

A.C.S.L. Conservation Report

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

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GOVERNOR RENDELL SUSPENDS PITTSBURGH-AREA SUMMERTIME GASOLINE REQUIREMENTS TO PROTECT FUEL SUPPLIES IN WAKE OF HURRICANE KATRINA

Governor Edward G. Rendell has suspended enforcement of summertime fuel requirements for gasoline refiners, terminals, distributors, carriers and retailers in an effort to ensure adequate fuel supplies in southwestern Pennsylvania in the wake of damage from Hurricane Katrina. "Suspending these requirements gives refiners another tool to keep fuel supplies moving without disruption," Governor Rendell said.

The summertime requirements apply only to southwestern Pennsylvania. Counties in the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley area must sell the less volatile Low Reid Vapor Pressure (LRVP) fuel to consumers between June 1 and Sept. 15 each year, a period when ground-level ozone, a key component of smog, is found in high concentrations.

The LRVP requirement for the southwest is included in Pennsylvania's State Implementation Plan, which details to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency how the Commonwealth will meet federal pollution reduction requirements and improve regional air quality. Earlier this week, EPA announced that it is waiving summertime fuel requirements. Accordingly,
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God Bless America



DEP AWARDS CONTRACT TO RECLAIM ABANDONED STRIP MINE IN BEAVER COUNTY

Project to Eliminate Dangerous Highwall, Water-Filled Pits; Reclamation to Protect Jordan Run Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty today announced a \$367,419 contract to eliminate a dangerous highwall and water-filled pits, control erosion problems and establish vegetation on a 24-acre abandoned surface mine in Big Beaver Borough, Beaver County.

"This is one of thousands of sites in Pennsylvania where unregulated mining practices of the past threaten public safety and the environment," McGinty said during a tour of the project. "Reclaiming these sites removes serious environmental hazards, makes communities safer and more attractive and enhances residents' quality of life. That's why Governor Rendell has directed us to move aggressively to clean up these sites across Pennsylvania."

Earthmovers Unlimited Inc. of Kylertown, Clearfield County, will restore the 24-acre abandoned surface mine to its approximate original contour and remove several public health hazards by backfilling a 1,000-foot-long highwall and several water-filled pits located within 1,000 feet of a residential area.

"Pennsylvania is home to nearly a quarter of a million acres of dangerous mines and quarries that were abandoned long before modern regulations," McGinty said. "It is vitally important that we continue to locate and reclaim these hazards and help our communities overcome the scars left by the unregulated mining practices of the past."

The Beaver County project also involves installation of 475 linear feet of subsurface drainage to control erosion that degrades Jordan Run. The contractor will also relocate a storm drain on Pennsylvania Turnpike property that currently flows into an abandoned water-filled pit.

Approximately 229,000 cubic yards of on-site materi
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**HURRICANE KATRINA
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Governor Rendell directed the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to suspend enforcement of Pennsylvania's requirement over the next two weeks to prevent potential disruptions in the production and distribution of compliant fuels through the pipelines.

No fuel supply shortages have been reported in the Northeast. Assessments continue on the storm's damage to the Gulf Coast, which accounts for nearly a third of domestic oil production.

The requirement to provide summertime LRVP gasoline went into effect in September 1998.

LRVP contains 7.8 pounds of evaporative pressure per square inch, compared to conventional gasoline, which contains nine pounds per square inch, resulting in the release of fewer compounds that contribute to ground-level ozone.

Ground-level ozone forms during warm weather when pollution from vehicles, industry, households and power plants bake in the hot sun. Due to the lateness in the ozone season and the low probability of hot, humid weather that would cause the formation of high ozone concentrations, DEP does not anticipate exceedances of federal air quality standards.

For information, visit DEP's Web site at www.dep.state.pa.us, Keyword: "Air Quality."

Source: DEP

**ABANDONED STRIP MINE IN
BEAVER COUNTY
(continued)**

als will be graded to eliminate the hazardous features

at the site. The site will be revegetated with approximately 1,780 seedlings and grasses specifically formulated to grow on abandoned mine lands.

The site originally was mined by Dodes Coal Co. and was abandoned in the 1960s before modern regulations required reclamation of these sites.

Funding for the project comes from a federal fund for the reclamation of abandoned mine lands that is supported by taxes paid by the active coal-mining industry on every ton of coal mined. Work is expected to be completed by May 2006.

Governor Rendell recently signed into law Growing Greener II, bringing to fruition more than a year of aggressive efforts to address some of the state's most pressing environmental problems by investing as much as \$625 million over six years. The voter-approved initiative specifically allocates \$60 million to clean up rivers and streams affected by abandoned acid mine drainage and reclaim abandoned mine lands scarred by dangerous highwalls, mine openings and water-filled pits.

The Governor has also been a leader in the fight to ensure that the U.S. Congress reauthorizes the federal mine reclamation fund and that the state secures its fair share. A reauthorization plan put before Congress last legislative session would have increased Pennsylvania's share to \$35 million annually from \$24 million per year. The fund expires at the end of September.

For more information on abandoned mine reclamation, visit DEP's Web site at www.dep.state.pa.us, Keyword: "Abandoned Mines."

Source: DEP

DEP SECRETARY INAUGURATES ENERGY HARVEST PROJECT IN PITTSBURGH

Renewable Energy Project Reduces Energy Costs, Cuts Pollution Emissions

INDIANOLA, ALLEGHENY COUNTY -- On behalf of Governor Edward G. Rendell, Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty today flipped the ceremonial switch to power up a five-kilowatt solar facility at the Indiana Township Municipal Plaza in Allegheny County. The project was funded in part by a \$64,000 Pennsylvania Energy Harvest grant. "This project typifies the ingenuity and innovation being put into practice to refocus our priorities on indigenous energy resources and ensure investments in clean, efficient energy made right here in Pennsylvania," McGinty said.

The solar unit is a partnership among the township, Middle Allegheny Streams Alliance Inc. (MASA) and Solar Power Industries (SPI). McGinty threw the switch on the solar panel, which was installed on the salt shed building located at the rear of the municipal plaza.

When generating capacity is at its peak, the system will supply a significant portion of the plaza's electrical demand, saving the township more than \$1,000 annually in electricity costs. The project also will help to inform people about renewable energy. A terminal has been set up in the township's office to show how much energy is being generated by the solar facility and to calculate the energy saved. Additionally, Indiana Township has agreed to use energy cost savings to repair the stream buffers flowing through township parks.

In addition to its economic benefits, the solar unit will help to avoid 200 pounds of sulfur dioxide, 204 pounds of nitrogen oxide, 74,000 pounds of carbon dioxide and 10 pounds of particulate matter per year. SPI, a Pennsylvania company that manufactures solar panels, manufactured the township's system.

"The goal of this project is to assess the eco-

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ENERGY HARVEST PROJECT IN PITTSBURGH (continued)

nomics viability of renewable energy technologies in western Pennsylvania," said Scott McDougall, MASA director and the project's coordinator. "The installation is an important step toward bringing solar energy technology into this market. We selected Indiana Township because they were very interested in supporting a renewable energy project, and the municipal plaza site has ideal sun exposure."

"We are now beginning to see on-the-ground results of the Pennsylvania Energy Harvest Grant Program take hold," McGinty said. "The Rendell administration's work is making our commonwealth a national leader in the development and deployment of advanced energy technologies to make our economy stronger and our environment cleaner."

Energy Harvest funds projects that build markets for advanced and renewable energy technologies that use biomass, wind, solar, small-scale hydroelectric, landfill methane, energy efficiency, coal-bed methane and waste coal. The program has awarded \$10 million and leveraged another \$26.7 million in private funds since its inception in May 2003.

Governor Rendell has led efforts to put in place policies and financial tools designed to promote advanced energy projects in the state. The Governor is actively 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 in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania is now home to one of the nation's most progressive alternative energy portfolio standards, ensuring that in 15 years, 18 percent of all energy generated comes from clean, efficient sources. Pennsylvania is one of two states with a portfolio standard that includes energy efficiency. Benefits include \$10 billion in increased output for Pennsylvania, \$3 billion in additional earnings and between

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**ENERGY HARVEST PROJECT IN
PITTSBURGH
(continued)**

3,500 and 4,000 news jobs for residents over the next 20 years.

Governor Rendell's Growing Greener II initiative provides significant resources to build on the success of other energy initiatives, including as much as \$10 million annually for the newly revitalized Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority. In June, PEDA awarded \$10 million to finance 17 clean energy projects that promote applied energy research, provide financial incentives for the deployment of clean, alternative energy projects and encourage investment in Pennsylvania's energy sector. These projects will create as many as 1,786 permanent and construction jobs in the commonwealth. In addition, the research projects, if successful, could net as many as 327 full-time jobs. Governor Rendell also signed an executive order, "Energy Management and Conservation in commonwealth," that ensures maximum efficiency in energy management and conservation in state facilities through the implementation of a centralized energy strategy. This measure will decrease energy consumption and energy costs and promote a cleaner environment.

For more information, visit the DEP's Web site at www.dep.state.pa.us, Keyword: "Energy Harvest." For more information on MASA, call 814-498-2958.

Source: DEP

Three New Cases Push Pennsylvania West Nile Total for 2005 to Ten

State officials today confirmed three more cases of West Nile Virus in humans, bringing the state's total for 2005 to ten.

Two of the new cases are in Allegheny County. They include an 86-year-old man and a 78-year-old man, both of whom remain hospitalized. The third case is a 69-year-old man in Westmoreland County, who has recovered.

Twenty-three positive mosquito samples were also reported today.

These are located in:

the city of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County (3 samples);

Brighton Township, Beaver County;

Bristol Township and Falls Township, Bucks County;

Greene Township (2 samples), Hamilton Township (7 samples), and St. Thomas Township, Franklin County;

Penn Township, Lancaster County;

the city of Allentown, Lehigh County (2 samples);

Edwardsville Borough, Luzerne County;

the city of Williamsport, Lycoming County;

the city of Philadelphia (2 samples).

Source: DEP