



*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

November 1, 2004

World Stops for the Election

Our little world, Harrisburg, all but stopped working this week with everyone from Senators, House members, the Governor, even “Meathead” (Rob Reiner), “Rhoda” (Valerie Harper) and Carole King out on the campaign trail in the final run up to election day. Remember, vote early on Tuesday! Then hold on!

Current Voting Session Schedule

House – Nov. 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 30 **Senate** – Nov. 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23
General Assembly adjourns November 30, ending the session.

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On the Hill

Slow Going on Environmental Issues in Harrisburg



Beyond the four Caucuses getting together with the Administration for a very preliminary discussion of their respective drafts of Advance Energy Portfolio legislation, not much was happening on the Hill on environmental issues.

Green Ribbon Commission members are out campaigning. There haven't been any follow up discussions on legislation to implement the \$250 million sewer and water bond issue passed in the Spring by voters.

It was quiet enough to hear the leaves turn.... except on election stuff that is!

In Other News

Advanced Technology Helps Existing Electric Motors Cut Energy Use

[Intelligent Energy Corporation](#) (IEC), headquartered in Albrightsville with manufacturing facilities in Wilkes-Barre, has designed, developed, produced and is marketing the GeoWattSaver.

The GeoWattSaver is an electronic motor management system designed to operate on three-phase motors with an integrated process to reduce the amount of energy used and emissions generated.

The use of this new technology will reduce the amount of energy required in motors by 25 – 35 percent with simple pay back periods of 12 to 24 months. These savings will not only reduce a company's electric bill, but will reduce pollutants that harm the environment, and increase the life of electric motors.

IEC has also successfully developed auditing tools, software and procedures to identify opportunities for saving energy.

This innovative energy saving system responds to motor loads and automatically adjusts to the motor torque requirement for an application. GeoWattSaver is applicable to most 25 to 500 horsepower motors. Companies from the [Industries of the Future](#) have contacted IEC to help them save energy and reduce pollutants, including Daimler

===== **FYI** =====



It All Comes Back To You
[America Recycles Day](#)
[November 15](#)



[Learn to Conserve Energy](#)



[Energy Star](#)

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Chrysler (DE), The Ford Motor Company (MI), General Motors (MI & Mexico), Kennedy Die-Casting Company (MA), Durr Automotive Systems (MI), The City of Flint (MI), Riverdale Mills Corporation (MA) and Ampal Corporation (PA).

Audit tests and confirmed evaluation reports have been submitted to each of these companies and others, all of which indicate substantial and immediate dollar savings in electrical energy used and substantial pollutants reduced. These companies have praised not only the energy and pollutant savings and reductions, but also the automatic, integrated by-pass system, a “fail-safe” technique that does not shut down a company’s operation should there be some malfunction.

IEC has the financial and program support of Pennsylvania’s Ben Franklin Technology Partners, the Pennsylvania Governor’s Action Team, the Reinvestment Fund and a growing number of private sector investors.

For further information, contact Raymond McDonald at 570 722 0449 or iecorp@ptd.net .

PECO Operates Largest Assistance Program to Help Low-Income Families

As the winter heating season approaches, many thousands of local households will be eligible to receive help with energy bills from PECO Energy under the most comprehensive and generous low-income assistance program in Pennsylvania.

Since 1999 nearly 200,000 PECO customers have benefited from the utility's Universal Service programs that help make energy services more affordable and help qualified low-income households avoid falling behind or failing to pay their energy bills. About 15 percent of PECO's electric and gas customers in the Greater Philadelphia region are considered low-income based on government program definitions.

Among state utilities, PECO is recognized as having the largest customer assistance program in the state, according to the annual Universal Service Programs & Collections Performance Report issued by the Public Utility Commission. Universal Service programs are available to customers whose incomes are at or below 200 percent of the poverty level. In general, the programs provide bill payment assistance and help with home weatherization.

In 2003, the company spent about \$86.5 million on Universal Service programs, which include the federally administered Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the Low Income Usage Reduction Program (LIURP), Customer Assistance Programs (CAP), the Customer Assistance and Referral Evaluation Services (CARES) program and the Matching Energy Assistance Fund (MEAF).

More than 36,000 PECO customers received grants totaling \$8.7 million in assistance in 2003 to help with electric and natural gas bills as part of LIHEAP. The total number of LIHEAP assistance grants customers received last heating season was 36,451, which was up slightly from 2002, when 30,054 customers received similar grants worth \$7.9 million.

Homeowners, renters, roomers and subsidized housing tenants may be eligible for LIHEAP grants. Both cash and crisis assistance is available. The cash program provides a direct payment to a vendor, such as a utility like PECO. Cash recipients can allocate their LIHEAP grant to any utility, oil or gas company that serves them. The assistance is based on the household income and can exceed \$300.

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The crisis program is allocated for emergencies including reinstating service that has been shut off for non-payment, fuel payments, and repairing leaking pipes and broken furnaces. Grants are up to \$300.

The foundation of PECO's Universal Service programs is CAP, which provides discounted rates for electric and gas rates to qualified customers, ranging from 25 percent to 85 percent off the company's tariff rates. Customers are charged discounted rates based upon their household's ability to pay. In 2003, PECO's CAP customers received discounts totaling nearly \$34.6 million. About 99,000 customers participate in the CAP programs, up from 54,000 in 1999.

CARES is a referral and information service designed to assist customers who have temporary or financial hardship.

Under the MEAF program, PECO matches customer contributions. Through MEAF, PECO provides a one-time grant to customers who are in need of emergency assistance with their bill payment.

About \$6.4 million annually is allocated for LIURP - Low Income Usage Reduction Program - that helps customers increase the energy efficiency of their home and reduce energy usage so they can better manage their future energy bills. In 2003, 8,500 PECO customers received assistance through LIURP. PECO's spending for LIURP is the largest in Pennsylvania.

Consumers who are not eligible for low- and fixed-income assistance but are experiencing difficulty with their energy costs should take steps to ensure they are using energy as efficiently as possible and consider taking advantage of PECO's budget billing option. [Customers can enroll in budget billing and find energy saving tips on PECO's website](#) or by contacting the company at 1-800-494-4000.

ENERGY STAR Helps Heat Homes More Efficiently

With [ENERGY STAR](#), homeowners can save up to 20 percent on annual energy costs by making energy-efficient improvements to their heating and cooling systems.

As temperatures drop this fall, EPA is encouraging Americans to save energy, reduce utility bills and protect the environment by increasing the energy efficiency of their home heating systems.

The average household spends \$1,500 a year on energy bills, nearly half of which goes to heating and cooling. EPA estimates that if one in 10 U.S. households used heating and cooling equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR label, the change would prevent an estimated 17 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.

Sealing leaks that allow air to escape the home and replacing old heating equipment with high-efficiency models can significantly reduce annual energy costs. Other steps also cut costs and improve comfort: tuning up heating and cooling equipment annually; regularly replacing the air filters; checking and sealing the duct system; and using a programmable thermostat's multiple temperature settings to get the most savings.

EPA's [Guide to Energy-Efficient Cooling and Heating](#) provides timely information and more details about how to save energy and money this winter, while helping to protect the environment.

When heating equipment reaches 15 or more years of age, EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recommend that homeowners consider a more energy-

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efficient replacement. Many furnaces, heat pumps, boilers and thermostats meet ENERGY STAR's strict standards for energy efficiency set by the EPA and DOE.

More than 9,000 organizations have become ENERGY STAR partners and are committed to improving the energy efficiency of products, homes and businesses. For more information about ENERGY STAR and additional steps to save money and reduce air pollution, call 1-888-STAR-YES or visit [ENERGY STAR online](#).

Audubon Announces Underwriting for Environmental School Programs

Looking for a unique blend of adventure and hands-on learning for students in kindergarten through 12th, here is a free opportunity.

Both public and private schools located in southwestern Pennsylvania are eligible for complimentary and discounted environmental education programs provided by the [Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania \(ASWP\)](#).

These discovery programs are being made available through a generous donation from the [Dominion Foundation](#) and are being offered at either the school districts or at ASWP's Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve in Fox Chapel. Grant opportunities are limited and schools will be chosen on a competitive basis.

The Dominion Foundation is dedicated to the economic, physical and social health of the communities served by Dominion companies.

The 20 educational outreach offerings available include a choice of "Live Birds of Prey", "Whose Land is it Anyway" or "Birds in the Burgh" programs. Scholarship opportunities are open to schools located within Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

In addition to free offerings, a special incentive package has also been formulated to reduce the cost of additional programs so as to increase the overall number of children participating. The incentive package includes the offering of additional programs at reduced rates.

Dominion is one of the nation's largest producers of energy, with an energy portfolio of about 25,500 megawatts of generation and serves nine states.

ASWP is a non-profit environmental education organization which maintains two nature reserves in the Greater Pittsburgh region. This award-winning conservation association involves nearly 13,000 children, adults and teachers in hands-on outdoor education programs annually.

PA Center for Environmental Education Offers Resources for Everyone

The Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education offers a variety of resources to educators, home schoolers, students and adults to help them take advantage of the many environmental education resources now available in Pennsylvania.

PCEE's Pennsylvania's [Environmental Education Resource Directory](#) (PEER) is a unique, one-stop location to find information about the environment and teaching materials appropriate to many grade levels.

Search for environmental education related events and training opportunities in your area through their [online events calendar](#).

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Checkout where to find environmental education facilities and programs near you—public, non-profit and private in the PCEE [EE Facilities Directory](#).

You can also take advantage of the newest PCEE publication, [“Finding and Choosing Environmental Education Materials.”](#) that’s available free online.

A bipartisan legislative initiative now pending in the House – [Senate Bill 1040](#) sponsored by Senators Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and Ray Musto (D-Luzerne)-- would formally establish the Center in law and help assure its continued operation.

To contact PCEE, visit the PCEE website, send email to: PCEE@sru.edu or call 724-738-4555.

Dominion Offers \$60,000 In Community Impact Awards

In its fourth annual [Community Impact Awards competition](#), Dominion is seeking local projects that have promoted the economic or social revitalization of communities. A total of \$60,000 in grants provided from the Dominion Foundation will be awarded.

The entry deadline is November 10.

The awards will recognize non-profit organizations that have made a major contribution to the economic or social revitalizations of communities within the Dominion service area and where Dominion has significant facilities or business interests.

Public Meetings on TMDLs Set in Clearfield, Schuylkill Counties

The Department will hold a public meeting to discuss and accept comments on a proposed TMDL for the North Branch Upper Morgan Run Watershed in Clearfield County. The meeting will be held on November 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Clearfield County Multiservice Center, Daisy Street, Clearfield. For more information contact John Mital, Moshannon District Mining Office, 814-342-8200, jmital@state.pa.us .

The Department is also holding a public meeting on November 16 at 7 p.m. at the Schuylkill County Agricultural Center, Pottsville to discuss and accept comments on a proposed TMDL for the Little Schuylkill River, West Branch Schuylkill River, Muddy Branch Creek and Mill Creek in the Upper Schuylkill River Watershed in Schuylkill County. These four stream segments in the Upper Schuylkill River Watershed have been identified as impaired on the 1996 Pennsylvania 303(d) list due to metals, other inorganics and pH. For more contact Mike Hill, Pottsville District Mining Office, 570-621-3118, mihill@state.pa.us .

Copies of these TMDL proposals can be obtained from DEP’s [TMDL webpage](#).

DEP Certifies Over 19,000 Emission Reduction Credits Available in Registry

DEP this week published a notice certifying the availability of over 19,639 tons of emission reduction credits companies can use to comply with new source review requirements or to trade or sell to other companies to offset the impact of new emission sources.

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There are 13,811.53 tons of nitrogen oxide and 5,828.13 tons of volatile organic compound credits available. They are listed by company that generated the credits and include expiration dates.

Credits are generated from the curtailment or shutdown of a source of air pollution or from the over control of emissions.

For more information on the availability of emission reduction credits and their uses, particularly for economic development projects, read the [Emission Reduction Credit Registry overview document](#) online. The listing of credits is available in the [October 30 PA Bulletin \(page 5980\)](#).

Chester Superfund Site Now Being Redeveloped

U.S. EPA Region 3 staff joined officials from the Department of Environmental Protection, the City of Chester, Pa., and others on Oct. 21 to commemorate the renovated and expanded Barry Bridge Park (a portion of which was once the [Wade Superfund Site](#)).

A former tire recycling facility, the site became an illegal chemical dump that erupted in a 1978 fire, sending exploding drums 50 feet in the air, and temporarily closing the Commodore Barry bridge.

Today, after years of planning and negotiation, the scenic river walk will eventually connect to the Wharf at Rivertown, the other end of the riverfront redevelopment.

Bucks County Corporation Recognized for Reducing Waste

The U.S. EPA Region 3 Waste and Chemicals Management Program recognized [Materials Sciences Corporation](#) (MSC), for being the first business in the Morrisville, Pa. area to enroll in the voluntary national partnership for environmental priorities.

The program challenges businesses and manufacturers to become more environmentally aware and to adopt a resource conservation ethic that results in less waste, more recycling, and more environmentally sound products.

As a new partner, MSC has committed to the reduction of naphthalene waste by working with its paint supplier and customers to provide a naphthalene-free coating on a large percentage of its products.

PEC Appoints New Directors: Northern Allegheny, French Creek Projects

Alison McKeachie was appointed this week as the new Director of the Northern Allegheny Project by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC).

McKeachie comes to PEC after serving for four years as the Program Coordinator for the Potomac Watershed Partnership, one of 15 national pilot projects established by the USDA Forest Service in 2000 to facilitate the cooperative engagement of federal, state and nonprofit organizations to improve the ecological and economic integrity of the land, water and wildlife of major watersheds throughout the nation.

The [Northern Allegheny Project](#) is focused on the watersheds of Oil Creek, Tionesta Creek, Brokenstraw Creek and Conewango Creek, as well as the main stem of the Allegheny River in northwestern Pennsylvania-in all, an area of 1600 square miles.

The Project fosters broad-based public participation and works with other organizations to initiate programs and projects related to education, stream conservation, science and research, water quality, species protection and recreation.

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council also announced the appointment of Mark Gorman as the Director of the French Creek Project. Gorman has served for more than 22 years with the Northwest Region of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in Meadville was co-leader of the Department's pilot regional watershed team effort focused on the French Creek watershed.

The [French Creek Project](#) is a nationally recognized model of cooperative watershed protection. Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy and Allegheny College, the French Creek Project's purpose is to raise public awareness about French Creek and provide citizens with information about how they can protect it. French Creek is the most biologically diverse stream of its size in Pennsylvania.

More Info: [A Day in the Life of Oil Creek
Protecting Our Watersheds – French Creek](#)

Opinion

Flood-warning system threatened - Ask Congress to fund it

By Paul O. Swartz

During every significant rainfall event since fall 2002, flood and emergency management officials in the Susquehanna basin have been on alert because of repeated above-normal stream flows.

The weekend of Sept. 19 proved to be the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back as Tropical Storm Ivan dumped anywhere from 1.5 to 9.5 inches of rain on the basin in a very brief amount of time. Small streams everywhere from New York to Maryland began flooding — some of them setting new flood records — and eventually the already-swollen Susquehanna River could no longer keep the flood waters within its banks.

This flood is being recorded as the fourth or fifth worst on record in the basin. As damage estimates continue to add up, we know with certainty that the damages would have been much, much worse were it not for the Susquehanna Basin Flood Forecast and Warning System. The National Weather Service used the data generated by the Susquehanna System to predict flood levels with remarkable accuracy many hours in advance — allowing people to secure their property and evacuate long before the flood waters threatened their personal safety.

Regrettably, despite the system's irrefutable benefits, Congress eliminated its direct funding in FY-04. If Congress does not restore the direct funding for it in FY-05, the Susquehanna System's identity could be lost forever.

The Susquehanna System uses radar and a network of stream and rain gauges to provide the data that are used to forecast river levels and issue more accurate early flood warnings. The system was initiated for this basin because our watershed is recognized as being one of the most flood prone areas in the entire county. It is an extremely cost-effective flood protection program, reducing the average annual flood damages in the Susquehanna basin by \$32 million. That represents a 20-to-1 benefit-cost ratio; for every

dollar invested by the federal government, the system saves \$20 through reduced flood damages and reduced payouts through the federal flood insurance program.

Following Tropical Storm Ivan, many people throughout the basin are speaking out in support of the system, including emergency response officials, community leaders, business representatives and others. They agree with us that the Susquehanna System is well worth the \$2 million recommended for the System by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

For example, in letters he wrote to Pennsylvania U.S. Senators Arlen Specter and Rick Santorum, Randall Gockley, coordinator of Lancaster County Emergency Management Agency, said: "Thanks to the (Susquehanna) forecast and warning system, hundreds of thousands of dollars were saved in our county alone. What was saved in our county easily makes up 20 to 30 percent of the monies being requested to maintain the system. On top of the monetary savings, we had no injuries or lives lost from the flooding and I would like to think that this also was a direct result of the warning system."

Also, a business owner told us that he was able to prevent nearly \$600,000 in damages because of the early warnings enabled by the Susquehanna System. That's just one business. Multiply that by the thousands of other businesses and communities in the Susquehanna basin that benefited from the early warnings.

As good as the current system is, Susquehanna System operators need to make vital upgrades to address system vulnerabilities in gauging, radar and data communications. These problems will go unaddressed if adequate funding is not restored, leaving the basin vulnerable to future flood damages that could have been prevented.

Members of Congress representing the Susquehanna basin have historically been ardent supporters of the Susquehanna System. We are counting on them again to have the funding restored for this program that safeguards public safety. At this late stage of the budget process, we are relying on members of the Senate, most notably Senators Arlen Specter and Rick Santorum from Pennsylvania and Barbara Mikulski and Paul Sarbanes from Maryland.

In a time of tight budgets and with the country engaged in military action, everyone understands the need to curb spending. But eliminating direct funding for a proven system that protects lives and prevents countless millions in flood damages each year certainly does a disservice to the residents and businesses of the Susquehanna River Basin. □

Paul O. Swartz is executive director of the [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#). The Susquehanna River is over 444 miles long, covers 27,510 square miles and contains more than 32,000 miles of waterways.

Taking Positive Action

“Sustainability through Education” Is Theme of PRC’s Awards Dinner

“Sustainability Through Education: Celebrating 65 Years of Success” is the theme of the [Pennsylvania Resources Council’s](#) (PRC) annual fundraising and awards dinner. The event, which will honor leaders in sustainability, will be held



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November 9 at the Sheraton Society Hill on Dock Street in Philadelphia.

The honorary dinner chair is James M. Seif, Vice President Corporate Relations, PPL, and the keynote speaker will be Kathleen McGinty, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

PRC's board of directors has selected Larry Schweiger, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), to receive the prestigious Fox Calhoun Award. This special award, which is named after two of PRC's founders – Hilda Fox and Cynthia Calhoun– has been presented only 16 times in the organization's 65 year history. Larry is being recognized for his exemplary leadership and achievements while serving as President and CEO of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy from 1996 until April of this year when he accepted his new position with the NWF.

Other award winners are the Engineering and Design Institute, Philadelphia University, for its leadership in sustainable building; Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful for its leadership in sustainable partnerships; and Patricia Vathis, Environment and Ecology Education Advisor with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, for her leadership in sustainable education.

The Annual Awards Dinner traditionally brings together more than 250 business, government and community leaders from throughout the Commonwealth. For 65 years, PRC has been working with such leaders to create solutions to environmental challenges and to reach out to the community through its educational programs. These programs serve to inform and encourage future leaders to take an active role in protecting our natural resources.

Established in 1939 to reduce roadside litter and to fight unsightly billboards, PRC is one of the Commonwealth's first grassroots environmental organizations. PRC's programs have expanded to include recycling and buying recycled, pollution prevention, environmental lifestyle choices, watershed and air quality education, and many litter prevention programs.

For information about PRC or about the dinner, contact Rosemary Kesling at 610-353-1555 ext. 228.

Watershed NewsClips

[Growing Greener Program Helps Restore Wyomissing Creek](#)

[Big Run #2 AMD Site Dedicated in Blackleggs Creek](#)

[Public-private partnerships can serve to help the environment](#)

[Grassroots groups battle water pollution](#)

[St. Vincent to host watershed project symposium](#)

[Growing Greener Grant Cleans Up Dunkard Dump](#)

[Members of Kulpmont Sportsmen's Club finish stream project](#)

[Environmental groups get tour of tour focused on coal](#)

[Bay pact impact murky](#)

[Army Corps of Engineers looking ahead to flood prevention](#)

[Volunteer Coalition Honored for Cleaning Tainted Streams](#)

[Journey of a lifetime](#)

Regulations

The **Independent Regulatory Review Commission** meets November 4 to consider these two Environmental Quality Board regulations: #7-378: Final Small Sources of NO_x, Cement Kilns and Large Internal Combustion Engines; and #7-386: Final Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards. For copies visit the [August 2004 Environmental Quality Board webpage](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – October 30, 2004](#)

[Comment Deadlines Open](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#)

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

Nothing new published by the Department of Environmental Protection this week.

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance](#)

[For copies of Final Technical Guidance](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **Nov. 4** – Recycling Fund Advisory Committee meeting. **Cancelled.**
- **Nov. 4** – [Statewide Water Resources Committee– Critical Water Planning Area Subcommittee meeting](#). Harrisburg.
- **Nov. 9 - 10** - [Economic Prosperity and Biodiversity Conservation: Planning for Pennsylvania's Future Conference](#) – Harrisburg.
- **Nov. 11 -14** - Pennsylvania Alliance for Environmental Education (PAEE) Annual Conference "[Digging Deeper Into the Environment & Ecology Standards](#)" Wilkes Barre.
- **Nov. 17** – [Resource Recovery-Connections for the Future](#). Symposium on reuse of AMD byproducts. [Southern Alleghenies Conservancy](#). Johnstown.
- **Nov. 19** – [Statewide Water Resources Committee](#) meeting to discuss development of the state water plan. Harrisburg.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

Helpful Web Links

[Daily NewsClips](#)

[Weekly DEP Update](#)

[GreenTreks Network](#)

[Watershed Weekly](#)

[DEP Press Releases](#)

[DEP Advisory Committee Meetings & Agendas](#)

Contributions Invited

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

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