Region 1

Hot Topics

RA Dunn Kicks Off New Hampshire NPDES Authorization Discussions; Sets Aggressive Review Timeline
On March 28, RA Dunn and staff met with the Commissioner of New Hampshire DES, the Governor's staff, and key program leaders to discuss potential state implementation of the NPDES program. Governor Sununu has expressed a desire to seek authorization for this program, and the state recently passed a bill funding an in-depth evaluation of delegation. EPA and DES established an aggressive schedule to support the state as it evaluates taking the NPDES program, including steps EPA can take to support capacity-building at DES.

EPA Issues Certificate of Completion for the Unkamet Brook Removal Area in the Housatonic River Site
On March 27, EPA issued GE a Certificate of Completion for the Unkamet Brook Removal Action Area at the larger Housatonic River/Pittsfield, MA Superfund Site. The removal actions – which took two years to complete – included remediation of eleven GE and non-GE properties encompassing approximately 135 acres contaminated with PCBs and other hazardous substances, removal and off-site disposal of 48,020 tons of contaminated soil and sediment from commercial and recreational areas (as well as affected wetlands), re-routing of a 600-foot section of Unkamet Brook and sections of local sewer lines, capping an 8-acre historic GE landfill, and a number of completed Natural Resource Damage restoration projects in local wetlands.

Region 1 Finalizes the Schiller Station NPDES Permit
On April 6, R1 plans to reissue a final permit to Schiller Station, a 163 MW power plant in Portsmouth, NH, with two coal-fired units and one wood-fired unit. The permit addresses pollutant discharges, including thermal discharges, and the biological impacts of withdrawing cooling water. A rollout strategy is underway.

HHS Coordination at Region 1
On March 29, RA Dunn met with HHS Region 1 Director John McGough and discussed ongoing work both agencies are currently collaborating on including lead, PFAS, and asbestos. Dunn and McGough also discussed future cooperative opportunities to efficiently build on efforts.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Region 1 to Submit Testimony for New Hampshire State Senate Hearing related to Coakley Superfund Site
This week, RA Dunn was asked to provide written testimony to the New Hampshire Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Working with headquarters, a response to this bill – which would require Coakley site PRPs to implement a groundwater extraction and treatment project – is being developed for submission.

Earth Month Brownfields Site Tour in Rhode Island
As part of R1's Earth Month activities, on Friday April 13 a tour is being planned for the Woonasquatucket River Corridor Area, which is being addressed through an EPA Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant.

EPA to Provide Air Monitoring Support During the Boston Marathon on April 16
Since the Boston Marathon Bombing in April of 2013, EPA Region 1 has been tasked with providing race route air monitoring support. The Boston Marathon is a complex and highly coordinated event that draws on Region 1 assets, with assistance from other regions, to provide personnel and equipment necessary to monitor the race route. R1 deploys 48 air monitoring stations capable of wirelessly monitoring volatile organic compounds, gamma radiation, chlorine gas, ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and flammable gases. The Region 1 REOC will host a data management team to process the raw data for display. R1 is coordinating with many agencies, including FEMA, FBI, Secret Service, and many local police/response agencies along the entire route.

Region 2

Hot Topics

Quanta Superfund Site, Edgewater, NJ: Odor and VOC emissions resulting from the remediation work continue to receive press coverage. Informational public availability sessions were held on the afternoon and evening of March 28 to address community concerns about the odors and vapor measurements. Community concern remains high, and additional availability sessions may be scheduled. EPA has directed the responsible party, Honeywell, to make significant adjustments in how the work is performed in order to minimize emissions and odors. EPA has also directed additional air monitoring locations near residential and commercial areas where people could more likely be exposed; and EPA will be working to identify long-term strategies to minimize conflicts that may arise with nearby residential and commercial developments.

GenX found at Chemours Deepwater Facility, NJ. Chemours (the corporate successor to DuPont) has advised NJDEP and EPA that GenX has been found in the industrial wastewater discharge at its Deepwater facility. The discharge enters the Delaware River. The state and EPA are working together to expeditiously develop a proposed sampling program to determine the source of the GenX within the facility, and to determine whether GenX has entered other possible pathways of exposure, particularly groundwater which is used as a drinking water supply in nearby residential communities.

Proposed Cleanup Plans for American Cyanamid and Berry's Creek Superfund Sites. These two New Jersey sites are on the Administrator's special emphasis list. Region 2 is now finalizing the proposed cleanup plans for both sites, and expects to be ready to publish them before the end of April. We have made revisions to the proposed cleanup plan for the Berry's Creek Study Area in response to specific suggestions for improvements made by the Administrator. We have also worked closely with the NJDEP and anticipate receiving the state's concurrence. (If the formal concurrence document for either site is delayed, we have advised the state we may proceed to publish the proposed cleanup plan with a statement that state concurrence is anticipated but has not yet been received.) It is our goal to complete the review of and response to public comments and be in a position to issue the Records of Decision for these two sites before the end of the current fiscal year. The proposed cleanup at each site exceeds $50 million, so the RODs will be signed by the Administrator.

Ithaca Gun Site, Ithaca, NY: The regional Superfund program continues to work with NYSDEC and the City of Ithaca on the coordination of mitigation efforts to address the continued migration of heavy metal-contaminated soils & talus from the former Ithaca Gun facility into the Fall Creek Gorge Natural Area. On 3/27 EPA's On-Scene Coordinator conducted a site visit to obtain information for the development of engineering options for containment of the contaminated materials. Also on 3/27 the NYSDEC contacted EPA to discuss recently obtained sampling results that identified additional areas of contamination in areas of the Natural Area frequented by the public. On 3/28 the OSC met with City and NYSDEC representatives to discuss the most appropriate course of action in the near term for addressing the areas of concern identified in those sampling results.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

RA Travel: Regional Administrator Lopez will be making remarks at Cornell University's Town/Gown Conference on Sustainability in Ithaca, New York on April 2.

Region 3

Hot Topics

Over 80 City of Pittsburgh Employees Receive Awareness Training on the Lead Paint Rule
On March 15-16, 2018, LCD presented two (2) seminars to approximately 80 representatives from City of Pittsburgh Departments of Licenses and Inspections. The purpose of the seminars was to raise awareness about the Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule (RRP) to the audience. EPA explained lead-safe work practices that the officials could look for while out on inspections. EPA also asked the officials to take pictures and notes of any possible violations of RRP at active worksites and forward them to LCD via [HYPERLINK "http://www.epa.gov/tips" \h].

EAID met with Arch Coal on Spruce No. 1 Mine
On Marchb15, 2018, Representatives from Region 3's EAID met with representatives from Arch Coal to discuss potential modifications to the Spruce No. 1 Mine in an attempt to resolve Agency concerns and issues laid out in the CWA Section 404 (c) Final Determination. After a technical discussion of potential options each party agreed to take the ideas back for further internal discussions. Additionally, Arch agreed to carry a few options forward for preliminary engineering analysis and will present their findings to EPA within a month.

Region 3 and PADEP Meet with Administrative Order Signatories at Lehigh County Authority
On March 23, 2018, the Offices of NPDES, Regional Counsel, and representatives from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Central and Northeast regional offices attended a meeting with the City of Allentown and municipal signatories to the Clean Water Act Administrative Order CWA-03-2009-0310 DN. The Order was issued to the City of Allentown and contributors to its wastewater collection system, requiring the elimination of sanitary sewer overflow discharges from the wastewater collection system. The original deadline to meet the requirements of the Order was December 31, 2014, but had been extended to December 31, 2017. EPA and PADEP discussed the information the agencies require with regards to a regional wet weather flow management strategy in order to consider the obligations of the Order met. Region 3 will issue a letter to the signatories memorializing the agreed-upon path forward and schedule.

Release of Phase III WIP Expectations
EPA plans to issue in mid-April an expectations document for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed jurisdictions' Phase III WIPs to maintain accountability in the work under the 2010 Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL), encourage continued adaptive management to the new information generated during and after the Bay TMDL 2017 midpoint assessment, and lay the groundwork for implementation of the next generation of innovative practices.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio has the following activities scheduled:

- April 4 – Partnership for the Delaware Estuary Steering Committee Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
- April 5 – Region 3 RA Cosmo Servidio will be the Keynote Speaker at the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce Conference, Lancaster, PA

Region 4

Hot Topics

Mississippi Phosphates Corporation (MPC)
Key Message: Region 4 is coordinating with the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) on the potential sale of the Mississippi Phosphate's Liquidation Trust (LT) property. The beneficiaries of the LT are (EPA, MDEQ, and the MPC Lender Parties). The Lender Parties loaned MPC in excess of $50 million. Two viable bids have been received in excess of $7M, one from the Anuvia Corporation – a fertilizer company out of Zellwood Florida and a second one from Hillco Redevelopment Partners, a company engaged in environmental remediation and redevelopment of commercial real estate across the country. Very recently, Lloyds Energy (Lloyds) – a liquefied natural gas (LNG) company out of Houston, contacted EPA and the LT with possible interest in the Property; however, Lloyds is very new and wants to take time to do due diligence on the facility.

The LT is currently recommending to its beneficiaries (EPA, MDEQ, and the Lender Parties) that it be allowed to enter into an exclusivity arrangement with Hillco to begin negotiation of an Asset Purchase Agreement (APA) for the sale of the facility. The LT is asking for EPA's written concurrence on the sale. The most valuable consideration to EPA from a Hillco sale is not the $7.75 million sales price, but is rather the expansive scope of environmental remediation work that Hillco is offering to do for EPA pursuant to a BFPP Work Agreement.

During the week of April 2, 2018, Region 4 anticipates close coordination with OECA and the Office of the Administrator on this issue.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Decisions
Mississippi Phosphates Corporation Purchase Agreement

Events
Alabama Compliance Assurance Meeting – On Tuesday, April 3, 2018, Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn and regional senior leadership will meet with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to discuss general communication with the state as well as state specific compliance concerns. Closed Press. Montgomery, Alabama.

Region 5

Hot Topics

- **Region 5 to Release the Lake Huron Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) on April 6**
  Key Message: The binational action plan identifies the actions needed to address the most serious environmental threats to Lake Huron and the St. Marys River.

  The LAMP was developed in consultation with state and provincial governments, tribal governments, First Nations, Métis, municipal governments and watershed management agencies.

- **Region 5 to Attend Otsego Public Meeting on April 14**
  Key Message: The county, state and federal health departments are the lead, but EPA is assisting the state with data requests.

  Recently, residents have been voicing concerns that Otsego area contamination may be impacting the health of community members. The meeting will focus on answering questions and sharing health related information with the residents.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- **Region 5 to Hold Community Meeting and Open House for USS Lead Site in East Chicago, Indiana**
  Key Message: RA Stepp and Senior Advisor to the Administrator Albert "Kell" Kelly will attend the April 7 events.

  During the meeting, attendees will receive an update on upcoming spring construction activities. The following open house will feature various federal and local agencies who will be available to speak one-on-one with residents.

- **RA Stepp to Host Meet and Greet with Rep. Peter Visclosky (D-IN) on April 4**
  Key Message: The main issue the Congressman is looking to discuss is the ongoing Grand Calumet River work.

Region 6

Hot Topics

Lindon Manufacturing and Laboratory, Houston, Texas
Region 6 plans to terminate the Imminent & Substantial Endangerment Order required Lindon to immediately remove from their site, dangerous and incompatible hazardous waste stored by the company. Lindon provided written documentation on the removal and disposal of the incompatible wastes. The termination letter should be finalized during the week of [HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://1"].

Bird Creek Site Investigation, Osage County, Oklahoma
Confidential technical negotiations continue to be productive. The three operators of wells subject to the SDWA enforcement order in Bird Creek Oklahoma met with EPA technical staff to present the results of their recent shallow soil conductivity survey. Region 6 is working with the companies to determine if conditions can be placed on their operating permits that will resolve the outstanding order. Litigation continues on a separate track. Williams complaint deadline has been extended to June. Jireh has [HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://2"] to file or extend their deadline.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Reid Vapor Pressure fuel blending, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Region 6 will propose approval of Louisiana's RVP SIP revision [HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://3"] The five parish Baton Rouge area relies on low RVP gasoline in its current maintenance plan.

Sulfur Dioxide SIP, St Bernard Parish, Louisiana
Region 6 intends to propose approval of the attainment demonstration State Implementation Plan for sulfur dioxide by [HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://4"] with a 30-day comment period. It will complete final action by July.

Ozone Exceptional Event, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Region 6 intends to approve Louisiana's exceptional event demonstration for Baton Rouge by [HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://5"]
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[HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://6"] Meeting with Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN), Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Meeting with Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

[HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://7"] Region [HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://8"]

[HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://9"] Texas Pipeline Association Meeting, Austin, Texas

[HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://10"] Meeting with Kelly Haragan, Director of Texas Environmental Law Clinic, Austin, Texas

Region 7

Hot Topics

West Lake Landfill (Bridgeton, MO)

Key Message: Public comment period and coordination work continues.

- This week the region prepared and transmitted responses to public concerns including a Proposed Plan comment sent to President Donald Trump, a flyer of unknown origin alleging that the West Lake Landfill is the source of contamination at Cold Water Creek, and a FOIA requesting Proposed Plan comments in the agency's possession.
- The region is in the final stage of concurrence for the release of comments obtained from the Potentially Responsible Parties at a meeting held during the public comment period and the agency's response to those comments. Comments and responses to a similar meeting held with the Community Advisory Group, as well as 3D videos of RIM akin to those shown during the public meeting, are now posted to the site's webpage.
- Approval was granted on the PRPs' work plan to complete installation of a non-combustible cover over two areas in OU1 that were steeply sloped barring the implementation of the original design.
- On March 30, the region will hold its biweekly coordination call with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Next week the region will host a call with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discuss information recently published in the Applied Radiation and Isotopes journal about the site. A call will also be held with the PRPs to discuss ongoing matters. The region will continue to draft the Record of Decision Amendment and receive comments on the Proposed Plan.

Sporlan Valve Time Critical Superfund Removal Action (Washington, MO)

Key Message: Action being taken to address potential residential vapor intrusion from the Sporlan Valve Superfund Site.

- The region is anticipating the signature of a Time Critical Superfund Removal Action Memo for the Sporlan Valve Superfund Site in Washington, MO. The Potentially Responsible Party for the site conducted a Time Critical Removal action from August 2015 until September 2017 when the PRP exhausted their resources to address TCE contamination on site.
- EPA conducted an Emergency Removal Action in August 2017 to address vapor intrusion in one home that was not addressed under the PRP action and this current Time Critical Removal Action will address the remaining homes which may be impacted by TCE vapor intrusion at the site.

Tri-State Coordination Stakeholder Meeting & Open House

Key Message: Updates on Superfund sites in OK, MO, and KS mining district provided to stakeholders.

- On March 28, the region provided an update on the Cherokee County and Newton County Superfund Sites during a stakeholder meeting on the Tri-State Mining District which covers parts of Oklahoma, Missouri, and Kansas. Attendees included EPA Region 7 and Region 6, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, and several tribes. The stakeholder meeting was followed by an open house with community members, tribes, the Local Environmental Agency Demanded Agency, EPA, and ODEQ.
- On March 29, Region 7 and Region 6 management and staff met to discuss future plans for the Tri-State Mining District sites and to coordinate on site issues.

Region 8

Hot Topics

Colorado Springs Utilities Two weeks ago the Department of Justice sent out a letter to the City of Colorado Springs requesting a meeting to discuss settlement of alleged MS4 violations by the City. We have received a response from the City that they are available to begin settlement discussions. We also received letters from the State of Colorado and the two intervenors in the case, Pueblo County and the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservation District. Colorado and the two intervenors expressed concern with opening settlement negotiations though we anticipate that all three will participate in the discussions. The goal is to have settlement discussions beginning in April that would ultimately result in an agreement that would both avoid a lengthy and expensive trial and expedite any additional improvements the City needs to take to protect water quality.

Gillette, Wyoming CPP Listening Session
The final CPP listening session was held in Gillette, Wyoming on March 27 and there were close to two hundred participants including, Senators Enzi and Barrasso, Governor Mead, and several state wide elected officials, as well as, several members of the Wyoming state legislature. The comments from both state and federal elected officials were uniformly in support of repealing the CPP as were the comments of employees of different industries, most of whom were based in Wyoming but also several outside of Wyoming. There were comments supporting the CPP from former Region 8 EPA employees and from members of several tribes.

XTO Energy's Clean Air Act Violations on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota are settled On March 23, 2018, DOJ, on behalf of the EPA Region 8, lodged a complaint and consent decree with the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota. This settlement resolves Clean Air Act violations of the Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) for 20 Oil and Natural Gas Production Facilities located on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation ("FBIR") (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation). The settlement includes a $320,000 civil penalty, an injunctive relief package, and a tank auto-gauging mitigation project at tank systems located both on and off the FBIR.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

BONITA PEAK MINING DISTRICT SUPERFUND SITE PLANNING
On Tuesday, April 3, 2018, R8 is hosting a meeting with the State of Colorado and EPA representatives to discuss the establishment of cleanup goals, additional data needs, challenges for expeditiously moving forward, and adaptive management to accelerate progress. The Colorado Governor's office, Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment, Colorado Department of Reclamation, Mining and Safety and HQ representatives, Kell Kelly, Erin Chancellor and Jim Woolford will be joining Region 8.

Region 8 Preparing to Take Action on Utah's 2016 303(d) List
Region 8, in consultation with OWOW and OGC, is preparing to approve the majority of Utah's 2016 303(d) list including a listing of Utah Lake for harmful algal blooms (HABs), defer action on Utah's decision not to list Farmington Bay (of Great Salt Lake) for HABs and defer action on its decision not to assess Great Salt Lake (GSL) for mercury. The State of Utah expressed support for the above actions. We expect to take this action within the next two weeks.

Region 9

Hot Topics

none

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Mexican Border visit: On April 3, we will host Ken Wagner and Sarah Greenwalt for a tour of the San Diego border region, including a visit to our border office, discussion with U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents about transboundary impacts, tour of the border area, and meetings with local and tribal officials. Our Water Director Tomas Torres and Land Director Jeff Scott will participate.

California Tribal Water Summit: On April 4, Alexis Strauss will speak at a meeting hosted by the California Natural Resources Agency to seek tribes' input on current and future water challenges, as the State updates its Water Action Plan.

Port of Long Beach DERA event: We will participate in a press event highlighting new zero-emission cargo-handling cranes that were partially funded through DERA. This project is part of the Port of Long Beach and Port of Los Angeles' Clean Air Action Plan, which sets a framework for further transformation to zero- and near-zero-emission port operations.

FIFRA: We worked with Customs and Border Protection to deny a shipment from Korea of a pesticide device advertised to sterilize baby bottles, in violation of FIFRA. The devices will be exported or destroyed under CBP supervision.

Region 10

Hot Issues

None to report this week.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline Preliminary Final Supplemental EIS: On April 2, the Corps of Engineers will release the preliminary FSEIS for a 30 day comment by cooperating agencies. Region 10 will be preparing comments to submit prior to the comment deadline. EPA rated the Draft SEIS an EO-2 in an August 29th, 2017 NEPA comment letter. EPA also provided a CWA 404 3(a) comment letter on August 29th for the concurrently released Public Notice pursuant to the 404q MOA. In the intervening time, the Corps finalized the jurisdictional determination and found the proposed project will impact approximately 10% more aquatic resources than stated in the draft SEIS or PN. It is unclear if the Corps is planning to issue a second PN concurrently with the final SEIS.

Greater Moose's Tooth (GMT-2) Public Notice (AK): Region 10 will be preparing comments in response to the Public Notice issued by the Alaska District Corps of Engineers for the GMT-2 Pipeline and drill pad project. The project is proposed to be built on the North Slope in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, approximately 12 miles north of Nuiqsut. This is the last of the oil and gas development projects anticipated under the Alpine PEIS. The project would result in the loss of 77.9 acres of wetlands for the construction of an 8.2 mile gravel access road, a drill pad, three vehicle pullout pads and vertical support members for the pipeline from GMT-1 to GMT-2. The applicant is proposing to provide compensatory mitigation in the form of a permittee responsible project to replace a culvert battery along the road.

EPA NPDES Permit Actions in Idaho: During the week of April 2, Region 10 expects to issue Public Notices on draft NPDES permits for the following facilities in the State of Idaho: Jerome Cheese Company, City of Juliaetta Wastewater Treatment Plant, and City of Dover Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Jerome Cheese Company in Jerome, ID, discharges to a canal that flows into the Snake River. The permit includes nutrient limits to address nutrient impairments in this portion of the Middle-Snake River. Both the City of Dover and the City of Juliaetta are in northern Idaho, with discharges to the Pend Oreille and Potlatch Rivers, respectively. The Dover permit includes new limits based on facility upgrades while the Juliaetta permit includes new temperature limits and compliance schedule due to temperature impairment in the Potlatch River.

Also, in early April Region 10 plans to publish a notice in the Federal Register proposing to issue a General NPDES Permit for hydroelectric generating facilities in Idaho. The proposed General Permit will cover discharges for cooling water, maintenance, equipment/floor drains, and flood water. The pollutants of concern are oil & grease, and pH, with monitoring requirements for temperature. The General Permit does not regulate waters flowing over the dam or through the turbines. This is the first time most hydroelectric facilities in Idaho will be covered with a NPDES permit. The proposed General Permit was determined to be non-significant by OMB; it has reserved the right to review the GP before it goes final.

Innovative School Training by Northwest Radon Coalition and EPA R10 (OR): Through a collaboration with the Northwest Radon Coalition and EPA Region 10, a "first of its kind" training will be held in Pendleton, Oregon on April 3, 2018 to train school maintenance and custodial staff how to test for radon in the Oregon Public Schools. This training was initiated as a result of recent legislation that requires testing of Oregon schools to be done before January 1, 2021. This promises to be excellent training with both classroom and hands-on testing demonstrations.

Office of Administration and Resources Management

Hot Topics

- **Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR)**. (see below)

- **Clean Air Act 112(r) Risk Management Program (RMP) Reconsideration NPRM.** The draft proposed RMP reconsideration rule along with supporting documents were sent to OMB for Interagency review on March 9. OMB review is expected to conclude on April 30.

- **Ongoing major Superfund NPL sites (including East Chicago, West Lake, Bonita Peak, Hudson River, Portland Harbor, Mississippi Phosphates, Oak Ridge, Edwards AFB).** We are working with OECA and Region 9 regarding a dispute at Edwards Air Force Base.

- **CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance – Next Three Sectors**. We are working with OGC and the AO on the analysis plan.

- **Ag Reporting.** When the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals issues its mandate vacating the 2008 final rule (expected as soon as May 1, 2018), farms will remain exempt from the CERCLA reporting requirements as a result of the Fair Agricultural Reporting Method (FARM) Act. The FARM Act does not alter the EPCRA reporting requirements; EPA is revising guidance interpreting EPCRA's reporting requirements of releases for animal wastes from farms. The Reportable Quantity Modifications rule was pulled from OMB.

- **PFOA and PFAS.** We are working with ORD and OW to develop groundwater cleanup recommendations for PFOA and PFOS

- **Definition of Solid Waste (DSW) Vacaturs.** The D.C. Circuit, on July 7, 2017, as modified on March 6, 2018, vacated two regulatory provisions of the 2015 DSW Rule. A good cause final rule will be used to implement the court decision. The rule will be ready for OMB review shortly.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- **Coal Combustion Residuals**.
  - The Remand Rule's public hearing is scheduled for April 24, with the public comment period ending April 30.
  - We are reviewing comments on the proposal to approve Oklahoma's program.

- **Emergency Response: Headquarters Senior Leader On-Boarding**. There will be a session on April 10, 5:00 – 6:00 pm. We are also scheduling special sessions as needed by specific offices.

- **Inter-Agency National Level Exercise 2018.** We are preparing for EPA participation in this year's exercise, including its component for Continuity of Operations (COOP). This will involve Agency senior leaders, especially on May 7 for deployment for COOP activation.

- **Possible Updates to the Superfund National Priorities List.** We are evaluating the next possible updates, potentially in the next few months.

Office of Air and Radiation

Hot Topics

Tracking SIP Actions:

- Total Number of SIPs submitted to Regions in FY 2018: 127
- Total Number of SIP Submittals with Final Action taken by the Regions in FY 2018: 103
- Total Number of Pending SIPs: 735

Upcoming Packages for the Administrator's Signature:

- Title V Petition Order for Yuhuang Chemical Inc.'s new methanol plant (St. James Parish, LA)
- ExxonMobil Baytown Refinery—Title V Petition Response
- National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Friction Materials Manufacturing Facilities; Residual Risk and Technology Review
- Air Quality: Revision to the Regulatory Definition of Volatile Organic Compounds – Exclusion of cis-1,1,1,4,4,4-hexafluorobut-2-ene (HFO-1336mzz-Z)
- National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Surface Coating of Wood Building Products Residual Risk and Technology Review

OAR Actions Under Review (or soon to be under review) at OMB:

- Revised Final Determination of the Mid-term Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Model Year 2022-2025 Light-duty Vehicles
- Final Guidance on Significant Impact Levels for Ozone and Fine Particles in the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permitting Program

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- **VW Announcement:** Soon EPA and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) will approve an emissions modification proposed by VW that will reduce NOx emissions from certain 2.0 liter VW diesel models. With the approval, VW will offer owners of these vehicles the choice to keep and fix their car, or to have it bought back.

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Row	Determination Type	Pending on 3/27/2018	Determinations Completed[1] as 3/27/2018	Determinations Posted on the Website as of 3/27/2018[6]
1	# of "not likely" determinations	**1**	**122[4]**	**118[4]**
2	# of §5(e) Orders signed by both EPA and the submitter	-	**343**	**338**
3	# of §5(e) Orders signed by EPA and awaiting submitter signature	**37**	-	-
4	# of non-Order SNURs/"not likely" determinations	**0**	**0**	**0**
5	# of cases in post-FOCUS final determination development[5]	**347[3, 5]**	-	-
6	# of cases flagged for in-depth review	**45**	-	-
7	# of PMNs, SNUNs and MCANs awaiting FOCUS (within 90-day review)	**14**	-	-
8	# of LVE/LOREX exemption grants	-	**554**	**552**
9	# of LVE/LOREX exemption denials	-	**120**	**120**
10	**Total number of cases**	**444**	**1139**	-
11	Normal active workload for the New Chemicals Program	300	-	-
12	Number of cases undergoing testing or data development by submitter	74[3]	-	-
13	**Backlog[2]**	70	-	-

[1] "Determinations Completed" means that EPA has completed its reviews on these cases and that final determinations have been made by EPA under TSCA section 5(a)(3).

[2] (Total number of cases) – (Normal active workload for the New Chemicals Program) - (Number of cases undergoing testing or data development) = Backlog

[3] Of these cases, approximately 72 are "active" lung toxicity cases that are suspended while submitters either conduct or are deciding whether to conduct testing to develop data on pchem properties, exposures and toxicity.

[4] "Not Likely" determinations are not posted until the final signed determination document is prepared and has been shared with submitter.

[5] These cases are those for which Post-FOCUS work is underway to develop: not likely determinations; non-Order SNURS coupled with not likely determinations; or section 5(e) or 5(f) Orders. When the OPPT Office Director decides which of these regulatory paths to follow, the case is moved to: Row 3 when the section 5(e) or 5(f) Order is sent to the submitter for signature; Row 4 when the SNUR is published and the not likely determination document is signed; and Row 1 when the determination document is sent to the OPPT OD for signature.

[6] These are all only final determinations posted on the web: grants and denials

Hot Topics

Review of the Dust-Lead Hazard Standards and the Definition of Lead-Based Paint as a Result of Court Order. On August 10, 2009, EPA was petitioned to lower dust-lead hazard standards and modify the definition of lead-based paint. On December 27, 2017, a split panel of the Ninth Circuit granted a petition for writ of mandamus to compel EPA to issue a proposed rule within 90 days of the date its decision becomes final and a final rule within one year of the proposal. On March 26, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit provided an extension to EPA to issue a proposed rule regarding the Agency's dust-lead hazard standards for floors and window sills, and the definition of lead-based paint. The 90-day deadline requires EPA to propose a rule by June 24th. OCSPP intends to comply with the court's direction.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Formaldehyde Compliance Date Changes as a Result of Court Order. In the case of Sierra Club et al. vs. Scott Pruitt (EPA), on March 13, 2018, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California issued an order addressing the litigation over the December 12, 2018 compliance date for the formaldehyde standards for composite wood products. By June 1, 2018 regulated composite wood panels and finished products containing such composite wood panels that are manufactured (in the United States) or imported (into the United States) must be certified/labeled as compliant with either TSCA Title VI OR the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Airborne Toxic Control Measures (ATCM) Phase II emission standards. Previously, these products were required to be TSCA Title VI compliant by December 12, 2018. OCSPP plans to publish an announcement in the Federal Register next week to clarify the outcome for stakeholders.

Alternative Test Methods and Strategies to Reduce Vertebrate Testing Public Meeting. OCSPP is holding a public meeting on April 10, 2018 in Washington, DC to obtain input from interested parties and the public on the Agency's draft Strategic Plan to reduce the use of vertebrate animals in chemical testing. Section 4(h)(2)(A) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) requires EPA to develop a Strategic Plan by June 22, 2018 to promote the development and implementation of alternative test methods and strategies to reduce, refine or replace vertebrate animal testing. The draft Strategic Plan is available for public comment until April 26.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Hot Topics

- OCFO and OCIR issued a data call for new or updated fact sheets to support the Administrator's hearings on EPA's FY 2019 President's Budget Request to Congress. Fact sheets, approved by the respective AA or RA, are due early next week. The HAC and HEC hearings are scheduled for April 26. OCIR continues to work with SAC to schedule that hearing also expected to occur the week of April 23.
- OIG issued to the agency its draft Spring Semi-annual Report to Congress, summarizing the audit reports issued without agency management decision and with unimplemented recommendations. Each relevant program and regional office are conducting their own internal reviews and briefings. Upon concurrence from their respective senior management, the offices will provide comments to the OIG by COB April 6. The OIG will consider the input and is expected to issue its final report, which will be available to Congress and the public, later this spring.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- OCFO continues to brief the Acting Deputy Administrator, COO and CFO on options for development of the FY 2018 operating plan due to Congress for approval on April 23, 2018. In development, there will be policy choices on staffing and non-pay funding levels. Prior to submittal to Congress, the agency must obtain OMB's clearance. OMB's five-day review is expected to begin on April 16, 2018.
- EPA's FY 2018-2019 Agency Priority Goal Action Plans will be published by GSA on [HYPERLINK "https://www.performance.gov/"] by March 30 at which time the plans are available to the public.

Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Hot Topics

- None

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- **April 2** – the Energy Star Program will announce the Energy Star Partners of the year
- **Week of April 2** - HEC majority briefing on rural drinking water system technical assistance with OW
- **Week of April 2** – Notification of next WIFIA Notice of Funding Availability with OW
- **April 3** – Congressman Walden (OR) constituent briefing on Oregon water permit with OW and R10
- **April 10** – OCIR/OAR/OECA will have a call w/ Senator Collins and Congressman Poliquin's staff and constituent business, Maine Energy System, on wood heaters new source performance standards and certification under the rule
- **April 10** – EPA (OW, R9, OIR) to meet with California Water Districts to discuss water recycling projects the districts are working on
- **April 11** - EPA to meet with Medford, OR local officials to discuss the city's work, through partnership with Rogue Valley Council of Governments on a Brownfield Assessment Grant
- **TBD** – Notification of first WIFIA loan closing for King County, WA with OW
- **TBD** - Congressman Peters (CA) staff TA re: Point Loma WWTP legislation with OW
- **TBD** - Congressman Davis (IL) briefing on PRIA with OCSPP

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Hot Topics

Settlement with XTO Energy Inc. for Clean Air Act Violations
On March 26, 2018, DOJ and EPA announced a settlement with Houston-based XTO Energy Inc., resolving alleged Clean Air Act violations stemming from the company's oil and gas production operations on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota. The settlement resolves claims that XTO failed to adequately design, operate, and maintain vapor control systems on its storage tanks at oil and natural gas well pads, resulting in emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). As part of the settlement, XTO will make improvements to its operations on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation that will reduce VOC emissions by at least 2,200 tons a year. In addition, EPA estimates that XTO will spend at least $450,000 to fund an environmental mitigation project. XTO will also pay a $320,000 civil penalty.

Settlement with Magnolia for Clean Water Act Violations
DOJ, on behalf of the EPA, lodged a consent decree on March 23, 2018, with Magnolia Valley Planation, LLC, Magnolia Hills, LLC, and Magnolia Valley, LLC (collectively, "Magnolia"). The settlement addresses Clean Water Act violations stemming from Magnolia's unauthorized filling of wetlands and noncompliance with permit conditions at its development sites in Evans, Georgia. The consent decree requires Magnolia to pay a civil penalty of $45,000 and purchase $60,000 worth of credits from a mitigation bank to offset loss of streams and wetlands that were filled without a permit. The settlement also requires injunctive relief to ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act, including permits at future development sites.

Meeting on Edwards Air Force Base CERCLA Dispute
On March 30, 2018, OECA AA Susan Bodine and senior managers from OLEM, OGC, and Region 9 will meet with Barbara Lee, the Director of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, representatives from California's Lahontan Water Quality Control Board, and representatives from the Air Force, including Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Infrastructure Mark Correll. The meeting will be an opportunity to hear directly from California and the Air Force about their concerns related to the CERCLA Federal Facility Agreement formal dispute at Edwards Air Force Base which has been elevated to the EPA Administrator for resolution.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

On April 4, 2018, OECA AA Susan Bodine will speak with the American Chemistry Council's enforcement group on OECA's upcoming priorities. The enforcement group is comprised of American Chemistry Council members' in-house counsels.

On April 10, 2018, OECA AA Susan Bodine will present EPA's enforcement goals and priorities to chief executives of the hazardous waste industry at a meeting of the Environmental Technology Council.

On April 10, 2018, OECA senior managers will participate in and provide opening remarks to stakeholders at DOJ's Crime Victims Week Listening Session.

Office of Environmental Information

No Updates for this week.

Office of General Counsel

Hot Topics

- *California Communities Against Toxics v. EPA,* (D.C. Cir.). New development: On March 26, a coalition of environmental groups filed a petition for review challenging a January 25, 2018, memorandum entitled "Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act." In this memorandum, EPA addressed the question of when a major source subject to a maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standard under CAA section 112 may be reclassified as an area source, and thereby avoid being subject thereafter to major source MACT and other requirements applicable to major sources under CAA section 112.

- *Pineros y Campesinos Unidos Del Noroeste v. Pruitt*, No. 17-cv-03434-JSW (N.D. Cal.). New development: On March 21, the Court ruled that EPA violated the Administrative Procedure Act by failing to provide notice and opportunity to comment before delaying the effective date of the January 4, 2017, FIFRA Certification of Pesticide Applicator's rule. The court vacated EPA's subsequent rules to the extent that they purport to delay the effective date, and declared the January 4, 2017, rule effective as of March 6, 2017, its original effective date.

- *States of North Dakota v. EPA,* No. 3:15-cv-00059-DLH-ARS (D.N.D.). New development: On March 23, a magistrate judge for the District of North Dakota issued a decision denying the EPA and Army motion to extend the stay of litigation pending reconsideration of the WOTUS rule and granted the plaintiff states motion to lift the stay of litigation. The Court found that the defendants had not shown a clear case of hardship as a result of resumption of the litigation and that there is a "fair possibility" that continuing the stay would injure the plaintiff States. The Court ordered the parties to submit any necessary supplemental briefs on the outstanding issues before the Court and present a scheduling plan to the Court, by April 9.

- *American Oversight v. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,* No. 1:18-cv-656 (D.D.C.). New development: On March 22, American Oversight filed a FOIA suit against EPA and sixteen other Agencies concerning separate FOIA requests seeking records sufficient to identify all political appointees since May 3, 2017, and the title or position of each employee. The complaint alleges that EPA has not completed its response and that EPA estimated it would respond by July 31, 2018.

- *Surgey v. Environmental Protection Agency*, No. 1:18cv654 (D.D.C.). New development: On March 22, Nicholas Surgey, represented by the Public Citizen Litigation Group, filed a FOIA lawsuit alleging that EPA failed to respond to his FOIA request by the statutory deadline. The Complaint alleges that Plaintiff is the Co-Director of Documented and an investigative reporter. The FOIA request at issue (EPA-HQ-2018-003188) sought records concerning "EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's travel to and attendance at the 2018 Rose Bowl college football game, which took place on January 1, 2018, at the Rose Bowl stadium in Pasadena, California."

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

04/04 Oral argument ***City of Taunton v. EPA***, No. 16-2280 (1st Cir.) (challenge to nutrient limits in Region 1 NPDES permit)

Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Hot Topics

Israel Joins Global Methane Initiative: As a result of discussions to prepare for the Administrator's trip to Israel in February, the Director Generals of the Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection and the Ministry of Energy submitted a Letter of Intent to EPA to join the Global Methane Initiative (GMI). Israel expressed particular interest in methane reduction and capture in the use of natural gas for power generation in industrial and large-scale commercial sectors, as well as in solid waste management and agricultural operations.

Tribal Inputs on Federal Lead Strategy: EPA (OCSPP) played a leading role in the *President's Task Force on Environmental Health and Safety Risks to Children* in coordinating two initial calls with tribes to gather inputs on the proposed Federal Lead Strategy. Tribal representatives shared that it is often difficult for tribal communities to identify needed interventions and the full scope of lead hazards and common exposure, because tribal data is often not represented or discernable within government datasets. Tribes are also limited in their capacities to access and use relevant data, when it does exist.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Taiwan Environmental Health Meeting – EPA (OITA and OCHP) will be meeting with the Taiwan National Institute of Environmental Health Services on April 3 to discuss Taiwan's interest in creating a Children's Environmental Health Office modeled after EPA. This meeting is a follow up to the international children's health conference that Taiwan held last year.

Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Call – The U.S. (EPA/OITA) will convene a conference call on April 3 to update Canada, Mexico and the Secretariat on the recent FY18 Congressional Appropriations Act budget relating to the U.S. contributions to the CEC.

Japanese Ambassador Meeting – The Administrator will meet with the new incoming Japanese Ambassador to the U.S. on April 4 to discuss bilateral cooperation with Japan. The areas of bilateral cooperation include mercury, regional air quality, resource efficiency and cleaner technology.

White House Asian American Pacific Islander Working Group – I will attend the White House Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Working Group meeting on April 4 to discuss the issues of concern to AAPI communities and AAPI federal employees.

Office of Land and Emergency Management

Hot Topics

- **Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR)**. (see below)

- **Clean Air Act 112(r) Risk Management Program (RMP) Reconsideration NPRM.** The draft proposed RMP reconsideration rule along with supporting documents were sent to OMB for Interagency review on March 9. OMB review is expected to conclude on April 30.

- **Ongoing major Superfund NPL sites (including East Chicago, West Lake, Bonita Peak, Hudson River, Portland Harbor, Mississippi Phosphates, Oak Ridge, Edwards AFB).** We are working with OECA and Region 9 regarding a dispute at Edwards Air Force Base.

- **CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance – Next Three Sectors**. We are working with OGC and the AO on the analysis plan.

- **Ag Reporting.** When the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals issues its mandate vacating the 2008 final rule (expected as soon as May 1, 2018), farms will remain exempt from the CERCLA reporting requirements as a result of the Fair Agricultural Reporting Method (FARM) Act. The FARM Act does not alter the EPCRA reporting requirements; EPA is revising guidance interpreting EPCRA's reporting requirements of releases for animal wastes from farms. The Reportable Quantity Modifications rule was pulled from OMB.

- **PFOA and PFAS.** We are working with ORD and OW to develop groundwater cleanup recommendations for PFOA and PFOS

- **Definition of Solid Waste (DSW) Vacaturs.** The D.C. Circuit, on July 7, 2017, as modified on March 6, 2018, vacated two regulatory provisions of the 2015 DSW Rule. A good cause final rule will be used to implement the court decision. The rule will be ready for OMB review shortly.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- **Coal Combustion Residuals**.
    - The Remand Rule's public hearing is scheduled for April 24, with the public comment period ending April 30.
    - We are reviewing comments on the proposal to approve Oklahoma's program.

- **Emergency Response: Headquarters Senior Leader On-Boarding**. There will be a session on April 10, 5:00 – 6:00 pm. We are also scheduling special sessions as needed by specific offices.

- **Inter-Agency National Level Exercise 2018.** We are preparing for EPA participation in this year's exercise, including its component for Continuity of Operations (COOP). This will involve Agency senior leaders, especially on May 7 for deployment for COOP activation.

- **Possible Updates to the Superfund National Priorities List.** We are evaluating the next possible updates, potentially in the next few months.

Office of Policy

Hot Topics

None

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Permit Streamlining: OP staff participated in EPA's Lean Kaizen event hosted by the Office of Air and Radiation on Title V Air Permits, March 26-30 in Washington, D.C.

Main Street Now Conference: On March 28, staff from the Office of Sustainable Communities (OSC) discussed community revitalization at the Main Street Now conference in Kansas City, MO.

Number of Actions to OFR this Year:

- Signed by Regions:
  - Notices: 21
  - Proposed Rules: 54
  - Direct Final Rules: 4
  - Withdrawal of Proposed Rule: 1
  - Withdrawal of Direct Final: 3
  - Final Rules: 64
- Signed by HQ:
  - Notices: 99
  - Proposed Rules: 16
  - Withdrawal of Direct Final: 1
  - Final Rules: 37

Number of Actions to OFR this Week (Mar 23 – Mar 29):

- Signed by Regions:
  - Notices: 4
  - Proposed Rules: 5
  - Direct Final Rules: 0
  - Withdrawal of Proposed Rule: 0
  - Withdrawal of Direct Final: 0
  - Final Rules: 13
- Signed by HQ:
  - Notices: 5
  - Proposed Rules: 2
  - Withdrawal of Direct Final: 0
  - Final Rules: 0

Documents Submitted to OFR from March 20-28, 2018

FRL	Title	Date Submitted to OFR
9976-09-Region 7	Approval of Nebraska Air Quality Implementation Plans; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2010 Nirogen Dioxide and Sulfur Dioxide and the 2012 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Standards	3/28/2018
9976-30-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Interstate Transport Requirements for the 2010 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide Standard	3/28/2018
9976-31-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Maryland; Control of Emissions from Existing Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incinerator Units	3/28/2018
9976-20-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; KY: Removal of Reliance on Reformulated Gasoline in the Kentucky Portion of the Cincinnati-Hamilton Area	3/27/2018
9976-18-Region 9	Air Plan Approval; Arizona; Hayden and Miami Areas; Lead and Sulfur Dioxide Control Measures – Copper Smelters	3/27/2018
9976-17-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; Florida; Stationary Sources Emissions Monitoring	3/27/2018
9976-16-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; MS; Section 128 Board Requirements for Infrastructure SIPs	3/27/2018
9976-10-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Revisions to Volatile Organic Compound Rules	3/27/2018
9976-08-Region 9	Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District	3/27/2018
9975-66-Region 9	Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, San Diego County Air Pollution Control District	3/27/2018
9975-65-Region 9	Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Yolo-Solano Air Quality Managment District	3/27/2018
9975-99-OAR	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Wet-Formed Fiberglass Mat Production Residual Risk and Technology Review	3/27/2018
9975-91-OAR	EPA Response to the Designation Recommendation from Texas for the San Antonio Area for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards: Notice of Availability and Public Comment Period	3/27/2018
9976-07-OEI	Federal Implementation Plans under the Clean Air Act for Indian Reservations in Idaho, Oregon and Washington (Renewal)/ICR No.2020.07	3/27/2018

9975-11-OEI	Cross-Media Electronic Reporting: Authorized Program Revision Approval, State of Missouri	3/27/2018
9975-25-OAR	Issuance of Guidance "Project Emissions Accounting Under the New Source Review Preconstruction Permitting Program"	3/27/2018
9976-14-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Ohio NSR PM2.5 Precursors	3/26/2018
9975-72-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; Alabama; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference	3/26/2018
9975-79-Region 1	Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Approval of Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements and Single Source Order	3/26/2018
9976-00-OAR	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants and New Source Performance Standards: Petroleum Refinery Sector Amendments	3/23/2018
9975-63-Region 8	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Montana; Revisions to East Helena Lead SIP	3/22/2018
9975-39-Region 8	Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Colorado; Control of Emissions From Existing Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units	3/22/2018
9975-29-OCSPP	Certain New Chemicals or Significant New Uses; Statements of Findings for January 2018	3/22/2018
9974-70-OCSPP	N,N-Dimethyl 9-Decenamide; N,N-Dimethyldodecanamide; N,N-Dimethyltetradecanamide; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance	3/22/2018
9975-96-Region 9	Air Plan Revisions; Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; Navajo Nation; California; Correcting Amendments	3/22/2018
9975-82-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Reasonably Available Control Technology for Cement Kilns, Revisions to Portland Cement Manufacturing Plant and Natural Gas Compression Station Regulations, and Removal of Nitrogen Oxides Reduction and Trading Program Replaced by Other Programs and Regulations	3/22/2018
9975-93-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Redesignation of the Chicago and Granite City Areas to Attainment of the 2008 Lead Standard	3/22/2018
9975-89-OAR	Registration of Isobutanol as a Gasoline Additive: Opportunity for Public Comment	3/21/2018

9975-95-Region 4	BLACK LEAF CHEMICAL SUPERFUND SITE LOUISVILLE, JEFFERSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY	3/21/2018
9975-81-Region 9	Approval of California Air Plan Revisions; Butte County Air Quality Management District; Stationary Source Permits	3/20/2018
9975-51-Region 1	Approval of the Clean Air Act, Section 112(l), Authority for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Asbestos Management and Control; State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services	3/20/2018
9975-26-Region 6	Clean Air Act Operating Permit Program; Petitions for Objection to State Operating Permit for ExxonMobil Corporation, ExxonMobil Baytown Olefins Plant, Harris County, Texas	3/20/2018
9975-53-Region 1	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements	3/20/2018
9975-54-Region 1	2018 Spring Joint Meeting of the Ozone Transport Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Northeast Visibility Union	3/20/2018

Office of Research and Development

Hot Topics

Next week, Richard Yamada will be in Austin, TX, where he will meet with Dr. Bryan Shaw, the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality Chairman, and separately with the University of Texas Energy Institute Advisory Board. I will participate in an Environmental Health Matters Initiative meeting at the National Academy of Sciences in D.C.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Informing Fire Management in Arkansas
On March 30, ORD's Dr. Wayne Cascio is the featured speaker at the [HYPERLINK "https://www.adeq.state.ar.us/air/planning/fire-forum.aspx"] in Little Rock, by invitation of the AR Department of Environmental Quality (AR DEQ). The meeting is hosted by the AR DEQ and the AR Forestry Commission, and sponsored by the AR Environment Federation. It will focus on uses of fire as a land management tool, and its effect on air quality. In AR, the growing urban/rural interface is leading to increasing complaints about smoke from fire. Dr. Cascio's presentation will provide a general discussion of the epidemiological data supporting a link between wildfire smoke exposure and clinical health outcomes, including adverse respiratory and cardiovascular effects, and associated economic impacts. Health data are now available to provide guidance for public health practitioners and the public to take actions to decrease exposure and to aid land management decisions.

EPA's National Sustainable Design Expo (April 7-8)
The 14th Annual National Sustainable Design Expo featuring EPA's People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) student teams is coming up. More than 30 P3 university and college teams are gathering at the USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington, D.C., to showcase their innovative designs and solutions to real-world environmental and public health challenges. Projects from this year's P3 teams include innovative ideas like harnessing solar power to disinfect drinking water and using beetles as a way to degrade Styrofoam waste.

Workshop to Review and Inform the Future of Water Security, Resilience, and Response Tools
On April 9-10 in Cincinnati, EPA's Homeland Security Research Program is convening a workshop of drinking water subject matter experts to (1) review EPA's water security and resilience modeling goals, (2) provide feedback on the current status of EPA's water security and resilience tools, and (3) assist in developing a path forward strategy to improve EPA tools and increase their usage by water utilities to support their needs. The workshop will bring together experts from the water sector, academic researchers in this field, EPA research and programmatic staff, and other Federal Agencies. The workshop will provide an opportunity to share information regarding the state of the science for water system security and resilience.

Office of Water

Hot Topics

Drinking Water Mapping Application to Protect Source Waters (DWMAPS) Wins 2018 Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award: This week OW's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, along with other organizations, was selected to receive a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award at the 2018 Esri User Conference. This award is given to user sites around the world to recognize outstanding work with GIS technology. DWMAPS stood out from more than 100,000 others.

North Dakota Class VI Primacy: As early as next week, OW anticipates sending the Final Class VI Primacy Rule Package (inclusive of multiple memos, the Federal Register Notice, and the response to comments) to the Office of Policy for the Administrator to sign.

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Notice of Funding Availability: Congress appropriated $55 million for credit subsidy for WIFIA on March 23, 2018. As early as next week, OW anticipates finalizing the WIFIA Notice of Funding Availability. The purpose of the notice of funding availability is to solicit letters of interest from prospective borrowers seeking credit assistance from the EPA under WIFIA. The deadline to submit letters of interest to the EPA will be July 6, 2018. OW is working closely with the AO, OCIR and OPA on the rollout plan for this announcement.