

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

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Budget Train is Coming, Growing Greener Moves Into Position

Appropriations Chairman Rep. Brett Feese (R-Lycoming) announced this week the House would take up Gov. Rendell's budget proposal on April 11, giving members until April 4 to get their amendments together.

The Senate meanwhile moved the Growing Greener ballot question legislation – [House Bill 2](#) – into position for a final vote, assuming the Senate, House and Rendell Administration can agree on a bond issue dollar amount. (*More in this Digest.*)

Since giving special recognition to people doing good work is a critical part of any environmental protection program, this issue of the *Digest* includes extensive coverage of the winners of two special awards programs—the Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence and the 2005 Environmental Advisory Council Achievement Awards.

Learn how you can better protect the environment and your community from these innovative companies, organizations and local governments.

Session Schedule

The House will be in voting session March 29, 30, then not until April 11. The next voting day for the Senate is April 4. They cancelled March 21 & 22.

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Calendar of Events – **Check out all the new items!**

On the Hill

Senate Moves House Green PA Plan Vehicle Into Position for Action

The Senate moved [House Bill 2](#), the legislation containing the ballot question for the \$800 million Green PA Plan proposed by House Republicans, into, out of and then back to the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee without changes this week.

These actions put the bill into final position for a quick vote when the Senate returns to session on April 4, assuming an agreement is reached with the Rendell Administration and the House on the size of the bond issue and the wording of the ballot question.

Gov. Rendell is in full support of House Bill 2 as written and said this week he thought if the General Assembly acted by April 17 (a month before the Primary Election) that would be OK.

Senate Republicans have offered the Administration ballot question language that included a \$400 million bond issue, with 75 percent of the funds set aside for counties to distribute for Growing Greener-type purposes, and language saying the bond issue would be paid for by new or existing taxes.

[House Bill 3](#), that holds the language on how the funds would be spent, will remain in the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee until voters approve the ballot question.

NewsClip: [Editorial: PA Environmental Initiative- Be Nimble, Be Quick](#)

Preston Offers Breaks for Environmentally Friendly Cars

Rep. Preston (D-Allegheny) introduced two pieces of legislation to provide incentives to consumers who purchase a hybrid electric, zero-emission or electric vehicles.

[House Bill 969](#) exempts hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) from undergoing annual emission inspection requirements. Specifically, the exemption would apply to HEVs with a city fuel economy rating of 40 miles per gallon or greater, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Fuel Economy Guide.

[House Bill 968](#) provides a sales tax exemption for the purchase of HEVs, electric vehicles and zero-emission vehicles.

Joint Conservation Committee Hears How to Covert Coal to Jet Fuel

The [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) heard a presentation from Dr. Harold Schobert, Director of the [Energy Institute at Penn State University](#), on a project the Institute has underway to demonstrate the feasibility of turning bituminous coal into jet fuel.

The Institute has been working on the project at the request of the U.S. Air Force.

The coal-based fuel, JP-900, developed by Institute researchers has better performance specifications than JP-8, the current fuel, and can be manufactured for less than five cents per gallon more than JP-8. And, several of the byproducts of the manufacturing process can be used by other industries.

Schobert said JP-900 has other benefits, like having no carbon burn off, which virtually eliminates carbon in fuel lines and reduces sulfur and nitrogen oxide emissions and soot. He suggested that JP-900 could become the universal jet fuel for the Marines, the Air Force, the Navy, and for missile fuel.

Coal-based fuel can also use existing oil refinery infrastructure, while reducing our reliance on imported petroleum. Schobert said coal-based fuel production in Pennsylvania can benefit creating as many as 3,000 jobs. And, with a few small changes, coal-based fuel could be used in diesel engines.

Committee Chair Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) announced the next Committee meeting is set for April 4 and the agenda will include presentations on keeping Pennsylvania beautiful, including anti-littering efforts, as part of the Committee's Earth Day celebration.

Quick Update on Bills Moving

Here's a quick update on other environmental bills moving: Infrastructure Security, Watershed-based Zoning, Conservation Easements, Open Space, Supporting Watershed Groups and Ecoterrorism.

Infrastructure Security: The House Commerce Committee reported out with no changes [House Bill 612](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) authorizing PennVest to fund projects designed to increase security in drinking water systems. It was referred to House Appropriations.

Watershed-Based Zoning: The Senate Local Government Committee reported out [Senate Bill 291](#) (Cont-R-Bucks) authorizing joint municipal planning in watersheds. The bill allows municipalities which share a common watershed – or a land area that drains water in to a stream, river or other body of water – the option of joining with each other to form a joint watershed resource protection overlay district.

The overlay districts give municipalities the option of engaging in a hybrid form of joint zoning. Each participating municipality must adopt the joint watershed resource protection provisions, and superimpose those ordinances on its underlying zoning. The consent of all participating municipalities is needed in order to make any amendments to either the underlying zoning ordinances or to the new overlay provisions.

Conservation Easements: The House Agriculture Committee reported out with no changes [House Bill 619](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) making changes in the criteria for purchasing agricultural conservation easements and [House Bill 629](#) (Bunt-R-Montgomery) on the purchase of agricultural conservation easements.

Open Space/Funding Watershed Assns: House Local Government Committee reported out [House Bill 183](#) (Ross-R-Chester) authorizing purchase of open space and holding options and [House Bill 136](#) (Fleagle-R-Franklin) along with nearly identical bills [House Bill 266](#) and [House Bill 267](#) authorizing appropriations to watershed associations by local governments without changes.

Ecoterrorism: The House passed [House Bill 213](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) adding the offense of ecoterrorism as a crime after making several changes. This action was part of a series of bills moved by the House related to terrorism this week.

NewsClip: [House Targets Ecoterrorists](#)

Taking Positive Action



Governor's
Award for Environmental Excellence
2004



The Department of Environmental Protection this week announced the [11 winners of the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards for 2004](#).

The Governor's Awards Program began in 1996 to recognize businesses, local governments, environmental and community organizations that go above and beyond the call to protect and restore the environment.

The [accumulated environmental accomplishments](#) of the 295 winners of the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence from 1996 through the 2003 are truly remarkable. They saved: over 10 billion gallons of wastewater, 191 million tons of air emissions, 206 million tons of solid waste, 233 million kilowatt hours of electricity and over \$1.2 billion in savings to their bottom line.

This year's crop of winners is no exception. Take a look at what they have accomplished--



Meadville Area Water Authority: The [Meadville Area Water Authority](#) (MAWA) in Crawford County is a public-private partnership that provides water service and fire protection to a population of 16,000.

MAWA's water education program was designed to provide source water protection and conservation education to all of its customers by reaching out to all sixth grade students in its service area.

MAWA's educational efforts began in 1999. A system-wide leak survey from 2001 to 2003 showed a savings in pumping of 43.6 million gallons. MAWA's educational efforts for water conservation produced a savings of 22 million gallons.



St. Mary's Pressed Metals, Inc.: [St. Mary's Pressed Metals](#) (SMPM) has been manufacturing powdered metals components for over 30 years in Elk County. SMPM supplies parts to a very diverse group of industries, including medical, appliance, and transportation services.

Approximately six tons of metallic residual material is collected and disposed at the Onyx Landfill. The goal of St. Mary's Pressed Metals' project, called "Acid Mine Drainage Reclamation," was to reduce the volume of sludge deposited at the Onyx Landfill by transforming it into a useful product.

The company explored the possibilities of reusing the residual sludge material as an alternative to disposing it at the landfill and developed a new hybrid material: Iron Calcium. The newly-developed Iron Calcium revealed very desirable properties, giving the new pressed metals industry a new alternative that may be used in various applications.

This new project will eliminate 2,000 tons of treated acid mine drainage material per year.

St. Mary's also won a [1996 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award](#).



Pfizer, Inc. : [Pfizer, Inc. \(Lititz\)](#) in Lancaster County is the manufacturing site for the Benylin, Benadryl, and Sudafed cough and cold products; Listerine brand oral care products; Lubriderm, Corn Huskers, Neosporin, and Polysporin skin care products; Dilantin; and Zyrtec D.

Pfizer funded the design, permitting and construction of the New Street Ecological Park in Lititz, which was later designated as the pilot for Pennsylvania's fledgling Conestoga River Watershed Nutrient Trading Project.

The New Street Ecological Park is a public park in the Borough of Lititz, through which the Santo Domingo Creek flows. The project represents a breakthrough on several fronts in Pennsylvania's ongoing efforts to reduce sediment and nutrient pollution being carried downstream to the Chesapeake Bay: a partnership among private and public

entities, a pilot project for nutrient trading, and an example of underemployed methods to reduce sediment and nutrient pollution in Piedmont waterways.

The New Street Ecological Park restoration represents an important step in improving water quality, not only in the Lititz Run Watershed, but also in the receiving waters of the Conestoga River, the Susquehanna River, and the Chesapeake Bay.

Pfizer won a [2003 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award](#)



Harley-Davidson Motor Company Operations, Inc.: The [Harley-Davidson Motor Company, York](#) Vehicle Operations is the manufacturing and assembly site for Touring, Softail, and limited edition motorcycles, and a variety of current and non-current replacement parts.

Harley-Davidson's Keystone Project was designed to enable the York Vehicle Operations facility to meet the increased motorcycle production capacity requirements, to increase product quality, to improve production processes, to reduce material handling activities, and to reduce costs. The project consisted of designing and constructing a focused factory to improve asset utilization, as well as simplify and streamline the operations while increasing capacity for the plant.

Harley-Davidson's new facility has an "Energy Star" rated roof, which reduced peak cooling by 10 percent, resulting in an annual cost savings of \$102,842. The company installed waterless urinals, saving 100,000 gal/year of water and implemented the "Best Available Technology" for their paint operations to reduce Volatile Organic Compounds by 77 percent and Hazardous Air Pollutants by 95 percent.

Harley-Davidson also made use of a brownfield property.

Harley-Davidson won a [2002 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award](#)



Foamex, LP: The [Foamex plant](#), located in Corry, Erie County, is a manufacturer of flexible polyurethane foam used for the bedding and carpet underlay industries.

Methylene chloride has been widely used in the foam industry as an auxiliary blowing agent (ABA) in the manufacturing of flexible polyurethane. Foamex's overall pollution prevention strategy over the last four years has been to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the use of methylene chloride as an ABA.

In April 2004 the Foamex Corry plant succeeded in totally eliminating the use of methylene chloride as an ABA. This milestone is a voluntary commitment by Foamex management to preserve and protect the Corry community and the surrounding environment.



Westmoreland Conservation District: The [Westmoreland County Conservation District](#) was established in 1949 when local farmers seeking help to conserve their soil and water resources, approached the Westmoreland County commissioners.

Several years ago, the District launched a fundraising campaign to fund its most ambitious outreach program: the Center for Conservation Education, which was completed in 2004.

The Center for Conservation Education was designed and built to be a teaching tool and showcase of effective examples of conservation in action. The Westmoreland Conservation District expects to reach approximately 14,000 upper-age students and area

adults per year with the information, tools, and motivation they need to incorporate good conservation practices into their daily lives.

In a recent audit of all buildings maintained by Westmoreland County, the Center for Conservation Education ranked number one in energy efficiency. Costs to run the air conditioning, computer systems, heating, and lighting throughout the 7,600-square-foot center average just \$328 per month.



Reliant Seward, LLC: The [Reliant Energy Seward Project](#) in Indiana County combined several environmental opportunities: remediation of an 80-year-old waste coal, brownfield site; the retirement of a 1921-vintage coal-fired power plant; and the construction of a new, advanced clean-coal technology plant that reduces air emissions, reduces water discharges, and eliminates waste coal piles in a 50-mile radius.

The project began in 2000 to remediate this site and, at the same time, construct the new facility. This remediation was one of the largest brownfield site remediations in the U. S..

During the project, the plant retained its staff, maintaining 60 jobs. An additional 200 jobs were created in fuel handling and trucking. \$30 million will be reintroduced every year to the local community in wages, taxes, and purchased services as a result of the project.

The Station also used the latest clean-coal technologies to especially address stringent air emission limits. These include selective non-catalytic reduction systems of aqueous ammonia to help reduce nitrogen oxide emissions, fabric filters for particulate matter, and the first U. S. application of flash dry absorber technology to control sulfur dioxide emissions.



Philadelphia Million Solar Roofs Partnership: The [Philadelphia Million Solar Roofs Community Partnership](#) (PMRS), administered by the Energy Coordinating Agency of Philadelphia, is a collaborative of business, non-profits, and individuals working together to promote solar energy applications on both homes and commercial buildings.

The Norris Square Solar Project is the first photovoltaic (PV) installation to benefit the residents of affordable housing in Philadelphia, and the largest PV installation in the City of Philadelphia to date. The project involved the installation of eight 1.2 kilowatt PV systems on eight adjacent previously-constructed row homes at 128 - 142 Norris Street.

The project's PV installations are expected to lower each resident's electric bill from 15 to 25 percent. The goal of the project is to make affordable housing even more so by reducing low-income residents' bills.

It is expected the electricity generated by these Photovoltaic systems will result in the following reductions in pollutants: carbon dioxide, 25,500 lbs; carbon oxide, 2.2 lbs; sulfur dioxide, 175 lbs; nitrogen oxide, 50 lbs; volatile organic compounds, 0.35 lbs; and particulate matter 10, 2.2 lbs.



Pennsylvania Army National Guard Combined Support Maintenance Shop East: The Pennsylvania Army National Guard Combined Support Maintenance Shop East (CSMS) facility, located in Lebanon County, replaced its solvent-borne coating with the

new water dispersible Chemical Agent Resistant Coatings (CARC) for routine surface coating operations.

Since the water dispersible CARC emits virtually no hazardous air pollutants and the volatile organic compounds (VOC) content is lower than the standard solvent-based CARC used throughout the Army (1.8 pounds per gallon compared to 35 pounds per gallon), emissions of these pollutants have been dramatically reduced.

By changing the process to water dispersible CARC, the facility will reduce VOC emissions by 2.6 tons in the first year and twenty fewer pounds of lead and chromate will be emitted. A similar reduction will be seen in particulate emissions, since silicates have been removed from the formulation as well. The durability of the paint is also ten times greater than the previous paint which means an even greater pollution prevention return in future years because equipment will not be re-painted as frequently.

Having developed a process to incorporate water dispersible CARC into production, the CSMS has become the model facility throughout the Army National Guard. The state area commands of Arizona, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island are using similar systems and have incorporated procedures developed by the Pennsylvania CSMS staff.



Wells Creek Watershed Association: The [Wells Creek Watershed Association](#) (WCWA) was formed in 1999 in order to restore a trout fishery to Wells Creek, Somerset County.

The deep mine discharges, which previously destroyed the middle third of Wells Creek, have been cleaned up by two passive treatment systems. As a result, the trout in the Stonycreek River may now swim all the way up the stream to its headwaters. The WCWA was able to stock over 600 trout in the stream last May.



Carnegie Mellon University: As part of a larger Green Practices effort, Carnegie Mellon has adopted a goal to achieve a LEED Silver rating for all new construction. The New House residence hall is the first building at the university to pursue LEED Certification. In September 2003, New House -- a 72,000 square feet, 256-bed residence hall -- received notification that it had achieved a LEED Silver rating.

New House is the first university residence hall in the nation to achieve such rating. There are more buildings at various stages of construction on campus, each headed for LEED Certification.

As with green buildings, the benefits to the user, the owner, and the environment are numerous. Students experience enhanced living and learning environments through natural lighting, water and energy consumption, and optimum indoor air quality. The institution benefits from lower energy costs. The environment benefits from the use of recycled materials, reduced construction waste, and lower energy demands for the life of the buildings.

Faculty and students in the School of Architecture have provided building modeling services to CMU's Facilities Management Services toward the design and construction of these green buildings. This provides for real world classroom opportunities for architecture and engineering students.

Carnegie Mellon won a [2001 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award](#)

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To see the accomplishments of the previous winners of the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence, and to get some ideas of your own, visit these links:

[2004 Winners](#) [2003 Winners](#) [2002 Winners](#) [2001 Winners](#) [2000 Winners](#)
[1999 Winners](#) [1998 Winners](#) [1997 Winners](#) [1996 Winners](#)

You can also be inspired by the good work of the winners of the Governor's Watershed Stewardship Awards for [2002](#) and [2001](#).

Environmental Advisory Councils Win Recognition at Annual Conference

More than 70 local [Environmental Advisory Councils](#) were represented at their eighth annual conference at The American College last week.

Environmental Advisory Councils are formed by municipalities appointed to work to protect the environment in their communities. There are over 100 councils throughout Pennsylvania.

At the conference, four Councils were also given recognition for their efforts over the last year by DEP Water Resources Management Deputy Secretary Cathy Curran Myers and Pennsylvania Environmental Council CEO Andrew McElwaine.

The Achievement Award winner received \$500 and the three Honorary Mentions received \$250. This year, these groups were recognized (and see the special photo feature attached to this webpage)—



Download the special EAC Awards photo feature on this webpage

Kennett Township EAC, Delaware County: The Council worked with the Brandywine Conservancy and other partners in the community to identify and prioritize natural and cultural resources as part of an effort to update the township's comprehensive land use plan. Some of the products produced included a series of maps showing resources throughout the community and recommendations on areas of the township that should be protected. Their partners included the Kennett Township Land Trust, Chester County Planning office, Stroud Water Research center and the Red Clay Valley Association. Kennett Township received the 2005 Achievement Award.

East Vincent Township EAC, Chester County: The Council sponsored a Computer Recycling Day which resulted in collecting nearly 300 old computers and components. Some residents said they were storing their electronic equipment for 30 years because they didn't know how to get rid of it properly. The council is looking into expanding the program to include microwave ovens, cell phones and TVs. East Vincent received Honorable Mention.

Upper Dublin Township EAC, Montgomery County: The Council worked with upper Dublin School District to design a program to educate the public about stormwater management issues. With the help of students, they designed a stormwater pamphlet

which they distributed at a variety of community events, including Earth Day and Election Day, and delivered house to house. Upper Dublin received Honorable Mention.

West Hanover Township EAC, Dauphin County: The Council did the research and background work needed to start a community recycling program in the Township. Recycling is not mandated in the community by Act 101. A recycling drop off center was established that took everything from the typical newspapers, glass and aluminum cans, to motor oil and leaf and yard waste for composting. As a result of these efforts, the Township has a recycling rate of over 35 percent. West Hanover received Honorable Mention.

For more information, visit the [Environmental Advisory Council website](#).
(contributed by Jeanne Barrett Ortiz and Blair Davis, [PA Environmental Council](#))

Other News

Local Government Groups Layout Priorities for Environmental Spending

The Local Government Conference this week issued what they called a Statement of Principles for the consideration of the Senate, House and Rendell Administration as they discuss proposals for additional environmental spending.

The Conference is made up of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, Pennsylvania School Boards Association, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners, Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association

“Consensus is building for a major investment in our communities. The House of Representatives has recently passed legislation that would authorize a bond referendum to be placed before the voters on the Spring primary ballot. We applaud this effort and call on the Senate to do the same.

“While the Legislature and the Governor continue to negotiate the details, we urge both parties to include all of the following important principles in the final package:

1. Continue the strong historical support for all communities that provide recycling programs for more than 10 million Pennsylvanians.
2. Provide immediate financial support to address industrial site reuse assessment needs, where there already is an existing backlog.
3. Increase investment for community revitalization activities for all communities.
4. Increase funding to all local governments for land-use planning.
5. Provide new grants to local governments to fund historic preservation tax credits.
6. Allocate additional funds needed to support infrastructure improvements in state parks and forests as administered by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.
7. Allocate additional funds needed to support infrastructure improvements at facilities administered by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and Pennsylvania Game Commission.
8. Increase funding to expedite the remediation and reclamation of abandoned mine lands.

9. Increase funding for advanced energy projects such as the Energy Harvest program that is helping farmers and small entrepreneurs across the Commonwealth establish small-scale renewable energy projects.
10. Guarantee funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund at a level consistent with demand.
11. Fund existing environmental investments at their current levels, and fund new projects with newly available funds.
12. Demand demonstrates that funding for these purposes can be spent immediately, which argues for a shorter rather than longer time line.
13. Provide that the effective date for any possible funding mechanisms begins at the start of the next calendar year to allow municipalities to revise their budgets accordingly.
14. Require that any land purchases by the Commonwealth under this program be subject to the State's payment-in-lieu-of-taxes program.
15. Support permanent reauthorization of Act 101 tipping fees for municipal recycling, planning and administrative purposes.
16. Support additional water and sewer infrastructure funding, beginning with the reinstatement of infrastructure funding under Sections 6109 and 6110 of Act 68 of 1999.
17. Support funding to augment existing agricultural conservation easement purchase programs.”

Cherokee Investments Looking for Brownfields Projects

Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty asked counties across the state this week to help identify potential brownfields redevelopment projects that private investment firms, like Cherokee Investments could help finance.

[Cherokee Investments](#), based in North Carolina, is a private investment firm that is looking for large brownfields projects of from \$10 to \$250 million. They will take the property “as is, where is” and assume complete remediation responsibility and liability for existing and future contamination.

Since 1990 Cherokee has acquired over 330 properties specializing in the remediation and sustainable redevelopment of brownfield sites and currently retains over \$1 billion in assets.

More Brownfield Projects Approved Under Business In Our Sites

The Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) approved five planning grants, totaling \$875,000, through the Business in Our Sites (BOS) program to create shovel-ready sites for businesses through land acquisition, construction and feasibility studies.

Since guidelines for Business in Our Sites were approved last fall, the CFA has approved 37 projects totaling more than \$76 million, many on brownfields.

The projects approved this week include:

Beaver County: The Beaver County Corp. for Economic Development (CED) will receive up to \$175,000 in planning grant funds to assist in the development of the Aliquippa Industrial Park. The funds will be used for engineering costs associated with the design and extension of Woodland Road through Phase II and III, associated

drainage, design of sanitary sewers and identifying foundations and footers to be removed and voids to be filled in both phases. The Beaver County CED will redevelop 160 acres of the site, formerly the LTV Steel plant, along the Ohio River. Upon completion, the site will be marketed to manufacturing industries and is expected to create 1,000 jobs.

The Beaver County CED will also receive up to \$175,000 in planning grant funds to be used for the redevelopment of the former Crucible Steel Mill into the Midland Industrial Park. The BOS funds will be used for the environmental assessment, engineering costs associated with the design of the infrastructure and to examine the feasibility of subdividing the site for multiple users. Once completed, the site will be marketed to industrial users taking advantage of the docking access to the Ohio River, as well as the main line Norfolk Southern rail service. It is anticipated that 500 jobs will be created as a result of this project.

Berks County: The Berks County Industrial Development Authority will receive up to \$175,000 in planning grant funds to develop a 13-acre brownfield site for commercial and residential use. The funds will be used for an environmental assessment of the project site. The brownfield will be developed into 207,000 square feet of commercial space and 97,000 square feet of residential space and will provide shopping and dining experiences, as well as hotel accommodations for area visitors. The project will create 150 jobs and attract \$49 million in private investment.

Bradford County: The Central Bradford Progress Authority will receive up to \$175,000 in planning grant funds to support the redevelopment of the Sayre Rail yards KOZ site, a 25-acre brownfield parcel located in Sayre Borough. The BOS funds will be used to complete Phase II environmental assessment, develop an environmental remediation plan and prepare an appraisal of the project site. Upon completion, the site will be marketed to manufacturing and warehousing/distribution companies. Redevelopment of the former Lehigh Valley Railroad site is expected to generate up to 100 jobs.

Lancaster County: The Manheim Area Economic Development Corp. (MAEDC) will receive up to \$175,000 in planning grant funds to assist in the redevelopment of the former Raymark Industries manufacturing facility. The funds will be used for a feasibility study and engineering costs associated with the first phase development of a business park. MAEDC plans to develop the site in the Greentree Business Center for use by multiple diversified manufacturing, service and commercial businesses. The center will contain approximately 400,000 square feet of business space upon completion. The project is expected to create 516 jobs. The 75-acre site is in a designated Keystone Opportunity Zone.

The Commonwealth Financing Authority is a seven-member board, created to administer and fund projects from programs created by Governor Rendell's Economic Stimulus Package. The CFA will oversee Business in Our Sites, the Tax Increment Financing Guarantee (TIF), First Industries Fund, New PA Venture Capital Investment, New Pennsylvania Venture Guarantee, Building PA, PennWorks, and the and Second Stage Loan programs.

For more information on economic development programs, visit the [NewPA website](#).

Grant Funds Coming to Reduce Pollution From School Buses

The U.S. Congress has allocated \$7.5 million in funding for the 2005 fiscal year to the Clean School Bus USA Program for cost-shared grants to school districts to reduce pollution from their diesel bus fleets.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency intends to issue a national solicitation to allocate those funds soon.

Interested districts should begin to gather information now on the make and age of engines and number of students riding the buses, and contact potential fuel and equipment vendors to learn more about what would be appropriate for the fleet. Only school districts will be able to apply for this federal funding.

In Pennsylvania, the majority of school buses are actually operated by private contractors. These companies can work with their school district on retrofit strategies.

For example, West Chester School District in Chester County has received EPA funds for retrofitting buses actually owned and operated by Krapf Bus.

EPA will post its application on the Grants/Funding section of the [Clean School Bus USA website](#) and for a [list of projects already funded](#).

If you need assistance with technology or other general issues in connection with your application, please feel free to contact Chris Trostle (dtrostle@state.pa.us or 717-787-9495 or Arleen Shulman (ashulman@state.pa.us) at the Department of Environmental Protection.

DEP also maintains a [Diesel Emissions website](#) with lots of useful information.

EPA Proposes Rule to Reduce Mercury from Power Plants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week finalized a [Clean Air Mercury Rule](#) the agency says will significantly reduce mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants across the country, the first mercury restriction ever adopted in the U.S..

Pennsylvania, New Jersey and other states immediately announced they will challenge the rule.

Taken together, the recently issued Clean Air Interstate Rule and the new Clean Air Mercury Rule will reduce electric utility mercury emissions by nearly 70 percent from 1999 levels when fully implemented, according to EPA.

The rule limits mercury emissions from new and existing coal-fired power plants, and creates a market-based cap-and-trade program that will permanently cap utility mercury emissions in two phases: the first phase cap is 38 tons beginning in 2010, with a final cap set at 15 tons beginning in 2018. These mandatory declining caps, coupled with significant penalties for noncompliance, will ensure that mercury reduction requirements are achieved and sustained.

EPA said the cap-and-trade system also creates incentives for continued development and testing of promising mercury control technologies that are efficient and effective, and that could later be used in other parts of the world. In addition, by making mercury emissions a tradable commodity, the system provides a strong motivation for

some utilities to make early emission reductions and for continuous improvements in control technologies.

The Pennsylvania [Department of Environmental Protection said the rule](#) does not go far enough in reducing mercury from power plants and puts Pennsylvania coal at a disadvantage to coal from western states. DEP wanted mercury to be regulated as a hazardous air pollutant.

NewsClips: [PA to Challenge EPA Over Mercury Regulation](#)
[PA, Others Oppose New Mercury Rule](#)
[Pitt Researchers Tackle Mercury Problem](#)

First Energy to Spend \$1.1 Billion, Reduce Pollution 212,500 tons In Settlement

The U.S. Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency this week announced a settlement with Ohio Edison Company, a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp., that will mean a reduction of 212,000 tons per year in air pollution from power plants in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The pollution controls and other measures required by the consent decree are expected to cost approximately \$1.1 billion.

The Bruce Mansfield power plant in Beaver County is included in the settlement.

The case involved alleged violations of the New Source Review (NSR) provisions of the federal Clean Air Act at the W.H. Sammis Station, a coal-fired power plant in Stratton, Ohio.

The Consent Decree will reduce sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions from the Sammis Station by a total of 134,500 tons of SO₂ and 28,567 tons of NO_x per year. Pollution controls will be installed between 2005 and 2010.

The final plant-wide caps and emission reduction levels will be achieved in 2012.

Ohio Edison and FirstEnergy will provide over 49,000 tons per year of additional reductions in SO₂ and NO_x emissions from three other power plants: the Burger plant in Belmont County, Ohio; the Bruce Mansfield plant in Beaver County, Pa.; and the Eastlake plant in Eastlake, Ohio.

These additional reductions will be achieved by upgrading existing pollution controls or installing new pollution controls at these plants. These additional reductions will bring the total SO₂ and emission reductions under the Consent Decree to over 212,000 tons per year by 2012.

This is the ninth settlement that the federal government has entered into to address Clean Air Act NSR violations by coal-fired power plants.

The combined effect of the settlements achieved to date will be to reduce emissions of harmful pollutants by over 940,000 tons each year through the installation and operation of about \$5.5 billion worth of pollution controls. In terms of both the amount of the pollution reductions and cost, this settlement is the second largest of the power plant NSR settlements to date. The \$8.5 million civil penalty imposed is the second largest penalty against a power plant.

The \$25 million amount for mitigation projects, to compensate for the harmful effects of Ohio Edison's past violations, is the largest mitigation project commitment in any of the United States' NSR settlements with utilities to date.

Ohio Edison will fund \$14.4 million in renewable energy development projects, specifically wind power projects in Pennsylvania, New Jersey or western New York. The wind power generated will displace an equivalent amount of coal-fired power and thereby further reduce emissions from coal-fired plants. Ohio Edison may propose, alternatively, to fund new projects to generate electricity from landfill gas in New York, New Jersey or Connecticut.

Ohio Edison also will provide a total of \$10 million to the states of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut to perform environmentally beneficial projects related to air pollution in those states. The specific projects will be determined by the states after the consent decree is entered. Allegheny County will receive \$400,000 to install a solar power project at one of the County's municipal buildings.

Ohio Edison also will provide \$215,000 to the National Park Service for an environmentally beneficial project related to air pollution in Shenandoah National Park, a Clean Air Act "Class I area" that has been adversely impacted by emissions from Sammis and other power plants.

The proposed Consent Decree will be lodged with the United States District Court in Columbus, Ohio, for a thirty-day public comment period.

EPA Extends Sign-Up Period for Air Quality Plans for Farms

The [Pennsylvania Farm Bureau](#) this week applauded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's decision to extend the period for comments and the time for farmers to sign up for the [Air Quality Consent Agreement](#).

EPA agreed to extend the comment period until May 2 and the deadline to sign up for the Consent Agreement until July 1.

The Compliance Agreement is the result of discussions with large agricultural integrators in the swine and poultry industry. Dairy farmers, along with small and mid size swine and poultry farmers, were not part of the initial discussions. Farmers who voluntarily enter into the agreement must contribute up to \$2,500 dollars per farm into a fund to conduct a nationwide emissions research program.

A participating farmer would also pay another \$200 to \$500 penalty, even though no research has been completed and no rules have been established to determine if a farm may be subjected to past violations and future oversight. Farmers who sign the Consent Agreement will be guaranteed they will not be fined under federal laws for any pollution that may have occurred in the past or during the agreement period, but it does not exclude them from future violations.

PFB also asked the EPA to reconsider specifics of the agreement as they relate to small and medium size producers. PFB is skeptical that data collected from other areas of the country will provide a sound scientific basis for the development of air emissions standards applied to Pennsylvania operations.

PennVest Offers Workshops on How to Apply for Infrastructure Financing

The [Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority](#) is offering a series of 10 "[How to Apply Sessions](#)" around the Commonwealth this spring to give potential applicants the

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opportunity to meet one-on-one with agency and learn how to apply for funding using PENNVEST's on-line funding application.

Workshops will be held on April 5 – Bedford, April 6- Williamsport, April 7- Carlisle, April 11-Mars, April 13- Greensburg, April 14- Exton, April 21- Clearfield, April 28- Harrisburg, May 3- Meadville and May 4- Scranton.

Staff from the Department of Environmental Protection will also be present at these sessions to help answer any questions relating to the environmental review and permit requirements for these types of infrastructure projects.

For more information on workshop dates and locations, call PENNVEST at 717 787-8138 or view the [online brochure for the workshops](#).

Nature Tourism Workshop at Juniata College Lake Raystown – April 14

The Wild Resources Conservation Program and the DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program are sponsoring a Nature Tourism Workshop at the Juniata College Lake Raystown Field Station April 14.

Find out how your community can promote nature resources in your area that will result in increased tourism.

Did you know that 18 million Americans bird watch each year while on vacation? That birdwatchers can bring new business to tourism destinations through word of mouth referrals? Bird watchers have a higher disposable income than the average American does. Are your businesses ready to capture the spending by these tourists?

Come to this workshop to learn how you can benefit. A \$15 registration fee will cover lunch, morning coffee and afternoon breaks.

For more information contact Marci Mowery at marci.mowery@paonline.com or 717-371-2155.

Grants Available to Support Rural Firefighting Efforts

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources opened its [application period for grants](#) to help rural communities better guard against the threat of fires in forested, undeveloped and unprotected areas.

Applications are due May 13. More than \$508,000 is available during this grant round.

DCNR will place a priority on those seeking funds for projects that include the purchase of wildfire suppression equipment and protective clothing. Grants also may be used for: mobile or portable radios; installation of dry hydrants; wildfire prevention and mitigation; wildfire fighter training; or conversion and maintenance of federal excess vehicles received from the Bureau of Forestry and are using for fire suppression.

Grants for any project during a fiscal year cannot exceed 50 percent of the actual expenditures of local, public and private nonprofit organizations in the agreement. The maximum grant that will be considered from any fire company in 2005 is \$7,500. All items approved for purchase under the 2005 fiscal year program must be purchased between Oct. 1, 2004, and Dec. 31, 2005.

Grant applications and more information may be obtained from the Bureau of Forestry's [Division of Forest Fire Protection](#). Contact Forest Program Specialist Charles C. Choplick at (717) 787-2925 for more information.

EPA Issues Energy Star Challenge: Make U.S. Buildings More Energy Efficient

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week challenged commercial and institutional building owners to improve energy efficiency by 10 percent or more to conserve energy, save money and protect the environment.

More than 20 states, groups, and businesses, including Pennsylvania, have joined EPA to issue the [Energy Star Challenge](#), which calls on building owners to assess energy usage, set efficiency improvement goals of 10 percent or greater, and make cost-effective improvements.

Commercial and institutional buildings use about \$80 billion worth of energy each year and contribute about 20 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. EPA estimates that if each building owner met the challenge, in 10 years they would reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the emissions from 15 million cars while saving about \$10 billion each year.

EPA offers its national building energy performance rating system to support this challenge. This rating system has already been used to assess the energy efficiency of almost 20,000 buildings across the country.

For more information, visit the [Energy Star webpage](#) or call toll-free 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937).

3 Rivers Wet Weather Project Receives \$2.5 Million Grant

While Allegheny County communities continue to clean, assess and repair their sewer collection systems under a consent order from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), they can look to a small non-profit organization based in Lawrenceville for some financial assistance.

Recently, 2005 appropriations legislation earmarked \$2.5 million for the [3 Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Program](#) (3RWWDP) under the federal Clean Water Act to assist 82 communities and the City of Pittsburgh in the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) service area.

"We appreciate the ongoing support of the Allegheny County delegation-Senators Rick Santorum and Arlen Specter, and Congressional Representatives Mike Doyle, Melissa Hart and Tim Murphy-in securing the dollars that allow us to assist local communities in tackling this critical problem, said John Schombert, executive director of 3 Rivers Wet Weather

Created in 1998, 3RWWDP's mission is to help ALCOSAN communities address the issue of untreated sewage and storm water overflowing into the region's waterways during wet weather. To promote the most cost-effective, long-term, sustainable solutions, the organization benchmarks sewer technology, provides financial grants, educates the public and advocates inter-municipal partnerships.

Under EPA grant conditions, the \$2.5 million, appropriated from the State and Tribal Assistance Grant category of the Clean Water Act, must be matched by 45 percent

in local municipal funds, private grants or state dollars. That means for every federal grant dollar spent, 80 cents must be obtained from local or state funds.

With the help of a Pennsylvania state grant, 3RWW recently coordinated and funded a system-wide manhole mapping project to help municipalities meet their consent order requirements. Using Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite technology, mapping crews accurately recorded the horizontal and vertical locations of more than 100,00 manholes throughout 4,000 miles of sewer collection system.

"This regional approach saved the communities up to \$9 million," said Schombert. "It is the goal of 3 Rivers Wet Weather to spend our grant dollars as cost-effectively as possible to help all of the ALCOSAN communities."

The next project 3RWW will embark upon is a regional flow monitoring plan that will save communities up to \$18 million.

(contributed by Tracy Shubert, 3 Rivers Wet Weather Program)

First Meeting of the PA No-Till Alliance A Success, Next Meeting April 7

Eighty-five people attended the first meeting of the Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance in Centre County on March 4. The group included farmers, conservation district staff, farm organizations, supporting state, federal and local agencies, educational institutions and private-sector businesses supporting no-till agricultural practices.



The Alliance seeks to bring together farmers interested in improving soil quality and crop production through the promotion of no-till crop production within the Commonwealth. The main goal of the Alliance is to serve as a network for farmers interested in no-till practices as well as providing them with the most recent resources available on no-till research, technology and funding.

The Alliance also plans to facilitate input regarding sediment and nutrient management issues related to agriculture and will coordinate activities between regional no-till groups across the state. Participation in the Alliance is open to no-till farmers and those supporting no-till agriculture in the private sector. Legislative and governmental agencies will be called upon to provide support and technical guidance as needed.

The successful daylong event began with Steve Groff of Cedar Meadow Farms in Lancaster County presenting his amazing video diary of Hurricane Floyd, which visualizes the impact of short-term heavy rainfall amounts on both traditional farm fields and fields that have been improved and managed through a no-till system approach.

Following Mr. Groff's opening comments, Robin Heard, State Conservationist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) made remarks expressing her agency's support.

Brief presentations regarding the background of the Alliance formation were also given by Joel Myers, State Agronomist with the NRCS; Sjoerd Duiker, assistant professor of soil management and applied soil physics for Penn State's College of

Agricultural Sciences; and Jay Braund, Conservation District Field Representative for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Additionally, Dr. Dwayne Beck, research manager of the Dakota Lakes Research Farm at South Dakota State University, delivered a keynote address titled, "Parking the Plow: Preparing for the No-Till Revolution." Dr. Beck is a renowned researcher who emphasizes crop rotations in making no-till systems more effective. He entertained the crowd with anecdotal evidence from his own farm operation.

The speaker presentations were followed by group break-out sessions on farmer networking and education, research, public outreach, program support and Alliance structure. Following break-out reports and recommendations, a social hour and family-style dinner ended the day's activities. There was also a working breakfast meeting on Saturday, March 5 for those interested in serving on the Alliance's interim Board of Directors.

The formation of the PA No-Till Alliance has been the result of a great collaborative effort. Alliance organizers include: USDA NRCS; Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences; Penn State Cooperative Extension, PA Association of RC&D Councils, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and PennAg Industries Association.

The Alliance interim Board of Directors has planned another meeting for April 7 at the same location to finalize the group's bylaws, elect officers, review the recommendations from the meeting breakout sessions, and formalize the membership structure of the Alliance.

They will also set up short-term goals and strategies for moving forward, such as developing a website, organizational materials, as well as supporting the development of publications related to the No-Till research and outreach efforts already begun statewide. All interested participants and supporting organizations are invited to attend."

For additional information or to join the PA No-Till Alliance, contact Susan Parry at the Capital Resource Conservation and Development Area Council office at (717) 948-6633, or by e-mail at susan.parry@pa.usda.gov .
(contributed by Susan Parry)

TreeVitalize Partnership Planting 450 Trees in Southeast

Spring is the time for planting, and [TreeVitalize](#) volunteers and community groups will be doing just that over the next several days in Bucks, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties.

The project, organized by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and Penn State Cooperative Extension, is employing a new method developed by Cornell University to dip bare root trees in a slurry hydrogel mix and bag them in plastic. The method keeps the trees moist for a week so that they do not have to be planted quite as quickly, and are easier to handle than a large balled and burlaped tree.

Volunteers met a shipment of trees at two locations, Philadelphia and Skippack, on March 15, to dip and bag the trees. There are nine species - honey locust, swamp white oak, tree lilac, crabapple, tatarian maple, Canada red chokecherry, hackberry, red maple and serviceberry.

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This year's trees are all spoken for, but TreeVitalize will provide bare root trees again next year to groups that participate in citizen training courses.

TreeVitalize aims to plant more than 20,000 shade trees in neighborhoods and more than 500 acres of forested riparian buffers in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties. The \$8 million program targets neighborhoods in older cities, boroughs and townships where tree cover is below 25 percent. Tree cover refers to the percentage of land shaded by trees and shrubs.

DCNR oversees TreeVitalize and has partnered with: the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); Aqua Pennsylvania; Philadelphia Eagles; PECO, an Exelon Co.; U.S. Forest Service; Pennsylvania Horticultural Society; Morris Arboretum; William Penn Foundation; Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association; and county and local governments.

For more information visit www.treevitalize.net. Communities that want to learn more about citizen training should contact Mindy Maslin at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society at 215-988-8884.

Black Bass Workshop on Habitat Management, Angling

The Fish and Boat Commission and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced that registration has begun for the 5th Pennsylvania Black Bass Workshop, April 22-23 at Blue Spruce County Park, near Ernest, Indiana County.

The workshop is designed to offer anglers, resource and facilities managers an opportunity to hear discussions on both black bass and habitat management, angling and other aquatic resource subjects. Boat launches and weigh-in facilities will also be covered.

Besides the PFBC and DCNR's Yellow Creek State Park in Indiana County, other workshop co-hosts include: the Pennsylvania BASS Federation; U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; Marsh Creek Bass Club Ltd.; and Indiana County Parks and Trails.

Started in 1999 and held at different parks every year, the workshop is designed to offer bass anglers, biologists, conservation officers, resource and facility managers a chance to exchange ideas and information pertaining to the management of bass fisheries, bass habitat, bass angling and recreational facilities.

The "Black Bass Habitat" theme focuses on black bass fisheries habitat management at national, state and local levels. Discussions on black bass habitat management methods in lakes, impoundments and rivers are planned. Other topic discussions include: Keeping Bass Alive, Aquatic Vegetation Propagation and Answering Resource Questions.

The workshop is open to anyone interested in black bass conservation. Organizers invite attendees to share their knowledge and experience with other bass anglers, tournament organizers, fisheries biologists, park managers and state and federal agency administrators.

For registration information and other details, contact Denise Darnley, Yellow Creek State Park, 170 Route 259 Highway, Penn Run, PA 15765-5941. Tel: (724) 357-7913 or email: ddarnley@state.pa.us.

Historic Commission Workshop on Rural Landscapes, Barn Preservation

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission will co- sponsor a one-day workshop on the preservation of barns and agricultural landscapes from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 5 in Gettysburg.

Historians and preservation experts including Jean Cutler, Carol Lee, and Bryan Van Sweden of PHMC, Wayne Motts of the ACHS and others will provide presentations covering the use of traditional barns today and how to find information on historic farms and buildings. Don Delp of Restore 'N More, a preservation contractor based in Manheim, will offer suggestions on restoration projects.

PHMC Commissioner Rep. Maitland (R-Adams) will present an update on preservation-related legislation. Stephen Miller, Landis Valley Museum Site Administrator, will provide the keynote message: "The Value of Agricultural Literacy." The program will also feature a slide show by Professor Robert F. Ensminger, an associate professor emeritus of geography at Kutztown University, who will discuss the origins of the Pennsylvania Barn.

A mid-day bus tour will stop at several historic barns in the Gettysburg area that have been saved and preserved through the efforts of the federal government, private individuals and others. The tour will also visit one of the largest blocks of preserved agricultural land in Adams County and will note the various groups that have worked together to preserve this landscape.

The other partners in this educational seminar are Historic Gettysburg- Adams County, Inc. (HGAC) and the Adams County Historical Society (ACHS). The workshop will present ideas on restoring historic farm buildings through planning and preservation. It is open to the public.

The workshop will be held at the GAR building, 53 E. Middle St., Gettysburg. Registration for the workshop is limited and is being handled by the ACHS. To register and for more information, call 717-334-4723. There is a \$25 registration fee for the event.

Court Eliminates \$4 Growing Greener Fee from Alternative Daily Cover

Commonwealth Court this week issued a decision saying the \$4/ton Growing Greener fee does not apply to alternative daily cover used by landfills. The case involved a challenge to the fee by Joseph J. Brunner, Inc. which owns a municipal waste landfill in Beaver County, and its use of foundry sand as daily cover.

The Court said the 2002 law establishing the fee has a clear exemption in it for alternative daily cover in 27 Pa.C.S. Section 6301 that says "process residue and nonprocessible waste that is permitted for beneficial use or for use as alternative daily cover at a municipal waste landfill."

DEP had argued the exemption only applied to materials coming from a resource recovery facilities, however, the court disagreed and said the plain language of the section provides the exemption.

DEP has not yet decided to appeal the decision.

A copy of the decision is attached to this webpage.

Help Wanted

[Riverbend Environmental Ed Center](#) in Montgomery County is looking for interns and summer employees to staff its summer programs. Job descriptions for the various positions are available online.

Quick Clips

[Recycling Made Easy, Profitable](#)
[New Trash Collection System Encourages Recycling](#)
[Recycling Rates Continue to Climb](#)
[Location Makes Difference in Drop Off Recycling Center](#)
[Westmoreland Smart Growth Plan in Place](#)
[Ridgeway Students Compost Cafeteria Waste](#)
[DEP Chief Says End the Blame Game](#)
[Editorial: River Trail Progress Show Recreational, Economic Potential](#)
[Pine to Power Some Facilities with Windmill](#)
[Editorial: Lodges in State Parks a Delicate Issue](#)
[Centre County Transit Converts All Buses to Natural Gas](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[Radnor Middle School Watershed program in full bloom at the Flower Show](#)
[Residents Express Ideas on South Bethlehem Greenway](#)
[State Hears Comments on Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy](#)
[Sweet Arrow Lake to Get 1,000 Trout](#)
[Creek is Running Orange Again](#)
[Lake Managers Revives Committees](#)
[Carbon Learns State of Nature Inventory](#)
[Washington County Ag Days offer inside look at agriculture](#)
[Trees, watershed conservation, new ideas planted among Amish](#)
[Reclaiming The Mile in Northumberland County](#)

Regulations

The Department of Environmental Protection published a correction to regulations relating to approved analytical methods and detection limits related to water quality standards originally published February 12, 2005. ([PaB 1761](#))

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – March 19, 2005](#)

Comment Deadlines: [Regulations](#) [Technical Guidance](#)

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice of final guidance on underground mine maps, air quality violations and drinking water sampling.

Final: DEP ID: 563-2000-610. Validating Abandoned Underground Mine Maps and Establishing Barrier Pillars. This guidance establishes procedures to provide that abandoned mine voids are accurately located and mapped and to ensure that active underground mines are designed to include perimeter barriers that adequately address safety and environmental concerns.

Final: DEP ID: 273-4110-001. Guidelines for Identifying, Tracking and Resolving Violations for Air Quality. The Bureau of Air Quality is establishing this new technical guidance document to implement the provisions of the Standards and Guidelines For Identifying, Tracking and Resolving Violations Policy issued on April 6, 2004.

Final: DEP ID: 383-3310-309. Pennsylvania Drinking Water Information System (PADWIS) Laboratory Sample User's Manual. The Bureau of Water Supply and Wastewater Management is establishing this document to establish uniform instructions and protocol for using and maintaining computerized public drinking water laboratory sample data for management of the Safe Drinking Water Program.

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- [Meadville Community Energy Project Offers Workshops](#)
- **March 23** – DCNR Conservation & Natural Resources Council meeting.
- **March 23** – Greening Residential Developments. Green Building Alliance Pittsburgh. Contact: Karen Puff, 412-431-0709 or email karenp@gbapgh.org.
- **March 23-24** – [Agricultural Summit- Nutrient Management Balancing Act](#). Grantville.
- **March 29-April 1** – [PA Rural Water Association Annual Conference](#). State College.
- **March 31** – House Insurance Committee meets to consider House Bill 243 (Semmel_R-Berks) establishing a Floodplain Insurance Assistance Program.
- **April 5** – [Fifth Goddard Forum: Putting the Market to Work for Conservation](#). Harrisburg.
- **April 6-7** – PA Bar Association [Environmental Law Forum](#).
- **April 6-8** – [Stormwater Management in a New Age – Understanding the Physical Processes and Analytical Tools](#). State College.
- **April 8-9**: [PA Land Conservation Conference](#). Strasburg.
- **April 10-16** – [National Environmental Education Week](#).
- **April 13-14**- [Source Water Protection Workshops](#) in Greensburg and Oil City.
- **April 19-20**: PA Chamber [Environmental Laws and Regulations Conference](#).

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- **May 3-5** – [Annual Conference](#), Pa Section-American Water Works Association in Valley Forge.
- **May 5-6** – [PA Greenway and Trail Summit](#). Mechanicsburg.
- **May 6-7** - West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium -_Location: Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College, PA _Contact: Amy Wolfe at 570-726-3118 or awolfe@tu.org

[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](#)

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 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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