greater sense of aquatic stewardship and outdoor ethics. It’s not enough for us as an agency to talk about more and better programs to involve Pennsylvania’s youth in fishing and aquatic education. We want to put our money where our mouth is and this new grants program is one way to do that.”

The Sportfishing and Aquatic Resource Education Grants program expands on the Commission's long-standing commitment to youth education. The Commission spends about \$450,000 annually on such efforts.

Currently 45,000 children receive the [Pennsylvania League of Angling Youth](#) (PLAY) newsletter from the Commission four times a year; 5,000 Pennsylvania schoolteachers have been trained and use the PFBC’s aquatic education curriculum; 400+ PFBC fishing skills instructors teach thousands of children in angling basics annually; and the Commission provides equipment and support for 39 free tackle loaner sites statewide. And it is looking to add more sites this year, potentially through the grant program.

For applications and more information, visit the [Fishing and Aquatic Education Grant Program webpage](#) or call 717-705-7835 and request an application.

### **Call for Presenters for 2007 Schuylkill Watershed Congress**

The 2007 Schuylkill Watershed Congress organizers invite you to share your knowledge with a [presentation or poster session](#) at the 2007 Congress which will be held on March 3 and 4, 2007 at the Montgomery County Community College West Campus in Pottstown.

Proposals are due by October 28.

Congress participants are typically interested in the latest information on progressive watershed planning, model projects, and innovative watershed protection. Field trips and hands-on, interactive presentations are encouraged. All presentations must include a question and answer component.

Poster and concurrent sessions proposals should include: Presentation Title (please limit to 10 words), Presenter(s), Affiliation(s), Address(es), Email Address(es), Daytime Telephone Number(s), One Sentence Presentation Summary, Level (e.g., Introductory, Intermediate, Advanced; Advanced sessions are encouraged), Abstract Body (should not



exceed 200 words), Estimated Length of Presentation (Concurrent sessions limited to 50 minutes), Presenter Bio(s) (should not exceed 100 words) and Specify concurrent session or poster session.

[Complete guidelines for submitting proposals are available online.](#)

Submit presentation proposals or for questions about the Schuylkill Watershed Congress, send email to [chari@delawareriverkeeper.org](mailto:chari@delawareriverkeeper.org).

**Online Video:** [Schuylkill Watershed Congress](#)

### **WaterSense Program to Spark Consumer Demand for Water Efficient Products**



“Every drop counts.” That’s the motto for a new partnership program called [WaterSense](#) that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently launched to stimulate more efficient use of water in homes and businesses.

Growing demands for water and the need to protect water sources have prompted water and wastewater utilities, along with agriculture and industry to rely on water efficiency as a low-cost approach to meet customer and business needs.

A recent U.S. Government Accountability Office survey underscored the need to develop a national ethic of water efficiency. The survey reported that 36 states anticipate local, regional or statewide water shortages by 2013, even without drought conditions. Managing the nation’s water supply is a rising concern for communities across the country.

In response, EPA announced the WaterSense program last summer. This voluntary partnership promotes water efficiency and primes market demand for water-efficient products and services. WaterSense takes its cue from the successful ENERGY STAR program which promotes energy-efficient products.

The WaterSense program’s goals are to raise awareness of the importance of efficient water use and to ensure that consumers can easily identify high performance products that will meet EPA standards. WaterSense labeled products will be at least 20 percent more efficient than their counterparts.

Beginning in 2007, products and services bearing the WaterSense label will be available for purchase. Toilets, faucets, and irrigation controllers are some of the first products to be marketed.

The projected potential savings for these product areas is estimated to be 128 billion gallons per year, enough to supply water to 3.5 million people for a year.

Efficient water use doesn’t mean asking consumers to make sacrifices, just to be smarter about how they use water. For example, water leaks cost consumers and additional eight percent on their water bill annually. By sealing leaks and adopting water efficient products and practices the average family can save money and 30,000 gallons of water a year.

By saving water, you save money and help ensure there is enough water to meet the needs of future generations.

For more information, visit [EPA’s WaterSense webpage](#).

**Applications Sought for County Leadership in Conservation Awards**

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The national [Trust for Public Land](#) and the [National Association of Counties](#) are now accepting applications for the [third annual County Leadership in Conservation Awards](#).

Nominations are due November 17.

Applications may be submitted for a county program that illustrates foresight and vision in their objectives, employ creative funding strategies and demonstrate successful acquisition or plans for implementation. Counties working in partnership to create regional conservation programs and counties with programs utilizing land conservation for brownfields reclamation are also eligible for this award.

Only members of NACo are eligible for this award.

For applications, guidelines and more information, visit the [County Leadership in Conservation Awards webpage](#).

### PA Land Trust Association Wants Your Advice on 2007 Conference

The Pennsylvania Land Trust Association is [now accepting proposals](#) for workshops and roundtables for the 2007 Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference to be held on May 11-12 in State College.

The deadline for proposals is October 28.

Proposals are welcome on land conservation and organizational development basics, advanced topics, and novel subjects.

In recognition of their efforts, conference presenters are eligible for a free basic registration (limit of one per organization per workshop), conditioned on submitting requested materials including the conference registration form on time.

The Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference is Pennsylvania's annual training, networking and inspirational event for those involved with private and public land conservation. PALTA anticipates over 300 people will attend this year's conference.

For more information, visit the [2007 PA Land Conservation Conference webpage](#).

### Farmland Preservation Workshop/Dinner Set for October 25 in York

The [Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County](#) and the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) will hold a workshop and dinner on October 25 on balancing growth and maintaining the local \$112 million agriculture economy.

The program will feature two major speakers. Ed McMahon, a writer, planner, attorney and a senior fellow of the Urban Land Institute, will be speaking on how preserving farmland can add to a community's economy and well-being. Michael Frank, Director of Community Planning for the Heritage Conservancy, will speak about how local tax money spent to preserve farmland and natural areas costs less than community services resulting from most forms of residential development.

"York is a spectacular county that is experiencing enormous growth pressures that could undermine its traditional quality of life," said Brian Hill, President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. "The purpose of this workshop is to help better prepare citizen leaders for the challenges that they face. Protecting farmland is critical to protecting the county's quality of life. We have lined up some excellent speakers to kick off a series of meetings that will take place over the next year as we collaborate with the Farm and Natural Lands Trust of York and others on farmland protection."

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Elected officials, Planning Commission members, Zoning Hearing Board members, Environmental Advisory Council members, and interested citizens will find this workshop especially helpful in understanding farmland preservation issues.

The workshop will be held at the West York Reliance Fire Company Social Hall with dinner served at 5:30 pm.

The York County Community Foundation Robert R. Anderson Family Fund is underwriting this program.

The cost of the workshop is \$10 per person. Please RSVP by October 18. To register, call the Farm & Natural Lands Trust office at 717-843-4411.

**Link:** [Sign Up for the PA Environmental Council's Monthly E-Newsletter Today!](#)

### PA Preserves 5,500 More Acres of Farmland, York Celebrates 30,000 Acres

Pennsylvania leads the nation in farmland preservation, with 2,979 farms and 337,611 acres preserved, and York County has reached a milestone of 30,000 acres, according to the Department of Agriculture.

The state's Farmland Preservation Board met at the Glenn and Grace Julius Farm in York County this week, one of the 54 farms and 5,591 acres the board approved for preservation.

With 174 farms and 30,312 acres preserved, York County ranks third in the state for acres preserved and fifth in number of farms preserved. Since 1989, the state has committed \$41 million to York's farmland preservation efforts, supplementing the county's \$10.7 million contribution.

The latest preserved farms are located in Adams, Berks, Blair, Bucks, Bradford, Chester, Clinton, Cumberland, Columbia, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Mercer, Monroe, Northampton, Tioga, Washington, Westmoreland and York counties.

The Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program was developed 18 years ago to help slow the loss of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses. The program enables state, county and local governments to purchase conservation easements from owners of quality farmland.

Pennsylvania has 7.7 million acres of farmland, representing 27 percent of the state's land base. Agriculture is a \$45 billion industry and the state's largest.

For more information, visit the [PA Farmland Preservation webpage](#).

### Three PA Watersheds Selected for 2007 USDA Conservation Security Program

Pennsylvania's Lower Juniata, Lower Delaware, and Gunpowder-Patapsco watersheds have been selected to participate in the 2007 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service [Conservation Security Program](#).

Nearly 2,500 farmers within these watershed boundaries will have the opportunity to apply for payments based on the conservation work they have done in past years.

CSP is a voluntary program that provides payments for ongoing conservation stewardship and incentives for producers to adopt additional practices that help conserve and improve soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life on working lands. Working lands include cropland, grassland, and, improved pasture. The program provides equitable access

and benefits to all producers, regardless of size of operation, crops produced, or geographic location.

The Lower Juniata and Gunpowder-Patapsco watersheds drain into the Chesapeake Bay and cover significant portions of Juniata, Mifflin, Huntingdon, Perry, and Fulton counties and small areas of Dauphin, Franklin, and Snyder, and York counties. The Lower Delaware watershed drains into the Delaware Bay and covers parts of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties.

The announced watersheds are based on President Bush's requested funding level for the program for fiscal year 2007. NRCS's ability to accept CSP applications in these watersheds will depend upon the actual level of funds received in the 2007 federal budget.

Eligible watersheds are being announced now to allow farmers adequate time to gather resource information on their operations in preparation for a prospective sign-up. NRCS will schedule public meetings to inform producers about the program and application process.

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

### **Lancaster County Waste Authority Joins Chicago Climate Exchange**

The [Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority](#) announced this week it is the first public environmental services organization in the U.S. to become a Member of the [Chicago Climate Exchange](#).

The Exchange is North America's only, and the world's first, voluntary, legally binding multi-sector market for reducing and trading greenhouse gas emissions.

As a GHG generator from its waste-to-energy facility and waste transfer vehicles, the Authority is voluntarily making a legally binding commitment to reduce its GHG emissions by 6 percent by 2010 using its emissions in 2000 as the baseline. All emissions data must be verified by NASD, CCX's provider of regulatory services.

As a GHG offset provider from its voluntary landfill gas collection system and energy partnership with PPL Corporation, CCX approved verifiers have already certified the Authority's LFG system and verified that over 35,500 metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) equivalents have already been destroyed since the gas-to-energy plant began operation in February 2006.

"The Authority has been and remains committed to actively pursuing environmentally sound and productive methodologies to manage municipal solid waste," said Jim Warner, Executive Director of LCSWMA. "Joining the CCX provides us a platform to extend our best environmental practices to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Being both a member and a greenhouse gas offset project participant with CCX enables us to achieve environmental goals with financial rewards attached. That's an attractive combination for any organization."

"CCX is very pleased to welcome LCSWMA to the Exchange on this date," says Dr. Richard L. Sandor, CEO and founder of CCX. "Our Members are leaders in their sectors, and also leaders in the effort to address the challenge of climate change.

Participation in CCX continues to highlight the fact that CCX membership makes excellent business and governance sense, while also providing a platform for sound action to protect our planet for ourselves and future generations."

For more information visit the webpages for the [Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority](#) and [Chicago Climate Exchange](#).

**NewsClips:** [Report Issues Warning on PA Climate Changes](#)  
[PSU Class to Study Borough Climate Change Emissions](#)  
[Editorial: Climate is Changing on Global Warming Views](#)

**Link:** [EPA's Climate Leaders webpage](#).

### **Apply Now for EPA Innovation Grants for Solid Waste, Emergency Response**

The Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is soliciting proposals for its [Innovations Pilot Projects Program](#) designed to test new ideas and strategies for waste minimization, energy recovery, recycling, land revitalization, and homeland security that may be replicated across various sectors, industries, communities, and regions.

Proposals are due November 20.

For more information, visit the [Innovations Pilot Projects Request for Proposal](#) and [EPA's Innovations Initiative webpages](#).

### **Green Advantage Program for Contractors Workshop November 9**

The [Green Building Alliance](#) in Pittsburgh is sponsoring a [Green Advantage Certification Training Program](#) on November 9 in Cranberry Township, Butler County for individuals involved in construction of green buildings.

The training consists of one full day program with two highly experienced trainers, one representing the construction/contracting perspective and the other representing the architecture/design perspective. You will engage in a range of interactive activities and discussions that address practice and theory. The course follows the building process and addresses the roles and responsibilities of the contractor throughout.

For more information, [download the workshop brochure](#) or to register go to the [Green Advantage website](#).

### **EPA Soliciting Proposals for Methane Recovery and Use Project Grants**



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is requesting proposals to fund projects and activities that support the [Methane to Markets Partnership](#).

Proposals are due by December 4.

The partnership is an international initiative to reduce global methane emissions by promoting methane capture-and-use projects in four major sectors including agriculture (animal waste management), coal mining, landfills, and oil and gas systems.

EPA expects to award up to 20 cooperative agreements through this announcement, ranging from \$25,000 to \$300,000 per award, for a total of \$2.5 million. EPA is requesting proposals for projects that support the partnership broadly, but that may include the following types of activities: directly identify, characterize, or implement methane capture-



and-use projects – including technology transfer, feasibility and pre-feasibility studies, training and capacity building, or database development for potential sites.

EPA seeks proposals from international governments, as well as public or private non-profit organizations. The estimated project period for awards is May 2007 through May 2009.

[The request for proposals is available online.](#)

For more information, visit EPA's [Methane to Markets Partnership webpage](#).

### **\$5.1 Million in Energy Harvest Grants Announced**

The Department of Environmental Protection announced \$5.1 million in Energy Harvest Grants to support 27 projects that will advance the deployment of clean energy technologies, lessen the nation's dependence on foreign fuels, and significantly reduce air and water pollution.

The state investment will leverage another \$8.2 million in private funds.

Each year, the 27 Energy Harvest projects will produce or conserve the equivalent of 4,567 megawatt hours of electricity, enough to power 456 homes, and replace 35.6 billion British thermal units of natural gas. The projects also will replace the use of 264,426 gallons of heating oil or diesel and 955 tons of coal annually.

The projects will eliminate significant amounts of air pollution: 31,731 pounds of nitrogen oxide, 117,253 pounds of sulfur dioxide, and 2.5 million pounds of carbon dioxide.

The grant awards provided more than \$1 million to 13 projects that include solar power, leveraging another \$641,652 of private investment.

Reducing water pollution also is a significant goal of the Energy Harvest grants. The Applied Reclamation Techniques project in Quakertown, Schuylkill County, will use a biomass heat system fueled by poultry manure. The project will remove an estimated 39 tons of nitrogen, 26 tons of phosphorous and 26 tons of potassium annually from the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

[A complete list of projects is available online.](#)

### **Report Calls for Multi-Pronged Approach to Transportation/Transit Funding**

[A non-partisan study](#) of Pennsylvania's transportation and transit funding problems was released this week as a prelude to solving this sector's estimated over \$2 billion funding shortfalls.

The [Pennsylvania Economy League](#), commissioned by the [Associated Pennsylvania Constructors](#); [10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania](#); the [CEO Council for Growth](#), an affiliate of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce; the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#); the [Allegheny Conference on Community Development](#); and the [William Penn Foundation](#), benchmarked Pennsylvania transportation conditions and programs against similar industrialized states.

The report's primary recommendations are:

- Regionalism should play a greater role in transportation policy decision-making and funding. Pennsylvania's state leadership and transportation officials should reconsider the regional role in transportation decision-making and funding, including granting

## PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

greater responsibility for regional transportation decision-making, and permitting regions to explore alternative financing mechanisms and regional taxing authority to address unique regional needs. However, regional funding should supplement - not replace - the state's ongoing role in providing baseline transportation funding.

- Prudent use of debt should be considered among the ways to finance long-term infrastructure projects. Such projects could include major road reconstruction, capacity enhancement, capital projects and investments in public transit infrastructure. However, any increase in bonded indebtedness should be accompanied by a clearly-defined revenue stream dedicated to retiring the debt.
- Public-private partnerships of all kinds should be explored and considered as part of the solution. Though not the only option for public-private partnerships, long-term leases are the most publicly-debated; any revenues coming from a long-term lease of Pennsylvania infrastructure should be dedicated to transportation projects.
- Future revenue sources should be dedicated, predictable and inflation-sensitive. Any solution to the transportation funding crisis should include a dedicated, predictable funding stream (or streams) able to grow with rates of inflation within the transportation industry. Solutions that do not provide for future growth are stopgap measures and future decision-makers would face another financial crisis in the near future.

On funding mechanisms, the report said increasing the gas tax or vehicle registration fees are only “stopgap measures.” The study did list options like a registration fee schedule linked to total Vehicle Miles Traveled or the value of vehicle – or adjusting the floor and ceiling of the Oil Company Franchise Tax to make it once again responsive to inflation.

Other alternatives included an increase in or dedication of a portion of a non-transportation-related tax, such as an income or sales tax. The report emphasized a balanced approach should include a variety of options that are adequate, predictable, and likely to grow with inflation, preserving purchasing power.

Brian Hill, president of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, said, "transportation touches on a host of issues important to Pennsylvanians - mobility, equity, job creation, and sound land use practices. This study provides a context for what is happening here compared to other similar states, and provides recommendations on new approaches to policy that will serve the Commonwealth well in the long term."

Janet Milkman, president and CEO of 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, said she hoped the report and its endorsement by such a diverse group of sponsors would serve as a model of cooperation for elected officials to emulate. "We all agree that it's not just about money - it's about economic competitiveness and how we grow. The report says we need to change the way transportation decision are made, especially with respect to land use and development."

[The study is available online.](#)

**NewsClip:** [Another Option for Road Funding](#)

**October Issue of EE Connections Newsletter Now Available**

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

**PCEE News:** Attention All Educators, [Sen. Mary Jo White \(R-Venango\) Visits PCEE](#)

**General News:** Barn at Fallingwater Receives Award, Pennsylvania Becomes Largest State, Purchaser of Green Energy, EPA Drafts New Handbook, What's Your Earth Gauge?, New Computer Recycling Program Available in Southwest Pa, Earthrace: Racing Around the World for a Better Planet, Cooperating Across Boundaries, Environmental Education Takes Flight With Community and Corporate Partnerships

**K-12 News:** Alternative Energy Educator Workshop, Acid Mine Drainage Workshop for Teachers, Earth Force Educator Training, Exploring Environmental Issues: Places We Live Walden: The Ballad of Thoreau, Free EE Publication and CD, The ABC's of Ecology

**Higher Education:** Robert A. Macoskey Center Event, Wildlife and Wind Energy Conference, Design for eLearning~ Online Course, Spring Semester Abroad ~ Costa Rica

**Professional Development:** Wonders of Wetlands Workshops, PAEE'S 2007 Conference 2006 Water Resources Symposium, Growing Greener: Conservation by Design, The Western Pennsylvania Trails Symposium, Host an EE and Diversity Workshop

**Grants/Awards:** Environmental Excellence Awards, Announcing Youth in Action Grants

To get your own copy, send an email to: [info@pcee.org](mailto:info@pcee.org) or visit the [EE Connections sign-up webpage](#).

### DCNR Urges Safeguards to Protect Woodlands Against Wildfires

With hunting and other outdoor activities increasing at a time when woodlands and brush can become tinder dry in just a few days, DCNR is urging all residents to guard against wildfire outbreaks in Pennsylvania's 17 million acres of forestlands.

"Though we have had abundant rain across much of the state, a dry windy span of just a few days can again make forest wildfires a very real threat," said Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. "When forest fuels become dry in the fall, it takes only a careless moment to ignite a devastating forest fire."

With archery deer hunting season and two small-game seasons opening this month, Secretary DiBerardinis urged hunters to be especially careful about smoking amid dry vegetation. In an annual safeguard against wildfires, campfires and other open burning is again forbidden from October 1 to December 1 in all state forestlands.

Secretary DiBerardinis said the need to guard against wildfires increases each year as more development encroaches on heavily wooded tracts. Homeowners always should be diligent when burning trash and debris, he said.

"Even though the trees and vegetation appear green and healthy, they sometimes are really dry, and the reality is that many homes could be destroyed by a wildfire," said

DiBerardinis, who noted debris burning and arson are the leading causes of wildfires throughout the state.

The DCNR is working through state agencies and local fire companies to educate Pennsylvania citizens on procedures to make their homes in forest environments safer from wildfires. Information can be obtained from DCNR's Bureau of Forestry, county Emergency Management Office, or the Office of the State Fire Commissioner.

For more information, visit [DCNR's Forest Fire Protection webpage](#).

## New Presque Isle Specialty License Plate Unveiled



The Department of Transportation has approved a specialty plate for passenger vehicles, trucks and motor homes in Pennsylvania with the image of the Presque Isle Lighthouse.

Superintendent of Presque Isle State Park Harry Leslie, Rep. Good (R-Erie) and Steve McDermott, executive director of [Presque Isle Partnership](#) introduced the plate to the community on September 28 on the steps of the Presque Isle Lighthouse.

Proceeds will be used for historic preservation of the Presque Isle Lighthouse, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and for the promotion of maritime lighthouse history.

The cost of the plate is \$39.50, and is available to any Pennsylvania resident who has a current Pa. vehicle registration by visit the [Presque Isle license plate webpage](#).

## Video Blog

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### A Conversation with Tom Kerr on Conservation Challenges



In September, Tom Kerr stepped down as CEO of the [Wildlands Conservancy](#) in the Lehigh Valley after 19 years in that position and building, along with lots of partners, one of the premier land conservation and watershed restoration organizations in Pennsylvania.

#### **Video Blog:** [Tom Kerr on Conservation, Partnership](#)

Tom sat down with *PA Environment Digest* editor David Hess recently to talk about how he started in conservation work and the importance of partnerships to his and his organization's success. He also talks about environmental pressures affecting the Lehigh Valley and its future as well as his own.

Chris Kocher, who has worked for the Conservancy since 1995, was named by the Board to succeed Kerr as President.

Learn more by visiting the [Wildlands Conservancy website](#).

Contact Tom Kerr by sending email to: [tkerr@wildlandspa.org](mailto:tkerr@wildlandspa.org) .

**NewsClips:** [Wildlands Conservancy Chief Steps Down](#)

[Editorial: Good Stewardship Present, Past Leaders of Conservancy](#)

## Quick Clips

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

[Caterpillars Weigh in on Winter](#)  
[Report Issues Warning on PA Climate Changes](#)  
[PSU Class to Study Borough Climate Change Emissions](#)  
[Editorial: Climate is Changing on Global Warming Views](#)  
[Editorial: Good Stewardship With Present, Past Leaders of Conservancy](#)  
[Editorial: Environmental Hope for Future](#)  
[Athens Schools Win Energy Conservation Award](#)  
[Getting a Clean Start – Mark Jones Community Advocate](#)  
[Illegal Dumping Fight Fueled by COALS](#)  
[Closing the Door on Energy Losses](#)  
[Gas-Electric Hybrids Don't Pass the Mileage Test](#)  
[Editorial: The Ethanol Myth](#)  
[Diesel is Going Greener, Cleaner and Less Smelly](#)  
[West Vincent Endorses Plan for Clean Energy](#)  
[Conservation District Working on Windmill Project](#)  
[Penn State, Drexel Share Grant for Biofuels Research](#)  
[2006 Winter Fuels Price Outlook](#)  
[\\$25 Million in State Funds Will Flow to Point](#)  
[Meetings On Greenways Will Solicit Public Input](#)  
[Outdoors: State's Refuges Feature Habitats, Trails](#)  
[Outdoor: Hummingbirds Finding a Home in Eastern Region](#)  
[Kasunic Hopes Tragedy Advances Updated Mine Safety Bill](#)  
[6 Small Mines Ask Safety Rule Exemptions](#)

## Watershed NewsClips

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

[Editorial: Saving the Forests and the Bay](#)  
[Woodland Owners Manage With Care](#)  
[Trees Planted to Help the Environment](#)  
[Plantings Will Limit Mill Run Stormwater Runoff](#)  
[They're Planting Some Flood Protection Ideas](#)  
[Program May Help Reducing Flooding in Upper Delaware](#)  
[Growing Greener Funds Awarded in Lebanon County](#)  
[Mine Reclamation Project Cleans Headwaters of Susquehanna's West Branch](#)  
[Study Available on Codorus Watershed](#)  
[Railroad Reports Creek Recovering After Train Derailment](#)  
[Local Idea May Slash Water Loss](#)  
[Editorial: Wetlands Creation Exciting Component of Project](#)  
[EASI Database Joins PA Watersheds Data System](#)



[Drifting Into Fall Along the Maurice in the Delaware Basin](#)

Help Wanted: [Chester-Ridley-Crum Seeks Development Director](#)

## **Regulations**

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The Environmental Quality Board [will meet on October 17](#) to consider a final mercury emissions reduction rule and several other regulations. Regulations implementing the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act are on several upcoming agendas. Here's the rundown...

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission [published notice](#) it will consider regulations from the Public Utility Commission implementing the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards November 2.

The Public Utility Commission [formally published its order](#) proposing general regulations implementing the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act. Comments due: November 15.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – October 14, 2006](#)

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

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

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

## **Technical Guidance & Permits**

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The Department of Environmental Protection [published a notice of renewal](#) of General Permit #WMGR038 relating to residual waste processing facilities and the beneficial use of residual waste other than coal ash.

[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](#)

- [No Cost Internet Based Training Courses for October-November](#)

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- **October 16** – Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee public hearing on funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund. Room 8E-B East Wing. 11:30.
- **October 16** – Senate Appropriations Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1232](#) (Piccola-R-Dauphin) establishing an historic preservation grant program, [House Bill 854](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) establishing the Terrorism Infrastructure Disclosure Protection Act prohibiting the release of certain infrastructure records. Rules Room. Off the Floor.
- **October 16** – House Consumer Affairs Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2658](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) prohibiting the sale and restricting the disposal of mercury thermostats and [House Bill 2954](#) (Evans-R-Erie) prohibiting revenue decoupling in setting rates for the sale of natural gas. Room 60 East Wing. 12:00.
- **October 16** – [Joint Air & Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Environmental Issues Forum featuring a presentation by Alison Shuler, Coordinator of the Environmental Training Center at Penn State’s Middletown Campus which houses DEP’s Small Public Water Systems Technology Center. Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.
- **October 17** – **RESCHEDULED to a Conference Call.** [State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators.](#)
- **October 18** – House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 2832](#) (Bunt-R-Montgomery) removing Project 70 restrictions from certain land. Room G-5- Irvis Building. 9:00.
- **October 18** – House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1209](#) (Waugh-R-York) Healthy Foods, Healthy Schools. Room 148 Capitol. 10:00.
- **October 19** – **RESCHEDULED.** [DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Board](#) meeting was changed to this date from November 2. Rachel Carson Building. 9:15. Contact: Ayanna King, 717-783-5630.
- **October 19** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Forestry Task Force meeting. Penn Stater Hotel, State College. 10:00.
- **October 23** – [DCNR Carbon Management Advisory Committee.](#) Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **October 25** – [DCNR Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Weaber, Inc., Lebanon Valley Business Park, 25 Keystone Dr., Lebanon. 12:30.
- **October 31-November 5** – [National Historic Preservation Conference.](#) National Trust for Historic Preservation. Pittsburgh.
- **November 2** - [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) public hearing on the [Kilbuck landslide](#) in Pittsburgh. Sewickley Country Inn. 9:00.
- **November 20** – Environmental Issues Forum, [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) featuring J. Kent Crawford, USGS, to discuss the emerging contaminants project. Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.
- **December 12** – **CANCELLED.** [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board meeting.](#)
- **December 14** – [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board meeting.](#) 14th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00.

[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@HolstonCrisci.com](mailto:DHess@HolstonCrisci.com) or go to [www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com](http://www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com).

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