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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

From Milliron & Goodman Government Relations, LLC.

200 North 3rd Street ♦ Suite 1500 ♦ Harrisburg, PA 17101 ♦ Phone: 717-232-5322 ♦ Erik A. Ross, Senior Associate ♦ www.millirongoodman.com

Harrisburg, PA

Erik@millirongoodman.com

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Wolf Administration Elaborates on Data Driven Reopening Standard

In consultation with public health professionals and in an effort to simplify and to better capture growth, decline, or stability, the Wolf Administration elaborated on the Department of Health metrics and included an **example** <https://twitter.com/GovernorTomWolf/status/1254072767105949698> to aid in calculation.

A target goal for reopening has been set at having fewer than 50 new confirmed cases per 100,000 population reported to the department in the previous 14 days. So, for example, an area with a population of 800,000 people would need to have fewer than 400 new confirmed cases reported in the past 14 days to meet the target. An assessment will determine if the target goal has been met. The administration will work closely with county and local governments to enable the communities to reopen and transition back to work.

The target data goal is not the only metric to be met before reopening a region. Additionally, the commonwealth must ensure there is:

- Enough testing available for individuals with symptoms and target populations such as those at high risk, health care personnel and first responders.

- Robust case investigation and contact tracing infrastructure in place to facilitate early identification of cluster outbreaks and to issue proper isolation and quarantine orders.
- Identification of an area's high-risk settings including correctional institutions, personal care homes, skilled nursing facilities and other congregate care settings, and assurance that facilities have adequate safeguards in place such as staff training, employee screening, visitor procedures and screening and adequate supplies of PPE to support continued operations.

The commonwealth also will rely on a modeling dashboard under development and evaluation by Carnegie Mellon University to take a regional and sector-based approach to reopenings, the easing of restrictions and public health response.

A public health crisis necessitates that the administration make the best decision with the information that we have at that point in time, and we will continue to refine our approach. If indicators and criteria point to a spike in cases, the commonwealth, in coordination with local officials, will need to adjust orders and restrictions to ensure the spread of disease remains at a minimum.

The **full plan** is available here: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/process-to-reopen-pennsylvania/>.

Source: Governor Wolf's Press Office, 4/25/2020

Wolf Administration Issues Guidance as Construction Industry Prepares to Resume Work May 1

As the construction industry prepares to resume work, the Wolf Administration today issued **guidance** <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/20200423-Construction-Industry-Guidance.pdf> for all construction businesses and employees to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

All businesses in the construction industry in the commonwealth are permitted to resume in-person operations starting Friday, May 1 - one week earlier than previously announced.

Previously, Governor Tom Wolf and Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine ordered most construction projects to cease unless they were supporting life-sustaining businesses or activities or were granted an exemption to perform or support life-sustaining activities.

"My administration has taken measured, aggressive steps to protect public health and safety, including strictly limiting the types of businesses and projects that may continue to operate during this unprecedented time," Wolf said. "Thankfully, these actions are working, and we are flattening the curve. As we start to take steps to reopen the state, we recognize that the construction industry is vital to Pennsylvania's economy and may operate safely with stringent guidance in place that will protect employees and the public."

The guidance, developed from guidance created by the General Contractors Association of Pennsylvania, provides universal protocols for all construction activity, as well as specific additional guidance for residential, commercial and public construction projects.

All business and employees in the construction industry must adhere to the **Secretary of Health's**

order <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/20200415-SOH-worker-safety-order.pdf> providing for business safety measures, which requires that every person present at a work site wear masks/face coverings unless they are unable for medical or safety reasons and requires that businesses establish protocols upon discovery that the business has been exposed to a person who is a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19.

All construction projects must maintain proper social distancing and provide hand washing and sanitizing stations for workers, as well as cleaning and sanitizing protocols for high risk transmission areas. Businesses must identify a "pandemic safety officer" for each project or work site, or, for large scale construction projects, for each contractor at the site.

Residential construction projects may not permit more than four individuals on the job site at any time, not including individuals who require temporary access to the site and are not directly engaged in the construction activity.

For non-residential or commercial projects, the number of individuals permitted on enclosed portions of a project varies depending on the size of the enclosed site. Commercial construction firms should also strongly consider establishing a written safety plan for each work location containing site specific details for the implementation of this guidance to be shared with all employees and implemented and enforced by the pandemic safety officer.

Contractors performing work at the direction of the commonwealth, municipalities or school districts should defer to those public entities to determine what projects may continue.

Local governments may elect to impose more stringent requirements than those contained in the guidance and in such instances, businesses must adhere to those more stringent requirements.

Local officials have been tasked with ensuring that construction businesses are aware that this guidance exists and notifying businesses that a complaint of noncompliance was received.

Businesses that have questions about whether this guidance applies to them may email the Department of Labor and Industry at <mailto:RA-LIBOIS-BUILDINGS@pa.gov>.

Source: Governor Wolf's Press Office, 4/23/2020

Opening Construction Projects Next Week is Good News; Turzai says the governor responded to House call to action

Speaker of the House Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny) released the following statement regarding Gov. Tom Wolf's announcement to allow public and private construction projects to proceed throughout the Commonwealth:

"The more than 260,000 hard-working men and women in Pennsylvania's construction trades got good news tonight as Gov. Wolf announced the opening of all construction projects next week on May 1. This announcement follows House action yesterday, including the bipartisan passage of House Bill 2400, which I authored. This bill would safely open construction projects.

"The successful advancement of House Republican legislation to permit safe economic activity under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines made tonight's announcement by Gov. Wolf possible.

"Gov. Wolf and I had a positive discussion today; he was open to the suggestion that construction activities could be done safely, allowing tradespersons to resume their important work - much of it seasonal. Working with him on this issue showed we can move forward together on fighting COVID-19, while rebuilding the economy.

"The people who work in the construction trades can see light now at the end this COVID-19 tunnel. This is about employees and self-employed persons in construction who want to put food on the table and provide shelter for their families. People across Pennsylvania want the dignity of work, an

opportunity to care for their families, and to be safe."

Source: Speaker Turzai Press Release, 4/22/2020

Scarnati, Corman Respond to Governor Wolf's Latest Announcement to Reopen PA

Responding to Governor Wolf's announcement of a plan to begin re-opening Pennsylvania next month, Senate leaders offered the following statements:

Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati (R-25):

"We applaud that the Governor has recognized actions taken by the Legislature over the last several weeks and that he has begun to acknowledge that a one-size-fits-all approach does not work for recovering from this public health emergency. Last week, the Senate approved my amendment and passed Senate Bill 327, which would have allowed for local elected officials to be involved in the re-opening of Pennsylvania. Local control must be a part of our plans moving forward.

"Every area of our Commonwealth has been impacted differently by COVID-19. Emporium is not Manhattan and Brookville is not Philadelphia. Counties that have seen an extremely minimal number of cases should not be forced to remain in lockdown until next month. An earlier timeframe for rural employers and employees should be put in place, so they have the option to begin safely returning to work now."

Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman (R-34):

"We are encouraged to see that the Governor has come around to our way of thinking when it comes to moving Pennsylvania forward from this public health crisis. His announcement tonight is a page from the legislation the Senate passed last week that provided clarity, consistency and benchmarks to the process.

“We need an approach to reopening Pennsylvania that is driven by the understanding of how differently this virus has affected our communities. We have long called for the Governor to set a reasonable approach to allow employers to safely bring people back to work. This was a step toward achieving that. It is our hope that in the coming days the Governor provides more information to the process he outlined tonight.”

Source: Senate Republican Communications Office, 4/22/2020

Gov. Wolf, Sec. of Health Extend Statewide Stay-at-Home Order until May 8

On April 20, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf and Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine announced that the statewide stay-at-home orders issued on April 1 to protect Pennsylvanians and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 will be extended until Friday, May 8 at 12:01 AM. The initial order was set to expire on April 30.

"It is clear that our early and aggressive efforts to mitigate this spread of this highly contagious and deadly virus are working. While we begin to seek ways to move forward, it's imperative that we continue to take strong precautions to protect Pennsylvanians and ensure that our health care system is not overwhelmed," Wolf said. "I am so proud of this commonwealth and the resilience of my fellow Pennsylvanians, and I urge you to continue to stay calm and stay home so that we can all stay safe."

"We are starting to see a downward trend in the number of positive cases throughout the state, which is definitely encouraging," Dr. Levine said. "We need to proceed carefully to make sure the strides we've made in combating this virus continue to move forward. Extending our statewide order until May 8 will ensure that we don't overwhelm our health system, while helping our economy to recover."

Non-life-sustaining physical business closures remain in effect and all life-sustaining businesses and state services will continue.

Individuals are permitted to leave their residences for tasks essential to maintaining health and safety.

Stay-at-home guidance is available as a PDF here <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/03.23.20-Stay-At-Home-Order-Guidance.pdf>.

Wolf recommended that Pennsylvanians continue to **wear masks** <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-calls-for-universal-masking/> when leaving the house for life-sustaining reasons. Dr. Levine recently signed an **order directing protection for critical workers** <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-health-secretary-signs-order-providing-worker-safety-measures-to-combat-covid-19/> who are employed at businesses that are authorized to maintain in-person operations during the COVID-19 disaster emergency.

At this time, law enforcement will continue to focus on ensuring that residents are aware of the order and informing the public of social distancing practices rather than enforcement.

Read the **governor's amendment** as a PDF here <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/20200420-GOV-Stay-at-Home-Order-Amendment.pdf>.

Read the **Secretary of Health's amendment** as a PDF here <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/20200420-SOH-Stay-at-Home-Order-Amendment.pdf>.

For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19, Pennsylvanians should visit: <https://www.pa.gov/guides/responding-to-covid-19/>.

Source: Governor Wolf's Press Office, 4/20/2020

Gov. Wolf Signs Senate Bill 841 to Provide Flexibility to Local Governments and Businesses

On April 20, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf signed **Senate Bill 841**

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&sInd=0&body=s&type=b&bn=841> that helps local communities and businesses respond to the COVID-19 emergency and protect the public. The bill provides flexibility on property tax deadlines, allows remote public meetings and notarization of documents so online vehicle sales can resume.

"This bipartisan legislation gives local governments and businesses additional options to help property taxpayers and address various needs," said Gov Wolf. "COVID-19 remains a very real threat and each of us needs to continue doing our part to cut back on physical interactions. This new law is a measured and safe way to provide relief as we continue to monitor the spread of the virus."

The bill does the following:

- Reauthorizes the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council and requires it to study the impact of COVID-19 on hospitals and health systems.
- Allows local governments to conduct remote public meetings.
- Provides property tax relief by allowing taxing districts to waive late fees and penalties for property taxes paid by December 31, 2020.
- Allows school districts to renegotiate contracts with service providers to ensure payment of personnel and fixed costs during the school closure.
- Allows remote notarization of documents.

In addition, the governor **vetoed**

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/20200420-SB613-Veto-Memo.pdf> **Senate Bill 613**

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&sInd=0&body=s&type=b&bn=613>.

NOTE: Senate Bill 613 would have required the Governor to develop and implement a plan to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 for businesses in this Commonwealth

Source: Governor Wolf's Press Office, 4/20/2020

Senate Republican Leaders Condemn Wolf's Veto of Bill Designed to bring Clarity, Common Sense to State's Business Closures

Calling Senate Bill 613 a common-sense approach for Pennsylvania, Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati (R-25) and Majority Leader Jake Corman (R-34) condemn the Governor's veto of the bill.

Senate Bill 613

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&sInd=0&body=S&type=B&bn=0613> would have helped more Pennsylvania employers re-open safely. It required the Wolf administration to follow national guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in determining what businesses can be open during the pandemic.

"The Legislature has been actively working to fix the broken system Governor Wolf created, before many of our family-sustaining jobs disappear for good. On a day when hundreds gathered in Harrisburg to protest the Governor's 'because-I-said-so' opaque policymaking, it is very troubling that he vetoed a proposal to create a public mitigation plan that would have allowed employers to operate safely during the current emergency declaration.

"His sweeping generalities and policy positions on issues like raising the minimum wage provide no comfort when people are afraid they won't have a

job to come back to, no matter what the wage. It is disappointing that Governor Wolf rejected this common-sense approach that provided a path forward, while at the same time protected the lives of vulnerable Pennsylvanians without sacrificing the livelihoods of more than a million workers.”

Source: Senate Republican Communications, 4/20/2020

House Leader Responds to Wolf Announcements

House Majority Leader Rep. Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) issued the following statement regarding Governor Tom Wolf's announcement to open certain segments of the economy and his veto of Senate Bill 613:

"House Republicans have carried the voices of millions of frustrated and worried Pennsylvanians throughout this pandemic. Pennsylvanians are rightfully frustrated their jobs are being cut or eliminated, their children's education has been canceled for the remainder of the academic year, their family-owned business are failing and their future is in jeopardy.

"For weeks we have urged Gov. Wolf to take action to allow segments of our economy to resume under publicly available safety policies. We are disappointed he vetoed a plan to allow him to provide a pathway to Pennsylvanians to get back to work safely and responsibly. However, we are encouraged to see him join us in moving towards helping some segments of our economy. Our members will continue to speak up for Pennsylvanians who feel silenced in this pandemic, and we will continue to work tirelessly to help every Pennsylvanian recover and rebuild."

Source: Rep. Cutler Press Release, 4/20/2020

Senators Regan and Killion Host Joint Public Hearing on Wolf Administration's COVID-19 Response

As Chairmen of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee and the Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee, respectively, Senators Mike Regan (R-31) and Tom Killion (R-9) hosted a joint public hearing to address concerns raised about the Wolf Administration's response to COVID-19.

Two groups of panelists participated, beginning with representatives from the business community, who spoke on issues that have impacted industries across the Commonwealth since Governor Wolf ordered the closure of businesses he deemed non-life-sustaining on March 19. The second panel consisted of three members of the Wolf Administration – Secretary of Health and Physician General Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Dennis Davin, and Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Randy Padfield.

The central message of the business community was the need for more transparency, accountability and consistency in the Administration's actions and decisions. They also conveyed that a lack of collaboration and input from business owners led to miscommunication, misunderstanding and ultimately mistakes with the classification of certain businesses as non-life-sustaining and the subsequent waiver process overseen by DCED.

Members of the Wolf Administration echoed the importance of transparency and accountability and said the Governor and agencies are working diligently to provide Pennsylvania with additional information on the handling of the business waiver process. They also explained that they share the concern of the business community over the continuously rising unemployment rate but believe putting people back to work too soon will lead to further damage on many levels.

"Today's hearing was an affirmation of our shared commitment to protect the health and welfare of our fellow Pennsylvanians and safely restart our economy," stated Killion. "I'm grateful to the representatives of Pennsylvania's business

community and the administration officials who offered testimony.”

While much of the focus was on the economy and allowing business owners to reopen, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry President Gene Barr noted the “human cost” of the current closures and unemployment situation. Barr stated that every one-percent increase in unemployment results in a one-percent increase in suicide and a 3.3-percent increase in drug overdose deaths.

“President Barr’s statistics emphasize that this is not just about reopening the economy for the sake of business owners and their livelihood but to get people back to work and reduce the chance of those statistics becoming a reality,” said Regan. Killion added, “COVID-19 is a public health and economic emergency, the scope of which our state has not faced during our lifetime. The decision to reopen the commonwealth affects the lives and long-term economic well-being of our citizens. I am encouraged that such a decision will be made collaboratively and with the highest degree of transparency.”

Today’s hearing was a bi-partisan effort to bring to light issues that Senators have been hearing from their constituents since the Governor’s business closure order.

Regan concluded the hearing stating, “While today’s hearing may not solve all of the problems being faced within the business community immediately, I am pleased that some areas of business are on track to reopen, albeit in a modified way – including construction and auto sales – and I certainly hope we will see the same for the real estate industry, garden centers, and all of the small businesses that have been put on hold but could operate safely utilizing CDC guidelines.”

Source: Senate Republican Communications, 4/23/2020

DEP Announces Projected Climate Change Impacts to

Support Planning for Pennsylvania’s Future

On April 20, 2020, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) released the 2020 Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment Update, projecting future effects of climate change on livestock, infrastructure, and water quality to support planning to reduce risk to communities and the economy across the state.

“DEP joins many others this week in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day with a focus on climate action,” said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. “Effective decision making for Pennsylvania’s future is decision making that accounts for the changes that are likely to happen if we don’t reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meets the need to manage them. The Climate Impacts Assessment presents a detailed picture of these changes in several key areas.”

Governor Tom Wolf has identified climate change as the most critical environmental threat facing the world and in 2019 set a statewide goal to lower greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050.

Produced for DEP by the Penn State University Environment and Natural Resources Institute, the Climate Impacts Assessment uses state and federal data to show Pennsylvania has experienced a nearly 2° F rise in average temperature, an approximately 10 percent increase in average annual rainfall, and increased frequency of extreme precipitation since 1901. It’s projected that every county will continue to get warmer and wetter, with average rainfall and extreme precipitation continuing to increase 8 to 12 percent, particularly in winter and spring, while average temperature rises at least 2.7° F.

Pennsylvania’s poultry inventory could double in size, based on comparison with livestock and climate data from counties across the United States where current temperatures are what’s projected for Pennsylvania in the future. Small increases are likely in beef cattle and hog and pig inventories. Although the dairy cattle inventory is anticipated to remain roughly the same, a shift in the dairy

industry from southeast to northwest counties could occur.

As rainfall increases, the nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) and sediment runoff pollution carried into streams and rivers from agricultural and urban areas will increase. This underscores the need for strategically chosen and located stormwater best management practices (BMPs). Nonstructural BMPs, such as wetlands and open areas, will be less vulnerable than structural ones.

Landscape responses to climate change will vary across the state, making it important to identify critical sediment and nutrient pollution sources and target cost-effective and climate-resilient BMPs there. BMPs that promote resilience in agriculture and keep soil and water in local watersheds will have increasing value.

Localized intense flooding is likely to be the primary stress on Pennsylvania's energy, transportation, and water infrastructures. Large sections of Pennsylvania's infrastructure are in areas that are susceptible to flooding and landslides.

The degree of infrastructure adaptive planning currently varies among utilities and municipalities, and more coordination will be needed for better resilience across the socioeconomic range.

DEP released the latest Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan in 2019 and will draw on this new impacts assessment in developing a 2021 plan.

For more take-aways and the complete Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment Update, as well as earlier impacts reports that look at additional sectors, visit the **climate impacts web page** <https://www.dep.pa.gov/citizens/climate/Pages/impacts.aspx>. For the **Climate Action Plan**, and more materials on climate change in Pennsylvania, visit <https://www.dep.pa.gov/citizens/climate/Pages/default.aspx>.

Source: DEP Press Release, 4/20/2020

DEP Program Helps 20 Pennsylvania Communities Develop Local Climate Action Plans

Twenty municipalities are developing plans to manage the risks of climate change impacts in their communities, using tools and expertise provided by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) new Local Climate Action Assistance Program.

"Many Pennsylvania communities have seen significant damage to their homes, businesses, and infrastructure from extreme flooding in recent years," said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. "We developed an innovative program that enables municipal leaders to proactively address flooding and other climate change impacts, by providing them with personnel and technical training and data to establish local climate action plans."

Governor Tom Wolf has identified climate change as the most critical environmental threat facing the world and in 2019 set a statewide goal to lower greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050.

Municipal leaders entered the Local Climate Action Assistance Program last fall and were teamed up with college students for assistance in developing plan materials. Using funding from the U.S. Department of Energy, DEP enlisted the national nonprofit ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability to provide the teams with training and one-on-one technical assistance.

The municipal/student teams produced greenhouse gas emissions inventories for local governments, calculating current emission levels from sectors such as industrial, residential, commercial, solid waste, and transportation.

They reviewed the strategy recommendations in DEP's 2018 **Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan** <https://www.dep.pa.gov/citizens/climate/Pages/PA-Climate-Action-Plan.aspx> and identified local climate hazards, such as extreme rainfall and heat days. The teams conducted public meetings and

online surveys to engage community members in the climate action planning process.

Putting all this information together, each team is now using a template to draft a local climate action plan to reduce emissions and manage impacts and will share the draft plan with community residents and public officials.

"As we join in celebrating Earth Day with a focus on climate action, we commend the local leaders who are working to protect their communities by adapting to changes already occurring and lessening future risk," said Secretary McDonnell.

The following municipalities participated in the 2019-2020 Local Climate Action Assistance Program:

- Etna, Forest Hills, Millvale, Munhall, Sharpsburg, and West Homestead Boroughs and Elizabeth Township in Allegheny County
- City of Reading in Berks County
- Bellefonte Borough and Centre Region Council of Governments in Centre County
- Caln Township in Chester County
- Chester County
- Carlisle Borough in Cumberland County
- Derry Township in Dauphin County
- Erie County
- Indiana Borough in Indiana County
- Jermyn Borough in Lackawanna County
- Armstrong Township in Lycoming County
- Narberth Borough in Montgomery County
- City of York in York County

Students from Allegheny College, Dickinson College, Drexel University, Lebanon Valley College, Millersville University, Muhlenberg College, Penn State University, Shippensburg University, Susquehanna University, Temple University, University of Pittsburgh, and Wilkes University participated in the program, assisting municipalities through an online internship format.

Pending funding availability, DEP plans to offer the Local Climate Action Assistance Program for another 20 municipalities beginning in July 2020. Local governments who are interested in

participating should contact Heidi Kunka in the Energy Programs Office at hkunka@pa.gov.

The **2020 Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment** <https://www.dep.pa.gov/citizens/climate/Pages/impacts.aspx>, produced for DEP by the Penn State University Environment and Natural Resources Institute, shows the state has experienced a nearly 2° F rise in average temperature, an approximately 10 percent increase in average annual rainfall, and increased frequency of extreme precipitation since 1901.

Based on 2000 data, it's projected that every county will continue to get warmer and wetter by mid-century, with average rainfall continuing to increase 8 to 12 percent, particularly in winter and spring, while average temperature rises 4.9° F.

Source: DEP Press Release, 4/23/2020

Citizens Advisory Council Virtual Meeting

In accordance with Governor Tom Wolf's emergency disaster declaration and based on advice from the Department of Health regarding the mitigation of the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the Citizens Advisory Council (Council) meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at 10 a.m. will be held as a virtual meeting. Individuals who wish to join the meeting may do so remotely. Information will be provided on the Council's webpage. Individuals interested in providing public comments during the meeting must sign up prior to the start of the meeting by contacting Keith Salador at ksalador@pa.gov or (717) 787-8171.

The agenda and meeting materials, as well as information on how to join the meeting, will be available on the Council's webpage, found through the Public Participation tab on the Department of Environmental Protection's (Department) web site at www.dep.pa.gov (select "Public Participation," then "Citizens Advisory Council"). Prior to each meeting, individuals are encouraged to visit the Council's webpage to confirm the meeting date, time and location. Questions concerning the May

19, 2020, meeting can be directed to Keith Salador at ksalador@pa.gov or (717) 787-8171.

Persons in need of accommodations as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 should contact Keith Salador at (717) 787-8171 or through the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service at (800) 654-5984 (TDD users) or (800) 654-5988 (voice users) to discuss how the Department may accommodate their needs.

Source: Pennsylvania Bulletin, 4/25/2020
<http://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabull?file=/secure/pabulletin/data/vol50/50-17/574.html>

PUC's April 30th Public Meeting to be Conducted Telephonically

In response to the ongoing threat to public health posed by the COVID-19 virus, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) announced that its next public meeting - on Thursday, April 30 - will be **conducted telephonically**.

The PUC public meeting will begin at 10 a.m. on April 30, and members of the public, the media and others can begin accessing the telephone conference call starting at 9:45 a.m. that day. Interested parties can listen to the meeting by calling 1-888-917-8050, and then entering passcode 9570961#.

The Commission welcomes the public to join the telephonic meeting, stressing that it will follow the Commission's customary public meeting protocol with only Commissioners and the PUC's Secretary permitted to speak on agenda items. A final agenda for the public meeting will be published on the **Commission's website** http://www.puc.pa.gov/about_puc/public_meeting_calendar.aspx on Wednesday, April 29.

Under the unique circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, conducting public meetings and other routine Commission business telephonically – to help minimize non-essential personal social contact – is consistent with the Governor's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency and the requirements of the Public Utility Code.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission balances the needs of consumers and utilities; ensures safe and reliable utility service at reasonable rates; protects the public interest; educates consumers to make independent and informed utility choices; furthers economic development; and fosters new technologies and competitive markets in an environmentally sound manner.

For recent news releases and video of select Commission proceedings or more information about the PUC, visit our **website** at <http://www.puc.pa.gov/>. Follow the PUC on Twitter – @PA_PUC for all things utility. “Like” Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission on Facebook for easy access to information on utility issues.

Source: PUC Press Release, 4/24/2020

Governor Wolf Announces \$116 Million Investment in Water Infrastructure Projects in 13 Counties

On April 22, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf today announced the investment of \$116 million for 16 drinking water, wastewater, and non-point source projects across 13 counties through the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST).

"Now, more than ever, there is a need for safe, reliable water infrastructure throughout Pennsylvania's communities," said Governor Wolf. "As we continue to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, these projects will help to ensure the safety and well-being of thousands of Pennsylvanians, while also contributing to the economic recovery that is critically vital to the strength of our Commonwealth."

The funding for these projects originates from a combination of state funds approved by voters, Growing Greener, Marcellus Legacy funds, federal grants to PENNVEST from the Environmental

Protection Agency, and recycled loan repayments from previous PENNVEST funding awards. Funds for these projects are disbursed after expenses for work are paid and receipts are submitted to PENNVEST for review.

"As today marks the fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day, these projects are the embodiment of that celebration," said Governor Wolf. "Making investments in clean water and environmental protection efforts keeps our citizens healthy, sustains and creates jobs, and strengthens our economy as a whole. There is no better display of our commitment to our environment and our recognition of Earth Day."

A list of project summaries follows:

Drinking Water Projects

Armstrong County

- **Mahoning Township Municipal Authority*** – received a \$3,038,226 grant and an \$850,336 loan to install improvements to the water delivery system, including 13,000 feet of new water line and a 200,000-gallon elevated composite storage tank. The project will increase water pressure and eliminate frequent leaks while also addressing regulatory violations for disinfection by-product contamination, including high levels of trihalomethane.

Berks County

- **Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority** – received a \$1,700,000 loan to replace approximately 5,740 feet of existing water line, along with associated hydrants, valves, and 120 customer services. The project will ensure the safe distribution of potable water while also reducing significant leaking.

Butler County

- **Evans City Water and Sewer Authority** – received a \$1,960,000 loan to make water distribution system improvements, including 4,420 feet of new piping, hydrants, and service links. The project will drastically reduce unaccounted-for water loss and address a

population that is frequently under Boil Water advisories.

Fulton County

- **McConnellsburg Borough Municipal Authority** – received a \$2,498,915 loan to replace approximately 5,300 feet of water delivery piping. The project will supplant a leaking distribution system and eliminate lead connections.

Philadelphia County

- **City of Philadelphia*** – received a \$73,350,000 loan to rehabilitate the Torresdale pumping station, including 12 new pumps, flow meters, and electrical equipment. The project will eliminate the risk of a water outage and provide reliability to a number of critical facilities, including Jefferson Hospital.

Wastewater Projects

Clarion County

- **Washington Township Municipal Authority**** – received a \$1,599,514 grant and a \$364,486 loan to construct two collection system extensions, including approximately 10,800 total feet of piping and grinder pumps. The project will eliminate the use of frequently malfunctioning onlot systems and eliminate gray water discharge into the McCauley Run, an Exceptional Value (EV) stream.

Columbia County

- **Benton Municipal Water and Sewer Authority**** – received a \$2,200,000 loan to convert to a conventional aeration treatment system, including the replacement of pumps and installation of diffusers and an aeration system. The project is a green project and will provide a 20% energy savings while also reducing the potential pollution to Fishing Creek, a designated cold-water fishery.

Dauphin County

- **Halifax Area Water and Sewer Authority**** – received a \$7,384,000 loan to install a new sequencing batch reactor (SBR) wastewater treatment facility, including influent pumps, a force main, and other mechanical controls. This project will eliminate hydraulic overload during wet weather and support surface waters that lead to the Susquehanna River.

Jefferson County

- **Borough of Punxsutawney**** – received a \$1,969,660 loan to replace terracotta sanitary sewer lines with new sewer lines and stormwater conveyance piping. The project will eliminate discharge of raw sewage into the Mahoning Creek during wet weather events.

Mercer County

- **Shenango Township Municipal Authority** – received a \$481,491 loan and a \$3,676,509 grant to install 9,515 feet of sewage main, pump stations, and an ultraviolet disinfection system. The project will eliminate the use of malfunctioning onlot systems within the service area and halt raw and partially treated sewage discharges into the tributaries of the Shenango River.

Snyder County

- **Eastern Snyder County Regional Authority**** – received a \$12,901,300 loan to make improvements to an existing wastewater treatment plant, including pumps, valves, a water strainer, and a belt filter press. The project will limit exposure to untreated wastewater and protect the Susquehanna River from uncontrolled releases of partially treated sewage.

Stormwater Projects

Crawford and Mercer Counties

- **Jamestown Area School District** – received a \$300,000 loan to replace an existing stormwater conveyance system with nearly 1,000 feet of new piping and open channel stabilization and fencing. The project will replace a system that

has reached the end of its useful life and will alleviate flooding to a school building.

Non-point Source Water Quality Improvement Projects

Lancaster County

- **Chester County Conservation District**** – received a \$612,290 grant to construct two concrete waste structure facilities, a manure transfer system, and erosion controls at an existing dairy farm. The project will reduce nutrient and sediment discharge in the Pequea Creek, an impaired waterway.
- **Chester County Conservation District**** – received a \$321,133 grant to install streambank fencing, a stormwater conveyance system, and stream crossing at an existing swine farm operation. The project will reduce sediment and runoff into a tributary of Indian Run, an impaired waterway.
- **Chester County Conservation District**** – received a \$361,500 grant to construct a manure transfer and storage system, including new stormwater conveyance controls at an existing dairy operation. The project will reduce sediment and nutrient runoff into Indian Run, an impaired stream.
- **Chester County Conservation District**** – received an \$803,522 grant to modify an existing agricultural heavy use area, construct a new manure transfer system, and install a stormwater conveyance system at an existing farm operation. The project will eliminate runoff into a tributary of the Cocalico Creek.

* denotes projects that have Drinking Water State Revolving Funds

** denotes projects that are funded with Clean Water State Revolving Funds

Source: PENNVEST Press Release, 4/22/2020

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