

Conservation Committee Report

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The Conservation Pledge

I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of my country; the soil, the water, the air, the minerals, the plant life and the wildlife.

This is my Pledge!

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Contact Lenses Sold as Halloween Accessories Can Pose a Health Risk

The Pennsylvania departments of Health and State today warned

that decorative or cosmetic contact lenses sold without a prescription can pose a

serious health risk. Such lenses are popular during the Halloween season.

The joint warning notes that federal and state law requires prescriptions for contact

lenses. If contacts are not obtained with a prescription from a properly trained and

licensed health care professional, they can be dangerous.

“Contacts sold without a prescription at flea markets, costume shops, beauty

salons, online and other places can cause serious damage to your eyes from

improper fit,” said Department of Health Secretary Dr. Eli N. Avila. “Every eye has

its own unique shape and curvature, and many of these decorative lenses lack

proper instruction for use.”

Contact lenses that are improperly fitted or used can cause the loss of an eye,

blindness, impaired vision, corneal damage, infection and allergic reactions.

“Decorative or cosmetic lenses are considered medical devices under federal law, and are legally marketed as prescription devices,” said Secretary of the

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NRCS Receives Additional Conservation Funds

Denise Coleman, State Conservationist, today announced that the Pennsylvania USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has received

an additional \$6.3 million dollars to help landowners install conservation practices that improve natural resources on farms, forestland, and wetland

areas throughout Pennsylvania.

“This additional funding will allow us to approve new conservation (continued on page 2)

Contact Lenses Sold as Halloween Accessories Can Pose a Health Risk (continued)

Commonwealth Carol Aichele, whose department licenses both physicians and

optometrists in Pennsylvania. “The Pennsylvania Optometric Practice and Licensure

Act requires a prescription by a licensed physician or optometrist for the fitting of a

contact lens.”

Dr. Avila urged parents to heed this warning, and consult a physician or optometrist

if a child wants to wear a cosmetic or decorative contact lens.

For more information, visit www.health.state.pa.us or call 1-877-PA-HEALTH.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health



NRCS Receives Additional Conservation Funds (continued)

contracts for farmers and landowners who have high-ranking applications,” explained Coleman. “Although most of these funds will be used to award previously submitted applications, NRCS offers continuous sign up on all conservation programs, and we encourage producers and

landowners to submit applications by September 30th to be included in the next ranking period for 2012 funding consideration.”

These additional funds are being made available through several farm bill programs and will al-

low NRCS to help more Pennsylvania farmers and landowners achieve their conservation goals. The allocations are as follows:

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative (CBWI) - \$2.18 million
Wildlife Habit Incentive Program (WHIP) - \$750,000

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) - \$500,000
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) - \$2.9 million

Installing conservation practices such as manure management systems, improved grazing systems, no-till, cover crops, streamside buffers, feed management, and nutrient management

will improve production, decrease expenses, and protect a farm's natural resources. NRCS offers financial assistance to help cover the costs of implementing such practices. Landowners can also receive financial assistance to restore wetlands and for permanent or 30-year conservation easements.

For more information about NRCS programs and conservation opportunities, please contact your local USDA NRCS Service Center, or visit our website at www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov.

Source: Pennsylvania USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

New Technologies that Enhance Environmental Protection

New Technologies that Enhance Environmental Protection, Increase Domestic Production, Result from DOE-Supported Consortium

Cost-Cutting Technologies Developed Through SWC Maximize Oil and Natural Gas Recovery, Enhance Energy Security

New technologies that help small, independent oil and natu-

ral gas operators contribute to domestic energy production while improving environmental protection have resulted from U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) support of the Stripper Well Consortium (SWC).

"Stripper wells" are wells that produce less than 10 barrels of oil or 60,000 standard cubic feet of natural gas per day. According to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, more

than 375,000 U.S. stripper oil wells account for nearly 720,000 barrels of oil per day, or about 20 percent of the U.S. production. More than 322,000 stripper natural gas wells produce over 2 trillion standard cubic feet of natural gas annually, or 19 percent of the total U.S. natural gas production.

By improving the economics of oil and natural gas production from these marginal wells, the

nearly 100 technology-driven projects funded since the SWC was founded in 2000 have helped maximize the recovery of domestic hydrocarbon resources, minimize environmental impacts, and strengthen the nation's energy security. In addition, every dollar of stripper oil and natural gas production generates roughly one dollar of eco-

nomie activity, and nearly 10 jobs are dependent upon every one million dollars of stripper well oil and natural gas produced.

The Consortium is mainly composed of small, domestic oil and natural gas producers, as well as service and supply companies, trade associations, industry consultants, technology entrepre-

neurs, and academia. Its goal is to keep stripper wells productive in an environmentally sustainable way.

Many SWC projects have resulted in commercialized technologies over the years and have been previously highlighted by DOE. Additional technologies, developed over the past couple of years, are now moving toward

commercialization and are expected to positively impact the oil and natural gas industry, including:

- **Clean Tech Innovations LLC** (Bartlesville, Okla.) has developed an environmentally friendly soil amendment to remediate oilfield brine-

contaminated soil. This rapid, simple, economic, and dependable remediation technology uses a proprietary component along with a highly soluble calcium source and fertilizer. The process involves tilling the soil; adding the amendment component, calcium

source, and fertilizer; re-tilling; and watering. Grass grows in treated soil in 2-6 weeks, instead of years. The product can be applied by the customer, is lower cost than currently available technologies, and has been successfully demon-

New Technologies that Enhance Environmental Protection (continued)

strated at multiple sites across the United States.

- **Systems of Merritt Inc.** (Upland, Ind.) has developed an iPhone app called Pumper’s Friend for collecting digital data from oil and natural gas fields. Using a smart-phone, the app allows the pumper/well tender to quickly gather and transmit field data more accurately and to review well performance at the well

site. This capability leads to more efficient operation of the well and increased production.

- **OsComp Systems** (Cambridge, Mass.) has developed a prototype positive displacement, near-isotherm rotary compressor to reduce the cost of natural gas compression at stripper wells. The technology lowers capital costs, is capable of a 42:1 compression

ratio, has both wet gas and multiphase compression capability, has high energy efficiency (which results in reduced fuel gas use), and dramatically reduces the footprint of compression operations. In addition to its use for stripper wells, the compression technology has applications to small-scale liquid natural gas, enhanced oil recovery, mobile compression, sour

aggressive gas, and for the compressed natural gas refueling industry. OsComp Systems will conduct field trials of the compressor in 2012.

The Stripper Well Consortium is managed and administered by The Pennsylvania State University. Base funding and technical guidance to the consortium are

provided by DOE’s National Energy Technology Laboratory and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

Read about additional tools developed with DOE/SWC support that are commercially available:

- Smith Lift Hydraulic Diaphragm Electric Submersible Pumps

- Multi-Drop Downhole Pressure Gauge
- GOAL PetroPump
- VortexTools

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

DEP Now Accepting Environmental Education

Grant Applications

The Department of Environmental Protection is now accepting applications for environmental education grants to be released in 2012.

Schools, colleges, universities, county conservation districts, non-profit organizations, municipalities and businesses are eligible to apply for the grants, which will provide a maximum of \$7,500 per applicant.

“These grants will help bring more information and education

to the public,” DEP Secretary Mike Krancer said. “Stronger environmental education leads to a more-informed dialogue and better decisions.”

The grants provide funding to create or develop projects to support a variety of environmental topics including: watershed management, water conservation, acid mine drainage, alternative energy, air quality, brownfields redevelopment and Chesapeake Bay restoration.

Last April, DEP awarded 102 grants totaling more than \$538,000 to groups in support of environmental education programs across the state. Since the program’s inception, the department has awarded more than \$7 million in grants.

The program was established by the Environmental Education Act of 1993 and mandates that five percent of all pollution fines and penalties DEP collects annually be designated for environmental education.

Applications are available online at www.dep.state.pa.us by clicking on Environmental Education, then Grants, or by calling the Environmental Education and Information Center at 717-772-1828. The deadline to apply is Dec. 16.

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection

DEP Chief says Brownfields Redevelopment Boosts Economic Growth, Benefits Environment

Conference Today Showcases Smaller Brownfield Sites in Need of Redevelopment

Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Mike Krancer spoke today to Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference attendees about the agency's recent reorganization, highlighting his and Gov. Corbett's priority to redevelop brownfield sites across Pennsylvania.

The conference, a partnership between the commonwealth and

the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania, is taking place at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona today and Wednesday.

"Pennsylvania's industrial history creates rich opportunities for redevelopment of abandoned sites," Krancer said.

"Brownfields redevelopment is a win-win because we get an economic engine, which revitalizes communities and environmental cleanup at the same time. We see that right here in Altoona.

"Our program is the best in the nation, and this conference is very timely because our agency's reorganization puts brownfields redevelopment back in the spotlight as an important policy priority in Pennsylvania," Krancer said.

This year's conference, the largest such statewide event, focuses on redevelopment of smaller brownfield sites. A "Brownfield Basics" course today provided new attendees with the fundamental concepts of brownfields

redevelopment, while other sessions challenge the more seasoned brownfields practitioners. Many sessions are focused on planning and financing innovations to advance brownfield projects.

The conference includes an informative field trip today where attendees will see the impressive results of Altoona's downtown revitalization and tour a more

traditional redeveloped manufacturing site, a former rail car shop in Hollidaysburg, Blair County. The tour will be followed by a networking event at the historic Railroaders Memorial Museum.

For more information, visit www.dep.state.pa.us, keyword: brownfields.

Source PA Department of Environmental Protection