



Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands

# DEP Permitting Process Improvements

Society of Women Environmental Professionals  
(SWEPEP)

May 1, 2018

Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary

# Goal

- Analyze Permitting Programs
- Recommend improvements to processes
- Maintain adherence to our mission
  - To protect Pennsylvania’s air, land, and water from pollution and to provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment.
- Implement improvements

# Initiatives Underway

- Permit Backlog Management
- Oil and Gas Program Restructuring
- New Technical Guidance
- Electronic Permitting
- Simplified Water Obstruction and Encroachment General Permit

# Permit Backlog Management

- DEP receives/reviews over 30,000 permits annually
- Audit permits within our electronic tracking system
    - Unreasonable number of permits not tracked to through completion
      - Corrected and made current our permit tracking system
- Result – status change in more than 6,000 permit applications.
- Audit our processes for applications that remain in the system and for future works.

# Oil and Gas Program

Restructuring permitting across three district office

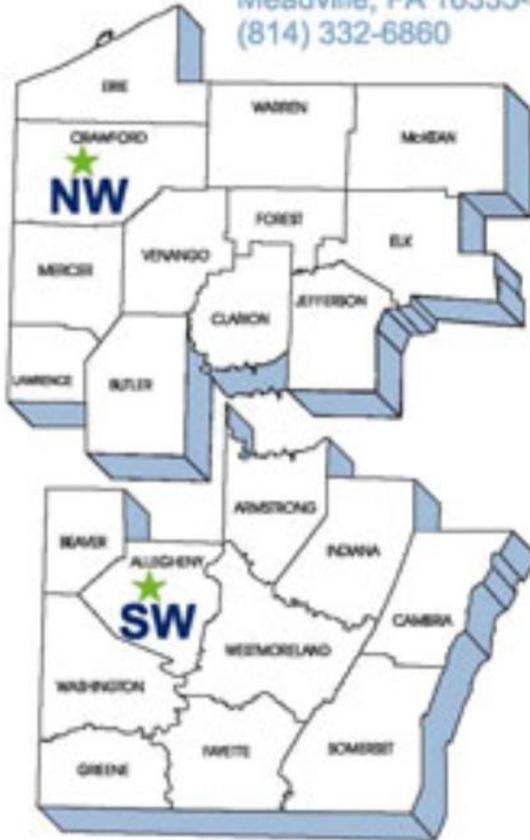
–A statewide management structure

- Equalize permit workload
- Improve permit review consistency

# Oil and Gas Program

## ★ Northwest Region

230 Chestnut Street  
Meadville, PA 16335-3481  
(814) 332-6860



## ★ Northcentral Region

208 West Third Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701-6448  
(570) 327-3636



## ★ Southwest Region

400 Waterfront Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745  
(412) 442-4024

## ● Central Office

Bureau of Oil and Gas Management  
PO Box 8765  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8765  
(717) 772-2199

# Guidance and Policy

Technical guidance documents (TDG) help applicants submit complete and technically adequate applications.

- Published final TDG
  - Comprehensive Environmental Assessment of Proposed Project Impacts for Chapter 105 Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit Applications
- Evaluating comments
  - Policy for State Water Quality Certification Issuance for Interstate Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Projects Regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

# Electronic Permitting

Since 2015, DEP has been working to modernize permitting activities through electronic permitting (e-permitting)

- Current electronic applications
  - Underground mining
  - Storage tank renewal

Results – reduction in incomplete application submittals (prevent applications being submitted with missing information) and made permit tracking easier.

# Electronic Permitting

Through four phased steps, the following programs will be added to the e-Permitting system :

–Office of Oil and Gas Management

- Oil and Gas staff anticipate a 30% decrease in permit review times once their permit applications are moved into an electronic format

–Bureau of Air Quality

–Bureau of Radiation Protection

–Information Technology

–Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands

–Office of Active and Abandoned Mining Operations

–Division of Storage Tanks

–Bureau of Clean Water

# Water Obstruction and Encroachment General Permit

DEP receives several thousand Chapter 105 General Permit registration requests annually

- These permits require registration forms with both DEP and the US Army Corps of Engineers
  - General Permit Registration form
  - Pennsylvania State Programmatic Permit (PASPGP-5)
- To streamline the application process, DEP negotiated with the US Army Corps of Engineers to simplify the registration form/PASPGP-5

# ➤ Water Obstruction and Encroachment General Permit

These revisions will improve the quality of General Permit registration requests, eliminate unnecessary redundancies, and reduce review time frames.

- The new forms and instructions went into effect March 26, 2018.

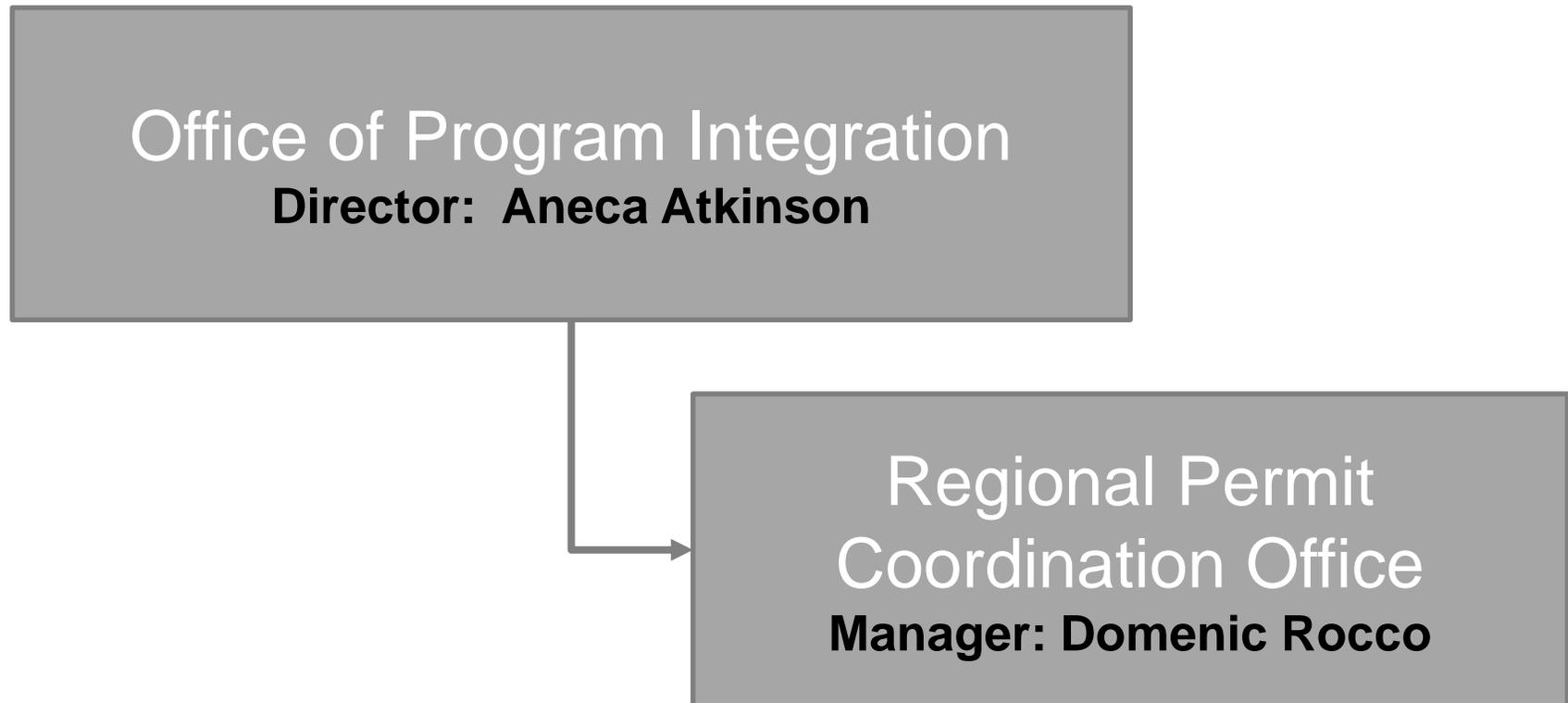
# PAG-02 NPDES General Permit

DEP coordinated reissuance of the PAG-02 with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- PAG-02 is one of the most used permits in construction
- The reissued PAG-02 will be available for two years.
- DEP is engaging in conversations with EPA in anticipation to include evaluating efficiencies of application materials

# Office of Program Integration

DEP recently formed the Regional Permit Coordination Office



## Overall Mission

A centralized office providing synchronized and consistent reviews and approvals for general to complex projects regulated under Chapter 102 and Chapter 105.

# Conclusion

In the end our goal is a strong permit that holds the applicant accountable not just for the quality of the permit but through our inspection and compliance processes for implementation of permit obligations while we:

- Maintain our adherence to protecting public health and the environment
- Maximize our efficiency
- Focus on consistency
- Provide predictability across the commonwealth

# Contact

## Office of Program Integration

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