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August 27, 2015

#### NEWS CLIPS

[White House Fact Sheet - Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency](#)

[The Cheapest Oil Ever Still Won't Slow Down Clean Energy Revolution](#)

[PUC Finalizes Recommendations for Supplier Information On Natural Gas Bills](#)

[Protesters from Pa. NJ March Against PennEast Pipeline](#)

[DC regulators reject proposed merger of Exelon, Pepco](#)

[REAP Tax Credit Program Applications Open](#)

[Shale Gas Production Expected to Decline](#)

[Aging NY Coal-Powered Plant Closing: Another in Jeopardy](#)

#### EVENTS

**September 16-17, 2015**  
**Shale Insight 2015**  
PA Convention Center  
Philadelphia, PA  
[Register here](#)

**October 1, 2014**  
**MidStreamPA**  
Penn Stater  
State College, PA

### **False Start, Override Votes Fail, Back to Square One?**

Late last week, and for a day or so this week, it appeared that the ice blocking a budget solution might melt a bit. Governor Wolf and legislative leaders had discussed a pension reform proposal from Wolf along with Republican promises of increased education funding. GOP legislators had hoped Wolf would agree to the ideas, to kick start further budget talks, but on Tuesday, Wolf said he needed more time to sort out questions about potential savings tied to the pension overhaul and wanted additional items put on the negotiating agenda.

Republicans had offered a non-negotiable proposal to spend \$400 million in new funding for basic education, a \$300 million increase from their vetoed budget, in return for Wolf agreeing to the Senate's revised SB 1 pension reform bill. Senate spokesman Drew Crompton said, "There's no ambiguity here. \$400 million for basic ed and he signs the modified Senate Bill 1. That's it." ([MORE](#))

### Regional News

### Federal News

### **More State News**

#### **House Now Back to 203 Members**

The state House of Representative is back to a full complement of 203 members - 119 Republicans and 84 Democrats - with the swearing in of five representatives on Tuesday. Taking their oaths of office were Republican Greg Rothman of Cumberland County, and Democrats Leanne Krueger Braneky of Delaware County, Ed Neilson, Joanna McClinton and Donna Bullock, all from Philadelphia.

#### **PUC Responds to Oil Train Report:**

In response to the release of a [final report and assessment](#) of Crude by Rail safety in Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) underscored its commitment to rail safety efforts and vowed ongoing cooperation with the Wolf Administration and General Assembly in addressing the recommendations outlined in the report.

[Register here](#)

**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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"The PUC is part of a multi-layered system that works to ensure the safe transportation of goods and passengers by rail across our state," said Chairman Gladys M. Brown. "The inspection and engineering work performed by members of the PUC's Rail Safety Section are part of the daily behind-the-scenes efforts to prevent incidents and reduce risks in Pennsylvania - work that also includes the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the railroads, and numerous other agencies." ([MORE](#))

**DEP Proposes State Implementation Plan for Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards**

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is seeking public comment on the [Proposed State implementation Plan Revision \(SIP\)](#), which contains the comprehensive 2011 Base Year Emissions Inventory for the Pennsylvania nonattainment areas for the 2008 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

DEP will provide the opportunity for public hearings to receive comments on the proposal on Monday, September 21, 2015, at 1 p.m. at the following locations:

- Department of Environmental Protection Southeast Regional Office, Delaware River Room, 2 East Main Street, Norristown
- Department of Environmental Protection Southwest Regional Office, Waterfront A, 400 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh
- Department of Environmental Protection Southcentral Regional Office, Codorus Creek Room, 909 Elmerton Avenue Harrisburg.

Details on the proposal are available at <http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol45/45-34/1547.html>

**DEP to Host Public Hearing on Air Quality Plan for Proposed Power Plant in Lackawanna County**

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will host a public hearing about a proposed natural gas power plant in the Borough of Jessup, Lackawanna County. The meeting will take place from 6-9 P.M. on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at Valley View High School, 1 Columbus Drive, Archbald, PA 18403.

The purpose of the hearing will be to take testimony regarding an application by Lackawanna Energy Center, LLC of Chicago, for an air quality plan approval to construct and operate a 1500-megawatt natural gas fired power plant. ([MORE](#))

**Pipeline Trask Force Meets Again**

The DEP Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force held its second meeting on August 26 in the DEP South central Regional Office in Harrisburg.

The meeting included presentations by DCNR's Bureau of State Forestry on the management of pipeline infrastructure and the Commonwealth's natural resources, how counties are planning for pipeline infrastructure and the permitting process County Conservation Districts use for new pipelines.

Additional meetings this year will be held on September 23, October 28, and November 18.

## **Regional News**

### **Judge Approves NJ Exxon Settlement**

New Jersey's \$225 million settlement with ExxonMobil over dozens of polluted sites is a reasonable compromise considering the substantial legal risks the state faced, a judge ruled Tuesday in approving a deal that Gov. Chris Christie's administration called historic and opponents called a sell-out. The state originally sought \$8.9 billion. Environmental groups said they plan to appeal, although they will need an appeals court to permit their intervention in the case first.

The settlement ending an 11-year legal battle that spanned both Democratic and Republican governors is "fair, reasonable, in the public interest, and consistent with the goals of the Spill Compensation and Control Act," Superior Court Judge Michael Hogan wrote. He noted that the settlement is on top of Exxon's responsibility to clean up the sites, which include two oil refineries in Bayonne and Linden and retail gas stations across New Jersey. ([MORE](#))

### **Delaware Refinery Fire May Impact Gas Prices**

A key gasoline-making unit at PBF Energy Inc.'s 182,200-barrel-per-day Delaware City, Delaware, refinery is expected to be shut down for at least a month - and possibly much longer - after an explosion and fire last Friday.

The unexpected shutdown of the 65,000-barrel-per-day fluid catalytic cracker comes as U.S. refiners run at high rates to soak up the remaining profits of a summer marked by higher-than-expected demand. It's also the latest in a string of incidents that have caused gas prices to spike, even as U.S. oil prices have plummeted.

([MORE](#))

### **'Stop trying to scare Ohioans,' PUCO chief tells power companies**

Ohio power company executives have been questioning the state's deregulated energy model, expressing concerns over whether they can keep the lights on. But the new chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio says the industry will be fine - if only those in the energy business would stop alarming the public.

Andre Porter, chosen in April by Gov. John Kasich to lead the influential state agency, agreed with comments made by Ohio's electric utility executives from Akron-based FirstEnergy Corp. and Columbus' American Electric Power Company Inc. that it's important to ensure power reliability. ([MORE](#))

### **Ohio Utica Shale permits nearing 2,000**

Ohio is very close to two new milestones for Utica Shale.

The state has issued 1,997 Utica Shale permits, as of Aug. 22, reports the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. That's just short of 2,000 permits since the shale drilling boom got started in late 2010.

Ohio has 1,586 Utica wells that have been drilled and 998 Utica wells that are producing. The producing wells are just shy of hitting 1,000.

The counties with the most permits are Carroll, 495; Harrison, 369; and Belmont, 244. Twelve new permits were approved last week: four in Belmont County,

four in Harrison County, one in Jefferson County and three in Noble County.

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### **Federal News**

#### **Obama: "American Energy Revolution" Underway**

On Monday, President Obama said there's "an American energy revolution" underway, expanded his push for greater renewable energy adoption, and announced fresh financial incentives for development and use of solar power. Speaking at the National Clean Energy Summit in Las Vegas, Obama said fossil fuel proponents who say renewable energy is too expensive are being proven wrong as solar and wind become cheaper. "For decades, we've been told that it doesn't make sense to switch to renewable energy," he said. "Today, that's no longer true." [\(MORE\)](#)

#### **EPA Announces Methane Emission Standards**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Tuesday announced 591 pages of newly proposed standards for reducing emissions of methane and volatile organic compounds from the oil and natural gas industry. Links to specifics are at <http://www.epa.gov/airquality/oilandgas/actions.html>

#### **Will Congress Repeal The Crude Oil Export Ban?**

Congress imposed a ban on US crude oil during the oil shocks of the 1970s in a move to get some control of gasoline prices. But U.S. crude oil production increased 74 percent from 2008 through 2014, leading to a glut domestically, where crude oil is selling at a discount relative to world prices. [\(MORE\)](#)