

# A.C.S.L. Conservation Report

By Jack Walters, Conservation Chair, A.C.S.L.

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## RENDELL ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHES SECOND ANNUAL GREAT PENNSYLVANIA CLEANUP

Organizations, Individuals, Schools, Businesses,  
Governments Urged to Participate in Statewide  
Cleanup April 23

On behalf of Governor Edward G. Rendell, Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty, Transportation Secretary Allen D. Biehler, Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis, and Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director Dr. Douglas Austen today unveiled plans for the Second Annual Great Pennsylvania Cleanup, an ambitious statewide effort to remove litter and trash from the state's roadways, parks, river banks and open spaces. The event will take place April 23 in conjunction with Earth Day. "Last year, thousands of residents joined together to make the first Great Pennsylvania Cleanup a tremendous success," Secretary McGinty said. "Because litter and illegal dumping affect everyone's quality of life, we challenge residents to get involved with community cleanup efforts. Whether you join an existing cleanup or organize one of your own, every resident can help us succeed in making Pennsylvania a much more attractive place to live, work and play."

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**"Because litter and illegal dumping affect everyone's quality of life, we challenge residents to get involved with community cleanup efforts."**



God Bless America



## RENDELL ADMINISTRATION SEEKS TO ESTABLISH ENERGY MANUFACTURING BASE IN PA

DEP Seeks Project Proposals from Interested Companies; Deadline Set for April 1  
Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty today announced that DEP is working to build on the state's leadership in the development and deployment of new technologies by inviting letters of interest from advanced energy companies that want to take advantage of the opportunities Pennsylvania has to offer by seeking assistance with project financing or business siting.

Pennsylvania is home to one of the nation's most progressive energy portfolio standards and boasts close to \$1 billion in tax-exempt bonding authority and other significant financial incentives to make energy manufacturing a cornerstone of the Commonwealth's economic future and ensure that more electricity generation comes from environmentally beneficial resources.

"Pennsylvania is open for business in advanced-energy development," Secretary McGinty said told the Manufacturers Association in Berks County, where she discussed state environmental regulations and highlighted many of the energy initiatives that Governor Edward G. Rendell has put in place over the last two years. The Rendell Administration is promoting the development of a new manufacturing sector that focuses on advanced and renewable energy systems, energy efficiency and conservation, and clean advanced energy businesses, and encouraging companies that are located elsewhere to consider establishing manufacturing, sales, marketing and distribution centers.

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PENNSYLVANIA CLEANUP  
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“It is very gratifying to see so many different organizations and interests offering enthusiastic support for the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup,” Secretary Biehler said. “We are proud to be partners with DEP and other state agencies in this coordinated effort to clean up Pennsylvania.”

“Volunteers always have been the driving force behind cleanup and rehabilitation efforts in our parks, forests and trails,” Secretary DiBerardinis said. “Thanks to these volunteers, visitors and residents can enjoy some of the most beautiful lands and waters in the country. Let’s all do our part this year in keeping our landscapes free of litter.”

In 2004, DEP coordinated the work of 5,100 groups that reported picking up and disposing of more than 233,000 garbage bags of trash from sites across the Commonwealth. In addition, PennDOT coordinated the efforts of almost 100,000 volunteers from nearly 4,400 civic-minded groups that collected another 191,000 bags of trash from more than 9,000 miles of state-maintained roadway. Because litter prevention and cleanup play an important part in Pennsylvania’s natural beauty and the enjoyment of fishing and other outdoor sports, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and representatives of sportsmen’s groups joined the secretaries in announcing the 2005 Great Pennsylvania Cleanup. Recreational fishing contributes more than \$2 billion annually to the state’s economy, supporting nearly 15,000 jobs.

“More than 1.5 million anglers of all ages take in excess of 20 million fishing trips here each year. Much of that activity takes place on private lands whose owners are generous enough to allow public fishing,” Executive Director Austen said.

“Unfortunately, litter is the number one reason landowners post their properties. As a result, more stream miles come off PFBC’s trout stocking list each year because of litter-related concerns than any other reason.”

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Inc. --- the state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, which was founded in 1953 to promote litter prevention, com-

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munity beautification and improvement, and waste reduction --- also is again playing a major role in the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is supported and sponsored by a wide range of businesses, trade organizations, civic and environmental groups, and state and local government agencies.

“Trash and litter ruin property values, exhaust tax dollars and lower the quality of life for everyone,” said Tom McMonigle, representing the Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. “It takes a shared commitment from residents, neighborhood groups, nonprofit organizations, government agencies and our state’s large and small businesses to prevent litter. I am impressed by the enthusiastic support we have received so far, and I am looking forward to a successful Great Pennsylvania Cleanup.”

Glad Inc. will provide all registered cleanups with trash bags for participants. Members of the Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association have offered free landfill space to dispose of non-recyclable waste collected during the cleanup.

For information on the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup, and to find or register a cleanup, visit DEP’s Web site at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) and click on the “Great Pennsylvania Cleanup” logo. The site contains safety information, links to other cleanup organizations, a logo that can be downloaded, T-shirt iron-on transfers and posters, and lesson plans for teachers. Interested individuals also can call toll-free at 1-888-548-8372 for more information.

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ters in Pennsylvania.

Proposals for manufacturing relocations or expansions, or proposals related to specific energy project development opportunities are of particular interest. The state is also interested in establishing long-term manufacturing operations within the Commonwealth and providing low-cost, reliable energy to manufacturers and industrial customers from energy resources indigenous to Pennsylvania.

“Affordable, reliable and environmentally beneficial energy is the foundation for a growing economy,” Secretary McGinty said.

Pennsylvania has adopted a number of progressive policy and financial tools designed to promote advanced energy projects in the state, including an Advanced Energy Portfolio Standard that required 18 percent of the electricity sold at retail in Pennsylvania to come from advanced sources, including eight percent from renewables, with a substantial solar requirement. Opportunities exist for low-cost, long-term partnerships with existing manufacturers and industrial operations.

The state also offers significant resources, including: nearly \$1 billion in tax-exempt bond financing for energy development in Pennsylvania; up to \$100 million to support energy efficiency and renewable-energy projects that benefit the agricultural sector; \$20 million in grants for alternative fuels projects; \$5 million in grants annually for small-scale renewable, energy efficiency, and advanced energy projects; and \$10 million in grants, loans and loan guarantees for advanced energy projects.

Interested parties should respond with a letter of interest by April 1. DEP will work with the Governor’s Action Team, Department of Community and Economic Development and Department of Agriculture to identify project funding from various Commonwealth sources or identify project partners for promising pro-

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posals.

The letter must have a two-page executive summary that includes a project description, principals, goals and objectives of the project, financial requirements if any, expected project benefits (including job statistics, economic development benefits, environmental improvements, etc.), a general overview of the company, including its history, present situation and future goals, and past sales and market development data, if available.

The solicitation for the letter of interest is available on DEP’s Web site at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us), Keyword: “OETD.” Responses should be mailed to: Office of Energy and Technology Development, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 400 Market St., P.O. Box 8772, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8772.

Questions related to this letter of interest solicitation should be referred to Eric Thumma ([ethumma@state.pa.us](mailto:ethumma@state.pa.us)) or Jeanne Dworetzky ([jdworetzky@state.pa.us](mailto:jdworetzky@state.pa.us)) at 717-783-0540.

## **Advanced Coal-Cleaning System to Recover Fine Coal from West Virginia Pond**

Advanced Coal-Cleaning System to Recover Fine Coal from West Virginia Pond  
System Turns "Waste" Into Useable Fuel

Pittsburgh, PA — The first commercial use of an advanced coal-cleaning system comprising two advanced separation technologies will take place this summer when it is used to produce clean, upgraded coal from a large fine-coal waste pond located in southern West Virginia. Developed with support from the Department of Energy, the innovative system will create useable fuel from discarded "waste" and could be used to clean up the hundreds of potentially deadly coal-waste "impoundments"—waste ponds behind earthen dams—that dot the Appalachian mountains.

The innovative separation system will be installed near Pineville, W.Va., at property owned by Pinnacle Mining Company. It uses two processes: One produces clean coal by separating impurities like clays, silica, and pyrite from waste coal, and the other separates water from the cleaned coal. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Beard Technologies, Inc., and the Energy Department's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) developed the two-step separation system under NETL's Solid Fuels and Feedstocks Program, which aims to reduce the high cost of processing fine coal.

Separating impurities from coal will be achieved using the Microcel™ flotation column, which was developed and patented in the mid-1980s by Virginia Tech. The process uses tiny air bubbles to recover coal fines—microscopic coal particles—that are too small to be recovered with conventional methods. The clean coal product from the column will then be pumped to vacuum filters to remove water. Novel dewatering aids developed at Virginia Tech and licensed to Nalco, a large chemicals company, are added to the coal to facilitate the dewatering process. The result is a clean, low-moisture fuel that can be used for combustion. Beard Technologies plans to use the advanced separation system to produce 240,000 tons per year of clean coal from the waste coal in the impoundment.

"Availability of an advanced fine coal dewatering technology is a major step forward in recovering coal fines from impoundments," said Edgar Klunder, project manager in NETL's Gasification and Combustion Projects

## **Advanced Coal-Cleaning System to Recover Fine Coal from West Virginia Pond**

Division. "Utilities burning coal for electricity generation are not interested in coal fines containing excessive moisture. Typically, fine coal is 25–30 percent moisture by weight; with the dewatering aids, moisture can be reduced to 15–18 percent, depending on the particle size of the coal recovered."

"There are other ways to dewater coal—thermal drying, for example—but they are too costly to install and operate for small-scale operations like pond recovery," Klunder noted. "A less-costly, yet efficient dewatering method is the key to recovering coal from impoundments."

If Beard Technologies is successful in recovering fine coal using the advanced separation system, many other companies could follow suit. The Energy Department estimates that 30–50 million tons of coal fines are discarded annually into impoundments because of the high cost of processing fine coal. This adds to the more than 2 billion tons of coal already in about 700 fine coal impoundments, most of which are located in central Appalachia.

This brings to the forefront a concern that coal impoundments dotted along the Eastern United States represent.

Many large coal impoundments are situated near residential areas, and peoples' lives are at stake should the coal impoundment collapse or overflow. Just 4 years ago, fine coal sludge burst from such an impoundment near Inez, Ky., pouring into two tributaries of the Big Sandy River situated between Kentucky and West Virginia. While no one was killed, the impoundment flooded stream banks to a depth of 5 feet, and local water supplies were interrupted for days. It cost \$46.5 million to clean the mess.

A much more serious accident occurred in 1972 when a dam at the Pittston's Buffalo Creek impoundment in West Virginia collapsed, killing 118 residents in a matter of minutes, injuring 1,100 and leaving more than 4,000 homeless.

Microcel™ is being used worldwide as a stand-alone technology to upgrade fine coal and to produce mineral concentrates. Developing an economically viable advanced dewatering technology will certainly increase its use.