

Conservation Committee Report

Volume 26 Issue 12

Jack Walters—Conservation Chairman

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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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Shapiro Administration Awards \$2.55 Million to Continue to Clean Up the Largest Inventory of Abandoned Mines in the Nation

Millions In Funding to Reclaim Abandoned Mine Land Will Make Waterways Cleaner, Create Local Jobs, and Build Safer Communities by Eliminating Hazards Underneath Homes and Businesses

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has awarded more than \$2.5 million for six projects to restore abandoned mine lands and clean streams affected by abandoned mine drainage as a part of the [Abandoned Mine Lands and Acid Mine](#)

[Drainage Grant Program.](#)

Pennsylvania has the largest inventory of abandoned coal mines in the nation, with a roughly \$5 billion need for reclamation and stream restoration. To date, Pennsylvania has rehabilitated more

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EPA Reforms New Chemicals Review Process to Better Protect Public Health, Promote Efficiency and Consistency

Final amendments will ensure that new PFAS and persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) chemicals are subject to safety review pro-

cess prior to manufacture

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized amendments to the regulations that govern the Agency's review of new chemicals under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to en-

sure that new per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) chemicals with potential for human exposure are always subject to the full, robust safety review

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Shapiro Administration Awards \$2.55 Million to Continue to Clean Up the Largest Inventory of Abandoned Mines in the Nation (continued)

than 91,000 acres of abandoned coal mines, and with this federal funding, will be able to continue this vital work that protects the health and safety of our communities.

“Reclaiming these abandoned mine lands improves our environment and makes Pennsylvania a more beautiful place. We will get stuff done by getting rid of eyesores like coal waste piles and orange streams and help to revitalize these communities,” said **DEP Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley**. “It’s also creating jobs and bolstering the economy not just today, but in the future when these communities can grow and thrive without the pollution of the past.”

The funding was awarded through the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act, which has invested more than \$700 million into reclaiming Pennsylvania’s abandoned mine lands since 2022. DEP has received \$244 million from the IIJA this year for projects to clean up abandoned mine lands and protect Pennsylvania communities – removing waste piles, re-grading dangerous highwalls that can result in loose dirt, trees, and other hazards, treating abandoned mine drainage that affects streams and rivers, and preventing and treating mine subsidence underneath homes and businesses across the Commonwealth.

Grant recipients will be reimbursed on project costs. The following projects will be awarded under the Abandoned Mine Land and Acid Mine Drainage Grant Program:

Fayette County:

Natural Streams Foundation - \$594,880

- Hereford Hollow –Project work includes completing a project design to reclaim 36 acres of abandoned mine land, including over three million tons of refuse, in Luzerne Township.

Schuylkill County:

Schuylkill Conservation District - \$280,800

- Ravine East (Franklin Breaker Levee) –Project work includes design and permitting required to reclaim AML resulting in over 1,500 feet of clogged stream along the Swatara Creek in Pine Grove Township.

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Shapiro Administration Awards \$2.55 Million to Continue to Clean Up the Largest Inventory of Abandoned Mines in the Nation (continued)

Tioga County:

Trout Unlimited, Inc. - \$1,225,091

- Basswood Run - Project work addresses major maintenance needs for Hunters Drift, a passive AMD treatment system, in Morris Township.

Westmoreland County:

Jacobs Creek Watershed Association - \$114,469

- Donnelly (Stauffer Run Watershed Assessment) –Project work includes the completion of an assessment of AMD sites along the headwaters of Stauffer Run, a tributary to Jacobs Creek in East Huntingdon Township.

Westmoreland Conservation District - \$343,642

- Bovard (Refuse Pile) -Project work includes the completion of a Phase 1 project design for the Bovard coal refuse site remediation in Hempfield Township.

For more information, visit the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's [website](#).

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

EPA Reforms New Chemicals Review Process to Better Protect Public Health, Promote Efficiency and Consistency (continued)

process prior to manufacture. Under TSCA, EPA plays an important role by reviewing the potential risks of new chemicals before they can enter U.S. commerce and, when necessary, putting safeguards in place to protect human health and the environment. Today's final rule also improves efficiency and aligns with the 2016 bipartisan TSCA amendments under the *Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act*, and is largely similar to the rule EPA [proposed](#) in May 2023.

"EPA's review of new chemicals should encourage innovation, while also making sure that new chemistries can be used safely before they are allowed to enter commerce," said **Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Michal Freedhoff**. "Today, we've modernized our chemical reviews and continued to protect people from unsafe new PFAS."

Eliminate exemptions for PFAS and PBTs with potential for human exposure

Today's final rule ensures that new PFAS are always subject to the full, robust safety review process prior to manufacture by eliminating their eligibility for a low volume exemption (LVE) or low release and exposure exemption (LoREX). Existing regulations allow EPA to grant safety review exemptions for the manufacturing of chemicals with low production quantities, environmental releases or human exposures. These exemptions allow the chemicals (which historically have included some PFAS) to undergo a shorter review instead of the full, robust review prior to manufacture.

This action furthers the [Biden-Harris Administration's commitment](#) to address the impacts of these "forever chemicals" and advances [EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap](#) to confront the serious human health and environmental risks of PFAS. This final rule will help ensure that every community is protected from a potential range of severe health problems, including those that impact workers and children.

In April 2021, EPA [announced](#) new PFAS would be unlikely to qualify for these exemptions going forward given the complexity of PFAS chemistry, potential health effects, and their longevity and persistence in the environment. As the Agency then explained, it is challenging to complete a review of PFAS exemption submissions in the 30 days the regulations allow. This rule makes new PFAS categorically ineligible for the LVE and LoREX exemptions and makes PBT chemicals ineligible when environmental releases are anticipated or there are potentially unreasonable exposures.

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EPA Reforms New Chemicals Review Process to Better Protect Public Health, Promote Efficiency and Consistency (continued)

Align federal regulations with existing law

Under TSCA, manufacturers (including importers) and processors must submit premanufacture notices (PMNs) for new chemical substances, significant new use notices (SNUNs) for significant new uses, and microbial commercial activity notices (MCANs) for microorganisms with commercial applications. Prior to the 2016 amendments,

EPA only made formal safety determinations on approximately 20% of new chemical submissions. Now, the new law requires EPA to make [one of five possible safety determinations](#) on 100% of new chemical submissions before they can enter the market.

This rule amends the regulations by specifying that EPA must make one of the five specified statutory determinations on each PMN, SNUN, and MCAN received before the submitter may commence manufacturing or processing the new chemical substance. The rule also updates the regulations to list the actions required in association with each of those determinations.

These amendments align the regulations with TSCA section 5 requirements to reflect the full extent of new chemicals review, providing consistency and transparency in new chemicals review processes.

Improve the efficiency of EPA's review of new chemical submissions to foster innovation

The final rule also makes several other changes to add efficiencies to the new chemicals review process, including clarifying the level of detail needed in new chemical notices and amending the procedures for EPA's review of notices that have errors or are incomplete. EPA is changing its longstanding practice of accepting amended notices that contain information that was known or reasonably ascertainable at the time of the original submission and then accepting a request to suspend the review period. Instead, EPA will now exercise its authority under the regulations to declare the original submission incomplete and restart the review period when the completed submission is received. This will save time and resources that could instead be spent reviewing complete submissions more quickly.

These reforms will also help industry to provide complete submissions for review through a new set of information "pick-lists" that will be incorporated into the application form located in EPA's Central Data Exchange in a phased approach.

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EPA Reforms New Chemicals Review Process to Better Protect Public Health, Promote Efficiency and Consistency (continued)

When submitters provide all the necessary information, EPA can assess risk more quickly and accurately. The rule supplements EPA's [TSCA New Chemical Engineering Initiative](#), an outreach effort launched in 2022 that helps stakeholders understand how to avoid providing incomplete data in their new chemical submissions. The amendments also include a streamlined process for submitters to request suspension of the review process for 30 days via oral or written request if more time is needed.

This rule will go into effect 30 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

Read a prepublication version of the rule.

Learn more about EPA's review of new chemicals under TSCA.

For further information: EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

Source: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Shapiro Administration Awards \$24 Million to Cleanup Pennsylvania Rivers and Streams in Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Funding will support pollution reduction efforts by counties in the Chesapeake Bay watershed

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has awarded \$24 million to reduce pollution and restore local streams, rivers, and lakes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. DEP awarded grants through the 2025 Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Implementation Grants to county teams across Pennsylvania's share of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

"These grants have been used to implement everything from streambank tree plantings to livestock crossing installations. Their work benefits not only their communities, but our Commonwealth and beyond," said **DEP Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley**. "It's projects that counties are putting on the ground that are changing the conversation from 'talking about fixing the Bay' to 'fixing the Bay,' and I'm excited to see the ingenuity and progress made by this year's grant recipients."

Pennsylvania has made historic progress in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Earlier this year, the Shapiro Administration announced that for the first time in the history, the Chesapeake Bay showed steady overall improvement, earning a C+ grade from the University of Maryland's [Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Report Card](#) – the highest grade ever awarded to the overall health of the Bay since the report was created. The Upper Bay, which is fed by the Susquehanna River from Pennsylvania scored one of the highest grades among any area of the Bay – and posted a significant improvement from last year – showing how efforts in agency collaborations, strong partnerships, and sustained investments led to progress throughout the Susquehanna River watershed and beyond.

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Shapiro Administration Awards \$24 Million to Cleanup Pennsylvania Rivers and Streams in Chesapeake Bay Watershed (continued)

The 2025 CAP Implementation Grant round brought in applications for 205 projects that will be completed in the next 12 to 18 months, resulting in an estimated reduction of nearly 110,000 pounds/year of nitrogen, 42,150 pounds/year of phosphorus, and 11.8 million pounds/year of sediment.

Nutrient pollution and eroded sediment can enter streams, rivers and lakes from storm-water runoff and other activities on land, such as using too much fertilizer, plowing and tilling farm fields, stripping away trees and vegetation, and expanding concrete and paved surfaces.

The 2025 CAP Implementation Grants include \$9.6 million from the state Environmental Stewardship Fund and \$14.4 million in EPA funding, including \$7.1 million in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds, to support counties' implementation of their local priority initiatives in their CAPs.

In addition to the funding awarded for implementing projects, DEP also awarded nearly \$1.8 million to county teams to support local Clean Water Coordinators who help to strategically implement the CAPs.

Additional EPA funding includes \$1.12 million in Local Government Implementation (LGI) funds to be used to implement projects in the Octoraro Watershed in Chester County that will be reported toward the multi-jurisdictional Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) as a supplement to funding for Chester County's CAP.

The 2025 CAP Implementation Grants were awarded to:

Adams County Conservation District: \$ 389,000

Bedford County Conservation District: \$ 440,475

Berks County Conservation District: \$ 200,000

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Shapiro Administration Awards \$24 Million to Cleanup Pennsylvania Rivers and Streams in Chesapeake Bay Watershed (continued)

Blair County Conservation District: \$ 386,598
Bradford County Conservation District: \$ 256,350
Cambria County Conservation District: \$ 200,000
Centre County Conservation District: \$ 751,261
Chester County Conservation District: \$ 67,295.75
Clearfield County Conservation District: \$ 116,747.25
Clinton County Commissioners: \$ 136,774
Cumberland County Commissioners: \$ 214,965.50
Franklin County Conservation District: \$ 1,219,663
Fulton County Conservation District: \$ 241,497
Huntingdon County Conservation District: \$ 542,142
Lackawanna County Conservation District: \$ 294,503
Lancaster County Conservation District: \$ 5,921,801
Lebanon County Conservation District: \$ 670,062
Luzerne Conservation District: \$ 264,346
Lycoming County Commissioners: \$ 492,447
Montour County Conservation District: \$ 924,704 for Montour, Columbia, and Sullivan counties
Northumberland County Conservation District: \$ 211,000
Potter County Conservation District: \$ 200,000
Schuylkill Conservation District: \$ 447,135
Snyder County Conservation District: \$ 863,863 for Snyder and Union counties

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Shapiro Administration Awards \$24 Million to Cleanup Pennsylvania Rivers and Streams in Chesapeake Bay Watershed (continued)

Susquehanna County: \$ 294,880

Tioga County Conservation District: \$ 378,577

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Tri-County Regional Planning Commission: \$ 2,174,710 for Dauphin, Perry, Juniata, and Mifflin counties

York County Planning Commission: \$ 404,218.75

Along with state and sector efforts, CAPs are a key component of [Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Phase 3 WIP](#) to reduce pollution from local streams and rivers. All 34 counties that were asked to voluntarily develop a CAP continue to actively implement their CAPs.

Countywide action teams have implemented a diverse range of projects and initiatives in the watershed since 2021, including not only stream restorations, streambank tree plantings, rain gardens and livestock crossing installations, but also a rapid stream delisting strategy which aims to delist pollution-impaired streams from Pennsylvania's list of agriculturally-impaired waterways by the year 2030.

All or part of 43 counties are in Pennsylvania's share of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The area spans half the state and includes over 12,000 miles of polluted streams and rivers.

Exceptional projects funded by previous CAP grants in DEP's [Annual Reports](#) and monthly [Healthy Waters e-newsletter](#).

For more information, visit the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's [website](#).

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

ICYMI: DEP Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley Touts Shapiro Administration's Commitment to Permit Modernization and Environmental Protection in New Op-Ed

“DEP is also working to reduce the permit application backlog and modernize our permitting processes. Since hiring additional staff members and cataloging and reviewing DEP’s nearly 800 available types of permits, DEP has reduced the backlog by nearly 1,750 permits – that’s a 75 percent reduction – as of November 15, 2024.”

Last week in PennLive, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley [praised](#) Governor Josh Shapiro’s commitment to ensuring Pennsylvania operates at the speed of 21st century business by modernizing the state’s permitting process while remaining steadfast in his belief in the DEP’s responsibility to protect public health and safety.

Programs like the new Streamlining Permits for Economic Expansion and Development (SPEED) Program, PAYback, and the new PA Permit Fast Track program are keeping Pennsylvania moving at the speed of business.

Read Secretary Shirley’s full opinion in PennLive [here](#); excerpts below:

Protecting public health means enforcing environmental regulations while helping businesses thrive.

By DEP Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley, 11/20/24

Business moves fast in the 21st century. As Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), I know that our permits can make or break a project or a business seeking to operate in Pennsylvania. Likewise, the people of Pennsylvania rely on DEP to protect public health and safety by enforcing our environmental laws and regulations.

Balancing these important roles of protecting the public while enabling businesses to expand and thrive is our constant mission, and while DEP has faced challenges at times – often due to a lack of resources and staff – I’m proud to report that the Shapiro Administration is making real progress at improving our permitting processes. DEP, alongside the Governor’s Office of Transformation and Opportunity, is making enormous strides in reviewing more than 45,000 permits every single year, all while maintaining the levels of environmental and public health protection that Pennsylvanians expect and deserve.

Under the leadership of Gov. Josh Shapiro, we are looking at ways to improve our processes. We’ve heard from applicants who want to know more about the review of their

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**ICYMI: DEP Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley Touts Shapiro Administration's
Commitment to Permit Modernization and Environmental Protection in New Op-Ed
(continued)**

application, and what to expect. And we've also heard from residents who want to know more about proposed development located near where they live, work, and go to school.

DEP is also working to reduce the permit application backlog and modernize our permitting processes. Since hiring additional staff members and cataloging and reviewing DEP's nearly 800 available types of permits, DEP has reduced the backlog by nearly 1,750 permits – that's a 75 percent reduction – as of November 15, 2024.

DEP will continue to get stuff done for Pennsylvanians. That means getting permits done for businesses while ensuring that development meets or exceeds environmental safeguards. It also means keeping residents and communities engaged, ensuring that regulatory red tape isn't getting in the way of economic development. We are committed to going further, faster, so Pennsylvanians can expect permits and protection, and receive both promptly.

For the department's 2,800 environmental professionals, DEP will Deliver on Every Promise when it comes to permits and protection.

For more information, visit the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's [web-site](#).

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Shapiro Admin Awards \$600,000 to Community Based Organizations for Environmental Justice Outreach

Shapiro Administration's Office of Environmental Justice recognized as a national model for proactive community engagement
Investment will go toward proactive community engagement

Building on the Shapiro Administration's goal to ensure every community has equal access to environmental protections the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced grant awards totaling \$600,000 to 12 community organizations across Pennsylvania through the new Pennsylvania Engaging New Voices on Environmental Justice program.

"Environmental Justice is a core part of DEP's mission, and this program will not just help these organizations but also the people in the communities they support," said **DEP Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley**. "At DEP we know that proactive, transparent outreach is key to empowering communities and ensuring that people have a voice in the process."

The goal of the grant is to ensure that historically marginalized and underserved communities have access to information and resources about environmental protection, DEP permits, regulations, and grant opportunities. Selected Community Benefit Organizations (CBOs) can put the grant towards community education, outreach, engagement, and capacity-building, with flexibility to meet the specific needs of the communities they serve. For example, two of the CBO grantees, Ngozi, Inc. and Spanish American Civic Association, will hold mobilize anti-dumping task forces to help prevent illegal trash dumping in their communities.

CBOs are required to emphasize DEP grant opportunities, DEP's permitting processes, how to engage with DEP, and the agency's role in their communities. Additionally, all of the CBOs will organize a community-driven event, such as a local cleanup or educational workshop.

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Shapiro Admin Awards \$600,000 to Community Based Organizations for Environmental Justice Outreach (continued)

“We’re excited to forge, rebuild, and foster relationships with stakeholders and communities across Pennsylvania. We’re energized at the opportunity to bring new voices to the environmental justice conversation,” said **DEP Special Deputy Secretary for the Office of Environmental Justice Fernando Treviño**. “Grant recipients representing rural and urban areas and people of diverse backgrounds and lived experiences will have the opportunity to share expertise and gain the support of a statewide network of organizations engaged in environmental justice.

The grants are funded through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Environmental Justice Government-To-Government grant.

DEP awarded sub-grants of \$50,000 each to 12 community organizations in the following counties:

Allegheny

City of Pittsburgh – Casa San Jose

City of Pittsburgh – Project Matters

Crawford

City of Meadville – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund Inc.:

Dauphin

City of Harrisburg – Ngozi, Inc.

Erie

City of Erie – Urban Erie Community Development Corporation

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Shapiro Admin Awards \$600,000 to Community Based Organizations for Environmental Justice Outreach (continued)

Lancaster

City of Lancaster – Spanish American Civic Association

Lehigh

City of Allentown – Unidos Foundation

Philadelphia

City of Philadelphia – Alianza Latina

City of Philadelphia – Hunting Park Green

Multi-county/Regional

Northcentral Pennsylvania – Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance

Northeastern and Northcentral Pennsylvania – Northeastern Pennsylvania Pan African Coalition

Statewide

Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition

This marks the first grant DEP has received focused solely on proactive community engagement. DEP's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) has become a national model for proactive community outreach and engagement throughout the Commonwealth. DEP has created an online mapping tool to better identify Environmental Justice communities and updated the Environmental Justice policy to ensure that underserved communities have equal access to environmental protection and public participation.

For more information, visit the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's [website](#).

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

DEP to Host Public Hearing for Proposed Monroe County Warehouse Project

Public Requested Hearing to Offer Input on Permit Application

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will host a public hearing to take testimony from the public regarding an application by Orchard BJK Company, LLC (Orchard) out of Wyomissing, PA for a Water Obstruction and Encroachment permit for the proposed Pocono Mountains Corporate Center North Warehouse in Coolbaugh Township, PA. The hearing will take place on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Tobyhanna Elementary Center located at 398 Old Route 940, Pocono Pines, PA 18350. Representatives from DEP and the Monroe County Conservation District will be in attendance.

Orchard plans to construct a 333,000 square foot warehouse located at the intersection of Memorial Boulevard (SR611) and Laurel Drive. DEP received the permit application on July 26, 2024, and deemed it administratively complete on August 9, 2024. The public comment period for the permit ended on September 24, 2024, during which requests were received from the public for the public hearing. The hearing will allow the public to comment on the plans associated with the permit application that proposes discharges to Hawkey Run and Duck Puddle Run, which are both considered High-Quality Cold-Water Fisheries, and separate exceptional value wetlands.

DEP requests that individuals wishing to testify at the hearing submit a written notice of intent to Colleen Connolly, Regional Communications Manager at coconnolly@pa.gov.

DEP will accept requests up to the day of the hearing. DEP requests that individuals limit their testimony to 5 minutes so that all individuals have the opportunity to testify. DEP can only review comments made related to the Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit Application. Written copies of oral testimony are requested. All comments, whether delivered orally during the hearing or submitted in writing will carry equal weight and consideration with DEP. Individuals attending the hearing will have the opportunity to testify if they so desire; however, individuals who preregister to testify will be given priority on the agenda.

Persons with a disability who wish to testify and require an auxiliary aid, service or other accommodation should contact Colleen Connolly at coconnolly@pa.gov or the Pennsylvania Hamilton Relay Service at (800) 654-5984 (TDD) to discuss how DEP can meet their needs.

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DEP to Host Public Hearing for Proposed Monroe County Warehouse Project (continued)

The Water Obstruction and Encroachment Joint permit application documentation and conceptual plans are available for review at the Monroe County Conservation District Office, 8050 Running Valley Road, Stroudsburg, PA at (570) 629-3060 and/or the DEP Northeast Regional Office, 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA at (570) 826-2511. For further information, contact Colleen Connolly, Regional Communications Manager for the Department's Northeast Regional Office at (570) 826-2035 or at coconnolly@pa.gov

For more information, visit the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's [website](#).

Source: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Latest Actions under Nation's Chemical Safety Law to Protect People from Cancer-Causing Chemicals Trichloroethylene and Perchloroethylene

Final EPA rules ban all uses of TCE, all consumer uses and many commercial uses of PCE, require worker protections for all remaining uses under the Toxic Substances Control Act

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized the latest risk management rules for [trichloroethylene \(TCE\)](#) and [perchloroethylene \(PCE\)](#) under the bipartisan [2016 Toxic Substances Control Act \(TSCA\)](#) amendments, marking another major milestone for chemical safety after decades of inadequate protections and serious delays. These protections align with [President Biden's Cancer Moonshot](#), a whole-of-government approach to end cancer as we know it.

TCE is an extremely toxic chemical known to cause liver cancer, kidney cancer, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. TCE also causes damage to the central nervous system, liver, kidneys, immune system, reproductive organs, and fetal heart defects. These risks are present even at very small concentrations. Under today's rule, all uses of TCE will be banned over time (with the vast majority of identified risks eliminated within one year), and safer alternatives are readily available for the majority of uses.

PCE is known to cause liver, kidney, brain and testicular cancer, as well as damage to the kidney, liver and immune system, neurotoxicity, and reproductive toxicity. Today's final rule will better protect people from these risks by banning manufacture, processing and distribution in commerce of PCE for all consumer uses and many commercial uses, while allowing some workplace uses to continue only where robust workplace controls can be implemented.

"It's simply unacceptable to continue to allow cancer-causing chemicals to be used for things like glue, dry cleaning or stain removers when safer alternatives exist," **said Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Michal Freedhoff**. "These rules are grounded in the best-available science that demonstrates the harmful impacts of PCE and TCE. EPA continues to deliver on actions that protect people, including workers and children, under the nation's premier bipartisan chemical safety law."

PCE and TCE are both nonflammable chlorinated solvents that are volatile organic compounds. PCE can biodegrade into TCE, and PCE may contain trace amounts of TCE as an impurity or a contaminant. The chemicals can often serve as alternatives for each other. For several uses of TCE that will be totally prohibited, there is an analogous use of PCE that can continue safely in perpetuity under workplace controls. Some examples

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Biden-Harris Administration Announces Latest Actions under Nation's Chemical Safety Law to Protect People from Cancer-Causing Chemicals Trichloroethylene and Perchloroethylene (continued)

of uses that will be prohibited under the TCE rule, but will continue under the PCE rule include: industrial and commercial use as an energized electrical cleaner, in laboratory use for asphalt testing and recovery, use to make refrigerants and other chemicals, and for vapor degreasing.

“Over 40 years ago, a mother named Anne Anderson from Woburn, Massachusetts, approached me and started a crusade to keep any more children like Jimmy Anderson, her son, from dying from cancer caused by toxic chemicals. Anne’s work directly led to this announcement from the Environmental Protection Agency that I am overjoyed to celebrate today alongside her and every community that stands to benefit—a finalized ban on trichloroethylene and most uses of perchloroethylene, two chemicals that cause cancer, affect reproductive systems, are neurotoxic, and compromise immune systems,” **said Senator Ed Markey (D-MA)**. “Despite their dangers, these chemicals could still be found in industries like dry cleaning, automotive repair and manufacturing. With no doubt that these chemicals are deadly, there is no doubt that this final rule will save lives—especially our children’s lives—around the country.”

“The Camp Lejeune contaminated drinking water issue has dragged on over the better part of forty years ever since TCE, PCE and other organic solvents were first documented in the base’s drinking water supply in October 1980,” **said [Jerry M. Ensminger](#), Retired U.S. Marine Corps Master Sergeant**. “My daughter, Janey, was conceived aboard Camp Lejeune during the drinking water contamination and died of leukemia in 1985, at the age of nine. I first began my fight for justice in 1997, and was later joined by [Mike Partain](#) in 2007, who was also conceived aboard the base and diagnosed with male breast cancer at the age of 39. Mike and I welcome this ban on TCE by the EPA and this is proof that our fight for justice at Camp Lejeune was not in vain.”

Trichloroethylene

TCE is used as a solvent in consumer and commercial products such as cleaning and furniture care products, degreasers, brake cleaners, sealants, lubricants, adhesives, paints and coatings, arts and crafts spray coatings, and is also used in the manufacture of some refrigerants. Safer alternatives are readily available for the majority of these uses.

EPA is finalizing its prohibition on all uses of TCE, most of which will be prohibited within one year, including TCE manufacture and processing for most commercial and all consumer products. This will protect most people who are likely to be exposed to TCE from uses covered by TSCA, including all consumers and workers in many sectors and many communities.

A limited number of uses in the workplace will be phased out over a longer period. Those uses will only continue with required stringent worker protections in place.

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Biden-Harris Administration Announces Latest Actions under Nation's Chemical Safety Law to Protect People from Cancer-Causing Chemicals Trichloroethylene and Perchloroethylene (continued)

All TCE uses with longer phaseout timeframes will have worker safety requirements, such as a Workplace Chemical Protection Plan that includes an inhalation exposure limit. The final rule sets a different inhalation exposure limit for airborne TCE than was proposed. This change was made in response to public comments to ensure the limit is feasible to implement and monitor while still reducing risk. EPA estimates that the new inhalation exposure limit would reduce long-term workplace exposure by 97%.

Many of the TCE uses that are continuing for longer than one year occur in highly industrialized settings that can adopt EPA's new stringent worker protections, such as uses of TCE to clean parts used in aircraft and medical devices, to manufacture battery separators, to manufacture refrigerants, as well as in other transportation, security and defense systems.

For the use of TCE in manufacturing refrigerants, the longer timeframe supports fighting climate change by complementing efforts to phase down climate-damaging hydrofluorocarbons under the bipartisan [American Innovation and Manufacturing Act](#).

All of these uses ultimately will be prohibited, but some of the exemptions associated with longer timeframes are necessary to avoid impacts to national security or critical infrastructure. In addition, some of the timeframes have been adjusted from the proposed rule based on public comment to allow reasonable time for transitioning to alternatives.

Further, to support cleanup activities at sites of past TCE contamination (e.g., Superfund sites), EPA is allowing essential laboratory use and proper disposal of TCE wastewater to continue for 50 years provided worker protections are in place, including the inhalation exposure limit set by today's rule.

Learn more about the [TCE rule](#).

Perchloroethylene

PCE is a solvent that is widely used for consumer uses such as brake cleaners and adhesives, in commercial applications such as dry cleaning, and in many industrial settings. Safer alternatives are readily available for the majority of these uses.

EPA is finalizing a 10-year phaseout for the use of PCE in dry cleaning to eliminate the risk to people who work or spend considerable time at dry cleaning facilities. Use of PCE in newly acquired dry-cleaning machines will be prohibited after six months. Compliance dates for machines that are already owned will vary depending on the type of the dry-cleaning machine used, with older types of machines being phased out sooner than newer ones.

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Biden-Harris Administration Announces Latest Actions under Nation's Chemical Safety Law to Protect People from Cancer-Causing Chemicals Trichloroethylene and Perchloroethylene (continued)

Many dry cleaners have already begun this transition. This timeline is unchanged from the proposed rule.

EPA's final risk management rule requires companies to rapidly phase down manufacturing, processing and distribution of PCE for all consumer use and many uses at industrial and commercial workplaces, most of which will be fully phased out in less than three years. For most of the uses of PCE that EPA is prohibiting, EPA's analysis found that alternative products with similar costs and efficacy to PCE are reasonably available.

The rule also finalizes stringent, achievable controls for continuing uses under a Workplace Chemical Protection Program. These uses generally occur in highly sophisticated workplaces that may be important to national security, aviation and other critical infrastructure, as well as uses that complement the agency's efforts to combat the climate crisis. These uses include:

- Use in the production of other chemicals, including refrigerant chemicals that may complement efforts to phase down climate-damaging hydrofluorocarbons under the bipartisan [American Innovation and Manufacturing Act](#).
- Use in petrochemical manufacturing.
- Use in agricultural chemical manufacturing (originally proposed to be prohibited).
- Use for cold cleaning of tanker vessels (originally proposed to be prohibited).
- Use as maskant for chemical milling.
- Use as a vapor degreasing solvent.
- Use in adhesives and sealants.
- Use in energized electrical cleaning (originally proposed to be prohibited).
- Processing into formulation, mixture or reaction products.
- Import, recycling, disposal, processing by repackaging and domestic manufacturing of PCE.

In response to public comments on the proposed rule, most workplaces now have 30 months instead of 12 months to fully implement the Workplace Chemical Protection Program. EPA also revised several other aspects from the proposal to strengthen and clarify aspects of the Workplace Chemical Protection Program,

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Biden-Harris Administration Announces Latest Actions under Nation's Chemical Safety Law to Protect People from Cancer-Causing Chemicals Trichloroethylene and Perchloroethylene (continued)

including monitoring requirements. EPA also ensured the employees' designated representatives, such as labor union representatives, have access to occupational exposure monitoring and records.

Learn more about the [PCE rule](#).

Additional Information

As a follow-up to consultations with small businesses, EPA plans to release compliance guidance for the use of PCE in dry cleaning and energized electrical cleaning in the coming months, as well as for the TCE rule. [President Biden's Fiscal Year 2025 budget](#) requested funding to support small business efforts to transition to TSCA-compliant practices and mitigate economic impacts. If implemented, these grants could be used to support small businesses like dry cleaners in their transition away from PCE.

EPA will host a public webinar to explain what is in the PCE final rule and how it will be implemented on Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. EST. Registration is available on the [Final Regulation of Perchloroethylene under TSCA webinar page](#).

For further information: EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

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