

DEP Quarterly

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PA Chamber of Business and Industry
417 Walnut Street, Harrisburg PA
Wednesday, September 10, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- 10:00 a.m. Welcoming Remarks and Introductions**
– Luke Bernstein, President and CEO, PA Chamber
- 10:03 a.m. Introductory Remarks as Chair of PA Chamber's Environmental Policy Committee**
– Andy Bockis, Partner, Saul Ewing and PA Chamber's Energy & Environmental Policy Committee Chair
- 10:05 a.m. Introduction of Sen. Gene Yaw by Dan Amate of GZA**
- 10:05 a.m. Legislative Update**
– Senator Gene Yaw, Majority Chairman, Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee
- 10:35 a.m. Introduction of John Ryder by Charles Boruchowitz of Bentley Systems**
- 10:35 a.m. DEP Update**
– John Ryder, Deputy Secretary of Field Operations, PA Department of Environmental Protection
- 11:20 a.m. Introduction of Roundtable by Michelle Skjoldal of Eckert Seamans**
- 11:20 a.m. Roundtable Discussion: PA's Energy Economy – Opportunities, Challenges, and Impacts**
– Andy Tubbs, President, Energy Association of PA
– Glen Thomas, President, GT Power Group
– Stephen Bennett, Senior Manager, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, PJM Interconnection
- 12:00 p.m. Adjourn**

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



Luke Bernstein, President and CEO, PA Chamber of Business and Industry

A seasoned financial, government, and public policy professional, Luke came to the organization in 2022 with more than 20 years of experience in the public and private sectors.

Before leading the PA Chamber, Luke was most recently executive vice president, chief operations and technology officer at Orrstown Financial Services. He had served as Orrstown's corporate spokesperson since 2017.

He was previously senior vice president of external affairs at the Pennsylvania Bankers Association from 2015 to 2017 and deputy chief of staff for former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett from 2011 to 2015.

In addition to his executive leadership roles in the private sector and state government, Luke has experience working at the federal level, as a former appointed advisor in the Administration of President George W. Bush and as an aide in the U.S. Senate. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science and policy studies from Dickinson College, where he also served as an adjunct professor.

Luke also completed the Duke Leadership Program at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. He is a very active member of his community, serving on numerous boards and as a youth sports coach.



Andy Bockis, Partner, Saul Ewing and PA Chamber's Energy & Environmental Policy Committee Chair

Andrew Bockis helps clients obtain and defend environmental permits for their projects. Industrial projects are subject to ever-changing rules and increased agency review time. Whether related to industrial warehouses or oil and gas facilities or renewable energy projects, many business leaders are frustrated with the uncertainty created by complex environmental regulation. The situation is magnified when there is public opposition to a project. Based on his prior experience as counsel to

the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing

Board, Andy helps clients in a variety of industries minimize

project delays and secure the permits they need. When projects are challenged, he helps companies defend their interests in court. He has litigated and defended environmental permitting decisions before the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board, Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court, Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Third Circuit, D.C. Circuit, and in response to petitions for certiorari before the U.S. Supreme Court. Andy also helps clients navigate their interactions with regulatory agencies in order to avoid extra costs and lost time so that they can commence construction and operate with confidence. He is the immediate past Chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Environmental and Energy Law Section, and co-editor of Pennsylvania Environmental Law and Practice, published by PBI Press. He is also Chair of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry's Environmental Council. Mr. Bockis is a partner in the Harrisburg office of Saul Ewing LLP and is Co-Chair of the Firm's Environmental Practice.



Senator Gene Yaw, Majority Chairman, Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Senator Gene Yaw was elected to represent the 23rd Senatorial District in Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, Tioga, and Union Counties in November 2008.

Prior to running for the Senate, Yaw served as Lycoming County solicitor for 17 years and was named County Solicitor of the Year in 2004. He has also served as general counsel to the Pennsylvania College of Technology for more than 20 years. In 2013, he was elected Chairman of the Pennsylvania College of Technology Board of Directors.

Senator Yaw serves as Chairman of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. He is also Vice Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and a member of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs, Banking & Insurance, Community, Economic & Recreational Development, Rules & Executive Nominations, and the Majority Policy Committees.

Senator Yaw serves on a number of Boards and Commissions including as Chairman of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, a member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a member of the Environmental Quality Board, a member of the Pennsylvania Aggregate Advisory Board, and a member of the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority.

Senator Yaw is a member of the Lycoming Law Association and Pennsylvania Bar Association, Pennsylvania Association for Justice, and a former member of the Board of Directors of Susquehanna Legal Services. He serves as "Of Counsel" with the McCormick Law Firm in Williamsport, a prominent firm which has been in continuous existence for 150 years.

A U.S. Army veteran, Yaw enlisted and went on to graduate from the United States Artillery and Missile Officer Candidate School in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He served an overseas tour of duty as an artillery officer and was honorably discharged as a 1st Lieutenant. He graduated from Montoursville High School, attended Bucknell University, and earned degrees from Lycoming College and the American University School of Law in Washington, D.C.

Senator Yaw has coached Little League Baseball and coached and refereed for the American Youth Soccer Organization. He is a member of the National Rifle Association, Ducks Unlimited, the Nittany Lion Club, the Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce and the Central PA Chamber of Commerce. He received the 2010 Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award from the Susquehanna Council, Boy Scouts of America, the 2011 Lycoming College Alumni of the Year Award, the 2011 CAPPA Community Partner Award, the Central Pennsylvania State of Israel Bonds 2012 Israel Unity Award, the 2013 Pennsylvania Winery Association Industry Supporter Award, the 2014 Pennsylvania College of Technology Centennial Leadership Award, the 2015 Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health Legislator of the Year Award, the 2019 Pennsylvania Water Environment Association Public Official of the Year Award and the 2021 Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts Legislator Leadership Award.

Most recently, Senator Yaw received the 2025 W. Howard Hartman Little League Friendship Award, the 2025 Karl Brown Award for Ag Conservation Leadership, the 2023 WVIA Good Neighbor Award, the 2023 Marcellus Shale Coalition Shale Gas Advocate Award and was selected as the 2023 Clean Water Champion by the Choose Clean Water Coalition. Yaw has also been recognized by the National Federation of Independent Business as a Guardian of Small Business for several legislative sessions and by Americans for Prosperity – Pennsylvania for his consistent conservative legislative voting record. In May 2023, Sen. Yaw was named to the City and State Pennsylvania 2023 Energy and Environment Power 100 list.

A Loyalsock Township resident, Yaw is married to Ann S. Pepperman, Esquire. Together they have two children, Scott and Mackenzie, and four grandchildren.



John Ryder, Deputy Secretary of Field Operations, PA Department of Environmental Protection

John Ryder serves as the Deputy Secretary for Field Operations for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. John has been with the Department since 2000. Previously John served as the Director of the Department's Bureau of District Oil and Gas Operations. The Bureau oversaw all permitting, inspection, compliance, and enforcement associated with the Oil and Gas industry across Pennsylvania. He has also served as an Environmental Group Manager and Water Quality Specialist Supervisor with the Eastern District Oil and Gas Office where he managed a diverse team of environmental professionals challenged with regulating unconventional oil and gas related exploration activities. Prior to that, John was an Aquatic Biologist for the Department's North Central Field Office where he participated in a wide variety of regulatory, permitting, and vector program work.

John received his B.S. degree in Fisheries Biology from Mansfield University and has also done graduate work at Penn State University. He lives in rural Pennsylvania and enjoys spending time outdoors and traveling with his family.



Andy Tubbs, President, Energy Association of Pennsylvania

Andy Tubbs is president and CEO of the Energy Association of Pennsylvania (EAP), where he spearheads EAP's initiatives to advocate for the energy industry and strengthen collaboration among policymakers, regulators and utility providers. He has extensive state and federal regulatory utility experience, including serving as vice president of external and customer affairs for Columbia Gas of PA, a subsidiary of NiSource. Prior to joining EAP, he led regulatory strategy for corporate initiatives across six states for NiSource.

Previously, Andy was an attorney in Post & Schell P.C.'s Energy Practice Group, where his practice focused on representing electric and gas utility clients in a variety of state and federal regulatory and transactional matters before the Pennsylvania PUC and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). He also served as an attorney for the Pennsylvania PUC, where he was actively involved in the Pennsylvania PUC's efforts to restructure the state's electric and natural gas industries and served as one of the commission's primary counsels on federal energy matters before the FERC. In addition, during his tenure at the Pennsylvania PUC, he served as energy counsel for Pennsylvania Commissioner Kim Pizingrilli.

Andy is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania, Maryland and U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pittsburgh and his Juris Doctor from Widener University School of Law.



Glen Thomas, President, GT Power Group

Glen Thomas is the former chairman of the Pennsylvania Utility Commission (PUC), where he oversaw the restructuring of Pennsylvania's electricity, natural gas, and local telephone markets. Before his appointment to the PUC, Mr. Thomas served as deputy director of Governor Ridge's Policy Office, where he advised the governor on energy and environmental issues. In addition, Mr. Thomas was appointed by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to serve on the governor's transition team for energy related issues in 2003. Mr. Thomas is also a former partner at the law firm of Blank Rome. Mr. Thomas currently serves as President of the PJM Power Providers Group, a non-profit organization dedicated to properly designed and well-functioning markets in the PJM region.

Mr. Thomas has served as president of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners; chairman of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Washington Action Committee; and a member of the U.S. Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Board, the National Regulatory Research Institute's Board of Directors, the Keystone Center Energy Board, the Organization of MISO States Board of Directors, and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Committee on International Relations, Telecommunications and Critical Infrastructure.

Mr. Thomas received his J.D. from Dickinson School of Law and his Bachelor of Arts in philosophy/religion and political science from Colgate University. He attended the Governors Center of the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University, the John F. Kennedy School of Government, and the Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University. He was one of the 60 civilians chosen by the Secretary of Defense to participate in the U.S. Department of Defense Joint Civilian Orientation Conference.

Mr. Thomas has been honored by the Philadelphia Business Journal and the Central Pennsylvania Business Journal as recipient of the "40 Under 40" Award. He is also a member of the Wilson High School Academic Hall of Fame.



Stephen Bennett, Senior Manager, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, PJM Interconnection

Stephen Bennett is a seasoned professional with extensive experience in regulatory and legislative affairs within the energy sector. Currently serving as a Senior Manager at PJM Interconnection since July 2017, Stephen previously held roles such as Managing Director at Energy Advocacy, LLC and Senior Manager in Markets and Regulatory Policy at PPL Energy Supply/Talen Energy. Throughout a career that includes significant positions at Exelon and consultancy work at The Structure Group and Accenture, Stephen has demonstrated expertise in government relations, policy advocacy, and project management.

Stephen earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering with an Environmental Concentration from the University of Maryland.

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