

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

November 21, 2005

Special Project – Recycle Your Old Cell Phone to East Timor

Dear Readers,

Did you know you could make a real difference in the lives of people in the developing country of [East Timor](#) by donating your old cell phone for a Peace Corps volunteer's project?

Your cell phone could help fishermen market their catch, a mother call for help in an emergency and let families communicate that wouldn't ordinarily get that chance.

East Timor has excellent (and cheap) cell phone service as many developing countries do because land line service doesn't exist in most areas. They also have a thriving local business converting old cell phones to work locally.

I didn't pick East Timor at random, as you might suspect.

My daughter Elizabeth is a Peace Corps volunteer in the middle of her two year tour of duty there and she got the idea to collect old cell phones from an Australian couple she works with.

If you'd like to recycle your old cell phone in this unique way, send your phone and charger in a padded envelope to: Cell Phones for East Timor, Elizabeth Hess, 6110 Chatham Glenn Way, Harrisburg, PA 17111-4269.

Thank you for helping to make this project a success!



Host Sisters In Hera, East Timor
Odete, Esme, Elizabeth & Felizarda

-- David E. Hess

Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to session on November 21. The House session schedule for the remainder of the year looks like this: November 21, 22 and December 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14.

On the Hill

- On the Senate/House Agenda
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- Andrew McElwaine Leaving PA Environmental Council
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- HELP WANTED – PRC Seeks Educator

Feature

- Important Bird Areas, Kittatinny Ridge Project Protect Habitat Areas

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On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda

The House and Senate return to session again on November 21 and here's what's on the agenda so far.

Calendar

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

In the Senate, the Calendar will start the week with [Senate Bill 881](#) and [Senate Bill 897](#) on eminent domain; [House Bill 87](#) further authorizing local governments to preserve open space through the waiver of certain service fees; and [House Bill 213](#) establishing eco-terrorism penalties.

Committees

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will meet to consider [House Bill 2042](#) and [House Bill 2043](#) that would increase penalties under the Clean Streams Law and Solid Waste Management Act.

The Senate Appropriations Committee will meet to consider [Senate Bill 995](#) relating to snowmobile/AVT registration.

House Environmental Committee To Consider Legislation to Increase Penalties

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will meet on November 22 to consider two bills that would increase penalties for environmental crimes and may consider legislation to create a special Energy Office.

Sponsored by Rep. Reichley-R-Berks), [House Bill 2042](#) would increase penalties in Clean Streams Law for water pollution and [House Bill 2043](#) would increase penalties for waste violations in Solid Waste Management Act.

Rep. Reichley announced the bills in October together with Attorney General Tom Corbett who also supports the increase in penalties.

Bills Moving in Senate/House

In spite of the Senate and House focus on the pay raise repeal issue this week, a number of environmental bills did move. Here's a quick rundown.

Senate

In-Lieu of Tax Payments: [Senate Bill 868](#) (Scarnati-R-Warren) increasing the in-lieu of tax payments for State Forest Land was passed by the full Senate.

Forestry Task Force: [Senate Resolution 137](#) (Madigan-R-Bradford) re-establishing the Forestry Task Force supported by the Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee was adopted by the Senate and moves to the House.

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Eco-Terrorism: [House Bill 213](#) (Godshall-R-Montgomery) adding the offense of eco-terrorism as a crime was reported from Senate Judiciary Committee after being amended.

Waste Tire Recycling: [House Bill 1114](#) (Yudichak-D-Luzerne) amends the Waste Tire Recycling Act was referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Snowmobile Registration: [Senate Bill 995](#) (MJ White-R-Venango) amending the ATV/Snowmobile registration requirements was reported from and referred back to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Eminent Domain: The Senate Appropriations Committee reported out [Senate Bill 881](#) (Piccola-R-Dauphin) and [Senate Bill 897](#) (Brightbill-R-Lebanon) making changes to the Eminent Domain Code in response to the U.S. Supreme Court *Kelo* decision, after being amended and are both on the Senate Calendar for action.

NewsClip: [Eminent Domain Bill Delayed](#)

House

Federal Reclamation Fund: [House Resolution 382](#), a concurrent resolution urging Congress to reauthorize the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, was passed by the House and now moves to the Senate for action.

DEP Outlines Energy Policies/Projects to House Environmental Committee

Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty this week appeared before the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to outline steps the Rendell Administration has taken to diversify Pennsylvania's sources of energy and make them more environment-friendly.

“Governor Rendell is leading the way to decrease our nation's already dangerous dependence on foreign oil, ramp up efforts to build a diversified energy base, encourage conservation, and build and deploy clean energy technologies,” Secretary McGinty said. “With energy prices rising, these cleaner, home-grown fuels are more than cost competitive, they make absolute sense, ensuring reliability, availability and affordability.”

The Governor and General Assembly have teamed up on a number of projects and initiatives that have made Pennsylvania a national energy leader, according to Secretary McGinty.

Some examples include the East Coast's first commercial biofuels blending system, becoming a customer of the nation's first waste coal-to-diesel plant, adopting the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards that requires electric utilities to purchase 18 percent of all energy generated comes from clean, efficient sources by the year 2020, providing up to \$10 million annually for the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority as part of the Growing Greener II initiative to help fund clean power and fuel plants and creating the Renewable Agricultural Energy Council focusing on developing and expanding agricultural energy industries in Pennsylvania.

A copy of Secretary McGinty's [testimony is available online](#).

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The Committee will hold its next Energy Policy informational meeting on December 6 to hear presentations from energy producers.

Bills Introduced

These environmental bills were introduced this week

Clean Water Penalties: [House Bill 2214](#) (Readshaw-D-Allegheny) would increase penalties for violating permit conditions to \$75,000 per violation from \$50,000.

Heating Assistance: [House Bill 2216](#) (Allen-R-Schuylkill) providing additional funding for Low-Income Heating Assistance.

Deep Mine Safety: [House Bill 2229](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) amending the Bituminous Coal Mine Act to put in place additional safety measures prompted by the Quecreek Mine Accident in July 2002.

Hybrid Exemption: [Senate Bill 1015](#) (LaValle-D-Beaver) exempting hybrid electric vehicles with a fuel economy rating of 40 mpg or greater from inspection requirements.

In Other News

\$14.4 Million in Watershed Restoration Grants Announced

The Department of Environmental Protection this week [announced the award of \\$14.4 million in Watershed Restoration Grants](#) for 129 projects.

“These grants will improve the quality of our waterways, address serious environmental problems at mine sites and make our communities more livable,” Gov. Rendell said. “Pennsylvania needs clean streams, protected open spaces and uncontaminated sites in order to win the race for new business development, enhance our economic competitiveness and create the jobs we critically need.”

Among the projects approved were \$2.2 million for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and \$170,000 for engineering and watershed assessment assistance for the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, \$122,000 to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for a precision dairy feeding program, \$488,824 to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. for field visits and surveys to construct wetlands in the Ohio River Basin, \$302,000 to the Pennsylvania Environmental Council to deliver a water quality trading platform and registry design, \$250,000 to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to restore tree cover in the five county Southeastern Pennsylvania region, \$736,651 to Concurrent Technologies Corp. for a two-phased enhanced metals recovery program from acid mine drainage, and \$166,000 to the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation and \$180,000 to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to provide technical assistance to watershed groups.

[A complete list of projects is available online.](#)

Included in this \$14.4 million round of grant awards is funding from several sources-- \$9.3 million in traditional Growing Greener watershed grants, \$1.6 million in

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federal Office of Surface Mining Title IV grants, \$1.9 million for the beneficial use of acid mine discharge to clean state waterways and \$537,081 in 10 percent set-aside funds for state-federal mine reclamation projects. In addition, DEP is recommending \$1.1 million in Nonpoint Source Implementation Program Grants, funded through Section 319(h) of the federal Clean Water Act.

Since 1999, DEP has supplied \$172 million in watershed grants for 1,497 projects in all 67 counties of Pennsylvania under the original Growing Greener Program. The grants are used to create or restore wetlands, restore stream buffer zones, eliminate causes of nonpoint source pollution, plug oil and gas wells, reclaim abandoned mine lands, and restore aquatic life to streams that were lifeless due to acid mine drainage.

For more information visit the [Growing Greener webpage](#).

NewsClips: [Rendell Announces \\$14.4 Million Watershed Project Grants](#)
[Saxman Run Mine Project to Generate Electricity](#)
[Grant Will Help Restore Wyomissing Creek](#)

Next Round of Watershed Restoration Grant Applications Due March 3

The Department of Environmental Protection announced the next round of Watershed Restoration Grant applications are due March 3.

For the upcoming grant round, DEP will invest in projects that seek to address nonpoint source pollution, such as comprehensive watershed plan implementation; legacy sediment and stream restoration; nutrient and sediment trading; long-term operation and maintenance for watershed projects and mine drainage treatment systems; urban and agricultural runoff; and upgrades to on-lot sewage systems.

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

Applications must be postmarked no later than March 3 and if hand delivered, the package must be received by 4:30 p.m. on March 3. Late submissions will not be considered.

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

Chesapeake Bay Shows No Improvement Over Last Year



The [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) released its annual State of the Bay Report this week giving the Bay's health a grade of "D." The health index rating of 27 is unchanged for the third year in a row.

The State of the Bay Report, which CBF issued for the first time in 1998, is a comprehensive measure of the Bay's health.

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For the report, CBF evaluates 13 indicators: oysters, shad, crabs, striped bass (rockfish), underwater grasses, wetlands, forested buffers, resource lands, toxics, water clarity, dissolved oxygen, and phosphorus and nitrogen pollution. CBF scientists compile and examine the best available historical and up-to-date information for each indicator and assign it an index score and letter grade.

There were improvements to nitrogen and phosphorus indicators, but they were due, primarily, to decreased pollutant loads during the summer, a result of seasonal low rainfall. Dissolved oxygen worsened, the result of the excessive pollution flowing to the Bay during the spring. Dissolved oxygen is the primary indicator of Bay health. Underwater grasses acreage and shad and oyster health showed some improvement this year.

“Improvements have resulted from the efforts of Pennsylvania residents, the legislature, and regulatory agencies, but we need to do more,” CBF Pennsylvania Executive Director Matt Ehrhart said. “Pennsylvania plays a critical role in the health of the Bay, and it’s our responsibility to continue to work to improve water quality in Pennsylvania’s streams and rivers. The Bay will benefit, and reducing pollution to local waterways will improve the quality of life for the Commonwealth’s citizens and future generations.”

To improve the Bay score, CBF is pushing for implementation of proven, affordable technology to reduce pollution from sewage treatment plants, and has committed to working with the agricultural community to obtain the funding necessary to enable farmers to implement on-the-ground conservation practices that are key to ensuring clean water and a sustainable farming economy.

Well managed agricultural land provides many more environmental benefits than developed land. However, farm families are being squeezed, with expenses rising faster than income. Techniques and technologies that reduce polluted runoff from agriculture have been demonstrated to be effective, but farmers cannot shoulder the costs of implementation alone.

According to the federal Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resource Conservation Service, agriculture in the lower Susquehanna region alone produces more than 286,000 tons of excess manure each year.

CBF is calling for significant new investments, \$100 million over a five-year period, to facilitate the development of alternative uses for excess manure that will benefit both farmers and the environment.

CBF also urges the evaluation of opportunities to provide incentives or requirements to use organic, composted material for fertilizer and soil amendments. If state agencies and institutions shifted from chemical fertilizers to composted manure based fertilizers and stabilization products, it would create a tremendous demand for what is now a problematic waste product.

Visit the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation website](#) for more information.

DEP Extends Public Comment Period on Nutrient Trading Policy

The Department of Environmental Protection announced an extension of the public comment period for the [Interim Final Nutrient Trading Policy to December 31](#).

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DEP said the comment period is being extended in order to continue gathering input from the public, as well as to hold additional listening sessions about the policy.

Earlier this week, DEP, in cooperation with DEP's Citizens Advisory Council, the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts Inc. and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, held two listening sessions on the policy attended by over 100 people.

DEP said these sessions were so productive, it would like to hold more sessions to gather more input. The department will be setting up additional sessions with various sectors and groups throughout this extended period.

Interested individuals from agriculture, wastewater treatment facilities, industrial plants, developers, conservation districts, watershed association and environmental groups are welcome to attend the additional sessions.

If you have questions concerning this extension or on the additional sessions, please contact DEP's Water Planning Office at 717-772-4785. Additional information is available on [Pennsylvania's Nutrient Trading Program webpage](#).

Property Management for Cleaner Streams Workshops November 29, 30

The [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#) and the [Green Valleys Association](#) are sponsoring two "Property Management for Cleaner Streams" workshops on November 29 and 30.

Representatives of schools, businesses, municipalities and non-profit organizations are invited to attend to learn about programs that can help them protect drinking water through techniques like creating native meadows, enhancing riparian buffers and implementing "responsible housekeeping" practices.

The November 29 workshop will be held in Pottstown and the November 30 session at the Montgomery County Community College.

For more information call 800-445-4935 ext. 105 or visit the [Events webpage of the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#).

PA Rural Water Association Annual Conference March 21-24

The Pennsylvania Rural Water Association is accepting registrations for its [annual conference to be held March 21-24, 2006](#) at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College.

PRWA will offer up to 19 Department of Environmental Protection-approved Contact Hours for eligible certified operators in five training tracks: water, wastewater, water/wastewater, management/regulatory and operator certification.

The exhibit hall will be filled with 120 leading water and wastewater industry vendors. Evening activities include a "meet and greet" dinner welcome on Tuesday, a sports night dinner on Wednesday, and the annual awards banquet on Thursday.

For more information, visit the [2006 Conference webpage](#) or call 800-653-PRWA.

EPA Releases Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2005

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week released the agency's [Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2005](#) summarizing the environmental and fiscal performance results it achieved during the last year.

The report measures EPA's performance against five major agency goals relating to Clean Air and Global Climate Change, Clean and Safe Water, Land Preservation and Restoration, Healthy Communities and Ecosystems and Compliance and Environmental Stewardship.

Among the report's highlights:

- EPA announced new clean air rules for mercury and interstate air pollution that are expected to dramatically reduce emissions of pollutants from power plants;
- EPA launched a "Clean Diesel Campaign" to reduce emissions from new and existing diesel engines. The campaign includes regulatory and voluntary efforts to reduce emissions of particulate matter and ozone;
- EPA and state partners attained water quality standards in an additional eight percent of waters previously identified as impaired;
- EPA completed cleanup of 40 sites on the Superfund National Priorities List for a cumulative total of 966 sites cleaned up, more than 64 percent of the sites on the NPL;
- In FY 2005, EPA announced \$76.7 million in brownfields grant funding to recipients in 45 states. Since the beginning of the program, brownfields grantees have assessed 7,752 properties and attracted \$7.2 billion in cleanup and redevelopment funding, creating 33,599 jobs; and
- EPA reduced, treated, or eliminated more than 1.1 billion pounds of pollutants as a result of agency enforcement actions.

A copy of the [Performance and Accountability Report is available online](#).

DEP Announces \$5.9 Million in Energy Harvest Grant Awards

The Department of Environmental Protection this week announced \$5.9 million in grant funding for 34 projects under the [Energy Harvest Grant Program](#).

Under the Program, projects must be designed to enhance energy security, promote advanced technologies, spur economic growth and improve the environment.

The 34 Energy Harvest projects will produce or conserve the equivalent of 37,800 megawatts-per-hour a year, enough to power 5,000 homes, as well as reduce harmful air emissions.

The projects will also eliminate 85,000 pounds of nitrogen oxide, 131,000 pounds of sulfur dioxide, 2,700 pounds of carbon monoxide, 10 million pounds of carbon dioxide and displace 167,000 gallons of diesel fuel annually.

Among the projects funded were \$307,195 to Liquid Elevator, Inc. to improve recovery of natural gas, \$126,225 for residential green building redevelopment in Beaver County, \$289,578 to Eastern Middle Anthracite Region Recovery, Inc. to install a 100-kilowatt microhydro system on the Jeddo Mine Tunnel discharges to generate electricity, \$323,100 to install a biodigester to produce electricity at the Hogs Galore Farm in Centre County, \$212,000 to Clarion University to install a solar photovoltaic system, \$100,000 to River Hill Power Company to develop an environmental sampling program for

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development of a waste coal-fired power plant, \$600,000 to install an anaerobic digester on the Brubaker Farm in Lancaster County, and \$200,000 to Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future to deploy a one-megawatt wind turbine at the Hazleton Wastewater Treatment Plant.

A complete [list of projects funded is available online](#).

Visit the [Energy Harvest Grant Program webpage](#) for more information.

Exelon Sold 1 Million+ Megawatt-Hours of Wind Energy, Gathers Honors

[Exelon Corporation](#) this week celebrated more than 1 million megawatt-hours sold as it enters its fifth year in the wind energy business and continues to provide emission-free, reliable electricity to customers throughout Pennsylvania.

Also this week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Energy and the Center for Resource Solutions honored the PECOWind program with a Supplier Award recognizing PECO and partner Community Energy for success in marketing and encouraging participation in green power programs.

Exelon has 20-year agreements to purchase the power from Mill Run and Somerset wind farms, located southeast of Pittsburgh, the Waymart Wind Energy Center, near Scranton, Pa., and the Mountaineer Wind Energy Center in Thomas, West Virginia.

Since coming online in October 2001, the Mill Run and Somerset wind farms have produced about 250,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) of emission-free electricity, or enough electricity to supply more than 25,000 average homes. Mountaineer began commercial operations in January 2003 and has produced about 500,000 MWh (enough for 50,000 homes) since then. Waymart came online at the end of 2003 and has produced about 300,000 MWh (enough for 30,000 homes) since then.

"The magnitude of voluntary customer demand for wind-generated electricity has been gratifying to us. The customers' willingness to pay a premium for wind energy has supported not only new construction of wind plants, but also our involvement in the wholesale marketing of wind energy," said Mike Freeman, mid-market originator for Exelon Power Team. "That's exactly the way renewable energy markets are supposed to work."

In addition to residential customer interest in wind energy, commercial customers in Pennsylvania have accounted for some of the largest wind energy purchases in the nation. In 2001, the University of Pennsylvania, Penn State University, Carnegie Mellon University, Philadelphia Suburban Water Corporation and Giant Eagle, Inc. announced the nation's five largest ever retail wind energy purchases.

Since 2001, commercial customers such as the U.S. Army, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and many others have declared their support for wind energy by purchasing power from Pennsylvania wind farms.

PECOWind received one of only two awards honoring new green power programs or products nationwide at the Tenth National Green Power Marketing Conference.

"We're delighted to see utilities and marketers, like PECO and Community Energy, demonstrate leadership in renewable energy markets with innovative marketing and dedicated green power program development," said Douglas L. Faulkner, acting assistant secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy.

"These organizations are leading by example and providing significant support towards new renewable energy power plants across the country."

"I'm thrilled with the recognition, and more importantly, the success of PECOWind," said Denis O'Brien, president of PECO. "By offering customers a choice in how their power is generated, we are helping them join us in our ongoing efforts to protect and preserve our neighborhoods and our world."

"The EPA award recognizes environmental excellence and leadership," added Brent Alderfer, president of Community Energy. PECOWind is the hands down winner in that category because it offers 100 percent emission-free energy with no fuel risks, all produced here in Pennsylvania. That's a future everyone can buy."

Exelon's wind portfolio, at 154 megawatts, provides enough electricity to power about 40,000 homes annually.

"Our wind facilities provide diversity in Exelon's generation portfolio and have allowed us to be a significant participant in the renewable energy markets," said Freeman.

Exelon Power Team partners with Community Energy, Inc., of Wayne, Pa., to market wind energy in the region, and supplies PECO Energy's wind rider program ([PECOWind](#)), which now provides wind energy to about 17,000 PECO customers.

Limerick Generating Station Achieves ISO 14000 Environmental Certification

The environmental management systems for [Limerick Generating Station](#) have been certified under the ISO 14000 standards of the International Organization for Standardization, Exelon Nuclear announced this week.

An environmental management system is a tool that Exelon uses within its management model for achieving environmental excellence. ISO 14001:2004 is the internationally recognized benchmark for environmental management systems. The ISO 14001:2004 certification requires a commitment to compliance with legal and other requirements, to prevent pollution and to ensure continuous improvement in those areas.

Exelon Nuclear's LaSalle County Generating Station in Illinois also achieved ISO 14001:2004 certification.

In October, NSF International Strategic Registrations, Ltd., a third-party registrar accredited by the International Organization of Standardization, audited the LaSalle and Limerick environmental management systems. As a result of these audits, the two nuclear generating stations became the first within the Exelon fleet to achieve ISO 14001:2004 certification.

"We're proud to be an environmental leader in the utility industry," said Exelon Nuclear President and Chief Nuclear Officer Chris Crane. "This recognizes Exelon Nuclear's commitment to continuous improvement in overall environmental performance." Helen Howes, Vice President, Environment, Health and Safety, Exelon Corporation, said, "Although we are quite proud of these two certifications, we're not satisfied to stop there. We believe these two leading nuclear plants have set a high bar for Exelon as we seek ISO 14001:2004 certification of all Exelon's generating and delivery facilities."

In recent months, Exelon and its subsidiaries have announced several programs directed towards improving the environment. In May 2005, both PECO and ComEd purchased and deployed hybrid vehicles in their service territories. Also, in May, Exelon

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announced a commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 8 percent from 2001 levels by 2008 as part of its membership in the EPA Climate Leaders program.

For more information visit the [Limerick Generating Station webpage](#).

Alternative Energy Theme of 2006 Goddard Forum Set for January

"The Opportunities and Challenges of the Pennsylvania Renewable Portfolio Standard: Emerging Technologies, Regulations, and Institutions" is the theme for the [2006 Goddard Forum](#) to be held on January 30 and 31 in State College.

The Sixth Goddard Forum will investigate the challenges in implementing the Pennsylvania Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)--established by the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act--and other ways to bring about a sustainable energy future.

The forum will examine the Pennsylvania RPS and its regulations, the new federal energy act, and experiences under other programs for promoting sustainable energy. The forum will examine legal and ethical issues, financial issues, and available technologies. It will also focus on the next steps that states can take to move to a more sustainable-energy future.

Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty and Rep. Chris Ross (R-Chester), who authored the Pennsylvania RPS, have both been invited to participate as luncheon speakers.

Other speakers will include representatives from companies involved in providing renewable energy, academic institutions, and environmental groups; state regulators; environmental and energy lawyers; engineers; and those involved in finance.

Those who will benefit from this conference include representatives from utilities, energy companies, and other industries who will be involved in implementation of the RPS; environmental and energy lawyers; government officials; environmental and energy consultants; representatives from environmental groups and other concerned citizens; and those involved in research focusing on energy, the environment, and sustainable futures.

Credit for continuing legal education (CLE) will be sought. CEU certificates for continuing education in engineering will be provided to all participants.

The Goddard Forum is an outreach program of Penn State's Maurice K. Goddard Chair in Forestry and Environmental Resource Conservation. It's co-sponsored by the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences' Environment and Natural Resources Institute, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

The regular fee for the program is \$295. Students, government and nonprofit organization can attend for \$245.

For more information visit the [Goddard Forum webpage](#) or call 800-PSU-TODAY (778-8632).

Graduate and Undergraduate Research Fellowships Announced by EPA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week announced the award of 165 [research fellowships](#) for students pursuing degrees in environmental studies, including nine students in Pennsylvania, with a total of nearly \$10 million in awards.

The agency sponsors several fellowship programs designed to ensure a well-trained scientific workforce that can address future environmental issues.

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The Science to Achieve Results (STAR) graduate fellowship program supports masters and doctoral candidates in environmental fields at accredited U.S. colleges or universities. For 2005 awards, more than 1700 applicants competed for 128 STAR fellowships. Research fellows represent 110 universities in 43 states and the District of Columbia, with students pursuing degrees in biology, toxicology, ecology and environmental sciences. These were the winners in Pennsylvania-

[Christopher Weber](#), Carnegie Mellon University, Civil & Enviro. Engineering PhD

[Lori A. Burkert](#), LeHigh University, Environmental Sciences Chemistry & Materials Sciences, PhD

[Tiffany L. Bogich](#), Pennsylvania State University, Ecology Environmental Decision Making, MS

[Bryn E. Kimball](#), Pennsylvania State University, Environmental Sciences Aquatic Systems Ecology, PhD

[Sarah Knuth](#), Pennsylvania State University, Geography, MS

[Adam C. Straub](#), University of Pittsburgh, Environmental Sciences Toxicology, PhD

The Greater Research Opportunities (GRO) fellowship program funds undergraduate and graduate students conducting environmental research at universities that receive \$50 million or less in annual federal research funds.

Students at schools with substantial minority enrollment are encouraged to apply for GRO fellowships, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Native American Tribal Colleges. More than 260 GRO applicants competed this year for 37 awards.

The Pennsylvania winners were [D. Huestis](#), University of Texas at Arlington, Ecological and Evolutionary Genetics (graduate) and K. Buettner Lafayette College and I. Palugod Bucknell University (undergraduate).

For more information on EPA fellowships, visit the [STAR and GRO webpage](#).

Seven of 10 Open Space Funding Ballot Questions Pass in Pennsylvania

The [Pennsylvania Land Trust Association](#) this week reported seven of the 10 referendums to increase funding for open space and farmland preservation on the November 8 ballot were approved. Only ballot questions in townships in Cumberland and Chester were not approved.

These ballot initiatives were approved--

- Pike County -- \$10 million open space bond passed 68 percent to 32 percent;
- Bedminster Township, Bucks County -- Increase in earned income tax, generating \$10.27 million in conservation funds passed 51 percent to 49 percent;
- Bushkill Township, Bucks County -- Increase in earned income tax, generating nine million dollars in conservation funds passed 66 percent to 34 percent;
- Plumstead Township, Bucks County -- Eight million dollar open space bond passed 77 percent to 23 percent;
- Solebury Township, Bucks County -- \$18 million open space, farmland and recreation bond passed 88 percent to 12 percent;

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- Upper Makefield Township, Bucks County -- \$10 million open space and farmland preservation bond passed 80 percent to 20 percent;
- Honey Brook Township, Chester County -- Increase in earned income tax generating \$10 million for open space and farmland passed 51 percent to 49 percent.

For more information on open space, farmland and habitat preservation, visit the [Pennsylvania Land Trust Association webpage](#).

PA CleanWays Releases Results of Six-County Illegal Dump Survey



Over 760 illegal dumpsites, containing an estimated 1,800 tons of illegally dumped household trash, appliances, tires, household hazardous waste, construction and demolition waste, furniture, vehicle parts, and electronics have been identified in Allegheny, Cumberland, Erie, Fayette, Mercer, and Washington counties.

PA CleanWays, a statewide nonprofit whose mission is to help communities eliminate litter and illegal dumping, recently released the [county-by-county results of six illegal dump surveys](#).

Funding for the Allegheny and Fayette surveys was provided through a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection. The Cumberland, Erie, Mercer and Washington surveys were completed with support from the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program.

“We have always known that illegal dumping is a tremendous problem across the Commonwealth but through these surveys, we are gathering the empirical data to substantiate it,” said PA CleanWays Program Manager, Karen Fritz, who supervised the project.

Detailed GIS maps pinpoint dumpsites by municipality, population density, and environmental features. Charts detail site and waste characteristics by municipality, including the site name, calculated tonnage, what types of waste are visible, the distance from water, terrain, and its visibility from the road.

“The first step in developing a community action plan against illegal dumping is to determine the extent of the problem,” said Karen McCalpin, PA CleanWays Vice-President of External Affairs. “Once the sites are identified, assessed, and mapped, the data gathered can be used to demonstrate that a problem does indeed exist. Sites can then be prioritized for cleanup and abatement.”

McCalpin also says the surveys are a valuable tool that can be used by communities for planning purposes in regard to solid waste and recycling programs and to gain support for funding.

PA CleanWays knows the serious impact of illegal dumping firsthand.

Since its inception in 1990, over 28,000 PA CleanWays volunteers have removed over 7,100 tons of trash from Commonwealth roads, trails, parks, forests, greenways, waterways, and beaches.

Illegal dumps attract disease-spreading rodents and insects, pose a fire hazard, contaminate surface and groundwater, may prevent water from draining which may lead to flooding, reduce property value, and are a deterrent to productive and recreational land use. If not addressed, illegal dumps attract more and more waste and may send a message that community members just don't care.

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The six surveys are available for downloading on the [PA CleanWays website](#).

The website also contains information on how you can be involved in helping to clean up your community, report an illegal dumpsite, join a PA CleanWays Chapter, or adopt a site. A variety of free educational materials are available as well.

NewsClips: [Allegheny County Has Most Illegal Dump Sites](#)

Penn State Newspaper Recycling Effort Raises Scholarship Funds

Thanks to the recycling efforts tied to the Newspaper Readership Program at the Penn State University Park campus, about \$60,000 has been raised for a recycling scholarship that is part of the Board of Trustees Matching Scholarship Program.

The program, which was established in 2002, provides 5 percent matching funds for private gifts at or above the \$50,000 endowment level.

Just recently, the Office of Physical Plant turned over a check for more than \$8,000, the latest amount earned by the sale of recycled newspapers. Funds from the sale of recycled newspaper are matched by contributions from Penn State's newspaper partners, so the most recent contributions would total \$16,763.36, according to Al Matyasovsky, supervisor of central support services and refuse and recycling.

Students benefit twice from the Newspaper Readership Program -- first, by becoming better-informed citizens by reading newspapers and, secondly, because the program returns money in the form of scholarships. So far, seven scholarship awards have been made over the course of the three years that this scholarship has been active, according to Kelly Snyder, director of major gifts for undergraduate scholarship. The average awards are \$2,000.

Last year, Penn State students read more than a million newspapers -- The New York Times, USA Today and at University Park, the Centre Daily Times. That translates into 1.6 tons of used newspapers collected daily by the Office of Physical Plant (OPP).

OPP has some 2,900 recycling bins scattered across the University Park campus, located in virtually every academic and administrative building, and has situated four large, roll-off facilities in the resident quads as well.

Those papers are transported to Superior Onyx Waste in DuBois, which bales and markets them. The papers are marketed nationally and recycled into products such as newsprint, compost, insulation material and fiber paper manufacturing, such as pressed board boxes.

"I'm going to suggest that the majority goes back into newspapers because of the quality and cleanliness of the capture," Matyasovsky said.

Since the program's inception in 1997, OPP has collected some 1,437 tons of newspaper. To put that into perspective, Matyasovsky noted that the tonnage translates to 4,394 cubic yards of landfill space -- or enough newspaper to cover the football field in Beaver Stadium with newspapers to a depth of 31 inches.

The program offers a number of other positive environmental impacts.

"The fact that we're recycling saves resources, keeps materials out of landfills and saves the University tipping fees," Matyasovsky said. "It's cheaper to handle recyclables than to handle refuse."

Since the program began, Matyasovsky provided figures that show the tonnage of recycled newspapers has resulted in 24,420 trees saved, 9.9 million gallons of water saved,

664,868 gallons of oil saved and 842,932 pounds of air pollution prevented from reaching the atmosphere.

It also translates into a savings of almost 6 million kilowatt hours of energy. The energy, water, and oil would have been used in the production of new paper, and the air pollutants would have been the byproduct of that production.

"I think that the readership program has heightened awareness about applied waste management," Matyasovksy said, adding that the program's success has allowed them to explore other recycling initiatives.

RecycleMania Hits College Campuses in New EPA Recycling Competition



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is inviting colleges and university to be part of a friendly competition to see which campuses can recycle the most between January 29 and April 8, 2006.

The [RecycleMania](#) competition will see which institutions can collect the largest amount of recyclables, the least amount of trash and have the highest recycling rates.

So far in Pennsylvania, Allegheny College, Bucknell University, and Dickinson College have become [part of the competition](#).

In 2005, Miami University won the competition with a 40+ percent recycling rate. Carnegie Mellon University came in 8th place and Dickinson College in 12th place out of 45 participating schools.

To sign up, learn the rules and see who else is competing, visit the [RecycleMania webpage](#).

Remember To Wear Orange Whether Hunting or Hiking This Deer Season

With deer season around the corner, many Pennsylvanians are heading out to enjoy the fall season, Game Commission officials this week reminded those visiting any of the agency's 1.4 million acres of State Game Lands or doing any hiking in potential hunting areas to wear fluorescent orange.

For a refresher on effective use of fluorescent orange requirements, [download the Orange Rules PDF file](#).

"While there are no known instances of a hiker being struck by a hunter's bullet, this regulation was implemented as a way of promoting safety and common sense," said Scott Klinger, Game Commission Bureau of Land Management director.

Game Commission Opens New Online Hunting/Trapping Photo Scrapbook

The Game Commission invited sportsmen and women to showcase their achievements on the agency's "[Hunter/Trapper Photo Scrapbook](#)."

"We're interested in showing photographs of hunters who have taken a trophy animal in one of Pennsylvania's big game seasons -- elk, black bear, white-tailed deer and wild turkey -- or trappers or predator callers who have taken a bobcat or coyote, and

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trappers who have taken an exceptional beaver," said J. Carl Graybill Jr., Game Commission Bureau of Information and Education director. "Photos are organized in annual collections beginning with 2004. What we're looking for are sharp, color photographs that depict a proud hunter with his or her trophy."

Graybill noted that photos should show game animals in a presentable manner, and offered the following tips:

- Pick a pleasing background. Try to avoid photos with the animal in the back of a pick-up or with cluttered scenery. Fill the frame so that you and your trophy are the focal point of the photograph. Also, if you include the sporting arm you used, make sure that it is pointed in a safe direction.
- Make sure the animal is properly tagged. For those species that hunters are required to attach a tag - deer, elk, bear, turkey and bobcats - make sure that the tag is visible. You can use a large safety pin to attach your tag to reduce the work of any taxidermist if you plan to have your trophy mounted. Also, if your photo is taken while still in the field, make sure you have on the appropriate amount of fluorescent orange. Harvested animals should be displayed respectfully.

Photos submitted through the U.S. Mail cannot be returned, and there is no guarantee that every photo received will be used. Individuals may send submissions via first-class mail to the address found on the application.

Photos also can be submitted electronically, through pgcphotos@state.pa.us.

Please include background information on the photo, including: name of the hunter/trapper; age; hometown; harvest date and location; achievement description (species, weight, antler points, beard length); and achievement significance, such as whether this was a hunter's first deer, first turkey, first bear, or a furtaker's first coyote or beaver.

For more information, visit the [Hunter/Trapper Photo Scrapbook webpage](#).

2006 Trout/Salmon Stamp Products Now Available Online

Patches, fine art prints and other merchandise related to the Pennsylvania Trout/Salmon Stamp program are now available from the Fish and Boat Commission's exclusive publisher for such products, [Wilderness Editions](#).

The 2006 edition will mark the last installment of this particular series of prints and patches, adding to their innate value. In addition, the artwork featured on the collectible prints is in a vertical format, unique among the 16 editions that make up the series.

A painting by famed Pennsylvania wildlife artist Ned Smith has been selected to appear on the 2006 Pennsylvania Trout/Salmon Stamp and the associated fine art prints.

"Sting of the Hook," an acrylic depicting a brook trout – the state fish – surging for freedom against a fly expertly hooked in the corner of its mouth, was created for the 50th anniversary edition of the then Pennsylvania Fish Commission's Pennsylvania Angler magazine in 1981.

In homage to its roots, the painting will also again grace the cover of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's magazine when the 75th anniversary issue of Pennsylvania Angler & Boater is published in the fall of 2006.

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Prints are available in a variety of framing options, including a special Executive Edition signed by PFBC Executive Director Dr. Douglas Austen and featuring a mint condition stamp from each of the Pennsylvania Trout/Salmon Stamp's 16-year run.

In 1991 Pennsylvania introduced a new permit required of all licensed anglers fishing for trout and salmon. The primary intent of the program was to provide improved funding for managing trout fisheries – field studies, habitat improvement, hatchery production, stocking and law enforcement. It also provided an opportunity for a little artistic flair; the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission opted to issue the permits as collectible stamps featuring fine works of art.

Since that time, artwork depicting the Commonwealth's various trout species, some of the state's noted trout waters, an historic train car used in the early days of stocking, and even the bond between generations of anglers have appeared on Pennsylvania Trout/Salmon Stamps. Featured pieces have been selected via juried contests, commissioned or simply hand chosen.

The Commission is actively working to transition from a paper-based fishing license system to an electronic process. In future years, the permit required of the Commonwealth's many trout anglers may very well take on a different form than the now-familiar fine art stamp – making this last print series particularly collectible.

In addition to the art prints, collectible patches – 4-inch, 6-inch and a special 8-inch edition –featuring a leaping brook trout are available.

For prices and ordering information, visit [Wilderness Editions](#) online or call 800-355-7645.

Andrew McElwaine Leaving PA Environmental Council

Andrew McElwaine, President and CEO of the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#), announced this week he is leaving to become head of the [Conservancy of Southwest Florida](#).

Brian Hill, now PEC's Executive Vice President, will assume the position of Interim President. The PEC Board will shortly announce the formation of a search committee to fill the position on a permanent basis.

"While I'm looking forward to new challenges I will miss my friends across PA whom I have enjoyed working with in three different jobs over the last 20 years," said McElwaine. "PEC is in good hands with interim President Brian Hill and a very strong Executive Committee. The organization has doubled in size over the last five years and will likely do so again in the next five."

"Andrew has done an excellent job for the Council and he will be missed," said Paul M. King, PEC Board Chairman. "We appreciate his leadership on Growing Greener II, on nutrient trading and a host of other public policy and educational programs. We wish him well in his new ventures."

McElwaine joined PEC in 1999 and worked since then to double the group's revenues and increase its profile on a statewide basis.

Before joining PEC, McElwaine was Director of Environmental Programs at the Heinz Endowments, a consultant for The Conservation Fund, Director of Congressional Affairs for the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. and legislative assistant to the late Pennsylvania U.S. Senator John Heinz.

NewsClip: [Leader of PA Nonprofit Tapped for Conservancy's Top Post](#)

Nicholas Selected as Wild Resource Conservation Director

Sara J. Nicholas, a former American Rivers administrator who has overseen wide-ranging conservation efforts with private and federal organizations, has been named executive director of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Wild Resource Conservation Program.

Nicholas leaves a position with American Rivers Mid-Atlantic region where she partnered with local conservation groups to improve waterways through small dam removals, storm water management and watershed protection. She succeeds Dr. Ronald A. Stanley, who retired.

Before American Rivers, Nicholas worked as watershed stewardship coordinator for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and as senior advisor for wetlands and conservation education with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. She also edited Environmental Law Institute publications and specialized in policy and publications addressing Superfund issues with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Housed within DCNR's Office of Conservation Science, the Wild Resource Conservation Program works to protect endangered and threatened species - both plants and animals - and strives to educate the public on recognition and preservation of Pennsylvania's most sensitive flora and fauna.

The Wild Resource Conservation Program has reintroduced river otters to Pennsylvania's waterways and ospreys to its skies, while awarding grants to projects studying and protecting plants, birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and other species.

For more information, visit the [Wild Resource Conservation Program webpage](#).

HELP WANTED – PRC Seeks Educator

The [Pennsylvania Resources Council](#) is seeking a P/T qualified, experienced regional educator for Dauphin, Lancaster and York counties.

The person selected will deliver environment and ecology programs to local schools and community groups. Materials and training are provided. The applicant must be able to obtain criminal and child abuse clearances. This position is ideal for a retired teacher.

Please send letter and resume to Sue Cochrane, Manager of Environmental Education, cochrane@prc.org .

Feature

Important Bird Areas, Kittatinny Ridge Project Protect Habitat Areas

Representatives of Audubon Pennsylvania this week gave an overview of two habitat protection projects that involve millions of acres in the state—Pennsylvania’s [Important Bird Areas Program](#) and the [Blue Mountain-Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Project](#).

The presentations were part of the Environmental Issues Forum series hosted by the [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) chaired by Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango).

Dr. Tim Schaeffer, Executive Director of Audubon Pennsylvania, and Paul Zeph, Director of the Kittatinny Ridge Project shared the presentation.

Habitat loss and fragmentation are the most serious threats facing birds around the world, including here in Pennsylvania. The Important Bird Area Program was established as part of a global network to identify places for their outstanding value to bird conservation.

There are now 82 sites in Pennsylvania identified as Important Bird Areas that cover 2.9 million acres. Over 475 volunteers help monitor the sites, many “adopted” formally by a variety of volunteer, watershed, service and other groups.

Important Bird Areas must meet several criteria: an exceptional concentration or diversity of birdlife, a significant population of state or federally-listed endangered or threatened species, a significant population of one or more species of Pennsylvania’s “special concern” list, sites with rare, threatened or unique habitats with birds characteristic of those habitats and sites where long-term avian research or monitoring is ongoing.

Individual sites must be nominated to be included in this program and go through a formal evaluation process.

Maps of each Important Bird Area, procedures for nominating sites and how to adopt areas are included on a [special Important Bird Area section](#) of Audubon Pennsylvania’s website.

The largest single Bird Area – the [Blue Mountain – Kittatinny Ridge](#) – is also the object of a special conservation project spearheaded by Audubon Pennsylvania.

The Kittatinny Ridge, the first ridge of mountains moving east to west in Pennsylvania, stretches 185 miles from the Maryland line to the Delaware Water Gap. The ridge touches 81 municipalities in 11 counties.

The Ridge is a globally-significant fall migration flyway used annually by tens of thousands of raptors and millions of songbirds. Its rock outcroppings make it an excellent place to watch these migrating birds, enjoy the scenic vistas and hike the 160 miles of the Appalachian Trail that are included in the Ridge area.



The Pinnacle at Hawk Mountain,
Berks County
Commonwealth Media Services

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The goals of the collaborative Ridge project are to focus public attention on the importance of the area as a habitat, natural corridor and recreation area, develop a long-term vision for the Ridge through an open-public process and develop tools and programs to protect the habitat, features and attributes of the Ridge at the local level.

The Ridge Project has opened an extensive website that features not only facts and information about the Ridge, but maps of bird watching and scenic locations and links to local partner groups.

A gallery of photos of the Ridge and its environs is also available online, along with a PowerPoint presentation of the resources and issues involving the Ridge.

Soon to be available is a GIS-driven map area where students, public officials and potential visitors can create their own maps of features in the Ridge Project area and a toolbox for local land protection.

The Project will also distribute a poster to schools early next year that will describe the Ridge and its features and include activities linking to the new website features.

For more information, visit the [Important Bird Areas Program](#) and the [Blue Mountain-Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Project](#) websites.

The next Environmental Issues Forum is on December 12 and will feature a presentation by Warren Weaver and Recycling Program Manager Robert J. “Bob” Bylone, Jr. of the Pennsylvania Recycling Market Development Center.

NewsClip: [Conservation Campaign Launched to Preserve Kittatinny Ridge](#)

Quick Clips

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

[\\$43 Million in Business in Our Sites Brownfield, Environmental, Planning Grants](#)
[Art Complex Envisioned at Bethlehem Steel Site](#)
[Bethlehem Moving on 10 Years After Mills Cooled](#)
[Conservation Campaign Launched to Preserve Kittatinny Ridge](#)
[4 Acres Preserved for \\$800,000 in Montgomery County](#)
[Allegheny County Has Most Illegal Dump Sites](#)
[Coal Waste-Fired Power Plant Construction to Begin Next Year](#)
[Energy Efficiency Sought for 34 Public Housing Sites](#)
[Recycling Cell Phones Helps Fund Non-Profit](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Editorial: Why Should Public Cleanup CAT Site With Growing Greener](#)
[Wastewater Reuse Plan Finishes First Phase in State College](#)
[Saxman Run Mine Project to Generate Electricity](#)
[Grant Will Help Restore Wyomissing Creek](#)
[Marking the Wild and Scenic Beauty of White Clay Creek](#)
[Boyce Park Acid Mine Drainage Cleanup Scheduled](#)
[DEP Issues Second Re-Mining Permit for Findley Run](#)

[River Documentary to Air on WVIA](#)

[Buffer Planted to Help Protect French Creek](#)

[Conservation Celebration in Westmoreland](#)

[New Vision for Codorus Creek – RiverWalk](#)

[Chesapeake Bay Foundation Stresses Importance of Working with Farm Community](#)

[Susquehanna Flood Warning Systems Helps Reduce Damage](#)

Regulations

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission published notice it approved Nutrient Management Certification rules and the Department of Environmental Protection updated its list of certified radon testing and mitigation firms.

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission [published notice of its deemed approval](#) of the Department of Agriculture’s Nutrient Management Certification rules.

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice of [changes to its list of individuals and companies certified to perform radon testing and remediation](#) (PaB page 6379)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published three notices- industry-wide coproducts for reclaimed asphalt pavement, laboratory reporting for drinking water systems and notice of coal mining bond rate guidelines.

Department of Environmental Protection notice of the availability of a [list of Industry-Wide Coproducts to Include in Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement](#).

DEP Draft Technical Guidance: DEP ID: 383-3301-306. [Laboratory Reporting Instructions for Disinfectants, Disinfectant Byproducts and Precursors](#). This guidance provides instructions to all public water systems and certified laboratories for the reporting of drinking water disinfectant residual, chlorite, bromate, bromide, total trihalo- methanes, haloacetic acids, UV254, dissolved organic carbon, specific ultraviolet absorbance, total organic carbon and alkalinity monitoring results as required by the Federal Surface Water Treatment Rule and the Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Rule (D/DBPR) and as implemented under the Pennsylvania Filter Rule and the D/DBPR in 25 Pa. Code Chapter 109 (relating to safe drinking water). Comments due: December 19.

DEP [notice of Bond Rate Guidelines](#) for the Calculation of Land Reclamation Bonds for Coal Mining Operations.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- [No Cost Online Training Available on Remediation, Green Technology](#)
- **November 21** – Senate Appropriations Committee to consider [Senate Bill 995](#) (MJ White-R-Venango) relating to snowmobile/AVT registration.
- **November 22** – House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to consider [House Bill 2042](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) increasing penalties in Clean Streams Law, [House Bill 2043](#) (Reichley) increasing penalties in Solid Waste Management Act.
- **December 1** – Independent Regulatory Review Commission meeting to consider the Environmental Quality Board's Environmental Laboratory Accreditation regulations.
- **December 3** – [Energy Cost Reduction Workshop for Houses of Worship](#). Harrisburg.
- **December 5** – [DEP Radiation Protection Advisory Committee meeting](#) to consider proposed regulation changes to implement Agreement State Status with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- **December 6** – House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee information meeting on Energy Policy to hear presentations from energy producers.
- **December 12** – Environmental Issues Forum – PA Recycling Markets Development Center, [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#).

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](#)

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

Helpful Web Links

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

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

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

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

Stories Invited

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

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

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