



Energy Programs Office

# **Pennsylvania's ESF-12 Success Story**

## **Relationships and Communication**

**NASEO 2024 Energy Policy Outlook Conference**  
**February 7, 2024**

**Josh Shapiro, Governor**

**Jessica Shirley, Interim Acting Secretary**

# DEP's EPO Purpose and Mission

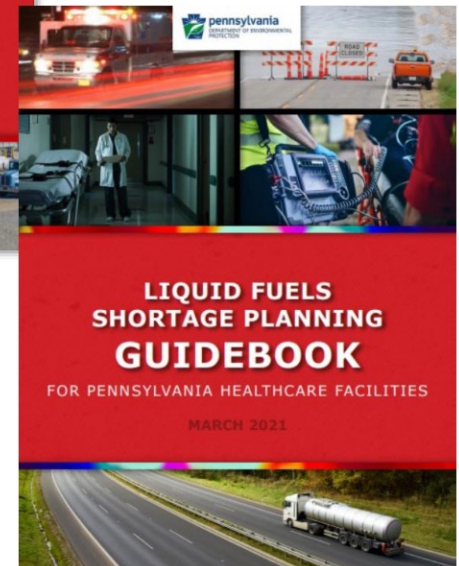
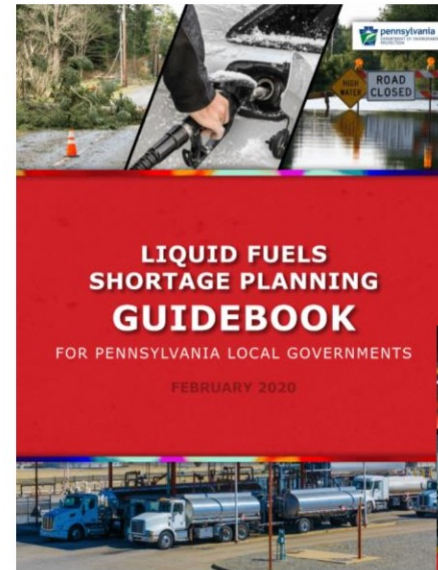
- DEP's Energy Programs Office (EPO) is the U.S. Department of Energy-recognized Pennsylvania State Energy Office and has operated within the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) since 1995.
- EPO supports energy policies and programs that prevent pollution, protect our environment, improve public health, and ensure access to affordable energy options for all Pennsylvanians.

# Background

- Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is lead agency for Emergency Support Function (ESF) 12. Within DEP, Energy Programs Office (EPO) is key SME for ESF 12.
- DEP's Director of Environmental Emergency Response is also responsible for ESF-10, as well as ESF-12.
- EPO and the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PA PUC) monitor energy infrastructure within Pennsylvania. EPO primarily monitors liquid fuel; PUC regulates investor-owned electricity and natural gas utilities.

# Industry Outreach Coordination

- EPO used State Energy Program Funds to educate stakeholders on liquid fuel topics.
- EPO developed materials to educate local governments on how to plan for their liquid fuel needs during emergency events.
- EPO created a guidebook and a liquid fuel inventory template and shared with local governments, including at PEMA in-service trainings.
- Similar outreach was conducted for the healthcare sector.



# Industry Outreach Coordination

- Since 2020, DEP has partnered with PEMA and other state agencies to host monthly calls with Petroleum and Propane fuel industry representatives to address concerns and develop situational awareness.
- Other agencies on these calls include:
  - PA PUC
  - PennDOT
  - Agriculture
  - State Police
  - Revenue
  - FMCSA
- The meetings are well attended by industry with on average 50 people attending monthly.

# Industry Partners

- Industry sector representatives include:
  - State and national associations:
    - Pennsylvania Petroleum Marketers Association, Pennsylvania Propane Gas Association, American Petroleum Institute, National Propane Gas Association
  - Various business partners attend:
    - Pipeline, Refinery, Transportation companies, Distributors, Retailers, Terminals



# Outcomes

- Pennsylvania conducted a tabletop exercise in 2021 with partners to explore how the state and private sector could collaborate following the Colonial Pipeline incident.
- Scenario was a pipeline break during cold weather with a rail strike. Industry partners, state agencies, other states and private sector individuals attended the one-day event at PEMA.
- The first exercise had positive reviews, so another was planned for 2023



# Outcomes

- Operation Christmas Lights Out Tabletop Exercise was held at the Annual Industry Conference for Petroleum Marketers/ Pennsylvania Propane Association in October 2023.
- Scenario focused and played out the events of winter storm Elliott, with the assumption that rolling blackouts occurred in PJM.



# Outcomes

- Key outcomes from the 2023 exercise:
  - With the change in technology and limited internet access during a blackout, participants suggested that text message alerts would be more helpful than sending emails.
  - More proactive planning and message between government and private sector partners prior to events was recommended.
  - 115 people attended the exercise and found it helpful. These types of events bolster EPO response mechanisms in an emergency.



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# Thank you!

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