



**Wednesday, June 21, 2023**

**10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry  
417 Walnut Street, Harrisburg

## Agenda

- 10:00 a.m.                    **Welcome and Introductions**  
– Luke Bernstein, PA Chamber President and CEO
- 10:05 a.m.                    **Sponsor Recognition and Introduction of Keynote**  
– Michael Shaw, Sr. Principal, GZA GeoEnvironmental
- 10:05 – 10:55 a.m.        **DEP Priorities, 10 Point Permitting Reform, Four Pillars,  
Q&A with Chamber Members**  
– Richard Negrin, Secretary, DEP  
– Ramez Ziadeh, Deputy Secretary for Field Operations, DEP
- 10:55 – 11:05 a.m.        **Introduction of DEP Policy Director**  
– Ezra Thrush, Policy Director, DEP
- 11:05 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.    **Federal Issues in Focus: Class VI UIC Permitting & State Primacy**  
– William Bates, Manager, EPA Underground Injection Control

## Speakers



**Richard Negrin** — who will be the first Latino ever to be Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection — most recently served as the Vice President of Regulatory Policy and Strategy and head of external affairs at Commonwealth Edison, where he led the development of clean energy regulatory policies and strategies. He also served as Deputy Mayor of Administration and Coordination and Managing Director of the City of Philadelphia, where he brought best practices to city government; and oversaw the development and implementation of PhillyRising, a first of its kind neighborhood initiative that is changing quality of life in many of Philadelphia’s challenged neighborhoods and is being replicated in other cities. He has also served as a member of the Board of Directors for a number of community-based organizations, including Congreso de Latinos Unidos, where he served as Chair of the Governance Committee. He is a graduate of the Rutgers University School of Law and received his bachelor’s degree in political science from Wagner College.



**Ramez Ziadeh, P.E.** Ramez started his career with DEP in January of 1994 in the Southwest Regional Office as a Civil Engineer in the Soils and Waterways Section of the Water Management Program. Since then, he served as the Permitting and Technical Services Chief in the Watershed Management Program in the Southcentral Region, Chief of the Project Inspection Division in the Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands, Director of the Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands, Executive Deputy Secretary of Programs and Acting Secretary during the last 7 months of Governor Wolf’s term. Ramez is a licensed professional engineer in the States of Pennsylvania and California. He received his B.S. degree in civil engineering from the University of Pittsburgh in 1993.



**Ezra P. Thrush, MPA**, serves as DEP’s Policy Director. Ezra has a widely respected expertise on the Commonwealth’s environmental policy, climate, and conservation issues. His extensive policy knowledge and understanding of on-the-ground issues have effectively advanced environmental progress across the state, all while forming close working relationships with legislators, policymakers, and stakeholders of both major parties as well as federal and municipal officials. Ezra is particularly proud of his background securing clean energy and conservation investments in the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and two iterations of the federal Farm Bill. At the state level, Ezra helped pass legislation to establish the Commonwealth’s new Clean Streams Fund, historic increases for the Growing Greener program, alongside numerous clean energy and climate policies. Ezra holds a Master’s degree in Public Administration from Shippensburg University. He is an avid outdoorsman and active volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America, National Outdoor Leadership School, and the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics.



**William (Bill) Bates** is a program manager within U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water, where he oversees activities associated with the Underground Injection Control and Source Water Programs. He has worked for the U.S. EPA for more than 15 years. Through the course of his tenure he has served as a permit writer, an enforcement officer, and as subject matter expert on oil and gas related injection practices. Bill received his Master’s of Science in Earth and Environmental Sciences from the University of Illinois at Chicago and his Bachelor’s of Science in Natural Sciences from the University of Akron.