

DEP Quarterly

PA Chamber of Business and Industry
417 Walnut Street, Harrisburg PA
Wednesday, June 17, 2026
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- 9:45 a.m. Speakers and sponsors may log on early (if on Zoom)
- 10:00 a.m. Program Broadcast is Live (if on Zoom)
- 10:00 a.m. Welcoming Remarks and Introductions – Alex Halper
- 10:05 a.m. Introduction of John Ryder by Alex Halper
- 10:05 a.m. DEP Update – John Ryder, Deputy Secretary of Field Operations, PA Department of Environmental Protection
- 10:35 a.m. Introduction of Grants Innovation Officer Louie Krak by Maegan Stump of Eckert Seamans
- 10:35 a.m. DEP Grant Funding Update – Louie Krak, Grants Innovation Officer, PA Department of Environmental Protection
- 11:20 a.m. Introduction of Kelly Monaghan by Alex Halper
- 11:20 a.m. PUC Update – Kelly Monaghan, Deputy Executive Director, PA Public Utility Commission
- 12:00 p.m. Adjourn

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



Alex Halper, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, PA Chamber of Business and Industry

Alex Halper serves as Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for the PA Chamber and oversees public policy development, advocacy and outreach, as well as the organization's political efforts.

Halper serves on the Pennsylvania Minimum Wage Advisory Board, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children Board of Directors, Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Advisory Council, the Governing Board of the Pennsylvania Compensation Rating Bureau, the Pennsylvania Association for Chamber Professionals Board and the Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations Board and was appointed to Gov. Josh Shapiro's Transition Advisory Committee. He regularly speaks to local chambers of commerce, trade associations and employers across the Commonwealth about key legislative issues impacting business and Pennsylvania's overall political landscape.

Alex Halper joined the PA Chamber's Government Affairs team in 2011. He previously served as a legislative assistant in Washington, D.C. to former U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter where he worked on numerous areas of public policy, including transportation and infrastructure, homeland security and appropriations.

Originally from Allentown, Halper graduated from the George Washington University in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. He lives in Lower Paxton Township with his wife, two children, and their dog, Kelce.



John Ryder, Field Operations, Pennsylvania 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.



Maegan Stump, Associate, Eckert Seamans

Maegan Stump concentrates her practice in environmental law. Before joining Eckert Seamans, she served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Michael T. Clark of the Indiana County Court of Common Pleas.

While in law school, Maegan was a legal intern for the Department of the Interior Office of the General Counsel and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. She was also the Executive Production Editor of Duquesne's Energy and Environmental Law Journal. In 2022 and 2023, she was awarded the Allegheny County Bar Association's Environment and Energy Law Section Scholarship.



Louie Krak, Grants Innovation Officer, Department of Environmental Protection

Louie Krak serves as the first Grants Innovation Officer for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). In this role, he is working to optimize DEP's funding strategy agency wide, focusing on opportunities to strengthen grant program design and implementation. Previously, Louie was the primary architect and leader of the Reducing Industrial Sector Emissions in Pennsylvania (RISE PA) Program, for which he secured a \$396 million grant and launched a statewide industrial decarbonization grant program funded through the Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants. He also served as an Infrastructure Coordinator for the Governor's Office of Critical Investments, working to maximize federal funding opportunities for Pennsylvania after his time in DEP's Policy Office during which he specialized in climate change, energy, and air policy. As a Lancaster County native, Louie is proud to have begun his career in public service helping to preserve farmland at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.



Kelly Monaghan, Deputy Executive Director, PA Public Utility Commission (PUC)

Kelly Monaghan is a regulatory executive, attorney, CPA, and educator with more than two decades of experience in public-sector auditing, financial oversight, utility regulation, and policy development. She currently serves as Deputy Executive Director at the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, where she provides executive-level oversight across multiple bureaus and offices, supports strategic planning and process improvement, and advises leadership on complex legal, technical, policy, and legislative matters.

Kelly previously directed the PUC's Bureau of Audits, overseeing major regulatory reviews, internal audits, solvency examinations, performance audits, and strategic initiatives involving cybersecurity, emerging technologies, and utility assessment processes. She is the creator of the AXIS™ Framework, a patent-pending structured data and AI governance model for utility regulation, and has been active nationally through NARUC's Accounting and Finance Subcommittee. She holds a Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Widener Commonwealth Law School; an MBA in Accounting; and certifications as a CPA, CGFM, CFE, and CISA.

In addition to her regulatory work, Kelly has taught and lectured on accounting, auditing, and utility regulation, including as a guest lecturer for Michigan State University's Institute of Public Utilities and as a CPA review instructor. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking, solo camping, campfire cooking, and stargazing, and she brings the same curiosity and strategic focus to her personal interests that she brings to public service. She is also proud of her Irish heritage and believes strongly in using education, leadership, and good government to serve something larger than herself.

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