

DEP Quarterly

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PA Chamber of Business and Industry
417 Walnut Street, Harrisburg PA
Tuesday, April 15, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- 10:00 a.m. Welcome Remarks**
- Alex Halper, Sr. Vice President of Government Affairs, PA Chamber
- 10:05 a.m. Introductory Remarks**
- Andy Bockis, Partner, Saul Ewing and PA Chamber's Energy & Environmental Policy Committee Chair
- 10:05 a.m. DEP Update**
- Jessica Shirley, (Acting) Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection
- 10:35 a.m. PA RISE Overview**
- Louie Krak, RISE Implementation Lead, Office of the Governor
- 11:20 a.m. Update on the Governor's Lightning Plan**
- Sam Robinson, Deputy Chief of Staff for Consumer and the Environment, Office of the Governor
- 12:00 p.m. Conclude**

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



Alex Halper, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, PA Chamber

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. He specifically focuses on labor and employment, education and workforce policy.

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.



Andy Bockis, Partner, Saul Ewing and PA Chamber's Energy & Environmental Policy Committee Chair

Andrew Bockis helps clients obtain and defend environmental permits for their projects. Industrial projects are subject to ever-changing rules and increased agency review time. Whether related to industrial warehouses or oil and gas facilities or renewable energy projects, many business leaders are frustrated with the uncertainty created by complex environmental regulation. The situation is magnified when there is public opposition to a project. Based on his prior experience as counsel to the

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board, Andy helps clients in a variety of industries minimize project delays and secure the permits they need. When projects are challenged, he helps companies defend their interests in court. He has litigated and defended environmental permitting decisions before the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board, Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court, Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Third Circuit, D.C. Circuit, and in response to petitions for certiorari before the U.S. Supreme Court. Andy also helps clients navigate their interactions with regulatory agencies in order to avoid extra costs and lost time so that they can commence construction and operate with confidence. He is the immediate past Chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Environmental and Energy Law Section, and co-editor of Pennsylvania Environmental Law and Practice, published by PBI Press. He is also Chair of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry's Environmental Council. Mr. Bockis is a partner in the Harrisburg office of Saul Ewing LLP and is Co-Chair of the Firm's Environmental Practice.



Jessica Shirley, (Acting) Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection

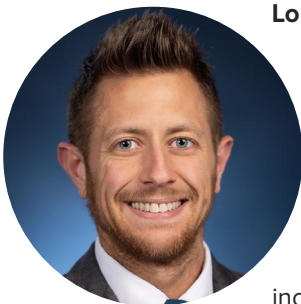
Jessica Shirley Currently serving as the Acting Secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), Jessica Shirley plays a pivotal role in the guidance of the department in its mission to protect and preserve Pennsylvania's environment while fostering sustainable and equitable practices. Jessica arrives to the role of Acting Secretary with extensive experience within the agency. Most recently, Jessica served as the Executive Deputy Secretary overseeing all programs.

As the first appointed Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator at the PA DEP, Jessica oversaw the influx of federal funding supported by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). She ensured that the Department used all available funds for the betterment of Pennsylvania's environment, economy, residents, and communities. In this role, she also placed strong emphasis on consideration of the impact of programs in historically underinvested communities.

Jessica's previous role as Policy Director from May 2016 to April 2022 was marked by her dedication to shaping the environmental and energy policy agenda. In this position, Jessica helped to develop groundbreaking executive orders related to PFAS, climate change, energy conservation and sustainability in Commonwealth operations, and environmental justice. These executive orders established the first greenhouse gas reduction goal for the Commonwealth, set performance goals for state agencies, established the PFAS Action Team to remove silos and address emerging contaminants, and memorialized various processes and opportunities to meaningfully engage and address underserved communities in Pennsylvania. She coordinated the DEP Policy Office's efforts, while overseeing the finalization of numerous rulemakings and promoting meaningful dialogue with stakeholders. Jessica and her counterpart at PennDOT lead the effort to develop Pennsylvania's first ever Litter Action Plan which received several awards and national recognition. Jessica also served on the agency steering committee of DiversEP, the agency's DEI committee with a mission of actively cultivating a culture of equity and inclusion and establishing a more diverse workforce representative of the population we serve.

In her earlier role as Executive Policy Specialist, Jessica was a trusted advisor in various policy areas, including oil and gas development, air quality, climate change, energy, waste, clean water, and environmental cleanup. She also demonstrated leadership in diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, and her representation of the Administration in discussions with key organizations showcased her influence and expertise. She built extensive relationships by serving as the Policy Office liaison to the Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board, Air Quality Technical Advisory Board, Climate Change Advisory Committee, Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee, Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board, Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority, Recycling Fund Advisory Committee, Radiation Protection Advisory Committee, Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Sewage Advisory Committee and Storage Tank Advisory Committee.

Jessica's educational background includes a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Pennsylvania State University and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Political Science from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



Louie Krak, RISE Implementation Lead, Office of the Governor

Louie Krak is a Lancaster County native who spent a decade living, studying, working, and growing in New Haven, Connecticut before returning to the Keystone State. After obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in Geography and a Master of Science in Environmental Studies from Southern Connecticut State University, Louie moved to Harrisburg to pursue a career in public service. Already a longtime veteran of the service industry, Louie transitioned into public sector life as an Administrative Officer in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Farmland Preservation. During his time there, Louie helped to preserve over 1,200 acres of prime farmland, including the berry farm in his hometown where he worked for a year as a young adult.

Although farmland preservation has numerous environmental benefits, Louie felt drawn to explore the work at the Department of Environmental Protection, where he served as an Executive Policy Specialist focusing on air, energy, and climate change policy. During his tenure in the Policy Office, Louie also worked closely with other programs, including the Office of Oil and Gas Management, Office of Active and Abandoned Mining Operations, and the Bureau of Laboratories. This invaluable policy experience prepared Louie to step into his current role as Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator. He now works strategically with programs across the Department to maximize the historic federal funding opportunities available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to catalyze clean energy deployment, remediate legacy pollution, and rectify environmental injustices and inequities.



Sam Robinson, Deputy Chief of Staff for Consumer and the Environment, Office of the Governor

Sam Robinson serves as Deputy Chief of Staff for Consumer and the Environment in the administration of Governor Josh Shapiro. Prior to joining the current administration, Robinson served in numerous positions in the prior administration, including as Deputy Chief of Staff for the four years of Governor Wolf's second term. Robinson works closely with Pennsylvania's environmental and energy agencies, as well as a number of administrative and regulatory agencies. Prior to joining the Wolf administration, Robinson served as an Assistant City Solicitor with the City of Philadelphia Law Department working in the Regulatory Affairs group. A proud

Philadelphian, Robinson received his law degree from The College of William & Mary and his bachelor's degree from Earlham College.