



# Your Winter Report

## Historic victory against illegal air polluter

### Largest penalty of its kind in PA history

Right before 2017 came to a close, PennEnvironment won a \$1.5 million lawsuit against the largest steel company in the world, ArcelorMittal, for hundreds of air pollution violations at the company's coal processing facility located south of Pittsburgh. The fine is believed to be the heftiest in Pennsylvania history for a suit of this kind.

“Today’s announcement should send a message loud and clear to polluters,” stated PennEnvironment Executive Director David Masur. “Citizens and PennEnvironment will not stand idly by if you’re going to illegally pollute, and put our health and environment at risk.”

PennEnvironment adds this historic Clean Air Act victory to its litigation résumé that already includes the two largest citizen suit penalties under the federal Clean Water Act in Pennsylvania history.

### A historic settlement

The settlement terms include:

- A \$1.5 million civil penalty;
- Significant mandatory penalties for future violations or failures to implement required environmental upgrades at the plant;
- Enhanced monitoring of emissions;
- Innovative sulfur dioxide control technology when the facility’s pollution control system is shut down for annual maintenance;
- Enhanced controls of dust emissions, odor investigations, and responses to citizen complaints;
- Other environmental, operational, and plant upgrades & investigations.



Credit: Observer-Reporter

▲ PennEnvironment Executive Director David Masur, accompanied by local residents, announced our Clean Air Act lawsuit against the world’s largest steel company.

“Fortunately, when Congress enacted the Clean Air Act nearly fifty years ago, they had the foresight and wherewithal to include a provision that allows every-day citizens to take legal steps to rein in illegal pollution,” said Masur. “This has been a crucial tool that has allowed concerned citizens to defend their health and environment when illegal polluters, and state and federal officials don’t.”

Masur said that, for the staff at PennEnvironment, victories like this are what the work is all about. “Every day we’re joining with our generous citizen members to make sure that we can help Pennsylvanians in need stand up against powerful polluters that are threatening their health and our environment.”



Credit: Gashgeron via Shutterstock

### Take action

Your support allows us to continue to rein in illegal polluters in Pennsylvania. Donate online at:

[www.PennEnvironment.org](http://www.PennEnvironment.org)

◀ We’re working to stop pollution and hold polluters accountable when they violate the laws that protect our environment.



Staff

## You make the difference

As you'll see in this newsletter, we're making real progress on environmental issues you care about. One of the campaigns we're most excited about is our effort to transition Pennsylvania to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050.

This is what the scientific community is calling for if we're going to avoid the worst effects of climate change. And now we have a bipartisan proposal in the Pennsylvania legislature that will achieve these goals.

In a world where elected officials often make decisions based more on political calculations than what's right, it's reassuring that this group of Democrats and Republicans are coming together to tackle climate change.

I hope you'll join us in supporting this critical effort. You can join our team of climate defender volunteers, call your legislator or join our mobile action network.

Together, we'll solve climate change for our planet and for future generations.

David Masur, Executive Director

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## Your Impact

### PennEnvironment named to PA task force on lead

After launching a statewide campaign to tackle lead poisoning on the heels of the disaster in Flint, Michigan, PennEnvironment was nominated and appointed to serve on the Pennsylvania Senate Task Force on Lead Exposure. The Task Force is made up of a select group of bipartisan state legislators, statewide health experts and other stakeholders.

Formed after the passage of Senate Resolution 33, introduced by state Sen. John Yudichak, the group is tasked with investigating the scope of Pennsylvania's lead exposure problems, and then draft and submit a report to the full state Senate that includes proposed solutions.

"PennEnvironment is honored to be included in this important effort to do everything in our power to tackle the threat posed by lead in Pennsylvania," said PennEnvironment Executive Director David Masur.

### Clean Cars program celebrates five-year anniversary

A cornerstone effort to reduce global warming and air pollution from cars—and save consumers billions of dollars at the pump—celebrated its fifth anniversary last fall.

Yet while the program has delivered huge successes for our health, environment and pocketbooks over the past five years, the program has come under attack from the Trump administration. In response, PennEnvironment launched a statewide campaign, and held kickoff news conferences in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia to uncover the efforts by the Trump administration to undermine the effort.

If left intact, the federal Clean Cars Standards are projected to reduce global warming pollution by 6 billion metric tons, reduce oil use by 12 billion barrels, and save Americans between \$76-122 billion by 2025.



Guhin Yury/Shutterstock

We're working to protect federal Clean Cars Standards, which are projected to reduce global warming pollution by 6 billion metric tons by 2025.

# New study: EPA budget cuts put PA's lakes, rivers and streams at risk

Nicholas A. Tonelli via Flickr, CC BY 2.0

A new study by the PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center showed how the Trump administration's proposal to eviscerate the budget for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would have real repercussions here in Pennsylvania, devastating restoration efforts for the state's most iconic waterways.

"For years, EPA has protected the rivers and streams we love. Now it's time for us to protect EPA," stated Stephanie Wein, PennEnvironment clean water and conservation advocate.

## Spreading the word

The report, entitled "Rough Waters Ahead," examined the impacts of the Trump administration's proposed budget cuts to EPA water programs and found that Pennsylvania would lose:

- \$1,795,200 for water pollution control grants, which constitutes a 30% cut;
- \$1.2 million in drinking water protection and enforcement grants, also a 30% cut;
- \$4.7 million to address urban and agricultural runoff pollution if non-point pollution control grants are eliminated.

PennEnvironment staff held news conferences across the state to release the report's findings and garner media attention to show how these budget cuts will directly affect Pennsylvania's incredible lakes, rivers and streams. At the same time, we were joined by elected officials, environmental groups and others to call on Congress and the Trump administration to halt their effort to dismantle EPA's budget. This included keynote speakers like Congressmen Dwight Evans and Matthew Cartwright, and state legislators including state Reps. Donna Bullock of Philadelphia and Pat Harkins of Erie.

All told, our new study was covered by dozens of media outlets across the state, helping us inform tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians about what's at stake if Congress and the Trump administration succeed.

## What's at stake

The report also highlighted successes of EPA programs that have been shown to deliver real ecological benefits for Pennsylvania's rivers and streams in terms of pollution prevention, environmental enforcement, and restoration. For example, in 2015 an EPA grant of more than \$450,000 enabled the Schuylkill Headwaters Association, a local nonprofit in the Schuylkill River watershed, to clean up acid mine drainage. Yet under the proposed Trump EPA budget, this program would be eliminated.

"Pennsylvania's great rivers and streams are critical to the health, welfare, and quality of life for our families, our communities, and our wildlife. It's also a drinking water source for millions of Pennsylvanians," said Wein. "We've made real progress to clean up and restore these important waterways with the support and guidance of the U.S. EPA, but this budget proposal would put all of that in jeopardy."



Credit: Staff

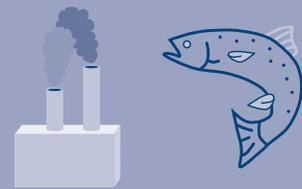
## Explore more online

▲ PennEnvironment Clean Water and Conservation Advocate Stephanie Wein speaks at the release of the "Rough Waters Ahead" report.

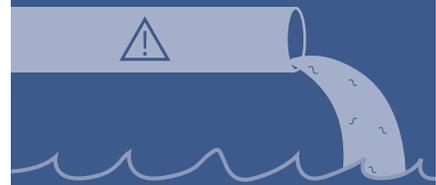
Read the full report at:

[www.PennEnvironmentCenter.org](http://www.PennEnvironmentCenter.org)

## The president's proposed cuts:



**34 percent overall cut to EPA's budget**



**30 percent cut to water pollution control funds for Pennsylvania**



**97 percent cut to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**



**30 percent cut to funds to protect drinking water**

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# PennEnvironment

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## Your Winter Report

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### PennEnvironment

#### Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind PennEnvironment. We focus exclusively on protecting Pennsylvania's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

Andrew F. Kazmierski via Shutterstock

## Protecting the Delaware River from fracking

After nearly a decade's work, PennEnvironment applauded regulators who took a major step to permanently protect the Delaware River and the surrounding watershed from fracking.

The Delaware River supplies drinking water to 15 million Americans, spurs billions in economic development, and is the backbone of the region's quality of life. Starting with the first public comment period nine years ago, PennEnvironment delivered over 30,000 signatures to officials calling for permanent protection for the river from fracking. This was believed to be the largest public input process of its kind in the agency's history.

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) announced its proposal in September 2017. The agency is made up of representatives from the four states through which the Delaware River runs, and federal officials. Now the proposal will go through an extensive public input process before being finalized in the upcoming months.



### Support our efforts

Support our efforts to ban fracking across the state. Donate online at:  
[www.PennEnvironment.org](http://www.PennEnvironment.org)

◀ The Delaware River supplies drinking water for 15 million Americans. Protecting it from fracking is critical.