



Summer Report

Lost Vegas, Creative Commons

PennEnvironment to sue polluter of Allegheny

50-year-old waste site leaks pollution into river

After PennEnvironment and Sierra Club sent a letter announcing our intent to sue PPG Industries for pollution entering the Allegheny River, the groups filed their suit in U.S. District Court on March 20. The organizations' suit alleges ongoing violations of the Federal Clean Water Act and the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law at the company's Ford City waste site. The site, located 50 miles northeast of Pittsburgh in Armstrong County, has been leaking pollutants into the Allegheny River for decades.

"Our environmental laws are meaningless if polluters can violate them with impunity. When persistent violations are not addressed by the government, our federal environmental laws allow private citizens to enforce the law and protect the environment," stated Erika Staaf, clean water advocate for PennEnvironment.

Lead and arsenic seep into the Allegheny

PPG's Ford City waste site covers nearly 150 acres, including 77 acres of waste slurry lagoons. From approximately 1950 to 1970, PPG pumped waste from its glass manufacturing plant located across the river through a pipe to the slurry lagoons. Today, the lagoons sit like a terrace above the Allegheny River. PPG's waste from the Ford City site contains high levels of metals, including arsenic, lead, antimony, iron, aluminum, and chromium—and it's highly corrosive. The waste has been leaking through the rock face, creating numerous seeps along the southern portion of the site, which then run into the Allegheny River.



SHENITT Shutterstock

▲ PennEnvironment is working to rein in illegal pollution entering the Allegheny River.

"PPG has had five decades to properly remediate this site, stop its illegal pollution, and protect the Allegheny River. The time for action to clean up this site is now," added Staaf.

10 million pounds of toxic waste dumped into Pa. waters in 2010

The PPG case offers the latest proof that Pennsylvania's streams and rivers face too much toxic industrial pollu-

tion, according to a report released by PennEnvironment on March 22.

The report, "Wasting our Waterways," found that industries released more than 10 million pounds of toxic waste into Pennsylvania's waters in 2010, ranking it seventh in the nation for the amount of toxic pollution discharged into our rivers that year. And the worst part—this toxic pollution is legal under the law.



Staff

In the news

◀ "PPG has had five decades to properly remediate this site, stop its illegal pollution and protect the Allegheny River. The time for action to clean up this site is now."

-Erika Staaf, PennEnvironment clean water advocate



To our members

There's nothing I like to do more during the summer than spend time in Pennsylvania's great outdoors with my family and friends, whether we're hiking along the Wissahickon or going for a jog in Fairmount Park.

Unfortunately, it looks like much of my time this summer will be spent stopping Gov. Tom Corbett's plan to gut one of the state's most important conservation programs, which protects the places that mean so much to my family and yours.

The program is known as the Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund, and for almost twenty years it's helped to protect our waterways, fund our state parks and preserve our threatened open spaces. I was shocked to hear that Gov. Corbett would want to eliminate this great program.

I hope you'll join PennEnvironment's effort to save the places we love by saving the Keystone Fund.

David Masur
Director



Photo: USGS

How do you want to be remembered?

You can be remembered as someone who cared enough to keep up the fight for a cleaner, greener, healthier future by making a bequest to PennEnvironment or the PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center.

For information, call: 1-800-841-7299, or email PlannedGiving@PennEnvironment.org.

Recent action

Hundreds testify at clean cars hearing in Philly

More than 100 Pennsylvanians attended a hearing in Philadelphia this winter to support a proposed clean cars standard endorsed by the PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center.

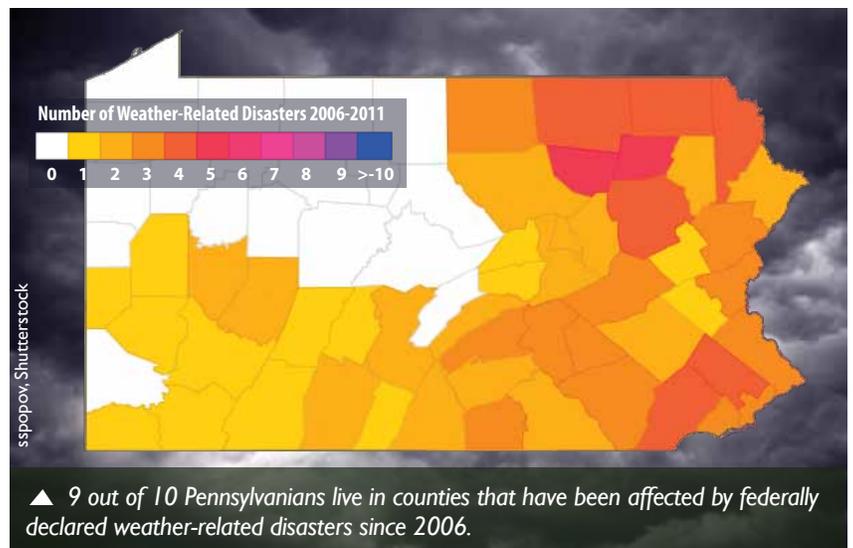
The standard, which President Obama proposed in 2011, will raise national fuel-efficiency standards to 54.5 mpg by 2025. This will reduce dangerous smog pollution and cut global warming emissions by the equivalent of closing down 70 coal-fired power plants. It will also save Pennsylvanians more than \$990 million a year at the pump starting in 2025.

The PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center helped pack the hearing with more than 50 PennEnvironment members, local high school students, state legislators such as Rep. Tony Payton (179th Legislative District), and public health experts like Dr. Walter Tsou, president of Philadelphia's chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility. Dr. Tsou called the standard a "real game-changer" for reducing smog pollution, which causes asthma attacks and other health problems.

9 out of 10 impacted by weather-related disasters

After a year that saw many parts of Pennsylvania hit by severe storms and record flooding, a new PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center report documents how global warming could make certain extreme weather events even more common or severe in the future.

The report found that nearly 9 out of 10 Pennsylvanians live in counties that have been affected by federally declared weather-related disasters since 2006. This includes 2011's Tropical Storm Lee, which forced the evacuation of more than 100,000 Pennsylvanians and caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damage along the Susquehanna River. PennEnvironment staff released the report at events in Scranton, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh City Councilman Bill Peduto argued that "the cost of shifting to low-carbon technologies is tiny compared to the cost of dealing with an increase in floods, hurricanes and other natural disasters."



Gov. Corbett proposes largest raid of conservation funds in Pa. history

Fred Schroeder, Creative Commons

With summer upon us, many Pennsylvanians are taking advantage of the incredible outdoor opportunities Pennsylvania offers, like hiking in Ohiopyle State Park or tubing down the Delaware River.

Unfortunately, the Corbett administration recently announced its intention to eliminate one of the state's most important programs for the preservation of Pennsylvania's environment: the Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund.

Our state parks rely on the Keystone Fund...

While most Pennsylvanians don't know it by name, in all likelihood we've all enjoyed one of the great places the Keystone Fund has preserved. From the banks of Neshaminy Creek to the Great Allegheny Passage to the Schuylkill River Trail, the Keystone Fund has protected many of the places that define what we love about Pennsylvania.

All told, this critical program has helped to preserve more than 145,000 acres of threatened open spaces and supported numerous projects to improve and enhance Pennsylvania's state parks.

Despite the program's successes, Gov. Tom Corbett is aggressively pushing to halt funding to this program—and dissolve it entirely in the upcoming year.

... We rely on our state parks

The Keystone Fund is a critical tool for protecting our natural heritage. But that's not the only reason it's valuable. The fund is also a critical driver of many of the state's local economies.

Our state parks are destinations that millions of outdoor enthusiasts from Pennsylvania—and around the globe—visit to hike, camp, fish, hunt and just get away for a little peace and quiet. And their trips support local businesses

near the park, from campgrounds to bike rental shops to restaurants.

For example, a recent study showed that visitors to Pennsylvania's state park system spend nearly \$860 million during their trips, including \$200 million spent by out-of-state residents.

These visits injected more than \$1.1 billion in sales, nearly \$400 million in salaries and over 12,500 jobs into these local Pennsylvania communities.

PennEnvironment has launched an urgent campaign to stop this attack on one of our most important environmental programs. Our staff are going door to door in communities across the state, talking to tens of thousands of concerned Pennsylvanians about the governor's rollback.

We're also mobilizing our members to contact their elected officials to get them to stand up to this rollback and lobbying the General Assembly to stop the governor's short-sighted effort before it's too late.



Taking it to the street

We are talking with tens of thousands of concerned Pennsylvanians about the governor's effort to cut conservation funding.



New report documents 3,355 drilling violations

Marcellus Shale gas drilling companies have violated Pennsylvania's environmental laws thousands of times in the past four years, according to "Risky Business," a report from the PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center—laws that aim to protect the commonwealth's rivers, streams and forests, and the public's health.

In the worst scenarios, such as a 2011 Chesapeake Appalachia liquid storage tank explosion in Washington County or a 2011 Chesapeake Energy well blowout in Bradford County (pictured above), these violations threaten the surrounding environment and put human health and safety at risk.

Using records obtained by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, our staff identified 3,355 violations of environmental laws by 64 different Marcellus Shale gas drilling companies between Jan. 1, 2008 and Dec. 31, 2011. Of these, we identified 2,392 violations that likely posed a direct threat to our environment and were not reported as paperwork violations.

Our analysis demonstrated that Marcellus Shale gas drilling companies are either unable or unwilling to comply with basic environmental laws that exist to protect the health and environment of Pennsylvanians. We're calling for state leaders to halt additional drilling until gas operators can prove the practice is safe for the environment and public health.



For more information about the violations committed by Marcellus Shale gas drillers, read the full report: www.PennEnvironment.org/reports.

1420 Walnut St., Ste. 650
Philadelphia, PA 19102
(215) 732-5897

PennEnvironment

Address service requested

NON-PROFIT
ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BROCKTON, MA
PERMIT NO. 430

Summer Report

VOLUME 10 | NO. 1 | 2012



Kyle Gradinger, Flickr

PennEnvironment

Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind PennEnvironment. We focus exclusively on protecting Pennsylvania's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

Educating constituents about drilling vote

The Legislature passed a destructive Marcellus Shale drilling bill in February that strips Pennsylvania communities of their ability to control where drilling happens within town limits. Towns will be required to allow some drilling operations within 300 feet of schools, homes or other buildings.

In response, PennEnvironment and our allies released a Marcellus Shale scorecard in districts across the state, holding legislators accountable to their constituents for voting the wrong way and applauding legislators who voted to protect our health and environment.

"It should have raised red flags for the Pennsylvania legislature when they voted for a bill supported by the industry that had a financially vested interest in the outcome, yet was opposed by environmental, public health and sportsmen's groups, and local government officials from both parties and every corner of the Commonwealth," stated Adam Garber, PennEnvironment field director.

Your County Scorecard

PA STATE SENATE	Scorecard	A2695	A2679	A2421	A2802	A2379	HB1950 Final	HB1950 Conference
Sen. Mike Folmer (88)	25%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sen. John Goshner (27)	0%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sen. Jeffrey Piccola (15)	0%	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

◀ Did your legislators stand up for public health and the environment, or were they swayed by industry pressure?

Visit our website to find out:
[www.PennEnvironment.org/
MarcellusScorecard](http://www.PennEnvironment.org/MarcellusScorecard)