EPA Headquarters Policy Announcements since January 2017

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-withdraws-information-request-oil-and-gas-industry"]

Release Date: 03/02/2017

EPA is withdrawing its request that owners and operators in the oil and natural gas industry provide information on equipment and emissions at existing oil and gas operations.

Statement

This Administration's action will reduce burdens on businesses while we take a closer look at the need for additional information from this industry. Under the previous administration, EPA sent letters to more than 15,000 owners and operators in the oil and gas industry, requiring them to provide information on greenhouse gases.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-reexamine-emission-standards-cars-and-light-duty-trucks-model-years-2022-2025"]

Release Date: 03/15/2017

DOT Secretary Elaine Chao and Administrator Scott Pruitt will revisit the previous administration's rule that finalized standards to increase fuel economy to the equivalent of 54.5 mpg for cars and light-duty trucks by Model Year 2025.

Statement

These standards are costly for automakers and the American people. The Department of Transportation announced that it would re-open the Mid-Term evaluation process and work with the EPA to complete the review in a transparent, data-driven manner. This thorough review will help ensure that this national program is good for consumers and good for the environment.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-pruitt-previews-president-trumps-executive-order-energy-independence"]

Release Date: 03/26/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt previewed the upcoming executive order on the American Energy Independence. He laid out the core message of the pending action, saying job growth and a healthy environment aren't at odds.

Statement

The President's Energy Independence Executive Order supports the need for pro-growth, pro-environment approach to our nation's environmental regulations. The Executive Order will address the past administration's effort to kill jobs throughout the country through the Clean Power Plan.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-pruitt-denies-petition-ban-widely-used-pesticide-0"]

Release Date: 03/29/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt signed an order denying a petition that sought to ban chlorpyrifos, a pesticide crucial to U.S. agriculture.

Statement

EPA is providing regulatory certainty to the thousands of American farms that rely on chlorpyrifos while still protecting human health and the environment. By reversing the previous Administration's steps to ban one of the most widely used pesticides in the world, we are returning to using sound science in decision-making.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-sends-clean-power-plan-guidance-letter-governors-0"]

Release Date: 03/30/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt sent letters to state governors advising them that they are under no obligation to adhere to the Clean Power Plan (CPP) rule.

Statement

This administration has fulfilled its promise of cooperative federalism and acted on the President's Energy Indepence Executive order by advising state governors that they are under no obligation to adhere to the Clean Power Plan rule. EPA looks forward to working with states and local communities to develop a path forward to improve our environment and bolster the economy in a manner that is respectful of and consistent with the rule of law.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/regulatory-reform-underway-epa"]

Release Date: 04/11/2017

EPA's Regulatory Reform Task Force, led by the Office of Policy, submitted a Federal Register notice today to solicit public comments on EPA regulations.

Statement

In a vital step toward implementing the President's Executive Order, "Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda," EPA's Regulatory Reform Task Force solicited public comments on EPA regulations. The administration is committed to working with the public and EPA program offices to gather their recommendations for specific rules that should be considered for repeal, replacement or modification.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-pruitt-statement-omb-guidance-reorganizing-government"]

Release Date: 04/13/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt supports the Office of Management and Budget's guidance on implementing President Trump's plans for reorganizing the federal government and reducing the government workforce.

Statement

In support of President Trump's plans for reorganizing the federal government and reducing the government workforce, the administration will work with EPA staff to effectively use every taxpayer dollar entrusted to the agency. EPA will return to its core statutory mission, and focusing on greater value and results, and partner with states and tribes to ensure a thoughtful approach is used to maximize resources to protect our air, land, and water.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-reconsider-oil-and-gas-rule"]

Release Date: 04/19/2017

EPA announced the agency's intent to grant a reconsideration of the Oil and Gas New Source Performance Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Rule (NSPS Rule/Methane NSPS/Oil and Gas Rule/0000a).

Statement

In continued support of the President's Energy Independence Executive Order, EPA reconsidered the Oil and Gas New Source Performance Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Final Rule. EPA believes American businesses should have the opportunity to review new requirements, assess economic impacts and report back, before those new requirements are finalized.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-kicks-website-updates"]

Release Date: 04/28/2017

EPA.gov, the website for the United States Environmental Protection Agency, is undergoing changes that reflect the agency's new direction under President Donald Trump and Administrator Scott Pruitt.

Statement

Updating and improving EPA's website reflects the agency's new direction under the leadership of President Donald Trump and Administrator Scott Pruitt. With a commitment to transparency, the changes ensure the website's usefulness to the public in understanding the agency's work while complying with agency ethics and legal guidance, including the use of proper archiving procedures.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-extends-timeline-pesticide-applicators-rule"]

Release Date: 05/11/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt announced a 12-month extension for implementation of the revised final Certification and Training of Pesticide Applicators (C&T) rule.

Statement

To achieve both environmental protection and economic prosperity, EPA must give the regulated community, which includes farmers and ranchers, adequate time to comply with regulations. Extending the timeline for implementation of this rule will enable EPA to consult with states, assist with education, training and guidance, and prevent unnecessary burdens from overshadowing the rule's intended benefits.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/bill-signed-president-trump-gives-epas-wifia-program-additional-help-meet-communities"]

Release Date: 05/17/2017

EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program received an additional $8 million for credit subsidy in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017, signed into law by President Donald Trump on May 5, 2017.

Statement

EPA received 43 letters of interest for WIFIA loans from public and private entities with a collective request of $6 billion, demonstrating the high need to invest in water infrastructure improvements in communities across the nation and the value that WIFIA financing can offer. Thanks to President Trump and Congress, this additional funding will accelerate the construction of projects to meet communities' water infrastructure needs.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-budget-returns-focus-core-statutory-mission"]

Release Date: 05/23/2017

The proposed Fiscal Year 2018 budget for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, announced today, provides $5.655 billion to help the agency protect human health and the environment.

Statement

This budget supports EPA's highest priorities with federal funding for priority work in infrastructure, air and water quality, and ensuring the safety of chemicals in the marketplace. It respects the American taxpayer by aiming to reduce redundancies and inefficiencies and prioritize EPA's core statutory mission of providing Americans with clean air, land, and water.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-stays-landfill-methane-rules"]

Release Date: 05/23/2017

EPA announced a 90-day administrative stay for the August 2016 New Source Performance Standards and Emissions guidelines for municipal solid waste landfills.

Statement

The administration estimates that implementing these rules would cost businesses more than $100 million per year to install and operate gas collection and control systems. Reconsidering portions of the landfill rules will give stakeholders the opportunity to review these requirements, assess economic impacts and provide feedback to the agency through the reconsideration process.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-extend-deadline-2015-ozone-naaqs-area-designations"]

Release Date: 06/06/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt sent a letter to governors today to inform them of EPA's efforts related to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone promulgated in October 2015.

Statement

This administration understands areas designated as being in "nonattainment" of the standard face consequences, including: increased regulatory burdens, restrictions on infrastructure investment, and increased costs to businesses. Because states have made tremendous progress and significant investment cleaning up the air, EPA is giving states more time to develop air quality plans and will provide greater flexibility to states as they develop their plans.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-extends-rmp-effective-date-2019"]

Release Date: 06/12/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt signed a final rule to further delay the effective date of EPA's Risk Management Program (RMP) Amendments an additional 20 months to allow the agency to conduct a reconsideration proceeding and to consider other issues that may benefit from additional comment.

Statement

This action allows EPA time to evaluate the RMP amendments and to thoughtfully consider questions and concerns submitted through multiple petitions and other comments received during the public comment period and public hearing.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/united-states-resets-climate-change-discussion-g7"]

Release Date: 06/12/2017

Administrator Scott Pruitt announced that the United States stands firm on its decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement and has reset the conversation about climate change reflective of the new priorities of the Trump Administration and the expectations of the American people.

Statement

This action of reaching consensus on important environmental issues makes clear that the Paris Agreement is not the only mechanism by which environmental stewardship can be demonstrated. It also demonstrates EPA's commitment to honest conversations, which are the cornerstone of constructive international dialogue

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-proposes-longer-stay-portions-oil-and-gas-standards"]

Release Date: 06/13/2017

EPA is taking steps to ensure portions of the agency's 2016 New Source Performance Standards for the oil and natural gas industry do not take effect while the agency works through the reconsideration process.

Statement

In consideration of several petitions the agency has received to reconsider certain aspects of this potentially burdensome rule, EPA will take additional time to review these concerns which impact one of our nation's most important industries.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-marks-chemical-safety-milestone-1st-anniversary-lautenberg-chemical-safety-act"]

Release Date: 06/22/2017

Today, on the one-year anniversary of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, Administrator Scott Pruitt announced that EPA has met its first-year statutory responsibilities under the law.

Statement

This administration is committed to providing regulatory certainty to American businesses, while protecting human health and the environment. The new process for evaluating existing chemicals outlined in these rules will increase public confidence in chemical safety without stifling innovation.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-us-army-move-rescind-2015-waters-us"]

Release Date: 06/27/2017

The Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Army, and Army Corps of Engineers (the agencies) are proposing a rule to rescind the Clean Water Rule and re-codify the regulatory text that existed prior to 2015 defining "waters of the United States" or WOTUS.

Statement

The administration is taking significant action to return power to the states and provide regulatory certainty to our nation's farmers and businesses. EPA is committed to moving through this re-evaluation to quickly provide regulatory certainty in a way that is thoughtful, transparent and collaborative with other agencies and the public

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-proposes-rfs-volumes-reflective-market-realities-2018"]

Release Date: 07/05/2017

EPA signed a proposed rule setting the minimum amount of renewable fuels that must be supplied to the market in calendar year 2018 under the Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) program.

Statement

EPA is committed to successfully administering the RFS consistent with the direction entrusted to the Agency by Congress. The proposed new volumes are consistent with market realities focused on actual production and consumer demand while acknowledging challenges in bringing advanced biofuels into the marketplace. Timely implementation will provide certainty to American refiners, the agriculture community and broader fuels industry.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-superfund-task-force-recommendations"]

Release Date: 07/25/2017

EPA's Superfund Task Force released their report to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, providing 42 specific and detailed recommendations to streamline and improve the Superfund program.

Statement

This task force is a team effort between career and political EPA staff, working together to develop recommendations that are detailed, but also workable. This process ensures we can expedite the protection of human health and the environment around these properties and accelerate reuse while carrying out one of the agency's core missions.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/new-epa-tool-helps-communities-access-more-10-billion-water-infrastructure-financing"]

Release Date: 07/26/2017

EPA is launching the Water Finance Clearinghouse, a web-based portal to help communities make informed financing decisions for their drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure needs.

Statement

Investing in water infrastructure sustains local economies by creating jobs, protecting public health, and increasing quality of life. EPA's Clearinghouse serves as a vital portal that helps connect the many communities struggling with aging or inadequate water infrastructure with the information and tools they need to finance much-needed improvement projects.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/federal-partnership-launches-water-quality-challenge-piloting-low-cost-nutrient-sensors"]
Release Date: 07/26/2017
Today, a federal partnership launched a technology-accelerating water quality challenge to demonstrate how nutrient sensors can be used by states and local communities to help manage nutrient pollution.

Statement

This partnership demonstrates the power of innovation in developing affordable, high-performing solutions to one of the nation's most extensive water quality issues. By finding ways to address algal blooms, EPA can help industries, sectors and communities that depend on clean water while saving federal, state, and local governments billions of dollars every year in combating nutrient pollution.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-adds-superfund-sites-national-priorities-list-clean-contamination"]
Release Date: 07/31/2017
EPA is adding seven and proposing to add four hazardous waste sites to the Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL).

Statement

This administration aims to restore the Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the agency's core mission. By adding sites to the Superfund National Priorities List we ensure they are cleaned up to make these communities healthier places to live, and clear the way for development and increased economic activity.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/air-quality-continues-improve-while-us-economy-continues-grow"]
Release Date: 08/02/2017
EPA released its annual report on air quality, showing the significant progress the United States has made to improve air quality across the country.

Statement

EPA is proud to highlight nearly 75 percent reduction in six key pollutants since 1970, during a period in which the U.S. economy grew more than three times. EPA remains committed to working with states, tribes, and local air agencies to help more areas of the country come into compliance so all Americans receive the benefits of clean air.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-continues-work-states-2015-ozone-designations"]
Release Date: 08/02/2017
EPA is moving forward with 2015 ozone designations, working with states to help areas with underlying technical issues, disputed designations, and/or insufficient information.

Statement

The Clean Air Act gives EPA the flexibility to allow one additional year for sufficient information to support ozone designations. This action reinforces our commitment to working with the states through the complex designation process.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-eliminates-new-chemical-backlog-announces-improvements-new-chemical-safety-reviews"]
Release Date: 08/07/2017

Following through with Administrator Pruitt's commitment to eliminating the backlog of new chemical cases that were stuck in EPA's review processes upon his confirmation, he is reporting that the backlog is eliminated.

Statement

When Administrator Pruitt was confirmed, over 600 new chemicals were 'stuck' in the EPA review process. The current caseload is back at the baseline and now in line with the typical active workload. With the ongoing commitment of the staff working on TSCA reviews, and input from stakeholders, EPA will ensure a new chemicals program that is both protective of human health and the environment, while also being supportive of bringing new chemicals to market.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-issues-guidance-state-coal-ash-management-permit-programs"]
Release Date: 08/10/2017
EPA released an interim final guidance to help states develop and submit permit programs for the safe management of coal combustion residuals (CCR), commonly known as coal ash, to EPA for review and approval.

Statement

As part of EPA's ongoing commitment to cooperative federalism, the agency encourages States to consult this interim final guidance as they develop and submit programs to EPA for review and approval. EPA will continue to consult with our state partners to find the best management strategy for the safe disposal of coal ash in each of their states.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/updates-epas-ejscreen-provide-access-important-new-data"]
Release Date: 08/16/2017
EPA today launched its annual update of EJSCREEN, the Agency's nationally acclaimed environmental justice screening and mapping tool.

Statement

EJSCREEN is one of the agency's most popular tools, regularly used by other federal, Tribal, state and local government partners as well as by nonprofit and community groups, business and industry, and academia. It increases the agency's transparency about how we consider environmental justice, to assist our partners and stakeholders in making informed decisions, and to create a common starting point between EPA and others when looking at issues related to environmental justice.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-army-seek-input-review-waters-us-rule"]
Release Date: 08/25/2017
EPA and U.S. Department of the Army (the agencies) will hold 11 sessions to give stakeholders an opportunity to provide recommendations on a revised definition of "waters of the United States."

Statement

EPA is committed to an open and transparent process for reviewing the definition of 'waters of the United States.' Receiving input from across the country will help us make informed decisions as we move through our two-step process that will return power to the states and to provide regulatory certainty to our nation's farmers and businesses

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-approves-emergency-fuel-waivers-38-states-and-washington-dc-1"]
Release Date: 09/07/2017
As a result of the continuing impacts on Gulf Coast-area refineries and disruption to the fuel distribution system caused by Hurricane Harvey and the effects of large-scale evacuations in response to Hurricane Irma, Administrator Scott Pruitt today exercised EPA's emergency fuel waiver authority to help ensure an adequate supply of fuel.

Statement

Helping ensure an adequate supply of fuel throughout the country is vital to maintaining our nation's economy and services during emergency events. EPA, in coordination with the Department of Energy, will continue to offer this relief as appropriate.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-rule-postpone-steam-electric-power-plant-effluent-guidelines-rule"]
Release Date: 09/13/2017
EPA has finalized a rule postponing certain compliance dates by two years for the effluent limitations guidelines and standards for steam electric power plants (ELG Rule) that were issued in November 2015.

Statement

This action provides relief for power plants from regulatory deadlines while the agency reconsiders existing effluent guidelines. Giving facilities time to comply benefits industry and our economy.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-reconsider-certain-coal-ash-rule-provisions"]
Release Date: 09/14/2017
EPA has granted two petitions to reconsider substantive provisions of the final rule regulating coal combustion residuals (CCR) as nonhazardous waste under subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

Statement

EPA granted these petitions to consider improvements that may help states tailor their permit programs to their needs in a way that provides greater regulatory certainty, while also ensuring that human health and the environment remain protected. It was appropriate and in the public's interest to reconsider specific provisions of the final CCR rule based in part on the authority provided through the Water Infrastructure for Improvements to the Nation (WIIN) Act.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-launches-smart-sectors-program"]
Release Date: 10/03/2017
Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the launch of Smart Sectors, a partnership program between the Agency and regulated sectors focused on achieving better environmental outcomes.

Statement

The Smart Sectors program is designed to effectively engage business partners throughout the regulatory process. When industries and regulators better understand each other, the economy, public, and the environment all benefit.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-another-step-advance-president-trumps-america-first-strategy-proposes-repeal"]
Release Date: 10/10/2017
Administrator Scott Pruitt issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), proposing to repeal the so-called "Clean Power Plan (CPP)."

Statement

The Supreme Court issued a historic, unprecedented stay of the Clean Power Plan, prompted by the overreach of the previous administration. EPA is committed to clearing the regulatory slate. Any replacement rule will be done carefully, properly, and with humility, by listening to all those affected by the rule.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-addresses-national-tribal-operations-committee"]
Release Date: 10/11/2017
Administrator Scott Pruitt addressed the National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC) where he spoke on pressing issues facing environmental leaders in Indian country and how best to collaborate on shared goals and challenges.

Statement

EPA is committed to working and partnering with tribal governments to address our shared environmental concerns and challenges. Tribal government play an important role in environmental management, and through the unique government-to-government relationship that tribes have with the federal government, we engage in the process as co-regulators.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-states-collective-efforts-lead-regulatory-action-dicamba"]
Release Date: 10/13/2017
EPA has reached an agreement with Monsanto, BASF and DuPont on measures to further minimize the potential for drift to damage neighboring crops from the use of dicamba formulations used to control weeds in genetically modified cotton and soybeans.

Statement

EPA has worked intensely and collaboratively with the states and university scientists from across the nation who have first-hand knowledge of the problem and workable solutions to develop this action. Through this example of cooperative federalism, the new requirements for the use of dicamba will allow farmers to make informed choices for seed purchases for the 2018 growing season.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-issues-directive-end-epa-sue-settle"]
Release Date: 10/16/2017
In fulfilling his promise to end the practice of regulation through litigation that has harmed the American public, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt issued a directive today designed to end “sue and settle” practices within the Agency.

Statement

The days of regulation through litigation are over. This decision provides an unprecedented level of public participation and transparency in EPA consent decrees and settlement agreements. Special-interest groups will no longer be able to use lawsuits that seek to force EPA issue regulations that advance their interests and priorities, on their specified timeframe.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-helps-communities-grow-local-food-economy-spur-revitalization"]
Release Date: 10/19/2017
Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a new toolkit to help communities interested in using local foods to support downtown and neighborhood revitalization.

Statement

By investing in local foods, communities can preserve farmlands and protect the environment while bringing new jobs and business opportunities to main street. This program allows local officials, community groups, businesses and citizens to explore the benefits of using farmers markets, community kitchens and other food-related enterprises to revitalize communities and develop action plans for pursuing those goals.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-meets-superfund-stakeholders-texas"]
Release Date: 10/20/2017
Administrator Scott Pruitt met with stakeholders at the Harris County Office who are monitoring cleanup efforts at the San Jacinto Superfund site that is contaminated with highly toxic dioxin.

Statement

EPA is committed to helping dispose of these toxic materials in a cost-effective and efficient way to better ensure a healthy and safe environment for nearby residents. This decision will provide overall certainty by permanently addressing the contamination risks instead of capping the site.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-energy-independence-report"]

Release Date: 10/25/2017
Today, EPA released its final report on implementing President Trump's executive order to curb regulatory burdens in order to promote energy production and economic growth while protecting human health and the environment.

Statement

At EPA, being both pro-jobs and pro-environment means we are working to curb unnecessary and duplicative regulatory burdens that do not serve the American people while continuing to partner with states, tribes and stakeholders to protect our air, land, and water.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-guidance-reporting-air-emissions-hazardous-substances-animal-waste-farms"]
Release Date: 10/26/2017
Today, EPA is releasing guidance to assist farmers in reporting air releases of hazardous substances from animal waste at farms.

Statement

Farmers are some of the most important contributors to our nation's economy, and EPA is working diligently to address undue regulatory burden on this vital sector. EPA's guidance is designed to help farmers comply with the current requirements while we continue to examine our options for reporting requirements for emissions from animal waste.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-enforcement-actions-help-protect-vulnerable-communities-across-country-lead-based-1"]
Release Date: 10/27/2017
As part of Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, EPA today announced 127 federal enforcement actions completed over the last year to ensure entities like renovation contractors, landlords and property managers are in compliance with regulations that require them to protect communities and the public from exposures to lead.

Statement

EPA's work to enforce federal lead paint laws helps protect communities across the country and ensures those who break the law are held accountable for their illegal actions. These cases also help maintain a level playing field for companies that follow the rules and comply with the law.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-issues-directive-ensure-independence-geographic-diversity"]
Release Date: 10/31/2017
Administrator Scott Pruitt issued a new directive today to ensure that any advisors serving on an EPA Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) are independent and free from any real, apparent, or potential interference with their ability to objectively serve as a committee member.

Statement

This action ensures EPA advisory committee members will be financially independent from the Agency. It also will significantly increase geographic diversity and state, tribal, and local government participation on the committees and ensure whatever science comes out of EPA will not be political science.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-public-hearing-proposed-repeal-clean-power-plan"]
Release Date: 11/02/2017
EPA will hold a public hearing on the proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan in Charleston, WV on November 28-29, 2017.

Statement

EPA is committed to hearing from those most impacted by the Clean Power Plan and getting their comments on the proposed repeal. We look forward to hearing from all interested stakeholders.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-intention-nominate-members-three-important-federal-advisory-committees"]
Release Date: 11/03/2017
Administrator Scott Pruitt announced his intention to appoint members who will serve on the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC), the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee (CASAC) and the Science Advisory Board (SAB).

Statement

EPA is ensuring the best independent scientific advice is given by appointing highly-qualified experts and scientists to these important committees. In a fair, open, and transparent fashion, EPA reviewed hundreds of qualified applicants nominated for these committees. Members who will be appointed include experts throughout the environmental stakeholder community, including from NGOs, academia, industry, and state, tribal and local officials.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-working-states-and-tribes-makes-final-attainment-designations-2015-ozone-naaqs"]
Release Date: 11/06/2017
Consistent with the states' and tribes' recommendations, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is moving forward with designations for close to 90 percent of the country.

Statement

This action shows our commitment to working with our state and tribal partners on one of the most important areas of EPA's work – ensuring that more Americans are living and working in areas that meet national air quality standards. After EPA establishes or revises an air quality standard, the Agency will follow a process, dictated by the Clean Air Act, by which states recommend area designations to EPA. The Agency then evaluates their recommendations prior to making its final designations.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-advances-effort-keep-epa-within-regulatory-lane-proposed-repeal"]
Release Date: 11/09/2017
EPA proposes to undo the regulatory overreach of the prior administration by repealing application of the Medium- and Heavy-Duty Truck Phase II Greenhouse Gas Emission and Fuel Efficiency Standards for the glider industry.

Statement

EPA is taking comment on an interpretation of the Clean Air Act that recognizes the unique nature of a vehicle made up of both new and used component parts. The Agency is proposing that gliders should not be regulated as "new motor vehicles" or "new motor vehicle engines" under section 202(a)(1) of the Clean Air Act. This action does not affect nor propose to affect EPA's authority to address heavy-duty engine rebuilding practices under Clean Air Act section 202(a)(3)(D).

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-celebrates-recycling-progress-and-economic-contribution-20th-america-recycles-day"]
Release Date: 11/15/2017
Today, on the 20th America Recycles Day, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) celebrates the importance of recycling to our nation's economy.

Statement

We are encouraging all Americans to recycle more today, and every day. With a greater focus on recycling, the U.S. recycling rate has more than tripled over the last 30 years to the current rate of 34 percent. According to our most

recent data from 2007, recycling and reuse activities created 757,000 jobs, produced $36.6 billion in wages and $6.7 billion in tax revenues in the United States in that year.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-availability-12-million-environmental-justice-collaborative-problem"]
Release Date: 11/16/2017
EPA announced today the availability of $1.2 million for Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Cooperative Agreements.

Statement

EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreements help non-profit and tribal organizations to partner with stakeholders from across industry, government, and academia to develop and implement solutions that significantly address environmental and/or public health issues in America's low income and minority communities. By focusing this year's grant on rural areas, EPA can increase outreach to underserved communities.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-army-propose-amend-effective-date-2015-rule-defining-waters-united-states"]
Release Date: 11/16/2017
EPA and U.S. Department of the Army (the agencies) are proposing to amend the effective date of the 2015 rule defining "waters of the United States."

Statement

This proposal shows our commitment to our state and tribal partners and to providing regulatory certainty to our nation's farmers, ranchers and businesses allowing us to minimize confusion as we continue to receive input from across the country on how we should revise the definition of the 'waters of the United States.' EPA and the Army are taking this action to provide certainty and consistency to the regulated community.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-assesses-sunken-leaking-marine-vessels"]
Release Date: 11/20/2017
EPA is supporting Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the U.S. Coast Guard in marine vessel recovery work. Teams continue to locate, assess and retrieve sunken, damaged and derelict vessels around Puerto Rico and the USVI.

Statement

Hurricane response is one of the agency's most important missions. EPA remains focused on environmental impacts and potential threats to the health and safety of those in the affected areas from spills and hazardous substances that might be onboard the vessels.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-clearing-out-agencys-foia-backlog"]
Release Date: 11/21/2017
EPA announced that the Agency is on track to significantly reduce the backlog of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests received prior to 2017.

Statement

EPA is committed to transparency and we are quickly responding to the challenge to clear the backlog of FOIAs. EPA's National FOIA Office and offices across the agency have been working hard to clear the backlog of FOIA requests that existed at the start of 2017.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/dc-circuit-court-grants-trump-epa-request-extend-deadline-farmers-report-emissions"]
Release Date: 11/28/2017

On November 22, 2017, in response to a request from the Trump administration EPA, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals effectively extended the deadline for farmers to report air releases of hazardous substances from animal waste at livestock operations until January 22, 2018.

Statement

EPA is giving farmers and ranchers additional time in order to provide compliance assistance to farmers, update its guidance, and develop a more-streamlined reporting form. With the Court's decision, farmers are not required to report emissions from animal waste at these facilities until after the Court issues its mandate, expected no sooner than January 22, 2018.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-rfs-volumes-2018-and-biomass-based-diesel-volumes-2019"]
Release Date: 11/30/2017
EPA finalized a rule that establishes the required renewable fuel volumes under the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) program for 2018, and biomass-based diesel for 2019.

Statement

Maintaining the renewable fuel standard at current levels ensures stability in the marketplace and follows through with EPA's commitment to meet the statutory deadlines and upholding the rule of law. The Clean Air Act requires EPA to set the RFS volume requirements annually and to finalize the standards by November 30th for the following year. The final standards for 2018, and for biomass-based diesel for 2019, are only slightly changed from the proposed standards that EPA issued earlier this year.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-co-host-national-brownfields-training-conference-pittsburgh"]
Release Date: 12/01/2017
EPA and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) are co-sponsoring the National Brownfields Training Conference in Pittsburgh Dec. 4-7 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

Statement

Cleaning up Brownfields sites and returning them to reuse is a priority of this Administration. We are providing an opportunity to support private and public investment in economic revitalization to help improve environmental outcomes across the country. Addressing the nation's brownfields - abandoned or underutilized properties stigmatized by past commercial or industrial uses - is an ongoing challenge for communities of every size.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-determines-risks-hardrock-mining-industry-minimal-and-no-need-additional-federal"]
Release Date: 12/01/2017
EPA announced that the Agency will not issue final regulations for financial responsibility requirements for certain hardrock mining facilities.

Statement

After careful analysis of public comments, the statutory authority, and the record for this rulemaking, we are confident that modern industry practices, along with existing state and federal requirements address risks from operating hardrock mining facilities. EPA published proposed regulations under section 108(b) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, or Superfund) on January 11, 2017, and the public comment period closed on July 11, 2017.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-launches-cross-agency-effort-address-pfas"]
Release Date: 12/04/2017

EPA is announcing a cross-agency effort to address per and polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). PFAS, which includes PFOA, PFOS and GenX, are a diverse group of compounds resistant to heat, water, and oil that are persistent in the environment and resist degradation.

Statement

EPA's efforts build on the work that the Agency has done to establish non-regulatory drinking water health advisories for PFOA and PFOS. The Agency's water and research offices will lead these efforts and they will bring together expertise from across the Agency including top scientists from EPA's air, chemicals, land, research, and water offices.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-additional-public-listening-sessions-proposed-repeal-clean-power-plan"]
Release Date: 12/06/2017
EPA will hold three additional public listening sessions on the proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan in San Francisco, Calif., Gillette, Wyo. and Kansas City, Mo.

Statement

Due to the overwhelming response to our West Virginia hearing, we are announcing additional opportunities for the public to voice their views to the Agency. Public listening sessions will be on EPA's proposed repeal of the Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units (commonly known as the Clean Power Plan).

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/president-trump-appoints-epa-administrator-scott-pruitt-chair-gulf-coast-ecosystem"]
Release Date: 12/06/2017
Today, President Donald Trump appointed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt as the new chairperson of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council).

Statement

With Administrator Pruitt as chair, the council is poised to build on our foundation of collaboration among members over the past five years. Along with our restoration partners, the council is ready to advance our efforts to restore the Gulf ecosystem and economy from the worst environmental disaster in the nation's history.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-meets-members-national-environmental-justice-advisory-council"]
Release Date: 12/07/2017
EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt met with members of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) to discuss Fiscal Year 2018 priorities including guidelines for meaningful public participation and EPA's Superfund Task Force recommendations.

Statement

Environmental justice dialogues are critical to improving environmental and public health outcomes. Established in 1993, NEJAC provides advice and recommendations about broad, cross-cutting issues related to environmental justice to the EPA Administrator.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-making-strides-cleaning-nations-most-contaminated-sites"]

Release Date: 01/02/2018

EPA is announcing significant improvement in 2017 – through the deletion of all or parts of seven Superfund sites from the National Priorities List (NPL). This is more than triple the number of sites removed from the list in 2016.

Statement

EPA has made it a priority to get these sites cleaned up faster and in the right way. By creating a streamlined task force and making major remedy decisions that hold potentially responsible parties accountable for clean up, the Superfund program is carrying out the Agency's mission of protecting human health and the environment more every day.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/3-m-funding-now-available-locally-focused-environmental-education-grants"]

Release Date: 01/08/2018

Up to $3 million in funding for locally-focused environmental education grants will be available this week under the 2018 EE Local Grant Program. EPA will award three to four grants in each of EPA's ten Regions, for no less than $50,000 and no more than $100,000 each, for a total of 30-35 grants nationwide.

Statement

By recognizing these locally-based learning and awareness opportunities, the Environmental Protection Agency is taking both a local and national leadership role in promoting sound agricultural conservation practices, environmental disaster preparedness, adequate food waste management and other important environmental best-practices.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/usda-task-force-agriculture-and-rural-prosperity-release-recommendations-revitalize"]

Release Date: 01/09/2018

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity released its report to President Trump outlining recommendations to promote agriculture, economic development, job growth, infrastructure improvements, technological innovation, energy security and quality of life in rural America. As a member of the Task Force, the Environmental Protection Agency plays an important role in revitalizing rural America.

Statement

More than ever, American farmers and ranchers deserve regulatory certainty. These recommendations renew our commitment to empowering rural America and improving environmental outcomes across the country. EPA looks forward to building on these efforts to revitalize rural America.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-updates-national-priorities-list-clean-contamination-and-protect-communities"]

Release Date: 01/09/2018

EPA is adding four and proposing to add 10 hazardous waste sites to the Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL).

Statement

This action ensures the necessary resources are available for effective and safe revitalization of some of the most contaminated sites across the country. Superfund clean-up continues to be a priority at EPA as we work intently to create a safer and healthier environment for all communities affected.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-schedules-three-listening-sessions-proposed-repeal-clean-power-plan"]

Release Date: 01/11/2018

With the publication of an upcoming Federal Register notice, EPA will re-open the public comment period for the proposed repeal through April 26, 2018 and provide further details on the listening sessions.

Statement

In response to significant interest surrounding the proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan and the success of the West Virginia hearing, we will hold listening sessions across the country to ensure all stakeholders have an opportunity to provide input.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/fuel-economy-reaches-new-record-manufacturers-meet-greenhouse-gas-standards-epa-0"]

Release Date: 01/11/2018

EPA issued two annual reports that provide information on fuel economy and greenhouse gas emissions from light duty vehicles in the United States. The reports show auto manufacturers continue to innovate and make progress increasing fuel economy and reducing pollution.

Statement

Thanks to innovation in our automotive sector, fuel economy in the US fleet continues to improve. This benefits American consumers as well as our environment.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-recognizes-electronics-industry-leaders-innovation-and-recycling-achievements"]

Release Date: 01/11/2018

EPA recognized leading electronics manufacturers, retailers, and brand owners for their significant contributions in designing products sustainably and diverting electronics from landfills by sending them to third-party certified recyclers as part of the Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) Electronics Challenge.

Statement

Innovative industry leaders finding new, sustainable methods to reduce electronic waste are paving the way for the future of manufacturing. Through their efforts, our 2017 SMM Electronics Challenge winners exemplify the ability to promote economic growth while protecting human health and the environment.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-superfund-redevelopment-focus-list"]

Release Date: 01/17/2018

EPA released its initial list of Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) sites with the greatest expected redevelopment and commercial potential.

Statement

EPA is more than a collaborative partner to remediate the nation's most contaminated sites, we're also working to successfully integrate Superfund sites back into communities across the country. This redevelopment list incorporates Superfund sites ready to become catalysts for economic growth and revitalization.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/reducing-regulatory-burdens-epa-withdraws-once-always-policy-major-sources-under-clean"]

Release Date: 01/25/2018

EPA issued a guidance memorandum withdrawing the "once in always in" policy for the classification of major sources of hazardous air pollutants under section 112 of the Clean Air Act. With the new guidance, sources of hazardous air pollutants previously classified as "major sources" may be reclassified as "area" sources when the facility limits its potential to emit below major source thresholds.

Statement

This guidance is based on a plain language reading of the statute that is in line with EPA's guidance for other provisions of the Clean Air Act. It will reduce regulatory burden for industries and the states, while continuing to ensure stringent and effective controls on hazardous air pollutants.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-publishes-annual-toxics-release-inventory-report-and-analysis"]

Release Date: 01/30/2018

EPA released its 2016 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) National Analysis. The publicly available database shows that industrial facilities continue to reduce the releases of TRI chemicals through pollution reduction activities.

Statement

EPA's TRI is a model in the international regulatory community. The National Analysis increases the transparency of the TRI Program and promotes user engagement and exploration of the annual TRI data.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-army-finalize-waters-united-states-applicability-date"]

Release Date: 01/31/2018

EPA and U.S. Department of the Army (Army) have finalized a rule adding an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule (the 2015 Rule). This rule provides clarity and certainty about which definition of "waters of the United States" is applicable nationwide in response to judicial actions that could result in confusion. The new applicability date will be two years after today's action is published in the Federal Register, during which time both agencies will continue the process of reconsidering the 2015 Rule.

Statement

EPA is taking action to reduce confusion and provide certainty to America's farmers and ranchers. The 2015 WOTUS rule developed by the Obama administration will not be applicable for the next two years, while we work through the process of providing long-term regulatory certainty across all 50 states about what waters are subject to federal regulation.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-scott-pruitt-signs-endangered-species-act-memorandum-state"]

Release Date: 01/31/2018

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt spoke at the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Winter Policy Conference and signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) establishing an interagency Working Group to evaluate and improve the Endangered Species Act consultation process for pesticide registration.

Statement

The current Endangered Species Act pesticide consultation process is broken. The Trump Administration is taking action to improve and accelerate this process, harmonize interagency efforts, and create regulatory certainty for America's farmers and ranchers.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-pruitt-invites-nations-leaders-join-epa-efforts-reduce-childhood-lead"]

Release Date: 02/05/2018

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is taking action to address lead contamination across America by formally inviting his colleagues and fellow Cabinet members to join with EPA in developing a federal strategy to reduce childhood lead exposure and associated health effects.

Statement

Lead exposure is a significant health and safety threat to children across the country. EPA is committed to taking action to address this threat, and improve health outcomes for our nation's most vulnerable citizens – our children.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-2017-annual-environmental-enforcement-results"]

Release Date: 02/08/2018

EPA announced its Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 annual enforcement and compliance results, highlighting site remediation and civil and criminal enforcement results.

Statement

A strong enforcement program is essential to achieving positive health and environmental outcomes. In fiscal year 2017, we focused on expediting site cleanup, deterring noncompliance, and returning facilities to compliance with the law, while respecting the cooperative federalism structure of our nation's environmental laws.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-meets-important-milestone-proposes-fees-rule-final-four-framework-rules-epa-0"]

Release Date: 02/08/2018

EPA met an important milestone and proposed a fees rule under the amended Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the Frank Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act.

Statement

EPA has moved swiftly to implement the amended TSCA requirements. Our proposed TSCA fees rule ensures we have sufficient resources to review chemicals for safety with the highest scientific standards.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-fy-2019-budget-proposal-released"]

Release Date: 02/12/2018

The proposed Fiscal Year 2019 budget for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides $6.146 billion to support the Agency's new FY 2018 – FY 2022 Strategic Plan and mission of protecting human health and the environment.

Statement

EPA's budget proposal provides robust support for our vital programs that pertain to EPA's core missions.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-participates-white-house-infrastructure-initiative-roundtable"]

Release Date: 02/12/2018

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt participated in the White House Infrastructure Initiative Roundtable alongside President Donald Trump, other members of the Cabinet and state and local officials from around the country.

Statement

President Trump's infrastructure plan will revitalize our nation's once-great infrastructure and create a safer and stronger America. Infrastructure includes more than roads and bridges; we will also rebuild our nation's crumbling water infrastructure and clean up contaminated land, both of which are critical to environmental protection and economic growth in our communities. Through regulatory reforms and targeted investments, EPA will play a leading role in this effort.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-scott-pruitt-hosts-nations-leaders-discuss-efforts-reduce-childhood-0"]

Release Date: 02/16/2018

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt hosted fellow Cabinet members and other key senior leaders to outline a federal strategy to reduce childhood lead exposure and associated health risks.

Statement

Lead exposure poses a significant health threat to hundreds of thousands of American children. By refocusing Agency efforts, we can work with our government partners to develop solutions that address lead exposure and improve health outcomes for children.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-participates-energy-roundtable-states-tribes-businesses-and-environmental-groups"]

Release Date: 02/28/2018

EPA wrapped up a two-day oil and natural gas roundtable with stakeholders including state and local leaders, tribes, industry, trade groups, and environmental nongovernmental organizations. Co-hosted with the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC), the roundtable was organized to enhance coordination and communication, and ensure safe and responsible domestic energy production, especially in the oil and gas industry.

Statement

This roundtable fulfills a commitment EPA made last year to improve our working relationship with state regulators and American businesses. EPA is working closely with the states to provide clarity and certainty to oil and gas rules and permitting processes.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-proposes-first-two-rules-amend-coal-ash-disposal-regulations-saving-100m-year"]

Release Date: 03/01/2018

EPA is proposing the first of two rules that will amend the regulations for the disposal of coal combustion residuals, also known as CCR or coal ash, from electric utilities and independent power producers. EPA's Regulatory Impact Assessment shows this proposal, if finalized, will save the utility sector up to $100 million per year in compliance costs.

Statement

This coal ash proposal embodies EPA's commitment to our state partners by providing them with the ability to incorporate flexibilities into their coal ash permit programs based on the needs of their states. We are also providing clarification and an opportunity for public comment – something that is much-needed following the public reaction to the 2015 coal ash rule.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-action-address-oil-and-gas-compliance-concerns-saving-least-14-million"]

Release Date: 03/01/2018

EPA is taking steps to address significant and immediate compliance concerns for the oil and natural gas industry, reduce burdens on our state regulatory partners, and save millions of dollars in regulatory compliance costs.

Statement

The technical amendments to the 2016 oil and gas NSPS are meant to alleviate targeted regulatory compliance issues faced by affected sources. While this action addresses an immediate need, it does not deter the ongoing work at the Agency to assess the 2016 rule as a whole, including whether it is prudent or necessary to directly regulate methane.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/federal-partnership-kicks-next-phase-water-quality-challenge"]

Release Date: 03/01/2018

EPA with four federal partners launched the next phase of a technology-accelerating water quality challenge calling for demonstrated use of nutrient pollution sensors.

Statement

Nutrient pollution is a widespread water quality challenge in the United States and is caused by excess nitrogen and phosphorus in the water. By demonstrating there are successful strategies for incorporating nutrient sensors into existing water monitoring and nutrient management efforts, the Challenge can help states and communities overcome the major barriers to measuring and reducing this pollution.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-proposes-safe-system-recycling-aerosol-cans-saves-over-3-million-year"]

Release Date: 03/06/2018

EPA is proposing a clear, practical, and safe system for handling hazardous waste of aerosol cans that encourages recycling. EPA estimates it will also save at least $3 million per year in regulatory costs.

Statement

This proposal increases opportunities for safe recycling of aerosol cans, while also simplifying hazardous waste regulations. We remain committed to protecting human health and the environment, while also providing regulatory certainty to American businesses.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-meets-another-tsca-milestone-releases-draft-strategy-reduce-animal-testing"]

Release Date: 03/07/2018

EPA is releasing a draft strategy to reduce the use of vertebrate animals in chemical testing for public comment. This fulfills another milestone the Agency has met under the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, which amended the Toxic Substances Control Act.

Statement

This draft strategy is a first step toward reducing the use of animals and increasing the use of cutting-edge science to ensure chemicals are reviewed for safety with the highest scientific standards. EPA is committed to working with animal welfare groups and other groups to produce a sound, effective plan in line with the law.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-87-million-clean-more-450-school-buses-32-states"]

Release Date: 03/08/2018

EPA awarded more than $8.7 million to replace or retrofit 452 older diesel school buses. The funds are going to 141 school bus fleets in 32 states, each of which will receive rebates through EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) funding. The new and retrofitted buses will reduce pollutants that are linked to health problems such as asthma and lung damage.

Statement

These rebates are an innovative way to improve air quality across the country and provide kids with safe, reliable transportation to and from school. Through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, EPA is equipping local school districts with cleaner-running school buses, helping them along the route to healthier kids and communities.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-clarifies-nsr-project-evaluations-removes-obstacles-reducing-pollution"]

Release Date: 03/13/2018

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt issued a guidance memorandum clarifying the process for evaluating projects under the major New Source Review (NSR) program. The memo streamlines permitting without sacrificing environmental protections, and reduces burdens to develop and expand facilities while encouraging companies to reduce pollution.

Statement

NSR guidance advances President Trump's goal to streamline permitting requirements for manufacturing facilitates as well as EPA's efforts to reform the overly complicated and burdensome NSR program.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-signs-technical-corrections-emissions-standards-saving-115-million"]

Release Date: 03/20/2018

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt proposed amendments to the Petroleum Refinery Sector Risk and Technology Review and the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS). These technical corrections provide both regulatory clarity for refineries and cost savings up to $11.5 million.

Statement

These common-sense actions provide regulatory clarity and certainty for refineries across the country. The proposed amendments simplify compliance with national standards, generate significant cost savings, and ultimately enhance protection of human health and the environment.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-broadens-representation-science-advisory-committee-chemicals"]

Release Date: 03/22/2018

EPA moved to appoint additional members to the Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC). This will increase the balance of scientific perspectives and add experts with experience in labor, public interest, animal protection, and chemical manufacturing and processing to the committee. The committee is tasked with providing independent advice on science and technical issues to assist EPA in implementing the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, which amended the Toxic Substances Control Act

Statement

Broader representation on the SACC will work to advance the Agency's efforts to get the most modern and safe chemicals to market quickly in order to provide regulatory certainty for manufacturers and confidence for American consumers.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/grants-awarded-31-college-teams-innovative-technology-projects"]

Release Date: 03/22/2018

EPA announced over $463,000 in funding for 31 Phase I student teams through the People, Prosperity, and the Planet (P3) grants program. These teams, made up of college students from across the country, are developing sustainable technologies to solve current environmental and public health challenges.

Statement

This year's P3 teams are applying their classroom learning to create innovative and practical technologies. This next generation of scientists has demonstrated a commitment to designing sustainable solutions that will help protect public health and the environment and ensure America continues to lead the world in innovation and science for decades to come.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-pruitt-ghg-emissions-standards-cars-and-light-trucks-should-be"]

Release Date: 04/02/2018

EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt is announcing the completion of the Midterm Evaluation (MTE) process for the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions standards for cars and light trucks for model years 2022-2025, and his final determination that, in light of recent data, the current standards are not appropriate and should be revised.

Statement

Obama's EPA cut the Midterm Evaluation process short with politically charged expediency, made assumptions about the standards that didn't comport with reality, and set the standards too high.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-new-funding-water-infrastructure-projects"]

Release Date: 04/04/2018

EPA announced the availability of funding that could provide as much as $5.5 billion in loans, which could leverage over $11 billion in water infrastructure projects through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program.

Statement

Thanks to the President's leadership, this WIFIA funding will spark new investments to repair our nation's crumbling water infrastructure. EPA will play a key role in the President's infrastructure efforts by incentivizing states, municipalities, and public-private partnerships to protect public health, fix local infrastructure problems, create jobs, and provide clean water to communities.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-254-million-train-and-assist-small-drinking-water-and-wastewater-systems"]

Release Date: 04/11/2018

EPA is announcing the award of more than $25 million in grants to help the country's small drinking and wastewater systems and private well owners better protect public health and the environment.

Statement

These grants will fund critical workforce development trainings that will help small systems improve operations and identify when repairs to drinking and wastewater infrastructure are needed in local communities.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-updates-list-superfund-sites-targeted-immediate-intense-action"]

Release Date: 04/16/2018

EPA released an updated Administrator's Emphasis List of Superfund sites. The list represents sites identified by the Regions with concurrence from the Administrator that will benefit from his targeted immediate and intense attention.

Statement

We are making tremendous progress expediting sites through the entire Superfund remediation process. The updated Emphasis List reflects our commitment to addressing Superfund sites as quickly and safely as possible.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-effort-update-wet-weather-regulations-wastewater-treatment-plants"]

Release Date: 04/17/2018

EPA will be reaching out to states, local communities, and stakeholders as the Agency begins a new rulemaking process to provide certainty surrounding the use of "blending" by wastewater treatment plants.

Statement

EPA is taking action on a new rule that will give municipalities much-needed clarity on blending at wastewater treatment plants. We look forward to engaging with partners at the state and local levels as we work to design a rule that offers a common-sense approach to protecting public health and safely managing our nation's wastewater.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-fy17-environmental-justice-progress-report-shows-tangible-results-vulnerable"]

Release Date: 04/19/2018

EPA released its Environmental Justice FY2017 Progress Report highlighting continued accomplishments to creating cleaner, safer, and healthier environments for minority, low-income, tribal, and indigenous communities. In FY2017, EPA delivered tangible results for the nation's most vulnerable populations.

Statement

EPA is committed to helping the most vulnerable communities create cleaner, safer, and healthier places to live, work, and raise families.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-availability-funding-reduce-emissions-diesel-engines-nationwide"]

Release Date: 04/24/2018

EPA announced the availability of grant funding to modernize the nation's diesel fleet by retrofitting or replacing vehicles with cleaner, more efficient diesel engines. EPA anticipates awarding approximately $40 million in Diesel Emission Reduction Program (DERA) grant funding to eligible applicants, subject to the availability of funds.

Statement

These grants will incentivize improvements to aging diesel fleets and improve air quality throughout the country. EPA will continue to target funds to areas facing significant air quality issues.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-announces-543-million-brownfield-grants-assess-and-clean"]

Release Date: 04/25/2018

EPA has selected 144 communities for brownfields environmental Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup grants. The 221 grants totaling $54.3 million will provide communities with funding to assess, clean up and redevelop underutilized properties while protecting public health and the environment.

Statement

EPA's Brownfields Program expands the ability of communities to recycle vacant and abandoned properties for new, productive reuses, using existing infrastructure. These grants leverage other public and private investments, and improve local economies through property cleanup and redevelopment.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-working-states-and-tribes-takes-next-steps-2015-ozone-designations"]

Release Date: 05/01/2018

EPA is taking the next step in the Clean Air Act process to implement the national air quality standards for ozone that were issued in 2015. After designating most of the United States as meeting the standards in November 2017, the Agency is now completing nearly all remaining area designations. Eight counties in the San Antonio, Texas area will be designated by July 17, 2018.

Statement

Following the data and the law, today's designations reflect continued progress in addressing ground-level ozone and its precursors. EPA will continue to work closely with our state and tribal partners to improve air quality for all Americans.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-seeks-input-study-management-wastewater-oil-and-gas-extraction"]

Release Date: 05/02/2018

EPA is embarking on a new study that will take a holistic look at how EPA, states and stakeholders regulate and manage wastewater from the oil and gas industry.

Statement

This study will take into consideration the expertise of states and stakeholders in developing effective options and alternatives to better manage wastewater from the oil and gas sector," said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. "It's important the Agency works cooperatively with local officials and energy providers to protect the environment and provide affordable, reliable energy to the American people.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-selects-17-organizations-receive-3-million-environmental-workforce-development-and"]

Release Date: 05/07/2018

EPA selected 17 organizations to receive a total of $3.3 million in grants for environmental job training programs. Funded through the agency's Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) Program, these grants will support programs to help local residents learn the skills needed to secure employment in the environmental field.

Statement

Through these Brownfields job training programs, we're investing in getting Americans back to work and improving local economies and the environment. Graduates will acquire the skill set necessary to gain full-time employment in the environmental field and help revitalize their communities.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-action-methylene-chloride"]

Release Date: 05/10/2018

EPA announced upcoming actions on methylene chloride, a chemical that can be used for paint stripping. The Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, which amended the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), requires EPA to perform risk evaluations on the uses of ten specific chemicals including methylene chloride.

Statement

EPA is working diligently to implement the new law get the most modern and safe chemicals to market, and to ensure the safety of existing chemicals.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-signs-memo-reform-national-ambient-air-quality-standards-review"]

Release Date: 05/10/2018

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt signed a memorandum outlining a "Back-to-Basics" process for reviewing National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) under the Clean Air Act. This memo ensures that EPA and its independent science advisors follow a transparent, timely, and efficient process in reviewing and revising public health- and welfare-based NAAQS.

Statement

The principles laid out in this memorandum will reform the process for setting national air quality standards in a manner consistent with cooperative federalism and the rule of law. Getting EPA and its advisors back on track with Clean Air Act requirements, statutory deadlines, and the issuance of timely implementation rules will ensure that we continue the dramatic improvement in air quality across our country.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-announces-new-office-continuous-improvement"]

Release Date: 05/14/2018

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt met with more than 75 employees and stakeholders to provide an update on the implementation of the new EPA Lean Management System (ELMS) and announced EPA's new Office of Continuous Improvement (OCI) and its director, Serena McIlwain.

Statement

Through Lean Management, EPA is tracking, measuring, and improving vital agency processes, such as permitting and meeting legal deadlines on time, for the first time. Establishing the Office of Continuous Improvement will ensure that these actions are implemented throughout the Agency and produce lasting results for years to come.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-extends-deadline-apply-wifia-water-infrastructure-loan"]

Release Date: 05/15/2018

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced at a meeting with water sector associations that the deadline to submit letters of interest for Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loans has been extended to July 31, 2018. Administrator Pruitt also sent a letter highlighting the deadline extension to governors of 56 states and territories as well as tribal leadership.

Statement

By extending the deadline to apply for a WIFIA loan, even more entities will be able to bring critical water infrastructure improvements to their communities, including projects that keep lead and other contaminants out of drinking water. These projects create jobs, protect public health, and help ensure that all Americans continue to have access to clean and safe water.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-pruitt-signs-proposed-risk-management-program-reconsideration-rule"]

Release Date: 05/17/2018

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt signed the Risk Management Program (RMP) Reconsideration proposed rule to better address potential security risks, improve emergency planning and public information regarding accidents, and save approximately $88 million a year.

Statement

Accident prevention is a top priority at EPA, and this proposed rule will ensure proper emergency planning and continue the trend of fewer significant accidents involving chemicals. The rule proposes to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, address the concerns of stakeholders and emergency responders on the ground, and save Americans roughly $88 million a year.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/historic-epa-summit-provides-active-engagement-and-actions-address-pfas"]

Release Date: 05/23/2018

EPA wrapped up a two-day National Leadership Summit on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The leadership summit included representatives from over 40 states, tribes, and territories; 20 federal agencies; Congressional staff; associations; industry groups; and non-governmental organizations.

Statement

The National Leadership Summit on PFAS provided an unprecedented opportunity for stakeholders to share vital information and best practices regarding PFAS challenges across the nation. EPA will utilize the information discussed at the historic summit, along with upcoming visits to affected communities, to develop a National PFAS Management Plan. The Agency will also take concrete actions to ensure PFAS is thoroughly addressed and all Americans have access to clean and safe drinking water.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-three-important-steps-ensure-chemical-safety-under-lautenberg-act-proposes"]

Release Date: 06/01/2018

EPA is releasing the following for public comment: (1) the first ten problem formulation documents, (2) EPA's systemic review approach document, and (3) a significant new use rule (SNUR) proposal enabling the Agency to prevent new uses of asbestos – the first such action on asbestos ever proposed.

Statement

These actions provide the American people with transparency and an opportunity to comment on how EPA plans to evaluate the ten chemicals undergoing risk evaluation, select studies, and use the best available science to ensure chemicals in the marketplace are safe. At the same time, we are moving forward to take important, unprecedented action on asbestos.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-action-promoting-greater-transparency-certain-chemicals-used-cleaners"]

Release Date: 06/07/2018

EPA is finalizing a rule to add a category of thirteen specific nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEs) to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). This addition ensures the most up-to-date information is easily accessible to the public.

Statement

EPA is taking an important step to provide communities with additional information about toxic chemicals being released to the environment. By making information about industrial management of toxic chemicals available to the public, community members, researchers, industrial facilities, investors, and government agencies can make more informed decisions that impact human health and the environment.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-157-million-supplemental-funds-cleanups-contaminated-brownfield-sites"]

Release Date: 06/07/2018

EPA is announcing approximately $15.7 million in supplemental funding to communities to assist them in cleaning up contaminated brownfield properties. EPA plans to provide supplemental funding to 33 successful, existing Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) grantees, helping communities carry out cleanup and redevelopment projects.

Statement

These supplemental funds provide communities with the resources they need to continue to clean up contaminated lands, which will improve public health and generate economic growth. These funds will ensure more cleanups are completed and more land can be returned to beneficial reuse.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-pruitt-proposes-cost-benefit-analysis-reform"]

Release Date: 06/07/2018

EPA issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) to announce that the Agency is soliciting public input on whether and how to change the way it considers costs and benefits in making regulatory decisions.

Statement

Many have complained that the previous administration inflated the benefits and underestimated the costs of its regulations through questionable cost-benefit analysis. This action is the next step toward providing clarity and real-world accuracy with respect to the impact of the Agency's decisions on the economy and the regulated community.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-army-take-next-step-joint-efforts-redefine-waters-united-states"]

Release Date: 06/15/2018

EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) will be sending a proposed "Step 2" rule that would redefine "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) to the Office of Management and Budget for interagency review. The agencies will issue the proposal for public comment after the interagency review process is complete.

Statement

Farmers, ranchers, landowners, and other stakeholders are counting on EPA to listen to their input when it comes to defining 'waters of the United States. We are taking an important step toward issuing a new WOTUS definition and answering President Trump's call to ensure that our waters are kept free from pollution, while promoting economic growth, minimizing regulatory uncertainty, and showing due regard for the roles of the federal government and the states under the statutory framework of the Clean Water Act.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-guidance-assist-companies-increase-transparency-and-improve-new-chemicals"]

Release Date: 06/20/2018

EPA issued guidance to improve transparency with the public and with companies seeking Agency review of their new chemical substances under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The guidance promotes early engagement and communication, and enhances overall understanding of EPA's technical review and analysis to better move chemicals through the evaluation process.

Statement

Through early engagement with industry and by being clear and specific about what information we require from them in their new chemical submission, we increase manufacturers' certainty, improve submissions, and get new, safer chemicals on the market faster and more efficiently.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-proposes-rule-provide-regulatory-certainty-spill-prevention"]

Release Date: 06/21/2018

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt signed a proposed rule that, if finalized, would impose no new regulatory requirements under the Clean Water Act (CWA) section 311(j)(1)(C) authority for CWA hazardous substances discharges prevention. EPA is proposing to conclude that additional regulatory requirements for CWA hazardous substances are unnecessary and would impose undue burden on approximately 100,000 facilities in the U.S. already subject to the existing framework.

Statement

After engaging the public and analyzing the best available data, EPA believes that additional regulatory requirements for hazardous substances discharges would be duplicative and unnecessary. If finalized, the proposed rule would give the regulated community the clarity and certainty they need to continue to uphold the law and ensure the nation's waterways are protected.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-celebrates-new-chemical-safety-milestones-2nd-anniversary-lautenberg-chemical"]

Release Date: 06/22/2018

On the two-year anniversary of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act), EPA announced that it has met its statutory responsibilities to release guidance and policy on confidential business information, a strategy to reduce animal testing, and a final mercury reporting rule.

Statement

At this two-year milestone, EPA is proud to say that the Agency is delivering results and meeting the statutory responsibilities and deadlines of the new law. These actions will boost transparency and increase public confidence in chemical safety.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-proposes-strengthening-dust-lead-hazard-standards-reduce-exposures-children"]

Release Date: 06/22/2018

EPA released a proposal to lower the dust-lead hazard standards for public comment. The new proposed standards for lead in dust for floors and window sills will be an important step to reduce lead exposure.

Statement

Reducing childhood lead exposure is a top priority for EPA. Lead-contaminated dust from chipped and peeling lead-based paint is one of the most common causes of elevated blood lead levels in children. Strengthening the standards for lead in dust is an important component of EPA's strategy to curtail childhood lead exposure.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-proposes-biofuel-requirements-2019-track-meet-congressional-deadline"]

Release Date: 06/26/2018

Administrator Scott Pruitt issued a proposed rule under the Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS) program that would set the minimum amount of renewable fuels that must be supplied to the market in calendar year 2019, as well as the biomass based diesel volume standard for calendar year 2020.

Statement

I've traveled to numerous states and heard firsthand about the importance of the RFS to farmers and local communities across the country. Issuing the proposed rule on time meets Congress's statutory deadlines, which the previous administration failed to do, and provides regulatory certainty to all impacted stakeholders.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-next-set-pfas-community-engagement-events"]

Release Date: 06/27/2018

EPA announced the next three community engagement events on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). EPA's next community engagement events will be held throughout the summer in Pennsylvania, near Fountain, Colorado as well as eastern North Carolina.

Statement

Building on the excellent event the Agency held in New Hampshire, we look forward to traveling to additional communities to hear directly from those impacted by these chemicals. The partnerships we are forming through these events and the input we receive will help us develop our PFAS Management Plan and better protect public health.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-plans-award-93-million-beach-water-quality-monitoring-grants"]

Release Date: 06/27/2018

EPA plans to award up to $9.3 million in total to 39 states, territories, and tribes to develop and implement beach monitoring and notification programs.

Statement

Enjoying the beach is a quintessential pastime for Americans every summer. Through EPA's BEACH grants, we are ensuring communities across the country can keep their beaches safe and enjoyable for all.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-pruitt-issues-memo-increase-regulatory-certainty-permitting-process"]

Release Date: 06/27/2018

EPA is taking an important step toward updating the regulations governing EPA's role in permitting discharges of dredged or fill materials under section 404 of the Clean Water Act. In a memorandum to the Office of Water and Regional Administrators, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt outlined changes that EPA will propose that would increase predictability and regulatory certainty for landowners, investors, businesses, and other stakeholders.

Statement

Today's memo refocuses EPA on its core mission of protecting public health and the environment in a way that is fair and consistent with due process. We must ensure that EPA exercises its authority under the Clean Water Act in a careful, predictable, and prudent manner.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-army-seek-additional-public-comment-waters-us-repeal"]

Release Date: 06/29/2018

EPA and the Department of the Army are issuing a supplemental proposal to the July 2017 proposed action to repeal the 2015 definition of "Waters of the United States". Today's proposal specifically requests comment on the legal basis of the 2015 WOTUS rule, which the agencies believe has led to uncertainty and confusion across the country.

Statement

By issuing today's supplemental proposal, we are responding to public feedback, expanding opportunities for comment, and providing clarity and transparency in the rulemaking process. We are making it clear that we are proposing to permanently and completely repeal the 2015 WOTUS rule and keep the pre-2015 regulatory framework in place as we work on a new, improved WOTUS definition.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-launches-national-electronic-hazardous-waste-tracking-system"]

Release Date: 06/29/2018

EPA will launch the Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System (e-Manifest). The system will improve access to higher quality and more timely hazardous waste shipment data and save industry and states valuable time and resources to the tune of $90 million annually.

Statement

Creation of the e-Manifest system demonstrates EPA's commitment to innovation and robust collaboration with states and the private sector. Through this extensive modernization of the hazardous waste program, the e-Manifest system will significantly reduce regulatory burdens and save businesses and states valuable time and resources, while improving protection of human health and the environment.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-prepares-2018-hurricane-season-building-lessons-learned-sustained-emergency"]

Release Date: 07/13/2018

EPA) has joined partners across federal, tribal, state, and local governments in preparation for the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season. On June 5, EPA senior leaders gathered in New Orleans, Louisiana, to discuss the Agency's preparations for the 2018 hurricane season.

Statement

As last year's dynamic responses to Hurricanes Harvey, Maria, and Irma showed, EPA is prepared to respond to critical environmental and public health threats. The Agency's emergency response program mitigates the environmental and health effects of man-made and natural disasters.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/superfund-task-force-announces-one-year-anniversary-accomplishments-and-plan-year-two"]

Release Date: 07/23/2018

EPA is announcing significant progress in carrying out the Superfund Task Force Report's recommendations. The Agency also finalized its plans for completing all 42 recommendations by the end of 2019, which are outlined in a new "2018 Update" to the Superfund Task Force recommendations.

Statement

EPA has improved the health, living conditions, and economic opportunity of thousands of people living near Superfund sites over the past year as the Agency worked to implement the Task Force recommendations. I am proud of the accomplishments achieved by EPA's hardworking staff, and we will continue to engage directly with stakeholders and communities near Superfund sites to accelerate cleanup and promote economic revitalization. Our plan to complete Task Force recommendations by the end of 2019 will ensure this work continues as one of EPA's highest priorities.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/acting-epa-administrator-wheeler-approves-sorghum-oil-pathways-under-rfs"]

Release Date: 07/24/2018

As a part of the Renewable Fuel Standard program, EPA issued a final notice approving a variety of pathways for renewable fuel derived from sorghum, including biodiesel. This new feedstock is estimated to produce around 21 million gallons providing flexibility in meeting volume standards of the RFS program. It also adds diversity to the biofuel mix in the country.

Statement

Today's approval sets the stage for more homegrown fuels under the Renewable Fuel Standard and adds diversity to our mix of biofuels in the U.S. This is a win for American sorghum farmers and biofuel producers alike.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/acting-administrator-wheeler-codifies-latest-animal-waste-report-exemptions-under"]

Release Date: 07/24/2018

EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed a final rule that made changes in regulations to conform to the FARM Act. The final rule also removes the regulatory text of EPA's 2008 rule that provided an exemption to farms from reporting. The rule responds to the vacatur of the CERCLA/EPCRA reporting exemption from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Statement

EPA is taking action to reflect Congress's direction in the FARM Act that removed an undue reporting burden on American agriculture. EPA is committed to providing regulatory clarity and certainty to farmers and ranchers — hardworking Americans invested in conserving the land and environment.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-largest-voluntary-recall-medium-and-heavy-duty-trucks"]

Release Date: 07/31/2018

EPA announced that Cummins Inc. will voluntarily recall roughly 500,000 model year 2010-2015 medium- and heavy-duty trucks. The recall will replace a faulty emissions control systems component that causes excess emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx). This recall is the largest voluntary truck emissions recall to date. The problem Cummins is acting to correct is the result of a defective part and does not involve a defeat device.

Statement

Today's recall is a great example of how government and industry work together to protect health and the environment. This is the way it's supposed to work. Our follow-up testing seeks to make sure that pollution controls work throughout an engine's useful life. And, if they don't, then companies step up to set things right.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/air-pollution-trends-show-cleaner-air-growing-economy"]

Release Date: 07/31/2018

EPA released its annual report on air quality, tracking our nation's progress in improving air quality since the passage of the Clean Air Act. "Our Nation's Air: Status and Trends Through 2017" documents the considerable improvements in air quality across America over more than 45 years.

Statement

Through federal and state implementation of the Clean Air Act and technological advances in the private sector, America has achieved one of the great public-private successes of our time – dramatically improving air quality and public health while simultaneously growing the nation's population and economy. This report details a remarkable achievement that should be recognized, celebrated, and replicated around the world. A 73 percent reduction in any other social ill, such as crime, disease, or drug addiction, would lead the evening news.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/us-epa-and-dot-propose-fuel-economy-standards-my-2021-2026-vehicles"]

Release Date: 08/02/2018

EPA and U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration released a notice of proposed rulemaking, the *Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule for Model Years 2021-2026 Passenger Cars and Light Trucks* (SAFE Vehicles Rule), to correct the national automobile fuel economy and greenhouse gas emissions standards to give the American people greater access to safer, more affordable vehicles that are cleaner for the environment.

Statement

We are delivering on President Trump's promise to the American public that his administration would address and fix the current fuel economy and greenhouse gas emissions standards. Our proposal aims to strike the right regulatory balance based on the most recent information and create a 50-state solution that will enable more Americans to afford newer, safer vehicles that pollute less. More realistic standards can save lives while continuing to improve the environment. We value the public's input as we engage in this process in an open, transparent manner.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/anchor-glass-container-corporation-cut-harmful-air-pollution-improve-compliance"]

Release Date: 08/03/2018

EPA and DOJ announced a settlement agreement with Anchor Glass Container Corporation that will resolve alleged Clean Air Act violations at all six of Anchor's container glass manufacturing facilities located in Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Minnesota, New York, and Oklahoma, and improve the company's compliance with federal clean air laws. Under the proposed settlement, Anchor will install pollution controls to cut emissions of nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter at its container glass manufacturing facilities.

Statement

Under the terms of this settlement, Anchor Glass Container Corporation will take steps to reduce harmful air emissions from its facilities. The resulting pollution reductions will mean cleaner and clearer air for communities in six states.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/acting-administrator-wheeler-updates-administrators-superfund-emphasis-list"]

Release Date: 08/03/2018

EPA released the next revision of the Administrator's Emphasis List of Superfund Sites Targeted for Immediate, Intense Action. Eight sites (Centredale Manor Restoration Project, American Cyanamid Co., Ventron/Velsicol [aka Berry's Creek]+, Delaware Sand & Gravel Landfill+, B.F. Goodrich, Mississippi Phosphates Corporation, Allied Paper, Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River*, and Casmalia Resources*+) have been removed from the Administrator's Emphasis List, as the specific goals, objectives, and milestones associated with these sites have been achieved due to the direct involvement of Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler and former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. With this update, there is a total of 14 Superfund sites on the list.

Statement

This announcement reflects EPA's continued progress accelerating Superfund sites through the cleanup process and returning them to communities for productive use. As we remove these eight sites from the Administrator's Emphasis List, we continue to look for opportunities at other sites where intense action is appropriate.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-selects-environmental-education-grantees-receive-33-million-support-projects"]

Release Date: 08/20/2018

EPA is announcing the selection of 37 organizations to receive funding for projects under the 2018 Environmental Education (EE) Grants Program. EPA anticipates providing funding for projects across the nation, once all legal and administrative requirements are satisfied.

Statement

EPA's environmental education grants support organizations and individuals working to promote awareness and stewardship,and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-proposes-affordable-clean-energy-ace-rule"]

Release Date: 08/21/2018

EPA proposed a new rule to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from existing coal-fired electric utility generating units and power plants across the country. This proposal, entitled the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) Rule, establishes emission guidelines for states developing plans to limit GHGs at their power plants. The ACE Rule replaced the prior administration's overly prescriptive and burdensome Clean Power Plan and instead empowers states, promotes energy independence, and facilitates economic growth and job creation.

Statement

The ACE Rule would restore the rule of law and empower states to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide modern, reliable, and affordable energy for all Americans. This proposal provides the states and regulated community the certainty they need to continue environmental progress while fulfilling President Trump's goal of energy dominance.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-seeks-input-regulatory-approach-managing-excess-flows"]

Release Date: 08/30/2018

EPA will host three public listening sessions to seek input on a rulemaking effort aimed at providing certainty surrounding the management of peak wet weather flows at certain municipal wastewater treatment plants. Recognizing the years of experience individual cities, states, tribes, utilities, and other stakeholders have in managing wet weather challenges to efficient publicly owned treatment works operations, EPA is undertaking a robust outreach effort to gather critical input prior to proposing any changes to its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System regulations.

Statement

EPA is taking action to provide municipalities with sought-after regulatory certainty so that facilities can optimize wastewater treatment during wet weather. It's critical that we hear from cites, states, tribes, and others so that we can design a rule that protects public health and local water quality and also allows for innovation and flexibility.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-interactive-sector-snapshots-industry-environmental-and-economic"]

Release Date: 09/06/2018

EPA released a new interactive, web-based tool that provides information about the environmental and economic performance of industry sectors. Developed by EPA's Smart Sectors Program, the sector snapshots application shows comprehensive, historical environmental and economic performance on a sector basis and allows users to visualize the data over the last 20 years.

Statement

The sector snapshots released today show in a transparent and accessible way how a specific industry's environmental and economic performance has changed over the last two decades. This type of data can help the public, the regulated community, and EPA gain a common understanding of sector performance that will better inform environmental improvement strategies moving forward.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-regional-haze-reform-roadmap-continue-improving-visibility-and-reduce"]

Release Date: 09/10/2018

EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler issued a Regional Haze Reform Roadmap to enable efficient, timely, and effective implementation of the Regional Haze program today and in the future. Over the next year, EPA's Office of Air and Radiation will release a series of implementation tools and guidance documents that will help focus states' efforts and reduce and streamline the time and resources needed to meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for reducing regional haze in national Parks, wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas.

Statement

Current data show that state efforts have achieved considerable improvements in visibility throughout the country. The heavy-handed approach of the previous administration resulted in the imposition of federal implementation plans and billions of dollars in costs that produced only minimal benefits. The actions described in the Regional Haze Roadmap build on lessons learned to improve the program moving forward and provide support for states in the next planning period.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-proposes-oil-and-gas-targeted-improvements-package-advance-president-trumps-energy"]

Release Date: 09/11/2018

EPA proposed targeted improvements to the 2016 New Source Performance Standards for the oil and gas industry that streamline implementation, reduce duplicative EPA and state requirements, and significantly decrease unnecessary burdens on domestic energy producers. This oil and gas targeted improvements package is expected to save up to approximately $484 million in regulatory costs from 2019 – 2025 or $75 million annually.

Statement

These common-sense reforms will alleviate unnecessary and duplicative red tape and give the energy sector the regulatory certainty it needs to continue providing affordable and reliable energy to the American people. Removing these excessive regulatory burdens will generate roughly $484 million in cost savings and support increased domestic energy production – a top priority of President Trump.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-updates-national-priorities-list-advances-agencys-commitment-expedite-cleanups"]

Release Date: 09/11/2018

EPA announced the addition of five hazardous waste sites to the Superfund Program's National Priorities List (NPL) and proposed to add another six sites to the NPL. These additions represent commitments from the Agency to advance Superfund cleanup to protect communities across the country.

Statement

Adding these sites to the proposed and final National Priorities List signifies EPA's commitment to clean up these contaminated lands and return them to safe and productive use. Cleaning up sites that pose risks to public health and the environment is a critical part of our mission and it provides significant health and economic benefits to communities across the country.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-wheeler-releases-memo-improve-drug-take-back-programs-and-help-fight"]

Release Date: 09/12/2018

In close coordination with the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, and U.S. Postal Service, EPA's memo provides law enforcement agencies with specific information they can use to best manage household drugs collected in take-back programs. Also, it will help ensure the public can benefit from these critical programs while protecting public health and the environment.

Statement

Efforts by law enforcement agencies across the country to collect unwanted drugs from households is a critical tool in fighting the opioid crisis. EPA strongly supports these efforts and is working to ensure that drugs collected in take-back programs are transported and destroyed in a manner that is protective of public health and the environment, including the health of law enforcement officers.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-doj-settle-derive-systems-over-vehicle-emissions-control-defeat-devices"]

Release Date: 09/24/2018

EPA and DOJ announced a settlement with Derive Systems to address the sale of about 363,000 aftermarket products designed to defeat the emissions control systems of cars and trucks in violation of the Clean Air Act. Over a span of multiple years, Derive sold products, including custom engine tuning software and parts, online and at distributers across the nation under the brand names of "Bully Dog" and "SCT" for use in many types of gasoline and diesel-fueled cars and trucks. Under the terms of the settlement, Derive will spend approximately $6.25 million to ensure future compliance, and pay a civil penalty of $300,000.

Statement

Manufacturers and sellers of automotive emissions control defeat devices should stand up and take notice of this settlement. EPA will protect air quality by vigorously enforcing the Clean Air Act's prohibition on these devices.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-meets-important-tsca-milestone-finalizing-last-four-chemical-safety-framework-rules"]

Release Date: 09/27/2018

EPA issued a final fees rule under the Toxic Substances Control Act, ensuring that resources are available to the Agency to complete chemical reviews and actions in a timely, transparent manner while maintaining high scientific standards.

Statement

With today's action EPA has once again met another important milestone under TSCA. This rule will provide resources needed to support the valuable work EPA does to review chemicals for safety, manage risk as required, and make chemical information available as appropriate.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-first-steps-identifying-next-group-chemicals-risk-evaluation-under-tsca"]

Release Date: 09/28/2018

EPA released the approach it will use to identify chemicals that could be included in the next group of risk evaluations under the Toxic Substances Control Act. Additionally, the Agency will be looking for input from the public on which chemicals should be prioritized for risk evaluation and which chemicals may be low priorities under TSCA.

Statement

EPA will be open and transparent as we continue to review the safety of existing chemicals. This announcement is an important first step in determining which chemicals will be prioritized for risk evaluation as we fulfill our obligations under TSCA and ensure chemicals in the marketplace are safe for human health and the environment.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/childrens-health-month-epa-offers-nearly-30-million-support-cleaner-water-and-air"]

Release Date: 10/01/2018

In honor of Children's Health Month, EPA is announcing the availability of nearly $30 million to support safe drinking water and cleaner air. EPA is making $20 million available for states and tribes to test for lead in drinking water at schools and childcare facilities. At the same time, EPA is announcing $9 million in rebates to public school bus fleet owners to help them replace older school buses with cleaner, more modern vehicles.

Statement

Children's health is a top priority at EPA, and we have made tremendous progress improving air and water quality and helping kids and families lead healthier lives. In recognition of National Children's Health Month, EPA is announcing new funding to reduce lead exposure, improve air quality, and help children and families prosper.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-12-million-help-communities-address-environmental-public-health-risks-0"]

Release Date: 10/04/2018
EPA announced $1.2 million in cooperative agreements awarded to ten organizations working to address environmental justice (EJ) issues in their communities. Projects selected this year reflect an emphasis on support for rural communities and watershed protection.

Statement

Many rural and disadvantaged communities are disproportionately impacted by environmental health risks, such as lead exposure or unsafe drinking water. EPA is committed to supporting local partnerships that will improve the environment and health of these underserved communities.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/acting-administrator-wheeler-announces-science-advisors-key-clean-air-act-committee"]

Release Date: 10/10/2018
EPA announced the appointment of five new members of the chartered Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC). This seven-member panel, required under Section 109 of the Clean Air Act, provides critical advice related to National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), including about how to set standards that protect public health with an adequate margin of safety, the role of background pollution, research needs, and potential adverse effects from strategies to meet these standards.

Statement

These experts will provide critical scientific advice to EPA as it evaluates where to set national standards for key pollutants like ozone and particulate matter. They are highly qualified and have a diverse set of backgrounds in fields like toxicology, engineering, medicine, ecology, and atmospheric science. These individuals, including five panelists who work in state, local, or federal environmental agencies, will work hard over the next two years to advise EPA in a manner consistent with the Clean Air Act and the protection of public health.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-wheeler-signs-final-baton-rouge-rvp-waiver-louisiana"]

Release Date: 10/15/2018
EPA issued a final rule to relax the federal Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) standard in Baton Rouge. Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed the final waiver with Congressman Garret Graves (LA-06) for five Louisiana parishes: East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Livingston, Ascension, and Iberville.

Statement

Thanks to improvements in local air quality, EPA is approving Louisiana's request to relax federal requirements on the type of fuel sold in the Baton Rouge area. The final waiver, which will save Louisianans money at the gas pump, reflects the importance of working with state and local governments to provide them the certainty needed to achieve environmental goals and enhance economic growth.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/trump-administration-launches-winning-reducing-food-waste-initiative"]

Release Date: 10/18/2018
USDA, EPA, and FDA today announced [HYPERLINK "https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-fda-epa-formal-agreement.pdf"] under the *Winning on Reducing Food Waste* initiative. The agreement is aimed at improving coordination and communication across federal agencies attempting to better educate Americans on the impacts and importance of reducing food loss and waste.

Statement

EPA is proud to partner with USDA and FDA to enhance food recovery efforts and educate the public on the need for improved food waste management. Redirecting excess food to people, animals, or energy production has tremendous

economic and social benefits, and that is why the Trump Administration is working closely with businesses and consumers to prevent food loss and maximize the inherent value of food.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-withdraws-last-minute-obama-era-uranium-proposal"]

Release Date: 10/19/2018

EPA formally withdrew the proposed rulemaking for uranium and thorium mill tailings from January 19, 2017. The proposal – issued just hours before President Trump took office – raised serious concerns from federal partners including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and stakeholders about the Agency's legal authority under the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978.

Statement

In a rush to regulate during the waning hours of the previous administration, the Agency proposed a regulation that would have imposed significant burdens on uranium miners and the communities they support. This action is an important step in rebalancing EPA's role with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's with respect to protecting public health and the environment alongside supporting modern methods of uranium extraction.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/trump-administration-marks-national-lead-poisoning-prevention-week"]

Release Date: 10/22/2018

To kick off National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW), leaders of President Trump's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children are raising awareness about the health risks associated with exposure to lead, specifically for children.

Statement

Reducing lead exposure, particularly among children, is a top priority for EPA. We are completing several important actions to combat lead poisoning, such as publishing the new joint federal lead strategy, strengthening the dust-lead hazard standards, and overhauling the lead and copper rule for the first time in over two decades. Today, we are releasing a new document, Protecting Children from Lead Exposures, that will increase public awareness of the EPA programs and grants available to reduce lead exposure.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/acting-epa-administrator-wheeler-statement-americas-water-infrastructure-act-2018"]

Release Date: 10/23/2018

Statement

"Ensuring all Americans have access to clean and safe water is a top priority of President Trump and his Administration. America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 will expand our investments in water infrastructure projects and enhance our efforts to reduce lead exposure and protect children. Through targeted financial assistance, we will support projects that protect our nation's waterways and water supplies, create well-paying jobs, and help rural and urban communities thrive."

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-justice-department-and-state-mississippi-reach-settlement-chevron-usa-inc-requiring"]

Release Date: 10/24/2018

EPA, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality announced a national settlement with Chevron U.S.A. Inc. that requires safety improvements at all its domestic refineries. This resolves claims that the company violated provisions of the Clean Air Act aimed at preventing accidental releases of hazardous chemicals that can have serious consequences for public health and the environment.

Statement

This case demonstrates the importance of performing equipment inspections and maintenance in accordance with environmental regulations. Under this settlement Chevron, U.S.A Inc. will improve their safety systems and monitoring equipment, protecting their employees and the surrounding communities.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-enforcement-actions-help-protect-vulnerable-communities-lead-based-paint-health-0"]

Release Date: 10/25/2018

EPA today announced 140 federal enforcement actions completed over the last year to ensure that entities like renovation contractors, landlords, property managers, realtors and others comply with rules that protect the public from exposure to lead from lead-based paint. Exposure to lead dust, chips or debris from lead-based paint can pose serious risks to human health, particularly for young children.

Statement

EPA's work to enforce federal lead paint laws helps protect communities across the country. These cases also hold violators accountable for their actions and help maintain a level playing field for companies that follow the rules.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/acting-administrator-wheeler-proposes-epcra-exemption-livestock-emissions-reporting-sen"]

Release Date: 10/30/2018

EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed a proposed rule to amend the emergency release notification regulations under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) to make clear that reporting of air emission from animal waste at farms is not required under EPCRA.

Statement

This proposed rule is intended to make it clear to the regulated community that animal waste emissions from farms do not need to be reported under EPCRA. This action provides much-needed certainty and clarity to America's farmers and ranchers. It also ensures our emergency response officials are focusing their time and resources on hazardous waste emergencies and not routine animal waste.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-changes-dicamba-registration"]

Release Date: 10/31/2018

EPA announced that it is extending the registration of dicamba for two years for "over-the-top" use (application to growing plants) to control weeds in fields for cotton and soybean plants genetically engineered to resist dicamba. This action was informed by input from and extensive collaboration between EPA, state regulators, farmers, academic researchers, pesticide manufacturers, and other stakeholders.

Statement

EPA understands that dicamba is a valuable pest control tool for America's farmers. By extending the registration for another two years with important new label updates that place additional restrictions on the product, we are providing certainty to all stakeholders for the upcoming growing season.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-invites-39-projects-apply-wifia-loans-finance-10-billion-water-infrastructure"]

Release Date: 11/01/2018

EPA is inviting 39 projects in 16 states and D.C. to apply for Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loans. Together, the selected borrowers will receive WIFIA loans totaling approximately $5 billion to help finance over $10 billion in water infrastructure investments and create up to 155,000 jobs.

Statement

Through WIFIA, EPA is playing an integral role in President Trump's efforts to improve and upgrade our nation's water infrastructure and ensure all Americans have access to clean and safe water. This year, EPA will help finance over $10 billion in water infrastructure investments that will create up to 155,000 jobs, upgrade aging infrastructure, reduce lead exposure, and improve the lives of millions of Americans across the country.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-another-action-reform-nsr-and-improve-regulatory-certainty"]

Release Date: 11/07/2018

EPA is restoring a long-delayed 2009 EPA action that clarifies "project aggregation" for the New Source Review (NSR) permitting program. This action will greatly improve regulatory certainty and remove unnecessary obstacles to projects aiming to improve the reliability, efficiency, and safety of facilities while maintaining air quality standards.

Statement

Previously, New Source Review regularly discouraged companies from employing the latest energy-efficient equipment. Our updates will remove undue regulatory barriers, provide greater certainty to America's job creators and energy providers, and incentivize upgrades that will improve air quality.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-issues-final-state-plans-rule-ensure-attainment-standards-ground-level-ozone"]

Release Date: 11/08/2018

EPA released its final state implementation plan Requirements Rule for implementing the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ground-level ozone. These requirements apply to states and tribes with nonattainment areas as well as the 13 northeastern states that currently comprise the Ozone Transport Region. This rule will assist our state and tribal partners in developing their implementation plans to meet the 2015 ozone standards, while providing the greatest flexibility possible.

Statement

This final rule grants states the flexibilities they need to incorporate factors that are often outside their control, such as international air pollution, so they can meet the 2015 ozone standards and continue our nation's tremendous clean air progress. By working with states to provide greater regulatory certainty, we are helping them improve air quality, protect public health, and enhance economic growth.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-acting-administrator-wheeler-launches-cleaner-trucks-initiative"]

Release Date: 11/13/2018

EPA Acting Administrator Wheeler launched the Cleaner Trucks Initiative (CTI) to further decrease nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from on-highway heavy-duty trucks and engines. He was joined by EPA Office of Air and Radiation Assistant Administrator Bill Wehrum, White House officials, state partners, labor representatives, and leaders from the trucking and engine manufacturing industry. The CTI will include a future rulemaking that will update the existing NOx standard which was last set in 2001 while also streamlining compliance and certification requirements.

Statement

The Cleaner Trucks Initiative will help modernize heavy-duty truck engines, improving their efficiency and providing cleaner air for all Americans. The U.S. has made major reductions in NOx emissions, but it's been nearly 20 years since EPA updated these standards. Through rulemaking and a comprehensive review of existing requirements, we will capitalize on these gains and incentivize new technologies to ensure our heavy-duty trucks are clean and remain a competitive method of transportation.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-first-draft-chemical-risk-evaluation-under-tsca"]

Release Date: 11/14/2018

EPA completed another major Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) milestone by releasing the draft risk evaluation for Pigment Violet 29 (PV29), one of the first ten chemicals undergoing risk evaluation under TSCA, as amended by the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (Lautenberg Act).

Statement

EPA has made tremendous progress fulfilling our new responsibilities for existing chemicals under the amended Toxic Substances Control Act. Releasing the first draft risk evaluation conducted under this new authority shows the Agency is delivering on its promise to meet statutory deadlines and ensure the safety of chemicals currently on the market.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-seeks-public-input-draft-toxicity-assessments-pfas-chemicals"]

Release Date: 11/14/2018

EPA is seeking public input on draft toxicity assessments for GenX chemicals and perfluorobutane sulfonic acid, members of a larger group of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances ([HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/pfas"]). PFAS are man-made chemicals used in a wide range of products because of their ability to repel water, grease, and oil. These draft assessments are part of EPA's efforts to increase the amount of research and information that is publicly available on PFAS chemicals.

Statement

EPA is delivering on its commitment to provide our state and local partners the tools and information they need to address PFAS. The draft toxicity assessments are part of our forthcoming management plan, but we are releasing the draft assessments now to provide this information – and give the public the opportunity to provide input – as soon as possible. These draft toxicity assessments reflect the best available science, as well as our extensive community engagement, and are critical to our efforts to help communities impacted by PFAS.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-rule-will-aid-recall-defective-takata-airbag-inflators-protecting-public-and"]

Release Date: 11/14/2018

EPA announced an interim final rule to facilitate the urgent removal of defective Takata airbag inflators from vehicles and prevent defective Takata airbag inflators in scrap vehicles from being reused. The rule also advances the safe management of airbag wastes during accumulation, collection, storage and disposal. It is estimated to result in a net cost savings of 1.7 to 13 million dollars annually.

Statement

This action will help auto dealers and scrap recyclers across the country protect public health and properly dispose of these defective airbags inflators. By streamlining these requirements, we can help get these dangerous airbags out of vehicles quickly and safely while reducing the regulatory burden on small businesses.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-celebrates-america-recycles-day-convenes-recycling-summit-strengthen-domestic"]

Release Date: 11/15/2018

EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler convened the first ever EPA Recycling Summit bringing together leaders from industry and all levels of government to discuss opportunities to advance and strengthen the domestic recycling industry and markets. In addition, Administrator Wheeler signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between EPA's Smart Sectors program and the National Vehicle Mercury Switch Recovery Program (NVMSRP) to reduce mercury air emissions.

Statement

During today's historic summit, a wide array of industry, government, and non-profit leaders advanced ideas and solutions to enhance our recycling infrastructure, create new markets for recycled materials, and improve public education regarding recycling. Enhancing the domestic recycling industry not only improves the environment, but it also saves local governments valuable resources and provides high-quality materials for American manufacturers. Signing the new mercury switch MOU will help industrial automotive recyclers safely remove and recycle mercury switches and prevent the unnecessary release of mercury into the environment. Enhancing the domestic recycling industry will improve the environment, save local governments valuable resources, and provide high-quality materials for American manufacturers. Signing the new mercury switch MOU will help industrial automotive recyclers safely remove and recycle mercury switches and prevent the unnecessary release of mercury into the environment.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/acting-administrator-wheeler-releases-third-update-administrators-superfund-emphasis"]

Release Date: 11/20/2018

EPA released its third revision to the Administrator's Emphasis List of Superfund Sites Targeted for Immediate, Intense Action. The **West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton, MO** was removed from the list and three sites – **Universal Oil Products, East Rutherford, NJ; Allied Paper, Kalamazoo, MI; and Madison County Anschutz Mine, Fredericktown, MO** – were added. With this update, there are a total of 16 Superfund sites on the list, and a total of 11 sites have been removed from the Administrator's Emphasis List since December 2017 because the short-term milestones were achieved.

Statement

Removing West Lake Landfill and adding three sites to the Administrator's Emphasis List demonstrates our commitment to cleaning up the nation's most contaminated sites as quickly, safely, and thoroughly as possible. With this update, EPA achieves an important objective and commits to focusing on three additional sites that can benefit from immediate attention and action.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-2018-border-2020-us-mexico-environmental-program-highlights-report"]

Release Date: 11/20/2018

EPA, in collaboration with Mexico's Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources, released a report on accomplishments from our successful collaboration to protect the environment and human health along the U.S.-Mexico border. "The Border 2020: United States-Mexico Environmental Program Highlights Report," Autumn 2018, summarizes the results of 22 projects successfully completed from 2016 to 2018 to achieve goals addressing clean water, wastewater infrastructure, air quality, solid waste management, environmental emergency response, and environmental stewardship.

Statement

EPA and SEMARNAT's binational collaboration has led to significant environmental and health improvements in our border communities, especially for underserved and disadvantaged populations. EPA and SEMARNAT are committed to engaging with state, local, and tribal governments and communities along the border to address our shared environmental challenges.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-takes-steps-improve-regulations-wood-heaters"]

Release Date: 11/21/2018

EPA took key steps toward ensuring that the Agency's new source performance standards (NSPS) for new residential wood heaters are based on real-world conditions. The proposed amendments would provide relief for consumers, retailers and manufacturers by allowing the sale of wood heaters that meet the latest emissions limits through May 2022. Over 90 percent of wood heating device manufacturers and retailers are small businesses. This action is expected to save approximately $33 million in regulatory costs from 2019 – 2022.

Statement

Extending the sale of new, Step 1-compliant wood heaters will provide manufacturers and retailers with much-needed certainty and will incentivize more Americans to purchase newer, cleaner heaters, which supports rural economies and improves air quality. We are also taking comments on the testing methods underlying the Step 2 limit to ensure the standards are based on real-world conditions and do not deprive many rural Americans of affordable access to their primary source of heat.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-new-tools-test-and-treat-additional-pfas-including-genx-drinking-water"]

Release Date: 11/21/2018

EPA) is announcing an updated and validated way to test for an additional four per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water, including the GenX chemical, hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA). Today's updated tools are part of EPA's efforts to increase the amount of research and information that is publicly available for chemicals in the PFAS family.

Statement

EPA's validated method, EPA Method 537.1, will ensure that both government and private laboratories can accurately and consistently measure 18 PFAS in their drinking water, which is a critical step for estimating people's exposure and potential risk to PFAS. This affirms EPA's commitment to providing ways for states and tribes to address PFAS in their communities.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-law-enforcement-partners-announce-sentencing-louisiana-explosive-waste-disposal"]

Release Date: 11/29/2018

EPA joined law enforcement partners from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Louisiana, the Department of Defense, the U. S. Army, the Department of Transportation, the FBI, and the Louisiana State Police in announcing the sentencing of five defendants for their role in a case involving Explo Systems, Inc., a private company involved in the demilitarization of military munitions. Explo Systems' mismanagement of military munitions resulted in a large detonation at a storage facility in Camp Minden, Louisiana, on October 15, 2012. The explosion damaged buildings in a four-mile radius, derailed 11 rail cars, and was felt up to thirty-five miles away. In addition, an investigation revealed that Explo Systems had illegally disposed of hazardous waste resulting in over $38 million of cleanup costs to tax payers.

Statement

Through their reckless mismanagement of waste explosives, the defendants put the safety of an entire town at risk. This sentencing should send a clear message that EPA and our law enforcement partners will hold corporate officials responsible for violating laws designed to protect our communities and the environment.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-signs-mou-state-review-oil-and-natural-gas-environmental-regulations"]

Release Date: 11/29/2018

EPA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the non-profit, multi-stakeholder, educational organization known as STRONGER. In the coming months, EPA and STRONGER will work together to identify specific areas for collaboration. Such areas of collaboration may include providing platforms for meaningful stakeholder engagement, the identification of emerging issues impacting states and tribes, or the development of improved compliance assistance tools.

Statement

This MOU will provide more opportunities for EPA and STRONGER to work together to improve both environmental protections and economic outcomes. By collaborating with STRONGER, we can enhance our enforcement and compliance efforts while ensuring America's historic energy production under President Trump continues.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-rfs-volumes-2019-and-biomass-based-diesel-volumes-2020"]

Release Date: 11/30/2018

EPA finalized a rule that establishes the required renewable fuel volumes under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program for 2019, and biomass-based diesel for 2020.

Statement

Issuing the annual renewable volume obligations rule on time is extremely important to all stakeholders impacted by the Renewable Fuel Standard program. Unlike the previous administration, the Trump Administration has consistently met the deadline on time and fulfilled our commitment to provide stability to the program and greater certainty to farming and refining communities across the country.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-2018-safer-choice-partner-year-award-winners"]

Release Date: 12/03/2018

EPA is recognizing 12 Safer Choice Partner of the Year award winners across eight states for outstanding achievement in 2017 for the design, manufacture, and promotion of cleaning and other products that carry the Safer Choice label for use in households and facilities nationwide.

[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-usda-encourage-use-market-based-and-other-collaborative-approaches-address"]

Release Date: 12/04/2018

EPA and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a letter to state co-regulators that encourages increased engagement and a reinvigoration of state, tribal, and federal efforts to reduce excess nutrients in waterways, with a focus on market-based and other collaborative approaches.

Statement

Thanks to the hard work of states, tribes, and stakeholders, EPA and USDA have made significant progress reducing excess nutrients in some watersheds. Now is the time to build on that success and leverage the market-based and other collaborative approaches that we know can lead to meaningful results across the country.