

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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**Berks County
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Revenue Department Releases May 2019 Collections

Pennsylvania collected \$2.6 billion in General Fund revenue in May, which was \$14.9 million, or 0.6 percent, less than anticipated, Revenue Secretary Dan Hassell reported. **Fiscal year-to-date General Fund collections** total \$31.8 billion, which is \$813.3 million, or 2.6 percent, above estimate.

Since the start of the 2018-19 fiscal year, overall tax revenue is \$2 billion, or 6.8 percent, more than was collected in the same period of the last fiscal year.

Sales tax receipts totaled \$944.8 million for May, \$46.7 million above estimate. Year-to-date sales tax collections total \$10.1 billion, which is \$3206 million, or **3.3 percent, more than anticipated.**

Personal income tax (PIT) revenue in May was \$966 million, \$42.2 million below estimate. This brings year-to-date PIT collections to \$12.9 billion, which is \$82.8 million, or **0.6 percent, below estimate.**

May **corporation tax revenue** of \$344.7 million was \$47.3 million above estimate. Year-to-date corporation tax collections total \$4.9 billion, which is \$590.6 million, or **13.6 percent, above estimate.**

Inheritance tax revenue for the month was \$101.9 million, \$2.8 million below estimate, bringing the year-to-date total to \$957.2 million, which is \$27 million, or **2.7 percent, below estimate.**

Realty transfer tax revenue was \$46.9 million for May, \$7 million below estimate, bringing the fiscal-year total to \$480.3 million, which is \$28.2 million, or **5.6 percent, less than anticipated.**

Other General Fund tax revenue, including cigarette, malt beverage, liquor and gaming taxes, totaled \$178.2 million for the month, \$2.5 million below estimate and bringing the year-to-date total to \$1.6 billion, which is \$1.6 million, or **0.1 percent, below estimate.**

Non-tax revenue totaled \$33.9 million for the month, \$54.3 million below estimate, bringing the year-to-date total to \$802.6

million, which is \$41.7 million, or **5.5 percent, above estimate.**

In addition to the General Fund collections, the **Motor License Fund** received \$296.3 million for the month, \$7.9 million above estimate. Fiscal year-to-date collections for the fund - which include the commonly known gas and diesel taxes, as well as other license, fine and fee revenues - total \$2.6 billion, which is \$47.9 million, or **1.8 percent, below estimate.**

Source: PA Department of Revenue Press Release, 6/3/2019

Senator-elect Pittman Takes Oath of Office on June 10

State Senator-elect Joe Pittman will formally be sworn into office during a ceremony set for **1 p.m., Monday, June 10**, in the Senate Chamber of the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg. The swearing-in ceremony will be **live streamed** at <http://www.pasenategop.com/>.

Born and raised in Indiana County, Senator-elect Pittman was elected in a May 21 special election to complete the unexpired term of Senator Don White, who retired on February 28 after 18 years of service.

Senator-elect Pittman served as White's Chief of Staff throughout his tenure in office. In that role, he developed strong working relationships with members of the General Assembly, legislative staff and officials across a number of state agencies. He also worked closely with county and local governments and civic organizations to foster and promote economic development

and infrastructure improvement efforts to enhance to quality of life for the region.

"First and foremost, Senator White always made it abundantly clear to me that the constituents of the 41st District are the top priority and to make sure that their needs are met and that they are served by our offices promptly and efficiently," said Senator-elect Pittman.

"I am very relieved that I am able to enter this office with so much of the staff and infrastructure in place that Senator White had during his tenure, which will really allow me to give the folks of the District a voice in Harrisburg right away," he continued. "I am ready day one to walk on the Floor of the Senate and begin working with the members of the Chamber to bring home the budget, hopefully on time, and to meet the many priorities that we have as a Commonwealth." **Video**

<https://pasen.wistia.com/medias/0psnu9ongr>

The 41st Senatorial District includes all of Armstrong and Indiana counties; part of Butler County (Allegheny, Buffalo, Clearfield, Clinton, Concord, Donegal, Fairview, Jefferson, Middlesex, Oakland, Parker, Summit, Venango, Washington and Winfield townships and the boroughs of Bruin, Cherry Valley, Chicora, East Butler, Eau Claire, Fairview, Karns City, Petrolia and Saxonburg) and part of Westmoreland county (Bell, Loyalhanna, Upper Burrell and Washington townships and the boroughs of Avonmore, Export, Murrysville and Oklahoma).

Source: Senate Republican Communications, 6/6/2019

PUC to Livestream June 11 Damage Prevention Committee Meeting

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) will livestream a meeting of the Damage Prevention Committee (DPC) on **Tuesday, June 11, 2019, at 9 a.m.** in Hearing Room 1 of the Commonwealth Keystone Building, Harrisburg.

To view the **livestream**, visit the PUC's website http://www.puc.pa.gov/about_puc/live_streaming_video.aspx. The **agenda** http://www.puc.pa.gov/transport/gassafe/pdf/DPC_Agendas/2019/DPC061119.pdf also is available on the PUC's website.

Digging Safety - PA One Call

Every year, underground lines across the state are struck more than 6,000 times - which means that during the average workday a pipeline or other vital utility system is hit every 20 minutes. While underground lines are often "out of sight and out of mind," every hit poses a risk to the contractors and homeowners who are doing the digging; to utility workers and emergency responders who are mobilized when lines are struck; and to bystanders who live, work or travel near the locations of the incidents.

State law requires contractors and residents to contact **PA One Call** <https://www.palcall.org/PA811/Public/> at least three business days prior to excavation - triggering alerts to all utilities within an intended digging area and prompting utilities to mark where their facilities are located. Pennsylvanians can dial 8-1-1 to

connect with the One Call system, while out-of-state residents or businesses can call 1-800-242-1776.

About the DPC

The DPC is part of the PUC's independent Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, which also includes the Pipeline Safety Division.

Modeled after successful programs in other states, the **focus of the committee** http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility_industry/transportation/pipeline_safety/pa_one_call_enforcement.aspx is a reduction in the number of "hits" on underground utilities.

The DPC meets regularly to review alleged violations of the Act and makes determinations as to the appropriate response including, but not limited to, the issuance of warning letters or administrative penalties. The committee holds public meetings in Hearing Room 1 of the Commonwealth Keystone Building, Harrisburg, and each meeting is livestreamed on the PUC's **website** http://www.puc.pa.gov/about_puc/live_streaming_video.aspx, and **summaries of actions taken at those meetings** http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility_industry/transportation/pa_one_call_enforcement/dpc_agendas/Actions.aspx are also posted online.

Creation of the committee was authorized by **Act 50 of 2017** http://www.puc.pa.gov/about_puc/press_releases.aspx?ShowPR=3918, which enhances Pennsylvania's Underground Utility Line Protection Act - also known as the "One Call Law."

About the Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement

As the independent investigation and enforcement bureau of the PUC, I&E enforces state and federal pipeline safety and motor carrier safety laws and regulations and represents the public interest in ratemaking and service matters before the PUC's Office of Administrative Law Judge. I&E has the authority to bring enforcement action, seek emergency orders from the Commission or take other steps to ensure public safety.

Source: PUC Press Release, 6/7/2019

Boback's Bill Would Bring Relief to Stormwater Ratepayers - House Bill 781 focus of committee meeting

A bill sponsored by Rep. Karen Boback (R-Luzerne/Lackawanna/Wyoming) that would provide Pennsylvania counties with funding for stormwater management and bring relief to ratepayers was the focus of an informational meeting conducted by the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee at the state Capitol today.

House Bill 781

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2019&sInd=0&body=H&type=B&bn=781> would give county governments the option of using impact fee funds derived from the Marcellus Shale industry under Act 13 for stormwater management as mandated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

“For months now, I have been working to find solutions to the federal stormwater

mandate,” Boback explained to committee members. “House Bill 781 would amend the Marcellus Legacy Fund to provide counties with the option to utilize these funds for stormwater management. Currently, these funds can be used for projects such as greenways, recreational trails and open spaces.”

The committee heard from Jay Wilkes, supervisor chairman in Jackson Township, Luzerne County, who told them the township is part of a 32-municipality regional effort to share the costs of compliance with the EPA mandate. As part of his testimony, Wilkes provided a dramatic example of the mandate's local impact, telling members that their volunteer fire department owes \$10,000 annually but doesn't have the money.

“The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors supports House Bill 781 as a reasonable expansion of the use of these funds, which will help in our challenge of MS4 compliance,” said Wilkes.

“Our farmers, our churches, our schools, our grocery stores, our small businesses, our fire departments, every one of these wonderful places that we patronize and support are being lambasted with this fee,” said Boback. “So, there's got to be another way to pay for this. Hopefully, the feds will come through and provide the funding for this mandate. But in the meantime, this is another option that we can give our counties.”

To view a video of **Boback's comments** visit here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Onmjriq9HHg&feature=youtu.be>.

The committee also heard from Felicia Dell, York County Planning Commission director.

House Bill 781 is currently under consideration by the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Source: Rep. Karen Boback Press Release, 6/5/2019

EPA Issues Guidance on Clean Water Act Water Quality Certification

As directed by President Trump, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released guidance on Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) that provides recommendations to clarify and streamline the 401 certification process and to promote greater investment in and certainty for national infrastructure projects while continuing to protect local water quality.

Under **Executive Order 13868, "Promoting Energy Infrastructure and Economic Growth,"** <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/04/15/2019-07656/promoting-energy-infrastructure-and-economic-growth> EPA was directed to issue guidance for federal permitting agencies and state and authorized tribal authorities to modernize previous guidance and clarify existing CWA Section 401 requirements.

EPA's "Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Guidance for Federal Agencies, States, and Authorized Tribes" provides clarification and recommendations on CWA Section 401 certifications in the following specific areas:

- Statutory and regulatory timelines for review and action on a CWA Section 401 certification;
- The appropriate scope of CWA Section 401 certification conditions; and
- Information within the scope of a state or authorized tribe's CWA Section 401 review.

EPA's new guidance, which replaces EPA's prior interim guidance from 2010, also provides additional recommendations to federal agencies, states and authorized tribes to promote early collaboration and coordination through the 401 certification process. Executive Order 13868 also directed EPA to propose new rules modernizing the agency's CWA Section 401 implementing regulations by August 8, 2019. The agency intends to propose regulations that may help further clarify and streamline CWA Section 401 certifications. Since the Executive Order was issued on April 10, 2019, the agency has initiated formal consultations with its state, local, and tribal partners, as well as outreach with its federal partners on this rulemaking effort and invited written pre-proposal recommendations through a public docket. The agency is carefully reviewing the input received through these engagements and the docket prior to issuing a proposed rule.

Background

Section 401 of the CWA provides states and authorized tribes with an important tool to help protect water quality within their borders in collaboration with federal agencies. The rules governing this authority have not been updated in nearly 50 years. In addition, evolving case law and EPA's outdated guidance have caused some confusion and resulted in delays in certain infrastructure projects with potentially significant national benefits.

To read the guidance and to learn about the CWA Section 401 water quality certification process, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-401> .

Source: EPA Press Release, 6/7/2019

Costly Taxpayer Funded Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Reduction Procurement Bill to be Considered June 10 in Senate Appropriations

On June 10, the Senate Appropriations Committee is scheduled to consider the costly **Senate Bill 575** (Yaw-R-Lycoming) <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?year=2019&sInd=0&body=S&type=B&bn=575> would establish a taxpayer funded procurement program for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment reductions needed to comply with the Chesapeake Bay Watershed pollution reduction goals.

The bill was introduced May 31 and reported <http://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2019/06/senate-environmental-committee-reports.html> .

As written, the bill would guarantee only large companies with access to lots of resources could take part in the complicated bidding process established in the bill. These companies typically promote higher cost bricks and mortar treatment solutions to deliver thousands of pounds of pollution reduction.

No small farmer, who could install much cheaper Best Management Practices in terms of cost per pound of pollution reduced through the installation of proven green infrastructure, would bother to participate in bidding with all that upfront expense and paperwork.

If the only people who can bid in these complicated processes are companies with the more expensive options, this process will guarantee it presents agencies with the choice of only picking more expensive options.

Last September, Matt Johnston of the University of Maryland Chesapeake Bay Program and Dr. Emily Trentacoste of the U.S. Geological Survey presented the PA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Planning Steering Committee with the list of the **top 11 most cost effective practices** <http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=41067> to reduce nitrogen going to the Chesapeake Bay based on all this experience and data in the Chesapeake Bay Program (*page 73 of his presentation* http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Water/ChesapeakeBayOffice/WIPIII/PA%20PhaseIIIWIP%20SC%209_27_2017%20Draftpdf).

The practices include alternative crops on farmland at \$1/pound of nitrogen reduced to exclusion fencing with grass buffers at \$6/pound.

In between are -- less expensive to more - - were water quality conservation plans, grass buffers on row crops, barnyard runoff control, water control structures, wetland restoration, forest buffers on row crops (\$2/pound), narrow buffers on row crops, narrow forest buffers on row crops and nutrient management on the land.

None of the top 11 most cost effective practices included bricks and mortar treatment solutions.

An existing, competitive **Nutrient Credit Auction Program** <https://www.pennvest.pa.gov/Services/nutrient-credit-trading/Pages/default.aspx> run by the PA Infrastructure Investment Authority resulted in nitrogen credit sales of \$2.25 per pound last September. The trouble is that the more expensive pollution reduction technology cannot compete in this program because their costs are too high.

The meeting will be held in the Rules Room and announced Off the Floor at one of the Senate session breaks.

Sen. Pat Browne (R-Lehigh) serves as Majority Chair of the committee and can be contacted at 717-787-1349 or send email to: pbrowne@pasen.gov. Sen. Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia) serves as Minority Chair and can be contacted at 717-787-7112 or send email to: vincent.hughes@pasenate.com.

Source: PA Environmental Digest Blog, 6/7/2019

Senator Yudichak and Senator Killion Introduce Restore Pennsylvania Legislation

Senator John Yudichak (D - Luzerne/Carbon) and Senator Tom Killion (R - Chester/Delaware) have introduced the bipartisan Restore Pennsylvania legislation as Senate Bill 725.

Restore Pennsylvania is a major new infrastructure initiative funded by the

monetization of a commonsense severance tax. Restore Pennsylvania would inject \$4.5 billion over the next four years in infrastructure projects across the Commonwealth.

"I am proud to stand with Governor Tom Wolf, Senator Killion, Representative Wheatley and Representative Murt in support of Restore PA, a bipartisan proposal that imposes a responsible severance tax on natural gas that can fund much needed public infrastructure projects in every Pennsylvania County," said Senator John Yudichak. "Passing Restore PA will create a 21st century infrastructure system that enhances our roads, our flood and storm water management systems as well as expanding access to essential broadband internet services that improve public safety, health care access, and economic development opportunities for underserved communities throughout Pennsylvania."

"I am pleased to introduce this important legislation along with Senator Yudichak," said Senator Killion. "Well-working infrastructure is critical to our economy and job growth. Pennsylvania is the only major gas-producing state that doesn't tax that finite natural resource. Restore Pennsylvania will revolutionize how critical infrastructure projects are funded, and I am proud to work with the Governor and my colleagues in the legislature to get this done for our communities and working families."

"We have a real opportunity to make impactful infrastructure investments in Pennsylvania. Restore Pennsylvania is the only plan presented that can actually address the needs in every community," said Gov. Wolf. "We have an opportunity to provide all of our students' internet access, an opportunity to help our municipalities truly address the crippling effects of blight, an

opportunity to help families devastated by flooding when the federal government turns its back on them, and so much more. We need to seize this opportunity for all Pennsylvanians."

Senate Bill 725

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?year=2019&sind=0&body=S&type=B&BN=0725> has 25 cosponsors.

Representatives Jake Wheatley (D - Allegheny) and Thomas Murt (R - Montgomery/Philadelphia County) have introduced the legislation in the House as **House Bill 1585**

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?year=2019&sind=0&body=H&type=B&BN=1585>.

Source: Senator Yudichak Press Release, 6/6/2019

Speaker Turzai Issues Statement on Restore PA

On June 6, 2019, Speaker of the House of Representatives Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny) issued a comprehensive statement on Restore PA, Gov. Tom Wolf's plan that proposes to place a severance tax on the natural gas industry.

The statement appears in full below.

Gov. Wolf's Restore PA Plan Would More Likely Destroy PA

In January 2019, Gov. Wolf first outlined his Restore PA proposal: a \$4.5 billion, debt-financed slush fund to be allocated at the whim of a new government board and paid for by yet another job-killing tax on the natural gas production industry. Since his initial proposal, Gov. Wolf has embarked on a very public and campaign-

style tour of the Commonwealth, promising communities a laundry list of new infrastructure projects conditioned on the General Assembly enacting his long sought-after severance tax. To top it off, the governor recently suggested that the severance tax could also help reduce Pennsylvania's Corporate Net Income Tax (CNIT). That's a lot of promises to keep with a finite and unpredictable source of tax revenue.

This week, nearly five months after the governor announced Restore PA, and just a few weeks before the General Assembly must pass a budget for next year, the governor plans to finally introduce his legislation. Unsurprisingly, almost all the legislative support is among House or Senate Democrats, further demonstrating their party's desire to recklessly borrow money and to tax employers in order to repay it.

Let me be clear; infrastructure investment is critical to the ongoing success of Pennsylvania's economy. The House Republican Caucus supports investments in transportation infrastructure, rural broadband, stormwater management, brownfield clean-up and other worthy infrastructure needs. No one disagrees with the value of these projects. House Republicans do, however, have serious issues with the governor's irresponsible, anticompetitive, and likely insufficient proposal to pay for them.

Debt That Would Cripple the Commonwealth

We must be clear about what Restore PA really is: \$6.5 billion of new debt to burden the next generation of Pennsylvanians. That is a low estimate of the full cost, with financing, of Gov. Wolf's planned \$4.5

billion bond issue. And the true cost could be even higher, if interest rates rise, if severance tax revenue falters, or if Pennsylvania's credit is downgraded.

As Speaker of the House, I have led the effort to reduce the burden that the Commonwealth's debt places on Pennsylvania taxpayers. Over the past 10 years, we have increased annual state contributions to the School Employee Retirement System by over \$2 billion. We have lowered the state's RACP debt ceiling by \$1 billion. And we have reformed the public pension system to limit the risk that future Pennsylvanians will suffer under an unmanageable pension debt.

Still, as the current economic expansion becomes the longest in American history this month, we have a great deal of work to do to ensure that Pennsylvania's finances are as healthy as the taxpayers of this state deserve. This is not the time to go even deeper into debt, or to further mortgage the future of the Commonwealth to provide Gov. Wolf with a slush fund to ride out his term.

A Better Solution

House Republicans believe that our infrastructure needs can be funded under existing programs and by the private sector, if only we can remove governmental barriers to those capital and infrastructure investments. That is why I joined several of my House Republican colleagues to propose the **Energize PA program**, a package of legislation designed to stimulate billions of dollars in private sector infrastructure investment and other capital projects throughout the Commonwealth. Energize PA would require minimal public expenditure, rather than several billion dollars in debt spending. Most importantly,

Energize PA would help unlock our state's full industrial potential, stimulating potentially tens of billions of dollars in additional economic activity, and providing thousands of family-sustaining jobs in the construction and trades industries.

We recognize that our natural gas industry already pays its fair share of taxes and has provided an economic lifeline to many struggling families, towns and counties in our state. The natural gas impact fee has already generated \$1.7 billion in revenue since 2012, far more than is generated by traditional severance taxes in our neighboring states of Ohio and West Virginia. Natural gas producers and landowners have also paid an additional \$5 billion in income tax since the Marcellus shale boom began. No other industry is singled out with a specific tax on their activity. Where the banking and insurance industries have industry-specific taxes, they do not pay business income taxes. Why would we attack the natural gas industry so directly?

Unlocking the Potential of Natural Gas

Pennsylvania has already benefited immensely from the boom in natural gas extraction, and House Republicans are dedicated to building on those gains rather than endangering them.

Residential natural gas customer costs have fallen over the past 10 years, for a \$1,200 annual savings per household. Along with reduced electricity costs, Pennsylvania families have saved a cumulative \$16.2 billion on their utility bills since 2008, largely thanks to increased natural gas production.

Tens of thousands of well-paying, family-sustaining jobs have been provided

by the shale boom, with billions of dollars in industrial investment to capitalize on the lower cost of energy and the manufacturing potential of natural gas. The Shell cracker plant in Beaver County is a prime example, but the benefits spread throughout the Commonwealth.

Natural gas has allowed our state to excel in reducing its carbon dioxide emissions, with a 30% reduction between 2005 and 2015, while increasing our electric grid diversity and reliability.

The list goes on.

All of these achievements were accomplished without the need for taxpayers to underwrite a redundant government program. And they were all private sector driven.

In short, the imposition of a redundant severance tax on natural gas producers would undermine the enormous economic and environmental contributions of natural gas. It would deter additional infrastructure and capital investments, and it would kill jobs. It is an age old and long-established maxim that, if you tax something, you will get less of it. And yet, perhaps that is precisely what our Democratic governor and his allies in the House Democratic Caucus intend with his proposed severance tax: to make natural gas more expensive to produce, to deter fracking and to chase it out of Pennsylvania, as New York has done.

The governor has stated that he supports the natural gas industry in Pennsylvania, yet he also agreed with his fellow Democratic governors of New Jersey, New York and Delaware to impose a moratorium on drilling in the Delaware River Basin. That is certainly not illustrative of a governor who supports the ongoing production of natural

gas in the Commonwealth, nor is his proposal to impose an additional, industry-specific tax on natural gas producers.

Source: Speaker Turzai Press Release, 6/6/2019

Senator Costa to Introduce Cap and Invest bill for Pennsylvania

On June 6, 2019, Senate Democratic Leader Jay Costa, Jr. circulated a memo asking for cosponsors for a bill to create a "Cap and Invest" program for the state's electric power sector.

"The federal government has abdicated responsibility on climate change- states, local governments, private companies and citizens must take the lead in enacting equitable policies to mitigate the growing impacts of climate change," said Senator Costa.

The legislation will instruct the Environmental Quality Board to reduce carbon pollution emissions from the electric power sector - the largest source of emissions in Pennsylvania - by at least 90% by 2040 relative to baseline emissions. The Board can develop a market-based carbon pollution limit, which ensures a technology neutral, flexible approach that incentivizes the most cost-effective emission reductions and generates revenue for investments in economic development, workforce training, energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy affordability.

The legislation also enables the Board to adopt mechanisms that facilitate deployment of zero-emissions technologies, measures

that provide for ongoing assessment of emission sources in the **electric power sector** that adversely affect disadvantaged communities and for reductions in harmful air pollution affecting the communities, protect against emissions leakage, and join one or more multijurisdictional programs for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

"Pennsylvania has already made important strides towards reducing greenhouse gases, and mayors from Pennsylvania's two largest cities have already committed to reducing carbon emissions," said Senator Costa. "But more work is needed to achieve the emission reductions and to make sure Pennsylvania isn't left behind in the burgeoning growth of clean energy technologies and jobs."

Further, the bill provides that revenue generated from the program be directed towards programs that promote clean air, **mitigate utility bill impacts and protect low-income consumers**, increase energy efficiency, and assist workers and communities impacted by the closure of power plants or mines.

Senator Costa is circulating this memo to garner more cosponsors before formally introducing the bill.

Source: Senator Costa Press Release, 6/6/2019

PBA Honors Retired Pa. Public Utility Commission Director Cheryl Walker Davis

The Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) Public Utility Law Section presented its Christianson Award to

Cheryl Walker Davis on May 30 at the Public Utility Law Conference in Harrisburg. Walker Davis retired from her post as director of Office of Special Assistants, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) in 2018 after more than 30 years of service.

The Christianson Award is named in honor of Robert A. Christianson, a former chief administrative law judge for the PUC, and recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the development, improvement and advancement of the profession of public utility law.

Walker Davis has devoted the majority of her career to the regulation of electric, gas, telephone, water and transportation companies. After starting out as an attorney at the South Carolina Public Service Commission, she joined the Pennsylvania PUC in 1983, where she directed the legal and technical staff responsible for advising the commission on all aspects of utility regulation, including the establishment and restructuring of competitive markets for electric, natural gas, transportation and telephone companies; energy efficiency and conservation; rates and ratemaking; rate of return; service practices; tariff changes; affiliated interest agreements; securities filings; mergers and acquisitions; billing disputes; and administrative and regulatory process.

In addition to her many years of leadership, Walker Davis has made a lasting impact on the commission through the analysis of thousands of cases and advisement of dozens of commissioners and their staffs during her tenure. She was involved in the preparation oversight of many landmark cases, such as the Natural Gas Choice and Competition Act of 1999,

the impact of the shale gas industry on regulated public utilities, the Tax Act of 1986, the divestiture of the Bell Operating Companies, and the unbundling and pricing of Verizon's network elements, just to name a few.

Walker Davis has lectured both nationally and internationally on public utility issues. She has traveled to more than 40 states and has served as a member of delegations to Africa, Asia, Europe and South America. For more than 20 years, Walker Davis has been instrumental in organizing annual educational conferences for regulatory attorneys. Taking an active role in various regulatory organizations, she is president of the Harrisburg chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy, which she co-founded in 2017. Walker Davis has served two terms as president of the National Conference of Regulatory Attorneys and three terms as chair of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Staff Subcommittee on Law and as a former liaison to its Staff Subcommittee on International Relations. She is also a member of the National Regulatory Research Institute's Research Advisory Committee.

Throughout her career, Walker Davis has hosted and mentored college students through job shadowing opportunities in legal and technical areas of public utility regulation. She has previously held various offices with the St. Stephen's School board of directors; has served on numerous Gettysburg College boards, task forces and commissions; has held various offices with the local chapters of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated; and has received numerous awards for service.

Walker Davis received a B.A. from Gettysburg College and a J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Founded in 1895, the Pennsylvania Bar Association strives to promote justice, professional excellence and respect for the law; improve public understanding of the legal system; facilitate access of legal services; and serve the lawyer members of the state's largest organized bar association.

Source: PA Bar Association Press Release, 6/6/2019

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This newsletter provides general information, not legal advice as to any specific matter. It should not be used as a substitute for appropriate legal advice.