

Conservation Committee Report

Volume 24 Issue I

Jack Walters—Conservation Chairman

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Wolf Administration Encourages Residents to Test for Radon, Highlights Opportunity to Request Free Testing Kit

The Conservation Pledge

I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country; the soil, the water, the air, the minerals, the plant life and the wildlife.

This is my Pledge!

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The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in partnership with the American Lung Association of Pennsylvania (ALAPA), encourages Pennsylvanians to test their home for radon.

For over 20 years, DEP has been using a Targeted Radon Survey campaign to identify municipalities

for radon outreach in an effort to increase public awareness and radon testing based on prior data and/or geologic potential for radon occurrence. East Whiteland Township in Chester County was among this year's targeted municipalities.

"Pennsylvania's geol-

ogy is the reason 40 percent of the homes in our commonwealth have more radon than the federally recommended guideline," said DEP Regional Director Pat Patterson. "Doing a simple radon test is one the easiest and more practical actions Pennsylvanians

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Wolf Administration Announces How Pennsylvania Will Meet Its 2025 Pollution Reduction Goals in Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced how the state will fully meet its nutrient and sediment pollution reduction goals in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed by 2025.

Updates to the [Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan \(WIP\)](#), first announced in 2019, outline how Pennsylvania will meet 100 percent of its 2025 targets, provided funding support is in place for state, county-level, and

sector initiatives and EPA modeling is updated to accurately reflect pollution reduction measures already on the ground. The Phase 3 WIP Amendment submitted to the U.S. Environmental

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Wolf Administration Encourages Residents to Test for Radon, Highlights Opportunity to Request Free Testing Kit (continued)

can take to keep their homes safe and families healthy.”

Radon gas results from the breakdown of uranium in the ground and enters homes through cracks in the foundation or other openings. It is a naturally occurring, odorless, colorless radioactive gas that enters homes from the ground and is the second leading cause of lung cancer.

As part of its targeted campaign, DEP’s Bureau of Radiation Protection has awarded a grant to the ALAPA and is working with them to offer a limited number of free radon test kits to residents in East Whiteland Township. Those living in East Whiteland Township that would like a free radon test kit from the ALAPA should visit www.lungradonkits.org/pa. A test kit from a DEP certified laboratory will then be mailed within the next several weeks. All instructions and return postage are included, as is analysis by the laboratory and reporting of results.

Those not living in a targeted municipality are still strongly encouraged to test for radon. Kits are available at hardware stores and are simple to use, requiring only that the canister be opened, placed in the basement for a few days, and then mailed to a lab. Alternatively, you can hire a certified radon tester. Although a radon test can be done any time of year, winter is ideal because doors and windows are closed, providing more accurate results. A video on the DEP [website provides radon testing instructions](#).

For more information on radon, please visit www.dep.pa.gov/radon, including a list of DEP-certified professional radon testers, mitigators, and laboratories.

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP

Wolf Administration Announces How Pennsylvania Will Meet Its 2025 Pollution Reduction Goals in Chesapeake Bay Watershed (continued)

l Protection Agency (EPA) on December 31, 2021, quantifies how nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollution will be reduced to meet the targets.

“With all counties on board and unprecedented progress underway, Pennsylvania is at an exciting turning point in improving local water quality in the watershed,” said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. “The Phase 3 WIP Amendment sustains this new momentum by ensuring that we have a clear, accurate path forward.”

Like the other jurisdictions in the watershed—New York, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia—Pennsylvania is mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to lower its nutrient and sediment pollution levels by 2025. Pennsylvania is required to reduce nitrogen by 32.5 million pounds and phosphorus by 0.85 million pounds.

Under the Wolf Administration, Pennsylvania has made unprecedented progress, with nitrogen reduced by 6.77 million pounds and phosphorus by 0.3 million pounds as of 2020.

[Countywide Action Plans](#) are a key component of Pennsylvania’s pollutant reduction strategy. All 34 Pennsylvania counties in the Chesapeake Bay watershed that were asked to complete plans have now done so, and county teams and partners have begun carrying out the best management practices (BMPs) specified in their plans. Continuing this work will achieve the largest nitrogen reduction, 16.8 million pounds.

The Phase 3 WIP Amendment counts a further 7.8 million pound reduction in nitrogen and a 366.7 million pound reduction in sediment being achieved by multi-year and structural BMPs that were put in place in locations across Pennsylvania’s section of the watershed 10 to 15 years ago. Due to the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership’s BMP Verification Framework Guidance, the EPA model automatically excludes BMPs that reach the end of their credit duration if not reinspected. This results in thousands of functioning BMPs in Pennsylvania – many of them having been federally cost-shared with tax-payer dollars – are considered expired. However, data from Pennsylvania, New York, and Maryland show many structural BMPs continue to function beyond the end of their assigned credit duration.

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Wolf Administration Announces How Pennsylvania Will Meet Its 2025 Pollution Reduction Goals in Chesapeake Bay Watershed (continued)

Further significant nitrogen reduction (6.1 million pounds) will come from state initiatives in agricultural nutrient management, forestry, stormwater management, and wastewater treatment that were recommended by the Phase 3 WIP work groups.

The Phase 3 WIP Amendment has also quantified Pennsylvania's reported and uncredited BMPs due to cutoff, which would result in additional nitrogen reductions (784,272 pounds). Cutoff or "excess" BMPs are those that do not get incorporated into EPA modeled progress because the implementation level of these real-world BMPs artificially exceeds a 100% implementation level in certain areas due to model processes. Some Pennsylvania BMPs that are affected by cutoff include agricultural nutrient management, livestock and poultry waste management systems, barnyard runoff control, and stormwater management.

The Phase 3 WIP Amendment also includes pollution reductions from a number of state programs that are helping to lower nutrient and sediment pollution but haven't to date been counted to the fullest extent. These programs include the [DEP Nutrient Credit Trading Program, Chapter 105](#) compensatory mitigation banking, [industrial stormwater](#), the [DEP Act 537 Sewage Facilities Program](#), municipal waste landfills, [land recycling](#), environmental cleanup and brownfields.

The \$324.2 million annual funding need identified in the original Phase 3 WIP remains. The proposed USDA Chesapeake Resilient Farms Initiative (CRFI), supported by the Wolf Administration, would provide a new investment of \$737 million across the Chesapeake Bay watershed for clean water and climate resiliency. State investments are being proposed in the Pennsylvania legislature, with proposed Clean Streams Fund and Growing Greener III funding that would provide \$750 million statewide, with a focus in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and Susquehanna River Basin, for watershed restoration and water quality improvements.

Nutrient pollution and eroded sediment enter streams, rivers, and lakes from widely dispersed human activities on the land, such as using too much fertilizer, plowing and tilling farm fields, stripping away trees and vegetation, and expanding concrete and paved surfaces. In 2019, Pennsylvania's Phase 3 WIP noted more than 15,000 miles of impaired streams in Pennsylvania's share of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. With new water quality assessments being conducted and documented through the draft 2022 Integrated Water Quality Report, Pennsylvania's share of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed now shows a reduction of known impairments to less than 13,000 miles of polluted streams and rivers.

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Wolf Administration Announces How Pennsylvania Will Meet Its 2025 Pollution Reduction Goals in Chesapeake Bay Watershed (continued)

Pennsylvania takes a [Healthy Waters, Healthy Communities](#) approach to improving the health of the watershed, inviting county teams to take control of local water quality improvement, with state and other partners providing as much data, technical assistance, funding, and other support as possible. It encourages and equips counties to develop strategies and determine project sites and types that will benefit their communities and farmers, municipalities, businesses, and other landowners, while restoring the environment.

To follow Pennsylvania's progress in the watershed, see the [DEP Chesapeake Bay 2020 Annual Report](#), which highlights numeric and county successes, and subscribe to the [Healthy Waters monthly newsletter](#).

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

A Message From the Secretary: 2021 in Review

The year 2021 is in the books and while we faced global challenges, it was a successful year for DCNR laying the foundation for a better commonwealth through health, wellness, education, stewardship of our natural resources, a stronger recreation economy and so much more.

Though we've endured the challenges of a pandemic for nearly two years, staff at DCNR have worked exceptionally hard to continue the department's mission of promoting, protecting, and conserving Pennsylvania's natural resources. That effort has helped the department be even more welcoming to our visitors to the serene safety of the outdoors.

DCNR continues to build on the increase in interest for nature caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as people turn to the outdoors for exercise, a respite from their daily lives, and to reconnect with nature during these unprecedented times.

During 2021, we celebrated the [50th anniversary Pennsylvania's Environmental Rights Amendment, its author, former state Sen. Franklin Kury](#), and the legacy and protection the amendment provides.

There were many accomplishments in 2021 that make me proud of DCNR's service to the commonwealth and all that we have been able to accomplish during the past year.

Some highlights:

I stood with Gov. Tom Wolf to announce "[Penn's Parks for All](#) -- Planning for the State Parks of Tomorrow," an intensive, statewide effort to seek public input to help guide its national award-winning state park system into the future. More than 14,000 people took a survey either online or in the parks and we held public meetings to seek feedback on the survey's suggestions and recommendations.

Our Bureau of Forestry successfully completed its third prestigious dual certification audit, attaining continued third-party certification of sustainable forest management under both the Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative standards.

Our Bureau of Recreation and Conservation was the driving force behind DCNR's announcements late last year of investments of more than \$70 million for more than 300 projects across Pennsylvania. They will create new recreational opportunities, conserve natural resources, and help revitalize local communities.

Our staff in the Bureau of Facility Design and Construction, long tasked with assuring safety and comfort of our state park and forest visitors, continues to work closely with all other bureaus as they focus on roads and other infrastructure, and energy conservation.

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DCNR's Bureau of Geological Survey, with the support of a team of state, federal, private, and academic professionals, has initiated a program to create and maintain complete, modernized, authoritative surface water mapping for Pennsylvania.

Our new Nature for All trailhead signs forwarded our efforts to ensure ALL Pennsylvanians and visitors know they are welcome on public lands

DCNR welcomed Nathan Reigner, PhD to the executive team as Pennsylvania's First Director of Outdoor Recreation. He will help ensure equitable access, investments, conservation, collaboration, and business development to support outdoor recreation in Pennsylvania.

Entering its seventh year in 2022, the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps mobilized 126 members to complete conservation, health and safety, and visitor-readiness projects at more than 100 park, forest, and community projects.

As Pennsylvanians, we are fortunate to enjoy state park and forest systems that are the envy of many nationally. The commonwealth's breadth of natural places and outdoor recreation opportunities were highlighted last year as three national conferences -- the national associations of state park directors, state foresters, and state outdoor recreation officers -- were held in Pennsylvania.

The many notable accomplishments of 2021 listed below adhere to DCNR's five strategic goals and reflect its seven strategic initiatives -- youth, recreation, forest conservation, climate, water, sustainability and diversity, equality and inclusion.

[Enhance Stewardship and Management of State Park and Forest Land](#)

[Promote Responsible Stewardship of the Commonwealth's Natural Resource](#)

[Benefit Communities and Citizens Through Investments in Conservation and Recreational Resource](#)

[Operate Effectively & Efficiently](#)

[Ensure the Future of Conservation](#)

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve with the extremely dedicated and talented staff at DCNR.

Best wishes for peace and prosperity in the new year!

Cindy Adams Dunn

Secretary, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

DEP to Host Virtual Public Hearing Regarding Warehouse Permit Application and Logistics Center Project in Northampton County

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will host a virtual public hearing to accept comments on a permit application by New Demi Road, LLC for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit related to construction of a 420,000 square-foot warehouse along Demi Road in Upper Mount Bethel, Northampton County. The hearing will take place on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 from 6:00 PM-9:00 PM.

The Demi Road warehouse is part of a larger project planned by River Pointe LLC to eventually construct an 800-acre logistics center at the site that will be utilized for office, trucking, and customer service. A permit application for the logistics center project has not yet been submitted to the department. Testimony at the virtual hearing will be accepted for both the warehouse project and the logistics center.

Representatives from DEP's Waterways and Wetlands Program, the Northampton County Conservation District, New Demi Road, LLC, and River Pointe Logistics Center, LLC will be in attendance.

DEP received an NPDES Permit application for the 303 Demi Road Project in Upper Mount Bethel Township in February of 2021. The permit will regulate discharge of stormwater from construction activities to numerous nearby waterways. The application was deemed administratively complete on June 10, 2021. Eight written public comments were received during the 30-day public comment period from June 26, 2021 to July 26, 2021.

A notice of this public hearing appeared in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on Saturday, December 25, 2021 and the Morning Call newspaper on Saturday, January 8, 2022.

Those wishing to register for the virtual public hearing can contact Community Relations Coordinator Colleen Connolly of DEP's Northeast Regional Office in Wilkes-Barre at 570-826-2035 or by email at coconnolly@pa.gov. Please indicate if you wish to offer testimony or log on as an observer. Registration for the virtual hearing will end on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 6:00 PM, 24 hours before the scheduled date and time. Testimony will be limited to the logistics center and warehouse project only.

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DEP to Host Virtual Public Hearing Regarding Warehouse Permit Application and Logistics Center Project in Northampton County (continued)

The WebEx information for the virtual public hearing will be available through the Public Participation tab on DEP's website at www.dep.pa.gov. Please select "Public Participation." All comments, whether delivered orally during the virtual hearing or submitted in writing to coconnolly@pa.gov carry equal weight and consideration with DEP. Written comments will be accepted until close of business on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 by 4:00 PM.

DEP will prepare a comment/response document in regard to the public comments.

More information on the permit applications can be found on DEP's public participation page: <https://www.dep.pa.gov/PublicParticipation/Pages/default.aspx>.

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Wolf Administration Requires Sunoco to Restore Lake at Marsh Creek State Park in Chester County

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn and Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Patrick McDonnell today announced that the commonwealth has reached a settlement with Sunoco Pipeline, L.P., that will require the company to dredge Ranger Cove in the 535-acre lake at Marsh Creek State Park in Chester County, as well as pay \$4 million for natural resource damages, which will be used to restore and improve visitor experiences at the park, and a \$341,000 civil penalty for permit violations.

In August 2020, drilling fluids and mud were discharged into Ranger Cove in Marsh Creek Lake during Sunoco's pipeline installation, requiring the cove to be closed. The lake is used year-round for fishing and sailing, and provides important habitat for migrating birds. Nearby tributaries and wetlands also were impacted.

"Southeast Pennsylvania lost a significant recreational resource when the impacted area of the lake was closed due to the drilling fluid impacts, and many residents and community members expressed the need to restore those opportunities," Dunn said. "This resolution will put us on the fastest track possible to dredge and restore Ranger Cove, and also will result in habitat and visitor improvements at Pennsylvania's fifth most-visited state park."

The settlement agreement requires Sunoco to:

- Dredge at minimum the top 6 inches of sediment in about 15 acres of Ranger Cove. It's anticipated the dredging of Ranger Cove will begin in April 2022 and will be completed by July 2022.

- Replace all fish, turtle and bird habitat structures impacted by dredging.

- Dewater and transport all dredging material from the lake and restore the shoreline and streamside forest buffers.

- Post a \$4 million bond to ensure the performance of its obligations.

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Wolf Administration Requires Sunoco to Restore Lake at Marsh Creek State Park in Chester County (continued)

Pay \$4 million dollars for natural resource damages to be used by DCNR for rehabilitation and improvements to the park, including an accessible boat launch, stream and shoreline restoration, invasive species suppression, efficiency measures that will take the park to net zero energy, and to add a public visitor center to the park office.

Pay a civil penalty of \$341,000 for permit violations that will be paid to the Clean Water Fund.

Upon executing the agreement, DEP approved major amendment applications for both Chapter 102 (Erosion and Sediment Control) and Chapter 105 (Water Obstruction and Encroachments) permits for the site that will specify a new route and new installation method for the Mariner East 2 Pipeline at the location of Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) 290. Instead of utilizing the HDD method that resulted in the spill and subsequent subsidence, the newly-approved route and method will be performed via the open-cut method; no drilling fluids will be used.

The 1,784-acre [Marsh Creek State Park](#) is in the rolling hills of north central Chester County. The park has more than a million visitors annually.

For more information on the Marsh Creek HDD click [here](#). For more information on the Mariner East click [here](#).

Source: Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

Penske Logistics LLC Awarded Top Environmental Performers and Leaders For Freight Supply Chain Efficiency

Penske Logistics LLC, headquartered in Reading, Pennsylvania, has been honored with a SmartWay[®] Excellence Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a true industry leader in freight supply chain environmental performance and energy efficiency.

Penske was one of 60 truck and multimodal carriers to receive this distinction, representing the best environmental performers of SmartWay's nearly 4,000 Partners. This year's awards were announced at a virtual press event hosted by the EPA with its SmartWay Partners, key stakeholders, and media in attendance.

"For 17 years, EPA's SmartWay Transport Partnership has empowered businesses to move goods in the cleanest, most energy-efficient way possible, while protecting public health and reducing air pollution." said **EPA Mid-Atlantic Acting Regional Administrator Diana Esher**. "We commend the innovation, drive, and collaborative spirit of our partners whose efforts are helping to meet the challenge of climate change and to create a healthier environment for us all."

Penske has consistently demonstrated that operations know how its specialists and engineers help improve their customers' supply chain through flexibility and by using proven data collection and analysis techniques, proprietary modeling tools, and extensive experience with diverse supply chains to ultimately save time and money.

Penske Logistics consultants augment supply chains by:

- Quickly identifying potential cost savings to operational constraints.
- Providing a way to quickly validate improvement opportunities.
- Recommending the strategy that works best with their clients and their customers.

Demonstrating a commitment to corporate sustainability and social responsibility through SmartWay provides for a more competitive business environment, while enabling partners to make freight decisions that have a positive impact on efficiency and the environment.

Since 2004, SmartWay Partners have avoided emitting more than 143 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) 2.7 million tons of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and 112,000 tons of particulate matter (PM), while saving \$44.8 billion in fuel costs and 335 million barrels of oil – equivalent to eliminating annual energy use in over 21 million homes.

For more information on SmartWay, please visit: www.epa.gov/smartway/

For more information about the SmartWay Excellence Awards, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/smartway/smartway-excellence-awardees>

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Cowan Systems LLC Awarded Top Environmental Performers and Leaders for Freight Supply Chain Efficiency

Cowan Systems LLC of Baltimore has been honored with a SmartWay® Excellence Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a true industry leader in freight supply chain environmental performance and energy efficiency.

Cowan was one of 60 truck and multimodal carriers to receive this distinction, representing the best environmental performers of SmartWay's nearly 4,000 Partners. This year's awards were announced at a virtual press event hosted by the EPA with its SmartWay Partners, key stakeholders, and media in attendance.

Cowan Systems, LLC President, Dennis Morgan, accepted the award on behalf of the company's 2,400 employees. Morgan said, "At Cowan Systems we believe that investing in clean technology and fuel efficient, lightweight equipment is good for business, good for our customers, and good for the environment. It's a no-brainer, really. We are very proud of this award and truly appreciate the recognition."

"For 17 years, EPA's SmartWay Transport Partnership has empowered businesses to move goods in the cleanest, most energy-efficient way possible, while protecting public health and reducing air pollution." said **EPA Mid-Atlantic Acting Regional Administrator Diana Esher**. "We commend the innovation, drive, and collaborative spirit of our partners whose efforts are helping to meet the challenge of climate change and to create a healthier environment for us all."

Cowan Systems, LLC is a full-service transportation and logistics company based in Baltimore with operations across the U.S. specializing in providing high quality dedicated fleet service for companies requiring first-rate performance.

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Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Armada Supply Chain Partners Rated Among Top Environmental Performers and Leaders for Freight Supply Chain Efficiency

Armada Supply Chain Partners of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was honored with a SmartWay® Excellence Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an industry leader in freight supply chain environmental performance and energy efficiency.

Armada was one of 12 companies in the shipper and logistic partner category to receive this distinction, representing the top performing, environmentally responsible SmartWay Partners that move more goods more miles with lower emissions and less energy. Excellence Award recipients were announced at a virtual press event hosted by the EPA with its SmartWay Partners, key stakeholders, and media in attendance.

“For 17 years, EPA’s SmartWay Transport Partnership has empowered businesses to move goods in the cleanest, most energy-efficient way possible, while protecting public health and reducing air pollution.” said **EPA Mid-Atlantic Acting Regional Administrator Diana Esher**. “We commend the innovation, drive, and collaborative spirit of our partners whose efforts are helping to meet the challenge of climate change and to create a healthier environment for us all.”

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Source: U.S. EPA