

The Environmental Assessment

The Official Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals



The Environmental Assessment

Winter 2013

Inside this issue:

Letter from the Editor

Student Research

PAEP Member's Corner

Section Events

P2E2 Roundtable

Legislative Update

2012 Agency Review

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Letter from the Editor

Crystal Quintin | *Geisinger Health System, PAEP 2012 Vice President*

I want to begin by looking ahead at PAEP's bright future by recognizing its leadership, the 2013 Board of Directors, who met recently, on Friday, January 18, 2013 in State College. The Board met for its Annual Meeting to induct the newest members, elect officers, review business and set the direction of the organization for the year. Please join me in congratulating Marty Strenczewilk, Christine Gregory-Phillips, and Michael Parrent as the Board's newest members. The Board is composed of nine members who are elected to serve two year terms.

2012 was an exciting year for PAEP and for me personally. I have been honored and humbled to serve two consecutive terms as an Officer of the PAEP Board of Directors, and I would like to sincerely thank my colleagues and the PAEP membership for this honor and briefly reflect on the accomplishments over the last four years of what was an unparalleled opportunity and learning experience.

From the beginning of my first term where the Board initiated a full organizational assessment (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat analysis) that led to a number of administrative improvements and budgetary controls to the latter two years of deep recession, whereby the organization successfully emerged with increasing membership (a 50% increase in 2012) and along with it a rising interest in volunteerism. This time of innovation and fiscal constraint, spawned a plan to enhance value and membership through an interactive message board, a scholarship, and standard operating procedures intended to provide a standard of quality, consistency, and fairness. The list of achievements includes these improvements along with; a student section, the addition of membership awards, a photo contest, the foundation for a democratic process with which to elect section leaders, a positive annual budget, trademarking of the PAEP name, and the renewal of an active Eastern Section. Each PAEP Board has the opportunity to assess and determine its agenda, provided it follows the organization's mission and wishes of its membership. Times of transition are exciting and I truly look forward to the vision, momentum, and ambition of the 2013 Board of Director's in the New Year.

One of the initiatives I am most proud to be a part, is the implementation of the PAEP scholarship, a long term goal envisioned by its leadership, and a legacy for existing and future PAEP members. "The purpose of the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals is to promote environmental education, research, planning, assessment, review, and management through the formation and operation of a nonpolitical multidisciplinary professional society." This scholarship supports one of PAEP's top objectives, "to promote environmental education," and marks the beginning of a new and exciting era for PAEP, one that actively engages young professionals prior to the start of their career.

The inaugural PAEP scholarship application process was very successful - 64 applications were received and every one of them deserved a scholarship – incredible grades, awards, leadership positions, activities. This success can be attributed to the incredible dedication of the 2012 Inaugural Scholarship Committee, who was able to recommend to the Board its first student for a scholarship in the field of environmental science. Currently attending Chatham University, Alexandra Ratliff of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, was the recipient of the first PAEP \$1,000 award to continue her studies. Congratulations go out to Alexandra Ratliff of Chatham University!

Alexandra is an Environmental Science major with a 3.86 GPA. She is involved and serves in leadership roles in several activities at Chatham, including Student Government, Ambassador Coordinator, Mortar Board, Student Athlete Advisory Committee, collegiate volleyball and water polo player. She has received several awards including

Presidential Merit Scholarships, World Ready Women Academic Scholarship and a nominee for Chatham University's Rachel Carson Environmental Award, as well as being on the Dean's List or Honor Roll for most of her academic career. In her "spare" time, she also works at the Miami University of Ohio Research Experience and interned at Tree Pittsburgh (environmental non-profit organization). Alexandra hopes to contribute to the environmental science research fields, possibly in restoration/conservation or climate change, after graduation. Her drive, talents and passion for the environmental sciences reflect what PAEP is all about.

A goal of PAEP is to assist deserving students in the pursuit of careers in the environment. By fostering the next generation of environmental professionals, we also serve our industry and ensure the continued improvement and enhancement of the world around us," – 2012 PAEP Scholarship Committee.

In addition, due to financial successes this year, the PAEP Board at its December meeting, also voted to donate \$1,000 to the scholarship fund. PAEP's goal is that this, along with active fundraising by our members and Board, will support additional scholarships next year. The scholarship is an important legacy of the Association, one that will help to encourage and promote the pursuit of environmental science careers, ensuring the preservation and expansion of PAEP as a valuable and relevant professional organization.

In 2012, PAEP embarked on a number of new initiatives, including hosting various section events, highlighted by a presentation by Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Michael Krancer; a holiday iPad giveaway; the Annual Phipps Holiday Event; wine raffles; and industry tours. Additionally, the Pollution Prevention Roundtable (P2E2) had a particularly eventful year, most recently partnering with the Northeast Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to educate the public by providing technical assistance on the DEP's new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) grant program. Throughout the year P2E2 has promoted or hosted the following highlights: Safer Chemistry and Choosing Safer Sanitizers and Disinfectants webinar series, a workshop and tour with General Dynamic's to discuss their involvement with Department of Energy (DOE's) ISO 50001 Mid-Atlantic Energy Pilot Program, and Pollution Prevention Week – Safer Chemicals for a Safer World.

In 2013, the newly formed Scholarship, Newsletter and Membership Committees aim to continue adding volunteers and value by engaging members thoughtfully through novel programs and activities. Specifically, the Newsletter Committee will establish its standard operational procedures, solicit new articles and sponsors, and strive to publish on a more regular basis. Obtaining articles continues to be a challenge, but new leadership along with a committee structure will help to alleviate past barriers. It is my hope that activities, like an annual photo contest for cover art, will lead to added interest. New volunteers on all of PAEP's committees are welcome at any time throughout the year – just reach out to one of the Board members or a Committee Chair or Committee member. Speaking of volunteers, I would like to dedicate this space to thanking our many volunteers who help to make PAEP the success that it is today. This highly efficacious year would not have been possible had it not been for all of you, so thank you. In particular, thank you to past Board member, Angela Schreffler, whose leadership and hard work resulted in our first scholarship award. As committee chair, she spearheaded the effort, working with volunteers to establish a scoring criteria and selection process, while working, volunteering outside of PAEP, and being a mom. Kudos to Angela and as a new mom myself, I have a new found appreciation for the challenges such commitments present. There are so many wonderful people working to make PAEP a success and if we were to provide membership awards today, it would be a difficult choice indeed, as so many of you contributed your time and talents. Keep up the momentum in 2013!

I hope to see or hear from you, whether it is attending a Section Event to network or expand your technical expertise, writing an article for the newsletter, attending a P2E2 event to learn about a new topic or brush up your skills, posting a job opportunity, or serving as a committee member or section leader. PAEP is also on FaceBook and Linked In, so like us and/or add us to your professional network. You can also visit and register for the PAEP Forum (<http://www.paep.org/forum>); ask questions and initiate discussion.

It has been a pleasure serving PAEP over the last four years, so thank you. It is time for new beginnings and new leadership – best of luck in 2013 and beyond!

Sincerely,



Crystal A. Quintin, MPA



A special thanks to our sponsors for their contributions and continued support of PAEP, where the promotion of environmental planning, assessment, review, management, research, and education are vital.



PAEP strives to provide the public with an understanding of the environmental professional while providing its membership with opportunities to interact through networking, educational seminars, its newsletter, its annual conference, meetings, and other sponsored events.

For more information on PAEP, any of its corporate sponsors, or to find out about available sponsorships, please email, info@paep.org or send an inquiry to, Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals, 174 Crestview Drive, Bellefonte, PA 16823.

Using the Standard Operating Procedure for Benthic Macroinvertebrate Sample Processing and Identification

Benthic macro invertebrates (macros) are bottom dwelling aquatic organisms found in rivers, streams, and wetlands living within the sediment or under stones and rocks. They play a vital role in water quality assessments, as their varying stress tolerances are indicative of how much pollution is present in a watershed. Macros with higher stress tolerances have a greater ability to withstand areas that have been disturbed by human activities compared to those with a lower stress tolerance. If a stream is of a lower quality or polluted, the macros with a higher tolerance will be present, often times in large numbers. Macros with lower stress tolerances die off quickly in polluted conditions, therefore making the collection of macros an important tool in testing water quality (West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection).

The past two summers I interned with STV Incorporated where I was able to obtain experience in a variety of different projects, including the collection of macros. They were collected from a stream adjacent to an industrial activity where we were testing water quality to ensure there were no adverse effects from the land use. The collection process was a great way for me to, literally, get my feet wet in the field of macro sampling. I assisted in the collection of macros, which were placed in ethanol-filled jars and sent to a laboratory for sampling and identification.

This fall, at the conclusion of my career as a student at the Pennsylvania State University, I was given the opportunity to work with macros again in a Penn State laboratory. Having only collected macros before, I was able to see the “other side” of the ethanol-filled jars and continue my education on macros through the learning and practice of the standard operating procedure used by the US Park Service in the sample processing and identification of macros. Macros were collected by the Park Service from various state parks along the north east and taken to the Penn State laboratory for sampling and identification. For my study, I was to com-

plete two samples using the standard operating procedure and determine if the procedure is readily performed by people with varying background experiences with macros.

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

My first sample had been collected by the Park Service on October 11, 2012 from Broadhead-Heller Creek in the Delaware Water Gap State Park. The contents of the jar were emptied into a sieve where leaves, sticks, and other debris could be separated from the sample and rinsed in water to capture macro attached to the debris. The debris was put into compost while the rest of the sample was run through the sieve two more times to remove excess material (e.g., sediment, fines) that would obscure the viewing of macros. The sample was then visually evaluated to obtain an estimation of its volume and density to enable selection of the appropriate subsampling frame size for estimating the average number of macros present in the sample.

There were three different subsampling frame/grid sizes from which to select, and due to the large quantity of material in the sample, I chose the largest frame size that contained twenty four numbered grids. The purpose of the subsampling frame is to have the ideal size that would allow for an even dispersal of macros across the grid for the estimation stage. Once the sample was spread out over the frame, I used an online database to generate a random set of numbers that determined which five grids on the subsampling frame would be counted. The sample in each grid was then moved to a smaller estimation tray, where I again had to choose between a smaller tray with forty nine grids and a larger tray with eighty one grids. The smaller trays were used and samples from each grid on the subsampling frame was carefully removed and placed in five separate estimation trays where they were spread out evenly across the grids.

The online database was used once again to generate three random row and column numbers from each tray, giving fifteen random grids to evaluate. In this

step, the number of macros in each random grid was to be counted, recorded, and entered into a series of equations that estimated the number of macros present in each estimation tray. Because the goal of this is to count and identify three hundred macros from each sample, estimating how many macros are present in a tray gives an idea of how many trays need to be counted to reach three hundred. It is not uncommon to count over three hundred, but if three hundred are not present in the five trays, another grid from the subsampling frame needs to be selected and counted until a minimum of three hundred macros are counted.

Once the estimation is complete, each tray is thoroughly searched for macros, ensuring each one present in the tray is counted. As a student, this step served as an excellent introduction to the sorting and identification of macros. Each macro that was found was removed from the tray and placed in separate ethanol-filled vials based on the type (order) of each macro. I had vials for Ephemeroptera (Mayflies), Plecoptera (Stoneflies), Trichoptera (Caddisflies), and other taxonomic categories. Non-insect groups were also present in the samples, such as the sub-phylum Crustacea (Crayfish), and were also placed in vials.

After reaching three hundred, or slightly above three hundred macros, the contents remaining in the trays (debris or other macros if all five trays didn't need to be counted) were returned to the original jar. Lids were firmly placed on the vials, which were labeled and put into a bag to be individually identified by the lab's specialist. The final step was to return to the subsampling frame and, with a fifteen minute time period, remove macros that appeared to be large or rare based on judgment and experience. These were removed and placed in a separate jar, and in both my samples they consisted of large stoneflies and crayfish.

I evaluated two samples total, and my second sample had been collected on October 1, 2012 from Slateford Creek in the Delaware Water Gap State Park. The volume of sample was much smaller than my first sample and required a smaller subsampling frame. However, it was a lot denser and appeared to contain a larger number of macros than the previous sample. The same online database was used to generate five numbers, and the smaller estimation trays were used.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

My first sample appeared to be of a higher volume, so it was sorted out across a larger, twenty-four grid subsampling frame. After the five grids were placed in estimation trays, I counted the total number of macros in the three random grids. Tray One had a total of four macros in the three grids, tray two had one macro, tray three had six, and trays four and five both had three present in the grids. These numbers were entered into equations to estimate the grid density, giving an idea of how many estimation trays needed to be counted to reach the minimum of three hundred macros.

The results showed an estimated number of 277.34 macros present in the five trays combined and a total of 5.4 trays that would contain three hundred macros. This meant a sixth grid would need to be counted if three hundred was not reached. Each tray was counted, and I found 64 macros in tray one, 66 in tray two, 72 in tray three, 47 in tray four, and 48 in tray five, yielding a total of 297 macros present in the five trays. Because three hundred macros were not counted, a sixth random grid was selected from the subsampling frame and placed in an estimation tray. The entire tray was counted and contained 51 macros, reaching a total number of 348 macros counted in Sample One.

Sample Two appeared to have a smaller volume and was dispersed across the twelve-grid subsampling frame. Again, five random grids were placed in estimation trays and an estimated number of 480.2 macros were present in all five trays with an estimation of 3.12 trays containing three hundred. The density estimation showed that I would most likely reach three hundred macros before reaching the fifth tray, which ended up being quite accurate. Tray one contained 89 macros, tray two had 85, tray three had 74, and tray four had 85, for a total of 333 macros in four estimation trays. The fifth tray did not need to be counted and was returned to the original jar. The macros found in both samples remained fairly consistent with a predominance of mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies, and water pennies.

CONCLUSION

My goal for this study was to complete two samples using the standard operating procedure method and determine whether or not the method is readily performed regardless of prior experience working with macros. I had also hoped to expand my knowledge on macros and learn the basics of identification. Having had

very minimal prior experience with macros, I found the sampling procedure to be very easy to pick up on and an excellent way to learn the basics of macro identification.

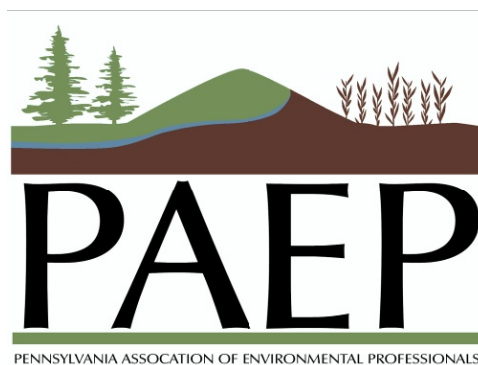
The density estimations proved to be very accurate in determining how many trays would need to be counted to reach three hundred and provided a good idea as to how long each sample would take. Overall, the entire experience ran smoothly and I was able to complete my samples with minimal help, with the exception of requiring assistance for identifying some of the macros. It is a procedure that is easy to follow, easy to learn, and a very useful tool in the sampling and identification of macros.

References:

Benthic Macroinvertebrate and Fish Information. West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. Department of Environmental Protection, n.d. Web. 6 Dec 2012. http://www.dep.wv.gov/wwe/watershed/bio_fish/pages/bio_fish.asp&xgt.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 5: Benthic Macroinvertebrate Sample Processing and Identification Methods. Eastern Rivers and Mountains Network Wadeable Stream Monitoring Protocol. Version 1.0, January 2012.

Amanda Schellhamer is a graduating senior from the Pennsylvania State University, receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Science and a minor in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. At Penn State Amanda is involved in the Block and Bridle Club and is a Little Sister in the Social-Professional Agricultural Fraternity, Delta Theta Sigma. Following graduation, Amanda will be working as an Environmental Scientist at STV Incorporated where she can pursue her interests in the environmental field.





Members' Corner

2013 Annual Conference

Mike Parrent, Conference Chair

The 2013 PAEP Annual Conference will be held at Toftrees Golf Resort and Conference Center in State College, PA on May 8-10th. Toftrees, meaning "Home among the trees," is situated amid 1,500 scenic wooded acres in beautiful Centre County, Pennsylvania and recently completed an extensive renovation in the Spring of 2010. The Committee has arranged for a \$99/night rate and is reviewing the possibility of taking a site visit of a drilling site as the traveling tour feature this year. The annual golf tournament will take place along with a new scholarship raffle.

This year the conference returns to spring, a time of renewal and rejuvenation.

With many new and exciting developments occurring, the Conference Theme this year is **"The Power within our Environment"**. The conference is a gathering of environmental professionals from across the state. The three day conference offers the opportunity to network and learn about current issues. As the theme indicates, presentations will highlight Marcellus Shale and natural gas developments, sustainable energy programs, and management programs for a green environment. PAEP is excited to bring you an excellent array of speakers and presentations throughout the conference. Sessions will cover many subjects relevant to the issues of today including Marcellus Shale exploration, local sustainable energy programs, evolving stormwater management in PA, cultural resources in PA, ISO50001 energy standard and performance, rematix biofuels, and regulatory updates for transportation specialists among other topics.

Please consider supporting the 2013 Conference, through one of the many levels of sponsorships available, where your company will enjoy benefits, such as prominent advertising. Your sponsorship will aid in the success of this year's Annual Conference.

To find out more or to become a conference sponsor, please call Nick Rossi at (717) 368-7070 or the PAEP staff office at (814) 355-2467 to obtain an **Annual Conference Exhibit/Sponsorship Form**. Thank you in advance for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you in May!

Committee Updates

Check with your local section leader for the latest information on events in 2013. If you have an idea for a speaking event, site tour, training session, or just a happy hour to network, please also contact your local section leader. Additionally, if you have an interest in serving as a section leader, do not hesitate to reach out to a board member and/or Terri Breon at, info@paep.org. Currently there are two vacancies for respective Section Leaders in the East and Central regions.

- **Natalie Schearer - West**
- **Mark Maguire—West**
- **VACANT—East**
- **VACANT—Central**

Announcements

New website features, found at, <http://www.paep.org>, include:

- A PowerPoint on the Western Section's "lunch and

learn" on September 26, 2012 *"Planning for ESCGP-2 Implementation,"* and

- Presentations highlighting common permitting mistakes noted by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Richard Evans and Erin Genest for their help and leadership in developing the Winter 2013 newsletter, the first official newsletter of the Newsletter Committee. It was a challenge to say the least and your continued patience and expertise made it happen, so thank you!

Please also join me in congratulating Darlene Stringos-Walker as new Board Vice President and Editor. She will be taking over the helm of the Newsletter in 2013, guiding it to the next level and beyond. The next meeting will take place on Monday, March 4th at 5 p.m.. Anyone interested in joining the Newsletter Committee, please contact Terri Breon at, info@paep.org.

PAEP Regional Sections

Central Section

JT Graupensperger, Section Leader

The Central Section hosted its first Holiday Giveaway, raffling off two iPads along with some local brew from Lancaster Brewing Company. The event, held on Wednesday, December 17, 2012 was a great success, with 20 attendees and one new member who signed up on the spot. Second year Board member and Officer, Michelle Rehbogen (*pictured left below*) and Susan Peters were lucky winners of iPads and six others won growlers of Lancaster Brewing Company's finest.



Keith Goddard and Michelle Rehbogen at Central Section Holiday Event 2012

Eastern Section

VACANT, Section Leader

Mitchell Burack, PAEP's first attorney member and board member, after serving for four years has finished his terms. One of his last Board actions, completing an effort to register the PAEP name and symbol for trademark protection, is invaluable. He also served as the Eastern Section Chair, and is handing over the reigns to the next generation. Through his leadership, the Eastern Section experienced new life and energy. An active schedule of events included, most recently, an engagement with the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, Michael Krancer, a wildly successful Marcellus Shale event with Chesapeake Energy attended by close to 40 members from across the State, wine tastings, and annual student networking events with students from Drexel, Temple, Penn, Villanova and St. Joseph. His dedication to PAEP is admirable, as is eve-



Duane Peters and Deborah Henson at the Central Section Holiday Event 2012

-ryone's who spends their free time volunteering , but not everyone has the tenacity and energy to juggle being a Board member, running their own business, and leading an active Regional Section. He will be missed, but I hope he will consider volunteering again in the near future.

Please join me in thanking him for his service. It will be difficult to fill this void, but if there is anyone from the Eastern Region who would be interested in running an event or two throughout the year, please contact either a Board member or Terri Breon at, info@paep.org.

Western Section

Natalie Schearer and Mark Maquire, Co-Chairs

The Western Section, as PAEP's most active Regional Section, has had an extremely successful year, hosting a number of events, including their annual holiday event in partnership with Phipps Conservancy on December 14, 2012. Some highlights include; a "lunch and learn" on ESPGP 2, Settler's Ridge Botanical Gardens with a behind the scenes tour, and Bowling for a Purpose, the proceeds of which were donated to the PAEP Scholarship. The following pages provide a nice montage to another active year by a tremendous group of volunteers. PAEP is excited to support the Western Section in 2013 and looks forward to the additional value it will provide the membership in the coming year.



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS - WESTERN SECTION

“Lunch and Learn” Event September 26, 2012

On September 26, 2012, PAEP Western Section hosted a “lunch and learn” event at Scoglio’s Restaurant in Greentree, PA. Lauren Parker, PE, of Civil & Environmental Consultants presented an overview of DEP's Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit 2 (ESCGP-2) for oil & gas activities. Lauren’s presentation is available on the PAEP website. The event was attended by approximately 30 environmental professionals, including PAEP members and non-members.





PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS



PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS - WESTERN SECTION

Pittsburgh Botanic Garden “Peek & Preview” Tour October 23, 2012

On September 26, 2012, PAEP Western Section participated in a “peek and preview” tour of Pittsburgh’s Botanic Garden near Settler’s Cabin Park. The Botanic Garden, currently under construction, will be the region’s first major outdoor public garden or “living museum.” PAEP was given a guided tour of the distinct woodland areas and walking trails that define the Garden, while learning about the unique history of the site and plans for future development. The event was attended by approximately 30 PAEP members, non-members, and their families.





PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS





PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS



PAEP - Western Section / American Planning Association Holiday Social at Phipps Conservatory December 14, 2012

PAEP and the American Planning Association (APA) co-hosted a Holiday Social and Food Drive at Phipps Conservatory on December 14, 2012. The event was extremely well attended by PAEP and APA members, friends, and family. Greg DuFour of Phipps lead two tours of the holiday flower displays and the new Center for Sustainable Landscapes. PAEP presented a \$750 donation to Phipps in appreciation of their commitment to education, research, and environmental stewardship (and the great food they provided!). PAEP also presented Greg an honorary PAEP membership. Event attendees brought canned food items in support of the Pittsburgh Food Bank. The donation ended up filling the trunk of a full-size car – thanks to all who donated and for making the Holiday Social a success!





PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS





P2E2 Roundtable—2012 Highlights

October 30, 2012

PADEP's Natural Gas Vehicles Technical Assistance - Seminar and Natural Gas Grant Program

The Department of Environmental Protection is holding this seminar to help municipal and commercial fleet owners make informed decisions about converting their heavy duty fleet vehicles to compressed natural gas and liquefied natural gas. Act 13 authorized DEP to develop this grant program to distribute up to \$20 million over the next three years.

September 17 - 23, 2012

Pollution Prevention Week: Safer Chemicals for a Safer World

The week is an opportunity for individuals, businesses, and government to emphasize and highlight their pollution prevention and sustainability activities and achievements, expand current pollution prevention efforts, and commit to new actions.

Pollution Prevention Week is the time when businesses, environmental groups and citizens can join forces for a common cause. By sharing information about pollution prevention (P2), businesses can become more competitive, businesses and government can realize cost savings, and environmental quality can be enhanced.

The National Pollution Prevention Roundtable (NPPR) prepared a toolkit to assist organizations in their planning and communication for Pollution Prevention Week. This toolkit contains ideas for social media messages, links to websites with information about safe chemicals, sample press releases, recipes for home cleaning and alternative yard care. By sharing information provided in this toolkit, the general public and others can learn how to reduce the use of harmful chemicals and switch to safer chemicals for daily use.

September 24, 2012

Webinar: Choosing Safer Sanitizers and Disinfectants
Time 11:00 am – 1:00 pm PDT

Sanitizers and disinfectant products have become ubiquitous, but some of their active ingredients - like triclosan - are raising red flags with researchers and regulators. This webinar discusses the health and environ-

mental impacts of triclosan and will discuss how San Francisco evaluated alternative disinfectant chemicals. It features advice on safer disinfection products and practices, and outline ways that local governments can take action.

As part of the West Coast Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Collaborative Webinar Update Series, Chris Geiger and Sushma Bhatia from the San Francisco Department of the Environment will discuss alternative disinfectant chemicals.

July 19, 2012

PAEP P2E2 Roundtable Meeting holds meeting at Carbon County Environmental Education Center. Members of the PAEP P2E2 Roundtable met on July 19, 2012 at the Carbon County Environmental Education Center. The Center is housed in a converted 1920 dairy barn on 70 acres of woodland, wetland, and meadow habitat within Mauch Chunk Lake Park. The Center's mission is "Conservation Through Education". The Roundtable participated in a tour and learned about their outreach events and environmental programs. The staff consists of three full-time naturalists, Susan Gallagher, Jeannie Carl, and Franklin B. Klock II, and part-time employees through county employment programs, interns and volunteers. The staff was very welcoming and openly shared their environmental knowledge answering various questions from the group. Some discussions revolved around wind power and bird/bat populations. The Center also has a wildlife rehabilitation hospital which housed a fawn, baby blue jay, and a snake at the time of our visit. After the tour, Dr. Marleen Troy, Wilkes University, gave an excellent presentation on the graduate level Sustainability Certificate Program. The RT members suggested that she arrange an online presentation for their organizations. Some expressed an interest in having several individuals from a team within their facilities take the online course together to facilitate discussion and sustainable projects at their place of business. A steering committee meeting took place afterwards over a picnic lunch to discuss future roundtable meetings and begin planning the upcoming

2013 PAEP Annual Conference.

National Pollution Prevention Roundtable Webinar Series

2025 Safer Chemistry Challenge Program

The webinar series provides attendees with an opportunity to learn about chemical alternatives and safer chemistry initiatives. Presenters throughout the series will represent industry, nonprofit, academia, and technical assistance providers. Topics presented will include safer chemistry innovations and case studies, tools and resources, policy initiatives, and supply chain opportunities.

May 21, 2012 (Monday)

Green Chemistry in Action: Lubrication Technologies

Develops Water Based Paint Booth Cleaner:

2 ET Presenters: Punch VanGrasstek and Rich Limpert (Lube-Tech, Inc)

June 12, 2012 (Tuesday)

Online Resources for Safer Chemical Assessments:

2 ET Presenters: Pam Eliason (Toxics Use Reduction Institute) and Michelle Gaither (Pollution Prevention Resource Center)

Registration: www3.gotomeeting.com/register/589091310

May 4, 2012

The Road to Efficient Fleets - The Future Is Compressed Natural Gas: An Educational Seminar

Time: 8 am - 1:30 pm

Location: Genetti Hotel & Conference Center, 77 East Market Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Cost: Free (Continental breakfast & lunch were served.)

April 3, 2012 (Tuesday)

Introduction to GreenScreen™: The GreenScreen™ for Safer Chemicals is a comparative chemical hazard screening method developed by Clean Production Action to help move our society quickly and effectively

toward the use of greener and safer chemicals. The GreenScreen™ is used by organizations including Washington State Department of Ecology and Hewlett-Packard to evaluate the hazards associated with specific chemicals and identify safer alternatives.

2 ET Presenter: Shari Franjevic (Cleaner Production Action)

March 15, 2012 (Thursday)

Free ISO50001 Workshop

Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Location: General Dynamics, 156 Cedar Ave Scranton, PA 18505

TOUR: Following the workshop, General Dynamic's will discuss their involvement with DOE's ISO 50001 Mid-Atlantic Energy Pilot Program and conduct a tour of their manufacturing operations.





Legislative Update

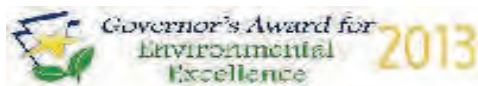
Senate/House Agenda/Session Schedule

The General Assembly adjourned its two-year session sine die on November 30, 2012. The Senate and House formally reorganizes and starts its new session on January 1, 2013.

Legislative Voting Session Schedule (January - June 2013)

House	Senate
January 1, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23	January 1, 22, 23, 28 - 30
February 4 - 6, 11 - 13	February 4 - 6, 11 - 13
March 11 - 13, 18 - 20	March 11 - 13, 18 - 20
April 8 - 10, 15 - 17, 22 - 24	April 8 - 10, 15 - 17, 29, 30
May 6 - 8, 13 - 15	May 1, 6 - 9, 13, 14
June 3 - 5, 10 - 12, 17 - 20, 24 - 28	June 3 - 5, 10 - 12, 17 - 19, 24 - 28

Governor's Environmental Excellence Award Nominations Due January 31



The Department of Environmental Protection is now accepting applications for the 2013 [Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence](#).

The Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence is open to any Pennsylvania businesses, farms, government agencies, educational institutions, non-profit organizations and individuals that have created, or participated in, the development of a project that promotes environmental stewardship and economic development in the state.

"Many Pennsylvanians devote their time and energy to projects that promote environmental protection and foster economic growth," DEP Secretary Mike Krancer said. "That kind of dedication deserves recognition, and this award recognizes those individuals and organizations that distinguish themselves and serve as role models."

To be eligible for consideration, projects must have been completed between August 1, 2011 and July 31, 2012. [Click here](#) for a copy of the award guidelines and an application or call 717-783-8727 for more information.

DEP Publishes Final Permit Improvement Policies

The Department of Environmental Protection announced it has finalized its Permit Review Process and Permit Decision Guarantee and Permit Coordination policies. The agency submitted the final versions of the policies, as well as accompanying comment-and-response documents for each policy, for publication in the November 3 edition of the Pennsylvania Bulletin. Because of DEP's emergency response work related to Hurricane Sandy, the final policies will not be implemented until November 14.

"These policies deliver on Governor Corbett's promise to reform how state government works," DEP Secretary Mike Krancer said. "We are making clear to those who seek permits that we need to see quality applications. That is key. Then, we will do our part to deliver efficient and complete reviews in a predictable time frame."

The policies implement Gov. Corbett's July 24 Executive Order, outlining the process DEP will use to guarantee an efficient timeframe in which the agency will make a decision on complete applications for 278 types of permits and authorizations. In reviewing its permitting procedures, DEP found that 40 percent of permit applica-

tions submitted to the agency were deficient, meaning they lacked the full information needed for DEP's permit reviewers to make a sound decision.

"The result of this was a waste of time and resources for all involved," Krancer said.

Under the new process, if a permit lacks necessary information, DEP may deny the application. If a complete permit application is technically deficient, requiring it to be returned twice, DEP may deny it. Agency staff will point to specific statutes or regulations when citing deficiencies in the application.

The final Permit Review Process and Permit Decision Guarantee strongly encourages pre-application conferences between DEP staff and applicants to discuss expectations and obligations. The final policy also provides guidance to DEP managers on how to prioritize workload for the review of permits.

"This is not about rushing permits through," Krancer said. "It is about efficiently using our time and our applicants' time and resources, and it is about predictable time frames." Every complete and technically adequate application we receive will be reviewed thoroughly," he said. "DEP will issue permits that meet all legal requirements that are in place which protect the environment and public health and safety." DEP finalized the policies after reviewing the hundreds of comments submitted during the public comment period, which ran from September 1 to October 1.

The companion Permit Coordination policy outlines how staff should coordinate projects that require multiple permits. During the first year of implementation, DEP staff will review the policies' effectiveness quarterly and propose necessary adjustments. In addition to using a paperless "completeness notification process" through eFACTS on the Web, a tool to track permits and sites across the state, the agency is developing electronic permitting tools to further improve the process.

In the coming weeks and months, DEP will host web-based information sessions for both eFACTS on the Web and its many program areas, such as air quality and mining. The program-specific webinars will discuss how each program is implementing the new permitting process.

To register for the webinars and review the final policies and executive order, visit www.dep.state.pa.us and click the "Permit Decision Guarantee" button.

Source: DEP Press Release, 11/2/2012

Energy Executive Issues Report On Natural Gas Gathering Lines With Recommendations

On December 11, Patrick Henderson, the Governor's Energy Executive, [issued a report](#) on the 1,727.8 miles of natural gas gathering lines in the Commonwealth making 16 recommendations to tighten regulatory and other requirements over the lines. The report was required by Act 13 drilling law and was provided to the General Assembly.

The 20-page report provides an overview of gathering lines (the pipelines which carry natural gas from a production facility (wells) to a transmission line) current siting considerations, state and federal regulations and laws covering these pipelines and the role of landowners in the siting process.

A state law adopted last year (Act 127 of 2011) requires pipeline operators to register their pipelines with the Public Utility Commission which as of October 1 reported 2,535.5 miles of pipelines serving Marcellus Shale (or unconventional gas wells) in the state. Of these, 1,727.8 miles were gathering lines and 807.7 miles fall under the regulatory jurisdiction of the PUC. The report pointed out the PUC does not have legal authority over the siting of natural gas gathering lines. The report includes 16 recommendations for improving environmental and safety oversight of gathering lines:

- Legal impediments to the sharing of state and local road rights-of-way with gathering lines should be repealed or modified to encourage the use of existing corridors;
- The PUC Code should be clarified to say sharing of pipeline capacity should not give a pipeline public utility status;
- DEP/Corps of Engineers General Permit-4 should be changed to remove existing duplications related to the protection of historic, cultural and natural resources while increasing predictability in planning and permit processing time;

- DEP should regularly review its [Permit Decision Guarantee](#) policy to ensure administratively complete permits are reviewed in a timely manner and consider expedited review for projects which share rights-of-way;
- The [PA Natural Diversity Inventory](#) review tool should be enhanced to assist in up-front avoidance of conflicts with threatened and endangered species;
- The PA One Call law should be amended to include mandatory participation and registration of all gathering lines;
- The PUC should work with PA One Call to create a map of gathering lines;
- County planning offices should work with drilling operators and gathering line companies to under future development plans to maximize opportunities for shared rights-of-way;
- DEP should adopt environmental review standards for drilling proposals which seek to avoid surface disturbances, impacts on sensitive lands, forest fragmentation, viewsheds and direct intersection with waterways;
- Pipeline operators should collaborate to standardize right-of-way markers;
- Landowner outreach efforts, such as through county extension offices, should expand landowner awareness of standard terms and conditions and other important information related to leasing pipeline rights-of-way;
- County and municipal governments should be encouraged to consult with gathering line operators to better understand the implications of a proposed project on local comprehensive plans;
- The PUC and DEP should continue their efforts to coordinate and provide public outreach to further citizens' understanding of the roles each agencies plan in the permitting of gathering lines;
- The Governor's Center for Local Government Services, along with the PUC and DEP, should work with local government associations to assist in disseminating information on the laws and requirements covering gathering lines.
- Pipeline operators should be encouraged to consult with the appropriate experts to replant rights-of-way with vegetation that fosters habitat development for wildlife; and
- Consideration should be given to using existing or new

pipeline pathways nearing existing or potential industrial development to maximize job creation, lower energy costs and secure the nation's energy independence. A copy of the report [is available online](#).

Groundbreaking Held for Treatment System to Improve Little Conemaugh River

Department of Environmental Protection Deputy Secretary for Active and Abandoned Mine Operations John Stefanko Tuesday toured the site where Rosebud Mining Co. is building a facility designed to eliminate a major source of acid mine drainage into the Little Conemaugh River in Cambria County.

DEP has signed a groundbreaking Consent Order and Agreement with the company to treat the St. Michael discharge, enabling Rosebud to build and operate the facility.

"This is a significant agreement," Stefanko said. "This plan will eliminate a major source of acid mine drainage into the Little Conemaugh River, and it will allow Rosebud to safely mine a significant coal reserve adjacent to the St. Michael discharge. It will provide jobs and benefit the local economy, while protecting the environment and taking a major step toward cleaning up the Little Conemaugh."

The company estimates that the current St. Michael discharge is responsible for as much as 44 percent of the total acid mine drainage load to the Little Conemaugh River. By lowering the mine pool and treating the water in the St. Michael shaft, Rosebud will be able to access the coal reserves, which the company estimates will take up to 40 years to mine.

Under the agreement with DEP, Rosebud is responsible for all costs to treat the mine pool water, utilizing best available technology for the life of the mining operation. The company has also agreed to make annual payments to a special trust fund, which will be used to permanently pay the operations, maintenance and recapitalization costs for the discharge treatment facility once mining is completed.

Under the company's original treatment plan, the treat-

ed water would still have contained certain levels of constituents that would not meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards.

“That problem threatened to kill the project,” Stefanko said.

To address it, DEP Mining staff and the agency’s Office of Chief Counsel worked with Rosebud and EPA to come up with a groundbreaking agreement for a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) for the St. Michael facility.

The result was the first mining permit issued in Pennsylvania to require Rosebud to document that its treatment of the St. Michael drainage discharge and others, as part of its mining operation, is improving water quality.

It is also the first agreement to provide a method to calculate and report acid mine drainage load reductions on the river.

“There were major challenges to the project, and we at DEP are extremely proud of our staff for thinking outside of the box to resolve a mine drainage problem that has contaminated Pennsylvania’s rivers for decades,” Stefanko said. “Facing the challenge was a great partnership between state and federal government and industry, with overwhelming support from legislators, watershed groups and the local community.”

Doug Biden Stepping Down As EPGA President, Jake Smeltz Named As Successor

The [Electric Power Generation Association](#) announced Wednesday Douglas Biden, its President, is stepping down at the end of 2012, bringing to a close nearly 35 years of continuous service to the electric power industry.

Jacob Smeltz, currently EPGA’s Vice President, will become President of the Association effective January 1, 2013.

Biden has been EPGA’s first and only full-time President since its inception in 2000 following the restructuring of the electric industry when generation became a competitive enterprise and no longer part of the utility monopoly.

“I am grateful to have spent nearly 35 years working in

the electric power industry,” Biden said, “and deeply honored to have had the opportunity to lead its trade association for the last 12. I think I speak for everyone in the electric industry when I say my career has meant so much more than a job or a paycheck. I’m proud of many accomplishments over the years working together with dedicated colleagues both in and outside our industry, the most significant being the transition from monopoly to competitive wholesale markets which will soon serve three-fourths of the U.S. economy. Most people don’t realize how much more efficient the industry has become and how that benefits the economy and everyone who pays an electric bill.”

Upon Biden’s recommendation, EPGA’s Board of Directors selected Mr. Smeltz to become its next President. Smeltz has served as the Association’s Vice President of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs since March of 2010.

Ray Evans, Vice President, Environmental of FirstEnergy Corp and EPGA’s Board Chairman, said, “We sincerely appreciate Doug’s years of service to the industry. His leadership and experience has provided a positive and stable influence during what has been a challenging time for the generation industry. In addition, we look forward to working with Jake, who has demonstrated in a relatively short period of time an exceptional ability to grasp and manage complex energy policy issues.”

EPGA is a trade association of 10 electric generating companies located in Harrisburg, Pa. Its members own and operate more than 150,000 megawatts of generating capacity of all kinds: coal, nuclear, natural gas, hydroelectric, wind, biomass, solar, etc. and sell electricity into the competitive wholesale power markets such as the PJM Interconnection.

Calling All Student, Adult Wildlife Enthusiasts, Naturalists, Conservationists

The [Wildlife Leadership Academy](#) is now accepting applications for the [2013 Field Schools](#), a five day camp for Pennsylvania students ages 14-17 that will forever change the way they see the outdoors. Youth spend the week exploring their passions with teens from all over the state, learning how to protect the legacy of our wildlife for years to come. Guided by the state's top biologists, professionals and sportsmen, each Field School introduces them to biology, habitat and conservation issues that impact a single species. White-tailed deer will be the focus of the Pennsylvania Bucktails field school (June 18-22, Stone Valley Recreation Area in Huntingdon County). Brook trout and freshwater fisheries will be center stage at Pennsylvania Brookies field school (July 9-13, Sieg Conference Center in Clinton County). Students receive hands-on training in nature, interact directly with wildlife professionals, learn the newest research and technology in the field, discover the beauty of the outdoors, and develop key leadership skills. By the end of the field school they are inspired and empowered - ready to begin their future as a [conservation ambassador](#) in their home community.

Adult Mentors Needed

Are you an adult passionate about wildlife and the environment? Do you want to pass it on to the next generation? If so, this is an opportunity for you! Being an adult mentor at the Wildlife Leadership Academy will give you the opportunity to motivate and guide future conservationists, and the unique opportunity to learn from professionals in the field through hands-on training and field study. [Click Here](#) for more information.

PEDA Webinar Jan. 23 On Best Data Sources For Economic Development Research

The [PA Economic Development Association](#) will hold a webinar on January 23 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. entitled, Best Data Sources for Economic Development Research. This webinar will introduce participants to federal statistical programs essential to effective economic development research. An overview of federal data programs will be provided, complete with insights into key challenges with the data. Participants should leave the session with an understanding of available socioeconomic data and how they may use it in their work. [Click Here](#) for more details.

DEP Publishes Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule For 2013

The Department of Environmental Protection published notice on the 2013 meeting schedule for its advisory committees and boards on December 15 ([PA Bulletin page 7608](#)). Included on the schedule are meeting dates for:

Agricultural Advisory Board

Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee

Citizens Advisory Council

Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board+Vapor Intrusion, Technical Manual Work Groups

Climate Change Advisory Committee

Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Fund Board

Coastal Zone Advisory Committee

Environmental Justice Advisory Board

Environmental Quality Board

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Advisory Committee

Mine Families First Response and Communications Advisory Council

Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board

Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board

Radiation Protection Advisory Committee

Recycling Fund Advisory Committee

Sewage Advisory Committee

Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater System Operators

Storage Tank Advisory Committee

Technical Advisory Committee on Diesel-Powered Equipment

Water Resources Advisory Committee

The 2013 meeting dates have not yet been set for these DEP committees/boards:

Board of Coal Mine Safety

Chesapeake Bay Advisory Committee

Laboratory Accreditation Advisory Committee

Statewide Water Resources Advisory Committee

Regional Water Resources Committees

Small Water Systems for Technical Assistance Center

State Board for the Certification of Sewage Enforcement Officers

[Click Here](#) for links to DEP's Advisory Committee webpages.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#) (DEP No Longer Publishes a single calendar of agency meetings)

Grants & Awards

Recent and upcoming deadlines for awards and grants and other recognition programs:

December 17	PennSERVE AmeriCorps Grants
December 19 _	DEP Clean Diesel Grant Program
December 20 _	PA Green Ribbon Schools, District Sustainability Award
December 28 _	DCNR, PRPS Green Park Award
December 28 _	DEP Recycling Performance Grants
January 7 _	EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants
January 9	West Penn Sustainable Energy Fund Financing
January 16	Great American Can Roundup School Challenge
January 31	Governor's Award For Environmental Excellence
January 31	Fish & Boat Commission Photo Contest
February 1	DEP Natural Gas Vehicle Grants
March 1	_PHMC Historic Preservation Grants
April 10	DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Grants
May 1	Keep PA Beautiful Sue Wiseman Scholarship Grant
July 12	PROP Recycling Film Fest

Visit the [DEP Grants and Loan Programs webpage](#) for more ideas on how to get financial assistance for environmental projects.

Look out for our next issue that will include a piece on Governor Corbett's recent budget highlights, particularly those areas most relevant to PAEP.

2012 Agency Reviews

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Protection

Regulatory Update: State Performance Report Shows Drop in Environmental Compliance

Budget Secretary Charles B. Zogby released the 2011-12 Report on State Performance. The report reviews the activities of 30 Commonwealth agencies, providing details on their challenges and accomplishments as they work to improve the lives of Pennsylvania's citizens. For full details, the report is available online at this [link](#).

Overall the report examines the Commonwealth's performance in the areas of education, economic development, health and human services, the environment, public safety, consumer protection and government efficiency. By outlining agencies' key objectives and presenting measurable results in dozens of different categories, the report evaluates state government's ongoing efforts to deliver quality services to its citizens.

"The Report on State Performance clearly outlines how effectively we are serving the residents of Pennsylvania and how efficiently these services are being delivered," Secretary Zogby said. "As the Commonwealth contends with increasing cost pressures on the budget, it is important that state agencies can measure success and demonstrate our fiscal responsibility."

Environmental Agency Performance

The report shows the percentage of sites in full compliance with environmental regulations enforced by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) dropped 12 percentage points since 2001, from 89.9% in 2001 to 77.71% in 2011-12 performance report and lower than in 2009-10 at 78.75%.

At the same time, the report said the percentage of inspections with violations increased by 0.6% - 14.9% to 15.51%, and higher than in 2009-10 at 15.03%.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) reported a 10,428 acre drop in the number of land acquired through fee simple acquisition or easements for conservation purposes, from 17,405 last year to 6,977 in 2011-12 and less than in 2009-10 at 11,936 acres.

DCNR did see a \$2.3 million increase in Community Conservation Partnership Grants awarded in 2011-12--\$29.1 million to \$31.4 million, which was more than in 2009-10 at \$25.3 million. 4

With the FY 2012-13 General Fund budget investments in environmental protection and restoration programs have been cut over \$1.7 billion over the last 10 years, starting with the record cuts and staff furloughs by Gov.

Rendell in each year of his administration.

Gov. Rendell's share of these cuts/diversions is \$1.4 billion. Gov. Corbett's share is \$314.7 million, so far.

In terms of General Fund appropriations, DEP's budget in FY 2002-03 was \$728.2 million, in the FY 2012-13 budget it was \$124.8 million, below 1994 funding levels.

DEP's authorized complement is now below 2,759, down from 2,770 last fiscal year and significantly reduced from the 3,211 in FY 2002-03. DCNR's complement is now below 1,375, down from 1,389 last year and 1,391 in FY 2002-03.

The FY 2009-10 budget cuts required DEP and DCNR to furlough or eliminate 333 full time positions and DCNR had to eliminate or reduce hours for 1,131 seasonal workers.

The FY 2012-13 budget included a reduction of at least 14 positions in DCNR and 11 positions in DEP, but no furloughs.

DEP Performance

Key performance results for DEP during the reporting time period include:

Agency Overall

Increase in the percentage of inspections with violations of 0.6% (14.9% to 15.51%, and higher than in 2009-10 at 15.03%);

Decrease in the percentage of sites with full compliance with environmental regulations of 1.52% (79.23% to 77.71%, and lower than in 2009-10 at 78.75%);

Decrease in the percentage of violations resolved of 7.1% (99.24% to 92.14%, and lower than in 2009-10 at 94.63%);

Oil & Gas Permits

Decrease in the number of oil and gas permits processed of 874 (6,326 to 5,452);

Decrease in the number of gas well enforcement actions- unconventional (Marcellus) wells of 7 (271 to 264, and lower than in 2009-10 at 330);

Decrease in the number of gas well enforcement actions- unconventional (Marcellus) wells of 506 (1,410 to 902, and lower than 2009-10 at 1,078);

Increase in the number of gas well inspections- unconventional (Marcellus) wells of 4,192 (7,876 to 12,068);

Increase in the number of oil and gas enforcement actions-conventional wells of 80 (437 to 517, and higher than in 2009-10 at 465);

Increase in the number of oil and gas violations- conventional wells of 749 (1,545 to 2,294, and higher than in 2009-10 at 2,023); and

About the same number of oil and gas well inspections – conventional (12,075 to 12,077). *Waste/Wastewater Facilities*

Decrease in the percentage of waste facilities complying with environmental regulations of 4.75% (81.53% to 76.78%, significantly lower than in 2009-10 with 81.86%);

Decrease in the percentage of wastewater facility inspections with no recorded violations of 6.5% (74.50% to 68%, and significantly lower than in 2009-10 at 74.7%);

Decrease in the percentage of wastewater facility violations remedied of 16.2% (84.2% to 68%, and significantly lower than 2009-10 at 89.4%);

Increase in the number of solid waste facility inspections of 847 (3,184 to 4,031, and slightly lower than in 2009-10 at 4,101);

Increase in the number of wastewater facility inspections of 423 (5,967 to 6,390, and higher than in 2009-10 at 6,310); and

Increase in number of wastewater systems with improved operational capacity of 6 (7 to 13).

Dam Safety

Increase in dam emergency action plan compliance rate of 1% (89% to 90%, and higher than in 2009-10 at 85%);

Percentage of deficient high hazard dams 69.8%;

Percentage of high hazard dams classified as safe 85.10%; and

Population at risk downstream of deficient high hazard dams 1,452,000

Drinking Water

Increase in drinking water survey inspections of 282 (2,271 to 2,553, but lower than in 2009-10 at 3,177);

Increase in the number of water samples tested for private well owners 2,845 (2,800 to 5,645, a 100% increase over 2009-10);

Percentage of community water systems meeting health based drinking water standards- 97% (the same

as 2009-10); and

Slight decrease in the percentage of public water systems with no reported cases of waterborne disease- 99.96%, down slightly from 99.98% and 2009-10 at 100%.

Renewable Fuels

Increase in the gallons of renewable liquid fuels generated 1.5 million (128.8 million to 144.3 million, and a significant increase over 2009-10 at 87.1 million).

Measures to Reduce Pollution

Significant increase in miles of impaired streams restored to designated uses - 284 (184 to 468, and fewer than in 2009-10 at 3,241, and more than in 2009-10 at 335);

Significant decrease in the acres of stream buffers installed of 2,907 (5,907 to 3,000);

Acres of existing stream buffers protected- 1,350;

Reduction in the percentage of hazardous air pollutant reductions of 8.4% (31.3% to 22.90%, and less than in 2009-10 at 30.41%);

Significant reduction in the percentage of population in counties attaining 1997 ozone standard of 12% (100% to 88%, and less than in 2009-10 at 95%);

Percent of population in counties attaining the 2008 ozone standard - 35%;

Increase in percent of population in counties attaining PM-2.5 (fine particles) standard- 10% (90% to 100%);

Cleanups completed under the Land Recycling Act- 380; Site currently in the Land Recycling Act cleanup program- 3,132;

Slight increase in tons of municipal waste disposed per person - 0.01 tons (0.69 to 0.7 tons, but slightly less than in 2009-10 at 0.72 tons);

Cumulative acres of abandoned mine land reclaimed since 1977 - 27,985)

Slight increase in tons of municipal waste recycled of 40,000 tons (5.54 million to 5.5 million tons, and more than in 2009-10 at 5.3 million);

Decrease in acres of abandoned mine lands reclaimed - 139 (714 to 575);

Increase in abandoned mine reclamation projects started of 64 (179 to 243);

Decrease in the cost of abandoned mine reclamation projects started of \$1 million (\$15.6 million to \$14.5 million);

Reclamation value of Government Financed Construction Contract reclamation projects - \$1.3 million, 188 acres;

Reclamation value of remining by current mine operators - \$850,000, 141 acres;

Total number of mine drainage treatment systems - 300;

Increase in the storage tank cleanups completed of 525 (655 to 1,180); and

Slight decrease in the response actions under Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act - 1 (139 to 138).

DCNR Performance

Key performance results for DCNR during the reporting time period include:

Significant decrease in land conservation acquisition and easement acreage - 10,428 (17,405 to 6,977, and less than in 2009-10 at 11,936);

Increase in river implementation projects completed of 2 (16 to 18, and more than in 2009-10 at 7);

Slight increase in total carbon sequestered in state forests of 130,000 tons (3.9 million to 4.1 million tons, and more than in 2009-10 at 3.84 million);

Decrease in the number of firefighters trained of 187 (5,024 to 4,837, but more than in 2009-10 at 4,193);

Increase in forest stewardship plans completed of 112 (3,046 to 3,158, more than in 2009-10 at 3,147);

Increase in Community Conservation Partnership Grants awarded of \$2.3 million (\$29.1 million to \$31.4 million, and more than in 2009-10 at \$25.3 million);

Increase in cumulative total trees planted under TreeVitalize of 51,047 (288,165 to 339,212, up from 215,236 in 2009-10);

Increase in cumulative attendance at environmental education programs of 12,679 (now 397,388, up from 2009-10 at 346,793);

Increase in Get Outdoors recreation programs of 111 (2,740 to 2,851, and increase over 2009-10 at 2,779);

Slight increase in miles of new recreation trails of 2 miles (61 to 53 miles, up from 38 miles in 2009-10); Increase in State Park attendance of 1.2 million (37.6 million to 38.8 million, and an increase over 2009-10 at 38.4 million);

Increase in State Park cabin nights rented of 959 (58,248 to 59,207, and about the same as 2009-10 at 59,182);

Increase in State Park camp sites rented of 21,319 (295,087 to 316,406 but down from 2009-10 at 325,323);

No change in acres of State Forest land treated for certified timber - 12,429, down from 2009-10 at 14,301);

Number of LEED certified park and forest buildings - 11, up 1 from last year;

Increase in number of green C2P2 grants of 3 (31 to 34 and 27 in 2009-10);

Increase in the number of PA Natural Diversity Inventory database searches of 2,577 (53,600 to 56,177 and significantly more than the 49,042 in 2009-10);

Downloads of State Park mobile app 13,785; and

Increase in social media subscribers of 65,000 (20,000 to 85,000).

Department of Agriculture

Key performance results for the Department of Agriculture during the reporting time period include:

Increase in number of best management practices of 346 (483 to 829, and an increase over 2009-10 at 436);

Decrease in farm acres covered by Nutrient Management Plans of 184 (890 to 706, but a decrease over 2009-10 at 715);

Increase in REAP Tax Credit project funding of \$14.1 million (\$10.48 million to \$24.60 million, and over the \$12 million in 2009-10); and decrease in farm acreage preserved of 3,624 (15,225 to 11,601, and a significant decrease over 2009-10 at 17,889).

Source: PA Environmental Digest, 12/17/2012