

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

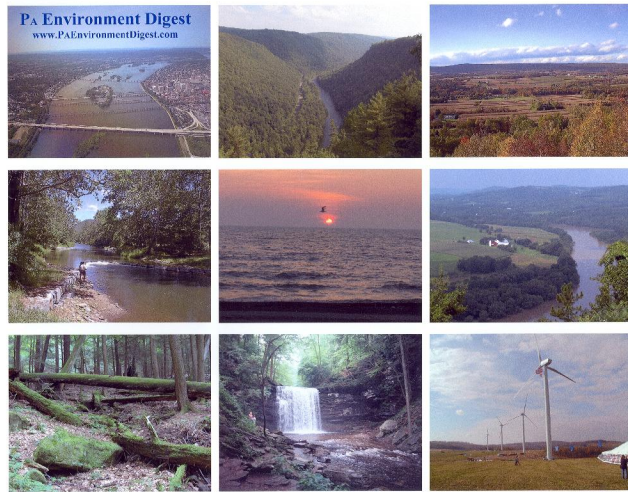
Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

December 27, 2004

Our Gift to You – Pennsylvania’s Environment Desktop 2004

To help celebrate the beauty and diversity of Pennsylvania’s environment, *PA Environment Digest* is pleased to provide you with this gift.

Taken from the four corners of Pennsylvania, this collage of photographs represents just a peek into the beauty of our state, restoration efforts underway and the new green technologies that are part of Pennsylvania’s Environment today.



Use the photo for the wallpaper on your computer as a daily reminder of what’s good about Pennsylvania’s environment and how we’ve taken positive steps to restore and protect it.

For a copy, just email us at: DHess@HolstonCrisci.com .

How can you take positive action to protect the environment? Check out [What’s Your Environmental Footprint?](#) and read “Taking Positive Action” below.

(And just for fun, send your guesses on where each photo was taken to: DHess@HolstonCrisci.com . The answers will be in a future Digest.)

Contents – On the Hill

- Instant Replay: 2004 Environmental Legislative Accomplishments
- Rendell Offers Mid-Term Assessment of Accomplishments
- **Op-Ed:** Pennsylvania's Environment Remains Top Priority -- By Rep. Bill Adolph
- Fumo’s Mid-Year Review of Budget, Urges Transfer to Hazardous Sites Fund
- Rendell to Call Special Mass Transit Session of General Assembly

Other News

- Next Round of Growing Greener Watershed Grant Applications Due in March
- Apply Now for Small Watershed Grants from Fish & Boat Commission
- Alt Retires From Pennsylvania Game Commission
- 15 Projects Approved Thru Business In Our Sites, Including Brownfields

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

- Latest on Green Buildings from the Green Building Alliance in Pittsburgh
- Nominations Now Being Accepted for 2005 Preservation Pennsylvania Awards
- Quick Clips: Renewable Energy, Hybrid Cars, State Forest Cleanups, Students, Open space, Author's Work
- Instant Replay: Most Significant Environmental Headlines of 2004
- Governor, Cabinet Officials Get 5.2 Percent Cost of Living Increase
- PEMA Urges Winter Weather Preparedness

Taking Positive Actions

- Meet Our “**Forces of Nature**” for 2004, Follow the Leaders into a Green 2005

On the Hill

Instant Replay: 2004 Environmental Legislative Accomplishments

More than a dozen environmental initiatives were approved by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor in 2004. Here's a quick rundown on what was accomplished this year.

Brownfields Redevelopment: [Senate Bill 1026](#) (LaValle-D-Beaver) and [Senate Bill 10](#) (Brightbill-R-Lebanon) authorized the Governor's [Economic Stimulus Package](#) to create a new Commonwealth Financing Authority to provide over \$1 billion to programs like Business in Our Sites and community revitalization efforts to redevelop existing brownfield sites, build new infrastructure facilities and restore older communities. Also passed was [House Bill 500](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) creating the Elm Street Program to promote residential neighborhood development in older communities and [Senate Bill 778](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) creating the Keystone Innovation Zone Program to promote economic development around colleges and universities.

Sewer/Wastewater Funding: Voters approved a \$250 million bond issue to fund water and sewage system improvements. The General Assembly then passed [Senate Bill 1102](#) (Gordner-R-Northumberland) authorizing the use of that money, plus \$100 million more, with specific provisions to fund nutrient reduction technologies that will benefit the Chesapeake Bay and other watersheds.

Manure Hauler Certification: [House Bill 1809](#) (Egolf-R-Perry) creating a commercial manure hauler and broker certification program in the Department of Agriculture was signed into law. The legislation is designed to help make sure manure is applied to land in Pennsylvania in compliance with nutrient management program requirements, especially manure coming in from other states.

Watershed Education Program: [House Bill 2775](#) (Zug-R-Lebanon) creates a Watershed Education Program within the Department of Education to provide grants to school districts and environmental education centers to support watershed education efforts.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Advanced Energy Portfolio: [Senate Bill 1030](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware, and Ross-R-Chester in the House) which requires electric distributors and generators that sell directly to retail customers to have 18 percent of the energy they sell be from renewable or sources other than coal and nuclear power by 2019.

Alternative Fuels/Energy Financing: [Senate Bill 255](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) making changes to the Alternative Fuels Incentive Program to include stationary power projects. The bill also authorizes a one-time \$10 million transfer to the Energy Development Authority that was included in this year's budget.

Guarantee Energy Savings: [House Bill 1996](#) (Adolph-R-Delaware) was signed into law by Gov. Rendell which provides school districts and local governments with new options for saving energy through guaranteed energy savings contracts.

Senior Environment Corps: [Senate Bill 1041](#) (Pippy-R-Allegheny) establishing the Senior Environment Corps Program in law within the departments of Aging and Environmental Protection.

Forestland Beautification: [House Bill 2227](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) authorizing the Governor to take \$500,000 from the Recycling, Solid Waste Abatement or the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund to provide monies for the Forestland Beautification Program in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Dumping Penalty: [House Bill 2029](#) (Cruz-D-Philadelphia) became law providing penalties for illegal dumping in Philadelphia to include a penalty of six month suspension of driving privileges.

Fishing License Increase: [House Bill 2155](#) (B.Smith-R-York) increased fees for fishing and boating licenses and permits. The bill also includes new forms of licenses and permits including a Lake Erie stamp, a combo Lake Erie/Trout stamp and charter boat/fishing guide permits.

Environmental Heritage: [Senate Resolution 324](#), sponsored by Sen. Earll (R-Erie), Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) and others, encouraging the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to create a special Conservation Heritage Initiative to recognize the citizens, events and historically significant places in Pennsylvania that have contributed to the environmental heritage of the Commonwealth and the United States.

Multi-Municipal Planning: [House Bill 796](#) (Marsico-D-Dauphin) became law extending multi-municipal land use planning to municipalities that are not contiguous, but are contained within one school district.

Mass Transit Districts: [House Bill 994](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) authorizes the creation of public transportation districts to work cooperatively with counties, local governments, transportation authorities, the private sector, AMTRAK and other providers of public transportation and passenger rail services.

Coal & Gas Coordination: [House Bill 2804](#) (Hutchinson-R-Venango) amends the Coal and Gas Resource Coordination Act by removing the requirement that a gas well must be located at least 330 feet from the boundary of the tract on which it is located. It also removes the section of the Act relating to exceptions to the 330 foot requirement, since exceptions won't be required.

2004-05 Budget Initiatives: The other significant piece of legislation passed this year dealing with the environment was the budget of course. Could we forget those marathon sessions?

The General Assembly gave Gov. Rendell what he wanted in terms of basic funding for the departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources that included other items like: \$10 million to start the pay back of \$100 million borrowed from the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund in 2002; restoring \$350,000 in funding for the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education, \$300,000 for the Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps and funding for a statewide toll-free citizen compliant hotline.

Overall, DEP's budget was about \$2.8 million higher than in 2003-04 and included a \$7.5 million Safe Water line item for miscellaneous water and sewer projects, \$6.8 million for scrap tire cleanup grants, \$450,000 more for county conservation districts, \$507,000 more for the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, \$250,000 more for the Delaware River Basin Commission, \$250,000 for mushroom nutrient management, and it folded funding from the old Office of Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance into the general Environmental Protection line item.

DCNR saw an overall \$2 million increase in its budget, however, there was a \$4 million decrease in the Heritage Parks Program, a \$4 million increase in State Park Operations, a \$1 million increase for recreation trails and a \$707,000 increase in State Forest Operations.

Next week: Environmental Issues Left on the Table

Rendell Offers Mid-Term Assessment of Accomplishments

Gov. Rendell offered his own [assessment of his first two years in office](#) highlighting three main accomplishments: increased funding for education, property tax relief through slots legislation and the economic stimulus package to rebuild communities.

In addition to increasing PACE/PACENET prescription drug coverage and reducing the cost of state government, Rendell highlighted the Advanced Energy Portfolio Standards passed in November first in his list of major environmental accomplishments.

Looking ahead to next year, Rendell told reporters he would push his Growing Greener II environmental spending initiatives that included more than \$150 million in new fees on waste and emissions produced by households and businesses.

Other environmental accomplishments mentioned by Rendell included:

- Providing \$5 million of Growing Greener funds to expand the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to the Ohio River basin;

- Receiving a National Award of Merit from dam safety officials for advocating additional federal funding to fix unsafe and dangerous dams and forcing 256 dam owners to comply with DEP requirements to submit emergency plans;
- Successfully attracting Gamesa, a Spanish windmill manufacturing firm, to Pennsylvania with the potential of creating 1,000 jobs;
- Improved response to hazmat incidents through grants to 58 counties; and
- Preserving the 2,500th farm through Pennsylvania's Farmland Preservation Program.

Op-Ed: Pennsylvania's Environment Remains Top Priority

By Rep. Bill Adolph

Majority Chairman, House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee



I, and my colleagues in the House and Senate, remain committed to addressing Pennsylvania's environmental problems. There have been some people who think the Legislature failed to act on efforts to place a Growing Greener enhancement bond on the upcoming spring primary election ballot. However, that is simply not the case.

On July 4, 2004, Republican leaders wrote Gov. Ed Rendell to express their intention to form the Green Ribbon Commission. The governor agreed to the idea. The commission was formed with both Republican and Democratic members from the House, Senate and the administration.

The Green Ribbon Commission is designed to examine our environmental programming and funding options. As co-chairman of the commission and, in cooperation with co-chairman Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango), we have attempted to establish a fair and open record regarding needs of the Growing Greener program and the impacts of the proposed methods to pay for those needs.

We view this commission as a prudent way to ensure we have all the facts before committing any taxpayer money. This in no way should be viewed as feet dragging, as some have suggested. There is much disagreement over exactly how much future bond debt the taxpayers of Pennsylvania should be asked to shoulder, and whether it is appropriate to adopt the taxes and fees proposed by the governor to fund expansion of the Growing Greener program. However, we believe that common ground can be found.

The Green Ribbon Commission has not yet finished its work. Ensuring environmental quality and how to fund it is not an easy task. We are making progress and hopefully, we will have a cooperatively developed a plan of action in our upcoming legislative session.

In fact, during the last months of this legislative session, Gov. Rendell publicly stated that Growing Greener was not an end of session priority because, "*we have time to get a question on the spring ballot,*" and we do. The governor also made it clear that his sine die environmental priority was the enactment of the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards legislation.

This legislation was passed by the General Assembly and signed by the governor. In fact, several other pieces of environmental legislation were also enacted but received little attention. These include: extending funding to clean up illegal waste dumps in state

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

parcs and forests, establishing the Senior Environmental Corps Program and setting up a comprehensive Chesapeake Bay Environmental education program.

We have also not lost sight of a very important program - the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program. During this year's budget negotiations, the General Assembly proposed additional funding for this program. This is certainly a notable program which requires full funding. I am confident a compromise will be found.

It is important to understand the legislature did not say "no" to an expanded Growing Greener. If that were the case, there would not be a Green Ribbon Commission and no further efforts would be extended to examine our environmental programming and funding options. Instead, what we are doing is making sure that our environmental dollars go to the right places to do the most effective job.

Republicans recognize the need for a long-term commitment to the Commonwealth's environmental needs. That's why in 1999, then-Republican Gov. Tom Ridge developed the original Growing Greener program. In 2002, the General Assembly, recognizing the need for a longer term commitment to this program enacted dedicated funding for the Growing Greener program through the year 2012. This represents a 13 year over \$1.2 billion investment. Approximately \$700 million still remains to flow into Growing Greener between now and 2012.

As chairman of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, and as co-chairman of the Green Ribbon Commission, I have more than a passing interest in the state's environmental problems. These are issues that I care deeply about. I believe it is important to make sure we have all the information and to take the time to do this right the first time. To think anything to the contrary would be misreading the facts.

Rep. Bill Adolph (R-Delaware), Majority Chairman of the House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee, represents the 165th legislative District in Delaware County.

Fumo's Mid-Year Review of Budget, Urges Transfer to Hazardous Sites Fund

The state budget will finish the year with a budget surplus of around \$500 million, according to Sen. Vince Fumo (D-Philadelphia), Democratic Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He made the assessment as part of his own mid-year budget review.

Fumo said the Governor's Budget Office assessment of economic conditions "accentuated the negatives," although he recognized the economy was "sluggish" compared to the 1990's.

Commenting on the Governor's Growing Greener II proposal, Fumo recommended the Administration use the authority they have to transfer funds into the Hazardous Sites Clean Up Fund to provide a funding bridge.

"What the administration fails to mention is Section 602.3 of the Tax Reform Code, which states that in presenting his proposed budget for the upcoming year, if the Governor expects the current year's closing balance for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund to fall below \$5 million, then he "shall authorize" the Budget Secretary to transfer an amount equivalent to 0.25 mills of the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax from the General Fund to HSCF in the upcoming fiscal year," Fumo said. "Although this trigger

will not affect HSCF's current year fund balance, it may help the program limp along until the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax is phased out at the end of 2010."

Rendell to Call Special Mass Transit Session of General Assembly

Gov. Rendell [announced stopgap funding for mass transit systems](#) across Pennsylvania and also said he would be calling the General Assembly into special session on January 17 to consider a permanent solution to transit funding difficulties.

It was not immediately clear if the 17th was going to be the actual start of the special session because it is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

In Other News

Next Round of Growing Greener Watershed Grant Applications Due in March

The Department of Environmental Protection announced this week it will accept applications for watershed restoration and protection grants for the seventh year of Growing Greener.

The deadline to apply is March 4. Visit the [Growing Greener Grant Center](#) online for more information.



Since 1999, Growing Greener has supplied \$156 million in grants for more than 1,400 projects in all 67 counties of Pennsylvania. The grants are used to create or restore wetlands, restore stream buffer zones, eliminate causes of nonpoint source pollution, plug oil and gas wells, reclaim abandoned mine lands, and restore aquatic life to streams that were lifeless due to acid mine drainage.

For the upcoming grant round, DEP will invest in projects that seek to address nonpoint source pollution, such as abandoned mine drainage, urban and agricultural runoff, atmospheric deposition, on-lot sewage systems and earth-moving activities.

Eligible projects could include reducing nonpoint source pollution in watersheds where streams are impaired; designing practices and activities that support water quality trading initiatives; integrating stormwater management and flood protection into watershed management; encouraging the beneficial use of abandoned mine pool water; and integrating air deposition controls and management with mitigating water quality problems.

So far this year, DEP has announced a total of \$24.3 million in Growing Greener grants: [\\$5.5 million watershed grants](#); [\\$3.9 million to support watershed specialists](#) in county conservation districts and [\\$5 million for the Crop Reserve Enhancement Program](#). About \$4.4 million (10 percent minimum) is reserved to fund innovative sewer and water projects, but DEP has not yet announced these projects.

About \$15.8 million remains to be allocated from Growing Greener funding by DEP for its own mine reclamation and well plugging projects and for the Administration's plan to accelerate the payback of previous Growing Greener grants. A portion of the Energy Harvest Program grants also came from this year's Growing Greener allocation.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

For FY 2004-05, DEP earmarked the \$34.6 million in Growing Greener funding this way: \$21.232 million for Watershed Protection and Remediation; \$2.1 million for Oil and Gas Well Plugging; \$ 6.9 million Abandoned Mine Reclamation and Remediation; and \$4.465 million for Sewage and Drinking Water Grants.

Funding for the original Growing Greener Program continues from the \$4 per ton fee on municipal waste through 2012.

DEP received nearly 450 applications for watershed restoration and protection projects in 2004.

Apply Now for Small Watershed Grants from Fish & Boat Commission

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is encouraging eligible organizations to apply for funding through the [Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program](#) for projects to protect and improve watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay basin.

The deadline for applications is February 4.

Eligible applicants include either non-profit 501 (c) organizations or local governments. This includes entities such as counties, townships, cities, boroughs, conservation districts, planning districts, utility districts, or other units of local government within Pennsylvania's portions of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The purpose of the grants program is to address the water quality and living resource needs of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. The Small Watershed Grants Program has been designed to encourage the development and sharing of innovative ideas among the many organizations wishing to be involved in watershed protection activities.

The program is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Program.

The Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program looks to support communities in developing and implementing watershed management plans and encourage innovative, locally-based programs or projects that improve water quality and restore important habitats within the Chesapeake Bay basin.

The program is designed to develop the capacity of local governments, citizens groups and other organizations to promote community based stewardship and enhance local watershed management. By encouraging environmentally sensitive development, land conservation and sound land use planning, the grants can help promote a greater understanding of the Chesapeake Bay and the interrelationship between the health of the Bay and the condition of local watersheds.

To be eligible for consideration for a 2005 grant, a project must 1) support the development or implementation of local watershed management plans that address the water quality and living resource needs in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem or 2) promote locally based protection and restoration efforts that complement watershed management strategies. In addition, projects must also directly address at least one of the following:

- Restore, enhance, and protect the finfish, shellfish, and other living resources, their habitats, and ecological relationships to sustain all fisheries and provide for a balanced ecosystem.
- Preserve, protect, and restore those habitats and natural areas that are vital to the survival and diversity of the living resources of the Bay and its rivers.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

- Achieve and maintain the water quality necessary to support the aquatic living resources of the Bay and its tributaries and to protect human health.
- Develop, promote, and achieve sound land use practices which protect and restore watershed resources and water quality, maintain reduced pollutant loadings for the Bay and its tributaries, and restore and preserve aquatic living resources.
- Promote individual stewardship and assist individuals, community-based organizations, businesses, local governments, and schools to undertake initiatives to achieve the goals and commitments of the agreement.

Under last year's program, 93 projects from across the Bay watershed received funding; 26 grants totaling nearly \$1 million went to Pennsylvania projects. Grants ranged in size from \$5,000 to \$50,000, and also included Community Legacy Grants of up to \$100,000. The average grant award will be between \$25,000 and \$35,000. Under the 2005 [Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program](#), grants of up to \$50,000 will again be awarded on a competitive basis to support projects that meet the guidelines.

Alt Retires From Pennsylvania Game Commission

Dr. Gary Alt, Pennsylvania Game Commission Deer Management Section Supervisor, submitted a letter announcing his retirement effective December 31.

In acknowledging Dr. Alt's retirement, Game Commission Executive Director Vern Ross noted that the job of deer management section supervisor was not an easy task.

"Gary took on a difficult job trying to manage Pennsylvania's most controversial big game species," Ross said. "It was perhaps the most challenging job in the state, and there was no way anyone in his position could please everyone. Hunters see too few deer, while landowners, such as farmers and foresters, state there are too many deer.

"There are a lot of people out there who think that they could do this job. What they don't realize is that not many people could last more than a few months due to the competing viewpoints. Dr. Alt stood up to the challenge for more than five years."

Ross also noted that Dr. Alt did a tremendous job of trying to get the message out to Pennsylvanians about the need for balancing the deer with its habitat.

"For three years, Dr. Alt traveled across Pennsylvania to meet with hunters and nonhunters, as well as the news media, to explain the reasons and rationale behind the changes he was proposing for deer management," Ross said.

"It was because of this effort, I believe, he was able to gain the support for antler restrictions, the concurrent rifle deer season and the Deer Management Assistance Program from hunters, legislators, landowners and other wildlife enthusiasts."

In August 1999, Dr. Gary Alt accepted the appointment to head-up the Commission's new Deer Management Section in the Bureau of Wildlife Management. Besides being an avid deer hunter for 36 years, he worked at the Game Commission's deer check stations in the late 1970s and has annually collected deer data for the Game Commission's deer management program for the past 23 years. He also has filmed and photographed deer in the wild and in captivity for more than 10 years to organize a "Natural History of White-Tailed Deer" slide lecture, which he has presented at numerous sports shows and public events.

Dr. Alt joined the agency in June of 1977, and headed-up the agency's bear management program. During that time period, Dr. Alt launched groundbreaking

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

research into bear biology that help guide bear management to this day. He remained in this position until taking over the deer program in 1999.

Dr. Alt earned his doctorate in Forest Resources Science from West Virginia University. Additionally, he earned a Master of Science Degree in Wildlife Management from Penn State University, a Bachelor's Degree in Wildlife Science from Utah State University and an Associate's Degree in Wildlife Technology from Penn State University's DuBois Campus.

Dr. Alt is a freelance nature photographer and lecturer. During his free time, he leads natural history and photographic tours in Canada, Alaska, the western United States and Africa. He has narrated and hosted an award-winning video documentary, and presented more than 1,000 lectures on bear, deer and other wildlife management topics.

Dr. Alt has received numerous honors and awards recognizing his professional achievements. Among the awards are an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from Wilkes University; Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation's Pennsylvania Outstanding Conservation Professional; an Alumni Fellow Award from the Penn State University Alumni Association; the Pennsylvania Forestry Association's Roe S. Cochran Award for natural resource education; the Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation's and Audubon Pennsylvania's first-ever Lenny Green/Inky Moore Conservation Educator Award, which was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission; a Northeast Environmental Partnership Award from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, for his efforts to conserve and protect the environment; Outdoor Life magazine's Public Service Conservation Award for his work in deer management; and Safari Club International's Conservation Award, the highest recognition an individual can receive from SCI for service in the field of wildlife conservation and hunters' rights.

In 2003, Dr. Alt was awarded the Quality Deer Management Association's Professional Deer Manager of the Year Award, which recognizes the professional biologist or manager who, in their position, has done the most to promote the principles and practices of quality deer management.

Dr. Alt is a member of The Wildlife Society, the American Society of Mammalogists, the International Association for Bear Research and Management, the Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association, and the Northeast Deer Technical Committee.

NewsClips: [Editorial: Deer Biologist Retires](#)
[Head of Deer Program Resigns](#)
[Deer Population Manager Resigns](#)
[Game Commission Loses Top Deer Expert](#)

15 Projects Approved Thru Business In Our Sites, Including Brownfields

Gov. Rendell this week announced the [Commonwealth Financing Authority \(CFA\) has approved its first 15 projects](#), totaling over \$16 million in grants and loans, through the “Business in Our Sites” program. The projects will work to create shovel-ready sites for businesses through land acquisition, construction and feasibility studies.

The Business in Our Sites program was created to provide funding to communities for the development of ready-to-build sites for new and expanding businesses. A \$300 million funding pool of grants and loans is available to

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

municipalities and redevelopment authorities for the acquisition, and development of these sites. The program puts special emphasis on communities that lack the resources necessary to invest in site preparation and on renovating brownfield sites in order to prevent urban sprawl.

Here's a sampling of the projects approved so far related to brownfield site redevelopment:

Adams County: The Borough of Gettysburg will receive a \$175,000 BOS planning grant for redevelopment efforts on three blocks along Railroad Street in the downtown area. The funds will cover environmental assessment costs, engineering costs and consulting fees.

Beaver County: The Redevelopment Authority of Beaver County will receive a \$175,000 BOS planning grant for restoration of a blighted area in Ambridge. The project will be a mixed-used development of industrial, commercial, business services, residential and recreational uses. The funds will be used for an environmental remediation plan, infrastructure design consisting of site excavation, a demolition plan, the development of geotechnical assessments, and a financial feasibility and market study.

Blair County: The Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation will receive a \$175,000 BOS planning grant for redevelopment of the former Hollidaysburg Car Shop facility. The funds will be used for an engineering feasibility study, an environmental investigation, mapping, wetland delineation, concept plan development, storm water management design, and an infrastructure improvement plan.

Carbon County: The Carbon County Commissioners will receive a \$175,000 BOS planning grant for renovations to Packerton Yards in Mahoning Township and Lehighon Borough. The funds will be used for a Phase III environmental assessment and engineering designs, which will include roadway and utility plans. The development of this park is expected to bring 200-300 new jobs to the community.

Clearfield County: Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership, Inc. will receive a \$35,000 BOS planning grant for the development of a 47-acre brownfield site in Morris Township. The funds will be used for an overall feasibility and planning analysis, specifically focused on geotechnical testing, engineering design work and a market analysis.

Forest County: BVK, Inc. will receive a \$175,000 BOS planning grant to redevelop the former Knox Glass Container Corp. site into an industrial park. The funds will be used to create engineering designs of infrastructure improvements, as well as an environmental assessment for Phase II of the project.

Lackawanna County: The Scranton Redevelopment Authority will receive a \$175,000 BOS planning grant for the redevelopment of a 26-acre brownfield site into the Mount Pleasant Corporate Center. The funds will be used to conduct site feasibility, planning, design, and engineering studies.

York County: The York County Economic Development Corporation will receive a \$175,000 BOS planning grant for development of the Codorus Creek Corridor, which covers six municipalities in York County. The funds will be used for a master plan, market study, financial plan and economic impact analysis for the York Technology Park component. An additional \$25 million in private investment will be leveraged to create 800-1,200 new jobs.

Latest on Green Buildings from the Green Building Alliance in Pittsburgh

Building green is becoming more and more the norm, and the latest email update from the [Green Building Alliance](#) in Pittsburgh provides ample evidence. Here's just some of what's going on--

Cool Space Awards: [Cool Space Locator](#) presents the first annual Cool Space Awards to celebrate Southwestern Pennsylvania's unique urban spaces. Nominations are due by February 11. The mission of the Cool Space Awards program is to celebrate and highlight the cool spaces in our midst. CSL's long term goal is to create excitement about cool spaces that will encourage adaptive reuse of urban locations. Highlights of the program include a judges panel whose participants have contributed significantly to the economic and physical transformation of our communities, as well as an "April Cools Day" party on Friday, April 1st, where winning spaces will be awarded and photographic layouts of those spaces displayed.

Pittsburgh's Green Buildings Featured in the Economist: Pittsburgh's green buildings and the Green Building Alliance's Rebecca Flora were featured in the December 2 issue of the Economist, "[The Rise of the Green Building](#)." Flora made the point that, "Most people are not used to thinking of large buildings as vast, energy-guzzling machines. But that is what they are. In America, buildings account for 65 percent of electricity consumption, 36 percent of total energy use and 30 percent of greenhouse-gas emissions. So making buildings more energy-efficient could have a significant impact on energy policy. That is a key goal of the "green architecture" movement, which is changing the way buildings are designed, built and run."

Pittsburgh Green Buildings featured in Costing Case Studies: Castcon Stone, Inc, Coro Center for Civic Leadership, Siemens Westinghouse Fuel Cell Facility, McGowan Institute for regenerative Medicine, CMU New House Residence Hall, Felician Sisters Convent & Sacred Heart High school, were six of eleven buildings featured in the [Nov-Dec 2004 edition of *Deign Cost Data* magazine](#) which focuses on Building Green in America.

Fall Issue of GBA's [Cornerstone Available Online](#): This issue features a case study of DEP's California Office Building, Green Spotlight on Cost & Value of LEED with Alan Traugott, Helping to Prevent Flooding: A Rational Method for Brownfield Development with Deborah Lange and an update on GBA's Public Policy program.

Nominations Now Being Accepted for 2005 Preservation Pennsylvania Awards

Preservation Pennsylvania is now accepting nominations to recognize individuals and organizations involved in projects to preserve, restore or rehabilitate buildings of historical significance in the Commonwealth.

Nominations are due January 28.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Four categories of awards will be granted—the F.Otto Haas Award for outstanding achievements, the Initiate Award, the Construction Project Award and the Archaeology Project Award.

See the [nomination brochure online](#) for more information.

NewsClip: [Nominations Accepted for Preservation PA Awards](#)

Quick Clips

[Author Hopes to Educate on Nature](#)

[Montco Officials Approve Tax Hike, in Part, to Help Pay for Open Space](#)

[Will oil bring another boom in Northwestern PA?](#)

[Composting Project Has Students Going Wild](#)

[New Law Makes State Leader in Clean Energy Sources](#)

[Power Can Be Cheap or Clean, But Not Both](#)

[Cleanups Will Change List of “Dirty Dozen”](#)

[Editorial: Hybrid Cars](#)

Instant Replay: Significant Environmental Headlines of 2004

Not all the headlines in 2004 were about environmental legislation. There were lots of other significant action—some “firsts,” changes in regulatory programs, milestones passed and new proposals laid out.

Here’s our attempt to capture some of the more important ones in headline form month by month. If you want more info on any topic, just click on each of these links. (*See Taking Positive Action for 2004’s Green Leaders*)

January

[Federal Court Blocks Implementation of New Source Review Rule](#)

[Pennsylvania Recycling Efforts Top 4 Million Tons](#)

February

[Growing Greener II Initiative Unveiled](#)

[Brownfields Action Teams Created by DEP](#)

[DEP Southeast Regional Office Completes Move to “Green” Building](#)

[EPA Plan to Regulate Mercury Dangerous Abuse of ‘Cap and Trade’ Program](#)

[Final Report on Bark Camp Shows How Dredge Materials Can Reclaim Mines](#)

March

[Rendell Administration Launches ‘Great Pennsylvania Cleanup’](#)

[Vehicle Emissions Inspections to Begin in Northeast](#)

[DEP Issues Research and Development General Permit](#)

[PA, USDA Announce Pennsylvania CREP Expansion](#)

[PENNVEST Initiates Brownfields Program, Approves First Projects](#)

April

[Economic Stimulus Package Passes, Includes Funding for Brownfields Remediation](#)

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

[Rendell Administration Testifies On Abandoned Mine Land Fund](#)
[3 Bipartisan Environmental Initiatives Introduced in the Senate](#)
[What's Your Environmental Footprint?](#)
[Pennsylvania Becomes Official Energy Star ® Partner](#)
[DEP Institutes “Best Management Practices” for Low-Risk Properties](#)
[On-Board Diagnostic Vehicle Inspections Phased In for Philadelphia Region](#)
[Rendell Resurrects Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority](#)
[EPA Designates 37 Pennsylvania Counties as Ozone Nonattainment Areas](#)
[DEP Announces Final Clean Fill Policy](#)
[DEP, EPA Sign Agreement on Federal Liability on State Brownfields](#)
[Pollution Prevention Grant Program for Small Businesses Restarted](#)
[DEP's Proposed CAFO Rules](#)
[New Study of Bituminous Coal Mining's Effects on Land, Buildings, Water Supplies](#)
[Annual Litter Summit to be Held May 19-20](#)

May

[Government Reports Ozone Levels Nationwide Lowest Since 1980](#)
[Revised Stream ReLeaf Riparian Buffer Database Now Online](#)
[DCNR Dedicates Musto Environmental Education Center at Nescopeck State Park](#)
[Pennsylvania Among States to Sue West Virginia Coal Plants](#)
[Pennsylvania Consumers to Have Wind Energy Choice](#)
[Commercial Management of Hazardous Waste Declines](#)
[Senior Volunteers Wanted to Protect Homeland Security](#)
[Regional Directors in Southwest and Northeast Retire](#)
[New Interim Phosphorous Planning Standards Adopted for Farmers](#)

June

[Rendell Calls on President to Support National Dam Safety Initiative](#)
[DEP to Publish General Permit for Stormwater Discharges](#)
[DEP Levies Largest Ever Regional Penalty for Illegal Manure Discharge](#)
[Ozone Transport Commission Adopts Cap for Power Plant Emissions](#)
[Groundwater Plan Released for Comment in Susquehanna Watershed](#)
[Eric Conrad Retires From DEP, Pontorero Appointed to District Mining Job](#)
[ISG Agrees to \\$19.9 Million Trust Fund to Treat Mine Drainage](#)
[Falcons Learn to Fly, One Lost](#)
[Smog Rules Will Cut Power Plant Pollution in Eastern States This Summer](#)
[EPA Proposes In-Use Testing of Heavy-Duty Diesel Emissions](#)
[New Cabinet Committee to Focus on Growing Pennsylvania's Economy](#)
[DEP Secretary Announces Key Appointments](#)
[Four River Conservation Plans Finished, Added to DCNR Registry](#)
[Proposal Streamlines Permitting to Speed Infrastructure Improvements](#)
[Pennsylvania Air Quality Partnership Announce Spanish Web Site](#)
[PA Businesses Reduce Off-Site Releases by Over 11 Percent in 2002](#)

July

[First BioDiesel Refueling Facility Opens, Wenger Feeds Testing Fuel](#)
[DEP Challenges Sudden Change of Course That Hurts PA Economy](#)

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

[EPA Mercury Reduction Proposal Penalizes Pennsylvania Coal](#)
[DEPLauds PA Sustainable Energy Board](#)
[Pennsylvania's Nesting Bald Eagle Population Increases](#)
[“Green Ribbon Commission” to Help Develop Environmental Funding Proposal](#)
[DEP Secretary Outlines Administration’s Priorities for DEP](#)
[DEP Announces Reopening of Site Assessment Grant Program](#)
[Innovative On-Line Training to be Available to Pa. Drinking Water Operators](#)
[New Volunteer Program Seeking Well Masters](#)
[DEP Proposes New Public Participation Policy](#)
[DEP Enhances eFACTS System](#)
[1,711 Brownfield Sites Completed Thru Land Recycling, Most at Private Expense](#)
[Farming demonstration Project Proves Successful Two Years in a Row](#)
[DEP Proposes Further Mine Safety Changes](#)
[Lake Wallenpaupack Agreement Benefits Community, Environment and PPL](#)
[Release of Great Lakes Protection Draft Agreements](#)
[Rohm-Haas Receives \\$2 Million for Biomass R & D Initiative](#)
[PA Lauded for First in Nation “One Cleanup” Agreement](#)
[Rendell Announces State Planning Board Members, Mission](#)
[Fact Sheet Available for Local Law Enforcement Officials on Illegal Dumping](#)
[Report Details Impacts of Manure on Bay, Changes in Dairy Feed Recommended](#)
[Public Interest Grows in Quecreek Mine Rescue Site in Somerset County, PA](#)

August

[DEP Offers Comments to EPA on Rule to Reduce Regional Haze](#)
[20th Anniversary of Pennsylvania Conservation Corps Celebrated](#)
[Updates on Citizens’ Volunteer Monitoring Program Information Exchange](#)
[Find A Compost Site Near You](#)
[DEP Names Southwest Regional Director, Environmental Advocate](#)
[ACRE Program Proposed for Agriculture](#)
[Pennsylvania Unveils Draft Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy](#)
[Op-Ed: Gov. Rendell Talks About Energy Issues at Democratic Convention](#)
[\\$5 million Announced for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program](#)
[DEP Signs Letter of Understanding With PennAg Industries](#)
[Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Industries Gaining in Pennsylvania](#)
[Groups Petition State to Set Own Rules Limiting Mercury Emissions](#)
[DCNR Unveils New Interactive Rail-Trail Website](#)
[DEP Offers Toll-Free Line for Residents to Report Environmental Problems](#)

September

[New DEP Chief Counsel Named](#)
[NOx Air Pollution Reduced 70% Since 1990, 30% Since 2002 in Northeast](#)
[First Biosolids Vermicomposting Process in U.S. Dedicated](#)
[Rivers Feeding Chesapeake Bay Show Decline in Nutrients, Shad Returning](#)
[Bay States More Than Half-Way to New Wetlands Goals](#)
[PEC Wins Federal Grant for “Reverse Auction” of Pollution Reduction Credits](#)
[Recycling On-Line Course Goes Live!](#)
[EPA Agrees to Upgrade Lancaster County’s Air Quality Designation](#)

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

[Officials Mark Completion of Water Resources Plan for Delaware River Basin](#)
[Energy-Technology Company Gamesa Coming to PA](#)
[Women’s Council on Energy & Environment Honors McGinty](#)
[DEP Partners With Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers](#)
[DEP Deputy Nick DiPasquale to Return to Delaware, Fidler Named Acting](#)
[Rendell Asks For Federal Aid in 47 Counties as Storm Recovery Continues](#)

October

[Statewide Watershed Conference Attracts Over 400](#)
[Piñero Appointed as Federal Environmental Executive](#)
[Rendell Dedicates Reliant Energy’s New Waste Coal Power Station](#)
[Ozone Levels in 2004 Average Record Low](#)
[New York City Proposing Major Changes to Disposing of Its Trash](#)
[EPA Recognizes Achievements in Water Treatment and Pollution Reduction](#)
[Underground Storage Tank Board Announces No Increase in Fees for 2005](#)
[Rendell Highlights Potential of Pennsylvania Wilds](#)
[Largest Source of AMD on Quemahoning Creek to Be Eliminated](#)
[Pennsylvania Doubles ‘Green’ Electricity Purchase to 10 Percent](#)
[Call for Participation in Rethinking Waste Management Strategy](#)
[Five More Colleges and Universities Join Environmental Consortium](#)

November

[DEP Certifies Over 19,000 Emission Reduction Credits Available in Registry](#)
[DEP, Automobile Groups Launch Mercury-Reduction Plan](#)
[Senate Adopts Resolution to Promote Recognition of PA Environmental Heritage](#)
[Waterborne Diseases Remain Low in Pennsylvania](#)
[Year-Round Air Quality Forecasting in Susquehanna, Lehigh Valleys Begins](#)

December

[Innovative “Philly Rewards Recycling” Program Gets Underway](#)
[Effort Continues to Clean up Delaware River Oil Spill](#)
[PA’s First Voluntary Clean School Bus Program Gets Underway](#)
[PEC, Pfizer, Lititz Borough Do First Nutrient Trade in U.S.](#)
[DEP Appoints New Director of Waste Management Program](#)
[352 Miles of Migratory Fish Spawning Habitat Opened in Chesapeake Bay](#)
[Regional Stormwater Management Manual Focus Groups](#)
[EPA Makes Final Nonattainment Designations for Particulate Matter](#)

The Department of Environmental Protection put out their own [list of accomplishments for 2004 on December 23](#).

See there, lots was going on in 2004!

Governor, Cabinet Officials Get 5.2 Percent Cost of Living Increase

Following members of the General Assembly in November, the Governor, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Auditor General, Cabinet Officers and other high ranking public officials will get an automatic 5.2 percent raise beginning January 1.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

The Governor will still be at the top of the heap with a salary of \$155,572 (was \$147,882)

“Large agency heads,” like the Secretary of Environmental Protection will get \$124,458 (up from \$118,306). “Medium agency heads,” like the Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources will get \$118,234 (up from \$112,390).

See the [notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin](#) this week for more details.

PEMA Urges Winter Weather Preparedness

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency this week urged Pennsylvanians to move forward with winter storm preparedness, by readying their homes and vehicles for the possibility of major snow and ice storms or severe cold.

Traveling during winter storms should be avoided, if possible. If traveling during winter storms, motorists are urged to remain at hotels or restaurants to allow snowplows to remove snow from highways.

PEMA recommends the following precautions as winter weather approaches:

- Store drinking water, first-aid kit, canned/no-cook food, non-electric can opener, radio, flashlight and extra batteries where you can access them easily, even in the dark.

- Know how the public is warned (radio, television, etc.) and the warning terms for each kind of broadcast weather alert in your community, for example:

- "Winter storm watch" -- Be alert, a storm is likely;

- "Winter storm warning" -- Take action, the storm is in or entering the area;

- "Blizzard warning" -- Snow and strong winds combined will produce blinding snow, near-zero visibility, deep drifts, and life-threatening wind chill -- seek refuge immediately;

- "Winter weather advisory" -- Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous, especially to motorists;

- "Frost/freeze warning" -- Below-freezing temperatures are expected and may cause damage to plants, crops or fruit trees;

- Keep cars and other vehicles fueled and in good repair.

- Winterize vehicles by checking your car battery, ignition system, thermostat, lights, flashers, exhaust, heater, brakes, defroster and tires.

- Ensure your car has adequate antifreeze, windshield washer fluid and oil and check the levels regularly throughout the winter season.

- Assemble a winter emergency kit for your car that includes a shovel, windshield ice scraper, flashlight, battery-powered radio, extra batteries, water, snack food, extra hats and mittens, blanket, tow chain or rope, road salt and sand, booster cables, emergency flares, and a fluorescent distress flag.

- If you must travel by car during a winter weather advisory or winter storm watch, do so in daylight, and don't travel alone.

- Avoid driving during a winter storm warning or blizzard warning.

- Drive only at a speed that conditions permit; take your time; increase your safety distances between vehicles and brake carefully.

- Keep others informed of your schedule and route, and stay on main roads; when and where possible, bring a cellular telephone for emergency communications.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

-- Dress in several layers of loosely fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. Outer garments should be tightly woven and water-repellent. Make sure you have a hat, mittens, a scarf, and sturdy, waterproof boots for each family member.

Go to the [Winter Driving](#) and [Winter Storm](#) fact sheets for more information.

Taking Positive Action

Meet Our “Forces of Nature” for 2004, Follow the Leaders into a Green 2005

Contrary to that famous frog, it IS easy to be green. Just follow the lead of thousands of farmers, businesses, teachers, students, public officials, watershed groups and just plain folks who have done terrific things to protect and restore our environment and lighten their environmental footprint.

Meet our **Forces of Nature for 2004**, just a few of the many who did great things this year—

[PA Buildings Take First Place in 2004 Northeast Green Building Awards](#)

[Dr. Ruth Patrick Recognized for Contributions](#)

[DCNR Dedicates Musto Environmental Education Center at Nescopeck State Park](#)

[PPL Center Wins Environmental Award from U.S. Green Building Council](#)

[Pittsburgh School District Given “STAR” Status for Pest Management Program](#)

[Delaware County High School Wins State Envirothon](#)

[Erie Student First Winner of Sue Wiseman Scholarship](#)

[Watershed Groups Recognized for Their AMD Efforts](#)

[PA Geologist Receives National Public Service Award](#)

[Retiring DEP Employees Congratulated for Dedication and Hard Work](#)

[Natural Heroes, Students Sampling Water, PA National Guard](#)

[Penn State Students Among Winners of Future Truck Competition](#)

[PA Businesses Reduce Off-Site Releases by Over 11 Percent in 2002](#)

[First BioDiesel Refueling Facility Opens, Wenger Feeds Testing Fuel](#)

[DCNR Recognizes Hiking Group](#)

[Conservation District, Chesapeake Bay Award Winners](#)

[Pennsylvania Students Place Sixth in International Envirothon Competition](#)

[Bay Foundation Logs 1,000 + Forested Stream Buffers in Less Than Four Years](#)

[Two PA Groups Get National Awards](#)

[PA’s PROP Honored as Outstanding Recycling Organization in U.S.](#)

[Heenan of Steel Recycling Institute Receives Lifetime Achievement Award](#)

[Hershey Foods to Retire Emission Credits](#)

[Taking Positive Action - Shrewsbury Wins Award](#)

[Ohio River Watershed Celebration Attracts Over 600](#)

[Reliant Energy's Seward Plant Named POWER Magazine's 2004 Plant of the Year](#)

[Statewide Watershed Conference Attracts Over 400](#)

[EPA Recognizes Achievements in Water Treatment and Pollution Reduction](#)

[Lancaster County Homes First to Use BioHeat](#)

[Fitzpatrick Wins James McGirr Kelly Award from Water Companies](#)

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

[Nelson Receives Civilian Executive of the Year Award](#)
[Businesses for the Bay, PRC Award Winners](#)
[Northeast Environmental Partners Announce 2004 Award Recipients](#)
[PPL's "Green" Building Receives Two Environmental Awards](#)
[2004 Waste Watcher Winners](#)
[PA's First Voluntary Clean School Bus Program Gets Underway](#)
[PEC, Pfizer, Lititz Borough Do First Nutrient Trade in U.S.](#)
[Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, Dept. of Transportation Win Anti-Litter Recognition](#)

Want to learn about hundreds more? [Visit GreenWorks TV](#) and see and hear how easy it is to be green from people just like you!

Watershed NewsClips

[Wetlands trust seeks support from West Pikeland to Preserve Pickering Creek](#)
[Update on Bowmans and Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Work](#)
[Trout Unlimited chapter improving Rock Run](#)
[Wet 11 months leaves region still prone to flash flooding](#)
[Grant Awarded to Codorus Creek Watershed Group](#)
[Editorial: Many Join Fight Against Litterbugs](#)

Regulations

Governor gave notice extending hurricane disaster emergencies through [March 16, 2005](#) and [March 14, 2005](#).

The Department of Environmental Protection gave [notice of correction of the text to a 2000 change to 25 Pa Code Chapter 93](#) dealing with the Delaware Estuary.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – December 25, 2004](#) [Comment Deadlines Open](#)
[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#) [Status of Regulations, 6-Month Calendar](#)

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection gave notice [rescinding two guidance documents](#)—

DEP ID: 363-3000-013. Inspection of Earth Disturbance Sites.

DEP ID: 363-2191-014. NPDES Permit: Discharge of Stormwater from Construction Activities.

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance](#) [For copies of Final Technical Guidance](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **January 4** – Swearing in day for members of General Assembly
- **January 5** – [State Water Plan](#) Policy & Integration Subcommittee meeting.
- **January 14** – [State Water Plan](#) Critical Water Planning Area Subcommittee meeting.
- **January 17** – (Tentative) Opening of special session on mass transit called by Gov. Rendell
- **January 18** – [DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting.
- **January 24** – First day of voting session for General Assembly
- **February 1** – Governor’s Budget Address
- **February 2** – [Groundhog Day](#) (not the movie)

[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 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 affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Holston & Crisci call 717-234-1716.

Content may be reproduced by members of the Pennsylvania House and Senate without attribution. All other rights reserved.