

News from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection



Tom Corbett, Governor | Chris Abruzzo, Secretary



DEP Calendar of Events

March 6

Keystone Energy Education Program Workshop, 8:30 a.m., Penn State University, 309 Sackett Building, West College Ave., University Park. Contact: Lisa Riley Brown, lisabrown@psu.edu

March 6

Informal Public Conference for Cumberland Mine Permit Revision, 1-3 p.m., 4H Building, Greene County Fairgrounds, 107 Fairgrounds Rd., Waynesburg. Contact: John Poister, 412-442-4000

March 6

Public meeting on Cheswick Ash Disposal Site, 6-8 p.m., Indiana Township Community Center, 3710 Saxonburg Blvd., Indiana Township. Contact: John Poister, 412-442-4000

March 11

Board of Coal Mine Safety meeting, 10 a.m., DEP Cambria Office, 286 Industrial Park Rd., Ebensburg. Contact: Allison Gaida, 724-439-7289

March 18

Environmental Quality Board meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Jenn Swan, 717-783-8727

March 18

Citizens Advisory Council meeting, 11 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Jenn Swan, 717-

Corbett Administration Announces \$8 Million in Alternative Fuel Vehicle Incentive Grants

HARRISBURG – DEP'S Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant (AFIG) program opened March 1, providing an estimated \$8 million in grants for the purchase or conversion of alternative fuel vehicles.

Those eligible to apply include school districts, municipal authorities, political subdivisions, incorporated nonprofit entities, corporations and limited liability companies or partnerships registered to do business in Pennsylvania.

Grant funds are available for the conversion or purchase of natural gas vehicles weighing 26,000 pounds or less, as well as the conversion or purchase of electric, propane or other alternative fuel vehicles of any size.

Applicants interested in purchasing or converting only one or two alternative fuel vehicles are encouraged to partner with other eligible applicants to aggregate vehicles into a single application, which will satisfy the grant's five vehicle minimum.

Grant applications will also be accepted for innovation technology projects that include research, training, development and demonstration of new applications or next phase technology related to alternative transportation fuels and alternative fuel vehicles.

Applications are due May 30, 2014 by 4 p.m. Grants will be awarded in the fall.

Potential applicants are encouraged to participate in a related webinar, scheduled for Tuesday, March 11 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

The AFIG fund was established under Act 166, and is administered by DEP through its Office of Pollution Prevention and Energy Assistance.

Register [here](#) for the webinar. To complete the online grant application or learn more about the AFIG grant program, visit www.dep.state.pa.us, keyword: AFIG.

Operations Winding Down at Site of Gas Well Explosion in Greene Co.

783-8727

March 20

What All Local Governments Need to Know About Brownfields workshop, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Chester County Economic Development Council, 737 Constitution Dr. Exton. Contact: Kim Hoover, 717-787-8623

March 25

Keystone Energy Education Program Workshop, 8:30 a.m., Montgomery Co. Intermediate Unit, 1065 West Main St., Norristown. Contact: Missy Klaus, mklaus@mciu.org

March 26

Alternative Fuels, Vehicles and Technology Workshop sponsored by DEP and the Eastern Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Transportation, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Penn College of Technology Thompson Professional Development Center, 1 College Ave., Williamsport. Contact: Michelle Ferguson, 570-327-3783

April 3

Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee meeting, 9:15 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Nancy Herb, 717-783-9269

April 7

Public hearing on DEP's proposed HSCA response for residential drinking water well contamination in an area of Horsham Twp., Montgomery County, Horsham Twp. Community Center, 1025 Horsham Rd., Horsham. Contact: Lynda Rebarchak, 484-250-5900

April 9

Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment meeting, 10 a.m., Fayette County Health Center, 100 New Salem Rd., Uniontown. Contact: Allison Gaida, 724-439-7289

April 10

What All Local Governments Need to



Sec. Abruzzo visited a nearby wellpad to receive updates from Chevron officials on the status of the emergency.

DUNKARD TOWNSHIP – All three wells involved in a Feb. 11 explosion in Dunkard Township, Greene County, are now secure. After successfully plugging two gas wells, Chevron turned its attention last week to a third well on the pad that did not catch fire.

Tests were conducted on well “8H” to determine if any gas was leaking. With no sign of leaks, a new wellhead was installed on the well on Saturday, March 1.

Investigations into the cause of the explosion that killed one worker and slightly injured another are underway. DEP is collecting information for its investigation to determine whether there were any violations of state oil and gas regulations. The agency's investigation could also include suggestions for changes in some well pad safety requirements.

In addition to DEP's probe, the Pennsylvania State Police are also looking into the accident. They have been examining all material removed from the well pad during the sealing operation. All the wellhead pieces that had been installed on wells 6H and 7H and all other equipment that was on the well pad at the time of the explosion have been taken to another location at the Chevron Lanco complex for inspection.

Separately, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) was at the scene immediately following the explosion and has been conducting its own investigation into conditions on the well pad immediately before and after the incident.

Chevron is expected to file a request with DEP to put the wells on deactivated status until a decision can be made on any future operations at the site.

DEP Publishes Final Public Participation Policy

HARRISBURG – DEP published the final “Policy on Public Participation in the Permit Review Process” in the March 1 *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. The policy establishes a framework for public participation in the permit review process and includes guidelines on the specific forms of public involvement the department may invoke to seek public comment on a permit. The policy also includes guidelines for responding appropriately to public comments received during the formal public comment process for a permit.

Know About Brownfields workshop, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., DEP North-Central Regional Office, Suite 101, 208 West Third St., Williamsport. Contact: Kim Hoover, 717-787-8623

April 10

Public Hearing on Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for the Fine Particulate Ambient Air Quality Standard in Lancaster County, 10- 11 a.m., Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St. Room 105, Harrisburg. Contact: Alex Haas, 717-787-9495

April 15

Environmental Quality Board meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Jenn Swan, 717-783-8727

April 15

Citizens Advisory Council meeting, 11 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Jenn Swan, 717-783-8727

April 23

Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee meeting, 10 a.m., 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Susan Foster, 717-787-7019

May 2

What All Local Governments Need to Know About Brownfields workshop, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., DEP Northwest Regional Office, 230 Chestnut St., Meadville. Contact: Kim Hoover, 717-787-8623

May 7

2014 Pennsylvania Groundwater Symposium, Ramada Inn Conference Center, State College. Contact: Bryan Swistock, Penn State Extension, 814-863-0194

May 14

What All Local Governments Need to Know About Brownfields workshop, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., DEP Southwest Regional Office, 400 Waterfront Dr., Pittsburgh. Contact: Kim Hoover, 717-787-8623

May 20

Keystone Energy

DEP made substantive revisions to this guidance after receiving more than 1,800 comments during the 60-day public comment period that opened June 20, 2013, including further clarifying the public participation process for permitting, including the types of meetings included in the process, how the public can request those meetings, when in the process the meetings are held and specifically establishing guidelines for public hearings.

Furthermore, the policy clarifies how DEP will address public comments received during the process, including development of a sample format for a Comment-Response document and indicating how and when the Comment-Response document will be made available for public review.

The *Pennsylvania Bulletin* notice, final policy and comment-response document are available online in DEP's Public Participation Center [here](#).

Questions regarding this action should be directed to Laura Henry at 717-705-3769 or lahenry@pa.gov.

Brownfields Play Key Role in Pennsylvania's Energy Economy



DEP Executive Deputy Secretary Jeff Logan (R) along with EPA's David Lloyd (L) answer questions during the workshop.

JERSEY CITY, N.J. -- DEP Executive Deputy Secretary Jeff Logan joined EPA Director of Brownfields and Land Revitalization for the keynote address to the Brownfield Coalition of the Northeast's Sustainable Communities Workshop held March 5 in Jersey City, N.J.

With recent changes in leadership at the top of both the federal and state environmental agencies, the session focused on the direction each is taking, any new initiatives, and more specifically, their impact on brownfield redevelopment and efforts to support sustainability.

Logan talked about DEP's recent budget hearings, and the \$10 million increase proposed under Gov. Corbett's proposed spending plan for the 2014-15 fiscal year. He also highlighted the recent release of the Governor's first-ever statewide energy plan unveiled in January and the economic opportunities Pennsylvania's shale gas plays particularly for brownfields redevelopment.

"All across Pennsylvania, former industrial sites are providing ideal locations for new and expanded business opportunities – including energy related uses," Logan said. "These locations, once environmental burdens, now provide new economic development

Education Program Workshop, 8:30 a.m., Juniata College von Liebig Center for Science, 1098 Neff Lecture Hall, 1700 Moore St. Huntingdon. Contact: Dr. Leslie Leckvarcik leckval@juniata.edu

May 21

Environmental Quality Board meeting, 9 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Contact: Jen Swan, 717-783-8727

May 21

Citizens Advisory Council meeting, 10 a.m., Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg, PA Contact: Jen Swan, 717-783-8727



Upcoming Webinars

March 11

Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant (AFIG) program webinar, 9:30 a.m. Register [here](#).



Public Input

March 14

Deadline to comment on proposed Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites (25 Pa. Code Chapter 78, Subchapter C). Contact 717-787-4526.

March 31

Deadline to comment on the Reed Oil Company, Storage Tank Site-Specific Installation Permit Application, Venango Township, Erie County. Contact: Eric Lingle, 717-783-2403



Speakers Bureau



Subscribe

made possible by energy.”

The Brownfield Coalition of the Northeast is an organization comprised of industries, regulatory agencies and consultants that have formed a not-for-profit group to advance brownfield redevelopment in the Northeast. The Coalition currently serves the region of the Northeast United States, with active membership in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

For more information, including membership, go to

www.brownfieldcoalitionne.org .

Advances in Farm Technology Help Protect the Environment



BMPs help Star Rock Farms reduce environmental impacts.

CONESTOGA – DEP Secretary Chris Abruzzo and Agriculture Secretary George Greig joined John Frey of the Center for Dairy Excellence and Karl Brown of the State Conservation Commission for a visit March 5 to Star Rock Farms in Conestoga, Lancaster County.

Star Rock Farms includes a 1,400 cow dairy operation, a contract boiler operation, a hog finishing enterprise and more than 12,000 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, barley and hay in Lancaster, York and Cumberland counties in Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Harford counties in Maryland. The purpose of the visit was to see one of Pennsylvania's most progressive dairy farms and concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) from both an agricultural and environmental standpoint.

“I was impressed by the operations of the CAFO and the commitment to sound environmental practices,” Abruzzo said.

Owned and operated by the sons of two brothers who began farming this land years ago, these dairy producers have worked hard to implement best management practices. The group viewed a sand-manure separation system that is useful in cleaning waste from the free-stalls and bedding material as well as a water recycling system.

The visit provided a first-hand look at the continuously developing technologies employed by our agricultural partners to be good stewards of the environment.

DEP, PennDOT Invite Volunteers to Join

Statewide Spring Cleaning



DEP Secretary Chris Abruzzo and Keep Pa. Beautiful President Shannon Reiter (R) with Comcast Newsmakers' Tonia Caruso (L).

HARRISBURG – DEP and PennDOT are seeking volunteers for this year's Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania effort that runs through May 31.

The statewide cleanup is an annual effort sponsored by PennDOT, DEP, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and other partners through which interested individuals and groups can create cleanup events. Groups involved in PennDOT's Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) program, which involves volunteers cleaning roadsides year round, are also encouraged to participate in the cleanup.

In addition to the statewide cleanup, registered events have access to free disposal at participating landfills during "Pick it Up PA Days" from April 12 to May 5.

PennDOT provides gloves, trash bags and safety vests to AAH and Great American Cleanup of PA groups with funding from DEP's Solid Waste Abatement Fund.

During last year's Great American Cleanup, 6.1 million pounds of litter was collected from Pennsylvania's roads, trails and shorelines by more than 137,000 volunteers. PennDOT's AAH program contributed more than 72,000 volunteers who cleaned up more than 65 percent of the collected litter on 10,859 miles of cleaned up roadway.

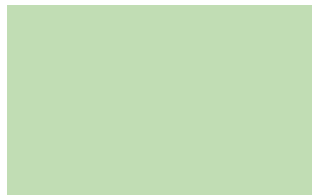
Through the AAH program, volunteers collect litter on a two-mile section of state highway four times a year. The program currently has nearly 7,000 participating groups, more than 117,000 volunteers and 15,140 miles of adopted state-maintained roadways.

Interested individuals can find a listing of cleanup events, resources for organizing a cleanup and other information about the effort online at www.gacofpa.org.

Groups interested in adopting a section of highway are encouraged to contact their local PennDOT County Maintenance office and ask for the AAH coordinator, or visit www.dot.state.pa.us

DEP Secretary Chris Abruzzo joined Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful President Shannon Reiter to discuss the Great American Cleanup of PA during a Comcast Newsmakers interview with Tonia Caruso. The interview is airing on Comcast stations during the

month of March and can be viewed on [DEP's YouTube channel](#).



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