

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Senate Passes “Responsible Budget,” Rendell Presses for Initiatives Left Out

The Senate this week vote 49 to 1 to approve a state budget that reduces spending by \$344 million from the governor's proposed budget. Sen. Anthony Williams (D-Philadelphia) was the only no vote.

Almost immediately, Gov. Rendell said he would continue to press the General Assembly to address funding for his transit/highway, health care and energy initiatives, even if they have to stay in Harrisburg a few extra weeks.

The House was also busy on budget issues, considering two rival highway/transit funding plans, one from each Caucus in addition to Gov. Rendell's plan, passing two of the four bills that make up his Energy Independence Initiative and a moving smoke-free PA health care proposal.

The House had extended debate on an amendment to [House Bill 1590](#) (Markosek-D-Allegheny) to provide additional funding for transit and highway improvements, but failed to take final action on the proposal after a five hour debate, even after voting down a motion to table the amendment 103 to 98. They plan to start session early on June 25 to try again. (*See separate article.*)

The Governor's energy initiative fared better. [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) requiring transportation fuels to have renewable content was passed by the House 138-60 and [House Bill 1200](#) (DePasquale-D-York) making changes to the responsibilities of the PA Energy Development Authority passed the House 128-70. (*See separate article.*)

The \$27 billion budget passed by the Senate includes a modest 2.69 percent (\$709 million) increase in spending over the current fiscal year without any of the new or increased taxes proposed by Gov. Rendell. It also limits legislative initiative grants and only restores a few of the many cuts made by Gov. Rendell that he assumed the General Assembly would restore.

"Our caucus has consistently advocated for a budget that meets Pennsylvania's real needs with no tax increases for this year or next, and with spending growth limits close to the cost of living," said Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi (R-Delaware). "Today, the Senate advanced – with strong bipartisan support – a budget proposal that meets those goals."

This budget restores \$105.7 million in funding that Gov. Rendell cut from a variety of programs and services in his proposed budget, including county conservation districts.

"We were able to restore some funding for important programs that were cut in the governor's proposal, such as epilepsy support services, lupus treatment, trauma center certification, emergency care research, agricultural research, and self-employment

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assistance," said Sen. Pileggi. "This is a responsible budget, but it also includes many tough choices. Several line items which have traditionally been funded are reduced or eliminated. Some line items are funded at levels that I personally would like to see higher. And some are funded at levels that I would like to see lower."

[House Bill 1286](#) also increases basic education funding by 3.5 percent, bringing state support to \$4.95 billion in FY 07-08. Special education funding would increase by 3 percent, up to a total of just over \$1 billion in FY 07-08.

"Members from both sides of the aisle can be proud of passing a budget that does not increase taxes, does not create any new taxes, and does not exceed the rate of inflation," Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati (R-Jefferson) stated. "This budget reflects an understanding of the financial realities of Pennsylvania families and balances it with a vision for future advancement."

"It is my hope that House Democrats recognize that the citizens of the Commonwealth do not need another bill in the mail taking money out of their pockets," Sen. Scarnati added. "The Senate has crafted a conservative budget that still maintains substantial increases in education, economic development, and medical assistance funding."

"I am confident that Gov. Rendell and House Democrats will find the Senate's version of the budget solid, sound, and respectful of the citizens of the Commonwealth," Sen. Scarnati added. "With House concurrence and a signature from the Governor, the final budget can be the consequence of financial prudence not seen in past years."

"I do want to recognize the many hours of hard work in bringing about this product by all members of the Senate, both Democrat and Republican," Sen. Scarnati stated. "Our negotiations have been open, productive and civil. Quite frankly, the budget process on the Senate side is reflective of the type of bi-partisan cooperation and work the citizens have been demanding for some time."

"In addition, I have stated time and time again, that when the Governor decides he also wants to begin working on the budget, this office will be as cooperative as he is fiscally responsible," Sen. Scarnati concluded. "It is, however, important to note, that the deadline to pass a budget is fast approaching and the Governor seems very attached to tax increases and bloated spending."

The budget vehicles at this stage are [House Bill 1286](#) (Evans-D-Philadelphia) and [Senate Bill 846](#) (Armstrong-R-Lancaster). The Senate also passed all the non-preferred appropriations bills—Senate Bills 929 through 959. And the House moved [Senate Bill 795](#) (Armstrong-R-Lancaster) Public Utility Commission budget, [Senate Bill 796](#) (Armstrong) Office of Consumer Advocate and [Senate Bill 797](#) (Armstrong) Office of Small Business Advocate out of the House Appropriations Committee.

NewsClips: [Democratic Highway, Transit Plan Hits GOP Speed Bump](#)
[House Plan Would Make I-80 Toll Road](#)
[House Dems Offer New Highway Funding Bill](#)
[House Targets Transportation Plan](#)
[Rendell: Legislature May Spend July in Harrisburg](#)
[Rendell Threatens to Hold Budget Captive to His Energy Plan](#)
[Budget Talks Going in Different Directions](#)

Lawmakers, Gov. Rendell Urged to Act NOW for Clean Water and Healthy Farms

Rarely does an opportunity arise that has farmers, environmentalists and business groups pushing in the same direction. But we have that opportunity now.

The [PA Resource Enhancement and Protection Act](#), or REAP, is waiting for legislative approval and inclusion in the state budget. REAP is included in [House Bill 100](#) (Stern-R-Blair, Daley-D-Washington) and [Senate Bill 690](#) (Waugh-R-York, O’Pake-D-Berks).



But will policymakers seize this opportunity to enact a common sense approach to providing clean water for all Pennsylvanians, while providing a brighter future for our farm families?

The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and over 60 other community and business groups surely hope so.

The REAP proposal is straightforward and cost effective: give farmers the tools to implement proven conservation measures that achieve water quality improvements that benefit everyone.

Unlike many other pressing and expensive issues being discussed in Harrisburg these days, this proposal would allow us to start now and work locally, farm by farm, and make progress far faster and cheaper than most other policy options.

The tools and the knowhow are there.

For example, when a dairy farmer makes improvements to a barnyard near a stream, manure is controlled (good for the fish) and the cows are healthier and more productive (good for the bottom line). It’s the classic win-win scenario. We also make good on our commitment to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

Some may ask why more of these improvements haven’t already been made. Why don’t farmers make these additional investments themselves? If you live in the country, the answer lies just down the lane.

Ask any local farmer how business has been and you’re likely to get an earful. 2006 was a truly dismal year: rock bottom milk prices with many farmers losing money with each full milk truck leaving the farm. Even though milk prices have rebounded a bit, high feed and fuel costs are keeping profits low or nonexistent. Imagine having 70 hour work weeks to barely scrape by.

All this is to say that farmers do their best to be good stewards of the land and water, but they can’t do it on their own in today’s farm economy. Like it or not, the price on a gallon of milk or pound of chicken doesn’t include even once cent for protecting our streams. Our cheap and plentiful food supply doesn’t factor in the health of the Susquehanna River or the Delaware Bay.

REAP creates an innovative combination of tax credits, proven conservation technologies and financial contributions from farmers themselves. It means clean drinking water, healthy streams and some much-needed help for our farms.

Let’s hope our leaders in Harrisburg approve this pro-farm and pro-environment initiative in this year’s budget. That would be a harvest everyone can celebrate.

For more information, visit the [REAP webpage](#).

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Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to voting session June 25 and are scheduled to be in all week, or until the state budget is done, whichever comes

first.

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On the Hill

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- Farmland Preservation Board Protects 57 Farms in 18 Counties
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- BP Solar, Universal Pictures Offers Free Solar System Sweepstakes
- Help Wanted: West Branch Susquehanna VISTA Volunteer

In Memorium

- Robert W. McCullough, 84, Lycoming County

Feature

- 35th Anniversary of Hurricane Agnes Floods Commemorated

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

Video Blog

NRCS Grant Supports Innovative Mine Reclamation Project Using Excess Manure

The U.S. Department of Agriculture this week announced the award of a grant to the Pennsylvania Environmental Council to support an innovative mine reclamation project that will use excess manure to reclaim an abandoned strip mine and grow switchgrass that will be used as a renewable fuel.

[Mark Rey](#), Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, USDA, made the announcement in Harrisburg and talked about creating a win-win-win for the environment and agriculture and the status of efforts to increase funding for the conservation provisions in the 2007 federal Farm Bill.

[Scott Van de Mark](#), Pennsylvania Environmental Council, talks about the project which will use 1,600 tons of poultry manure on a 30 acre test plot on an abandoned mine to provide a field test for in-situ composting of manure.

He noted the project will potentially provide three kinds of marketable credits—nutrient credits for the use of excess poultry manure, renewable energy credits for the switchgrass and credits for carbon sequestration to offset greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information on the Pennsylvania Environmental Council visit the [PEC website](#).

Video Blog: [Mark Rey](#), USDA Secretary for Natural Resources & Environment

Video Blog: [Scott Van de Mark](#), Pennsylvania Environmental Council

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced

The Senate and Senate return to voting session June 25. Here's what's on the agenda this week--

House

Calendar: [House Bill 43](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) establishing uniform environmental covenants for brownfield site redevelopment; [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act in line with Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Proposal; [House Bill 1295](#) (Hanna-D-Clinton), restoring the State System of Higher Education allocation from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2006-07; [House Resolution 112](#) (Mann-D-Lehigh) directing DEP to implement policies that encourage electronic waste recycling; [House Resolution 122](#) (George-D-Clearfield) petitioning the President and Congress to increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; [House Resolution 268](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study Game Commission forestry and mineral development policies.

Committees: The Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 913](#) (Vereb-R-Montgomery) providing for a Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program and authorizing additional funding, [House Bill 1164](#) (Wansacz-D-Luzerne) requiring host community agreements and prohibiting municipal and residual waste facilities near State Parks; the Local Government Committee meets to consider

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[House Bill 1329](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) further providing for the jurisdiction of common pleas court in reviewing challenges to land development ordinances and [House Resolution 180](#) (Yudichak-D-Luzerne) establishing a commission to study the Commonwealth's fragmented system of local governments.

Senate

Calendar: [Senate Bill 715](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) amends the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act incorporating the Governor's Energy Independence Proposal changes; [Senate Bill 913](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) authorizing the transfer of certain excess fine and penalty revenues to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund; [House Bill 13](#) (Readshaw-D-Allegheny) relating to landowner liability and opening land to recreation.

Committee: The Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 483](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) establishing the Mine Families First Program to deal with the needs of families of mine workers involved in an emergency; [Senate Resolution 129](#) (Stout-D-Washington) expressing opposition to the designation of national corridors of interest in Pennsylvania for electric transmission lines; the Senate Appropriations Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 913](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) authorizing the transfer of certain excess fine and penalty revenues to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund, [Senate Bill 728](#) (Scarnati-R-Jefferson) restoring the State System of Higher Education allocation from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2006-07 .

Bills Introduced

Several more environmental bills were introduced this week...

County Administration Fees: [House Bill 1209](#) (M.Smith-D-Montgomery) amending Act 101 to authorize county administration fees for waste and recycling programs.

Capitol Budget: [House Bill 1589](#) (Evans-D-Philadelphia) providing for a Capitol Budget for environmental, recreation, transportation, economic development and other projects.

Long-Term Electric Contracts: [Senate Bill 977](#) (Orie-R-Allegheny) authorizing the use of long-term contracts in certain circumstances for electricity purchases.

Senate/House Bills Moving

Here's the rundown on environmental bills moving in the General Assembly this week....

Senate

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Regulation Justification: [Senate Bill 752](#) (Erickson-R-Delaware) requiring a description of data used to justify regulations before the Independent Regulatory Review Commission was reported from Senate Appropriations Committee and passed by the full Senate. It now goes to the House for consideration.

Use of Funds: [Senate Bill 913](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) authorizing the transfer of certain excess fine and penalty revenues to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund was referred to and then reported from the Senate Appropriations Committee. It is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

Landowner Liability: The Senate Game and Fisheries Committee reported out [House Bill 13](#) (Readshaw-D-Allegheny) relating to landowner liability and opening land to recreation and it is now on the Senate Calendar for action.

Keystone Fund: [Senate Bill 728](#) (Scarnati-R-Jefferson) restoring the State System of Higher Education allocation from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2006-07 was reported from the Senate Appropriations Committee.

REAP: [Senate Bill 690](#) (Waugh-R-York, O’Pake-D-Berks) establishing the Resource Enhancement and Protection Act to give farmers tax credits for installing conservation practices was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

House

Nuclear Plant Fees: [House Bill 496](#) (George-D-Clearfield) that would increase fees on nuclear power plants and for transportation escorts was passed by the House and sent to the Senate for its action.

Renewable Transportation Fuels: [House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery) requiring transportation fuels to have renewable content was reported from the House Rules Committee, amended on the floor, re-committed to and reported from House Appropriations Committee and passed by the House 138-60 and sent to the Senate for action.

PA Energy Development Authority: [House Bill 1200](#) (DePasquale-D-York) making changes to the responsibilities of the PA Energy Development Authority consistent with the Governor’s Energy Independence Initiative was reported out of the House Rules Committee, amended on the floor, re-committed and reported out of the House Appropriations Committee and was passed by the House 128-70 and sent to the Senate for its action.

Game Lands: [House Resolution 193](#) (Haluska-D-Cambria) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the future value of assets on Game Commission land was adopted by the House.

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Uniform Covenants: [House Bill 43](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) establishing uniform environmental covenants for brownfield site redevelopment was reported from the House Appropriations Committee. It is on the House Calendar for action.

Alternative Energy Standards: [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act in line with Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Proposal was reported from the House Rules Committee, amended on the floor and re-committed to and reported from House Appropriations Committee and is now on the House Calendar for action.

Utility Code Changes: The House Consumer Affairs Committee amended and reported out [House Bill 1201](#) (George-D-Clearfield) making changes to Title 66 (Utility Code) consistent with Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Proposal and then re-referred to the House Rules Committee.

Electric Distribution: [House Bill 1530](#) (Dermody-D-Allegheny) providing for electric supplier long term contracts was reported from the House Consumer Affairs Committee and re-referred to House Rules Committee.

Keystone Fund: [House Bill 1295](#) (Hanna-D-Clinton), restoring the State System of Higher Education allocation from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2006-07 was reported from the House Rules Committee and re-committed to and reported from House Appropriations Committee. It is now on the House Calendar for action.

Highway/Transit Funding Proposal Stalls In House

The House had extended debate on a proposal to provide additional funding for transit and highway improvements, but failed to take final action on the proposal after a five hour debate, even with voting down a motion to table 103 to 98.

The amendment to [House Bill 1590](#) (Markosek-D-Allegheny) would raise an estimated \$910 million annually by 2010-- \$400 million for highways and \$500 million for mass transit.

The bill would reorganize the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission to impose additional tolls and lease the exiting Turnpike to the Commonwealth beginning at \$200 million a year and impose new tolls on I-80.

The bill would also provide funding for statewide programs through at least nine different sources, including increases in safety and emission inspection fees, a fee on waste tires, applying state Sales Tax to professional sports event tickets, vehicle title fees, earmarking a portion of the state Lottery Fund, a new fee on motor vehicle rentals and other sources.

Counties and municipalities would be authorized to impose new taxes to support a new, higher local match requirement for funding transit systems, including 0.5 percent Sales Tax, 0.5 percent earned income tax, 0.5 percent realty transfer tax, a tax on liquor and brewed beverages of up to 10 percent, surcharges on parking spaces and parking tickets, local tax on vehicle rentals and applying the Sales Tax to professional sports event tickets.

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The amendment would also restructure the governing board of SEPTA. Senate reaction to the House debate was cautious.

“We are encouraged that House Democrats, and possibly Gov. Rendell, are becoming serious about a taxpayer-friendly solution to transportation funding,” said President Pro Tempore Sen. Joe Scarnati (R-Jefferson). “With the unconstitutional Oil Company Gross Profits tax and leasing the Turnpike to a private entity receiving no support, we need to direct our attention to proposals that offer the greatest effectiveness at the least cost to Pennsylvania taxpayers.”

One serious concern noted by the senators is the current proportion of funding for roads and bridges in the plan. The Transportation Reform Commission has recommended a plan with 56 percent of funding dedicated to roads and bridges. This plan would only send 42 percent of the new funding to roads and bridges over the first three years.

“The devil is always in the details,” Sen. Scarnati said. “And there are a lot of details in this plan that need to be examined from top to bottom. Senate Republicans have repeatedly said during budget negotiations that we will not increase taxes this year or next. Now that the transportation dialogue is moving in this direction as well, I am hopeful that the Governor will turn his attention to the core budget and, for the first time in his administration, get one done on time.”

The House is set to resume its debate on highway/transit funding when it returns to session on June 25.

House Passes Two of Four Rendell Energy Proposals, With Amendments

The House this week approved two of four bills carrying Gov. Rendell’s Energy Independence Initiative by relatively wide margins. They dealt with renewable transportation fuels and expanding the role played by the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority.

[House Bill 1202](#) (Gerber-D-Montgomery), requiring transportation fuels to have renewable content, was passed by the House 138-60.

The bill requires all diesel fuel to have at least 2 percent renewable content when in-state production of biodiesel reaches 30 million gallons per year and up to 10 percent biodiesel when in-state production reaches 150 million gallons of biodiesel. It also requires gasoline to have at least 10 percent ethanol content when in-state production of ethanol reaches 200 million gallons annually.

[House Bill 1200](#) (DePasquale-D-York,) that would expand the responsibilities of the PA Energy Development Authority, was passed by the House 128-70.

The bill would authorize the Authority to fund projects that promote the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards, energy efficiency technologies, create rebate and incentive programs for distribution of energy efficient products and provide loans and grants of working capital to promote the development of clean energy technologies. The bill also removes the \$300 million cap on indebtedness the Authority can manage.

“Pennsylvania took a major step towards energy independence tonight,” said Gov. Rendell. “After rigorous debate, members of both parties came together to support our plan for strengthening Pennsylvania’s economy and environment. The fact that these bills passed with more than two-thirds of the vote illustrates a strong level of bipartisan support, and a recognition that we must do more to protect our state’s energy future and create new opportunities for our men and women.”

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Also seeing House action this week, but not final passage, were the two other pieces of Gov. Rendell's energy initiative—

- [House Bill 1203](#) (Hornaman-D-Erie) amending the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act was reported from the House Rules Committee, amended on the floor and re-committed to and reported from House Appropriations Committee
The bill seeks to make it easier for distributed energy generators to hook into the electric grid, makes changes to net metering requirements, adds solar thermal energy to the Tier 1 renewable energy requirements and changes the ramp up for the solar energy requirement, outlines in more detail the alternative energy credit program and stipulates ownership requirements for alternative energy credits.; and
- [House Bill 1201](#) (George-D-Clearfield) making changes to Title 66 (Utility Code) was amended and reported out of the House Consumer Affairs Committee, then re-referred to the House Rules Committee. The bill includes a system benefit charge to fund the Energy Independence Initiative.

Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) and Majority Chairman of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee said moving Pennsylvania toward energy independence -- and creating 35,000 jobs and saving \$10 billion over the next 10 years -- hinges on approval of his House Bill 1201, which was approved by the House Consumer Affairs Committee Tuesday and sent to the full House.

"None of the other responsible goals of the strategy -- improving the environment, creating jobs and protecting consumers -- is possible without House Bill 1201," Rep. George said. "It is the lynchpin to making Pennsylvania an energy leader instead of a loser."

Rep. George said the "systems benefits charge" in HB 1201 would seed an \$850 million Energy Independence Fund that would fuel Pennsylvania's advances in conservation, clean energy and energy diversification.

"The charge -- less than \$6 a year for homeowners -- should save those consumers nearly almost \$75 a year in energy savings," Rep. George said. "House Bill 1201 would enable Pennsylvania to act now to counter the job- and economy-killing electric rate increases looming on the horizon."

"If House Bill 1201 saves us -- homeowners, businesses and industries -- money it shouldn't be smeared as a tax increase," Rep. George said. "We must take bold action on energy now or remain forever weak, dependent and beholden to special interests."

NewsClips: [Rendell Applauds House Action Moving Energy Plan](#)
[Poll Shows Renewable Energy Support](#)
[Element of Rendell Energy Plan Passes House](#)
[Rendell Threatens to Hold Budget Captive to His Energy Plan](#)
[Solar Power Industry Voices Support for Energy Plan](#)
[McGinty Receives Clean Energy Leadership Recognition](#)

House Committee Narrowly Supports Fee for Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee voted 15 to 14 to report out legislation that would impose a new \$2.75/ton fee on municipal waste disposed in Pennsylvania to support the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program and partially fund debt service for the Growing Greener II bond issue.

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The Committee amended the bill—[House Bill 1206](#) (Surra-D-Elk)-- to take out all the permit application and administrative fees included in the bill and left only the \$2.75 fee.

Republicans on the Committee attempted to offer an amendment that would eliminate the fee in favor of restoring the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund's original source of funding, the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax. That effort was blocked on procedural grounds.

Also reported out of Committee were:

- [House Bill 1320](#) (Siptroth-D-Monroe) establishing a program within DEP for the disposal of home-generated medical sharps; and
- [Senate Bill 815](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) extending the storage tank pollution prevention program through 2012.

Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) serves as Chair of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) serves as Minority Chair.

NewsClips: [Editorial: Funding for Hazardous Sites Cleanup Will Disappear](#)

Senate Committee Lists Mine Families First, Transmission Line Bills for Action

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee has scheduled a meeting for June 26 to take action on bills that would establish the Mine Families First Program and a resolution expressing opposition to electric transmission line routes. They include:

- [House Bill 483](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) establishes the Mine Families First Program to deal with the needs of families of mine workers involved in an emergency. The legislation is based on steps taken by Gov. Schweiker and the Department of Environmental Protection during the 2002 Quecreek Mine Rescue; and
- [Senate Resolution 129](#) (Stout-D-Washington) expressing opposition to the designation of national corridors of interest in Pennsylvania for electric transmission lines.

Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) serves as Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) serves as Minority Chair.

House Committee Meets to Consider Waste Facility, Weatherization Bills

The Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets June 27 to consider limitations on the siting of certain waste facilities and increased funding for Low-Income Weatherization Programs. The bills include:

- [House Bill 913](#) (Vereb-R-Montgomery) providing for a Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program and authorizing additional funding; and
- [House Bill 1164](#) (Wansacz-D-Luzerne) requiring host community agreements and prohibiting municipal and residual waste facilities near State Parks.

Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) serves as Chair of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) serves as Minority Chair.

Other News

90% Strongly Support Clean Water, 95% Link With Economic Competitiveness

A new poll released by Mansfield University this week shows the public overwhelmingly supports clean water and links having clean water with continued economic competitiveness, far outscoring other environmental concerns.

The poll results were released by the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee in a special issue of their [Environmental Synopsis newsletter](#).

Some of the key poll results include:

- 90.1 percent felt it was very important to have clean water in our rivers and streams;
- 95.7 percent said clean water was important to Pennsylvania's economic competitiveness;
- 59.1 percent said the cost of water and wastewater services was too low or reasonable;
- 80.1 percent agreed more funds are needed to fix water, sewage systems; and
- 75.7 percent would give \$1/year to support regional water, sewer planning.

The Joint Committee is chaired by Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) serves as vice-chair.

For more information visit the [Joint Conservation Committee website](#).

Presentations, Posters Wanted for 2008 Keystone Coldwater Conference

Proposals are now being accepted for presentations and posters for the [2008 Keystone Coldwater Conference](#) on February 22-23 with the theme, "Headwater Ecosystems: Protection, Management and Research."

Proposals will be accepted until September 1.

This bi-annual conference will be hosted by the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College.

A major goal is to promote the sharing of ideas between these diverse groups that have common interests.

Proposals are welcome on topics related to the protection and management of our headwater ecosystems. Emerging research or successful projects and partnerships that highlight the following topics will be given priority: global warming, fisheries management, habitat management and restoration, mercury emissions, acid deposition woody debris, brook trout genetics, reptiles and amphibians and groundwater withdrawal ecology and preservation of brook trout

An abstract submission form is available at the [Coldwater Heritage Partnership's website](#).

2nd Annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum October 12-14

Mark the date in your calendars for the [2nd Annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum](#) on October 12-14. This year's theme is, "Sharing Strategies to Manage Growth and Protect Our Waters." Join watershed groups, non-profits and representatives of



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local government in sessions designed to highlight new tools and techniques, stimulate effective partnerships, and much more.

Session tracks will include workshops, field trips and computer labs in the subject areas of: managing growth, conservation, restoration, communication and advocacy, fundraising and organizational development.

Registration for the three day Forum will begin in late July.

Watch for more information on the [Chesapeake Watershed Forum webpage](#) or call 717-737-8622, ext 13.

Regional Volunteer Water Monitoring Conference Set for October 12-13

Individuals and organizations involved in volunteer water monitoring are invited to the Mid-Atlantic Volunteer Water Monitoring Conference in Winchester, Virginia on October 12-13.

Featured topics include: using online water quality databases, using water quality data to measure the effectiveness of land management practices, case studies of successful volunteer collaborations and training sessions on macroinvertebrate identification, making a rain barrel and monitoring for E.coli.

For more information, visit the [Mid-Atlantic Water Resources webpage](#) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

New Application Cutoff Dates for Water, Wastewater, Stormwater Funding

The [Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority](#) published revised cutoff dates for submitting applications for water, wastewater, stormwater and other project funding:

- August 28 is the deadline for the October 23 PennVEST meeting;
- November 27 is the deadline for the January 22, 2006 meeting; and
- February 19 is the deadline for the April 15 board meeting.

For more information, visit the [PennVEST website](#). The next PennVEST meeting is July 17.

New Farmer Network Project Promoting No-Till Set for June 26

A new “farmer-to-farmer” mentoring program has started in Lebanon County and on June 26, a series of field walk events will kickoff the Lebanon County Farmer Network Project.

If you have been wondering what your neighboring farmer has been doing that seems to save him time in the field and fuel in his tractor, read this article and attend a local event to find out more.

The goal of the program is to help conservation tillage beginners avoid some of the hurdles that more experienced farmers have already overcome.

A farmer-focused process has been developed by which local farmers will hear from their peers about the advantages of a “no-till systems approach” in terms of fuel usage, labor costs, soil quality, equipment savings and overall bottom-line benefits. The process will help to reduce the risk of change for smaller operations while adopting new production techniques.

Randy Ziegler of Fredricksburg, the farmer hosting the field walk, has been using no-till for about 6 years, and sees the benefit of a mentor approach: “with farming, what

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works at one place, doesn't work at others. There are different things to pay attention to with no-till, like using cover crops. I use cover crops to take up the nitrogen so that I can apply manure."

Ziegler is willing to assist other farmers to achieve the level of management that he has and feels that the time savings with no-till is the biggest benefit for he and his family. He added that, "If you think you're done learning, you're done farming."

The program has been made possible through a 3-year \$223,000 commitment to Lebanon County from the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network, a coalition of foundations interested in promoting healthy local waters and sustainable agricultural communities. The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and Center for Agricultural Partnerships coordinate the CBFN agricultural initiative.

The Capital Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, administrators of the project, have collaborated with the local partners to form a county "team" responsible for working to benefit farmers, and ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. Capital RC&D, Lebanon County Cooperative Extension, the County Conservation District, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the No-Till Sluggers Group (comprised of local producers) and CBFN all provide valuable support to this project.

The Lebanon County Farmer Network Project links innovative no-till producers (who have already adopted a no-till system) to beginning no-till farmers through a network of technical support and education, with assistance from the County team. Once put in place, these best agricultural practices will help improve the water quality of Lebanon County's streams as well as the producer's bottom line.

Del Voight, lead Extension Agronomist on the project, shares his thoughts. "Farmers teaching farmers about no-till is a proven success in terms of learning. We all value the message received from our peers, and farmers respond well to seeing what works and what doesn't from their neighbors. This is the first program of its kind in the state to address the peer-to-peer aspect, and we are happy to be a partner on this project."

For more information, contact Susan Parry 717-948-6633 or send email to: susan.parry@pa.usda.gov

Farmland Preservation Board Protects 57 Farms in 18 Counties

Pennsylvania's Farmland Preservation Board this week approved the investment of \$25.2 million to preserve 5,879 acres of farmland in 18 counties, including the Grove Farm in Adams County -- the first farm to be preserved under a unique county-township partnership.

Of today's total investment, the state contributed \$16.2 million.

"By joining with counties and townships to preserve valuable farmland, we are ensuring the future success of production agriculture in Pennsylvania," said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff. "As the state's number one industry, every measure must be taken to keep agriculture growing, for the benefit of our producers and consumers."

Pennsylvania continues to lead the nation in the number of farms and acres preserved with 360,620 acres on 3,223 farms since the program began in 1988.

This year, Pennsylvania is allocating nearly \$40 million for the preservation program. County programs will contribute \$37 million in matching funds to protect quality farmland from development and non-agricultural uses. This \$77 million in combined funds can preserve an additional 38,500 acres or more than 300 farms.

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The latest preserved farms are in 18 counties: Adams, Allegheny, Beaver, Berks, Bucks, Cumberland, Franklin, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Montgomery, Northampton, Tioga, Susquehanna, Westmoreland and York. Currently, 57 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties are participating in the program.

The Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program was developed 18 years ago to help slow the loss of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses. The program enables state, county and local governments to purchase conservation easements, also called development rights, from owners of quality farmland.

Lake Monitoring Program to Be Offered on Pymatuning Lake June 26

The Crawford County Conservation District and Pymatuning State Park will host the 5th annual "Pymatuning Lake Secchi Dip In" on June 26. The event will take place on the fishing pier at the Linesville Marina, just west of Linesville, Pa.

Participants of the event will learn how to use a Secchi Disk (8 inch black and white disk used to determine water clarity) as well as learn how to build their own disk out of common materials.

Jamestown Paint Company has donated materials for use in the program, so everyone will receive a kit for making their very own Secchi Disk.

Once participants have completed the training they will learn how they can participate in the [Great North American Secchi Dip In](#), an international monitoring program led by Dr. Robert Carlson of Kent State University. This program is open for people of all ages.

For more information on the program call Brian Pilarcik at 814-763-5269. For more information on lakes, visit [Lake Management in Pennsylvania website](#).

Growing Native Plant Program Due Expansion in Centre County

The [ClearWater Conservancy](#), the Morris K. Udall Foundation and the [Penn State Center for Sustainability](#) have begun building a facility for growing native riparian plants.

The Growing Native Program, started by the Conservancy earlier this year, is propagating twelve ecologically important riparian species from cuttings taken from natural stands in or near the Spring Creek Watershed.

Species include several native dogwoods and viburnums, as well as ninebark, black currant, and wild hydrangea. Cuttings were propagated by high school students in the Agricultural Science Program of the State College Area High School and the Horticulture and Landscape Program of the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology.

Penn State Center for Sustainability has donated space for a growing facility because the program is related to its efforts to improve water quality in the Spring Creek Watershed.

The mission of Center is to integrate education, research, and outreach on issues of sustainability through innovative, interdisciplinary projects, facilities, and hands-on learning opportunities. Focus areas of the Center include green design architecture and engineering, natural wastewater treatment, hybrid energy systems, engineering education and food security.

Thirteen past Udall scholars are helping to building the facility as part of their tour the country learning about environmental issues faced by different regions.

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The Udall Foundation awards 80 scholarships per year to outstanding college undergraduates who will be future leaders across a wide spectrum of environmental fields, including policy, engineering, science, education, urban planning and renewal, business, health, justice, and economics. The Foundation also has particular interest in supporting students poised to tackle issues affecting Native American communities.

For more information, visit the [ClearWater Conservancy webpage](#) or the [Morris K. Udall Foundation](#)

ClearWater Conservancy Permanently Preserves 244 Acres, Important Bird Area

[ClearWater Conservancy](#) announced it has signed a conservation easement with Karl H. Striedieck to protect 244.63 acres of private forested mountain habitat on Bald Eagle Ridge in Patton, Huston, Worth, and Halfmoon Townships, Centre County.

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a private landowner and a qualified organization, such as a land trust, that protects natural, cultural, and/or historic resources in perpetuity. A conservation easement allows a landowner to retain ownership and use of his or her property while limiting certain uses that may be harmful to the resources being protected.

ClearWater Conservancy purchased the conservation easement with the assistance of federal funds from Landowner Incentive Program grant.

LIP is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, federally funded program, providing state agencies with funds to assist land trusts in the purchase of conservation easements on private lands to protect species of greatest concern. The Game Commission awarded a grant to ClearWater Conservancy in October 2006.

Mr. Striedieck's property is part of Bald Eagle Ridge - [Important Bird Area #32](#) and contains a large forested tract providing habitat for bird species of greatest conservation concern, such as Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush, and Worm-eating Warbler.

Protection of Mr. Striedieck's property, within approximately one and one-half miles of State Game Land #176, also a protected Important Bird Area, allows for important relative connectivity of these two Important Bird Areas.

LIP grants require land trusts to provide 50 percent match for a project. Match was provided by the generous contribution of more than half of the value of the conservation easement by Mr. Striedieck.

Attorney Amos Goodall of Goodall and Yurchak, P.C., Attorneys at Law generously donated many hours of service to make this easement a reality. Brad Ross, Wildlife Biologist, and Dr. James Finley, Professor of Forest Resources, Penn State University, volunteered valuable services to develop a Land Management Plan designed to maintain the forest habitat.

ClearWater Conservancy has the responsibility to steward the property in perpetuity to ensure that the property's forest habitat continues to support birds of greatest conservation concern.

Additional funds donated by Mr. Striedieck are invested in a stewardship endowment, established by ClearWater Conservancy at the Centre County Community Foundation, to be certain that the natural resources in the care of ClearWater Conservancy will be protected forever.

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

BP Solar, Universal Pictures Offers Free Solar System Sweepstakes

BP Solar has teamed with Universal Pictures in a [sweepstakes offer](#) to give one lucky winner a home solar system in promotion of Evan Almighty, in theatres nationwide June 22.

Evan Almighty, starring Steve Carell and Morgan Freeman, and directed by Tom Shadyac, is the first major motion picture comedy to Go Zero and "zero out" the carbon emissions generated through the production of the film.

Fans that enter the sweepstakes are eligible to win a fully-installed BP Solar Home Solutions(R) system for their home. BP Solar Home Solutions systems provide numerous energy and environmental benefits and allow a homeowner to become his or her own utility company protecting them from electricity rate increases while protecting the environment.

Interested home owners can enter the sweepstakes at [Evan Almighty's companion website](#) and go to [BP Solar](#) for more information on home solar systems.

Help Wanted: West Branch Susquehanna VISTA Volunteer

Trout Unlimited, a partnering organization of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition, is seeking an AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer through the federal Office of Surface Mining / VISTA program.

Applications are due July 16.

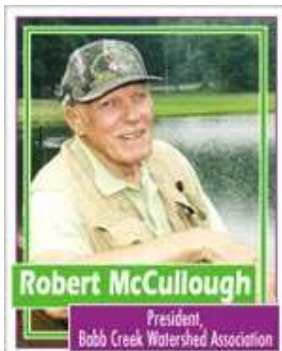
The scope of work for this position includes but is not limited to the following: building capacity of participating WBSRC organizations to ensure their long-term stability and success; assisting in watershed research and water quality monitoring; enhancing community awareness and involvement in WBSRC efforts through education and outreach; and assisting in community revitalization efforts of participating WBSRC member organizations through economic development projects that increase awareness of local history and culture.

A Bachelor's degree; good communication skills; familiarity with computers; ability to work in a challenging and changing environment; flexibility and adaptability; self-motivation; and a willingness to live in a rural Appalachian community are needed. GIS, environmental monitoring and community organizing experience are a plus!

To apply, send letter of interest and resume to Rebecca Dunlap: rdunlap@tu.org.

In Memoriam

Robert W. McCullough, Lycoming County's "Active Environmentalist"



This week a notice went out that Robert W. McCullough, Jr., 84, long-time Lycoming County Environmental Coordinator, advisor to the Department of Environmental Protection and Presidents as well as an advocate for local watershed protection, had passed away.

Over the last 30 years Bob demonstrated outstanding dedication and leadership in many public service positions from seats on the DEP Citizen's Advisory Committee, DEP Solid Waste

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Advisory Committee, the Heinz Foundation, where he served on the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Group, and as a member of the Lycoming County Planning Commission as an advocate for environmental conservation.

Bob began his work with Lycoming County in 1971 by persuading all of the Lycoming County municipalities to adopt floodplain ordinances and enroll in the Federal Flood Insurance Program. This was a very timely action considering the Agnes Flood followed in 1972.

After the flood he served as the Pine Creek Recovery Coordinator supervising a pre-release prison crew to clean up flood debris and keep a tight rein on stream clearance projects and other stream work done by the various agencies. In the process, he prevented much of the large-scale bulldozing of the creek bed that channelized and ruined neighboring Kettle, Lycoming, Loyalsock, and Muncy Creeks.

Particularly noteworthy during this period was Bob's dedication and passion to protect the fishing streams that he so loved.

Bob was infuriated when one of his favorite night fishing holes on the Sullivan County tributary of Loyalsock Creek was bulldozed after the Agnes Flood, and he beat a path to Harrisburg where he worked with DEP and Fish Commission officials to develop regulations and standards of operation for "stream clearance projects" done to remove gravel bars and debris after floods.

As an Environmental Coordinator with the Lycoming County Planning Commission he spearheaded the cleanup of 231 illegal roadside and stream-side dumps in Lycoming County. In order to discourage the re-occurrence of these dumps, he helped to develop a Solid Waste Disposal Ordinance that was adopted by municipalities. He also devised a system of municipal trash collections containers ("green boxes") that are still used by municipalities today.

Bob negotiated adoption of the first Lycoming County Solid Waste Management Plan by municipalities and the Waste Flow Control Contracts that provided the financial assurance to build Lycoming County's landfill. In conjunction with Jerry Walls from the Lycoming County Planning Commission, he also served as a consultant to Warren and McKean Counties to prepare their Solid Waste Management Plans and design their recycling systems patterned after the Lycoming County model.

Bob was a primary advocate of the Susquehanna River Flood Forecasting System that was established under the Susquehanna River Basin Commission during the 1980's. He also developed the Lycoming County Flood Warning System that has provided property owners with advanced warnings of impending flood events. A related benefit of these systems has been to reduce demand for additional flood control dams on the river and its tributaries.

The Lycoming County Flood Warning System was rated by an independent evaluator under contract to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the best flood warning system for high gradient streams in the nation. The Lycoming County Flood Warning System was featured in a FEMA National Training Video, and FEMA contracted with Bob to set up a flood warning system in West Virginia.

While working with DEP's Citizen Advisory Committee, Bob was instrumental in drafting legislation to regulate the drilling and close-out of oil and natural gas wells. He then testified before the General Assembly on the need for such controls. That legislation, passed in 1986, has helped to reduce environmental damage from well drilling operations

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such as erosion and sedimentation, spillage of chemicals and the discharge of highly concentrated brine into streams.

Bob regularly spoke to school classes, Scout units, and other youth groups about water quality conservation, solid waste management, recycling and similar topics. The County Planning Commission recognized his outstanding work and kept him on as an Environmental Planner until he became the County's first Recycling Coordinator with the County Solid Waste Department.

Bob retired from the County in January 1989, but continued to carry on the fight for Pennsylvania's waterways and the environment.

As President of Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited and as Chair of the Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation, which uses legal action to bring polluters to justice, Bob worked to save numerous streams from pollution and has helped to positively influence state laws and programs affecting water quality, fish habitat, and fisheries management.

Through his contacts in the state's angling community, Bob arranged for President Jimmy Carter's first trip to Spruce Creek in Huntingdon County. For several years running thereafter, he acted as a personal fishing guide for former U.S. Senator John Heinz and his Senator friends, including Senators John Danforth and Al Simpson, on their visits to Lycoming County to fish our streams.

At every opportunity he advocated to the elected officials the need to strengthen environmental laws to protect the incomparable natural resources they were enjoying for future generations. As a result, he was called to Washington DC on several occasions to discuss environmental policy, once at the White House and another time with Interior Secretary James Watt.

Under his leadership with PEDF, Mr. McCullough has influenced governmental policy through legal actions against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to force State Government to maintain and strengthen its special protection waters program.

He also took on the Fish & Boat Commission when it refused to clean up hatchery discharges to Fishing Creek, which led to long overdue upgrades to their sewage treatment plant. He was compelled to take this action even after the Fish Commission had awarded him their highest conservation award several years prior.

For the past 30 plus years, much of Bob's personal environmental efforts have been focused on the Pine Creek Valley, a place he loves above all others. His efforts have contributed greatly to the valley's current status as the most popular fishing destination in the State, as reported in the Fish Commission's trout angler survey.

Bob led PEDF's successful filing of petitions to have Slate and Cedar Run upgraded to "Exceptional Value" status. Through personal contacts with the Department of Transportation, he persuaded the agency to design an award winning relocation of Blockhouse Creek to reduce sedimentation flowing into Cedar Run from the dirt road that runs along it. This project was the forerunner of the successful State Dirt and Gravel Program.

Through his personal relationship with a landowner, Bob was able to coordinate the purchase of the 540 acre property on Pine Creek by the Nature Conservancy, which later sold it to the DCNR Bureau of Forestry assuring perpetual public access to more than a mile of creek frontage.

He was president and an active member of Babbs Creek Watershed Association where he work tirelessly with many different partners to ultimately accomplish his goal; by

2003 Bob and his partners worked for over 25 years, project by project, to clean up all the mine water discharges in the Babb Creek Watershed.

NewsClip: [Community Says Goodbye to a Champion of the Environment](#)

Online Video: [Bob McCullough Talks About the Challenges of Babb Creek](#)

Links: [Babb Creek Watershed – A Success Story](#)
[Last Mine Discharge on Babb Creek Cleaned Up](#)
[Robert McCullough Profile, GreenWorks Gazette](#)
[Lycoming County Citizens Public Service Award](#)

Feature

35th Anniversary of Hurricane Agnes Floods Commemorated

NOAA's National Weather Service and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission this week are marking the 35th anniversary of [Hurricane Agnes](#), which caused the worst recorded flooding throughout the Susquehanna River Basin.

The deadly storm serves as a vivid reminder to remain vigilant and use the lessons of the past to prepare for the future.

The remnants of Hurricane Agnes, by then a tropical storm, stalled over New York and Pennsylvania from June 21 through 24, 1972, dumping between 10 and 18 inches of rain over the mountainous areas of Pennsylvania and western New York with six to 10 inches common elsewhere.

Seventy-two lives were lost in the Susquehanna basin and an estimated \$2.8 billion in damages suffered, \$14 billion in today's dollars. Other parts of the East coast also experienced record flooding, including Virginia and Maryland. All told, Agnes took 122 lives and caused more than \$12 billion in damages (more than \$59 billion in 2007 dollars). At the time, Hurricane Agnes was the nation's costliest natural disaster.

"As we have all learned from Agnes and all the subsequent major floods, the Susquehanna basin is extremely flood prone," said David Nicosia, warning coordination meteorologist at the National Weather Service forecast office in Binghamton, N.Y. "In particular, much of central New York and northern Pennsylvania lie within the headwaters of the Susquehanna River Basin where many small streams and tributaries feed the larger rivers. This condition makes the region extremely vulnerable to heavy rainfall from tropical storms. Flooding can develop rapidly and pose a real danger to those who live in the basin."

Hurricane Agnes followed a path into the Florida panhandle and up the East coast, where it weakened as it headed toward the Atlantic Ocean. The storm then re-emerged with regained wind speed off the New Jersey coast before veering westward toward northern Pennsylvania. It stalled over the Susquehanna basin, wreaking havoc as rivers and streams overflowed their banks like never before. In some places, the floodwaters crested as much as eight feet above previous record high flows.

"While flooding can not be prevented when rainfall of the magnitude of Agnes occurs, advances in river gauging, remote rainfall estimates, the implementation of the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, and warning programs over the last 35 years will

certainly help to mitigate loss of property and life today if a similar event were to occur," said Peter Jung, National Weather Service senior service hydrologist at State College, Pa.

The National Weather Service is modernizing its flood and warning services nationwide through its AHPS implementation. AHPS extends the range and quantifies the uncertainty of National Weather Service river forecasts, and provides timely, user-friendly texts, and graphical products accessible via the internet.

To improve flood warnings and flood protection for the residents and businesses along the Susquehanna River, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission has coordinated an interagency committee on the Susquehanna flood forecasting and warning system since 1986. The Susquehanna system provides the data used by the National Weather Service to predict flood levels and issue timely and more accurate flood forecasts.

"There have been so many improvements to flood mitigation since the time of Hurricane Agnes, including the onset of the enhanced Susquehanna flood warning system," said Paul Swartz, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission executive director. "The commission is proud of the 26-year model partnership with the National Weather Service and other federal and state agencies to maintain and operate the Susquehanna system that helps save lives and reduce flood damages."

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission is the governing agency established under a 100-year compact signed on December 24, 1970, by the federal government and the states of New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland to protect and wisely manage the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin. The Susquehanna River starts in Cooperstown, N.Y., and flows 444 miles to Havre de Grace, Md., where the river meets the Chesapeake Bay.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is celebrating 200 years of science and service to the nation. From the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson to the formation of the Weather Bureau and the Commission of Fish and Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.

Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems, NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

"Bob was a true force of nature and an environmental leader who was not afraid to get his hands dirty," said former DEP Secretary David Hess. "The success he had is an inspiration to everyone working to protect and restore our watersheds. I am extremely proud to have known him and he will be missed."

NewsClip: [Rain of Terror, 1972 Flood
Could Agnes Happen Again?](#)

Link: [Hurricane Agnes](#)

Quick Clips

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

[Op-Ed: Roadmap to a Cleaner PA](#)
[Global Warming Moves Universities, Agencies, Business to Fight for Planet](#)
[Lehigh Valley Cities Trying to Go Green](#)
[Sarah Heinz House Opens Green Addition](#)
[Green Money: Sustainable Energy Fund](#)
[Op-Ed: Renewable Energy Can Make US World Leader](#)
[Newest Wind Farms Opens](#)
[Rendell Backs Local Wind Farm](#)
[Windmills Proposed for Fayette County](#)
[Op-Ed: No Tilting at Windmills in Penn Forest](#)
[Solar Power Has Bright Future](#)
[Pittsburgh Chosen to Participate in Solar Power Initiative](#)
[Ethanol Pushes Up Cumberland Feed Prices](#)
[Restaurant Trap Grease Fuels Vehicles](#)
[Public Transit Suffers a Blow](#)
[Businesses to Gain in PPL Shift Costs](#)
[Editorial: Power Line Would Harm PA](#)
[Construction of Power Line to be Sought](#)
[Power Grid Recovers From 03 Blackout](#)
[Rendell: Reregulation of PA's Electricity Market Possible](#)
[EPA Smog Plan May Put Pittsburgh out of Compliance](#)
[Editorial: Funding for Hazardous Sites Cleanup Will Disappear Without Action](#)
[Reusing Mushroom Compost](#)
[Recycling Flourishes at Middle School](#)
[Coal & Coke Trail Traces Oil Rail Line in Westmoreland](#)
[Volunteers Cleaning Up Lehigh Canal Towpath](#)
[Your Thoughts on Nature Connections?](#)
[Letter: Consumers Would Lose Under Oil Tax, John V. Kulik](#)
[Exotic Insect Threatens State's Ash Trees](#)
[Experts Predict More Damage From Caterpillars](#)
[PA Seeks Authority Over Nuclear Materials](#)
[Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education](#)
[New Preserve Offers Beauty, Tranquility](#)
[Bucks Open Space Program is Pared](#)
[Third Generation Taking the Helm at Rodale](#)
[State Funding New Mine Training Center in Southwestern PA](#)
[New Coal Mine Training Center Will Help Protect Miners](#)
[Tough Mine Safety Legislation Introduced](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Going Green Scores Northampton Water Plant an Award](#)
[Schuylkill County Conservation District Receives Service Award](#)
[Honor for Lehigh River Recalls Its History, Promise](#)
[Red Clay Slowly Making Progress](#)
[River's Edge Gives Water Lovers Chance to Canoe or Take in Scenery](#)
[Opposum Lake Dam Project Gets County's Support](#)
[Editorial: Progress Made on Chesapeake Bay Offset By New Threats](#)
[Canoe Tour to Showcase Susquehanna's Islands](#)
[Grampian Scouts Aid in Davis Run Cleanup](#)
[Fish Study Raises Red Flag on Water Supply](#)
[Freaky Fish Turns Up Far Inland](#)

Regulations

The Department of Environmental Protection published an updated list of credits available in the Emission Reduction Credit inventory. ([PA Bulletin page 2890](#)) The Environmental Quality Board met June 19 and approved drinking water, storage tank and air quality [regulations on its agenda](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – June 23, 2007](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

No new guidance was published this week.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Upcoming conferences, meetings, workshops, plus links to other online calendars. Meetings are in Harrisburg unless otherwise noted. [Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

- [2007 Mid-Atlantic Biodiesel Fuel Quality Education Seminar to be Held July 12](#)
- **June 25** – Senate Appropriations Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 913](#) (MJWhite-R-Venango) authorizing the transfer of certain excess fine and penalty revenues to the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund, [Senate Bill 728](#) (Scarnati-R-Jefferson)

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restoring the State System of Higher Education allocation from the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund for fiscal year 2006-07 . Room 461. Call of Chair.

- **June 26** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 483](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) establishing the Mine Families First Program to deal with the needs of families of mine workers involved in an emergency. The legislation is based on steps taken by Gov. Schweiker and the Department of Environmental Protection during the 2002 Quecreek Mine Rescue; [Senate Resolution 129](#) (Stout-D-Washington) expressing opposition to the designation of national corridors of interest in Pennsylvania for electric transmission lines. 8E-B East Wing. 9:30.
- **June 27** – House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [House Bill 913](#) (Vereb-R-Montgomery) providing for a Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program and authorizing additional funding, [House Bill 1164](#) (Wansacz-D-Luzerne) requiring host community agreements and prohibiting municipal and residual waste facilities near State Parks. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 9:15.
- **June 27** – DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **June 28** – House Local Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 1329](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) further providing for the jurisdiction of common pleas court in reviewing challenges to land development ordinances and [House Resolution 180](#) (Yudichak-D-Luzerne) establishing a commission to study the Commonwealth's fragmented system of local governments. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 9:30.
- **July 7** – [Oil Spills and Wildlife Training Session](#). New Bolton Center. Kennett Square.
- **July 12** –DEP [Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board](#) meeting will be held in a new location – 16th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building, Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **September 27** – DEP [Low-Level Waste Advisory Committee](#) meeting has been rescheduled to November 1, Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#) (courtesy [PA Organization for Watersheds & Rivers](#))

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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

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

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

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

Stories Invited

Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to *PA Environment Digest* - DHess@CrisciAssociates.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 Crisci Associates and the public. Crisci Associates is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Crisci Associates call 717-234-1716.

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