UPCOMING HOT TOPICS, MAJOR DECISIONS & EVENTS
March 8, 2018

Hot Topics

Texas Regional Haze Appeal and Petition for Reconsideration, Texas

On December 15, 2017, environmental groups filed both a petition for review with the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals and a petition for reconsideration with EPA, challenging EPA's October 17, 2017 final action (82 FR 48324) finalizing a plan to address best available retrofit technology (BART) for regional haze and interstate visibility transport in Texas. On March 6, 2018, the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals granted the parties' joint motion for abeyance "pending the resolution of a petition for reconsideration and the completion of any reconsideration process". EPA must file a status report every 90 days.

Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP), LLC, Deepwater Port Complex, Louisiana

LOOP most recently has taken the position that it does not require any federal permits (air or water) for its operations. This issue remains unresolved. We are hoping to meet with company officials to discuss this soon, and coordinating closely with LDEQ Secretary Dr. Brown. LOOP is the only port in the U.S. capable of offloading a wide range of vessels including Ultra Large Crude Carriers (ULCC) and Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCC) down to Medium Range (MR) Tankers. LOOP is a joint venture of Marathon Pipe Line LLC, Valero Terminal and Distribution Company, and Shell Oil Company. LOOP, regulated by both state, EPA and Maritime Administration, is looking to add export capability to its operations and may need new water and air permits. The water discharge permit is issued jointly by the state and EPA, and the existing permit expired years ago. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and Region 6 have been working with the facility to renew the discharge permit and incorporated whole effluent toxicity (WET) requirements for their brine discharge.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

NSPS/NESHAP Delegation, New Mexico

EPA intends to sign a direct final action to approve the request by NMED to update its delegation of certain New Source Performance Standards and National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants with the exception of sources located in Indian Country.

St Bernard Parish, Louisiana

State of Louisiana provided both the modified order and new modeling for sulfur dioxide in St. Bernard Parish. EPA intends to propose approval of the attainment demonstration state implementation plan for sulfur dioxide by March 31 for a 30 day comment period; and complete final action by July.

3/15/18	Annual Solid Waste Association Conference (LCA), Lafayette, Louisiana
3/15/18	LSU Ag Center Rice Research Center Tour, Lafayette, Louisiana
3/17/18	4th Annual "Chasing Leaks" 5K Run - Partnership with City of Ft. Worth and Fort Worth Runners Club, Ft Worth, Texas