



## Land Use Questionnaire for NPDES Permit Applications

When submitting an NPDES Permit Application to your County Conservation District, one of the forms to be included is the Land Use Information Questionnaire (page 9 of the Notice of Intent (NOI) Instructions). It has been determined through litigation that the conditions of Act 67, 68, and 127 have not been met unless this form is included with the notification letters to the County and Municipality.

In order to correctly submit this form, it should be completely filled out and sent with your Act 67, 68, and 127 notification letters to the County and the Municipality. (Please note that the notification letters are no longer Act 14 Notifications, they are now Act 67, 68, and 127 Notifications). Copies should then be submitted to the Conservation District in the NPDES Permit Application package attached to the copies of the notification letters and return receipts.

Failure to do this properly may result in a delay in your project, because the regulations state that the District may not acknowledge the use of the NPDES permit until at least a 30-day period has passed after the date that the notification letters were received by the concerned Municipality and County.

And, as always, please **READ THE INSTRUCTIONS** for completing the NOI.

*Jeffrey McKenna  
Montgomery County CD*

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## Top ten things to do when you have an NPDES Permit

10. Keep a copy of the permit and the approved plans on site.
9. Read the Notice of Intent. Know what you signed and what you agreed to do for your project.
8. Review your Construction Sequence with your contractor PRIOR to the scheduled start date so that any changes may be handled before they become problems.
7. Schedule a Preconstruction meeting with the Conservation District and other interested parties.
6. Know the Expiration Date. To save yourself time and money, submit a complete NOI package prior to 180 days before the permit expiration date.
5. Transfer the permit if you sell or otherwise become disassociated with the project.
4. Submit the Notice of Termination when the project is complete.
3. Put the contractor on the permit as a co-permittee.
2. Follow your approved plan, or have changes approved prior to implementing them.

*And the #1 thing an applicant should do when they have an NPDES Permit is...*

1. **READ THE PERMIT!** This document outlines the responsibilities and requirements that you as the permittee are agreeing to by requesting the use of the NPDES Permit.

## Aerzen "grows" a building in Coatesville

Located in the rapidly developing township of West Sadsbury, Aerzen USA is using their building project to create a "statement of possibility" for more environmentally, socially and economically viable buildings. Designed to standards established by the US Green Building Council (USGBC), the 40,000 of light manufacturing and office facility will be a vast departure from the bland and inefficient big box commercial buildings that dot the North American landscape.

An international, family-owned business since 1864, the parent company of Aerzen is located in Germany and produces high quality rotary lobe blowers and screw compressors. Aerzen USA was started in 1983 to assemble new packages and refurbish used units. By 2001, the company had outgrown their leased space and began planning for the construction of a building to hold offices, a warehouse and manufacturing space.

In 2004, Aerzen hired a team of local and national green building experts (including Re:Vision Architecture, Philadelphia University's Engineering and Design Institute, Consilience LLC, AKF Engineers, O'Donnell & Naccarato, Cahill Associates, Rolf Sauer and Partners, and the Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center) to design the project, beginning with a 5-day sustainable design charrette. Aerzen employees and the interdisciplinary team produced a ground-breaking design that should: achieve a high-level LEED rating from the US Green Building Council; use 50% less energy than a comparable building (as modeled in DOE2); and dramatically improve worker conditions. To ensure the most efficient use of space, Lean Manufacturing and Cellular Flow principles were learned and employed. A cornerstone of Lean Manufacturing is to make each work cell compact, supporting the green concept of building only what you need.

One of the most compelling aspects of the building is that it will incorporate straw bale technology. By "growing" the building, Aerzen will be able to: achieve a cost-effective, highly efficient

(R48) envelope; design an architecturally significant organic shape; use a renewable resource; and support the local economy. Three thousand five hundred bales of straw are currently "in the ground," being grown by farmers within ten miles of the site.

Other unique aspects of the building include: a landscape that retains 100% of stormwater on-site, a geothermal system, a passive heating/cooling system for the manufacturing floor, natural daylighting throughout, and an integrated structural system.



*Aerzen staff review conceptual plans at an open house during the design charrette.*

The project is scheduled to break ground in the fall of 2005. Once constructed, the facility will be open to the public for tours every week. For more information, contact Jennifer Rezeli at 215.242.1866 or [Rezeli@ReVisionArch.com](mailto:Rezeli@ReVisionArch.com)



*Rendering of the building*

## An Alternative to Erosion Control Blankets

Erosion Control Blankets are widely used for steep slope stabilization. So, when confronted with an alternative that I had not heard of, it came as a bit of a shock.

Merion Golf Club in Haverford Township, Delaware County, came forward with a new product that they wanted to apply to their slopes. The product is called EcoAegis by Canfor. It is slurry, not unlike hydro seed, and contains wood fiber mulch, a natural guar gum tackifier, bonding agent and water. After it is applied to the slope it dries and forms an erosion control mat.

A recent inspection conducted after the application revealed that grass has indeed started to form and begin to stabilize the slope. It may take a few more trial runs, but for now it seems to be a possible alternative BMP for erosion control blankets.

If you would like more information about EcoAegis, visit the Canfor website at [www.canforpfd.com](http://www.canforpfd.com).

*Kevin Boyle  
Delaware County C.D.*



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## Construction activities in the Coastal Zone Region of Chester County

### Top soiling of building pads and channel for permanent stabilization

Currently there are nearly 100 active construction sites with NPDES permit coverage in the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) region of Chester County. An active construction site with earth disturbance and grading typically implements various forms of Erosion and Sedimentation controls to remain in compliance with the NPDES permit and Chapter 102 rules and regulations for Erosion and Sedimentation Control.

On a recent assessment of construction activities, several different controls were observed such as sediment basins and traps, silt fence, rock construction entrances, temporary and permanent stabilization measures in the form of straw mulch and seed, erosion control blanketing and top soiling.

It appeared one of the biggest problems was implementing and maintaining on lot controls such as on fence and rock construction entrances. On lot controls are important to keep sediment on lots during construction and prevent overburdening of the basins or traps, which leads to less sediment removal efficiency resulting in sediment discharges to the receiving waterway.

Another challenge inherent across the coastal zone region, especially within the northern reaches, is the soils. The soils are of the Penn-Croton-Bucks association and seem to have large amounts of clays and silts within them, which is an undesirable trait when you want gravity and stilling to settle sediments out of the water in a basin or trap.

The district will continue to monitor these sites for erosion and sedimentation control compliance.

*Joe Sofranko  
Chester Co.C.D.*

## Delaware County presents Erosion & Sediment Award

On March 18, 2005 the Delaware County Conservation District, in partnership with the Chester-Delaware Home Builders Association, presented the award for "Best Overall Erosion and Sediment Control" at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Pyramid Awards. The award distinguishes a construction activity where outstanding erosion and sediment controls have been implemented and maintained.

This year's recipients were **Foxfield at Naaman's Creek, LP** and **Brubacher Excavating, Inc.** Foxfield is a 175-acre site located in Bethel Township, Delaware County. The erosion and sediment control plan is extensive- eleven basins with skimmers, swales, and various sizes of silt fence. All BMPs were installed both properly and in a timely fashion. The sequence of construction has been followed during every phase, and temporary stabilization has been implemented whenever necessary. Active concern and voluntary compliance have always been shown. Any issues on inspection reports were resolved through phone calls or meetings on site. Foxfield is a fine example of what Conservation Districts look for during construction activities.

Congratulations to our winners. We look forward to recognizing another great site next year!

*Bridget Thompson  
Delaware Co.C.D.*

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*For Information Contact:*  
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phone: 610-695-9422  
[fwaite@acfenvironmental.com](mailto:fwaite@acfenvironmental.com)

## TreeVitalize session ends with a *chiropractic* adjustment

More than three dozen area residents attended the final session of a three-part series of workshops on community tree tending presented by the staff at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) and Penn State Cooperative Extension (PSCE).

Hal Rosner, a longtime arborist with Bartlett Tree Experts, gave both a lecture and hands-on demonstration at the Curtis Arboretum in Elkins Park. Rosner advised his audience on proper tree planting and pruning techniques.

“On planting day, you’ll see lots of potted plants that are root bound. Take the time to pull those roots apart and give the tree a *chiropractic* adjustment before putting it in the ground,” he told the trainees, who are part of the growing TreeVitalize movement. The TreeVitalize program was designed by Pennsylvania’s Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to increase South-east Pennsylvania’s tree cover and to educate the public about the benefits that trees have to offer.

Bill Truscott, an arborist based in Bartlett’s Dublin, Bucks County office, assisted Rosner with the hands-on demonstration. They were joined by Kathryn Belville, Bartlett’s local manager, who recently received her Master Arborist certification from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). The professional arborists gave these tips to the volunteers:

- **Right Tree – Right Place** – Make sure you don’t plant trees under power lines or too close to other trees, buildings, etc. Choose trees that reach 15 to 25 feet at maturity, such as maples, hawthorns, hedge maples, tree lilacs, sweet gums, European and American hornbees. Go to [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us) and type in Common Trees of Pennsylvania for a complete listing of trees native to this climate.
- **Hole Depth**– Prepare a planting area as deep as the root ball and three to five times its diameter by loosening the soil. Dig a hole in the middle of the area and set the root ball even with ground level. Use water to settle soil and remove air pockets in planting area.
- **Stake** the tree to flex with the wind only if the tree is unable to stand up to wind on its own. Remove the stakes after the first growing season.
- **Proper Mulching**– Spread a two to three inch layer of composted mulch on entire area, but not within six inches of the tree trunk. Do not “volcano mulch” or pile mulch up around the base of the trunk. Spread the mulch as far as the drip line of the tree’s farthest branches and extend this mulch circle as the tree grows.
- **Mounds of mulch** around the base of a tree promote fungus and invite pests.
- **Watering**– Thirty-gallon tree gators are excellent ways to make sure newly planted trees get a consistent and slow release of moisture during the summer months.
- **Soil Sampling**– work with your County Cooperative Extension office or tree care company to take a sample of your soil to determine what nutrients your tree needs. Don’t fertilize until you get the results and consult with a professional.

*Bartlett  
Tree Experts  
Arborist  
Hal Rosner  
shows area  
residents  
how to  
correct  
girdling  
roots.*



- **Proper Pruning** – Pruning of newly planted trees should be limited to corrective pruning. Remove torn or broken branches, and save other pruning measures for the second or third year. Pruning cuts should be made just outside the branch collar. Since the branch collar contains trunk or parent branch tissues, the tree will be damaged unnecessarily if you remove or damage it. In fact, if the cut is large, the tree may suffer permanent internal decay from an improper pruning cut. If a permanent branch is to be shortened, cut it back to a lateral branch or bud. You should use proper pruning shears and never use hedge shears to prune a tree. Whatever tool you use, make sure it is kept clean and sharp. It doesn’t hurt to spray your shears with Lysol to make sure a disease isn’t spread to another tree. Rosner likes to use a 3-point cut; one cut further up the branch to eliminate the stress on the branch, then a cut closer to the branch collar (where the branch and trunk meet) and a final cut about a half inch from the actual trunk.

Rosner added that planting trees around your home, school or business will conserve energy and lower the cost of utility bills. According to the group American Forests, three well-placed deciduous trees on the east, south and west sides of a home or school will shade it from summer sun and lower cooling costs by 10 to 50 percent. In addition to saving money, this conservation of energy directly translates to less carbon dioxide produced at the generating plant that serves your house. Trees can also produce savings in cold weather. Staggered rows of evergreen trees on the northwest side of the house (or the side with prevailing winter winds) will block harsh winds and lower heating costs. Rosner, who works out of Bartlett’s Bala Cynwyd office, urged the audience to contact him with any follow up questions at [hrosner@bartlett.com](mailto:hrosner@bartlett.com). The company also has an array of tips on its web site at [www.bartlett.com](http://www.bartlett.com).

The program’s final speaker, Patrice Carroll, who is overseeing the TreeVitalize program for PHS, said the group American Forests believes overall tree cover in an urban area should be 40 percent. In the five-county Philadelphia area, tree cover is estimated to be 27 percent on average, she said. In Montgomery County, Conshohocken has the lowest percentage of tree cover at 5 percent and Marlborough Township has the highest at 58 percent. Cheltenham Township, where Curtis Arboretum is located, has a 29 percent tree cover with

*(continued)*

# TreeVitalize session

(continued from page 4)

a population density of 6.4 percent. You can find out the tree cover in your area by going to [www.treevitalize.net](http://www.treevitalize.net).

Janet Thomas of Mount Airy was glad she took the course. "A couple across the street from me got me interested. They and a group of volunteers planted 20 trees on Gowen Avenue and it's had an immediate impact on the neighborhood," she said.

West Conshohocken resident Patricia Zapien said she got involved in her local shade tree commission and the next thing she knew she was signed up for the course. "We received a grant to plant trees in a few block area and decided we needed to do things the right way. As a result of taking this course, I will never look at a tree the same way again. I've learned so much."

"It's been an incredible experience," said Bryn Mawr resident June Wojtowicz. "I'm ready to start planting."

Dates of other TreeVitalize training sessions are:

September 14, 21, 28, 2005, Pennsylvania Horticulture Society Building, Philadelphia, PA

October 27, November 3 and 10, 2005 Ridley Creek State Park, Ridley, PA

November 4, 11, 18, 2005 West Chester Municipal Building, West Chester, PA

To register contact

Julianne Schieffer, 610-489-4315, [jxs51@psu.edu](mailto:jxs51@psu.edu) - or -  
Mindy Maslin, 215-988-8844, [mmaslin@pennhort.org](mailto:mmaslin@pennhort.org)

Nine hours of hands on training over 3 evenings will cover tree biology, identification, planting, proper care and working within your community.

In addition, a statewide Urban Forestry Conference is scheduled for September 27 & 28, 2005 at Penn.State Great Valley, Malvern, PA Join nationally and locally recognized speakers to explore the latest in arboriculture and community forestry. Contact: Dr. Bill Elmendorf at 814-863-7941, [wfel@psu.edu](mailto:wfel@psu.edu).

by Barbara Sherf

*Barbara Sherf is a former journalist and one-time spokesperson for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. She does public and community relations work for the Bartlett Tree Experts and can be reached via her web site at [www.communicationspro.com](http://www.communicationspro.com).*

# New PNDI Website

The new Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP), formerly PNDI, will be available online. As we all know, a PNDI search is required as part of both NPDES and Chapter 105 General Permit application packages. PNDI searches have historically been performed by either the regional DEP office or the county Conservation District. However, the new website allows the public - permit applicants, consultants, and project planners - to perform their own searches, or "Environmental Review" as it is called on the website. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), who maintains the site, has added some user-friendly features as well. These include links that aid the public in reading the receipt results, what the statuses mean on their personal project page, and access to the new PNDI Form. The species lists and species data used in Environmental Review have been updated, and will continue to be updated on a monthly basis. The species lists can be sorted by county and watershed as well.

The new PNDI Environmental Review and Project Planning Tool can be accessed at [www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us](http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us) in the bottom left corner of the site. For information on how to use the PNDI Environmental Review Tool, click the link directly below the tool titled "How to use the ER Tool." It is always recommended that PNDI searches be performed early in the planning process, so that potential conflicts can be resolved, and the project does not get held up due to a PNDI hit. Contact your local Conservation District with any questions regarding the new PNDI website.

*Bridget R. Thompson  
Delaware County C.D.*

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**CONSERVATION & YOU** is published by the Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery County Conservation Districts in cooperation with the PaDEP, Bureau of Land and Water Conservation. For advertising information, call (610)892-9484.

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