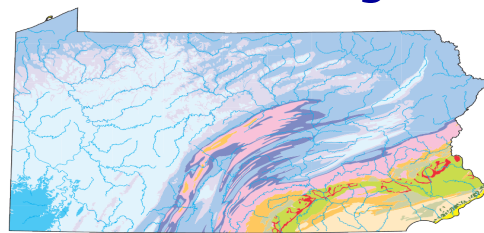




American Institute of Professional Geologists

Pennsylvania Section



www.aipg.org

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President's Message

Politics has left its more traditional areas of government and entered all phases of our society. It has entered technical areas now, including the physical sciences. Science has been reduced in schools with political correctness subjects with technical facts less emphasized.



In the university setting, many technical courses now include a political component. In fact, political objectives are introduced in non-related areas. There is an anti-industry mood which blames private industry rather than trends in our culture and government policies. People are more and more intolerant of other views. In many ways, peer pressure has replaced objective research; it's often used to control arguments to force one point of view.

In other words, science, in my opinion, which has traditionally been open to dialogue is becoming more closed-minded with little concern for opposing research. Absolute opinions with no discussion seem to be a trend in the sciences. A political agenda appears to be more important than facts.

There are many ways to fight this political trend but it needs a willingness to respond in a positive manner when we geoscientists are confronted with bias and peer pressure. We always need to consider both sides of any issue and perhaps compromise.

You can contact me, Dennis Pennington, directly at feldspar18@gmail.com.

Dennis Pennington
Section President

Photo above is from AIPG's *The Professional Geologist*, Volume 55, no. 4

Summary of AIPG's 2019 National Conference in Burlington, VT

Contributed by Joe Kraycik

The AIPG 2019 National Conference, '*Geology in the Green Mountains: Scenic Beauty and Economic Engine*', was held September 14 – 17 in Burlington, Vermont. For those who attended, we hope that you enjoyed your time spent in the Lake Champlain region and the surrounding areas, made many contacts, and benefitted from attending.

This year's conference included world-class field trips, technical sessions, an exhibition hall, and opportunities to network and socialize with fellow AIPG members and guests. In addition, the AIPG Executive Committee, Foundation, and Section Delegate meetings were held and officer elections took place. A student career workshop and speed mentoring event with industry professionals was held on Saturday evening.

For the annual awards banquet this year, attendees enjoyed a sunset dinner cruise on Lake Champlain (see photo at right). Although temperatures on the deck were a bit brisk, the amazing sunset was well worth it.



The 2019 National Conference proceedings are available at <https://aipg.org/page/PastAIPGConferences>.

We hope to see you next year at AIPG's 2020 National Conference that will be held in Sacramento, California. Save the date – October 3 - 6, 2020! Keep an eye out for additional information!



PA AIPG Chapter officers Joe Kraycik (left), Dennis Pennington (center) and Mike Edelman (right) at the 2019 AIPG National Conference meeting.

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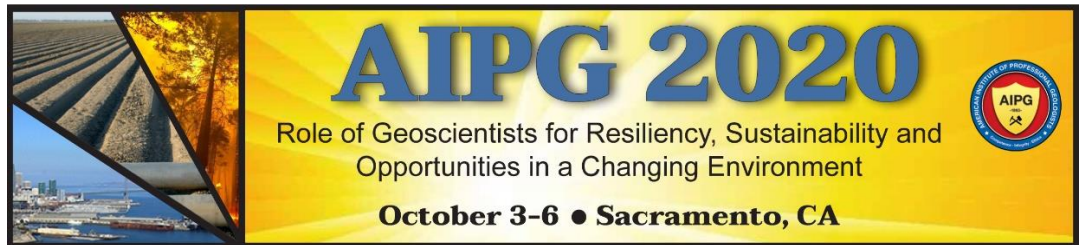
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Plan now for AIPG's National Meeting in Sacramento, California

<https://aipg.org/page/2020CANationalConference>



"Carl Sagan spoke fluently between biology and geology and astrophysics and physics. If you move fluently across those boundaries, you realize that science is everywhere; science is not something you can step on or sweep under the rug."

**-Neil DeGrasse Tyson,
American
Astrophysicist, Hayden
Planetarium, New York
City**

PA DEP News Update: New Management of Fill Policy

Contributed by Stephen Brower, P.G., Environmental Standards, Inc. and PA AIPG Section Member

PA DEP Issues New Management of Fill Policy

The long-awaited revised Management of Fill Policy was finalized by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) on November 2, 2019. The New Management of Fill Policy (Policy) took effect on January 1, 2020, and is a revision of the previous policy that had been in effect since 2004. The new Policy was long-awaited for two reasons: First and foremost, the prior policy was not tied to the Act 2 standards, and there were certain metals that met the residential Act 2 criteria, but not the clean-fill criteria. Secondly, PA DEP has been working on the revision since 2014, and the requirements the regulated community would be held to were unclear. The new Policy can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.depgreenport.state.pa.us/elibrary/GetFolder?FolderID=4647>

The Policy provides PA DEP's procedures for determining whether fill is categorized as "clean fill" or "regulated fill" according to the Pennsylvania Solid Waste Management Act (SWMA). The Policy provides guidance on how fill material can be used and moved versus being regulated as a waste, and is focused on the relocation of fill material from project sites.

The Policy is far reaching as it provides guidance for earth-moving projects, excavation activities and demolition activities. These activities occur at numerous projects, including development and redevelopment projects, utility work, Brownfields projects and remediation projects. As one can imagine, the Policy will impact excavation contractors, builders, developers, landowners, municipalities and utilities.

The new Policy has eliminated the standards defining "clean fill" and has incorporated by reference the current residential soil standards. The old clean fill standards did not completely line up with Act 2, which caused confusion and frustration among the regulated community. The clean fill standards for several regulated substances are lower under the new Policy.

New Management of Fill Policy Summary - continued

Also worth noting, is that the new Policy stipulates that fill material containing polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) compounds at concentrations greater than 2 parts per million (ppm) may only be used if prior written approval is obtained from the US EPA. The other variable to note is that since the clean fill standards are tied to the Act 2 standards, the clean fill standards will change every time the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board makes changes to the Act 2 standards.

The basic framework of determining if fill material can be classified as “clean” fill or regulated fill remains in place. The first step is to perform environmental due diligence related to the source of the fill material and operational history of the property from which the fill material was sourced. The new Policy provides rigorous guidelines for due diligence. If due diligence indicates that the fill may have been negatively impacted by a release of a regulated substance, then the fill must be tested to determine if it is clean or regulated fill. The Policy requires the development of a Sampling Plan for the collection of samples to characterize the fill.

When the proposed fill material has been determined to be clean fill, Form FP-001 (Certification of Clean Fill) must be filed electronically before the fill material is transported to the receiving site. If the determination includes sampling, the Form FP-001 must be accompanied by the Sampling Plan and laboratory data.

If you have any questions regarding the new Policy, feel free to contact Stephen Brower at sbrower@envstd.com.

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## *Joint PA AIPG and BCONE Networking Walking Tour Summary – Wyomissing Knitting Mills site*

*Contributed by Joe Kraycik*

On October 16, 2019, AIPG’s Pennsylvania Section teamed up with the Brownfield Coalition of the Northeast (BCONE) to host a walking tour and networking event at the recently redeveloped Knitting Mills site in Wyomissing.

The event began with a discussion of the overall project, which included environmental assessment, remediation, limited building demolition, and redevelopment of the former Vanity Fair Outlets property in Wyomissing and West Reading. The discussion was led by the site developer, Equus Capital Partners, LTD (Equus), which acquired the property in 2016 with the goal of transforming the languishing retail center and vacant lot into an active mixed-use complex. Additional project stakeholders including representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the project engineer, and environmental consultant participated in a discussion of project successes and challenges. The 50-acre parcel is now home to a vibrant, mixed use complex that includes a combination of retail, dining, medical, research and development, and office space. It is estimated that the redevelopment will ultimately result in the creation of over 1,100 full-time jobs and nearly \$170 million in state revenue.

## *Joint PA AIPG and BCONE networking and tour summary – cont'd.*

Following the informative discussion, a tour of the recently completed UGI Energy Services office headquarters took place. The UGI facility is in what some may remember as the “Blue Building”, which is one of the original Berkshire Knitting Mills buildings that dates to the early 1900s. The event concluded with a networking event at the newly opened Sly Fox Tap House also located in one of the newly renovated buildings. Attendees enjoyed craft beer, cocktails, and appetizers. Despite rainy weather, over 50 BCONE and AIPG members attended the event along with additional guests. We hope this is the first of many collaborative events with our friends at BCONE.



Photo: The recently renovated UGI Energy Services corporate headquarters.

*Call for Articles:* Please submit articles or ideas for articles which you feel meet the goals of this newsletter to Mike Edelman at [MEdelman@trccompanies.com](mailto:MEdelman@trccompanies.com).

## **PA AIPG - WEBMASTER HELP STILL NEEDED**

- PA AIPG is still looking for a **webmaster** to help maintain its website. If you'd like to help, please contact Mike Edelman at [MEdelman@trcsolutions.com](mailto:MEdelman@trcsolutions.com).

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**Pennsylvania Geological Societies** – be sure to stay in touch with these geological societies for opportunities to hear interesting speakers and to network with other professionals:

**Philadelphia Geological Society** – <http://philageo.org>

**Harrisburg Area Geological Society** - <http://fcopg.org/contact-us/links/hags>

**Northern Alleghenies Geological Society** - <https://www.facebook.com/Northern-Alleghenies-Geological-Society-177847959291767/>

**Pittsburgh Area Geological Society** – <https://www.pittsburghgeologicalsociety.org>