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September 11, 2015

#### NEWS CLIPS

[PA's Coal Companies,  
Enhancing the  
Commonwealth's Lands](#)

[Energy Department  
Releases Second  
Quadrennial Technology  
Review](#)

[State Regulators Approach  
for Meeting EPA's  
Emissions Plan "a blank  
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[Obama in Alaska: Climate  
Change, but Incomplete  
Energy Approach \(The  
Hill\)](#)

[Put Energy Policy to Work  
for America \(The Hill\)](#)

[Too Much Manure, Too  
Little Oversight \(Op.ed\)](#)

[US Steel and Range  
Resources Test New Pipe  
Connector in Marcellus  
Well](#)

[DOJ Announces  
Indictments in Philly Area  
"Green Energy" Ponzi  
Scheme](#)

#### EVENTS

September 15, 2015

PA DEP Listening Session  
on Clean Energy Plan  
DEP S. Central Office  
Harrisburg, PA

### Stopgap Budget Next Step?

Now in the third month of a budget stalemate between the General Assembly and Governor Tom Wolf, the State Senate announced plans to come back for voting session September 16, 17 and 18. The House is scheduled to come back for session the week of Sept. 21.

Senate Republicans have told ERG that the plan to start a process to move a stopgap budget while negotiations continue in fits and starts. A stopgap budget could provide funds for counties, school districts and various human services. The proposal was offered to the Governor earlier this week. ([MORE](#))

### Regional News

### Federal News

### More State News

#### DEP to Hold Listening Sessions on Clean Power Plan

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is announcing more than a dozen listening sessions and a 2-month comment period on the federal Clean Power Plan to hear from Pennsylvanians about the plan to cut carbon pollution. Fourteen listening sessions in locations across the state will take place between September and November.

"We want to hear from the people of Pennsylvania and all stakeholders as we prepare a Pennsylvania-centric plan to comply with the Clean Power Plan," said DEP Secretary John Quigley. "Governor Wolf is committed to making the Clean Power Plan work for Pennsylvania and these listening sessions will help meet that goal. We strongly believe we can reduce carbon emissions statewide and address climate change in fair and smart ways that take into account legitimate concerns of all parties." ([MORE](#))

#### Marcellus Shale Revenue Predicted to Decline

The state's Independent Fiscal Office recently released a report that shows a considerable decline in total revenue collected from the impact fee Marcellus Shale drillers pay annually.

**September 16-17, 2015**

**Shale Insight 2015**

PA Convention Center  
Philadelphia, PA  
[Register here](#)

**September 21, 2015**

**PA DEP Listening Session  
on Clean Energy Plan**

Carnegie Mellon University  
Pittsburg, PA

**September 22, 2015**

**PA DEP Listening Session  
on Clean Energy Plan**

University of Pittsburgh  
Johnstown, PA

**September 22, 2015**

**PA DEP Listening Session  
on Clean Energy Plan**

Waynesburg Central High  
School  
Waynesburg, PA

**September 23, 2015**

**PA DEP Pipeline Task  
Force Meeting**

Harrisburg, PA

**September 28, 2015**

**PA DEP Listening Session  
on Clean Energy Plan**

Wilkes University  
Wilkes-Barre, PA

**September 29, 2015**

**EPA Hearing on Impacts  
of Clean Air Rulemaking**

Pittsburg, PA

**September 29, 2015**

**PIOGA Annual  
Membership Meeting**

Greensburg Ramada  
Greensburg, PA

**September 30, 2015**

**PA DEP Listening Session  
on Clean Energy Plan**

University of Penna.  
Philadelphia, PA

**September 30, 2015**

**PA DEP Listening Session  
on Clean Energy Plan**

Marcus Hook Community  
Center  
Marcus Hook, PA

In 2014, total revenue generated was \$223.4 million. The Independent Fiscal Office projects 2015's revenue to be between \$15 million and \$34 million less than 2014's total. This decline in revenue is attributed to the lower prices on natural gas and the subsequent drilling of fewer wells. [\(MORE\)](#)

**Bill Introduced to Prevent Limits on Alternative Energy Reimbursements**

The House Consumer Affairs Committee heard from advocates of a bill that would prevent the PUC from implementing caps on reimbursement to farmers, businesses and homeowners who generate electricity from alternative sources during a hearing last week.

The PUC is currently drafting a proposal that would set stricter limits on the size of energy generating systems that qualify for net metering, a practice in which a customer who generates more power by the use of renewable sources than they consume, are paid for their excess energy by a utility company. [\(MORE\)](#)

**PUC Approves New Assessments for Energy Suppliers.**

As part of a last minute addition to Act 155, passed last October, that reauthorizes a 2004 consumer protection law; the PUC will now begin charging suppliers of electricity and natural gas as part of their annual assessments.

The PUC originally proposed an assessment formula that distinguished between direct and indirect costs. Direct costs would be based on the amount of PUC staff time spent on supplier related issues. The proposal for indirect costs was rates based on percentage of the suppliers' instate revenue. [\(MORE\)](#)

**DEP Releases White Paper on Reduction of Carbon Emissions**

In a one-page fact sheet, DEP has summed up how the Commonwealth has experienced a decrease in green house gas emissions in the past few years. Through a combination of "regulatory requirements and holistic decision making efforts" notable reductions include:

- Sulfur oxide emissions have gone down 70 percent since 2008.
- Mercury, a hazardous air pollutant, emissions have gone down 37 percent since 2008.
- Carbon monoxide emissions have gone down 16 percent since 2008.

The full fact sheet can be viewed [online](#).

**Regional News**

**NJ Makes Move to Block Clean Energy Plan**

A month after Chris Christie announced he opposes President Obama's new Clean Energy Plan his top environmental regulator has officially given the EPA New Jersey's stance on this plan.

Bob Martin wrote a letter to EPA Administrator, Gina McCarthy in which he says the regulation "punishes states, including New Jersey, that have already achieved significant reductions in carbon emissions, by setting even stricter goals for them, even though many other states have made much less progress in reducing emissions and are given less stringent emission targets than New Jersey," [\(MORE\)](#)

October 1, 2014

**MidStreamPA**

Penn Stater  
State College, PA  
[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  
[More information](#)

October 27-28

**PIOGA Eastern Oil & Gas  
Conference**

Monroeville Convention  
Center  
Monroeville, PA

October 28, 2015

**PA DEP Pipeline  
Taskforce Meeting**

Harrisburg, PA

October 28-29, 2015

**2015 Penn State Natural  
Gas Utilization  
Conference**

Canonsburg, PA

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**Environmentalists, Farmers, Businesses: Reinstate Ohio's Renewable Goals**

A coalition of environmental, farm, manufacturers, business and public health groups are calling on the Ohio legislature to reinstate the state's renewable energy and energy efficiency mandates controversially put on hold last year.

Ohio's Energy Future, which is comprised of some three dozen groups, including the Ohio Environmental Council, the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, the Ohio Manufacturers Association, the Ohio Hospital Association, the Small Business Majority, as well as academics from various state colleges and universities, submitted a report to the legislative committee charged with studying the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) mandates and recommending on their future. [\(MORE\)](#)

**Delaware Sees Employment Increase Due to Solar Energy**

Environment America, a Washington D.C. based company, recently released a ranking of total solar power capacity per person for each state.

A press conference was held recently to tout Delaware's ranking as number 11 in the Nation. The biggest outcome, said speakers, is the increase in employment. [\(MORE\)](#)

**Coalition Calls for Transparency in New York's Green Energy Plan**

A coalition of New York business organizations, labor unions, independent energy experts, and community and environmental leaders is concerned about the cost of implementing these ambitious programs and has called for transparency and disclosure. They said New Yorkers are already struggling with highly taxed electric bills and they're worried that the state is moving too quickly, which could result in higher costs that are going to affect consumers' bills.

The state's "Reforming Energy Vision," aims to transform the way electricity is distributed and used in New York to maximize efficiency and reduce carbon dioxide emissions. [\(MORE\)](#)

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**Federal News**

**Federal Court Denies Appeal of EPA Climate Rule**

A federal appeals court declined requests Wednesday to block the Obama administration's landmark climate rule for power plants.

In a short, two-paragraph order filed just after 5 p.m., the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled that West Virginia, more than a dozen other states and a coal-mining company do not qualify for a judicial stay that would stop the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from implementing the regulation until the litigation is complete. [\(MORE\)](#)

**US House Committee holds hearing on EPA carbon rule for power plants**

The U. S. House Science Committee is holding a hearing today on EPA's carbon rule for power plants released last month. The hearing is focused on state perspectives on the rule, in particular power plant shutdowns.

Bryan Shaw, chairman of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and Craig Butler, director of the Ohio EPA are the GOP witnesses at the hearing. TCEQ has publicly criticized the proposed rule, and Texas has announced plans to sue once the final rule is published next month. ([MORE](#))

### **Energy Subcommittee Votes to Advance Bill to Lift Crude Export Ban**

The Subcommittee on Energy and Power, chaired by Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-KY), voted to move forward Rep. Joe Barton's legislation [H.R. 702](#), that will lift the nearly 40-year-old ban on crude oil exports by a voice vote.

Three Pennsylvanians are cosponsors of the legislation: Congressmen Mike Kelly, Tim Murphy and Joe Pitts. ([MORE](#))

### **USDA Announces State Finalists for the Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership**

US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack this week announced that 21 states will receive grants through the Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership (BIP) to add infrastructure needed to supply more renewable fuel to America's drivers.

Pennsylvania is among those states, with an estimated 308 eligible pumps. Other states in the region with finalists include Ohio (148), Pennsylvania (308), Virginia-Maryland (191), and West Virginia (107). Funding amounts for each state will be announced at a later date. For more information about BIP, visit [theEnergyProgramswebsite](#). ([MORE](#))