To: Idsal, Anne[idsal.anne@epa.gov]
From: Gray, David
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Subject: Region 6 Weekly Report

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 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. LOOP, regulated by state, EPA and Maritime Administration, is looking to add export capability to its operations and may need new air permit and needs a renewal of their current water permit. The water discharge permit is issued jointly by the state and EPA, and the existing permit expired years ago. We have requested an informal meeting with company officials to hear out their concerns, and are coordinating closely with LDEQ Secretary Dr. Brown.

State Legislation to Clarify Arkansas General Permit Procedures

Arkansas representative Vaught has proposed legislation to clarify ADEQ's procedures for transferring from a general permit to individual permit. The proposed state legislation is in response to ADEQ's recent denial of an individual permit for a hog farm in the Buffalo River, a designated scenic river, watershed. ADEQ, Arkansas Agriculture Bureau and Senator Cotton have asked for EPA's technical review of the proposed legislation prior to a vote in special session next week.

Arkansas Regional Haze

Region 6 approved the Arkansas Regional Haze SIP revision for nitrogen oxides to address regional haze and withdrew the FIP source-specific emission limits for nitrogen oxides that currently apply to the same nine electric generating units. The FIP has a nitrogen oxide compliance date of April 27, 2018. We are working with the state to approve another SIP and withdraw another portion of the regional haze FIP. There may be a third SIP to specifically address emissions from Domtar which could result in the complete withdrawal of the FIP. At Domtar's request, we are setting up a meeting discuss this further.

Illinois River Watershed modeling, Oklahoma and Arkansas

As part of our work to help the states address pollution in the Illinois River watershed, EPA funded the development of two models and has worked with a technical workgroup to review them. Both states met to review the two draft models on Tuesday, March 6 and we are progressing with the public release of the watershed and Lake Tenkiller models. There continues to be some disagreement about steps after the release of the models. The principals will discuss at the upcoming ECOS meeting.

Georgia-Pacific, LLC. Paper Operations, Crossett, Arkansas

The Ouachita Riverkeeper and Louisiana Environmental Action Network filed a Title VI Civil Rights complaint against ADEQ for issuing a permit for the Georgia Pacific plant and EPA accepted the complaint for investigation. EPA is very close to having a draft resolution and the region is coordinating with HQ Civil Rights office on how best to share it with the state.

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.

Sulfur Dioxide SIP, St Bernard Parish, Louisiana

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.

Reid Vapor Pressure fuel blending, Baton Rouge, , Louisiana

Region 6 is proceeding to process a proposed approval for the Louisiana's RVP SIP revision. The proposed approval is scheduled for March 28. The five parish Baton Rouge area relies on low RVP gasoline in its current maintenance plan. LDEQ submitted the 2008 8-hour Ozone NAAQS RVP relaxation request and maintenance plan revision for the Baton Rouge Nonattainment Area on January 31, 2018.

3/15/18 Annual Solid Waste Association Conference, Lafayette, Louisiana

3/15/18 LSU Ag Center Rice Research Center Tour, Lafayette, Louisiana

3/17/18 4th Annual "Chasing Leaks" 5K Run, Ft Worth, Texas