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November 17, 2021

Latest News

DEP Proposes Strict PFAS Limits

The state Department of Environmental Protection is proposing to set maximum contaminant levels for two forms of per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The proposed rule will affect water systems. The proposal would rule will set limits that are 4 times stricter than the Federal EPA's Health Advisory Level (HAL) for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) from the current HAL of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) to 14 ppt for PFOA, and 18 ppt for PFOS. Once the proposed rule is published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, there will be a 60-day public comment period. [Click here](#) for more.

National CPI Rises 6.2%

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has announced that the Consumer Price Index was 6.2% higher in October 2021 compared to October 2020. The CPI measures the change in prices during a specific timeframe. This is the highest rate of inflation in more than 30 years and is being driven by increased energy prices and transportation related supply chain shortages. [Click here](#) for more.

Some employers use the CPI to determine cost-of-living adjustments for employees, but there is no requirement to do so. President Biden, using emergency powers, has set the federal employee cost of living increase at 2.2% with another .5% in high-cost areas for an average of 2.7%. Social Security is increasing benefits by 5.9% in December (the highest increase since 1981).

DEP to Host December 2 Webinar on How to Apply for DEP Grants

Township officials may want to take advantage of a free live webinar scheduled for December 2 from 11 am to 12:30 pm hosted by the state Department of Environmental Protection. DEP grants can help your township be more energy efficient, restore local streams, reduce erosion, and more. The webinar is designed to provide basics for first-time applicants who want to make an environmental project happen. [Click here](#) to learn more or to register.

Today in History.....

On November 17, 1888, The U.S. Patent Office issues patent No. 388,850 to George Eastman for his box camera. The inventor also registered the trademark name, Kodak, on the same day.

Legislation & Policy



The House will be in session today, November 17. Watch the session live [here](#).

Yesterday, the House passed the following bills:

[HB 1546](#) would amend Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to establish that no person shall publicly post, display, or provide to a third party the home address or telephone number of any public safety official or their spouse or child knowing the person is a public safety official. A public safety official includes a law enforcement officer. The bill is now pending committee assignment in the Senate.

[SB 382](#) would amend the Public-Private Transportation Partnership statute to add a more detailed notice requirement and a public comment period specific to the scope of proposed projects. Additional notice would be required if the project included a user fee. In addition, the bill would authorize the General Assembly, within 20 calendar days or nine legislative days, whichever is longer, to adopt a concurrent resolution rescinding the approval of a transportation project if the commonwealth owns the transportation facility that is the subject of the project. The bill is now goes back to the Senate for concurrence on House amendments.

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