



*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

September 27, 2004

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On the Hill

House Local Government Subcommittee Recommends Land Trust Bill

A Subcommittee of the House Local Government Subcommittee met this week to recommend the full committee consider [House Bill 2189](#) (Ross-R-Chester), which amends an act providing for local taxing options for land trusts.

Under the bill a governing body of a local government may, for the public benefit, appropriate money to a land trust for the acquisition or conservation and preservation of interests in real property for the purpose of achieving open space benefits.

The bill was returned to the full committee with the recommendation that it be amended to better distinguish between a land trust and a local land trust. The amendment clarifies that money can be appropriated to either a land trust or a local land trust, however, revenue raised under section 7.1 of the Open Space Law must be used by a local land trust within the local government unit. The amendment also grants local government units the authority to create land trusts and adds definitions.

Bill Authorizes \$10 Million for Energy Development Authority

Legislation-- [Senate Bill 1220](#)-- was introduced this week by Sen. Stout (D-Washington) that would authorize the transfer of \$10 million to the newly revitalized Energy Development Authority from the [Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program](#). The legislative implements a line-item inserted in the 2004-05 budget.

Meanwhile on third and final consideration in the House is [Senate Bill 255](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) which would expand the uses of the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program to promote the purchase of clean fuel vehicles.

Harrisburg Declared Disaster Area.....As a Result of Flooding

Flooding caused a one-day delay in the return of the Senate to its first full week of session since July 4. The Senate returns to work next week, the House October 4.



**Flood
waters
lap at
Governor's
Residence
Sunday.**

In Other News

Rain Gauge Network Records Record-Breaking Rainfall in Pittsburgh Region

While meteorologists reported a record overall 5.96-inch rainfall over a 24-hour period throughout the Pittsburgh region last Friday, the 3 Rivers Wet Weather rain gauge system recorded complete rainfall data for each of the communities throughout Allegheny County.

According to this sophisticated rain gauge system, more than half of the communities across the County were pummeled with at least 5.5 inches of rain while some communities in the western part of the County, such as Moon Township, North Fayette, Findlay, Collier, Bridgeville and Kennedy Township were hit with nearly eight inches from 4 a.m. Friday morning until the rain tapered off at 1 a.m. Saturday.

Rainfall data is collected through a network of 33 rain gauges strategically placed based on localized storm patterns and areas that are difficult for the radar to detect, such as hillsides, tall buildings and valleys. The data is then calibrated with the NEXRAD radar coverage area using specialized software. This calibration fills in the gaps between rain gauges and determines the virtual rainfall specific to each square kilometer (.4 square miles) in Allegheny County.

“The resulting data is so accurate, it’s equivalent to having a total of 2,275 rain gauges throughout the region,” said John Schombert, executive director of 3RWW.

As a non-profit organization charged with helping 83 municipalities in Allegheny County address the region’s aging and deteriorating sewer infrastructure, 3RWW developed the rain gauge network to help municipal engineers plan and design effective sewage and storm water control solutions in their communities. Accurate rainfall data helps determine how much rainfall a community is likely to experience over a given period of time and how its sewage system functions during a storm.

“This is extremely important information,” said Schombert, “because an error of as little as 10 percent on rainfall amounts when designing a storm water control basin, for example, could mean wasted money or an ineffective solution.”

Rainfall data is available via the [3 Rivers Wet Weather website](#) where a near real-time section demonstrates the rainfall occurring over the last six hours (with a 15-minute delay) in the form of a color-coded map, and a historical section shows data collected for previous months, beginning in 2000. A beta site is being tested to access the current month’s specific data via a color-coded map and chart showing actual rainfall amounts.

NewsClip: [Highest Rainfall Didn’t Always Add Up to Heaviest Flooding](#)

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



How Did Your Stream Project Fair Through the Hurricane? Tell Us!

PA Environment Digest is looking for stories like this to share with our readers.

[Stream Stabilization Project Opens in Perfect Conditions](#)

How did your project survive the heavy rains? Share your experience with others!

PA CleanWays Pilots Expanding Adoption Program to Fight Roadside Litter

Do you remember the area with trash on it that you drive by every day on your way to work? Or that trail on which you mountain bike that someone has used as a dumping ground? How about the area around the boat launch at the lake where litter floats up on shore?



Do you want to do something about it?

For several years PA CleanWays has received countless requests from the public to have adoptions outside of [our chapter areas](#). PA CleanWays, through the Forest Land Beautification Program, is piloting an expansion of the [adoption program](#) to do just that.

Through this pilot program, adoptions will be considered in State Parks, forests along local roads, greenways, and in other public areas throughout the state. This gives the public a chance to become more involved in taking care of an area they care about by keeping it litter free.

The pilot program began in July and will end in late November. The new program empowers individuals across the state to take the lead in their community through organizing friends, family members, co-workers and others to keep special areas that they care about free from litter.

If you are interested in adopting an area that you care about, please call 724-836-4121. This program provides the opportunity for those who care about Pennsylvania to join us in the fight against litter. *(from [Pa CleanWays Fall 2004 Cleaner Ways newsletter](#))*

October 1 Deadline for Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Applications

A quick reminder, you have until October 1 to apply for this year's round of [Alternative Fuels Incentive Grants](#) designed to help stimulate the purchase of clean fuel vehicles.

PECO/Exelon Applaud Gamesa Decision to Locate in Pennsylvania

PECO Energy and its parent, Exelon Corporation, applauded Gamesa Corporation for its decision to base its East Coast development office and U.S. headquarters in Philadelphia this week.

PECO President Denis O'Brien said Gamesa's decision will expand the availability of renewable energy in the MidAtlantic marketplace and indicates the growing viability of wind as an energy choice for consumers.

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"PECO and Exelon have believed in renewable energy for several years, and we fully support efforts to bring more renewable construction to the state. Having one of the world's industry leaders invest locally is wonderful news for our region," O'Brien said.

In May, PECO became Pennsylvania's first utility to offer a wind energy product. Through its marketing partner Community Energy Inc., PECO WIND is offered in 100 kilowatt hour (kwh) blocks for an additional \$2.50 monthly fee.

A consumer who buys wind energy supports an environmentally friendly power generation source, and already several thousand residential customers in the region purchase PECO WIND, as well as prominent local businesses and institutions.

Exelon is the largest wholesale marketer of wind power east of the Mississippi with about 160 megawatts (mw) of wind power and a total of 355 mw of renewable energy under contract. Exelon has long-term power purchase agreements for the energy produced at four wind farms - three in Pennsylvania (Somerset, Fayette and Wayne counties) and one in West Virginia.

Complementing Exelon's wind agreements, Exelon Generation owns and operates a Bucks County landfill gas facility, an environmentally friendly form of power generation that utilizes landfill gas to generate electricity.

Fourth Annual Westmoreland County Smart Growth Summit

The focus of this year's Smart Growth Summit is "[The Future of Agriculture in Westmoreland County](#)." The goal is to gather together all who are interested in the future of Westmoreland County and to provide an educational opportunity featuring the principles of Smart Growth. There is a \$35 registration fee for the event.

The featured speaker is Tom Daniels, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania. Tom is a Professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning. He teaches land use planning, environmental planning, metropolitan area planning, and land preservation. For nine years, he was Executive Director of the nationally-recognized Agricultural Land Preservation Program in Lancaster County, PA, where he now lives. Tom was instrumental in helping to establish a statewide farmland protection program in Pennsylvania.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation Wins Award for Website

The [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) (CBF) -- the largest conservation organization dedicated solely to saving the Chesapeake Bay watershed -- has won a 2004 Standard of Excellence WebAward for its Convio-powered website.

The Standard of Excellence Award, sponsored by the Web Marketing Association, recognizes "the standard of excellence for which all corporate web sites should strive."

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation was entered in the nonprofit category. Convio provides market-leading software and services that help nonprofits use the Internet for developing strong constituent relationships to drive fundraising, marketing, advocacy and other forms of support. CBF works to heighten sensitivity, increase knowledge and empower citizens to take positive action to protect and restore the

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Chesapeake Bay. Goals include reducing pollution, improving fisheries, and protecting and restoring the bay's natural resources.

CBF's Convio-powered Web site and email system have helped the organization advance its mission by communicating more frequently with and mobilizing a larger constituency. Using Convio's online tools, in 21 months, CBF's email address file grew 116 percent. In less than two years, CBF generated 8,493 responses to online surveys and prompted activists to send 9,757 messages to decision-makers in response to online action alerts. In 2003, online donations grew 315 percent compared with 2002; the average online gift increased from \$54 in 2002 to \$85 in 2003.

Susquehanna Guardian Newsletter Now Available Online

Beginning with the fall 2004 issue of the [Susquehanna Guardian](#), the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) has significantly enhanced our on-line newsletter to make it more user-friendly.

Still Time to Register for 5th Annual Statewide Watershed Conference

The [Fifth Annual Pennsylvania Watershed Conference](#) will be held September 30-October 2 in Emmaus with the theme of “Watersheds: The Air, Land, and Water Connection.”

The program will include educational/scientific presentations and field trips designed to inform participants about watershed issues. Topics to be addressed include: Land use/smart growth, Air connection, urban watersheds, BMP implementation, and Stream restoration. Presentations for students ages 13 to 18 will also be available as part of the Youth Track.

DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director Dr. Douglas Austen are among the featured speakers. For more information, contact the Wildlands Conservancy at 610-965-4397, ext. 23.

NewsClip: [Conference Will Feature Watershed Awareness Contest](#)

2004 Pennsylvania Ground Water Institute for Teachers Set for October

The American Ground Water Trust's [Third Annual Pennsylvania Ground Water Institute for Teachers](#) will be held in Allentown on October 27 & 28

This year the Trust is offering a \$150 allowance / stipend to cover expenses for attending the Institute (e.g., travel, hotel, substitutes, etc) to the first 25 teachers to register and complete both days of the Institute. The Program is approved under ACT 48 for 12.5 Professional Development contact hours.

Clean Water Grant Application from Altria Group Due September 30

Altria Group, Inc., the parent company of Kraft Foods, Philip Morris International and Philip Morris USA, is pleased to announce the [2004 Environment Request for Proposal \(RFP\)](#) to address clean water issues. Grant applications are due September 30.

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Reducing and preventing impairments within water systems is a complex issue. Within any one watershed a multitude of sources contribute to water quality and these vary by day and season. These causes range from the effects of non-point source pollution (erosion, agricultural and urban run-off) to point source discharge from facilities and wastewater treatment centers. *(from WAY E-News published by the [Watershed Alliance of York, Inc.](#))*

Moose Creek, Clearfield County TMDL Hearing Set

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold a public meeting to discuss and accept comments on a proposed TMDL for the Moose Creek Watershed in Clearfield County on October 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the Clearfield County Multiservice Center, Daisy Street, Clearfield, PA. Comments are due by November 24.

Individuals who plan to make a presentation at the public meeting should contact, by 4 p.m. on Friday, October 22, John Mital, Moshannon District Mining Office, (814) 342-8200. The Department will consider all comments in developing the final TMDL for the Moose Creek Watershed, which will be submitted to the EPA for approval. The proposed TMDL

To see a copy, visit DEP's [TMDL webpage](#).

Allegheny College: Linking Green Building & Certified Forestry in Pennsylvania

[Allegheny College](#) this week released a new directory to help link supply and demand for "green" forest products in Pennsylvania.

Ten years ago, Pennsylvania became a national leader in third-party certification of forest management. In 1997-98, Pennsylvania became the first state to certify more than two million acres of state forests under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) system.

With more than 40 wood processing facilities certified to handle wood produced under the FSC principles and criteria, Pennsylvania's entire forest industry has made a significant commitment to certification.

Despite the potential for certification to contribute to conservation-oriented economic development, links between certified forest product supply and demand remain weak. The strongest demand for certified wood products comes from builders adhering to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles promoted by the U.S. Green Building Council.

In the first year of a three-year joint project of Allegheny College's Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED), the Rainforest Alliance, and The Wilderness Society, efforts are being made to both understand the causes of the problem and to develop practical solutions. Research conducted this summer shows considerable "leakage" throughout the certified supply chain as wood moves from the forest to sawmills and secondary processors.

"While groups such as the Green Building Alliance, the Green Building Association of Central Pennsylvania, and the Delaware Valley Green Building Council have helped to make Pennsylvania a national leader in LEED-certified building construction, the Commonwealth lags behind other states with respect to scoring points in

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LEED's rating system for using FSC-certified wood products," says Allegheny College Environmental Science Professor Terrence Bensel, Co-Director of the Northwest Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Project.

"The directory released today will provide critical information that will connect environmentally conscious buyers and sellers and reduce or eliminate one of the most significant hurdles: finding sources for certified wood products," says Bensel.

There are other problems, of course, for Pennsylvania's "green building" movement, which the 3-year project will endeavor to address. During the remaining 30 months of the collaboration, the group will continue activities such as conducting market research, providing group certification training, and distributing fact sheets for sourcing FSC-certified wood.

The following Web sites provide additional information about sustainable forestry and related topics:

- [Certified Forest Products Council](#) - [Forest Stewardship Council](#)
- [Rainforest Alliance SmartWood Program](#) - [Scientific Certification Systems](#)
- [Center for Economic and Environmental Development](#)

Minard Run Oil Company Recognized for Good Work By EPA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presented [Minard Run Oil Company](#) of Bradford, PA with an award for its effort to protect underground sources of drinking water during the production of oil and gas.

"Water is too precious to waste or pollute. By protecting our underground water supplies, we can help ensure healthy water for future generations," said Donald. S. Welsh, administrator for EPA's mid-Atlantic region.

Minard Run is the first company recognized by the EPA mid-Atlantic region's underground injection control (UIC) program, which was authorized under the Safe Drinking Water Act to protect public and private ground water supplies. The award recognizes an operator that has been involved in oil and gas related injection activity and has cooperated fully under the UIC regulatory requirements to protect groundwater resources.

From the mid 1980s through the early 1990s, Minard Run operated almost 1,000 enhanced recovery injection wells, which were regulated under the UIC Program. Minard Run fully complied with its regulatory responsibilities, including plugging all of these injection wells.

Unplugged wells can provide a path for oil and gas to migrate into underground sources of drinking water. The successful closure of these wells helped to assure the protection of the groundwater resources in this area.

Shrewsbury Given EPA Source Water Protection Award

EPA Region 3 awarded a 2004 Pennsylvania source water protection award to the Shrewsbury Municipal Water Company at a township meeting on September 8.

Shrewsbury was selected for its wellhead protection activities which include a land use ordinance, a local hazardous waste survey, an abandon well closure program and educational outreach efforts. The source water protection awards were created by EPA to

recognize those individuals in the community who have consistently demonstrated their commitment, leadership, and innovation in drinking water protection.

EPA Adds to Superfund Sites in Pennsylvania

EPA is continuing to make progress in protecting public health, cleaning up the nation's hazardous waste, and encouraging economic revitalization and land reuse by adding two final sites and proposing [14 more sites to the Superfund National Priorities List \(NPL\)](#).

Two of those sites were in Pennsylvania: Price Battery, Hamburg and Safety Light Corp., Bloomsburg.

Reliant Energy's Seward Plant Named POWER Magazine's 2004 Plant of the Year

Reliant Energy's 521-megawatt Seward Power Plant, a facility that utilizes state-of-the-art clean coal technology and waste coal as fuel, has been named 2004 Plant of the Year by Platts' POWER magazine.



The [2004 Plant of the Year Award](#) goes to the best in the industry over the past year regardless of generation technology or size. The article announcing Seward's selection for the award cites both the economic and environmental benefits of the project.

"For turning lemons into lemonade in such an elegant and environmentally beneficial way, the Seward project is POWER magazine's 2004 Plant of the Year."

The Seward plant, located 80 miles east of Pittsburgh near Johnstown, Pennsylvania, is the largest waste coal-fired generating plant in the world and is the only merchant plant of its kind in the U.S. The plant is currently undergoing pre-operational testing, with commercial operation expected this fall. When it is commercial, Seward will be one of the lowest cost generating plants in the PJM (Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland) Interconnection.

"This plant has environmental benefits, creates jobs and provides a reliable, low-cost supply of power for Pennsylvania and the broader PJM market," said Joel Staff, chairman and chief executive officer, Reliant Energy. "We are pleased that POWER magazine has recognized us with this award."

Seward was constructed on the site of an 82-year-old, coal-fired plant that was retired at the end of 2003. The new facility produces two and one-half times as much electricity as the plant it replaces, while significantly reducing emissions.

In addition, Seward uses low-grade refuse from coal mines, which is abundant in Western Pennsylvania, as fuel. Removing this waste coal improves the environment, while removing a significant source of acid discharge from the local watershed. In all, more than 100 million tons of waste coal will be removed from the landscape during the life of the plant. Even the ash produced at Seward is used in a beneficial manner. This alkaline by-product is transported to waste coal sites in the area to help neutralize acids that remain in the soil.

The partnership of Duke/Fluor Daniel and ALSTOM Power provided turnkey engineering, procurement, construction, and commissioning services. Robindale Energy

Services Inc., a professional fuel-management company, manages material handling at the facility.

Voluntary Programs Prevent Greenhouse Gases, EPA Reports

ENERGY STAR and other voluntary programs prevented 48 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions in 2003, up from 43 million in 2002, EPA reports.

[Protecting the Environment-Together](#): ENERGY STAR and Other Voluntary Programs catalogues the environmental and economic benefits of a range of EPA energy-efficiency and climate protection programs.

With ENERGY STAR, Americans prevented greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 18 million automobiles and saved \$8 billion on their energy bills. Also through the combined efforts of the methane programs, U.S. methane emissions are expected to be kept below 1990 levels through 2012.

More than 2,000 builders have constructed over 200,000 ENERGY STAR qualified new homes, locking in financial savings for homeowners that exceed \$60 million annually.

About 5,000 homes have been improved through Home Performance with ENERGY STAR, which continues to grow with the addition of U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sponsored pilot programs in a number of cities.

Through EPA's Green Power Partnership, more than 230 partners have committed to purchasing more than 1 billion kilowatt-hour of green power. The voluntary climate change programs include initiatives that develop clean energy solutions, increase the capture and use of methane gas, minimize emissions of other non-carbon dioxide gases, and provide opportunities for corporate partners to develop long-term comprehensive climate change strategies.

Fuel Suppliers Preparing to Meet Future Low-Sulfur Diesel Requirements

Refiners remain on target to supply significantly cleaner highway diesel fuel over the next five years, according to EPA's analysis of industry reports released today. EPA has been working collaboratively with both the engine manufacturers and fuel refiners in preparation for EPA's new clean diesel engine and fuel standards.

When fully implemented, EPA's Clean Diesel Program, will reduce 2.6 million tons of smog-causing emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) from diesel exhaust each year, thus providing the cleanest running heavy-duty trucks and buses in history. The action will produce the clean-air equivalent of eliminating air pollution from 13 million trucks.

To ensure these cleaner-running vehicles, the program requires that sulfur in diesel fuel be reduced by 97 percent. The reports provide the clearest snapshot currently available of the highway diesel fuel market.

Similar to the projections that refiners made last year, it is anticipated that 95 percent of the nearly 3 million barrels of highway diesel produced per day will meet the 15 parts per million (ppm) standard in 2006.

EPA's analysis of information from more than 120 refineries shows that fuel suppliers are positioned to comply with the 15 ppm highway diesel sulfur standard on time; highway diesel fuel production will be sufficient to meet demand; and 15 ppm

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sulfur highway diesel fuel will be widely available nationwide. Reducing the sulfur content in diesel will enable advanced emission control technology in diesel engines and substantially contribute to air quality improvement.

Under the EPA's Highway Clean Diesel Rule, any refiner or importer planning to produce or import highway diesel fuel in 2006-10 is required to submit annual "pre-compliance reports" to EPA.

The reports are due June 1 of each year; the first was due June 1, 2003 and the last report will be due in 2005.

For a copy of the Summary and Analysis go to [2004 Highway Diesel Fuel Pre-compliance Reports](#) and visit the [EPA Clean Diesel Program](#).

Pennsylvania Dry Cleaner Gives Federal EPA Advice

Pennsylvania dry cleaner, Dale I. Kaplan estimates that he spent over 1500 hours providing free advice to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency between June 2002 and July 2004.

You might ask, "Why?"

Kaplan, owner of Kaplan's Careful Cleaners, was invited by former EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman to serve as a member of the Compliance Assistance Advisory Council (CAAC).

The CAAC developed recommendations for the US EPA in three areas: (1) the optimization of the compliance assistance network across EPA, (2) the development of parameters to measure the effectiveness of compliance assistance activities (3) the integration of compliance assistance more completely into EPA's mission, goals, and activities. Much of the committee work took place during long phone conversations although two face-to-face meetings were held.

Kaplan, the only dry cleaner on the CAAC, worked alongside small business, trade association, government, citizen, and university representatives to discuss and develop recommendations for the Agency.

Along the way, he was called upon to assist in drafting comments for a controversial rule making in California with nationwide impact on dry cleaners, he provided input to EPA's Strategic Plan, and he served as co-chair of the CAAC's Networking committee during 2002-2003.

"It's all worthwhile," Kaplan said. "I am glad to give something back to help government try to understand America's small business owners."

The CAAC's final report was forwarded to Administrator Leavitt recently for review and action. The title of the report is: "Recommendations for Enhancing EPA's Compliance Assistance Program," June 2004. The CAAC was co-chaired by Richard Sustich of the National Science Foundation Center of Advanced Materials for Purification of Water with Systems and La Ronda Bowen of Bowen and Assoc. communication consultants in Sacramento, CA. and national advocates for small business sensitive environmental policy.

The CAAC was established under the [National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology](#) at the request of EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. The first CAAC was convened in 2000 (2000-2001) and submitted its report, "Maximizing Compliance Assistance: Recommendations for

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Enhancing Compliance Opportunities at EPA and Through Other Providers” to former EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman in August 2001. Kaplan served on the second CAAC, which built upon the work of the first.

Kaplan also chairs [DEP’s Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee](#).

Bugs Invade Pennsylvania! – Ladybugs That Is

The ladybugs that plague Pennsylvania homeowners during the fall and winter months will soon be migrating from trees and fields into houses, according to the Department of Agriculture.

"Originally introduced in the southeastern states as a biological control agent, the multicolored [Asian lady beetle](#) has spread from orchard settings to fields and forests," said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff. "After populations spread northward through Pennsylvania, the ladybugs now invade homes in large numbers during the fall. Unfortunately, once inside they are unwelcome as ladybugs have an unpleasant odor; stain walls, draperies and furniture; crawl on people; drop into food; and occasionally bite."

Ladybugs feed in trees and agricultural crops during the summer months, where they eat tiny plant-feeding insects called aphids. In the fall, when field crops die off and trees lose their leaves, the aphid populations drop dramatically, and the ladybugs have nothing to eat. At this point, they leave the trees and fields and fly to buildings, where they congregate in large numbers on warm walls and rooftops. When temperatures drop at night, these beetles crawl into cracks and crevices, eventually getting into interior walls and attics.

DEP Deputy Nick DiPasquale to Return to Delaware, Fidler Named Acting

Nicholas DiPasquale, DEP’s Deputy Secretary for Air, Recycling and Radiation Protection, announced he was leaving the department to return home to Dover, Delaware.

In his note to staff, DiPasquale said he plans to “teach, do some consulting and explore other opportunities to continue my life's work in environmental protection and natural resource conservation.

“It has been a personal and professional privilege to have worked with you and I wish you success in the challenges that undoubtedly lie ahead.”

Thomas Fidler, a 30-year employee from the Bureau of Land Recycling and Waste Management, was named acting Deputy.

NewsClips: [Fidler Named Acting Deputy](#)

Quick Clips

[Carnegie U. Green and Turning Greener](#)

[Energy Conservation Class by Center for Sustainable Communities](#)

Taking Positive Action

EPA: Steps You Can Take to Celebrate Prevent Pollution Week All Year Round

[Pollution Prevention Week](#) (September 20-26) is the perfect time to try a new pollution prevention activity at home, at school, or at work.

“Businesses, environmental groups and citizens can join forces for a common cause – to prevent pollution. Pollution prevention means reducing the amount of waste or toxicity in processes or products you use. Pollution prevention can help businesses be more competitive, individuals realize cost savings, and enhance environmental quality,” said Donald S. Welsh, mid-Atlantic regional administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Here are some examples from the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, a non-profit organization devoted solely to pollution prevention, for you to help reduce waste and prevent pollution:

At home:

- Turn down the heat or air conditioning at night.
- Turn off lights and appliances when not in use; install sensors where appropriate.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient fluorescent ones.
- Increase the amount of insulation in your home to reduce heat loss.
- Do not mow your lawn or fill your gas tank on Ozone Action Days.
- Minimize water use by purchasing efficient toilets, faucets, and shower heads.
- Purchase rechargeable batteries, reducing the amount of trash going into landfills.
- Buy less toxic cleaning supplies or make your own. Baking soda and water can be used as ammonia-based all-purpose cleaners.
- Purchase products with minimal packaging.
- Use little or no fertilizer or pesticides, especially near lakes and streams.
- Recycle plastics, glass, aluminum, styrofoam, newspaper, used motor oil, transmission fluid, and brake fluid.
- Join a food co-op or buy locally.
- Reuse grocery bags by taking them with you to the store.

At work:

- Carpool, bicycle, walk, or take mass transportation to work.
- Use reusable lunch containers instead of paper and plastic bags.
- Use a copier that prints on both sides of the paper to reduce paper use.
- Recycle toner cartridges and printer materials.
- Use reusable cups for coffee and other beverages.
- Share the benefits of a recycling program with management.
- Look into installing energy saving lights.
- Seek business opportunities with environmentally sound companies.

At school:

- Pack kids’ lunches in reusable containers instead of disposable brown and plastic bags.
- Reduce materials and recycle what is used.
- Perform a waste audit in the school.

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- Maintain heaters, air conditioners, refrigerators, and other energy using equipment to reduce the amount of energy used.
- Install energy efficient lighting.
- Print copies on both sides of each sheet of paper.
- Use washable dishes in the cafeteria.
- Use non-mercury-containing thermometers.
- Start an Eco-Club or form a pollution prevention team.

Watershed NewsClips

[Emmaus Officials Discuss How to Protect Wells](#)

[Overdevelopment blamed for flooding](#)

[Ivan Proves Too Much for Flood Control Projects](#)

[Hurricane Ivan And Storms Punish State's Waterways](#)

[Storm Damage Revives Debate Over Flood Control Projects](#)

[Creek Cleanup Benefits Chesapeake](#)

[Watersheds Deserve Attention](#)

Regulations

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – September 25, 2004](#)

[Comment Deadlines Open](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#)

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

DEP published notice of two final policy documents this week:

DEP ID: 150-2302-004 **Title:** Procedures for the Approval and Accreditation of Laboratories in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Utilizing the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) Standard.

DEP ID: 150-2302-005 **Title:** Procedures for the Approval and Accreditation of Drinking Water Laboratories in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance](#)

[For copies of Final Technical Guidance](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **Sept. 28** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee information meeting to review the water and wastewater infrastructure needs. Harrisburg.
- **Sept. 28-30** - [3 Rivers Wet Weather Sixth Annual Sewer Conference](#) . Pittsburgh
- **Sept. 30** – PCIEP “[Links Between Human Health & the Environment](#)” Forum. Harrisburg.

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- **Oct. 7 & Nov. 5** – [Land Recycling Grant Opportunities Forums](#) for Local Government Managers in Mars and Lancaster.

[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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