

Allegheny County Sportsmen's League
Conservation Committee Report
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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 wild-life.

This is my Pledge!

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EPA To Develop Regulation for Perchlorate and Toxic Chemicals in Drinking Water

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa P. Jackson today announced the agency's decision to move forward with the development of a regulation for perchlorate to protect Americans from any potential health impacts, while also continuing to take steps to ensure the quality of the water they drink. The decision to undertake a first-ever national standard for perchlorate reverses a decision made by the previous administration

and comes after Administrator Jackson ordered EPA scientists to undertake a thorough review of the emerging science of perchlorate. Perchlorate is both a naturally occurring and man-made chemical, and scientific research indicates that it may impact the normal function of the thyroid, which produces important developmental hormones. Thyroid hormones are critical to the normal development and growth of fetuses, infants and children. Based on this potential concern, EPA

will move forward with proposing a formal rule. This process will include receiving input from key stakeholders as well as submitting any formal rule to a public comment process.

In a separate action, the agency is also moving towards establishing a drinking water standard to address a group of up to 16 toxic chemicals that may pose risks to human health. As part of the Drinking Water Strategy laid out by Administrator Jackson in 2010, EPA com-

DOE Manual Studies Terrestrial Carbon Sequestration

Comprehensive Report Offers Techniques for Removing CO2 from the Air

There is considerable opportunity and grow-

ing technical sophistication to make terrestrial carbon sequestration both practical and effective, according to the latest carbon cap-

ture and storage (CCS) "best practices" manual issued by the U.S. Department of Energy.

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Toxic Chemicals in Drinking Water (continued)

mitted to addressing contaminants as a group rather than one at a time so that enhancement of drinking water protection can be achieved cost effectively. Today's action delivers on the promise to strengthen public health protection from contaminants in drinking water.

"Clean water is critical to the health and prosperity of every American community and a fundamental concern to every American family. EPA is hard at

work on innovative ways to improve protections for the water we drink and give to our children, and the development of these improved standards is an important step forward," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "Our decisions are based on extensive review of the best available science and the health needs of the American people."

Action on Perchlorate:

Scientific research indicates that perchlorate may disrupt the thy-

roid's ability to produce hormones that are critical to developing fetuses and infants. Monitoring data show more than 4 percent of public water systems have detected perchlorate and between 5 million and 17 million people may be served drinking water containing perchlorate. The science that has led to this decision has been peer reviewed by independent scientists and public health experts including the National Academy of Sciences. Perchlorate is both a natu-

rally-occurring and man-made chemical that is used in the manufacture of rocket fuel, fireworks, flares and explosives, and may be present in bleach and in some fertilizers. This decision reverses a 2008 preliminary determination by the previous administration, and considers input from almost 39,000 public comments.

EPA will continue to evaluate

the science on perchlorate health effects and occurrence in public water systems. The agency will also now begin to evaluate the feasibility and affordability of treatment technologies to remove perchlorate and will examine the costs and benefits of potential standards.

More information on perchlorate: <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/unregulated/perchlorate.cf>

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Action on Drinking Water Strategy:

EPA will also be developing one regulation covering up to 16 chemicals that may cause cancer. This group of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are chemicals such as industrial solvents, includes trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene

(PCE) as well as other regulated and some unregulated contaminants that are discharged from industrial operations. The VOC standard will be developed as part of EPA's new strategy for drinking water, announced by the administrator in March 2010. A key principle of the strategy is to address contaminants as groups

rather than individually in order to provide public health protections more quickly and also allow utilities to more effectively and efficiently plan for improvements.

More information on drinking water strategy: <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rule>

[sregs/sdwa/dwstrategy/index.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/sdwa/dwstrategy/index.cfm)

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

DOE Manual Studies Terrestrial Carbon Sequestration (continued)

Best Practices for Terrestrial Sequestration of Carbon Dioxide details the most suitable operational approaches and techniques for terrestrial sequestration, a carbon dioxide (CO₂) mitigation strategy capable of removing CO₂ already in the air. Consequently, terrestrial sequestration, which uses photosynthesis – part of the natural carbon cycle – to create organic matter that is

stored in vegetation and soils, differs from CO₂ mitigation technologies that focus on capturing and permanently storing human-generated emissions.

The Office of Fossil Energy's (FE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) prepared the manual with data from the seven Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnerships. Topics covered include land types and management methods that can

maximize carbon storage in vegetation and soil, as well as the status of greenhouse gas trading and participating institutions. The manual also discusses the analytical techniques necessary to monitor, verify, and account for terrestrially stored carbon; such techniques are required for carbon trading. Finally, results from the partnerships' terrestrial field projects

are presented to illustrate what can be done.

Among other things, terrestrial sequestration takes advantage of degraded soils (such as those resulting from overgrazing and deforestation) to restore carbon stocks to their former levels. The effort holds promise to decrease atmospheric CO₂ levels and increase productivity of the land.

The best practices outlined in this manual will help those interested in pursuing terrestrial sequestration projects, as well as those interested in regulating such projects, to optimize their sequestration efforts and save time, effort, and funds.

All best-practices manuals, as well as other CCS documents and reference materials, can be

found on NETL's Carbon Sequestration Reference Shelf. (http://www.netl.doe.gov/technologies/carbon_seq/refshelf/refshelf.html)

Source:

U.S. Department of Energy

Penn State

Conservation Leadership School 2011

Two summer sessions - June 26 - July 2 and July 10-16

Stone Valley Recreation Area, Petersburg, PA

Details will be available soon.

State Regulatory Framework Will Most Likely Result in Robust CO₂ Pipeline System, New Study Says

Analysis Funded by NETL May Help Speed Commercialization of Carbon Sequestration

A private sector model with a state rather than Federal-based regulatory framework is the approach that will "most likely result in a robust CO₂ [carbon dioxide] pipeline system" in the

United States, according to a new report developed with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory (DOE/NETL).

However, a Federal role that "includes incentives to encourage the private construction of CO₂ pipelines" would be an important factor in moving the concept forward, the study says.



The report, *A Policy, Legal, and Regulatory Evaluation of the Feasibility of a National Pipeline Infrastructure for the Transport and Storage of Carbon Dioxide*, analyzes a potential pipeline infrastructure that would transport CO₂ from large point sources, such as power plants, to designated underground storage locations. Constructing a viable

pipeline network is a key component for commercializing and deploying carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology, considered by many experts to be a promising option for helping to reduce the buildup of atmospheric CO₂ due to human activity. (Read the report: <http://www.sseb.org/downloads/pipeline.pdf>)

The Southeast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership (SECARB) contracted with the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) to develop the report, which was undertaken by the DOE-funded Pipeline Transportation Task Force (PTTF). The information will significantly bolster commercialization efforts by analyz-

ing current CO₂ storage situations and identifying what will be necessary to transport CO₂ to storage areas.

Composed of regulators, policymakers, and industry representatives, and led by IOGCC and the Southern States Energy Board, the PTTF is focused on over-

coming the transportation hurdles associated with CO₂ underground storage. These hurdles include legal, regulatory, economic, environmental, and educational issues, all of which could be potential roadblocks as carbon sequestration projects move toward commercialization.

The pipeline report addresses these topics and offers comprehensive guidance on barriers and opportunities for the wide-scale construction of a CO₂ pipeline network to enhance the Nation's carbon sequestration efforts.

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Robust CO₂ Pipeline System (continued)

The IOGCC is a multi-state government agency whose mission is to promote the conservation and efficient recovery of the Nation's domestic oil and natural gas resources while protecting health, safety, and the environment.

The Southern States Energy Board is a non-profit interstate compact organization created in 1960 whose membership includes governors, state legisla-

tors, and a Federal Representative appointed by the President of the United States. The Board's mission is to enhance economic development and the quality of life in the South through innovations in energy and environmental policies, programs, and technologies.

SECARB is one of seven Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnerships established by DOE in 2003. The partnerships form a

national network of more than 500 state agencies, universities, and private companies, spanning 43 states, three Native American organizations, and four Canadian provinces. Managed and administered by the Southern States Energy Board, SECARB encompasses 13 states and includes a network of more than 100 stakeholders. The SECARB partners have successfully designed and operated four small-scale geo-

logic sequestration field tests in the southeastern United States, and two large-volume projects are underway.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory

DEP Issues Report on Short-term Air Quality Impacts from Marcellus Shale Operations in Northeast PA

No Emission Levels Found that would constitute a Concern to the Health of Residents

The Department of Environmental Protection today released a report on a four-week air qual-

ity study conducted near Marcellus Shale natural gas operations in Susquehanna and Sullivan counties.

"This short-term study of the air emissions at surveyed sites shows no emission levels that

would constitute a concern to the health of residents living near these operations," DEP Director of the Bureau of Air Quality Joyce Epps said. "This study provides us

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Marcellus Shale Operations in Northeast PA (continued)

with good information as part of our ongoing effort to gauge the impact these operations have on our air quality, public health and the environment.”

The report notes that the sampling effort was not meant to address potential cumulative impacts.

DEP’s assessment focused on concentrations of volatile organic compounds, including benzene, toluene and xylene, which are typically found in petroleum products. The depart-

ment also sampled for other pollutants such as carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide near natural gas extraction and processing sites.

The sampling was conducted the weeks of Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 14 and Oct. 25. An evening sampling event was held Oct. 6. DEP’s mobile laboratories were used and the equipment was set up downwind of the target sources during early morning and late evening hours, which is when the department received

the most complaints from residents.

The agency collected background samples at Sones Pond in the Loyalsock State Forest in Sullivan County.

The air monitoring surveys near natural gas operations in Susquehanna County were conducted at a completed and operating gas well (Cabot’s Gesford 2V/7H) on Carter Road in Dimock Township; two compressor stations (Cabot’s Lathrop and Teel stations near Springville); and at



a well site being fracked (Stone Energy’s Loomis well site) near Lawton.

Those surveys detected the main constituents of natural gas – including methane, ethane, propane and butane – as well as low levels of associated compounds such as MtBE, carbon monoxide and methyl mercaptan, the odor-producing compound.

In addition, DEP used a specialized infrared camera that can detect emissions of certain pollutants from a source that otherwise may be invisible to the naked eye. That equipment did detect fugitive and direct emissions from the well equipment at the Carter Road site.

Overall, DEP’s air sampling did not find concentrations of any compound that would likely trig-

ger air-related health issues associated with Marcellus Shale drilling activities in the northeast region.

DEP also conducted similar air-monitoring studies near Marcellus gas facilities in north-central Pennsylvania. Those results are currently being evaluated. Results from a study in southwest-

ern Pennsylvania were announced in November 2010.

To view the report, visit www.depweb.state.pa.us and click on “Regional Resources,” then on Northeast Region and choose the “Community Information” link on the right side of the page.

Source: The PA Department of Environmental Protection

WPC Acquires Key Property along Loyalhanna Creek

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) acquired high-priority land in the Ligonier Valley that includes several small wetlands and 1,900 feet of stream frontage along Loyalhanna Creek.

The newly conserved, 36-acre parcel in Cook Township, Westmoreland County lies in close proximity to 3,000 acres of conserved land within the upper Loyalhanna Creek watershed. The Conservancy's purchase expands protection of this scenic



section of the Laurel Highlands and further protects Loyalhanna Creek, a long-term conservation priority for WPC.

“With nearly 2,000 feet of stream frontage, this property will have a direct, positive impact on water quality in the headwaters of Loyalhanna Creek,” said Laurel Highlands

Program Director Mike Kuzemchak.

Permanent conservation of this land expands protection of the Ligonier Valley, a high-priority conservation region for the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, said President and CEO Thomas Saunders. “The Ligonier Valley’s beautiful farms, unspoiled character, rolling landscape and productive farmland

make this region a treasure,” said Saunders. “The Conservancy has full-time staff focused just on land protection in the Valley, where we’ve conserved over 8,000 acres, and the Laurel Highlands, where we’ve protected almost 80,000 acres.”

The Conservancy intends to sell the Cook Township parcel, with restrictions, to a conservation buyer and would hold a conser-

vation easement on the property. A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a private landowner and WPC that limits future uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. “The conservation easement on the property will ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy its natural beauty,” said Kuzemchak.

Proceeds from the sale of this property would be used to support additional conservation work by WPC in the Ligonier Valley.

Source:

The Western Pennsylvania
Conservancy