



John Hanger

Secretary
Department of Environmental Protection



John Hanger is the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. As Acting Secretary, Mr. Hanger manages an agency of more than 3,000 employees with a mission to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water from pollution and provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment, working as partners with individuals, organizations, governments and business to prevent pollution and restore natural resources.

Mr. Hanger is responsible for overseeing the development of a balanced ecological system through the protection of Pennsylvania's environmental resources and assisting the regulated community and public in complying with environmental laws and regulations through a variety of technical assistance and outreach programs. He is also responsible for making all policy and resource allocation decisions, as well as representing the department before the legislature, the general public and those affected by any departmental actions.

From June 1998 to August 2008, Mr. Hanger was president and CEO of Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture). In this capacity, Mr. Hanger worked with a staff of 20 in offices in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and West Chester. PennFuture works to improve Pennsylvania's environment and economy.

Mr. Hanger was particularly involved with PennFuture's work to promote clean energy technologies and to increase the supply and demand for clean electricity products. Hanger played a major role in drafting and enacting in November 2004 Pennsylvania's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act that will require approximately 4,000 megawatts of new wind, solar and other renewable energy sources.

From April 1993 to June 1998, Mr. Hanger was a commissioner with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC), where he served on the Electricity Committee, the Consumer Affairs Committee, and the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). He advocated for policies that allow consumers to choose their electric, gas and telephone companies; that assist low-income families; and those that benefit the environment, such as net metering, energy conservation, and renewable energy.

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As an expert on energy and environmental issues, public utility regulation, and competition in the electricity, gas and telephone industries, Mr. Hanger has testified before the United States Congress and many state legislatures. He has authored numerous articles, written leading regulatory decisions and lectured widely to diverse audiences.

Prior to becoming PUC commissioner, Mr. Hanger served as legal counsel to Commissioner Joseph Rhodes from 1988 to 1993. From 1984 to 1988 he worked at Community Legal Services, Inc. of Philadelphia, serving as public advocate representing 500,000 municipal customers of the City of Philadelphia's municipal gas, water and sewer utilities.

Mr. Hanger is a 1979 graduate of Duke University and a 1984 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Law.

Source: depweb.state.pa.us

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Two Gateway Center ▪ Pittsburgh, PA 15222-1458 ▪ 800.830.5923 ▪ CommittedtoPA@directenergy.com

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