

PA Environment Digest

An Update on Environmental Issues In Pennsylvania

By Holston & Crisci, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

June 14, 2004

The General Assembly will be in session again the week of June 14 and throughout June. There was little meaningful activity on the budget this week, other than moving potential vehicles into place.

One of the [falcons the Rachel Carson Building](#) is missing!

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On the Hill

Renewable Portfolio Standard Costs Highlight of Senate, House Hearings

The cost to electric customers of setting a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requiring electric suppliers to have from 10 to 15 percent of their power generated from renewable sources and the definition of what is “renewable” were discussed this week at hearings by both the Senate and House Environmental Resources and Energy Committees.

The Committees also heard about an initiative by PJM Interconnect, the “air traffic controller” that oversees power distribution in the Mid-Atlantic states, Ohio and Illinois, to allow utilities to track and certify where each megawatt of energy is produced so they can trade them in the marketplace to meet renewable portfolio standards.

About 1.4 percent of Pennsylvania’s electricity comes from non-hydro renewable sources, 90 percent comes from coal and nuclear. There are over 200 renewable energy companies in Pennsylvania, including a major presence of wind driven generation. Twelve states, including Delaware and New Jersey, have implemented an RPS or “clean energy” programs.

PUC Chairman Terrance Fitzpatrick noted in his testimony before the House Committee that Pennsylvania already has about 100,000 customers buying green energy thanks to electric deregulation adopted in 1996 and over \$20 million has been invested in almost 200 sustainable and renewable energy projects by the sustainable energy funds created at the time of deregulation.

Fitzpatrick said Commission staff estimated electric rates would increase from 1 to 3.5 percent across the state if a 10 percent Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) was adopted, if the cost was passed on to consumers. However, as part of deregulation, rate caps are in place that prevent companies from passing along rate increases unless they were necessary to preserve a fair rate of return.

Fitzpatrick recommended either waiting to adopt legislation until the caps expire or including a cost recovery mechanism in the new program. He noted, “it is increasingly important that customers make decisions regarding consumption based upon the true cost of electricity. Failure to reflect this cost in retail prices encourages consumption and is inconsistent with the environmental benefits an RPS is designed to achieve.”

[DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty](#) told the Senate Committee that rising natural gas prices, increases in the demand for oil from China, terrorist incidents and projections we will reach our global petroleum production capacity by 2008 means “geopolitics and geology” are going to change the energy markets in dramatic ways in the near future.

McGinty encouraged the Senate Committee to consider a broader definition of renewable—an “Advanced Energy Portfolio Standard” that encompasses Pennsylvania’s indigenous energy resources like coal bed methane and coal waste.

On cost, McGinty cited a recent study by the [Community Foundation for the Alleghenies](#) that said an RPS standard would cost Pennsylvania consumers over \$1.23 billion over 20 years, but would yield \$2.8 billion in earnings and 85,000 jobs.

Denise Foster, Senior Counsel to PJM Interconnection, gave both committees background on PJM’s Generator Attributes Tracking System (GATS) that is designed to support the advancement of a renewables market and help their member utilities meet state RPS or “clean energy” requirements.

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PJM has worked with a variety of stakeholders to design a registry system that will allow generators to create a certificate for each megawatt of power they put into the PJM system showing its attributes-- how it was generated – renewable, nonrenewable -- and the emissions associated to that megawatt.

In turn, other utilities in the system can then see what's available on the market and purchase the certificates they need to meet RPS requirements. Certificates can only be transferred once. GATS, itself, isn't a market, but it facilitates the market for renewables by providing a secure way of assuring the attributes of energy being generated and the documentation utilities need to show compliance with state requirements.

In the Senate, other witnesses included: Jim Seif, PPL, Mike Ewall, Energy Justice Network, David McAnally, US Wind Force, Steven Brame, Rural Electric Association.

Sen. Mary Jo White, Committee chair, said the Committee will have a second hearing on this issue June 23.

In the House, additional comments were provided by J. Michael Love, Energy Association of PA, Penn Future and Dominion. This was the fourth meeting of the House Committee on this issue.

For more information on the GATS system, visit: [Overview](#) and view the [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Pending RPS legislation includes [Senate Bill 1030](#) (Erickson-R- Delaware), [Senate Bill 962](#) (Ferlo-D-Allegheny) and [House Bill 2250](#) (Ross-R-Chester).

New Poll Shows Public Opposes Growing Greener II Fees

A statewide poll conducted by Public Opinion Strategies for the Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association (PWIA) shows that 71 percent oppose Gov. Rendell's proposed environmental bond issue, once they understand it would ultimately be paid for by homeowners and businesses.

By a 2-to-1 margin voters agree that the governor's proposed \$5 per ton increase in trash collection fees is, in fact, the same thing as raising taxes.

Groups opposing the tax increase appeared at a press conference this week announcing the poll results. They included the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association (PMA), National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB), Pennsylvania Chemical Industries Industry Council, Pennsylvania Coal Association, Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, Electric Power Generation Association, Pennsylvania Builders Association, and Specialty Steel Industry.

Opposition to the governor's plan was high among seniors, with 59 percent in opposition in the 55-64 age group and 60 percent in opposition in the over-65 age group. Geographically, opposition was widely spread statewide—except in the Greater Philadelphia region, which favored the plan.

Jim Panyard, president and CEO of PMA, said, "We're not surprised by the finding that voters across party and regional lines say taxes are too high. It backs up our view that the heavy tax burden on Pennsylvania employers is slowing the growth of jobs

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and wages. In this kind of climate, it just doesn't make any sense to increase taxes on trash and add new taxes on legal manufacturing emissions.”

Kevin Shivers, Pennsylvania state director of NFIB, commented, “The high cost of doing business in Pennsylvania is a difficult challenge for small businesses. Higher trash taxes just add to the burden. Our members have told us they strongly oppose higher trash taxes. It's clear most Pennsylvanians oppose them too.”

A poll released in March by the Pennsylvania Alliance for Restoration and Conservation done by Madonna Young Opinion Research had 52 percent saying they would definitely vote for the proposal and another 18 percent saying “probably.”

In other activities surrounding the Growing Greener II issue, the House Appropriations Committee held an information meeting in Indiana June 3 on the proposal and heard comments from representatives of the Homer City Generating Station and their union.

Don Hoak, representing Local 459 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, said, “Jobs are the reason I am here to oppose the proposed Toxic Release Inventory and Residual Waste taxes. Any taxes that will put these facilities at a competitive disadvantage are ultimately bad for the working man and woman of the Commonwealth.”

Gov. Rendell's Growing Greener II proposal is included in several pending bills: [House Bill 2621](#) (George-D-Clearfield) authorizing placing an \$800 million environmental bond issue on the ballot, [House Bill 2010](#) (Surra-D-Elk) adopting the various fees needed to pay for bond issue and other parts of the program, [House Bill 2628](#) (Leach-D- Montgomery) authorizing Green Sales Tax Holiday. The tax holiday is also included in [Senate Bill 765](#) sponsored by Sen. Williams (D-Philadelphia).

Meanwhile, Rep. McNaughton (R-Dauphin) introduced [House Bill 2679](#) this week to raise the basic \$4 Growing Greener fee on municipal waste to \$23 per ton.

For more information and the results of the poll, visit www.pawasteindustries.org.

For more information on Gov. Rendell's Growing Greener II proposal visit: www.GrowingGreener2.com

Underground Storage Tank Fund May Come Up Short, May Raise Gas Prices

Another budget issue facing the General Assembly is the promised full repayment of monies to the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund. If adequate repayment isn't done in this coming year's budget, it could result in an increase in gasoline prices.

Gov. Rendell's budget contained \$2.5 million of the \$10 million repayment the Fund was supposed to receive this year, according to budget agreements made in 2002-03. In 2002 \$100 million was borrowed from the Fund to balance the budget with the promise to pay it back.

The Indemnification Fund finances a state-sponsored insurance program to cleanup leaks from underground storage tanks paid for by a per gallon charge on gasoline assessed on service station dealers. DEP is also authorized to receive monies from the Fund to do tank cleanups and provide funding to certain tank owners for cleanups.

Actuarial studies done on the Fund show that if the repayment schedule isn't met, the per gallon fee will have to be increased, something that will be automatically reflected at the pump.

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[Click Here](#) for more information on the Fund and its programs. [Click Here](#) for information on DEP's Storage Tank Program.

Senate Committee Moves Sewer/Water Funding Bill

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee reported out [Senate Bill 1102](#) (Gordner-R-Columbia) that would implement the \$250 million bond issue approved by voters. A one word technical amendment was made to the bill. Both Senators White and Musto said the bill would likely be amended.

This is the last piece of the economic development stimulus package.

Bond issue implementing legislation was also introduced in the House this week—[House Bill 2690](#) (Weber-R-Montgomery) and [House Bill 2693](#) (Tangretti-D-Westmoreland).

House Bill 2690 is scheduled to be considered by the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee June 16.

House Passes Continuation of Forestland Beautification Funding

The House this week passed [House Bill 2227](#) sponsored by Rep. Rubley (R-Chester) that continues funding for the Forest Lands Beautification Program in DCNR that was due to expire this year. The legislation makes up to \$300,000 available annually over ten years.

This action follows Senate passage of [Senate Bill 977](#) sponsored by Senators Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and Kukovich (D-Westmoreland), that would make \$500,000 available annually over the next five years.

Groups like [PA Cleanways](#) and many watershed groups have used these funds to clean up rural dumping sites.

House Passes Bill Allowing Counties to Fund Stormwater Management Facilities

The House this week passed [House Bill 606](#), sponsored by Rep. Steil (R-Bucks) that would authorize four counties-- Allegheny, Bucks, Delaware and Montgomery-- to impose fees to help fund stormwater plan implementation and the construction of stormwater management facilities based on a comprehensive watershed stormwater management plans adopted by a county or jointly by municipalities. It would also reestablish a grant program in DEP to fund stormwater management planning efforts.

Under current law, all storm water planning is governed by the existing Stormwater Management Act (167 of 1978), which requires that each county develop a comprehensive storm water plan for each watershed for all new development. Each municipality is required to implement that plan when considering development projects.

The act does not provide legal authority to address pre-existing storm water issues and further allows each municipality to managed storm water by setting their own standards. This new law would correct these deficiencies in these counties.

DEP itself is in the middle of a [major revision of its stormwater management program guidance](#) to put emphasis on allowing for the infiltration, rather than simple retention of stormwater.

For more general information visit: [Stormwater Planning](#) .

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Water Well Driller Certification Bill in Senate, House Considers Companion Bill

Sen. Greenleaf (R-Montgomery) introduced [Senate Bill 1148](#) this week, a companion to Rep. Dailey's [House Bill 2619](#), that would require anyone seeking a water well driller's license from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to pass one of the licensing exams offered by the National Groundwater Association.

The legislation also requires DCNR to make the list of licensed drillers available through the Internet.

At least 16 [other states use the NGWA examinations](#) for certification of well drillers.

For more information on the existing water well driller licensing requirement, [click here](#). For more on NGWA exams, [click here](#).

House Bill 2619 is scheduled to be considered by the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee June 16.

Environment Issues Forum Explores Environment – Health Links

This week the Joint Legislative Air Pollution Control and Conservation Committee chaired by Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) hosted another in a series of Environmental Issues Forums, this time on the topic of the environment and health risks.

Joel Hersh, Director of the Bureau of Epidemiology at the Department of Health, gave a presentation on Pennsylvania's efforts as part of the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program.

Jolene Chinchilli, a member of DEP's Citizens Advisory Council, spoke on "How Does the Public Perceive Risk? Why the Facts Aren't Enough."

Joel Hersh noted public health agencies have done a good job over the years identifying and preventing infectious diseases, but they came late to the game in dealing with the health affects caused by environmental factors.

In 2002 Pennsylvania received a three-year, \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Centers of Disease Control to establish a pilot program, along with 16 other states, to see if health and environmental officials could identify and even anticipate impacts on public health based from environmental and health measurements. The correlation between hazards, exposures and disease outcomes would then be used to develop policies and programs to correct both the health and environmental problems.

The program and grants were prompted in part by a [2001 Pew Commission/John Hopkins Report](#) that found that health tracking in the U.S. was disjointed or nonexistent.

Working with the Department of Environmental Protection and a special project advisory committee, the Department of Health and other health officials around the state chose asthma to study links between the environment and disease.

The project will rank school districts in the state based on the numbers of students with asthma; determine the risk factors present in school and at home for causing the disease and relate that information to the levels of air pollution inside and outside their school and living environment. They will then make recommendations on how to deal with the health and environmental problems they identify.

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The project is expected to run through 2005. For more information contact David Marchetto, Department of Health, 717-787-1708.

Jolene Chinchilli, who has a Masters in Public Health and a Certificate in Risk Analysis in Environmental Health from the Harvard School of Public Health, started by saying both the public and experts are often frustrated in their attempts to understand their differing perceptions of environmental and health risk.

Experts often don't understand that facts and data are not enough to convince people something is safe or won't hurt them, especially when they are not the ones at direct risk. The public is frustrated because they don't get information in a way that is meaningful to them.

A number of factors influence the perception of risk by the public—

- Knowledge - for most people, facts have relatively little affect on estimates or tolerance of risks and initial impressions are very persistent even in the face of contrary evidence.
- Acceptability - most people don't worry about long-term concerns like global warming or familiar risks like a problem that's always been there or if they voluntarily engage in a risk like smoking.
- Availability - people are more concerned about a risk if it is sensational or they think they can be directly affected by it .
- Presentation - how something is presented can minimize or exaggerate a risk, for example, you can say 68 percent of people having a particular surgery survive 32 percent die, both are accurate but the presentation is different.
- Personal Immunity - people tend to believe they are immune to many hazards, they feel that accidents happen to "others," are frequently in denial and some believe they are above average when it comes to "catching something."
- Trust - the trust people place in experts has eroded, people are uncomfortable with uncertainty, and people have a "hindsight bias" when looking at events after the fact that should have been clear at the time.
- Individual vs. Societal Perspective - experts take a societal approach in describing how something might affect an overall population, while people prefer individualized information. If it happened to them it's bad.

Chinchilli noted that much of the information she presented is based on the papers and books of [Paul Slovic of Decision Research](#).

She then offered some dos and don'ts: give the public meaningful opportunities to define problems and evaluate solutions up front; don't compare risks; be careful of ethical issues in presenting (spinning) risk information; understand people do want information about risks – ignorance is not bliss; and “experts may have all the facts, but not all the possible perspectives.

You can contact Ms. Chinchilli through the [DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) at 717-787-4527 or by email to: suswilson@state.pa.us

In Other News

Watershed Groups Recognized for Their AMD Efforts

Over 200 people attended the 6th Annual Statewide Conference on Abandoned Mine Reclamation this week in Indiana. Technical sessions drew the most attendance, with new and older watershed groups learning how they can better combat acid mine drainage in their areas.

The conference is organized by the [Eastern](#) and [Western](#) Coalitions for Abandoned Mine Reclamation-- a partnership of county conservation districts, DEP, other state and federal agencies and over 225 watershed organizations-- with a variety of [conference sponsors](#) .

This year's event also featured the first awards given out by the Steering Committee of the conference to recognize local partners. Six awards were given out, three in the east and three in the west to—

[Lackawanna River Corridor Association](#) and Bernie McGurl for their initiatives to not only cleanup acid mine drainage, but spearhead the development of trails, a comprehensive regional plan and conduct environmental education programs.

[Mountain Watershed Association](#) in Fayette and Washington counties has worked for 10 years on mine drainage issues completing three major projects with two more pending along with an active riverkeeper and water sampling program. They were represented by Jerry Gearhart, vice president and charter member.

[Friends of the Nescopeck](#), a young, growing group in Luzerne County with an active water quality sampling program and watershed stewardship program that is gathering local support for dealing with their largest mine acid problem the Jetto discharge.

[Roaring Run Watershed Association](#) in Armstrong County is a well-established group with a very active membership involved in everything from water quality restoration, recycling, land preservation, trail development and river cleanups.

[Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association](#) in Wyoming County was recognized for their strong education and outreach program on mine drainage, acid rain and sewer overflow issues.

[Wells Creek Watershed Association](#) in Somerset County is just four years old but has already seen results from its three restoration projects which this year resulted in putting trout in the stream that has been dead for over 100 years. They were represented by Thurman Korns.

Scott Roberts, DEP Deputy Secretary for Mineral Resources Management gave one of the key note addresses at the four day conference, highlighting again the need for Congress to reauthorize the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program.

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< Deb Simko
& Jerry
Gearhart

Deb &
Thurman
Korns >



AMD Conference Steering Committee (L to R) Bruce Golden, Deb Simko, Mark Killar, Mike Hewitt, Sara Tumulty, Tom Clark (hat), Robert Hughes, Adam Fletcher and Tom Grote.

Groundwater Plan Released for Comment in Susquehanna Watershed

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) this week released for a 90-day public comment period a draft groundwater management plan for the Susquehanna basin.

SRBC has scheduled three public workshops to brief people on the draft plan and to receive their comments that will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.. The Pennsylvania workshop will be July 15 at the Wildwood Conference Center, Harrisburg Area Community College. Persons interested in attending a workshop should contact Patricia Adams at SRBC, (717) 238-0423, ext. 302 or by e-mail at padams@srbc.net.

[Click here for full story.](#)

PA Geologist Receives National Public Service Award

This year the American Institute of Professional Geologists selected Margaret H. Dunn, PG,CPG as its recipient of the 2004 John T. Galey, Sr. Memorial Public Service Award.

The award recognizes an individual who has an outstanding record of public service well beyond their normal professional responsibilities.

Specifically, Margaret was recognized for volunteering and partnering with numerous watershed groups throughout western Pennsylvania, including the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, Jennings Water Quality Improvement Coalition, Greene County Watershed Alliance, Montour Run Watershed Association, Aultman Watershed Association for Restoring the Environment, Ohio River Celebration Committee, and others, to develop and install passive systems to treat abandoned mine drainage and to provide public outreach and education relating to watershed stewardship.

For more information on the [American Institute of Professional Geologists](#), and to learn the secrets to the [Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition](#) .

Wildlife Habitat Council to Host Land Revitalization Conference

Nominees Wanted for Land Conservation Award

PA Company Expands Production of Native Seeds & Plants

In response to the increasing demand for native species to restore wetlands, riparian areas and the expansion of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), Ernst Conservation Seeds, Meadville, PA, is continuing to expand their production of native grasses and forbs from Pennsylvania and the eastern U.S. for conservation use.

The company has increased their selection of wetland species to include trees and shrubs, in both seed and plant form for use in restoration projects and native landscaping projects.

For more information, [visit their website](#) or contact them at 800-873-3321.

Quick Hits:

NewsClip: [Allegheny Power Conservation Programs Save Money](#)

NewsClip: [Creating An Environment for Learning](#)

NewsClip: [PA Worst State on Power Plant Pollution](#)

Taking Positive Action

EPA and Giant Food Team Up To Promote Children's Health, Safety

Beginning this month, Giant Food is promoting summer environmental health and safety awareness for children in all of its stores as part of a year-long campaign. Giant Food's Kid's Corner Activity Sheet will be devoted to teaching children about air quality and sun safety.

Each store will also display EPA's sun safety poster and beginning in July, one-quart milk cartons will feature information about AQI and the UV Index.

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The Air Quality Index, or AQI, is a simple color-coded system that tells the public how clean the air is and whether there are any people who may be at risk of experiencing health effects. The Ultraviolet (UV) Index is a tool used by EPA, the National Weather Service and weather reporters around the country since 1994 to report the day's risk level of UV exposure.

These activities are part of Giant Food's program to increase public awareness about children's environmental health issues. In March, Giant Food focused on safety issues around mercury fever thermometers. EPA is providing technical assistance with the entire campaign.

For information about [AQI](#) or the [UV Index](#).

Sun-Safety Efforts Protect Kids, Allentown School Wins EPA Award

Ten schools and organizations won EPA recognition this week for protecting children from the damaging effects of overexposure to the sun, including the Swan School in Allentown. The winners teach and promote sun-safe behaviors to prevent skin cancer, cataracts, and other adverse health effects.

In the United States, one person dies every hour from melanoma, the most deadly form of skin cancer. This disease is largely preventable with proper sun protection. EPA's SunWise Program encourages K-8 schools, science and children's museums, and other organizations to educate children and their caregivers about sun protection.

The Swain School in Allentown won the 2004 "Shining Star Award." This award recognizes educators and other proponents of children's health issues who are implementing SunWise in an exemplary way; by reaching a large number of students, reporting UV Index data to EPA's Web site, sponsoring poster contests, or developing sun-safety curriculum. For more information visit: [SunWise program](#).

Erie Student First Winner of Sue Wiseman Scholarship

EPA Donates Computers to Morrisville Schools

Efficient Cooling Systems Protect the Environment and Save Money

With the launch of ENERGY STAR's "Cool Change" campaign this summer, EPA is encouraging Americans to save energy, money, and protect the environment by increasing the efficiency of home cooling systems.

The "Cool Change" campaign offers homeowners tips to realize big savings – for their wallet and the environment. Recommendations include replacing old cooling equipment with high-efficiency ENERGY STAR-qualified equipment; checking and sealing duct systems; replacing air filters; and sealing homes to keep excess air from escaping through leaky attics, doors and windows.

Get your own copy of [EPA's Guide to Energy-Efficient Cooling and Heating](#).

The average family spends \$1,400 a year on energy bills, nearly half of which goes to heating and cooling. Homeowners who choose energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment that is properly sized and installed can save as much as 20 percent on their annual energy costs.

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ENERGY STAR products use less energy, which means less air pollution and a cleaner environment. If 1 in 10 U.S. households used heating and cooling equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR, the change would prevent an estimated 17 billion pounds of air pollution.

Today, with assistance from the U.S. Department of Energy, the ENERGY STAR is featured on more than 40 types of products, from light bulbs to major appliances to new homes and buildings. More than 9,000 organizations have become ENERGY STAR partners and are committed to improving the energy efficiency of products, homes and businesses. For more information about [ENERGY STAR](#), call 1-888-STAR-YES.

Watershed NewsClips

[Delco Gets Grant to Update Watershed Runoff Plan](#)

[Greensburg Erosion Project Needs Funds](#)

[BAY cleanup project adds more sites](#)

[USDA Announces Interim Final Rule for CSP Raystown Watershed Priority](#)

[Pennsylvania American Water Announces Protect Our Watersheds Art](#)

[Students Find Susquehanna Cleaner Than Expected](#)

[End of a dangerous dam Detters Mill Dam slated for removal this month](#)

[Underground Water Seminar](#)

[Worst Lehigh River polluter abated](#)

[Specialists seek residents interested in preserving lower Penns Creek Watershed](#)

[The chemicals run through it](#)

[STATE grants funds to Mon Wharf project](#)

[PLAN for park reflection spot stresses 'the cycle of things'](#)

[SUSQUEHANNA River Birding and Wildlife Trail Guide now available](#)

Regulations

DEP Regulations Approved at the Independent Regulatory Review Commission

Environmental Quality Board regulations dealing with several issues were approved by the IRRC this week --

#7-383: [Safe Drinking Water, Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts](#): This final rulemaking updates or clarifies several requirements concerning disinfectants, disinfection byproducts (DBPs) and surface water treatment, adds three requirements concerning DBP monitoring, increased monitoring criteria and surface water turbidity reporting and corrects minor typographical errors throughout Chapter 109. See [June EQB](#) meeting.

#7-387: [Radiological Health Amendments](#): The primary purpose of the final rulemaking is to correct cross references that were rendered inaccurate by changes made in previous rulemakings where the sections linked by reference were not open to amendment. The regulations are also being generally updated and clarified as necessary. See [April EQB](#) meeting.

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The IRRC will consider the Department of Agriculture's final regulations on Application of Soil and Groundwater Contaminated with Agricultural Chemicals to Agricultural Lands authorized by the Land Recycling Act.

Environmental Quality Board Meeting – June 15

Agenda Items

- [Final – Bushy Run and Other Stream Designations](#)
- [Petition to Redesignate a Portion of Wissahickon Creek](#) (Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties)
- [Final Rulemaking - Coal Mining Amendments \(Incidental Coal Extraction\)](#)

[Summary of packages available](#)

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Comment Deadlines Open on DEP Regulations

For copies of Proposed Regulations

Status of Regulations and Six-Month Regulatory Calendar

Technical Guidance

- [Final – Underground Storage of Explosives](#)

For copies of Draft Technical Guidance

For copies of Final Technical Guidance

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **June 14** – Senate Appropriations Committee meeting to consider [Senate Bill 1040](#) (restoring funding to PA Center for Environmental Education), [Senate Bill 1041](#) (restoring funding to PA Senior Environment Corps) and [Senate Bill 1042](#) (Creating an Office of Pollution Reduction at DEP), [Senate Bill 1102](#) (sewer/water project funding), [Senate Bill 856](#) (regulating fireworks). Off the Floor, Rules Room.
- **June 15** – Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee public hearing on Gov. Rendell's Growing Greener II initiative. Senate Majority Caucus Room. 11:00. Info: <http://www.senatormjwhite.com/>
- **June 15** – Environmental Quality Board Meeting, Room 101, Rachel Carson Building, 9:00. [For agenda items](#), visit:
- **June 16** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee Meeting, Hearing Room 1, North Office, 9:00. Agenda items include: [House Bill 2690](#) (Weber-R) legislation implementing the \$250 million voter approved bond issue for water and sewer funding; [House Bill 2619](#) (Dailey-D) requires water well driller certification

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exams; [House Bill 2035](#) (McIlhenney-R) sets energy efficiency standards for certain appliances; [House Bill 2370](#) (McIlhenney-R) eliminates sales tax on certain energy efficient appliances for two years; [House Bill 2289](#) (Yudichak-D) amends the Waste Tire Recycling Act to require a waste tire recycling facility to have a waste processing permit from DEP. For more information contact Joe Deklinski, Executive Director, 717-783-4707, or jdeklinski@pahousegop.com.

- **June 17:** [Rachel Carson Forum: Emerging Energy Technologies](#) . 1:00
- **June 23** – Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee public hearing on renewable portfolio standards. (LTBA)

[DEP Calendar of Events](#) [Watershed Events](#)

Helpful Web Links

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

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

[DEP Regulations](#)

Contributions Invited

Send your stories about new and changing state government programs and services to **PA Environment Digest** to: DHess@HolstonCrisci.com .

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