EPA Region III

Office of Public Affairs

EARLY BIRD HEADLINES

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*** MORNING HOT LIST ***

Chesapeake Bay Foundation: Md. plan underfunded

ASSOCIATED PRESS BALTIMORE — Maryland's bay restoration strategy is underfunded and may not get the job done as promised, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation said Tuesday. Alison Prost, the foundation's Maryland Executive Director, said Maryland is more than halfway to its bay restoration goals, but said lawmakers must provide more money and make policy changes "or we risk further disappointment after decades of unfulfilled promises to restore a national treasure." Those steps include dedicated funding for upgrading sewage treatment plants and storm water systems. Policies also must be changed to manage pollution from sprawl development, Prost said. The foundation raised the concerns in formal comments submitted on the second phase of the state's restoration strategy. The six states in the bay watershed are being required by the federal Environmental Protection Agency to submit detailed restoration plans. The foundation sued the EPA over the slow pace of the restoration effort previously led by bay states, but settled after the federal agency took charge. Despite decades of restoration, the bay has seen stocks of once commercially important species such as oysters plummet and water quality worsen... The EPA meanwhile announced Tuesday that it was making $4 million in grants available for bay restoration efforts. The grants are for projects such as road maintenance and flood plain management to cut pollution of waterways as well as aid to local governments to design and implementation pollution reduction efforts. Environmentalists have argued that restoring the bay can create jobs in sectors ranging from tourism to aquaculture and commercial and recreational fishing. However, development and farm interests have sued to block the EPA's restoration strategy, questioning the science behind the plan and its impact on the economy.

Grants to help localities clean Bay

BALTIMORE SUN Local government officials stressing out about the costs of cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay are being offered a little help - and a little cash - to take steps needed to control polluted runoff from their streets and parking lots. Officials with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced they're offering local officials throughout the bay region $4 million in grants and technical assistance for designing and installing "green infrastructure."The "Local Government Green Infrastructure Initiative," as it's called, will let local officials compete for grants of up to $750,000 each on projects that both green their communities and help improve water quality in streams, rivers and the bay. Road maintenance, park enhancements and public facilities renovations would qualify. The grants will be administered by the congressionally chartered foundation.¿ Some Maryland counties and Baltimore city project having to spend hundreds of millions of dollars each on storm drain retrofits and other costly pollution control projects to comply with the baywide "pollution diet. "

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Rigell toes the line on Chesapeake Bay issues

NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS Scott Rigell said he feels a "moral obligation" to improve the Chesapeake Bay's water quality for future generations. He also said he feels a duty to make sure the United States isn't saddled with long-term debt. So what's a freshman congressman seeking re-election to do? Invite local, state and federal leaders, and a well-known scientist, to a public discussion Tuesday about the bay in the heart of his district, Virginia Beach. The bay has been a tricky issue for Rigell, who was elected in 2010 on the promise to cut federal spending. He has voted for and against legislation that aims to strengthen regulations that would hurry cleanup of the estuary, which is included on the nation's dirty waters list. The restoration effort is being led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which Rigell said Tuesday is an "essential" federal agency. He qualified the statement by saying that he thinks the EPA has "overburdened" the nation with regulations. Anthony Moore, a deputy secretary in Virginia's Department of Natural Resources, questioned whether the EPA's aggressive new effort is necessary. He cited pollution reduction efforts, such as updated wastewater treatment plants and voluntary agricultural programs, as examples of how the bay's water quality is improving. Moore was appointed to his position by Gov. Bob McDonnell, a Republican who has sparred with the EPA on the issue. Jeff Corbin, who is leading the effort for the EPA, said while efforts to reduce pollution in the bay have been made, it remains unhealthy. Algae blooms occur every summer producing dead zones that can kill fish and other marine life. "We're about halfway there," Corbin said of the restoration efforts. The panel, which also included Carl Hershner, a Virginia Institute of Marine Science professor, Ted Henifin, general manager of the Hampton Roads Sanitation District, and John Carlock, deputy executive director of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, took questions from an audience of roughly 100 people.

North Point dump declared a Superfund site

BALTIMORE SUN For nearly 30 years, local, state and federal authorities have wrestled with what to do about an old dump in North Point that's been leaking toxic waste into nearby wetlands and Back River. On Tuesday, the Environmental Protection Agency declared the Sauer Dump a Superfund site, making it a priority for a federally supervised cleanup. When it will finally get cleaned up, though, remains an open question. An EPA spokesman said more investigation is needed and couldn't say when work might begin to deal with the contaminants lurking in the soil and sediments. "It's not something that's going to happen overnight," EPA's Roy Seneca said. The 2.5-acre tract in eastern Baltimore County, named for one of its former owners, joins 18 other toxic-waste sites in Maryland that have been put on EPA's Superfund cleanup list over the years. Many of them are active military bases or former dumps like the Sauer property, which took all manner of wastes before environmental laws in the 1970s prohibited such activities. Residents, community activists and local officials welcomed the EPA's announcement. Though some cleanup work has been done at the site, it has remained a worry, particularly since the state warns against eating fish caught in Back River because of contamination with the same chemicals found in the old dump. "It is wonderful that they're going to put it on the list for cleanup," said Tom Darchicourt, who has owned 40 acres of land that abut the western edge of the dump for more than a decade and has been in frequent contact with government officials. The site, mostly covered by black plastic sheeting, is surrounded by two overgrown chain link fences. The inner fence is marked with signs that read "Danger Unauthorized Personnel Keep Out." There are about a dozen homes on the waterfront that wraps around the site. The Superfund listing is the latest twist for the dump in a sequence of events that began in 1984. That's when an inspector with the Baltimore County health department visited the filled-in marsh to check its suitability for a prospective developer, according to a chronology provided by the state Department of the Environment. Finding the tract littered with discarded auto parts, hundreds of mostly empty drums and wood and plastic debris, the county ordered an immediate cleanup.

Trainer site makes EPA Superfund list; Who pays?

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER It is contaminated with PCBs, and it might pose a danger to the endangered shortnose sturgeon in the Delaware River. So on Tuesday the Environmental Protection Agency added a Trainer, Delaware County, industrial-waste site near the Delaware River to its Superfund national-priority list, making it eligible for a federal cleanup. EPA said that the main source of contamination at the facility once operated by the bankrupt Metro Container Corp. is a half-acre toxic disposal lagoon. Contaminants, including PCBs, have been detected at the property, which has an industrial history dating to the end of the 19th Century. The site now is occupied by an industrial painting company. The owners of Metro Container, who ran a steel-drum reconditioning business, pleaded guilty in July 1991 to federal charges dumping of hazardous waste and discharging contaminated water into nearby Stoney Creek. Metro Containter had filed for bankruptcy in 1987, and it is not clear who would be responsible for paying any Superfund cleanup bill. "We're in the process of investigating," said EPA spokesman Roy Seneca. He said the next step would be for EPA to conduct a feasibility study to determine just how contaminated the site is and how it might be remedied. Of the 1,661 Superfund priority sites identified since 1983, 359 have been cleaned.

Editorial: Marcellus: How much change?

CHARLESTON GAZETTE CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Industrial booms always cause upheavals, good and bad. When oil drilling erupted in Sistersville a century ago, wooden rigs sprouted in vacant lots and front lawns; mud and brine were everywhere; inpouring workers lived in shantyboats "four and five deep" along the Ohio River bank; illegal saloons, bordellos and gambling joints proliferated. It was a mess -- producing construction jobs that eventually subsided and oil millionaires who stayed rich. Today, the Marcellus Shale gas boom is sweeping West Virginia. Expectations are at fever pitch. Speculators are offering lucrative leases to families in Wetzel and other northwest counties. Monster trucks crowd rural roads through bucolic countryside. Out-of-state drilling crews live in motels. A special December session of the Legislature toughened controls to limit drilling damage. The current regular session approved a huge tax giveaway to any energy giant that will build a billion-dollar "cracker" to strip methane of feedstocks for new chemical plants. Boosters glow about estimates of 12,000 direct and indirect new jobs. How will West Virginia be changed by this tumult? It's too soon to predict, and much of the outcome hinges on the uncertain quest for a cracker.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Trainer site makes EPA Superfund list; Who pays? It is contaminated with PCBs, and it might pose a danger to the endangered shortnose sturgeon in the Delaware River. So on Tuesday the Environmental Protection Agency added a Trainer, Delaware County, industrial-waste site near the Delaware River to its Superfund national-priority list, making it eligible for a federal cleanup. EPA said that the main source of contamination at the facility once operated by the bankrupt Metro Container Corp. is a half-acre toxic disposal lagoon. Contaminants, including PCBs, have been detected at the property, which has an industrial history dating to the end of the 19th Century. The site now is occupied by an industrial painting company. The owners of Metro Container, who ran a steel-drum reconditioning business, pleaded guilty in July 1991 to federal charges dumping of hazardous waste and discharging contaminated water into nearby Stoney Creek. Metro Containter had filed for bankruptcy in 1987, and it is not clear who would be responsible for paying any Superfund cleanup bill. "We're in the process of investigating," said EPA spokesman Roy Seneca. He said the next step would be for EPA to conduct a feasibility study to determine just how contaminated the site is and how it might be remedied. Of the 1,661 Superfund priority sites identified since 1983, 359 have been cleaned.

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Blog; Shaky ground: Quakes suggest caution for deep disposal wells The debate over natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania -- an economic boon that must be weighed against environmental impact -- has been literally shaken up by events in neighboring Ohio, reminding everyone that water quality is not the only issue for concern. In December, a dozen minor earthquakes occurred near a 9,184-foot deep well drilled to dispose of wastewater from the drilling process. Experts from Columbia University believed the Northstar No. 1 disposal well owned by D&L Energy, five miles from Youngstown, was linked to the quakes. As a result, officials in Ohio shut it down along with four other wells nearby pending an investigation. That caution was vindicated last week with the release of a preliminary report by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. While D&L said the findings were premature in the absence of new testing, the ODNC relied on seismic monitors to determine that the earthquakes were linked to "coincidental events," including the presence of a previously unknown geologic fault line. It is important to differentiate between drilling for natural gas and drilling a deep injection well to dispose of wastewater from the fracking process (water which, in this case, came from Pennsylvania). It is also worth remembering that these quakes -- rated between 2.7 and 4.0 for severity -- caused no serious damage. This unusual series of events is therefore not an argument to cease the search for gas in the Marcellus Shale; it is instead a reminder that special caution is called for when injection wells are being contemplated at exceptional depths. If a fault can go undetected in Ohio, so can it in Pennsylvania. Common sense suggests that proximity to population centers should be an important factor. This state can learn from Ohio, although Pennsylvania leaves regulation of disposal wells to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency instead of a state agency. Pennsylvania has six injection wells, another two approved but are under appeal and another being considered in Venango County. There is no need for anyone to quake in their boots, but caution is advised.

Even those who don't own land can invest in Marcellus Shale boom Families and individuals who own large tracts of land and have struck deals with Marcellus Shale producers for drilling rights can hope for fat royalty checks for years to come from the multi-billion dollar natural gas industry. But retail investors don't have to sit on the sidelines just because they're not landowners. There are a number of publicly traded stocks, master limited partnerships and exchange-traded funds that investors can buy and sell to cash in on the shale gas boom. "The benefits of Marcellus Shale can trickle down to all of us, not just the landowners," said Bob Hapanowicz, president of the wealth management firm Hapanowicz & Associates, Downtown. "For average retail investors, the best way to get in is through stocks of companies either directly involved [in drilling] or peripherally related." Stocks offering exposure to natural gas drilling in the vast formation known as the Marcellus Shale have varying degrees of risk. Some companies are purely dedicated to shale natural gas locally, some have greater geographic footprints and others are not directly involved in drilling but supply the necessary equipment. Oklahoma City-based Chesapeake Energy (Ticker: CHK), Range Resources (RRC), based in Fort Worth, Texas, Cecil-based Consol Energy (CNX) and Coraopolis-based Atlas Pipeline Partners (APL) are among the largest players in this region engaged in the development and acquisition of natural gas, mostly in the Appalachian areas.

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE REVIEW

Fayette task force to address new law on Marcellus shale The Fayette County Marcellus Shale Taskforce will host a forum today to review impact fees and zoning regulations with the public concerning natural gas drilling. The meeting begins 6 p.m. in Swimmer Hall at Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus in North Union. Gov. Tom Corbett signed Act 13 into law on Feb. 14, with some provisions going into effect upon signing and others becoming effective on April 14. The law creates a drilling impact fee, the funds from which would benefit local and state purposes specifically outlined in the law as well as how those fees are to be distributed. A significant portion of the fees generated will be used to cover the local impacts of drilling, while several state agencies would also receive funding for a variety of other purposes. At tonight's meeting, Fayette County Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink, who is also chairwoman of the task force, said Steven A. Walton, an attorney with Rothman Gordon in Pittsburgh and chairman of the Legislative Committee of the task force will provide an overview of the new law and how it will affect Fayette County. "The public will have a better understanding of the law and what it means to them," Zimmerlink said. Zimmerlink said the county task force is gaining and sharing knowledge, like the law, by

taking the lead of other county task forces that hold various public forums as well as Internet seminars and meetings about Marcellus shale issues.

Hempfield Area school land could be leased to gas driller The Hempfield Area School District may join a list of Westmoreland County districts that lease land to Marcellus shale gas drillers. The district's negotiations with Chevron Appalachia involve land behind the high school and field house, according to business manager Jude Abraham. The per-acre price offered by Chevron "is not where it needs to be," Abraham said. "We're sitting on a potential offer of $1,500 per acre and 15 percent royalty for five years, and we have to consider whether we want to do this or not." Landowners whose property holds Marcellus shale deposits are paid a fee for every acre leased. In addition, they receive a royalty based on the amount of gas extracted. Hempfield joins the Kiski Area and Mt. Pleasant Area school districts in looking to earn extra revenue from natural gas extraction, given the cuts to education in Gov. Tom Corbett's budget. "We want to capitalize on this," Abraham said. "We just don't want to give it away." Hempfield Solicitor Les Mlakar said the township is not the most attractive to drillers because its deposits are "wet gas," which contains hydrocarbons such as butane and propane that must be extracted before the gas can be shipped to market. Wet gas costs companies more than dry gas, which is considered "pipeline-ready." Superintendent Andy Leopold said companies require 400 contiguous acres before they consider drilling.

Gas well shuts down heating at Laurel Valley elementary Laurel Valley Elementary School reopened on Tuesday after work on a Marcellus shale natural gas well caused water to enter the school's gas line and made it impossible to heat the building. Superintendent Chris Oldham said temperatures ranged from 62 to 66 degrees on Monday so officials were forced to close the school for a day. During a "routine pipeline procedure, water produced from natural gas condensation inadvertently entered a (Peoples Natural Gas) distribution line in Fairfield Township," said spokesman Jeff Neu of XTO Energy Inc., the Texas-based company that maintains the well off Ross Mountain Park Road. Eight Peoples customers were without natural gas. The incident put Laurel Valley Elementary students a day behind on state-required PSSA testing, which was to have started on Monday, school Principal Diane Ravis said. Peoples Natural Gas spokesman Barry Kukovich said it's not uncommon for water to enter a gas line, especially after heavy rains. "It's probably one of the safest things that could happen as far as incidents go," Kukovich said. "As the water fills up the pipe, it cuts the gas off, so you're really dealing with a no-risk situation." District officials worked over the weekend to try to get boilers, powered by natural gas, to come on but could not keep them lit long enough to heat the building, Oldham said.

DELAWARE COUNTY DAILY TIMES

Guest Column: Marcellus shale law's a good first step The generation and fair distribution of revenue has been the focus of attention for the past year regarding the development of the Marcellus shale play both across the state of Pennsylvania and in the Philadelphia region. The Marcellus Shale Bill signed into law by Gov. Corbett on Feb. 14 includes provisions for an impact fee and how such revenue will be distributed to communities throughout Pennsylvania. It also incorporates a number of measures that address public health and environmental protection that warrant attention. In July 2011, the Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission unanimously adopted a report that was delivered to the governor, with recommendations to “develop a comprehensive, strategic proposal for the responsible and environmentally sound development of Marcellus Shale.” Of the 96 recommendations, 43 dealt with public health, safety and environmental protection. Others addressed infrastructure, local impact and emergency response, and economic and workforce development. A number of the recommendations are incorporated into the new law, and others should and will be considered during the rule-making process, and the development of policy documents, technical standards and best management practices. The Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) has worked diligently over the past two years to identify the critical policy issues for effectively regulating development of the Marcellus shale gas industry. PEC has released a series of reports and legislative proposals, containing more than 40 specific policy recommendations, several of which are now law (see www.pecpa.org for Marcellus shale policy recommendations of PEC). We are pleased that many of the environmental protection measures contained in the Marcellus shale bill are those recommended by PEC, and represent a meaningful step forward: including greater well site setback requirements (increased from 100 feet to 300 feet to a water body; from 200 feet to 500 feet to buildings and private wells; and to 1,000 feet to public

drinking water systems), enhanced inspection and reporting requirements, and greater protection for water resources and drinking water supplies.

WILKES-BARRE TIMES LEADER

Authority begins 3-year expansion The Abington Regional Wastewater Authority is getting the ball rolling on improvements to the sewage treatment plant. The Authority manages sewage or wastewater treatment for much of the Abington area. According to the Authority's website, the group collects anything that goes down the drain in Clarks Green, Clarks Summit or South Abington at the Abington Waste Water Treatment Plant on Route 6 in "the Notch." There, impurities are removed and clean water is returned to Leggett's Creek, which is the stream that runs through South Abington Park. On an average day, 125,000 gallons of clean water are produced every hour. The Authority has purchased the land across the street from the treatment plant, and the group is currently applying for permits to begin construction on an expansion. "The plant expansion was designed for many reasons, but the heart of the reason was the Abingtons overall, not South Abington, not Clarks Summit, not Clarks Green, but the Abingtons in general are having major infiltration problems," said Authority treasurer Gloria Lance of South Abington. Infiltration is excess water that flows into sewer pipes from groundwater and storm water. A majority of the area's underground collection system was built as early as the 1930s, and as a result they are crumbling and this is creating leaks. The groundwater is getting into the sewage system through the leaks and causing the infiltration. These leaks can increase the flow of liquid to the plant from about 3 million gallons per day to almost 19 million gallons per day. That's 16 million gallons of once clean water that now requires costly treatment.

WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE

Tioga County adopts gas well impact fee WELLSBORO - The Tioga County commissioners unanimously approved implementation of the natural gas impact fee, which will impose a fee on Marcellus Shale deep wells, taking effect immediately, during their Tuesday meeting. The fee will be based on the number of wells drilled in the county last year and the price of gas per 1,000 cubic feet harvested from those wells. Roughly $6 million will be disbursed by the Public Utility Commission to the county by the end of the year for distribution to areas that have been impacted negatively by drilling, such as roads and housing. The state first took 40 percent off the top to distribute among its agencies, such as the Department of Environmental Protection and others. Commissioner Roger Bunn, though he voted for the fee, said he was "uncomfortable that we are getting money from companies for business they did in a prior year." Commissioner Mark Hamilton said the implementation of the fee was "a really big deal for property tax payers and could have a significant impact on curbing tax increases in the future." Hamilton noted there are 13 areas the funding can be used for, every one of them areas that have been identified as impacted areas by both county and local governments.

STATE COLLEGE CENTRE DAILY TIMES

Growth takes toll on dairy industry Pennsylvania counties with Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling have experienced a drop in dairy herds above the state average, a new Penn State study has found. Counties with at least 150 Marcellus wells saw 18 percent drops in dairy cows and milk production, while counties with no Marcellus presence saw about 1 percent average drops in both categories. "There's been a lot of speculation about what type of impact Marcellus is having on farms," said Tim Kelsey, a professor of agricultural economics at Penn State. "This does look like there's a clear relationship between drilling activity and dairy farming." Kelsey and other researchers at Penn State looked at changes in dairy cattle numbers and milk production, provided by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, between 2007 and 2010. The study did not explain the cause of the decline in dairy farming, but Kelsey has his own opinion on what's happening. "Dairy farming is more demanding and unrelenting than other typesoffarmingactivity," hesaid. "The influx of money from Marcellus gives dairy farmers flexibility (to stop farming) they wouldn't have otherwise." Ron Reese, a former dairy farmer from Worth Township who sold off his dairy herd last year, said the shift can be partially attributed to farmers using big payouts from mineral rights leases and royalties to escape the hard work and difficult economics of raising milk cows. "If someone offered me $2,000 an acre, and once I cashed that check, I would have well in excess of $1.5 million in the bank, I'd have to reassess whether it's a good idea to get up every day and milk those cows," Reese said. Gary

Swan, the director of government affairs and communication for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, said the study "raises a lot of interesting questions," but does not offer any conclusions. "To try to connect any dots or determine any causal factors, we think would be very premature," he said. Centre County, which has more than 60 Marcellus wells, experienced an almost 14 percent drop in its herd, but Kelsey said that's probably due to factors other than gas drilling, as most local drilling is taking place in forested areas and not farmland. Rick Bird, part-owner of milk hauler R.W. Bird Trucking in Pleasant Gap, said some farmers — mostly north of Centre County, where gas drilling is more prominent — are leaving their fields to work for gas companies.

READING EAGLE

County wants fees set in case Utica shale tapped Commissioners intend to establish fees in case drillers tap gas formation in future. Northern Berks County has been identified as an area with natural gas beneath its surface, so an ordinance is needed to make sure that an impact fee could be levied if drilling takes place, the county commissioners agreed Tuesday. Commission Chairman Christian Y. Leinbach said that although all the drilling that has taken place in the state so far has been in the Marcellus shale formation, drilling could begin at some point in the Utica shale, which includes a portion of Berks. The fee the county would be able to charge is based on a complex formula set by state law, he said. "Based on what we're being told right now, it's probably 10 to 20 years away from being drilled, but you never know what may happen," Leinbach said. "We're on the Utica shale maps right now." Having the ordinance doesn't hurt, even if drilling never occurs here, he said. Solicitor Alan S. Miller said the ordinance would apply to drilling of any type of unconventional gas well, whether in Utica shale or any other deposit not yet identified. A big portion of state game land likely would be involved, Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt said. Commissioner Mark C. Scott said he probably would vote for advertising the ordinance, even though he thinks it may be premature. State law limits spending of the impact fees to things such as affordable housing, parks and open space. Scott said the money should go to projects like roads and bridges. "This seems bizarre to me," Scott said. Leinbach and county planner Shannon Rossman cautioned landowners in the Utica shale to contact the county planning commission or the Penn State Extension in State College if they are approached by drilling companies, so they can be linked with attorneys who can help them negotiate agreements. The commissioners plan to vote Thursday on advertising the ordinance. By state law, they have from seven to 60 days after the advertisement appears to enact the ordinance. It would become effective 10 days after adoption.

TOWANDA DAILY REVIEW

Webinars to examine impact fee UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. - Two Web-based, evening seminars presented by Penn State Extension, on March 15 and March 22, will provide a detailed examination of the shale gas impact fee legislation recently passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by the governor. The free webinars, both beginning at 7 p.m. and running 90 minutes, are aimed at two different audiences. The March 15 session, "What the Public Needs to Know about the New Shale Gas Impact Fee: Act 13," will offer a broad overview, while the March 22 session targets local municipal officials in areas where Marcellus gas-well drilling is prevalent. The March 22 webinar will focus on the local control and planning aspects of the act. Presenting in the March 15 webinar will be Timothy Kelsey, professor of agricultural economics in the College of Agricultural Sciences, and Stanford Lembeck, professor emeritus of agricultural economics and rural sociology and director of the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute. They will briefly discuss background about "The Unconventional Gas Well Impact Fee Act," including the scale of gas development so far in Pennsylvania, and the impacts on local governments and communities. "We also will cover how Pennsylvania's primary local taxes - the real property tax and the earned income tax - miss much of the economic growth occurring from Marcellus," Kelsey said. "We then will talk about the impact fee components of the act, including the fee schedule, the decision facing counties - and municipalities, if the counties don't act - how the dollars will be allocated, and how local governments can use them." Kelsey noted that an introduction to the environmental setbacks and local-control components of the act will be provided in the March 15 webinar, including how the act relates to the Municipalities Planning Code.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Pa.)

Metro Container site in Trainer added to Superfund list PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Environmental regulators have

added a former Delaware County chemical plant to its list of the country's most contaminated sites. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday placed the former Metro Container Corp. in Trainer on the Superfund National Priorities List. That qualifies it for federal funding to clean up hazardous substances that could endanger people's health and the environment. The EPA said a lagoon on the site was used for disposal of industrial waste. Officials said there's a risk of contamination to the Delaware River and nearby tidal flats and communities. The site had been used for various industrial purposes for decades by different companies. It is currently owned by an industrial painting company that uses the property mainly for storage.

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE

Editorial: Marcellus: How much change? CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- Industrial booms always cause upheavals, good and bad. When oil drilling erupted in Sistersville a century ago, wooden rigs sprouted in vacant lots and front lawns; mud and brine were everywhere; inpouring workers lived in shantyboats "four and five deep" along the Ohio River bank; illegal saloons, bordellos and gambling joints proliferated. It was a mess -- producing construction jobs that eventually subsided and oil millionaires who stayed rich. Today, the Marcellus Shale gas boom is sweeping West Virginia. Expectations are at fever pitch. Speculators are offering lucrative leases to families in Wetzel and other northwest counties. Monster trucks crowd rural roads through bucolic countryside. Out-of-state drilling crews live in motels. A special December session of the Legislature toughened controls to limit drilling damage. The current regular session approved a huge tax giveaway to any energy giant that will build a billion-dollar "cracker" to strip methane of feedstocks for new chemical plants. Boosters glow about estimates of 12,000 direct and indirect new jobs. How will West Virginia be changed by this tumult? It's too soon to predict, and much of the outcome hinges on the uncertain quest for a cracker.

WEST VIRGINIA STTE JOURNAL

Watershed assessment project in Elk, Mon rivers seeks feedback A pilot project to make map-based information about watershed health and threats available online at a high level of detail has reached a milestone. Watershed groups, county planners and others looking for the highest conservation or restoration priorities will be helped by the West Virginia Watershed Assessment Pilot Project, a project of the Nature Conservancy and the state Department of Environmental Protection under funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Nature Conservancy is ready to share its progress over the past year with stakeholders in the Elk and Monongahela watersheds. "The goal for these workshops is to present what we are proposing as an interactive web tool and as a report and getting feedback about what works for (stakeholders), what they would like to see, what doesn't working for them," said Ruth Thornton, the Nature Conservancy's conservation information manager. The two-year pilot project encompasses five West Virginia watersheds: over the past year, the Elk and Monongahela and, over the coming year, the Gauley, Little Kanawha and Upper Guyandotte. The overarching goal of the project is to create a tool that helps a range of stakeholders make decisions affecting aquatic resources, leading to an increase in the functional wetland and riparian acreage in a watershed. To do that, the Nature Conservancy's West Virginia field office has been meeting over the past year with the Environmental Protection Agency, university researchers and others who have local knowledge and data, to pull information together and begin designing the interactive mapping tool. "We're gathering all sorts of data on these watersheds, mostly GIS data, map data that is mostly publicly available," Thornton said. "We got some sensitive datasets as well, like the rare species."Within the two watersheds, the Nature Conservancy team has drilled down from the Hydrologic Unit Code-8, or HUC-8, level — that's United States Geological Survey speak for a watershed the size of the Elk or the Mon — down to the HUC-12 level. There are 22 of those in the Mon and 44 in the Elk.

PARKERSBURG NEWS AND SENTINEL

Commentary: Gas law protects Pennsylvanians Sunday's Forum piece by Bernard Goldstein and Jill Kriesky of

Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health on the historic Marcellus Shale legislation signed by Gov. Tom Corbett ("Gas Law Punts on Public Health," March 11) seeks to undermine the public's confidence in the law, and it does so in a manner that betrays the fair, informed and honest discussion to which your readers are entitled. For starters, the assertion that the Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission failed to consider public health impacts is misleading, at best. The commission consisted of four work groups, including one devoted exclusively to public health and environmental protection. Dr. Goldstein knows this well -- he testified before this group on May 10, 2011. In addition to Dr. Goldstein, the advisory commission heard formal testimony from Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Dr. Eli Avila, Pennsylvania Physician General Dr. Stephen Ostroff and Staci Covey, president of Troy Community Hospital, which is located in Pennsylvania's most active drilling county. The commission also reviewed studies by public health agencies in other states, including Texas. Dr. Goldstein and Ms. Kriesky also state that the "few public health recommendations" of the advisory commission failed to be included in the recent law signed by Gov. Corbett. In fact, the recommendations directly related to the Department of Health do not require legislation. They can be advanced through the agency's traditional policy implementations -- indeed, many already reflect what the department does day in and day out. With respect to those changes that do require legislation, the advisory commission put forth 24 such recommendations. All 24 were included in the legislation signed by the governor. These changes are numerous -- and substantial. Public notice and involvement in the permitting process was significantly expanded, as were setback distances from streams, rivers, water wells, buildings and public water supplies. Transparency is significantly expanded, including the posting of inspection and well-completion reports online and the provision of more information about hydraulic fracturing chemicals.

Commentary: Gas industry official touts drilling benefits PARKERSBURG - A local representative of the oil and natural gas industry told more than a dozen community members and Parkersburg City Council Tuesday about how advancements in the industry could benefit the region. David Drennon, marketing and transportation manager with HG Energy out of Vienna, is a representative with Just Beneath the Surface alliance and the Independent Oil and Gas Association of West Virginia, a statewide, nonprofit trade association. He spoke about the growth and changes in the state and neighboring states due to these newfound sources of energy. "I think it's exciting to be in this location and have this going on at your doorstep," Drennon told the crowd at the city building. He spoke briefly on three topics going on in West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania in the oil and natural gas industry. These latest changes include the discovery of natural gas in the Marcellus and Utica shale deposits. "Current developments in the industry, economics and regulation are the most important topics right now," Drennon said. "Five years ago, very few people in the state knew what Marcellus Shale was and now there are very few who haven't heard of it," he said. While there are no Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling wells in Wood County, there are about 190 wells in surrounding counties. "A larger piece of this puzzle is the lesser-known infrastructure," Drennon said. "The pipelines, processing plants, excetera that has a big impact on the region's economics."

ASSOCIATED PRESS (W. Va.)

State forum to discuss utilities, energy programs HUNTINGTON, W.Va. -- Electric utilities and energy efficiency programs will be discussed at a public forum in Huntington. The forum is set for today at the Cabell County Library. It is sponsored by the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, Energy Effici...

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

North Point dump declared a Superfund site For nearly 30 years, local, state and federal authorities have wrestled with what to do about an old dump in North Point that's been leaking toxic waste into nearby wetlands and Back River. On Tuesday, the Environmental Protection Agency declared the Sauer Dump a Superfund site, making it a

priority for a federally supervised cleanup. When it will finally get cleaned up, though, remains an open question. An EPA spokesman said more investigation is needed and couldn't say when work might begin to deal with the contaminants lurking in the soil and sediments. "It's not something that's going to happen overnight," EPA's Roy Seneca said. The 2.5-acre tract in eastern Baltimore County, named for one of its former owners, joins 18 other toxic-waste sites in Maryland that have been put on EPA's Superfund cleanup list over the years. Many of them are active military bases or former dumps like the Sauer property, which took all manner of wastes before environmental laws in the 1970s prohibited such activities. Residents, community activists and local officials welcomed the EPA's announcement. Though some cleanup work has been done at the site, it has remained a worry, particularly since the state warns against eating fish caught in Back River because of contamination with the same chemicals found in the old dump. "It is wonderful that they're going to put it on the list for cleanup," said Tom Darchicourt, who has owned 40 acres of land that abut the western edge of the dump for more than a decade and has been in frequent contact with government officials. The site, mostly covered by black plastic sheeting, is surrounded by two overgrown chain link fences. The inner fence is marked with signs that read "Danger Unauthorized Personnel Keep Out." There are about a dozen homes on the waterfront that wraps around the site. The Superfund listing is the latest twist for the dump in a sequence of events that began in 1984. That's when an inspector with the Baltimore County health department visited the filled-in marsh to check its suitability for a prospective developer, according to a chronology provided by the state Department of the Environment. Finding the tract littered with discarded auto parts, hundreds of mostly empty drums and wood and plastic debris, the county ordered an immediate cleanup.

Grants to help localities clean Bay Local government officials stressing out about the costs of cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay are being offered a little help - and a little cash - to take steps needed to control polluted runoff from their streets and parking lots. Officials with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced they're offering local officials throughout the bay region $4 million in grants and technical assistance for designing and installing "green infrastructure."The "Local Government Green Infrastructure Initiative," as it's called, will let local officials compete for grants of up to $750,000 each on projects that both green their communities and help improve water quality in streams, rivers and the bay. Road maintenance, park enhancements and public facilities renovations would qualify. The grants will be administered by the congressionally chartered foundation.¿ Some Maryland counties and Baltimore city project having to spend hundreds of millions of dollars each on storm drain retrofits and other costly pollution control projects to comply with the baywide "pollution diet. "
<!--[if !supportLineBreakNewLine]-->
<!--[endif]--> ***WBAL_-RADIO***
Maryland Dump Added To EPA *Superfund* List BALTIMORE COUNTY, Md. -- A former Dundalk dumping site has been added to the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund priority list.The EPA said Tuesday that the 2.5-acre Sauer Dump site is being added to its Superfund National Priorities List because it contains high concentrations of toxic chemicals, metals and pesticides.The agency said the site is one of nine nationwide being added to the list. The declaration allows the government to go after polluters and force them to pay for restoration.The EPA said dumping occurred at the privately owned former marshland from the 1960s through the 1980s.

EASTON STAR DEMOCRAT
Lawmakers will consider Bay Bridge Authority, free fishing areas in hearings set for this week
ANNAPOLIS The Maryland General Assembly has scheduled the following hearings this week. For more information or to view the hearing schedule by committee,search the legislature's website at http://mlis.state.md.us

Letter: A better and less costly alternativeMs. Fidis, in her guest comment titled "Is modern production agriculture the culprit?" does not understand the importance of modern agriculture. Without modern agriculture, the people of Earth would starve. What is more serious, starvation or a few nutrients in the Bay? Ms. Fidis said "Since the end of

WW II the application of nitrogen has increased tenfold." That simply is not true, because recommendations are calling for less fertilizer and the cost would be an economic impossibility. In the '50s, fertilizer was $35 per ton, and now it can be as high as 20 times that figure. She writes, "Fertilizer from agricultural land now accounts for 75 percent of the nitrogen in the Choptank River," yet Chesapeake Bay Foundation says 38 percent. To not apply fertilizer to lawns is good, as the Miles and Tred Avon are bordered by waterfront homes. Ms. Fidis writes that 200 pounds of nitrogen per acre is provided by grass clippings and rain. If true, that would give a large dose of nitrogen to ag land, rivers, lakes and streams along with non-agricultural land. What portion of the nutrient problem stems from rain? Concerning cover crops, they traditionally were grown for wind erosion, water erosion and to increase the organic matter in soil. The more organic matter in soil, the better water-holding capacity of soil and also better nutrient-holding capacity. Today with no till and cover crops that are planted late in the season and sprayed early in the spring with herbicide do little for organics in the soil.

HAVRE DE GRACE PATCH

Officials Unveil Grants For *Bay* Programs Some 1,800 communities will have access to a new $4 million grant program to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay. But only one community could host the announcement. That community was Havre de Grace—where national, state and local officials met at Concord Point Tuesday morning to unveil the program, which will be a joint venture between the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Havre de Grace Mayor Wayne Dougherty and Harford County Councilwoman Mary Ann Lisanti, chair of the Chesapeake Bay Partnership's Local Government Advisory Committee, were joined by EPA Regional Administrator Shawn M. Garvin and NFWF Director David J. O'Neill. It was the second time O'Neill has been to Concord Point to discuss the environment with the Chesapeake Bay as the backdrop. As a 24-year-old intern, O'Neill was in Havre de Grace on Earth Day in 1995 with President Bill Clinton. "It was great, it was an amazing experience," O'Neill said, noting that Tuesday's impeccable weather was far greater than the overcast day 17 years ago. Lisanti said it wasn't easy to convince officials to make the announcement in Havre de Grace, but all parties agreed Tuesday that it was an ideal spot to kick off the program. "This is a place that gets it because they're so connected to it," O'Neill said. "It's making those connections to other communities that are further removed that is more difficult. "For a place like this, re-orienting itself back to the water, with this park, [the Promenade], it has helped them reconnect to this resource and understand the value that it has, both economically, culturally and from a quality of life standpoint," O'Neill said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS (Md.)

Chesapeake Bay Foundation: Md. plan underfunded BALTIMORE — Maryland's bay restoration strategy is underfunded and may not get the job done as promised, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation said Tuesday. Alison Prost, the foundation's Maryland Executive Director, said Maryland is more than halfway to its bay restoration goals, but said lawmakers must provide more money and make policy changes "or we risk further disappointment after decades of unfulfilled promises to restore a national treasure." Those steps include dedicated funding for upgrading sewage treatment plants and storm water systems. Policies also must be changed to manage pollution from sprawl development, Prost said. The foundation raised the concerns in formal comments submitted on the second phase of the state's restoration strategy. The six states in the bay watershed are being required by the federal Environmental Protection Agency to submit detailed restoration plans. The foundation sued the EPA over the slow pace of the restoration effort previously led by bay states, but settled after the federal agency took charge. Despite decades of restoration, the bay has seen stocks of once commercially important species such as oysters plummet and water quality worsen... The EPA meanwhile announced Tuesday that it was making $4 million in grants available for bay restoration efforts. The grants are for projects such as road maintenance and flood plain management to cut pollution of waterways as well as aid to local governments to design and implementation pollution reduction efforts. Environmentalists have argued that restoring the bay can create jobs in sectors ranging from tourism to aquaculture and commercial and recreational fishing. However, development and farm interests have sued to block the EPA's restoration strategy, questioning the science behind the plan and its impact on the economy.

Maryland *dump* added to EPA Superfund list DUNDALK, Md. (AP) - A former Dundalk dumping site has been added to the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund priority list.

The EPA said Tuesday that the 2.5-acre Sauer Dump site is being added to its Superfund National Priorities List because it contains high concentrations of toxic chemicals, metals and pesticides. The agency says the site is one of nine nationwide being added to the list. The declaration allows the government to go after polluters and force them to pay for restoration. The EPA says dumping occurred at the privately owned former marshland from the 1960s through the 1980s.

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

New program aims to help people reduce river pollution, city bills Here's your chance to be a hero. The James River Association, an environmental group, has started a program, River Hero Homes, to help people reduce stormwater pollution that flows off their property. The program encourages people to reduce fertilizer, install rain barrels and pick up after pets. "The River Hero Homes program makes conserving and protecting the James River easy and convenient, all while helping homeowners save money," said association Director Bill Street. "The small steps detailed in the certification program can make a significant impact on the health of the river." The program includes a "runoff calculator" that determines how much pollution leaves your property each year. Participants in Richmond can use the program to qualify for a reduction in their stormwater bills. An information session will be held Thursday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the James River Association's headquarters, 9 S. 12th St., on the fourth floor. Those interested in attending the meeting should RSVP with Michelle Kokolis by calling (804) 788-8811, ext. 204, or emailing mkokolis@jrava.org.

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Virginia Beach deal preserves a slice of nature VIRGINIA BEACH -- The afternoon sun cuts through a canopy of maritime oaks and towering pine forest, casting long shadows across a sprawling marshy landscape. It's almost rush hour, yet the hum of traffic along nearby Shore Drive seems a world away, drowned out by the sound of chirping birds. This rare slice of suburban tranquillity could be accessible to the public as early as July after the City Council voted Tuesday to buy most of the 122-acre swath of waterfront property known as Pleasure House Point. The $13 million deal effectively preserves the last major piece of undeveloped land on the Lynnhaven River. The purchase is funded in part through conservation grants, donations and a low-interest loan from the state, and could be completed by July. Environmentalists and residents celebrated outside the council chambers after the unanimous vote. The groups have long fought to protect the property from development. "This is a big victory for the city of Virginia Beach and a big victory for the environment," said Lynda Frost, a project manager with The Trust for Public Land, a national conservation group that is a city partner in the deal. Pleasure House Point, just south of the Lesner Bridge and the Chesapeake Bay, encompasses oyster beds, wetlands and a maritime forest. Before the collapse of the housing market, local developer L.M. Sandler & Sons bought the land and had been seeking environmental permits to build a subdivision with more than 1,000 homes.

Public weighs in on Bay restoration plan VIRGINIA BEACH -- Unlike some of his Republican colleagues in Washington, U.S. Rep. Scott Rigell does not rail against the Environmental Protection Agency or decry a plan favored by President Barack Obama to speed up the Chesapeake Bay cleanup. Tuesday night at a public forum at the Meyera Oberndorf Central Library, Rigell also said he opposes a bill introduced last week by Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-Va., that would dramatically change the proposed Bay strategy and remove power from the EPA. "It doesn't do much to protect the Bay," Rigell, a freshman Republican representing Virginia Beach and parts of Norfolk, said of the bill. "I'm deeply skeptical of it and think others would feel the same if it were to come to the

floor" of the House for a vote. Rigell organized the forum to air pros and cons on the Bay restoration plan. Nearly 100 people attended. The federal cleanup plan, called a pollution diet, seeks to implement new controls on nutrients and sediments over the next 13 years that continue to plague the Bay's recovery. Cost estimates for Virginia's share of the program run between $8 billion and $16 billion through 2025. Farmers and developers are challenging the proposal in court, and the concept has become a whipping boy for conservatives who feel the EPA has run amok under Obama. Rigell has a different take. He said he sees no reason why environmental protection and job creation have to be mutually exclusive, or at least portrayed that way by critics, and that calm dialogue and compromise should be used to find common ground.

Editorial: Uranium work should be public No action stirs more suspicion than needlessly restricting the public's access to government records that should be open for review. Yet time and again, officials do it. The latest: The working group commissioned by Gov. Bob McDonnell to study the prospect of lifting Virginia's moratorium on uranium mining. It is set to draft a "conceptual statutory and regulatory framework" for mining the element used to fuel nuclear power plants. It also will conduct additional analysis of the Coles Hill site in Pittsylvania County, where Virginia Uranium Inc. is eager to start mining and processing much of the 119 million pounds of uranium underground. The group has arranged four meetings to gather feedback from the public and provide updates on its research.

NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS

Rigell toes the line on Chesapeake Bay issues Scott Rigell said he feels a “moral obligation” to improve the Chesapeake Bay’s water quality for future generations. He also said he feels a duty to make sure the United States isn’t saddled with long-term debt. So what’s a freshman congressman seeking re-election to do? Invite local, state and federal leaders, and a well-known scientist, to a public discussion Tuesday about the bay in the heart of his district, Virginia Beach. The bay has been a tricky issue for Rigell, who was elected in 2010 on the promise to cut federal spending. He has voted for and against legislation that aims to strengthen regulations that would hurry cleanup of the estuary, which is included on the nation’s dirty waters list. The restoration effort is being led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which Rigell said Tuesday is an “essential” federal agency. He qualified the statement by saying that he thinks the EPA has “overburdened” the nation with regulations. Anthony Moore, a deputy secretary in Virginia’s Department of Natural Resources, questioned whether the EPA’s aggressive new effort is necessary. He cited pollution reduction efforts, such as updated wastewater treatment plants and voluntary agricultural programs, as examples of how the bay’s water quality is improving. Moore was appointed to his position by Gov. Bob McDonnell, a Republican who has sparred with the EPA on the issue. Jeff Corbin, who is leading the effort for the EPA, said while efforts to reduce pollution in the bay have been made, it remains unhealthy. Algae blooms occur every summer producing dead zones that can kill fish and other marine life. “We’re about halfway there,” Corbin said of the restoration efforts. The panel, which also included Carl Hershner, a Virginia Institute of Marine Science professor, Ted Henifin, general manager of the Hampton Roads Sanitation District, and John Carlock, deputy executive director of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, took questions from an audience of roughly 100 people.

LYNCHBURG NEWS AND ADVANCE

Shine light on uranium mining study In the closing days of the General Assembly session, legislators — and the public — discovered that state officials conducting a uranium mining study for the governor want their work shrouded in secrecy. They will hold no public hearings and keep many of their papers secret. That was the word from Cathie J. France, deputy director of the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy. She is leading the study, known as the Uranium Working Group. Their work could result in not only lifting Virginia’s moratorium against uranium mining, but also the first draft of regulations on that mining. France told Media General News Service that various documents generated by the study group, including reports from expert advisers the group plans to hire, will be kept as “confidential governor’s working papers.” She added that the papers “are prepared for him, at his direction, for him to make a decision.” That’s hardly the transparency that Virginians have come to demand of government at the local and state levels across the Old Dominion. The study group’s decision could have a

profound impact on the public down the road. The study could lead to Gov. Bob McDonnell's approval of a proposal to mine and mill radioactive material from what has been called a 119 million-pound deposit in Pittsylvania County worth about $7 billion. Lawmakers on the uranium-mining subcommittee of the state Coal and Energy Commission responded last week to the veil being thrown over the study with some questions about the team's transparency and how it will design its task to keep the public informed. Del. Donald Merricks, R-Pittsylvania, asked France whether the public would be able to see questions raised about the mining proposal and the answers posted on the website. France said it would be possible to post the questions, but the work group would not post all the answers.

MISCELLANEOUS

BNA DAILY ENVIRONMENT REPORT

EPA Offers $4Million to Reduce Stormwater Rufoff HAVRE de GRACE, Md.—The Environmental Protection Agency announced a $4 million grant March 13 to encourage local governments in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to adapt local infrastructure projects to reduce stormwater runoff from streets, public building roofs, parking lots, culverts, and other impervious surfaces. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will administer the Green Infrastructure Showcase Project grant program as part of its overall $11 million Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund for 2012. The foundation plans to issue awards of up to $750,000 to each of the winning local government proposals in August. Grant applications are due by May 16. EPA Region 3 Administrator Shawn Garvin told Bloomberg BNA that local nutrient and sediment reduction efforts are the centerpiece of the next phase of the restoration effort. State plans for engaging local partners are a key part of state watershed improvement plans, which are due at EPA by March 30. More information is available at http://bit.ly/wH6dND.

EPA Data Show Self-Disclosure Cases Led to Small Cuts in Pollution The EPA program that allows regulated entities to self-disclose environmental violations resulted in commitments to reduce 3,000 pounds of pollution in fiscal year 2011, a fraction of the overall total under the enforcement program, agency data show. All enforcement actions that year led to commitments to reduce pollution by 1.8 billion pounds, according to EPA. EPA is considering reducing the self-disclosure program under the agency's audit policy because the disclosures are not being made in high-priority enforcement areas.

WBNG-TV BINGHAMTON

Councilman: Dimock 'Thugs' 'Pirating' Montrose Water Water flowing from a two-and-a-half foot tall spigot on a quiet street in Montrose has sparked a firestorm that's pitted residents against neighbors, the borough council against its owner and a sea change in local meeting laws.
Craig Stevens, of nearby Silver Lake Twp., ordered the hydrant installed in January on a commercial lot on Jessup Street. That was weeks after Cabot Oil & Gas halted water deliveries to residents living along Carter Road in Dimock Twp., who have long claimed natural gas drilling on their properties made their water unusable. Stevens owns the hydrant. He pays for the account. And he pays Ray Kemble to truck 500 gallons of Pennsylvania American water from the Lake Montrose-supplied spigot some six miles away to Carter Road. He asks for nothing in return. The deliveries are made several times each week — sometimes twice a day, when needed. But the donations haven't come easy, Stevens said. Within days of its installation, Stevens says he and his driver fell victim to verbal assaults from Jessup Street residents. He claims one neighbor physically assaulted Kemble as he filled the tank in the bed of his truck. Charges were never filed. Another day, Kemble showed up to find a vehicle parked just inches from the hydrant, blocking his way. Local police ordered the owner to remove the vehicle a short time later.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Senate delays mountaintop removal ban vote NASHVILLE (AP) — The Senate has voted to delay for three weeks a vote on a proposal to halt mountaintop removal coal mining in Tennessee. The decision came despite the objections of the bill's sponsor, Democratic Sen. Eric Stewart of Winchester, who called for a vote Monday evening. Republican Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris of Collierville said the delay is aimed at finding a compromise on the measure, and not an effort to kill the bill by holding it until relevant committees finish their business for the year. The measure seeks to deny permits that would alter any ridgeline more than 2,000 above sea level. Stewart said he opposes a Republican amendment attached that would continue to permit current practices.