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August 14, 2015

NEWS CLIPS

[Noble Energy to Cut Back on Rigs in Marcellus Region](#)

[NJ Pulls Out of RGGI](#)

[Maryland has Head Start in Addressing Clean Power Plan](#)

[Delaware says it has Head Start on White House CO2 Plan \(Sound familiar?\)](#)

[Ohio to Fight Obama Plan Curtailing Coal Plants](#)

[Energy Groups Oppose Utility Ownership of Wind, Solar Projects](#)

[Underground Storage Facility Planned for Utica and Marcellus Shale Gas](#)

[U.S. Carbon Pollution from Power Plants Hits 27-Year Low](#)

[DOE Soliciting Applications for Loan Guarantee Program](#)

[US Cuts Oil Output Forecast with Lower Prices](#)

EVENTS

August 18
Environmental Quality

Change in Tone?

Two meetings this week on the state budget left Gov. Tom Wolf and Majority Leader Dave Reed saying that they are still a long way apart on unresolved issues but that they plan to talk again next week. On Wednesday, Speaker Mike Turzai had said Wednesday's talks were "an important discussion ... although some of us share the concern that the governor has not moved off of his tax increases." And Senate spokesman Drew Crompton said the meeting showed "how monumentally apart we still are."

Leaders said this week they worked on two major issues - education spending and public sector pension costs. I think we have a tentative agreement on the fact that pensions and education funding are going to have to be part of a final budget discussion, final budget agreement," Reed said. ([MORE](#))

Regional News

Federal News

More State News

Clean Power Plan Presents New Opportunities for Pennsylvania Energy

Last week, the Environmental Protection Agency released the Clean Power Plan. In a press release issued the same day, the Wolf Administration said that Pennsylvania will use this as an opportunity to write a plan that could improve public health, address climate change, and improve our economy and power system.

Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection will give all stakeholders every opportunity to provide input into drafting a Clean Power Plan that is tailored to fit Pennsylvania's economy. ([MORE](#))

DEP Releases New Revisions on Oil and Gas Rulemaking

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) this week announced the draft final revisions to the "Environmental Protection Performance Standards at Oil and Gas Well Sites" rulemaking (Chapters 78 and 78a). This revision

Board (EQB) meeting
Harrisburg, PA
Contact (717) 783-8727

August 25
Oil & Gas Technical
Advisory Board meeting
Harrisburg, PA
Contact (717) 772-2199

August 27
Conventional Oil & Gas
Advisory Committee
meeting
Harrisburg, PA
Contact (717) 772-2199

October 18-20, 2015
Renewable Energy
Markets 2015
Hilton Crystal City
Washington, D.C.
[Register here](#)

October 26-28
National Advanced
Biofuels Conference &
Expo
Hilton Omaha
Omaha, NE
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continues DEP's commitment to modernizing and strengthening the environmental controls employed by both the conventional and unconventional industries to assure the protection of public health, safety, and the environment.

"Responsible energy development in Pennsylvania is key to the commonwealth's future," said DEP Secretary John Quigley. "We are committed to protecting our natural resources, and these rules strengthen safeguards for our water and environment." [\(MORE\)](#)

Public Hearing Set on Net Metering and HB 1349

The House Consumer Affairs Committee will hold a public hearing on Sept. 2 at 9:30 am in Room 140, Main Capitol Building to consider HB 1349 and language impacting net metering. The bill amends Title 66 (Public Utilities), relating to the production of electrical power from biologically derived methane gas and would prohibit the Public Utility Commission from limiting the nameplate capacity and the production of electrical power from biologically derived methane gas, including methane from the anaerobic digestion of organic materials.

DCED Reports on Global Petroleum 2015

According to DCED, 12 Pennsylvania companies represented the commonwealth at the 2015 Global Petroleum Show in Calgary, Canada in June. The show is one of the largest energy events bringing together global producers, service companies and suppliers. The event this year had 63,000 attendees and 2,000 exhibiting companies from 95 countries.

The Office of International Business Development organized a Pennsylvania pavilion at GPS for PA companies to exhibit their products and services. Additionally, local economic development partners attended GPS from the [CORE PA region](#) of Pennsylvania under the Make It In America Initiative to promote the regions of Pennsylvania outside Philadelphia and Pittsburgh as a destination for international companies to locate their business. [\(MORE\)](#)

PA Political News

On Tuesday, Democrats maintained their hold on three Philadelphia seats in a special election. Former State Representative/City Councilman Ed Neilson, Donna Bullock, a former special assistant to City Council President Darrell L. Clarke and Joanna McClinton, former chief counsel to State Sen. Anthony H. Williams all won election to vacant seats created by two resignations and Sen. John Sabatina's election to the upper chamber. As a result, Republicans continue with 119 members, and when the newly elected representatives are sworn in August 25, Democrats will have 84 House seats.

In what was a surprise to very few, Kathleen McGinty last week announced her candidacy for the Democratic nomination to run for the US Senate next spring. She will face former Congressman Joe Sestak, and the winner of the primary will face US Senator Pat Toomey in November 2016. Former

Governor Ed Rendell will chair McGinty's campaign. [\(MORE\)](#)

Regional News

NYSERDA Boosts Wood Heating Initiatives in Wake of Low Oil Prices

With recent drops in oil prices, NYSERDA is focusing on Governor Cuomo's Renewable Heat NY, part of the state's Reforming Energy Vision (REV).

Renewable Heat NY was launched in July 2014 and is focused on promoting the use of high-efficiency, low-emissions wood heating systems. NYSERDA will increase its funding assistance to cover between 40 and 45 percent for large commercial pellet boilers. NYSERDA will also be increasing funding assistance for pollution control devices on eligible boilers at K-12 schools and healthcare facilities.

Applications will be accepted through September 30, 2016 at which point NYSERDA will reevaluate the oil market.

Ohio Legislature Mulls Renewable Standard Changes

Ohio's mandate that utilities find more of their power from renewable sources is hampering the state's economic comeback, a study presented Monday to a state panel considering the future of those standards suggested.

The study, conducted by Utah State University, suggested that states such as Ohio with renewable electricity standards have not fared as well as states without them. It said this trend will continue, leading to a difference of about 29,000 jobs by 2026, mostly in industrial and manufacturing sectors, which are the biggest users of electricity. [\(MORE\)](#)

Christie Signs Energy Bills

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie recently signed two bills impacting energy activities in that state. **S-2420/A-3838** Increases electric power net metering capacity threshold to 2.9 percent of total annual kilowatt-hours sold in State. The bill was offered to promote the installation of solar arrays. The legislation revamps state rules governing net metering, which allows customers who generate electricity from solar systems to send the power they do not use back onto the grid.

Christie also signed S-2599/A-4121 which clarifies biodiesel fuel exemptions under the Motor Fuels Tax Act, paving the way for an economic growth spurt in that expanding industry. The law redefines the biodiesel fuel exemption to "more specifically apply to biobased liquid fuel and biodiesel fuel," and at least 18 exemptions for consumers and suppliers, who can claim tax refunds, including aircraft, certain autobuses, ambulances, farm machinery, fire engines and motor boats. Refunds will be given provided there is proof that tax was paid and no refund was previously issued.

New Jersey Hears Critics of Energy Master Plan

At a public hearing Tuesday on New Jersey's Energy Master Plan, most of those who spoke criticized state policies, saying the state depends too much on fossil fuels to meet energy demands, falls short in promoting renewable energy, and does too little to curb energy use.

The four-year-old plan is the subject of intense debate; how well is the state adapting to it, and how successful are efforts to make the power grid more resilient in the wake of extreme storms. [\(MORE\)](#)

Chesapeake Energy Scaling Back in OH

Until the Ohio Pipeline Energy Network is online, Chesapeake Energy Corp says it will be cutting back production on a daily basis.

Starting last month, Chesapeake cut production in the Utica Shale region by 100 million cubic feet per day. The number is now increasing to 275 million cubic feet per day and will continue at that rate until about November, when the pipeline infrastructure is set to be in place. Chesapeake cites the downturn in the gas market as the reason for this cut back.

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Federal News

EPA Rolls Out Final Rule, But Delays Target Date

When the EPA issued its final rule on the Clean Power Plan last week, it also extended the deadline for which states must be in compliance and increased the amount of greenhouse gas reductions.

States now have until 2022 for power plants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 32 percent over the 2005 level. The original plan called for a reduction of 30 percent by 2020. [\(MORE\)](#)

Secretary Moniz Issues Statement on Clean Power Plan

Shortly after the EPA released the final rule on greenhouse gas emissions, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz released the following statement in support of the Administration's vision. [\(MORE\)](#)

House Introduces Three Energy Related Bills before Summer Recess

During the last week in July, House members introduced two bills focused on bioenergy technology and a third bill aimed at limiting the EPA's ability to set cellulosic mandates.

Rep. Sensenbrenner (R-Wis) introduced H.B. 3228, which would require the EPA to set the limit on cellulosic biofuels to the level of volume known for the most recent calendar year in which data is available. This standard would stay in place until such time as the National Academy of Sciences could conduct a comprehensive study.

Currently, H.B. 3228 has no co-sponsors. ([MORE](#))

DOE Reports Highlight the Growth of U.S. Wind Energy

On the heels of the final rulemaking on greenhouse gas emissions, the Department of Energy released two reports highlighting the increase in the nation's wind energy industry.

The 2014 Wind Technologies Market Report indicates that the U.S. remains a leader in the installation of wind power. In 2014, 4,854 megawatts (MW) of new capacity added, equating to \$8.3 billion in new investments. The report also highlights that the U.S. is the world's third leading producer of newly installed capacity and is just behind China in total installed capacity. A full copy of the report can be found on the [EERE's web site](#).

The DOE partnered with its Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to research and create the 2014 Wind Distribution Market Report. This report shows that turbines which are part of distribution installations generated enough power last year to supply more than 168,000 average American homes. A full copy of this report can also be found on [EERE's web site](#).