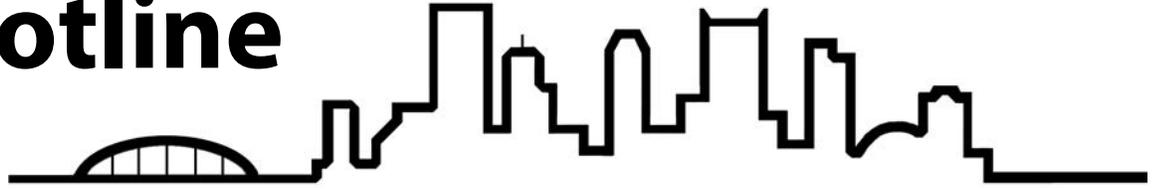




Group Against Smog and Pollution, Inc. Hotline



Spring 2018

www.gasp-pgh.org

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Backlog Permit Problem Remains in Southwestern PA

by John Baillie, GASP Staff Attorney

In September 2016 we blogged about the backlogs of applications for new and renewed operating permits for major sources of air pollution that existed in Allegheny County (where such sources are regulated by the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD)) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Southwest Region.

Because such operating permits are required by Title V of the Clean Air Act, they are commonly called "Title V Operating Permits." A facility's Title V Operating Permit must include all of the federal, state, and local air pollution law requirements that apply to the facility. Title V Operating Permits are intended to improve compliance with those requirements by eliminating confusion over which requirements actually apply and by mandating that facilities report on their compliance with applicable requirements at least once a year. A Title V Operating Permit is valid for five years, and a Title V facility must

apply to renew its permit between six and eighteen months before the permit expires. The Clean Air Act requires state permitting agencies to act on applications for Title V Operating Permits within eighteen months.

There are twenty-seven major sources of air pollution in Allegheny County. When we checked in September 2016, two of those sources had never been issued Title V Operating Permits, and another nine of those sources had expired operating permits. The operating permits of five of those nine major sources had been expired for more than five years.

For purposes of air quality permitting, DEP's Southwest Region includes sources in Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties. In September 2016 in the Southwest Region, we counted sixty-eight major sources of air pollution, twenty-two of which were operating on

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Group Against Smog and Pollution, Inc. (GASP) is a nonprofit citizens group in southwestern Pennsylvania working for a healthy, sustainable environment. Founded in 1969, GASP has been a diligent watchdog, educator, litigator, and policy maker on many environmental issues, with a focus on air quality in the Pittsburgh region.

Become an Air Ambassador

We're launching a new program for dedicated volunteers called the GASP Air Ambassadors. These individuals will be trained by GASP staff about air quality issues in Southwestern PA in order to help educate their neighbors and communities about the impacts of air pollution. After training, the ambassadors will represent GASP at community events, with more experienced ambassadors assisting with educational events and workshops. Contact Chelsea Arnold at chelsea@gasp-pgh.org for more information on how you can get involved.

On The Air: GASP's Monthly Podcast

by Emily Persico, GASP Communications and Education Specialist

Wherever an educational opportunity arises, GASP is there. Since 1969, we have been educating the community about air quality issues by showing up at doctor's offices, preschools, community events, and social media. We've put on our own events and, most recently, we've even started an Air Quality Summer Camp (see details on page 7). This year, GASP is showing up on more platforms than ever before, finally releasing our first ever podcast, On the Air.

So, what is a podcast exactly? Well, it's basically like a radio show, but it can be accessed on the web via either a computer or smartphone. Podcasting has been gaining in popularity for years, attracting millions of Americans to subscribe, sit and listen to shows on a variety of topics, from ghost stories to the daily news. And—you guessed it—GASP's podcast is all about air quality.

Released on March 12, 2018, our pilot episode, "The Nose Knows," explores air pollution odors with community members Lisa Minetti and Mark Dixon, Carnegie Mellon University CREATE Lab's Beatrice Dias (who is also one of the developers of

the SmellPGH app), and meringue-whipping artist Shelby Brewster. Together, we discuss the problem of odors in Southwestern Pennsylvania and the innovative solutions our region has come up with to address them.

While the topic will change month-to-month, the format will be much the same: 30-minute episodes released once a month, diving deep into air pollution stories relevant for anyone who breathes.

Check it out and subscribe at <http://gasp-pgh.org/media/ont-hear/>

Want to be our next podcast guest? Have an idea for a future episode? We'd like to know! Leave a comment or review on iTunes and Stitcher or comment directly on our webpage. We want to tell the stories that you want to hear. We appreciate the feedback. 



Artist Shelby Brewster discusses her "smog meringues" on GASP's pilot episode of On The Air.

The **Hotline** is the semiannual newsletter of the Group Against Smog and Pollution.

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GASP Mission Statement

The Group Against Smog and Pollution works to improve air quality to protect human, environmental, and economic health in southwestern Pennsylvania.

GASP Vision

GASP envisions a Southwestern Pennsylvania where the air we breathe supports human, environmental, and economic health and where:

- Every citizen can breathe cleaner air, which at a minimum meets federal health-based standards and is no longer listed as one of the top 10 most polluted areas in the United States.
- Regional data will show over time that citizens have less prevalence of diseases and conditions that are proven to be linked to air pollution.
- Citizens understand the health implications of polluted air and appreciate that clean air is imperative not only to good health but also to both a healthy environment and a healthy economy and where they hold policymakers accountable for regional air quality.
- Policymakers consider new development through an "air quality lens."
- All regional businesses comply with their air quality permits. In the cases where they are not complying, regulatory agencies take swift action to stop violations of air quality permits and regulations.



GASP Staff

Rachel Filippini	Executive Director
Chelsea Arnold	Education and Events Coordinator
John Baillie	Staff Attorney
Jamin Bogi	Policy and Outreach Coordinator
Jeannie French	Office Manager
Ned Mulcahy	Staff Attorney
Emily Persico	Communications and Education Specialist
Suzanne Seppi	Project Manager

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GASP as Legal Watchdog

Part of GASP’s mission is to serve as a watchdog in southwestern Pennsylvania, keeping an eye on regional businesses and regulatory agencies to make sure they comply with air quality permits. GASP’s legal team was very

busy last year, providing written and/or oral testimony on 22 different permits and regulations—almost double the amount of comments from the previous year. Here is a list of the legal testimony submitted in 2017.

Date	Agency Accepting Comments	Subject
1.18.17	ACHD	Written comments on AKJ Clairton’s Title V permit
1.18.17	ACHD	Written comments on Bay Valley Foods Title V permit
1.18.17	ACHD	Written comments on NRG Energy Title V permit
2.6.17	PA DEP	Written comments on Blue Moon Compressor Station
2.13.17	ACHD	Written comments on Ashland Inc Title V permit
3.27.17	PA DEP	Written comments on Summerill Tube Title V permit
3.29.17	ACHD	Written comments on TMS International Braddock Title V permit
3.29.17	ACHD	Written comments on Neville Island Terminals Title V permit
4.10.17	ACHD	Written comments on proposed SO2 State Implementation Plan
5.1.17	PA DEP	Written comments on amendments to 25 PA Code concerning gas volatility regulations
6.5.17	ACHD	Written comments on Proposed Revisions to Article XI
6.19.17	PA DEP	Written comments on Sunoco Delmont Terminal Title V permit
6.20.17	ACHD	Written comments on Allegheny County Air Monitoring Network Plan for 2018
6.23.17	PA DEP	Written and oral comments on PA Draft Beneficiary Mitigation Plan
6.27.17	ACHD	Written comments on Universal Stainless and Alloy Products Title V permit
7.10.17	PA DEP	Written comments on Robinson Power Beech Hollow Plan Approval
8.1.17	PA DEP	Written comments on PA DEP Air Monitoring Network Plan for 2018
8.24.17	ACHD	Written comments on Installation Permit I017 for Meeting the 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide NAAQS Standard
8.24.17	ACHD	Written comments on Edgar Thomson’s Draft Installation Permit for the Sulfur Dioxide SIP
10.23.17	FERC	Written comments on Proposed Grid Reliability and Resilience Pricing Rule
12.4.17	ACHD	Written and oral comments on McConway & Torley operating permit
12.19.17	ACHD	Written comments on ATI Allegheny Ludlum Title V permit



Rallying for Clean Air

by Rachel Filippini, GASP Executive Director

The snow indicated otherwise, but on the first official day of spring, March 20th, PennEnvironment, with support from GASP, the Breathe Collaborative, and other organizations, held a Clean Air Rally to draw attention to our poor air quality and to call on Chief Executive Rich Fitzgerald to do more to clean up the air. Speakers representing GASP, PennEnvironment, PennFuture, Clean Water Action, Sierra Club, and Tuesdays

with Toomey reminded the crowd gathered that our region's high asthma rates and elevated cancer risk due to air pollution are unacceptable and are negatively impacting both the health and productivity of the region. The general theme was that we can't be a "Most Liveable" city or region when our residents don't have clean air to breathe.



GASP's Rachel Filippini addresses local legislators. See her comments on the next page.



Despite the disagreeable weather, many protestors showed up with signs and their voices.



Zach Barber from PennEnvironment speaks to the crowd.



This protestor is wearing a nose mask!

All photos on pages 4-5 are by Mark Dixon and are part of the INVERSION Documentary project: inversiondoc.com.

Tell Us Your Story!

Do you have a personal story to tell about GASP and our region's air quality? We are collecting testimonies from current and former residents of southwestern PA as we prepare for GASP's 50th anniversary, coming up in 2019. Whether it's one sentence or one page, we want to hear from you! Send your comments to Chelsea Arnold at chelsea@gasp-pgh.org.



Many protestors' signs highlighted the state of the air in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

GASP Director, Rachel Filippini, commented on the following during the Clean Air Rally on March 20:

Dear County Executive Fitzgerald, Mayor Peduto, all City and County councilmembers, state reps and senators, and any other local leaders who can influence air quality improvements—this message is for you.

You can not simply acknowledge that we've made progress to clean up regional air quality. You must recognize that our dirty air is making people sick and shortening lives TODAY and you must pledge to do all that you can to improve the situation.

You can not dismiss it, ignore it, or make excuses for our dirty air. The Pittsburgh region ranks in the top 10 worst regions in the nation for particle pollution. These particles cause heart and lung disease, asthma, adverse birth outcomes, cancer, and premature death.

Do you know that some schools in Allegheny County have child asthma rates that are more than double the state average? More than double. These children not only struggle to breathe—they may struggle to do well in school, as asthma is the number one reason children are absent from school.

Do you know we have some of the highest cancer rates in the country due to exposure to air toxics?

Our region's high asthma rates and elevated cancer risk due to air pollution negatively impacts both our health and productivity. Our poor air quality is a significant public health issue. We need to attack it like we would any other public health threat.

And hey, what about the stink? The serious and frequent malodors we live with disrupt our sleep and spoil our quality of life. How many of you experience stinky air more than one day a week, three days a week, five days a week? This is unacceptable. That all-too-familiar "rotten egg" smell—usually hydrogen sulfide—was reported to the Smell Pittsburgh app hundreds of times in the last year. Do you know there is a standard and a monitor for hydrogen sulfide in Allegheny County and that the standard has been violated on average more than fifty times a year, over the past six years? This needs to be addressed.

What about the facilities in our communities operating with expired or no operating permits? This includes the McConway and Torley foundry in Lawrenceville and ATI's plant in Brackenridge. In fact, approximately one-third of the major sources of air pollution in our county are running with expired operating permits. Without current permits, it is extremely difficult to know if these sources are in compliance with air pollution laws.

We need to be sure that laws are in place to protect public health, and then we must be sure to rigorously enforce them.

We can and must do better and you, local decision makers, can lead the charge. You have our support!

A Successful GASP-toberfest

Last fall, GASP friends and members came together at Penn Brewery to celebrate another year of clean air victories. We enjoyed authentic German food and drink, live music, auctions, games and activities, and plentiful camaraderie, in addition to an engaging speaker and an award ceremony.

Thank you to our sponsors: 90.5 WESA, 91.3 WYEP, Elite Island Resorts, Levin Furniture, UPMC, Berner International, Walt Disney World, pair Networks, Jendoco Construction Corporation, Evolve, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Flatboat Fair Traders, Aveda, Big Burrito Restaurant Group, BYS Yoga, Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, Chipotle, City Theatre Company, Fun Fore All, Pittsburgh CLO, Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Pittsburgh Pirates, Trader Joe's, Westmoreland Museum of American Art.



Left: We were pleased to present awards to Mark Dixon and Dr. Deborah Gentile, who through activism and education have truly stood out as Champions for Healthy Air.



Right: Rebecca Kiernan, Senior Resilience Coordinator for the City of Pittsburgh, spoke about the city's Resilience Plan and its implications for our air quality.



Attendees enjoyed live oompah/polka music from Roger Day (tuba), Janice Coppola (clarinet), and Frank Pusateri (accordion).



Rachel Filippini highlighted some of GASP's victories over the past year.

Join Our 50th Anniversary Planning Committee

Next year is GASP's 50th birthday, and we want to celebrate in style! We're putting together a committee to help plan all things related to this milestone including design of an anniversary logo, special campaigns, and a large anniversary celebration next year. We'd love your input on how to make this the best birthday ever. For more information or to join the committee, contact Chelsea Arnold at chelsea@gasp-pgh.org.

GASP's Second Annual Summer Camp

Air Adventures!

A SUMMER CAMP WITH GASP



Slime! Chocolate chip cookies! Pig lungs! What do these have in common? They're all awesome, they're all related to air quality, and they'll all be part of our Air Quality Summer Camp!

Our summer camp is back and more fun than ever! This June, GASP's STEAM-based camp will allow campers, aged 9-11, to use their creative and logical sides as they learn about the history, health effects, and future of air pollution in our region. Air Adventures camp includes use of the latest air quality technology, hikes in nearby parks, bicycle powered smoothies, guest speakers from a variety of professional backgrounds, and

much more. Enrolled kids will also attend several field trips including a visit to the Carnegie Museum and the Tree Pittsburgh Heritage Nursery.

To keep things fun and exciting, we've also teamed up with City of Play to design interactive activities specifically for this camp. By the end of the week campers will have completed various stewardship projects so they'll leave camp knowing that they've already done something to improve the air around them.

Air Adventures Summer Camp

June 18-22, 2018
9 AM to 4 PM

Environmental Charter School
829 Milton Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15218

Register at gascamp.eventbrite.com

To register visit gascamp.eventbrite.com. For more information please contact Chelsea Arnold, at chelsea@gasp-pgh.org or 412-924-0604. x207.



**Backlog Permit Problem
continued from page 1**

expired permits. The operating permits of ten of those twenty-two major sources had been expired for at least five years.

We decided to check back to see the extent to which ACHD and DEP have resolved the backlogs that existed in 2016. Here's what we found.

The two major sources in Allegheny County that had never been issued operating permits in 2016—Allegheny Ludlum's Brackenridge Works and Eastman Chemical—still have not been issued permits. However, since September 2016, ACHD has published two draft operating permits for Allegheny Ludlum's Brackenridge Works. Eastman Chemical remains under a 2011 federal court order that has worked to prevent ACHD from issuing an operating permit. ACHD has failed to act on renewal applications for eight major sources within eighteen months as its regulations require:

ACHD LATE TITLE V OPERATING PERMIT RENEWALS (AS OF 2/13/2018)

FACILITY	LOCATION	Renewal Application Submitted	Last Permit Expired
Buckeye Pipe Line	Moon Township	8/8/2007	2/10/2008
Coraopolis Terminal	Coraopolis	8/9/2007	2/10/2008
PPG Industries	Springdale	9/25/2014	5/19/2015
NRG Power	Brunot Island (Pittsburgh)	6/24/2015	2/15/2016
Sunoco Pittsburgh Terminal	Pittsburgh	12/30/2015	6/30/2016
USA Waste Monroeville Landfill	Monroeville	3/29/2016	10/5/2016
Kelly Run Sanitation Landfill	Elizabeth Township	3/22/2016	10/5/2016
Allied Waste Imperial Landfill	Findlay Township	1/13/2016	10/13/2016

Although ACHD has slightly reduced the number of major sources in Allegheny County that are operating on expired permits, it has reduced the length of time such sources operate on expired permits. In 2016 five facilities' permits had been expired for more than five years. Now that number is down to two, and ACHD recently published a draft renewal permit for Coraopolis Terminal, one of those two facilities, as well as PPG Industries' Springdale complex, another facility on the backlog. In 2016, the average number of months each backlogged facility's permit application was pending at ACHD for over sixty-three months; in 2018, backlogged applications were pending for an average of almost fifty-four months.

We counted seventy-one active, major sources of air pollution in DEP's Southwest Region. One of these sites—Lehigh Specialty Metals in Latrobe—has never had a Title V Operating Permit, although DEP did issue a minor source operating permit to the facility in 2007. Including Lehigh Specialty Metals, DEP has failed to act on renewal applications for operating permits for fourteen of the seventy-one major sources in the Southwest Region within eighteen months as its regulations require:

SWRO LATE TITLE V OPERATING PERMIT RENEWALS (AS OF 2/13/2018)

FACILITY	LOCATION	Renewal Application Submitted	Last Permit Expired
Dominion Transmission Oakford Compressor Station	Salem Twp., Westmoreland	8/29/2003; 6/2/2014	3/1/2004
Consolidated Coal Bailey Prep Plant	Richhill Twp., Greene	5/25/2006; 1/29/2014	11/28/2006
Flexsys Monongahela Plant	Carroll Twp., Washington	7/3/2006; 9/25/2012	1/3/2007
Ebensburg Power Co.	Cambria Twp., Cambria	8/17/2006	2/19/2007
Allegheny Valley Connector LLC Laurel Ridge Station	Jackson Twp., Cambria	5/11/2007; 1/2/2014	1/14/2008
U.S. Gypsum/NGC Industries	Aliquippa, Beaver	7/27/2009	1/27/2010
Allegheny Energy Gans Power Station	Springhill Twp., Fayette	7/20/2009	1/27/2010
Lehigh Specialty Melting Inc.	Latrobe, Westmoreland	7/15/2009	5/23/2012
Texas Eastern Armagh Compressor Station	West Wheatfield Twp., Indiana	6/28/2012	7/31/2012
Dominion Transmission South Oakford Compressor Station	Hempfield Twp., Westmoreland	1/11/2012	10/31/2012
Texas Eastern Delmont Compressor Station	Salem Twp., Westmoreland	9/17/2012	4/29/2013
Armstrong Power	South Bend Twp., Armstrong	3/19/2014	9/9/2014
Greenridge Reclamation Landfill	East Huntingdon Twp., Westmoreland	4/30/2014	10/30/2014
Equitrans Pratt Compressor Station	Franklin Twp., Greene	4/19/2016	10/20/2016

The average time each backlogged facility's permit application in DEP's Southwest Region has been pending is now over ninety-seven months.

To test a hypothesis that the backlogs at ACHD and DEP's Southwest Region exist because Title V permitting programs in Pennsylvania are not adequately funded,

we decided to expand our research to other areas of Pennsylvania. The Clean Air Act requires that Title V permitting programs be self-funding, meaning that the fees charged to Title V facilities must be sufficient to cover the costs of administering Title V programs. Title V fees for facilities in Pennsylvania are uniform state-wide. Accordingly, it stands to reason that if the permit backlogs at ACHD and the Southwest Region exist due to Title V permit fees being set too low to adequately fund their programs, similar backlogs would exist in DEP's other regions. We decided to see whether this is the case.

DEP's air quality permits are issued by regional offices that serve the regions on this map:



We used DEP's eFACTS database to determine how many major sources of air pollution are located in DEP's Northwest, Northcentral, Northeast, Southcentral, and Southeast regions, and also how many sources in each of these regions are operating despite DEP's failure to act on applications for new or renewal permits in the eighteen months required by the Clean Air Act. It is worth noting that the Clean Air Act does not prohibit a source that submits its renewal application to DEP in a timely manner from operating where DEP delays acting on the application for more than eighteen months.

DEP's Northwest Region (NWRO) includes Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, and Venango Counties. We counted sixty-one active major sources of air pollution in the Northwest Region. Three of those sixty-one facilities have had renewal applications for their Title V Operating Permits pending for more than eighteen months:

Facility	Location	Permit Application Submitted	Last Permit Expired
Domtar Johnsonburg Mill	Johnsonburg, Elk County	9/8/2015	4/10/2016
BASF Corp.	Erie, Erie County	8/8/2016	8/1/2017
NRG Power Midwest/New Castle Power Plant	Taylor Twp., Lawrence County	8/24/2016	5/9/2017

The average number of months each backlogged facility's application for a renewal permit has been pending in the Northwest Region is about twenty-three months.

DEP's Northcentral Region (NCRO) includes Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, and Union Counties. We counted sixty-five active major sources of air pollution in the Northcentral Region.

Facility	Location	Permit Application Submitted	Last Permit Expired
Springs Window Fashions	Clinton Twp., Lycoming County	No application submitted	12/29/2015

Based on reports of facility emissions on eFACTS, it appears that Springs Window Fashions may have ceased operations sometime in 2015 or 2016. However, if the facility is still operating, it is breaking the law: the Clean Air Act requires a major source to submit an application to renew its Title V Operating Permit at least six, and as many as eighteen, months before its current Title V Operating Permit expires, and it is illegal to operate a source of air pollution in Pennsylvania unless a complete application for an operating permit has been submitted.

Assuming that Springs Window Fashions has in fact shut down, there are no backlogged applications for Title V Operating Permits pending in the Northcentral Region.

DEP's Southcentral Region (SCRO) includes Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, and York Counties. We counted 135 active major source of air pollution in these counties, only one of which has had a renewal application for a Title V Operating Permit pending for more than eighteen months:

Facility	Location	Permit Application Submitted	Last Permit Expired
Granger Energy of Honey Brook	Caernarvon Twp., Lancaster County	8/8/2016	3/19/2017

The lone backlogged facility's application for a renewal permit in the Southcentral Region has been pending for about twenty months.

DEP's Northeast Region (NERO) includes Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties. We counted sixty-nine active major sources of air pollution in those counties, ten of which have had applications for their Title V Operating Permits pending for at least eighteen months (see table on page 10).

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**Backlog Permit Problem
continued from page 10**

Facility	Location	Permit Application Submitted	Last Permit Expired
Panther Creek Co-generation Plant	Nesquehoning, Carbon County	5/22/2008	11/26/2008
Vorteq Coil Finishers	Allentown, Lehigh County	3/17/2016	10/17/2016
Hazleton Generation	Hazle Twp., Luzerne County	5/13/2016	New Facility
Northampton Generating Co.	Northampton, Northampton County	4/12/2011	10/31/2011
Hercules Cement Stockertown Plant	Stockertown, Northampton County	12/15/2011	6/29/2012
Keystone Cement Co.	East Allen Twp., Northampton County	3/7/2006	8/3/2006
Gilberton Power Co.'s John B. Rich Memorial Power Station	Frackville, Schuylkill County	7/13/2009	2/14/2010
Northeastern Power Co.'s McAdoo Cogen Facility	McAdoo, Schuylkill County	8/31/2009	8/31/2010
Schuylkill Energy Resources Inc.'s St. Nicholas Cogen Facility	Mahanoy Twp., Schuylkill County	5/9/2011	4/23/2012
Ingenco Wholesale Power	Pine Grove Twp., Schuylkill County	4/2/2016; 7/6/2015 (withdrawn)	11/19/2015

The average number of months each backlogged facility's application for a renewal permit has been pending in the Northeast Region is about seventy-eight months.

DEP's Southeast Region (SERO) includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties for purposes of permitting sources of air pollution (Philadelphia's Air Management Services administers the Title V permitting program for facilities located in Philadelphia). We

counted ninety-four active major sources of air pollution in the Southeast Region, two of which have had renewal applications for Title V Operating Permits pending for more than eighteen months:

Facility	Location	Permit Application Submitted	Last Permit Expired
Tube Methods, Inc.	Bridgeport, Montgomery County	7/11/2016	3/2/2017
Superior Tube Co., Collegeville Facility	Lower Providence Twp., Montgomery County	1/26/2016	8/3/2016

The average number of months each backlogged facility's application for a renewal permit has been pending in the Southeast Region is about twenty-four months.

This chart summarizes the performance of all the regions discussed above, as well as the performance of ACHD and DEP's Southwest Region as discussed in our earlier blog:

Agency	Number of Major Sources	Number of Major Sources with Backlogged Title V Operating Permits	Percentage of Major Sources with Backlogged Title V Operating Permits	Average Number of Months Backlogged Permits Have Been Pending
ACHD	27	8	30%	54
SWRO	71	14	20%	97
NWRO	61	3	5%	23
NCRO	65	0	0%	0
SCRO	135	1	<1%	20
NERO	69	9	13%	84
SERO	94	2	2%	24

Returning to our hypothesis, it appears that Pennsylvania's Title V fees are sufficient to fund permitting programs that are generally able to process permit applications in the time required by the Clean Air Act, at least in some DEP regions. The Title V permitting programs at ACHD and DEP's Southwest Region (and also to some extent, DEP's Northeast Region) must find a way to better marshal their resources to process Title V permit applications in a timely manner.



Spotlight on a GASP Staff Member

Emily's involvement with GASP began in May of 2017 as a Student Conservation Association intern, moving here from her hometown in South Florida after receiving a BS in Environmental Science from the University of



Florida in Gainesville. This was her first time being in Pittsburgh so she didn't know what to expect, but "GASP's mission and values really spoke to me, so I accepted the job, hopped on a plane, and landed here." Looking forward, Emily plans to get a master's in environmental management and is currently evaluating potential schools for that.

Emily did a lot of GASP's vital outreach work: tabling, leading hikes that teach about air pollution, doing presentations, and generally assisting full time staff. SCA positions last less than a year, though, and her fellowship was drawing to an end in December. She didn't want to leave, and happily for all involved GASP was able to offer her a staff position as our Communication and Education Specialist starting in 2018.

Since her return, most of Emily's time has been devoted to developing GASP's podcast series, "On the Air with GASP." You can read about this new outreach effort on page 2 of this Hotline issue.

When she's not researching the best microphone to use or talking into one, she's busy posting on social media, designing outreach materials, and reaching out to the community via tabling events and educational activities.

Emily explains that she enjoys taking complex and seemingly abstract information and breaking it down in a way that makes it accessible to everyone. Air quality can be a hard thing to understand since we can't readily see it, touch it, and most times we can't even smell it. But we are always breathing it in, and Emily sees it as her job to "Equip everyday citizens with the knowledge and tools they need to protect themselves and their community." "My job makes a difference in the wellbeing of our community, and that is why I love it."

Outside of GASP, Emily's involved with several other local organizations, including Pennsylvania Resources Council (she supervises and directs volunteers and contractors

at Zero Waste Events), Awesome Ocean (writing several articles a week for their social media) and the Pittsburgh Shambhala Meditation Center, where she meditates.

Emily enjoys yoga, meditation, reading, and just walking around outdoors. She offers that's she's into the Gilmore Girls lately, bikes a ton, and drinks a lot of tea. And although she doesn't have any pets, she recently signed up to foster dogs and cats at the Humane Society and reports that "A pet might show up on my doorstep any day now."

When asked if she has any interesting stories to share, Emily responded: "It's a little-known fact, but GASP has two work bikes that live in our office. I've essentially made one of them my own, and I use it to bike to work (and everywhere else I go) every day that's not too freezing or too wet. Another great perk of working for an organization that's committed to improving air quality!" 

Join GASP Today!

- \$40 Grassroots Supporters (\$15 low income/student rate)
- \$60 Grassroots Contributors
- \$100 Grassroots Patrons
- \$250 Clean Air Defenders
- \$500 Clean Air Protectors
- \$_____ Other

Call GASP at (412) 924-0604 to learn about automatic monthly giving, deducted directly from your checking account or charged to your credit card. An easy, hassle-free way to support GASP all year round!

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Amount \$ _____

Signature _____

All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Group Against Smog and Pollution, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The official registration and financial information of GASP may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Join us for a Potluck Picnic in the Park!

As our members, you do so much for us, and so we'd like to do something for you! We're throwing a potluck picnic to enjoy good food, celebrate great friends, and thank our supporters. GASP will come prepared with burgers, 'dogs (regular and vegan), and a few beverages, along with a 50/50 raffle to keep the fun going. This BYOB cookout takes place at the **Forbes and Braddock Playground on June 30th from 3-6pm.**

For more info or to register for this free event please visit gasp-potluck.eventbrite.com or call Chelsea Arnold at 412-924-0604 x 207.

Slime! Chocolate chip cookies! Pig lungs! What do these have in common? They're all awesome, and they'll all help us to better understand air quality.

Air Adventures

A SUMMER CAMP WITH GASP



June 18-22
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Ages 9-11

gasp-pgh.org/2018-air-quality-camp/

Location: Environmental Charter School, 829 Milton St., Pittsburgh, PA 15218

Read more about GASP's summer camp on page 7.

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