The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) are working collaboratively to create an environmental electronic permitting system. This new system, named the Keystone Environmental ePermitting System (KEES) will replace the aged and fragmented Joint Permit Application System (JPA2). KEES will allow PennDOT, as well as a large number of other organizations the capability of having their DEP-required permits electronically processed effectively and efficiently. With this new system PennDOT and DEP intend to:

- Provide increased efficiency in the electronic submission and processing of permits issued by DEP under the Water Obstruction and Encroachment program (25 PA Code, Chapter 105), the Erosion and Sediment Control (E&S) and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“NPDES”) Permit for Stormwater Dischargers Associated with Construction Activities programs (25 PA Code, Chapter 102).
- Simplify and improve processing of permit modifications and amendments.
- Decrease administratively incomplete or technically deficient responses by improving the quality of application submissions.
- Improve system availability and reliability for both DEP and PennDOT.
- Reduce costs associated with the application and permitting processes.
- Improve DEP and PennDOT’s visibility into and ability to track the lifecycle of the environmental permits and permit compliance.

KEES provides an exciting opportunity for DEP and PennDOT to work collaboratively to solve known permitting issues. Incorporating new tools and technology into the environmental electronic permitting application will optimize the user experience and permitting processing. Below are some examples of the innovative features the team is considering incorporating in the new system:

- Mobile technology;
- GIS integration;
- Document redlining, highlighting, and commenting;
- Automated project reprioritization and analytics;
- Flexible sign-in security and login;
- Auto-fill free type search capability; and
- Interface with external sources outside of agency.

Design for KEES began in the summer of 2016. The KEES team expects to roll out viable portions of the system over the next several years.
Due to the size and complexity of implementing the Keystone Environmental ePermitting System (KEES), the KEES team will deploy the project in three stages. The project is designed in stages to break it down into smaller and more manageable pieces. Individual stages typically require approval from executive management on cost, time and scope before starting. Each stage can have one or more releases in which a product is delivered to the end user.

The KEES project intends to use three stages to onboard stakeholders and permit types methodically. The three stages are:

**Stage 1: Onboard Current Stakeholders & Electronically Submitted Permit Types**
- GP-11
- Small Project
- PASPGP-5
- ACOE Nationwide
- ACOE Individual

**Stage 2: Onboard County Conservation Districts & Below Permit Types**
- Chapter 105
- GP-1 through GP-9
- Emergency
- Exx-9999
- Chapter 102
- Individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
- General NPDES
- Erosion & Sediment (E&S) Plan
- Erosion and Sediment Control Permit (ESCP)

**Stage 3: Onboard PA Turnpike Commission (PTC), Multimodal Transportation, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and Local Entities & Municipal Projects**
- Exx-9995 (PTC)
- Exx-9910 (DCNR)
- Exx-9920 (DCNR)

KEES will implement products from Stage 1 in three releases. The first release of Stage 1 is expected to be completed by spring 2017. This release will provide the core functionality for applicants and reviewers to process and approve a permit application.