

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

December 12, 2005

Watershed Groups Are “Active Environmentalists,” Not “Environmental Activists”

[A new profile of community-based watershed groups](#) by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania says they play a critical role in improving water quality, building strong environmental coalitions and get results through education, collaboration and positive action, not confrontation or litigation.

Based on interviews and a survey sent to more than 580 watershed organizations in 2002, the study built a profile of watershed groups at that time.

Forty-four percent of the groups were formed since 1995 based on concerns about water quality (80 percent), environmental education (47 percent), aquatic habitat (43 percent), recreation (39 percent) and land use issues (36 percent), in that order.

The original Growing Greener Watershed Program was cited as very important to the formation and success of the groups.

The members of the typical watershed group felt that solutions to threats to water quality lie at the level of the individual and education aimed at changing the attitudes of people and their actions.

“Instead of being pegged as environmental activists, many watershed groups see themselves as “active environmentalists,” getting things done in the community and improving their local environmental quality,” the study said.

Groups believe strongly in collaboration and cooperation to get environmental action, not protesting or litigation and use their relationships and networks to facilitate action.

By working with local citizens and local governments, they demonstrate that the community has the capacity and the power to enact changes. They create energy and momentum around environmental issues and community activism in general.

The typical watershed group is run by volunteers with a core group of 10 to 12 people who help manage the organization and they have about 50 members.

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A majority of groups have an average of six other major partners including conservation districts, DEP, the Fish and Boat Commission, PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers and the Canaan Valley Institute.

The study concluded that watershed groups: empower local residents, develop local leaders, provide examples of successful community organizations, compliment other state and local environmental programs, get results, play an essential role in promoting the environment, and act as environmental advocates.

The authors of the study were Dr. Francis Higdon, Dr. Kathryn Braiser, Dr. Richard Stedman, Brian Lee and Sally Sherman from the Penn State Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology.

[A full copy of the report is available online.](#) Visit the [Center for Rural Pennsylvania](#) for more information.

Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to session December 12, 13, and 14, the last scheduled voting days this year (at least at this writing).

On the Hill

- On the Senate/House Agenda
- Bills Moving in Senate/House
- Energy Producers Tell House Committee About Natural Gas, Electric Prices
- Environmental Issues Forum Puts Focus on Recycling Market Development

Other News

- EPCAMR Testifies Before U.S. House on Watershed-Based Mine Reclamation Needs
- Conservation Districts Receive Water, Watershed Education Grants
- Next Rachel Carson Forum Focuses on Water Credit Trading
- EPA Sponsors Free Audio Webcast on Water Credit Trading December 14
- Paxton Creek Conservation Plan Released in Dauphin County
- Plan to Clean Up Mine Drainage in Chartiers Creek To Be Presented
- New Guidebook Details Control of Urban Runoff
- Commission Taking Survey of Fishing Skills Education Programs
- PA Energy News Website Provides Updates on Energy Issues in PA
- Solar Energy Leader Honored by Society of Women Environmental Professionals
- What's Your Carbon Footprint? Calculate Your Energy Use Impacts
- Scholarships for Women in Environmental Fields - Undergraduate and Graduate
- December Center for Environmental Education Newsletter Now Available
- Environmental Question of the Week a Hit with Teachers, Students
- New Web Gateway to PA Natural Diversity Inventory for Public, Professionals
- EPA Accepting Air Innovations Grant Applications Through January 6
- Making Water Supply Systems More Secure Topic of January 11 Seminar
- HELP WANTED – Fish & Boat Commission Seeks Fisheries Biologists
- HELP WANTED – PA Conservation Districts Association Educator

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Feature –

- DRBC Honors Pioneering Ecologist Dr. Ruth Patrick

Opinion

- Pennsylvania Leads Again – Building a Sustainable Industry from Sustainable Energy, *By Brent Alderfer, President and CEO Community Energy Inc.*

Winter Safety Tips

- PEMA Urges Winter Weather Preparedness at Home, Traveling

Regulations

- December EQB Agenda Includes Storage Tank, New Source Review Regs.

[Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda

Both the Senate and House are in regular and special voting session again starting December 12. Here's a rundown on what's on their Calendars and committee agendas.

Calendars

The House Calendar starts the week with [House Bill 2141](#), which would prohibit the Department of Environmental Protection from adopting the current California vehicle emission standards.

In the Senate, the Calendar will start with [House Bill 87](#) further authorizing local governments to preserve open space through the waiver of certain service fees; and [House Bill 213](#) establishing eco-terrorism penalties.

Committees

The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee will consider [Senate Bill 723](#) making changes to definition of eligible entity in the Agricultural Security Law; and [House Bill 671](#) related to responsibilities of county farmland preservation boards, rescheduled from last week.

The Senate Local Government Committee will consider [House Bill 893](#) changing procedures for shutting off water for nonpayment of sewage bills and the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Transportation Committees have a hearing scheduled on Pennsylvania's Clean Car Program to adopt the California vehicle emission standards.

The Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee Environmental Issues Forum features a presentation on the Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Development Center.

Bills Moving in Senate/House

Here's a quick rundown on several environmental bills that moved in the Senate and House this week, plus one new bill introduction.

Senate

Eminent Domain: [Senate Bill 897](#) (Brightbill-R-Lebanon) making changes to the Eminent Domain Code in response to *Kelo* and the companion bill, [Senate Bill 881](#) (Piccola-R-Dauphin), which was amended to include provisions relating to condemning multiple properties, were passed unanimously by the Senate and moves to the House. House-passed eminent domain bills remain in the Senate.

Senate Bill 881 would prohibit the taking of private property through the use of eminent domain for private enterprise. The bill provides for certain exceptions under the prohibition including, among others, if the condemnee consents to the use of the property or if the property meets the definition of "blight." Multiple properties could only be declared blighted if a majority of the geographic area is blighted.

An additional change would extend the period that an area can be designated blighted without being reevaluated from 10 years to 20 years. The measure would also prohibit a political subdivision from exercising eminent domain in another political subdivision without the consent of the political subdivision where the land is located.

Senate Bill 897 would—

- Prohibit a political subdivision from exercising eminent domain in another political subdivision without the consent of the political subdivision where the land is located;
- Broaden the application of the Code to cover all public utility condemnations;
- Increase the limitation on eligible reimbursement of appraisal, attorney, and engineering fees from \$500 to \$3,000;
- Allow a judge to determine reasonable attorney fees when a condemnee challenges the original just compensation offer and the verdict is at least 25 percent greater than the original offer;
- Permit a condemnee to receive special damages up to \$24,000 for loss caused by reduction in rental income;
- Increase damages for dislocation of businesses and farm operations in addition to other allowable damages;
- Increase the additional payments for relocation expenses for homeowners and tenants;
- Create the Housing Replacement Authorization Act to allow the acquiring agency, as a last resort, to purchase, construct, reconstruct or otherwise provide replacement housing by using funds authorized for the project; and
- Expedite appeals in eminent domain proceedings and establish a six-year statute of limitations in condemnation actions.

NewsClip: [Eminent Domain Bill Advances, But May Need More Changes](#)

House

Low Income Energy Assistance: [House Bill 2216](#) (Allen-R-Schuylkill) providing additional funding for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program and [House Bill 338](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) creating an income tax checkoff for contributions to the Low Income Energy Assistance Program were both passed by the House and move to the Senate.

Scattering Rubbish: [House Bill 659](#) (Crahalla-R-Montgomery) increasing penalties for scattering rubbish in Philadelphia was passed by the House and now goes to the Senate.

Purity of Waters Act: [House Resolution 530](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Purity of Waters Act was passed by the House.

Bills Introduced

Capital Budget: [House Bill 2317](#) (Feese-R-Lycoming) itemized list of Capital Budget projects for the Environmental Stewardship Fund, Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund and other projects.

Energy Producers Tell House Committee About Natural Gas, Electric Prices

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee heard from energy producers this week on Pennsylvania's energy needs, pinch points and barriers to solving the state's energy problems.

The Committee heard from — [Doug Biden](#), Electric Power Generation Association, [Gordon Shearer](#), Hess LNG, [Stephen Rhoads](#), Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Association and [George Ellis](#), Pennsylvania Coal Association.

Doug Biden, Electric Power Generation Association, said high prices of natural gas constitute one of the most “difficult and economically threatening” issues facing the energy industry in the near and long term. It's creating a tremendous economic hardship, not just for homeowners, but also for industrial consumers of electricity and natural gas who are moving their manufacturing operations overseas or shutting them down, he said.

“The United States now has the highest natural gas prices in the world,” Biden stated, “and a new term has entered energy industry parlance to describe the effect this is having on industry – it is called ‘demand destruction.’” He said it is “vitaly important that policymakers understand this problem, its causes, its implications for the economy, and potential solutions going forward.”

Nearly all of the new electric generating capacity built in the last 10 or 15 years has used natural gas as their primary fuel and as a result natural gas prices, more than the availability of electric generation, has driven the cost of electricity.

For example, the PJM regional spot market price for electricity rose more than 35 percent in 2003, 11 percent in 2004 and 32 percent in the first 10 months of 2005, mostly due to the cost of natural gas.

With the ending of utility generation price caps in 2009-10, the cost of electricity for consumers will be largely the function of natural gas price movements, how good utilities are at hedging natural gas price risk, the rate of increase in electric demands, the

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cost of more stringent environmental requirements and the net costs and benefits of complying with Pennsylvania's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards.

Biden said the change to natural gas was driven initially by federal environmental regulations, but now Pennsylvania is considering even more stringent rules for limiting mercury emissions and a multi-pollutant model rule from the Northeast Ozone Transport Commission that will drive more use of natural gas by power generators at the worst possible time. Biden said the General Assembly should be involved upfront in the mercury rule process and in reviewing a multi-pollutant rule for their costs and benefits.

Biden also noted there should be continued support for improved performance and cost competitiveness of renewable energy technologies, looking for more efficient advanced coal-fired technologies like Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle systems and promoting energy efficiency to help address Pennsylvania's energy issues.

Relicensing Pennsylvania's nuclear power plants, which supply 36 percent of the state's electricity, is also a critical issue.

Biden also recommended the General Assembly adopt tax credits for investments in power plant emissions control equipment.

Gordan Shearer, Hess LNG, told the Committee North America represents 30 percent of the world's natural gas consumption, but only 4 percent of the gas reserves and that 95 percent of the new power generating capacity of the nation has been fueled by natural gas.

At the same time, Shearer said the infrastructure to get natural gas from production areas, primarily from and through the Gulf Coast, to users, particularly in the Northeast, has caused significant price differentials. In January 2004 natural gas was selling for \$65 per thousand cubic feet (tcf) in Philadelphia, while in Louisiana it sold for \$6 per tcf.

Shearer said LNG would help fill this gap between demand and supply increasing from about 2 percent of U.S. gas supply now to as much as 25 percent by 2025.

There are now two proposals on the Delaware River and in North Philadelphia for LNG terminal facilities.

Shearer also addressed the issue of safety saying LNG shipping and terminals have handled over 45,000 cargoes of LNG around the world without any spills, environmental damage and without harm to the public.

Stephen Rhoads from the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Association pointed to the estimated 2.4 trillion cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves in Pennsylvania as one way to fill demand for gas. Gas producers in the state will be issued over 5,300 permits for wells by the end of 2005 and drill about 60 percent of them.

Rhoads pointed to an additional 2.7 trillion cubic feet of recoverable methane in Pennsylvania's coal seams and in formations like tight sands and Trenton Black River as well as Lake Erie where more reserves can be found.

Pennsylvanians use about 663 billion cubic feet of gas a year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Rhoads recommended opening up more state lands and Lake Erie to natural gas production, passing legislation to encourage development of dormant wells, eliminating conflicts in law that would allow more development of coal bed methane, limiting a planned increase in oil and gas well bonding by DEP and doing more to encourage production from marginal, low producing wells.

George Ellis, Pennsylvania Coal Association, said coal remains the fuel of choice for electric generation with 56 percent of the electricity generating capacity in Pennsylvania fueled by coal. Thirty-four million tons of the 43 million tons of coal consumed in Pennsylvania power plants comes from Pennsylvania mines.

For coal to continue to play a major role in power production, Ellis pointed to several issues of concerns.

The plan by the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt a Pennsylvania-only rule to control mercury presents a serious risk to the continued use of Pennsylvania coal because Pennsylvania coal is high in mercury. A rule that would impose requirements different in timing and content from the federal rule now in place would encourage power plants to switch to lower mercury coal from other states.

Ellis endorsed proposals by the Rendell Administration to encourage clean coal technology through its recently announced EDGE (Energy Deployment for a Growing Economy) initiative. He also proposed tax credits for using Pennsylvania coal and a \$2 per ton incentive on coal produced from re-mining operations.

Ellis also made recommendations in the areas of deep mine safety and changes to the mining permit and bonding requirements.

The Committee is chaired by Rep. Adolph (R-Delaware) and Rep. George (D-Clearfield). The next Energy Policy informational meeting will be held in January.

NewsClip: [Lawmakers Hear of Natural Gas Role in Electricity Prices](#)

Environmental Issues Forum Puts Focus on Recycling Market Development

The Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee's [December 12 Environmental Issues Forum](#) will hear a presentation on the Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center.

The new Center's Executive Director Warren Weaver and RMC Recycling Program Manager Robert J. "Bob" Bylone, Jr. will be the guest speakers and will describe the RMC's start-up, the projects it is already working on and what the center will be focusing on in the future.

The new RMC is located at the Penn State Harrisburg campus. Penn State Harrisburg was awarded a five-year, \$5 million grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to open the center. The center is working closely with Pennsylvania manufacturers to expand and develop more secure and active markets for recovered materials.

In Other News

EPCAMR Testifies Before U.S. House on Watershed-Based Mine Reclamation Needs

[Ed Wytovich](#), President of the [Eastern Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#), appeared before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Conservation, Rural Development and Research this week to outline the successes and needs of watershed-based reclamation efforts in Pennsylvania.



PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Wytovich described the EPCAMR partnership and its activities and services in the 14 county area it serves in Northeast Pennsylvania.

He pointed to his own experiences in helping to organize 10 watershed associations and a project with his students in the [Williams Valley High School](#) on Wiconisco Creek as examples of how much local partnerships can accomplish with the right support.

“In order for a project to be successful, local community support on all fronts must be in place,” said Wytovich. “Local involvement has the potential to turn into a comprehensive watershed project with the potential of attracting more financial resources.”

But, those local partnerships need support, and since 2003 the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service has not provided dedicated staff to programs like the Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP) to help with local reclamation projects.

Projects in the [Catawissa Creek Watershed](#), like the Oneida #1 passive mine drainage treatment system, were made possible in large part because of NRCS help in designing and building the project. This and other projects on the Catawissa will restore 36 miles of the stream to what supporters hope will be a world class trout stream.

“Pennsylvania’s watershed groups can point to several successes, but there is much work left to be done,” said Wytovich. “We believe our efforts to bring all parties to the table may be stifled due to the elimination of important programs such as RAMP, lack of federal funding for Resource Conservation and Development Council’s and staff, and program flexibility.”

[A copy of the full testimony is available online](#) and visit the [Eastern Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation webpage](#) for more information.

Conservation Districts Receive Water, Watershed Education Grants

The [Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc.](#) this week announced nineteen conservation districts received grants under the 2005-06 Chesapeake Bay and Non-Point Source Educational Mini-Grants Programs.

Grants of up to \$2,500 were available to support educational efforts that help demonstrate how Pennsylvanians can improve local water quality by controlling non-point source pollution.

The grants support projects to increase local awareness of water quality issues and range from educational brochures for homeowners to nutrient management workshops for farmers. All of the projects encourage citizen participation in activities to improve water quality in local watersheds.

Funded projects included support for the Cambria County Children’s Water Festival, a best practices for homeowners program in Montgomery County and a contractor’s workshop in Northumberland County.

Funding for the grants is provided through the Department of Environmental Protection’s Chesapeake Bay Program and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Section 319 Program.

[A full list of grants awarded is available online.](#)

Visit the [Professional Services Directory](#) and [Events Calendar](#)

Next Rachel Carson Forum Focuses on Water Credit Trading

The next Rachel Carson Forum on the Future of the Environment on December 15 will examine the potential of water credit trading programs to make improvements in water quality at lower costs

The program will start at noon in the Rachel Carson Building Auditorium in Harrisburg.

The speakers will be Scott Van de Mark of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Dr. James Shortle from Penn State University.

Nutrient trading is a tool designed to achieve nutrient pollution reduction goals cost-effectively by allowing pollution sources with high control costs to meet their regulatory obligations by purchasing environmentally equivalent pollution reductions from sources with lower costs.

This program will explore the theory and practice of nutrient trading. The program will also review nutrient trading experience in Pennsylvania on the Conestoga River as well as Pennsylvania's interim final policy on nutrient and sediment trading.

The Rachel Carson Forum is a monthly speakers series organized by the DEP Office of Policy, the DCNR Office of Conservation Science, and the Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy. Questions about the Forum should be directed to Don Brown at brownd@state.pa.us .

EPA Sponsors Free Audio Webcast on Water Credit Trading December 14

The [Watershed Academy](#) is sponsoring a free audio webcast on December 14 entitled, "Introduction to Trading for Water Quality Protection."

The program will feature presentations by Lynda Hall, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds from U.S. EPA and Sonya Biorn-Hansen, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

The webcast will begin at 1:00 Eastern time.

To register and for more information, visit the [Watershed Academy webcast program webpage](#).

Paxton Creek Conservation Plan Released in Dauphin County

The [Paxton Creek Watershed and Education Association](#) this week made its Paxton Creek Rivers Conservation Plan available to the public. The Plan outlines a strategy to achieve watershed protection goals over the next 20 years.

The plan will help improve and protect the watershed's resources for the more than 60,000 people who own homes or businesses in the Paxton Creek Watershed that includes much of Harrisburg, Penbrook, Susquehanna and Lower Paxton townships.

E. Drannon Buskirk, Jr., Coordinator of the Paxton Creek Rivers Conservation Plan and former PCWEA President said, "The watershed whose resources – including lumber, food, brick clay and water – built Harrisburg, now performs mainly as a destructive stormwater drain and pollutants sink with increased flooding. These problems have been building for 300 years. Now is the time to reverse them.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Paxton Creek was a focus during Harrisburg's "City Beautiful Movement" and renaissance from 1900 to 1915 as sewers, water filtration plants, asphalt roads, and parks were built. In the past 50 years, the creek was channelized, and farms have been replaced by homes, businesses and roads.

The economic growth in Paxton Creek brings a host of problems including erosion and water pollution, and the creek has become little more than a conduit for floodwaters from the Susquehanna River. It is now among the most polluted creeks (sediment) in Pennsylvania, contributing to the Lower Susquehanna River, which feeds the Chesapeake Bay.

To achieve watershed goals the plan calls for ten types of projects ranging from stormwater retrofits, riparian and upland reforestation to trails and habitat protection.

For more information, visit the [Paxton Creek website](#).

PCWEA was formed with the help from the Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener Program, Canaan Valley Institute, Dauphin County Conservation District, Harrisburg Area Community College and other organizations.

Plan to Clean Up Mine Drainage in Chartiers Creek To Be Presented

The [Chartiers Nature Conservancy](#) is holding a public meeting on December 13 in Carnegie, Allegheny County to report on a plan for eliminating abandoned mine drainage from Chartiers Creek.

The engineering plan culminates four years of work by Hedin Environmental and GAI Consultants, under the project management of CNC, that began with the first reassessment of old mine discharges in 35 years.

In June, 2005, they reported their study of the chemical impact of these discharges and how each discharge affected the creek chemistry in order to target remediation efforts on the most severe.

"At this meeting we will report engineering concepts for rehabilitating this unique local community asset that is unlike any other stream in Allegheny County," explained John Hamm, CNC Project Manager. "Treating these discharges will make the creek safer for people who recreate on the creek with boating and fishing and healthier for aquatic life."

AMD is the major threat to clean water in the lower Chartiers Creek and watershed. It degrades the healthy ecology of the water, and changes the color from normal to brown below Bridgeville in its remaining 15 miles before it empties into the Ohio River at McKees Rocks. There are nine major old coal mine discharges that enter Chartiers Creek between Bridgeville and Carnegie.

One discharge fouls four miles of Millers Run before it enters Chartiers above the Prestley Road bridge.

The Chartiers Nature Conservancy is a non-profit organization formed in 1992 and committed to promoting, preserving, and protecting the Chartiers Creek Valley and Watershed area.

The Chartiers Creek Watershed is the fifth largest watershed in Allegheny County. Over the years, this watershed has been polluted by abandoned mine drainage, sewer overflows, and industrial pollutants.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Even though the CNC is an all-volunteer organization, it has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments that will benefit the environment, the community, and future generations. CNC relies upon individual donations to cover routine business expenses and grants from local foundations and area agencies to fund conservation projects.

[For more information, visit the Chartiers Nature Conservancy webpage.](#)

New Guidebook Details Control of Urban Runoff

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week released a new guidebook on managing runoff pollution caused by urban activities.

[*National Management Measures to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution from Urban Areas*](#) is an information source for states and cities to use in their pollution-management programs for protecting waterways. It is intended to be a textbook and toolkit for cooperative conservation and sustainable management of urban and suburban runoff.

Nonpoint source pollution, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many sources. They include contaminated runoff from paved surfaces, malfunctioning septic systems, pet wastes, over-applied fertilizers and pesticides, improperly disposed household chemicals, and motor-vehicle fluids.

The management measures provide details about setting up a framework to manage urban pollution, including storm water management. Also included are subjects such as: watershed and site protection, new development, on-site wastewater treatment (septic) systems, transportation, construction, bridges and highways, construction site erosion, sediment, and chemical control, existing urban areas, pollution prevention, operation and maintenance and program evaluation.

[The guidebook is free and available online.](#)

Commission Taking Survey of Fishing Skills Education Programs

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is asking groups and individuals offering fishing skills education programs to [fill out a special survey](#).

From Boy Scouts to high schools, the PFBC estimates that hundreds of clubs, camps and schools present fishing skills workshops, classes and events. In an attempt to document the scope and frequency of these efforts, the PFBC is conducting an online survey through the end of January. The intent of the survey is inventory fishing skills programs and find out what support they need to continue to thrive and grow in Pennsylvania.

Survey participants will receive a 2006 Pennsylvania League of Angling Youth (PLAY) patch, featuring a yellow perch. The collectable patches have been produced annually since 1980.

For more information, visit the [Fishing Skills Education Survey webpage](#) or contact Carl Richardson at 717-705-7848 or send email to: crichardso@state.pa.us.



PA Energy News Website Provides Updates on Energy Issues in PA

The Pennsylvania Electric Power Generation Association has launched a new website—[PA Energy News](#)—designed to keep policymakers and the public up-to-date on energy issues affecting Pennsylvania.

The site contains links to critical energy news stories of the day, as well as articles that probe the facts behind energy stories, and state and national energy and environmental policies. It also contains a 'Special Features' section containing white papers, testimony, and analysis of key energy issues.

To subscribe to a daily list of energy related newsclips from PA Energy News, send an email to: johnkenn@comcast.net . A [weekly newsletter](#) is also available on the site.

For more information, visit the [PA Energy News website](#).

Solar Energy Leader Honored by Society of Women Environmental Professionals

Sarah Hetznecker, P.G., President of [Mesa Environmental Services, Inc.](#), is the winner of the 2005 Touchstone Award from the Society of Women Environmental Professionals.

SWEP's Touchstone Award is given annually to a woman who has made outstanding and significant contributions in the environmental professions.

Ms. Hetznecker is a hydrogeologist and licensed Professional Geologist who has worked in the environmental investigation, remediation and compliance industry for over 22 years.

Ms. Hetznecker is currently President of Mesa Environmental Sciences, Inc., a consulting firm she co-founded that specializes in customized solar photovoltaic system design and installation.

[One recent installation](#) involved installing [BP Solar panels](#) for a backup power system for the Governor's residence in Harrisburg funded by BP Products North America and the Sustainable Development Fund.

For more information, visit the [Society of Women Environmental Professionals website](#).

What's Your Carbon Footprint? Calculate Your Energy Use Impacts

In connection with its new carbonless/ low carbon energy initiative called [BP Alternative Energy](#), BP this week launched [an interactive calculator](#) that allows families to understand the environmental impacts of their energy use.

The calculator uses a profile of your household's energy use, use of green technologies and your transportation use to estimate the amount of carbon dioxide emitted in one year.

The average U.S. household emits 19 tons of CO₂ a year.

Scholarships for Women in Environmental Fields - Undergraduate and Graduate

The [Society of Women Environmental Professionals of Greater Philadelphia](#) is accepting applications until December 16 for two scholarships for women studying for environmental careers at Philadelphia area schools.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

\$1,500 will be awarded to an undergraduate woman who will start her junior year in the Fall of 2006. \$2,000 will be awarded to a woman who will start or continue graduate or law study in the Fall of 2006.

Both winners will also be welcomed as SWEP members and will have the opportunity to attend educational meetings and networking events with other SWEP members.

[The application is available online.](#)

SWEP is a national non-profit professional association of women involved or interested in environmental law, science, business, and policy.

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter serves as a resource for members in the Philadelphia region, providing opportunities for professional development through educational programming, social events, mentoring, and public service.

December Center for Environmental Education Newsletter Now Available

Pennsylvania Center for
Environmental Education



The Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education's [December newsletter, EE Connections](#), is now available online.

PCEE e-mails EE Connections free each month filled with news and information for the environmental education community. This month's issue includes—

- **PCEE News:** We're Moving Downtown, PCEE Wants to Know, Question of the Week Awards;
- **General EE News:** Governor Rendell Investing to Improve PA, Pittsburgh Mayor Appoints Clean Pittsburgh Commission Members, Chester County Recognizes Green Businesses, Winners of the 'Why I Love My Pennsylvania State Park' Children's Essay Contest, Pennsylvania Game Commission Offers 'Wild' Gift Giving Ideas, Placed-Based Education ~ New Edition;
- **K-12 News:** Students Learn How Trees Make Their Philadelphia Neighborhood A Better Place, A High School Stream Assessment, DCNR's Watershed Education Program, 2006 Arbor Day National Poster Contest, Free Environmental Education Posters, 2006 Junior Duck Art Contest, Winter Ecological Field Studies ~ Online;
- **Higher Education:** St. Vincent Environmental Education Center is 'On the Road Again,' Penn State Environmental Education and Interpretation Lab, New Course at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, RecycleMania Hits College Campuses in New EPA Recycling Competition;
- **Professional Development:** 2006 PAEE Conference, Environmental Issues Forum;
- **Grants/ Awards:** EETAP Offers Scholarship for Online Courses, Small Watershed Grants, 2006 AF&PA Recycling Awards, Rohm and Haas Company Grants, Captain Planet Foundation Grants

PCEE wants to thank all the organizations, agencies and individuals who provide EE services and share EE information from across Pennsylvania. If you would like to contribute to future EE Connections issues, please submit your article before the 15th of the month. Articles are to be of statewide interest. Inclusion in the newsletter is subject to space availability.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Due to the holiday schedule, the next issue of EE Connections will be coming to your email box in February.

For more information on the resources available through the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education, visit [PCEE online](#) or call 724-738-4555.

Environmental Question of the Week a Hit with Teachers, Students

Pennsylvania Center for
Environmental Education



The [Environmental Question of the Week feature](#) attracted over 37,000 hits on the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education's website last month from students and teachers anxious to learn more about the environment.

Each week a thought-provoking environmental question provides the focus for a learning exercise that is complete with background information, links to resources and its relationship to the Department of Education Environment and Ecology Standards.

This week's question about the benefits of winter bird feeding not only raises a timely issue, but provides links to good information on how almost anyone can help protect wildlife when the snow flies.

Starting in January, PCEE will begin an awards program to recognize schools, teachers and students for correct answers.

For more information, visit the [Question of the Week webpage](#).

New Web Gateway to PA Natural Diversity Inventory for Public, Professionals



A new online tool for screening the impact a proposed project will have on threatened and endangered species in Pennsylvania is now available on-line.

The [Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory database](#) will help consultants and developers save time and money and alert environmentalists to potential threats to certain animals and plants. Professionals using the site must register and acquire a user name and password. Applicants are required to coordinate with state and federal agencies about potential impacts to threatened and endangered species when they apply for an environmental permit in Pennsylvania.

Before the new system, a search of the database was completed by a government agency. A permit applicant or the general public can use the new PNDI Environmental Review Tool for a proposed project.

Project searches on the database that return no potential impacts can be expedited. Projects with potential impacts will require further coordination with the appropriate federal or state agency listed on the results of the review.

Anyone logging on to the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program website will receive information helping them access the new search forms, and read and interpret their results.

The heritage program, a partnership between the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy, collects and inventories data on Pennsylvania's native biological diversity.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

The heritage program is a part of [NatureServe](#), an international network of heritage programs.

Species tracked within the system are sorted by county and watershed and updated monthly. They include those listed as endangered, threatened or rare by DCNR, the Game Commission, Fish and Boat Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Also found are species recommended for such listing by the Pennsylvania Biological Survey, as well as natural community types and geologic features recommended by program ecologists and DCNR's Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey.

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program website](#).

EPA Accepting Air Innovations Grant Applications Through January 6

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is seeking proposals for two \$50,000 Innovations Grants for projects that reduce air pollution. Proposals are due January 6.

The program is designed to facilitate the implementation of new and innovative programs, technologies, and/or strategies, including non-traditional and voluntary measures for achieving additional air pollution emissions reductions. Proposed projects must include a mechanism to quantify emissions reductions, as well as a progress report mechanism.

Eligible applicants include states, international organizations, public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, other public or private nonprofit institutions.

For more information visit the [Air Innovations Grant Program webpage](#).

Making Water Supply Systems More Secure Topic of January 11 Seminar

The Pennsylvania Section of the American Water Works Association is sponsoring a seminar in Mayfield, in Northeast Pennsylvania, on how to make water supply systems more secure.

A variety of speakers will provide guidance on how to retrofit existing facilities or the design of new facilities to provide better physical security or reduce risks to public water supply systems.

The course qualifies for water operator course credits.

For more information and to register, visit the [PA Section-AWWA website](#) or contact Mike Snyder at 717-774-8870 or send email to: mikesnyder@paawwa.org .

HELP WANTED – Fish & Boat Commission Seeks Fisheries Biologists

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is looking for individuals interested in a career in fisheries management or fisheries research.

PFBC biologists conduct studies in fish pathology, fish culture, water chemistry and fish nutrition and conduct stream and impoundment surveys. They compile, analyze, and report technical data, and recommend how to preserve and enhance the state's aquatic resources.

PFBC fisheries professionals present aquatic resource information to the public and other professionals. Some also investigate the effect of water pollution on aquatic life, and

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

assist other state and federal agencies in establishing water quality criteria, conservation education and joint resource management.

As a minimum requirement, applicants must hold a bachelor's degree with a major in a biological science, including or supplemented by nine credits in aquatic biology, aquatic ecology, fisheries biology, or equivalent fields. Applicants must be residents of Pennsylvania and possess a current valid Pennsylvania driver's license.

Applications are being accepted by the State Civil Service Commission through February 17 to develop a list of qualified entry-level fisheries biologists. As positions within the agency open up, potential candidates will be drawn from this list.

Application forms and further information on the application process can be obtained from the [State Civil Service Commission website](#).

Information may also be obtained from State Civil Service Commission offices in Harrisburg at 717-783-3058 (Text Telephone: 717-772-2685), Philadelphia at 215-560-2253 (Text Telephone: 215-560-4367), or Pittsburgh at 412-565-7666 (Text Telephone: 412-565-2484.) Questions may also be addressed to the PFBC's Human Resources Office at 717-705-7820.

HELP WANTED – PA Conservation Districts Association Educator

The [Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts](#) is seeking a part-time Education Specialist. Applications are due December 31.

Duties include coordinating the mini-grants program and editorial review of products, writing articles, updating publications, and facilitating special events. Candidate must be well organized. Strong communication skills essential. Some committee work and travel required. \$20-22/hr.

Please forward letter of interest, resume and an original writing sample (no more than 1,200 words) by December 31 to: PACD, 25 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101. No walk-ins or phone calls please.

Feature – Honoring Excellence

DRBC Honors Pioneering Ecologist Dr. Ruth Patrick



The Delaware River Basin Commission this week named its to-be-developed office building courtyard the "[Ruth Patrick River Garden](#)" in honor of the world-renowned environmental scientist and Philadelphia resident.

"[Dr. Ruth Patrick's](#) outstanding career with The Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia has spanned seven decades and her work has set the standard for how the environmental health of rivers and streams is evaluated," DRBC Chairman Kevin C. Donnelly said.

Donnelly, who represents Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner on the federal-interstate commission, added, "We are thrilled to have Dr. Patrick join us today as we recognize her extensive contributions to riverine science and management."

The commission also released a concept design plan to improve the courtyard at the mid-day ceremony held at its West Trenton headquarters.

“This design plan, which was shaped by comments received from DRBC staff, highlights the Delaware River Basin and will provide an opportunity for visitors to enjoy the space while learning about the watershed environment,” DRBC Executive Director Carol R. Collier said. “Naming this planned courtyard makeover the ‘Ruth Patrick River Garden’ is a fitting tribute to a pioneer whose work in the Delaware River Basin dates back to 1945.”

Dr. Patrick in the 1940s developed a new scientific method to assess the health of freshwater systems (lakes, streams, and rivers) involving the study of changes in abundance and diversity of plants, animals, and bacteria as a way to measure the impact of pollution and natural changes. She was one of only a handful of female ecologists at the time and her method is still used today.

Born in Kansas, she has lived and worked in the Delaware River Basin her entire professional career. Dr. Patrick has been associated with [The Academy of Natural Sciences](#) since 1933 and continues to spend time in her office there every day.

In 1947, she founded the Academy’s Limnology Department, now called [the Patrick Center for Environmental Research](#), for the study of freshwater bodies. She is currently the Francis Boyer Chair of Limnology at the Academy and the honorary chair of its Board of Trustees.

Dr. Patrick is the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and awards, including the National Medal of Science, the nation’s top science award, which she received from President Bill Clinton in 1996.

DRBC staff is exploring options to fund the construction costs of the planned courtyard redevelopment, expected to total over \$200,000 according to preliminary estimates.

“The commission is not in the position to finance this project with its limited resources, and since we are a regulatory agency, we are unable to accept donations from some private and public organizations who may wish to contribute to this project honoring Dr. Patrick,” Collier said. “We are hoping to identify a nonprofit organization that might be willing to serve as a collector of donations which could then be provided to DRBC in one sum.”

For more information, visit the [Delaware River Basin Commission website](#) and called [the Patrick Center for Environmental Research](#) .

Opinion

Pennsylvania Leads Again – Building a Sustainable Industry from Sustainable Energy

By Brent Alderfer
President and CEO Community Energy Inc.

Pennsylvania has always led the way in energy. By the year 1761, coal was being extracted to provide light and heat for hundreds of citizens in Pennsylvania, making the state a center of the original industrial revolution. In the year 1859, an



Exelon – Community Energy
Wind Farm, Somerset County

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

oil well in Titusville, Pennsylvania initiated the boom of the modern petroleum industry.

Again, in the early 1900s, the Keystone state established effective methods of transmitting and burning natural gas and constructed the first long distance natural gas pipeline in the U.S. These energy industries have created jobs, fueled the economy, and improved standards of living in Pennsylvania and throughout the country.

As a pioneer in various aspects of the evolution of the energy industry in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries, Pennsylvania has proven its ability to not only adapt and respond as innovative technology becomes available, but to step up and be a leader in embracing new discoveries and promote the sensible. It is now the 21st century and Pennsylvania is flexing its leadership muscles once again.

Imagine a 400 foot turbine with its white rotor blades that can reach higher than the Statue of Liberty's outstretched arm. Imagine power without fuel at a fixed stable price. Pennsylvania and its citizens are about to embark on the next major energy industry, an industry that utilizes an infinite and clean source: wind.

Right now, our state has 6 [existing wind farms](#) and 129 Megawatts (MW) of power already on line. With one 20 MW farm, a \$40 million dollar project, slated for the end of the year at Bear Creek and 4 more proposed for 2006, we'll have a total of 338 MW of power coming from within our state and integrated into the PJM regional transmission grid.

As for Pennsylvania's residents, they have stepped up to the plate, challenging government officials to promote other energy sources and even choosing the option to purchase wind energy through their utility company.

Together, Pennsylvania and its citizens are contributing to the development of even more wind. In fact, Pennsylvania produces the most Megawatts from wind energy of all states east of the Mississippi.

Pennsylvania is slowly diversifying the state's fuel mix towards more renewable sources that improve our environment and the economy. The environmental aspect is obvious, but the economic one may seem a mystery, at least for some states, but not in Pennsylvania.

Gamesa, one of the largest global manufacturers and suppliers of technologically advanced products, installations, and services in the renewable energy sector, has chosen Cambria County, Pennsylvania to produce wind turbines for distribution throughout the U.S. Thanks to the leadership of the Governor and Secretary McGinty, Pennsylvania won the stiff competition for this valuable industry participant.

The strong market for wind energy established over the past several years provides support for the growing industry. By buying wind energy, Pennsylvania residents will make possible a wind farm that will use Gamesa's cutting edge technology and will help make high-paying manufacturing jobs available.

Pennsylvania, once again, leads the way. The most exciting aspect of all of this is the future. We have the opportunity to build this new industry and to see it thrive and grow here in Pennsylvania and nationally.

With wind, we've taken the lead by completing the circle necessary to launch a new industry, from manufacturing through development, to marketing. Pennsylvania already leads in manufacturing, projects, and customers and now has the opportunity to grow into a leadership role in financing, services, and smart public policy.

When community and government officials think forward and embrace a new twist in the energy industry as they have yet again in the Keystone state, everyone winds.

[Community Energy Inc.](#) was founded in 1999 to develop fuel-free renewable energy and has become a leader in the rapidly expanding market for wind energy.

Article is from the Department of Environmental Protection's Update "[Topic of the Month](#)."

Winter Safety Tips

PEMA Urges Winter Weather Preparedness at Home, Traveling

Winter can be a beautiful time of year in Pennsylvania, but downed power lines, ice storms, frozen water pipes and blizzards can turn peaceful settings into dangerous situations at home and on the road.

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency says it's important to prepare for winter weather before it strikes and offers these tips.

At home during a winter storm, PEMA recommends having drinking water, a first-aid kit, canned/no-cook food, a non-electric can opener, battery-powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries available in an easily-accessible place. If prescription or over-the-counter medicines are needed, get an extra supply.

Also, know how public warnings are issued on radio and television and learn what each kind of broadcast weather alert means. For example:

- "Winter weather advisory" means weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous, especially to motorists;
- "Winter storm watch" means be alert, a storm is likely;
- "Winter storm warning" means take action, a storm is in, or entering, the area; and
- "Blizzard warning" means snow and strong winds will produce near-zero visibility, deep drifts, and life-threatening wind chill -- seek refuge immediately.

To keep warm at home--

- Dress in several layers of loosely fitting, lightweight, warm clothing. Outer garments, like hats, mittens, scarves, and boots, should be tightly woven and water-repellent.
- Properly insulate walls and attics. Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows. Install storm windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside. Protect pipes by wrapping them in insulation and let faucets drip to prevent freezing.
- Fireplace and wood stove chimneys should be inspected annually to make sure the residue left by burning wood has not accumulated.
- Consider buying emergency heating equipment, such as a wood- or coal-burning stove or kerosene heater, as a backup.
- Keep kerosene and propane heaters at least three feet away from combustible substances, like furniture, blankets and rugs. Never substitute one type of fuel for another.
- Run generators outside only. Open windows and fans do not provide enough ventilation to prevent the build-up of carbon monoxide.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Traveling with winter in mind--

- Avoid driving during a winter storm or blizzard warning. If travel is necessary, do it in daylight and don't travel alone.
- Keep cars and other vehicles fueled and in good repair.
- Make sure batteries, ignition systems, thermostats, lights, flashers, exhausts, heaters, brakes, defrosters and tires of vehicles are working. Check antifreeze, windshield washer fluid and oil levels.
- Pack a shovel, ice scraper, flashlight, battery-powered radio, extra batteries, water, snacks, hats and mittens, blankets, tow chains or ropes, road salt and sand, booster cables, emergency flares and a fluorescent distress flag in vehicles.
- Drive only at speeds dictated by conditions and increase distances between vehicles.
- Share travel schedules and routes and stay on main roads. Carry a cell phone.

For more information, visit the [PEMA website](#).

Quick Clips

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

[RecycleBank Program Spreading Its Wings](#)

[Landfill – From Trash Heap to Cash Cow for Community](#)

[Not All Deer Hunters Happy](#)

[Groups Examine Changing Laws for Controlling Deer Herds](#)

[Old Industrial Sites Being Brought Back to Life](#)

[20 Companies to Pay to Help Dump Site Cleanup](#)

[Clarion University to Build Environment-Friendly Science Center](#)

[Governments Wonder Whether Hybrid Cars Are Worth It](#)

[Cheap Heat Idea Bubbling in Deep Fryer](#)

[Air Products Boosting Hydrogen](#)

[AWWA Uses PA's Partnership for Safe Water as National Model](#)

[Pittsburgh Names Ninth Street Bridge After Rachel Carson](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Hellbenders – Prehistoric Creatures Living Right in PA](#)

[Editorial: Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Starts Here \(Sunbury\)](#)

[Cattle Feeding Plan Takes A Bite Out of Farm Nutrients](#)

[Federal Farm Bill Conservation Spending Bypasses Bay States](#)

[PA American Receives EPA Partnership for Safe Water Award](#)

[Earth Conservancy Seeks to Rid Community of Eyesore](#)

[Cleanup Plan Approved for Reuse of Hazleton Mine Site](#)

[Butler County Mine Site Reclamation Gets Underway](#)

[Acid Mine Drainage Still a Major Issue](#)

[German Design Firm Works with Nine Mile Run Group](#)

[Editorial: Little Juniata River Deserves Public Use](#)

[Lack of Funds Cited for Watershed Cleanups](#)

[Ramsey Run Project Paying Off](#)

[New Moon Nursery Offers Plants “From the Water... to the Woods”](#)

Regulations

The Department of Environmental Protection has cancelled the Mercury Rule Work Group meeting for December 16 and postponed consideration of an outline of a Pennsylvania mercury rule. The Independent Regulatory Review Commission [received a final regulation](#) from the Environmental Quality Board making changes to hazardous waste regulations.

December EQB Agenda Includes Storage Tank, New Source Review Regs

The [December 20 Environmental Quality Board meeting](#) includes a comprehensive set of changes to Storage Tank regulations and revisions to New Source Review that will affect 700 sources of air emissions. Quick summaries follow—

Proposed Regulation - Storage Tank Program Amendment– This package includes comprehensive as well as and minor editorial changes to Chapter 245 that affects approximately 7,900 tank owners or operators of over 43,000 currently regulated storage tanks.

The Storage Tank Advisory Committee (STAC) was involved in the development and review of the proposed rulemaking and voted to support all administrative and technical provisions of the proposal, except for tank registration fee increases, which they opposed.

As a result of recent amendments to the Storage Tank Act prohibiting the department from adjusting registration fees until January 1, 2010, the fee increases were removed from the draft proposed rulemaking.

DEP recommends a 60-day comment period.

Proposed Regulation – New Source Review - The proposed rule amends 25 Pa. Code Chapter 121 (relating to general provisions), and Chapter 127 (relating to construction, modification, reactivation and operation of sources) to revise the existing NSR regulation to incorporate certain changes required by the U.S. EPA and to revise the State Implementation Plan.

DEP said the amendments are “reasonably necessary” to achieve and maintain the national ambient air quality standards including the 8-hour ozone and fine particulate standards and to avoid the imposition of discretionary and mandatory sanctions under the federal Clean Air Act.

The proposed amendments will affect approximately 700 major facility operator/owners of major air contamination sources affected by the special permitting requirements of 25 Pa. Code Chapter 127.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

The Citizen Advisory Counsel Air Committee and the Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee discussed the draft and voted to advance the proposed rulemaking to EQB.

As noted in the Preamble and in their review letters, CAC and AQTAC would like to see public comment taken on several issues including: a 5-year or 10-year look-back; plant wide applicability limits (PAL), whether the severe ozone nonattainment area provisions should be included for the 5-county Philadelphia area; demand growth exclusion; differences from the federal requirements; de minimus aggregation and the advanced clean coal technology provision.

DEP recommends a 60-day comment period with three public hearings.

For more information about the agenda, contact DEP Regulatory Coordinator Marge Hughes at 717-783-6395.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – December 10, 2005](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Fish and Boat Commission published notice of [2006 changes to the list of Class A Wild Trout Waters](#) with comments due January 9. Streams in Blair, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Elk, Clearfield, Luzerne, Potter, Cameron, Schuylkill and Tioga are being considered.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- [Schedule of Upcoming No Cost Training Courses](#)
- **December 12** – DEP Listening Session on [Interim Final Nutrient Trading Policy](#). [Lancaster Farm and Home Center](#). 6:00 p.m..
- **December 12** – Environmental Issues Forum – PA Recycling Markets Development Center, [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#).
- **December 13** – Hearing by the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy and Transportation Committees on Vehicle Emission Standards.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

- **December 13** - House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee will consider [Senate Bill 723](#) (Wenger-R-Lancaster) making changes to definition of eligible entity in the Agricultural Security Law and [House Bill 671](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) related to responsibilities of county farmland preservation boards.
- **December 13** – House Game & Fisheries Committee to consider [House Bill 1757](#) (George-D-Clearfield) naming the Fish Dam Wild Area in Clinton County as the Russell P. Letterman Wild Area.
- **December 13** – **CANCELLED** - DEP [Storage Tank Advisory Committee](#) meeting.
- **December 14** – Senate Local Government Committee will consider [House Bill 893](#) (Sommel-R-Berks) changing procedures for shutting off water for nonpayment of sewage bills
- **December 15- CANCELLED** - [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#) meeting to consider outline of mercury emission reduction rule.
- **December 15** – Independent Regulatory Review Commission meeting to consider Practice and Procedures Regulations of the [Environmental Hearing Board](#).
- **December 15** – [Rachel Carson Forum](#) – Water Credit Trading. RCB Auditorium.
- **December 16- CANCELLED** - DEP [Mercury Rule Work Group](#) meeting to consider outline of mercury emission reduction rule.
- **December 16** – [PA Energy Development Authority meeting in Harrisburg](#).
- **December 20** – [Environmental Quality Board meeting](#).
- **December 20** – DEP Critical Water Planning Area Subcommittee, [State Water Plan Statewide Committee](#) meeting.
- **January 1** – Forestry Task Force Meeting (Joint Legislative Conservation Committee) in State College.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

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

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

[DCNR Resource Magazine](#) [DCNR Press Releases](#)

[Fish & Boat Commission Press Releases](#) [Game Commission Press Releases](#)

Stories Invited

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

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

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Photo: No, it's not an ice monster or a frozen waterfall, but the beauty of treated water coming from the Penn Hills 2 Project by the [Blacklick Creek Watershed Association](#).
(Thanks to Bob Eppley for sending the photo.)

Visit the [Professional Services Directory](#) and [Events Calendar](#)