The Regulatory Process

The following flowchart outlines the two-phase process for developing a regulation. Significant public involvement can occur throughout the regulatory development process.

**Proposed**
- DEP drafts proposed regulation and meets with Advisory Committees
- EQB adopts proposed regulation
- Attorney General reviews proposed regulation (30 days)
- DEP submits proposed regulation to Standing Committees, IRRC and Pennsylvania Bulletin
- *Pennsylvania Bulletin* publishes proposed regulation, commencing official public comment period. Public meetings or hearings may be held.
- Public comment period ends
- Standing Committees may submit comments (20 days following end of public comment period)
- IRRC may submit comments (10 days following committee review period)
- DEP reviews comments and prepares a comment and response document

**Final**
- DEP drafts final regulation and meets with Advisory Committees
- EQB adopts final regulation
- DEP submits final regulation to Standing Committees, IRRC and public commentators
- Standing Committees approve or disapprove within 20 days
- IRRC approves or disapproves within 30 days
- Disapproval at Standing Committee or IRRC stage leads to agency response to issues raised and reconsideration
- If IRRC approves the regulation, Attorney General reviews for 30 days
- Final regulation is published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*

**Abbreviations**
- EQB - Environmental Quality Board - a 20-member panel responsible for promulgating DEP’s rules and regulations
- IRRC - Independent Regulatory Review Commission - a 5-member panel responsible for providing independent oversight and review of agency regulations
- Standing Committees - Senate & House Environmental Resources and Energy Committees