Region 1

Hot Topics:

Coast Guard, EPA, Two States Conduct Oil Spill Drill
On March 22nd, RA Dunn attended an oil spill exercise in Portsmouth NH sponsored by the New Hampshire/Maine Area Planning Committee with the US Coast Guard (Sector Northern New England). The full- scale exercise tested response procedures identified in the ME/NH Area Contingency and Geographic Response Plans. Several Federal, state, local, emergency management, and health agencies participated including the Region 1 Emergency Response program and members of the regional Response Support Corps. RA Dunn was joined by NH DEP Commissioner Scott at the event.

Region 1 Endorses Rhode Island CERCLA Groundwater Standards, Advancing Task Force Goal
On March 19th, RA Dunn endorsed the Rhode Island Core Comprehensive State Groundwater Protection Program (CSGWPP). As EPA is committed to working cooperatively with Rhode Island in achieving its ground water remediation goals, this endorsement allows the Region to use the State's groundwater classification system for assessing beneficial reuse objectives for CERCLA remedies. This action follows, directly, the Superfund Task Force's Recommendation #6: "Provide Clarification to the Principles for Superfund Groundwater Protection."

Nationwide RCRA Federal and State Representatives Convene at Region 1
Region 1 hosted a national RCRA Authorization Training and Conference from March 20-22. Representatives from 44 states, Guam, the District of Columbia, HQ ORCR, ASTSWMO, and all ten EPA Regions were in attendance. The meeting was held for the first time in 17 years. The idea to reinvigorate the meeting evolved from a RCRA authorization Lean Event led by Regions 1 and 4.

Vermont Clean Air Act State Implementation Plan Revisions Approved
On March 19th, EPA published a final notice in the Federal Register approving revisions to the VT SIP – specifically, the state's PSD and NNSR permit programs. Full approval was granted to certain elements of the state infrastructure plan provisions, as well as several minor regulatory changes.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Region 1 and New Hampshire to Kick Off NPDES Authorization Discussions
On March 28th, RA Dunn and staff will meet with New Hampshire DES leadership to discuss the state's interest in seeking authorization to implement the NPDES program. The agencies will identify support EPA can provide to DES as it begins to prepare for the application process.

Provisional Pass for Vermont's Lake Champlain TMDL Progress
Region 1 plans to issue a report card during the week of March 26th on Vermont's progress toward meeting the Lake Champlain TMDL Phase 1 Implementation Plan milestones. With only three outstanding deliverables (of more than two dozen target actions), significant progress toward completion of those remaining items, and a track record of success over the past few years, Vermont will receive a provisional passing assessment.

Region 1 to Hold State Enforcement Coordination and Collaboration Meetings
Over the next several months, Region 1 is holding meetings with each of the six New England states to discuss shared compliance assurance work and communication protocols, and to identify opportunities for enhanced coordination and areas where we the Region 1 staff and Chelmsford, MA Regional Laboratory can provide support and assistance.

Region 2

Hot Topics:

National Security Subcommittee Hearing on Hurricane Response and Recovery: On 3/22 RA Pete Lopez testified before a hearing of the National Security Subcommittee of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee regarding hurricane response and recovery efforts in PR and the USVI. In response to a question from Rep. Gonzalez-Colon, the PR Resident Commissioner, he addressed issues regarding the landfills on the island, many of which were already at capacity, and none of which are in full compliance with environmental requirements. He noted that solid waste management in both jurisdictions is effectively at a crisis point. He described EPA's response work including managing hundreds of thousands of household hazardous waste items. He said we seek to work collaboratively with the local governments as they undertake planning for an integrated, comprehensive solid waste management strategy that includes source reduction and recycling.

Safe Drinking Water Act Consent Decree Signed with Ticonderoga, NY. On 3/15 EPA signed a consent decree with the Town of Ticonderoga, NY, resolving violations of the SDWA. We expect the decree to be lodged in court within the next two weeks. The case concerns the Town's failure to install treatment for *cryptosporidium* and to cover/treat its uncovered finished water reservoir. NY State is a co-plaintiff in the case to address longstanding violations of the Town's filtration avoidance determination, including inadequate treatment for a small portion of the water distribution system and chronic non-compliance at a Town filtration plant. The decree sets a schedule to achieve compliance; requires monitoring and notification to mitigate public health risks while the long-term actions are implemented; payment of a $50,000 penalty (shared equally by the U.S. and NY); and performance of $100,000 in two Supplemental Environmental Projects -- a notification project and a pharmaceutical disposal project. We are pleased that this small, rural community will be able to take advantage of the NY State Revolving Fund to assist it in financing its work to achieve compliance and protect public health.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

NYC Watershed Delaware County Meeting: On 3/26 RA Pete Lopez and staff will be meeting with Delaware County and the Catskill Watershed Corporation in Margaretville, NY to discuss local issues and concerns about the land acquisition program that is part of the Filtration Avoidance Determination issued by NY State to NY City with respect to the City's Catskill/Delaware water supply.

Quanta Public Sessions: On 3/28 EPA will hold two public information sessions on the Quanta Resources Superfund site in Edgewater, NJ. There has been recent media coverage and congressional interest in this site, prompted by odor complaints and concerns over health impacts. Region 2 has worked with the PRP and its contractors to implement steps to reduce odors and expand air monitoring near the site. We expect continued media and public interest in this site in the days and weeks ahead.

Hudson River Community Meeting: On 3/29 RA Pete Lopez will attend the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site Community Advisory Group meeting in Saratoga, NY. Regional Administrator Lopez will update the CAG on EPA's ongoing efforts, including review, in collaboration with New York State, of 1800 sediment samples from the Upper Hudson, development of the second five-year review report for the site and consideration of the Certification of Completion of Remedial Action.

Congressional Visit to Caribbean: Rep. McCollum will visit PR and the USVI on 3/28-29 to review hurricane response and recovery. R2 Chief of Staff Chris Lyon will be EPA's lead representative.

Region 3

Hot Topics:

Regional Administrator Holds Ag Roundtable on Lancaster County Farm
On March 12, EPA Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio and Regional Ag Advisor Kelly Shenk held an Agriculture Roundtable with 70 Pennsylvania farmers at a Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance Town Hall Meeting on Jim Hershey's farm in Elizabethtown, PA. During this hour-and-a-half dialogue, the following topics were covered: status of EPA national efforts such as the air emission reporting requirements for animal operations; the importance of further opening the lines of communication between EPA and the agricultural community and finding ways to collaborate; farmer recommendations for simplifying CAFO permit requirements to improve efficiencies in meeting water quality objectives and for requiring the same level of environmental stewardship from all farms (beyond large CAFOs); recommendation for federal and state agencies and conservation districts to coordinate efforts and consistent messages and requirements for the agricultural community; and exploring opportunities for municipalities and the agricultural community to work together to achieve their local and Chesapeake Bay water quality goals. This roundtable is one in a series of discussions hosted by EPA to discuss the Agency's priorities, further open the lines of communication, and find ways to work effectively with the agricultural community.

EPA Region III Meets with Owner and Prospective Lessee of the former Sterling Faucet Site in Reedsville, Preston County, West Virginia
On March 16, 2018, HSCD's Land Revitalization Team and ORC met by telephone with the owner and a prospective lessee of a former Sterling Faucet manufacturing facility. In 2007-08, EPA and Rockwell Automation, Inc. conducted a CERCLA removal action at this facility to address high levels of lead in soils. Until recently, the Site was on the EPA and WV DEP "workshare" list of sites to be assessed for inclusion on the NPL. WV DEP and EPA have agreed to issue a "No Further Remedial Action Planned" decision for the Site, which the owner intends to enter in WV's Voluntary Remediation Program. The focus of the meeting was to answer the owner's and lessee's questions about EPA's "comfort letter" procedures and the CERCLA Brownfields Amendments.

Restoration Advisory Board Meeting for the Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Horsham, Pennsylvania
At the March 14, 2018 Restoration Advisory Board meeting, the primary concerns expressed by residents and staff of elected officials (State Representatives O'Neill and Watson) were: 1) the lack of action to contain groundwater at the Site, coupled with the projected schedule for completing the CERCLA process (draft RI in late 2018); and, 2) the need for health studies in the area. As noted in the meeting, on-site groundwater data showed concentrations of PFOS and PFOA several orders of magnitude higher than the EPA drinking water health advisory. After the environmental restoration discussion, PADOH presented information on a grant to implement a pilot biomonitoring study using the ATSDR/CDC PFAS Exposures Assessment Technical Tools. The pilot biomonitoring could be scaled up in a future multi-site national study, pending appropriations in the National Defense Authorization Act. Some attendees expressed concern that the pilot biomonitoring study will be limited to 400 randomly selected residents near the Warminster and Willow Grove sites, compared to approximately 30,000 residents in Warminster alone.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

None

Region 4

Hot Topics:

Georgia Laboratory Certification for Radium-226
Key Message: Region 4 is working with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) to address concerns that their contract laboratory (PACE-PA) is not currently certified to meet all of their radiochemistry needs and that when a secondary analysis is required the laboratory must send the sample to another laboratory at an additional cost to GA EPD. Currently, the lab, which is located in Pennsylvania, is certified to process Radium-226 using method 930.0. If the measured concentration exceeds 5 picocuries per liter (pCi/L), then analysis by method 903.1 is required for confirmation. Based on the assessment, PACE-PA is not certified by EPA for EPA method 903.1 due to failure to meet the method requirements. We are coordinating and Region 3 on this issue.

Alabama Clean Air Act §128 SIP Requirements
Key Message: On March 12, 2018, the public comment period ended on the Alabama CAA Section 128 SIP Requirement for the Alabama state boards or agency personnel with respect to the approval of permits or enforcement orders. The Region received an adverse comment and are currently working with the Office General Counsel on a response.

Rockwell International Wheel & Trim Site (Grenada Manufacturing), Grenada, MS
Key Message: In response to a request from one of the PRPs (Meritor), EPA granted an extension of one week to the public comment period. The comment period now ends on March 26, 2018.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Decisions
None

Events
None

Region 5

Hot Topics:

Ohio EPA to Propose to Designate the Western Lake Erie Basin as Impaired for 2018
Key Message: Ohio EPA is proposing to designate the open waters of Lake Erie's Western Basin as impaired for recreation due to harmful algae and drinking water due to occurrences of microcystin.

Marathon Pipe Spill near Solitude, Indiana
Key Message: On March 20, 2018, EPA Region 5 mobilized to oversee the response to Marathon Pipe Line Co.'s large oil spill into Big Creek.

Other agencies on-scene include Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The company estimates that 1,200 barrels of low-sulfur diesel fuel were spilled and approximately 120 barrels of oil has been recovered so far. The spill did not enter the Wabash River. Solitude is a rural area with few homes, and there has been no impact to drinking water.

PFC Plume Found in Marinette and Peshtigo, Wisconsin
Key Message: Approximately 100 potentially impacted homes are being provided with bottled water due to the plume.

Tyco Fire Products' fire training school is the source of a large groundwater plume containing PFCs migrating towards Green Bay. The plume was detected underneath homes in November 2017, and Tyco has been supplying bottled water to approximately 100 homes since then. The extent of the plume is still being investigated by Tyco, with oversight and direction from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Regional Administrator Stepp to Meet with Key Stakeholders in Indiana and Illinois
Key Message: Between March 27 and 29, RA Stepp will meet with state agency counterparts, congress members' staff and energy industry groups.

Meet and greets are scheduled with Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois EPA, Indiana Department of Agriculture, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group, Indiana Coal Council, and representatives for Sen. Durbin (D-IL), and Sen. Young (R-IN). The three-day trip will end with a tour of the Continental Steel site in Kokomo, Indiana, and a meeting with Mayor Goodnight.

Region 6

Hot Topics:

Environmental Appeals Board Decision on LANL
On March 14, 2018, the Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) denied an appeal of Region 6's denial of a request to terminate NPDES permit coverage for the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, NM. The request was filed by Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety. Now that EPA received a favorable opinion, we are working to finalize the response to comments on the draft permit. We expect to finalize the permit by late April.

Texas 2015 Ozone Designations for Liberty, Waller and Rockwall Counties
In a letter dated February 28, the Governor of Texas revised its recommendation for 2015 ozone standard removing Liberty and Waller County from the nonattainment recommendation for the Houston area and removing Rockwall county from the nonattainment recommendation for the Dallas/Fort Worth Area. While initially supportive, Region 6 and HQ Office of Air are currently reviewing the details to support state's request.

Illinois River Watershed modeling, Oklahoma and Arkansas
Region 6 met with both Arkansas and Oklahoma officials to discuss next steps to address pollution in the Illinois River watershed. The states have agreed to the two models (Illinois River and Lake Tenkiller) and we are currently drafting a communication plan. The models are expected to be released in mid-April. Oklahoma Water Development Board is also expected announce its intention to revise its water quality standard to match the 0.037 mg/l phosphorus found in the agreement between the two states. Immediately following the release of the models, the Technical Workgroup will gather to review the models and offer their input to the states. The states have also agreed to sign an agreement by June to outline actions to implement the recommendations including a timeline.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

City of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Particulate Matter Exceptional Event
Region 6 approved the PM10 Exceptional Event Demonstrations packages for 5 PM10 exceedances measured at 2 ambient air monitors.

Sulfur Dioxide SIP, St Bernard Parish, Louisiana
Region 6 intends to propose approval of the attainment demonstration State Implementation Plan for sulfur dioxide by March 31 with a 30-day comment period. It will complete final action by July.

Reid Vapor Pressure fuel blending, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Region 6 will propose approval of Louisiana's RVP SIP revision on March 28. The five parish Baton Rouge area relies on low RVP gasoline in its current maintenance plan.

Ozone Exceptional Event, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Region 6 intends to approve Louisiana's exceptional event demonstration for Baton Rouge by April 12.

Region 7

Hot Topics:

West Lake Landfill (Bridgeton, MO)
Key Message: Comment period extension and site work ongoing.

- This Friday (March 23) marks the end of the initial 45-day comment period for the West Lake Landfill Proposed Plan. A request has been granted to extend the public comment period another 30 days. The comment period is expected to terminate April 23. The region received a FOIA last week requesting the comments that were in the agency's possession as of the date of the request. Approximately 1,500 comments have been submitted thus far.
- The region has been made aware that a health consultation on the Bridgeton Landfill prepared by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services is in the final stages of concurrence with a possible release date before the end of the Proposed Plan comment period.
- OECA has completed review of the draft OU-3 Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent for Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study of groundwater. The draft ASAOC and RI/FS statement of work have been provided as a courtesy to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Attorney General's Office for review.
- Coordination with the potentially responsible parties on the North Quarry Investigation is ongoing. The region is organizing a discussion with the PRP, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the MDNR to discuss scoping objectives and options.
- The last sediment sample associated with the additional characterization work for areas 1 and 2 of OU-1 was collected March 21. A split sample was collected by the PRP and EPA for laboratory analysis. This work is part of a previous effort; however, access to the area of concern was hindered due to high water levels in the general vicinity.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis Speech
Key Message: On March 23, Regional Administrator Jim Gulliford will be the guest speaker at the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis Environmental and Conservation Law Committee meeting in St. Louis, MO.

Metropolitan Sewer District Courtesy Visit
Key Message: On March 23, Regional Administrator Jim Gulliford will make a courtesy visit to MSD in St. Louis, MO to discuss the CSO and SSO consent decree.

Missouri Water Environment Association and American Water Works Association Meeting Speech
Key Message: On March 28, Regional Administrator Jim Gulliford will present a federal update on environmental issues important to Missouri's water quality at the MWEA/MO-AWWA 2018 Joint Annual Meeting. More than 800 attendees have registered for the meeting.

Trip to Washington, D.C.
Key Message: On March 29-30, Regional Administrator Jim Gulliford will travel to Washington, D.C. While there, he will attend the class of 2018 Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program graduation ceremony. RA Gulliford has several other meetings scheduled, including one with Tim Epp to discuss lead.

Region 8

Hot Topics:

LIBBY ASBESTOS SITE, Lincoln County Port Authority request for repair of erosion along Libby Creek, Libby, Montana EPA removed asbestos-contaminated material from Libby Creek in 2009 and replaced it with clean material. Subsequent to EPA's involvement, streambed erosion of the clean material has occurred. The EPA, along with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the on-site contractor (CDM) toured the site, examined the specific area in question and determined that the new rip rap was not the cause of erosion. The Lincoln County Commissioner has expressed his unhappiness with EPA's response through the local media. R8 is reaching out to the Commissioner for further conversation.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Air Enforcement Program to Issue a Stipulated Penalty Demand Letter to Calumet Montana Refining, LLC for Consent Decree Related Violations in Montana Region 8 is preparing to issue a soft demand letter for stipulated penalties (approximately $1.6 million) to Calumet Montana Refining, LLC for failure to comply with certain requirements of the CD at the Calumet Montana Refining Refinery located in Great Falls, Montana. The letter notes 19 specific items of non-compliance with the CD over the life of the CD (since 2004).

During the week of April 2 EPA will initiate Brownfields work in Butte and Anaconda The EPA and Montana DEQ are supporting local redevelopment interests by conducting environmental assessments at three Brownfield sites in the communities of Butte and Anaconda. Petroleum characterization at the former Park & Arizona Exxon site in Butte will allow for redevelopment of the $35,000,000 Praxis Center for Innovative Learning, an innovative medical training center that will bring 70 new jobs to downtown Butte. Utilizing Brownfields technical assistance and grant funding to promote reuse within larger Superfund site areas is a relatively new process in Region 8. Regional staff created a standard operating procedure to ensure brownfields resources used will address different contamination than what is being addressed through the Superfund process.

Region 9

Hot Topics:

None

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

FIFRA: we issued stop-sale order on March 20 to Decon 7, an Arizona-based company offering two unregistered pesticides for sale in Arizona, California, Connecticut, Ohio, Minnesota and Texas, and via the internet. The company provided consumers with misleading safety claims (noting the product is safe for household use, nontoxic and noncorrosive), as well as misleading efficacy claims (kills anthrax, all bacteria, viruses and fungi).

OAR AA visit: we welcome Bill Wehrum to Region 9 for meetings on Tuesday in So. California with our DRA, Deborah Jordan, and the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Bill will meet with Regional staff and managers in San Francisco on Wednesday.

Mexican Border: we participated in the binational workshop in Tijuana focusing on solid waste management and transboundary impacts, with NOAA and other U.S. and Mexican federal, state and local officials. We're working with Sarah Greenwalt and Ken Wagner on plans for their visit to the San Diego border the week of April 2.

Hawaii Infrastructure: we sent the Hawaii Dept. of Health our mutually agreed upon metrics for administering the State Revolving Fund program. If the State can demonstrate greater capability by November 30, we will withdraw our notice of non-compliance.

Rio Salado, AZ: our Water Director, Tomas Torres, will participate in the Sen. McCain-hosted event focusing on future enhancement of the Salt River corridor to the west of Phoenix.

March Air Force Base reuse: I look forward to supporting the OA event at March Air Force Base on Monday, March 26 in Riverside, CA.

EPA footprint: we combined our Los Angeles field office with the Criminal Investigation Division, creating a more open, modern, and usable space for both organizations. The shared space reduces EPA's footprint there by 9% (1,350 square feet) and saves EPA $75,000 per year in lease costs. Staff recently moved into the newly renovated space, and are pleased with the increased openness and functionality. OITA's Jane Nishida met with So. California tribes in the Los Angeles office this week.

Region 10

Hot Topics:

None

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Region 10 set to Approve Alaska's Clean Air Act Interstate Transport SIP: Region 10 is intending to approve the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's Clean Air Act State Implementation Plan for the Nitrogen Dioxide and Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The transport of pollution from Alaska to other states is not expected to be a concern, and we expect this to be a noncontroversial action. Region 10 plans to approve this SIP in early April.

Region 10 Set to Approve Alaska's Clean Air Act Regional Haze 5-Year Progress Report: Region 10 is intending to approve the state of Alaska's Regional Haze State Implementation Plan 5-Year Progress Report. On February 16, 2018, the region published a proposed approval of Alaska's plan and received numerous comments but none are considered relevant, adverse comments. Region 10 plans to approve this SIP in late March or early April.

Region 10 Administrator Attends Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (WA): On March 28th, Region 10 RA Chris Hladick will attend the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force meeting with Spokane Mayor David Condon and the District Director for U.S. Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers. The trip will also include a discussion with the Washington Department of Ecology regarding the latest on the state's permitting strategy for sources of toxics entering the Spokane River.

Salish Sea Conference: Members of Region 10's Puget Sound team will participate in the Salish Sea Conference which will be held in Seattle from April 4 – 6. The purpose of the conference is to assemble scientists, First Nations, tribal government representatives, resource managers, community and business leaders, policy makers, educators, and students to present the latest scientific research on the state of the ecosystem, and to guide future actions for protecting and restoring the Salish Sea ecosystem which includes Puget Sound. Sally Jewell, former U.S. Secretary of the Interior, will be a keynote speaker.

Office of Administration and Resources Management

Hot Topics:

EPA Delegations Reference Tool
OARM consolidated approximately 750 agency delegations into one spreadsheet to facilitate the administrator's quick access and review. The Administrator was seeking an all-encompassing list of his delegations within the Agency. A hard copy binder with all of this information exists, however there is no quick reference guide to review these quickly.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

2018 Women's History Month Event
On March 28, OARM is excited to feature speaker Iris Amdur, founding principal of GreenShape and sustainable design expert, at an event that explores the theme "Honoring Women Who Paved the Way."

Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program Graduation
On March 27 - 29, 2018, OARM will host a program, including a graduation ceremony, for the 25 members of the 2018 Senior Executive Service (SES) Candidate Development Program (CDP). EPA partnered with the U.S. Department of Interior to provide a rigorous year-long development program that included six face-to-face cohort sessions, 80 hours of executive education, mentoring, developmental assignments, coaching and developing executive development plans. The March 27-29 event will include sessions on the budget and appropriations, labor and employee relations, ethics, the lean management system, and panel discussions with agency senior leaders and CDP graduates. Henry Darwin will be the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony.

Office of Air and Radiation

Hot Topics:

- **Tracking SIP Actions:**
  - Total Number of SIPs submitted to Regions in FY 2018: 121
  - Total Number of SIP Submittals with Final Action taken by the Regions in FY 2018: 97
  - Total Number of Pending SIPs: 733

- **Upcoming Packages for the Administrator's Signature:**
  - Title V Petition Order for Yuhuang Chemical Inc.'s new methanol plant (St. James Parish, LA)
  - Air Quality Designations for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide (SO2) Primary NAAQS–Round 3 – Supplemental Amendment – Final Rule (this action updates the designation for Citrus County, FL from nonattainment to attainment based on new information provided by Governor Scott)

- **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
  - Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Supplemental Partial Waiver of 2017 Cellulosic Biofuel Standard – Proposed Rule
  - Final Guidance on Significant Impact Levels for Ozone and Fine Particles in the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permitting Program

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Repeal of the Clean Power Plan (CPP): The third and final of the listening sessions is March 27 in Gillette, Wyoming. The comment period closes April 26.

Memo on Good Neighbor SIPs for 2015 Ozone Standard: OAR intends to issue a memo to the regions to provide information for development of SIPs to address interstate transport for the 2015 ozone NAAQS (These SIPs are due in October 2018). The memo includes updated projections that the vast majority of areas will attain the 2015 standard and a list of potential flexibilities for state plan development that should facilitate approvable good neighbor SIPs.

Program and Fee Evaluation Strategy and Guidance for 40 CFR Part 70 and Updated Guidance on EPA Review of Fee Schedules for Operating Permit Programs under Title V: Soon we will be issuing both guidance documents, which were developed in response to a 2014 Office of Inspector General (OIG) report recommending enhanced oversight of state and local title V program fee practices.

Notice of Request for Approval of an Alternative Work Practice for Asbestos Cement (A/C) Pipe Replacement: We will be proposing to allow an alternative work practice for A/C pipe replacement projects. If finalized, municipalities and others can use this alternative work practice to comply with the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Asbestos.

Energy Star Partner of the Year: Soon we will be issuing a press release regarding the 2018 Energy Star Partners of the Year. This year we will be honoring 163 Energy Star partners for their outstanding contributions to public health and the environment. The awards will be presented here in Washington, DC, on April 20. Bill Wehrum and Patti Poppe, CEO of CMS Energy, will deliver keynote presentations.

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Row	Determination Type	Pending on 3/6/2018	Determinations Completed[1] as 3/6/2018	Determinations Posted on the Website as of 3/6/2018[6]
1	# of "not likely" determinations	**1**	**117[4]**	**116[4]**
2	# of §5(e) Orders signed by both EPA and the submitter	-	**342**	**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	-	**546**	**545**
9	# of LVE/LOREX exemption denials	-	**120**	**120**
10	**Total number of cases**	**444**	**1125**	-
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. DOJ is currently seeking clarification from the court regarding the date its decision becomes final and, thus, the deadline for a proposed rule. EPA intends to issue a proposed rule by March 27, 2018, unless the court informs EPA of a different deadline.

EPA Broadens Representation on Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals – On March 22nd, 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 (TSCA). These additional 11 members will supplement the 18 members appointed in January 2017.

Updating Methods for Establishing Economic Minor Use – The Office Pesticide Programs published on March 21st the Pesticide Registration Notice (PRN 2018-1) to explain that it has updated and clarified the criteria for classifying a particular pesticide use on a crop or other use (for example a public health use) as a "minor use." In some cases, this update would broaden the definition of minor use for specific pesticides, providing more opportunities for incentives to register pesticides for minor uses.

OPP to Seek Public Input on the National Marine Fisheries Services' Biological Opinion Regarding the Potential Effects of Chlorpyrifos, Malathion, and Diazinon on Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species – On March 23rd a Federal Register Notice published seeking public comment on the jeopardy findings, the Reasonable and Prudent Measures and Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives, and the national- and state-level use and usage data and information included in the Biological Opinion from the National Marine Fisheries Service on chlorpyrifos, diazinon, and malathion. EPA will forward to NMFS all public comments we receive on the Biological Opinion.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

None

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Hot Topics:

The FY 2018 Omnibus appropriations provides EPA $8.8 billion. Significant increases are provided for Superfund, the SRFs, WIFIA, and new grants under the WIINS Act (for small and disadvantaged communities, lead reduction projects, and voluntary testing of lead in schools/childcare facilities). The House passed the FY 2018 Omnibus appropriations bill today (March 22) by a vote of 256-167. The Senate is expected to take up this legislation later today. At this time, we are not sure when the Senate will vote on the bill but it could be as early as today. The current FY 2018 continuing resolution expires March 23.

OCFO is working with OCIR to prepare for the upcoming FY 2019 budget hearings. Hearing dates are not yet finalized but OCIR is working to have them all scheduled for late April. A request for additional fact sheets that might be needed to support the hearing will be issued shortly.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Once the FY 2018 is enacted into law, the agency will have 30 days to develop and submit an Operating Plan to Congress for approval, after OMB clearance. There will be policy choices involved in developing the Plan and OCFO will work with the COS, COO, Acting Deputy Administrator, and CFO on decisions. OCFO is meeting with the Acting Deputy Administrator and COO on March 23 to conduct a pre-planning brief.

OMB approved the revised EPA FY 2018-2019 Agency Priority Goal Action Plans, which are now with GSA to prepare for publication on 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:

- **Week of March 26** - OIR is working with the Washington, DC representative from Monroe County, FL and Region IV to coordinate a conference call during the week of March 26. The call will provide county participants an opportunity to learn more about funds provided to EPA and other federal agencies to assist states and communities impacted by Hurricane Irma.
- **Week of Mar 26 (tent)**– HEC majority briefing on rural drinking water system tech assistance with OW
- **Week of Mar 26 (tent.)** – Transmittal of 2015 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Needs Survey Report to Congress with OW
- **Week of Mar 26(TBD)** - Cong. Sinema (AZ) staff briefing on Urban Waters program
- **Mar 30** – Sen. McCain (AZ)/ASU officials Rio Salado Project kickoff event with R9, other Federal agencies; EPA speaker likely R9 Water Division Director
- **TBD late Mar/early Apr** – Notification of first WIFIA loan closing for King County, WA with OW
- **TBD** - Briefing for Senate Environment and Public Works Committee staff on the Office of Land and Emergency Management.

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Hot Topics:

Former Santa Clara Waste Water VP of Environmental Compliance Sentenced for Role in 2014 Blast
On March 14, 2018, former Santa Clara Waste Water Company (SCWWC) Vice President of Environmental Compliance and Facilities Operations Charles Ray Mundy was sentenced to serve two years in jail in Ventura County, California for his role in causing a 2014 explosion at SCWWC. Mundy pled guilty to a number of state felony and misdemeanor offenses. On November 18, 2014, an explosion occurred at a wastewater treatment facility owned and operated by SCWWC in Santa Paula, California. The explosion was caused by the reckless disposal of hazardous chemicals with incompatible materials in a vacuum truck. Numerous employees and first responders were injured either by the initial explosion or by inhaling toxic fumes. EPA On-Scene Coordinators were dispatched to the location to assist with the response and clean-up. In addition to his jail sentence, Mundy was ordered to pay victim restitution and will be placed on formal probation for three years.

Compliance Assurance Discussions at the ECOS Spring Meeting
On March 19 and 20, 2018, OECA DAA Patrick Traylor and other OECA senior managers attended the annual Environmental Council of States (ECOS) Spring Meeting in Saint Paul, Minnesota. On March 19, the EPA-ECOS Workgroup on Compliance Assurance, co-chaired by the OECA DAA and the Commissioner of Nebraska, met to continue their efforts to develop recommendations for enhancing how states and EPA work together to improve environmental compliance. The workgroup expects to produce a set of recommendations related to the roles of states and EPA, best practices in implementing these roles, development of the next round of EPA's national compliance and enforcement initiatives, and outcome measurement by August 2018. OECA has already used the early input from this workgroup to help develop its January 22, *2018 Interim Guidance on Enhancing Regional-State Planning and Communication on Compliance Assurance Work in Authorized States.* While in Minnesota, the OECA DAA also delivered a report on the February Oil and Gas Roundtable to the ECOS Shale Gas Caucus.

OECA AA Speaks with Environmental Attorneys on Enforcement Priorities
On March 22, 2018, OECA AA Susan Bodine spoke about EPA enforcement priorities with private sector attorneys at Crowell & Moring's Environment and Natural Resources Retreat.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

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.

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 member in-house counsel.

Office of Environmental Information

Hot Topics:

None to report

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

None to report

Office of General Counsel

Hot Topics:

- *UARG v. EPA*, No. 12-1342 (D.C. Cir.). New development: On March 20, the D.C. Circuit issued an opinion fully upholding EPA's determination that CSAPR provides for greater reasonable progress than BART and may be relied on as a BART alternative. The court found, among other things, that many of the issues raised by the Conservation Groups, had been previously addressed in their prior challenge to EPA's determination that CAIR could be relied on as a BART alternative. In addition, the court found that EPA acted reasonably in disapproving the regional haze SIPs that relied on CAIR to meet their obligations under BART.

- *Sierra Club v. EPA*, No. 16-1021 (D.C. Cir.). New development: On March 16, the D.C. Circuit issued an opinion in a case concerning a petition for review by environmental groups of the 2015 Reconsideration of the Major Boiler MACT Rule. The court upheld EPA's definition of startup period as well as the work practice standards that EPA established for startup and shutdown periods. The court remanded to EPA for further explanation the Agency's establishment of a threshold level below which numeric limits for carbon monoxide were not appropriate, as a surrogate standard for emissions standards for organic hazardous air pollutants.

- *MCRC v. EPA*, No. 2:15-cv-00093 (6th Cir.). New development: On March 20, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a district court decision finding that EPA's objections to state-issued CWA section 404 permits are not final agency actions. The Court held that neither EPA's objections to the proposed state section 404 permit at issue nor the transfer of authority over the permit to the Corps following the state's failure to address EPA's objections were final agency actions subject to judicial review under the APA. The Court also rejected plaintiffs' argument that continuing the permitting process before the Corps was futile, stating that plaintiffs did not present sufficient evidence to suggest that the Corps had predetermined not to grant the permit.

- *Southern Environmental Law Center, et al. v. EPA*, No. 3:18cv18 (W.D. Va.). New development: On March 15, SELC and the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) jointly filed a FOIA suit alleging that EPA failed to respond to six separate FOIA requests submitted by SELC and EDF. SELC's five FOIA requests seeks communications between seven named individuals at the Heartland Institute and the Administrator, Ryan Jackson, Byron Brown, Samantha Dravis, and Amanda Gunasekara, respectively. EDF's FOIA request seeks all correspondence between Heartland Institute, without identifying any individuals, and the Administrator, Ryan Jackson, Byron Brown, Samantha Dravis, Amanda Gunasekara, and about 39 other EPA employees or former EPA employees.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

4/2	Oral Argument in *NEDACAP v. EPA*, No. 16-1344 (D.C. Cir.), petition for review of the Regional Consistency Regulations
4/4	Oral argument in *City of Taunton v. EPA*, No. 16-2280 (1st Cir.), challenge to nutrient limits in Region 1 NPDES permit
4/5	Hearing on motion to transfer in *S.C. Coastal Conservation League v. EPA*, No. 2:18-cv-0330 (D.S.C.), challenge to rule adding an applicability date to 2015 Clean Water Rule

Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Hot Topics:

Summit of the Americas – The NSC convened an interagency meeting to discuss upcoming Presidential travel to Latin America, which will be discussed at a Principals Meetings next week. POTUS will attend the Summit of the Americas meeting on April 13 and 14 in Lima, Peru and then will travel to Bogota, Columbia for bilateral meetings. Under Peru's leadership, the theme for this year's Summit is anti-corruption. EPA proposed combating illegal mining and reducing mercury pollution as one of the issues under the transnational criminal sub-theme, but it did not make the final list. In Colombia, the bilateral discussion will be limited since there will be elections in May and USG will wait to discuss most issues with the new government.

China Mercury Priorities - OITA convened a meeting of EPA program offices (OAR, OLEM, OCSPP) to discuss EPA priorities on mercury with China's Ministry of Environmental Protection. China is the largest mercury emitter and has joined the Minamata Convention on Mercury. China and the U.S. have conducted several exchanges of information on mercury issues, including joint meetings, workshops, and study tours. OITA will work with the program offices to develop concrete tangible actions to discuss at the upcoming U.S.-China Joint Committee for Environmental Cooperation (JCEC) meeting.

Upcoming Events and Decisions:

United Nations Regional Meeting – The UN Regional Office of North America has requested a meeting with EPA (OITA) on March 28 to discuss the upcoming G7 Environmental Ministerial Meeting and issues raised at the UN Environment Assembly meeting last year. These issues include marine litter, food waste and loss, and lead in paint.

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.

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 the Japan. The areas of bilateral cooperation include mercury, regional air quality, resource efficiency and cleaner technology.

Office of Land and Emergency Management

Hot Topics:

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

2. **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.

3. **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.

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

5. **Ag Reporting Rule.** We are conferring with other Agency offices on next steps, in light of the pending FY 18 appropriations bill.

6. **PFOA and PFAS.**
   - **a.** The Agency announced this week the plans to develop groundwater cleanup recommendations for PFOA and PFOS. We are working with ORD and OW on this.
   - **b.** We provided comments to OCIR, on draft DOD congressional testimony.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

1. **Coal Combustion Residuals**.
   - a. The Remand Rule's public hearing is scheduled for April 24, with the public comment period ending April 30.
   - b. We are reviewing comments on the proposal to approve Oklahoma's program.
   - c. Initial reading of the pending FY 18 appropriations bill is that we are called upon to provide federal permits where needed.

2. **Emergency Response: Headquarters Senior Leader On-Boarding**. We are rescheduling yesterday's session, which was cancelled due to the weather. We are also scheduling special sessions as needed by specific offices.

3. **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.

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

Office of Policy

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Flint Resiliency Summit - On March 26, Matt Dalbey, Director of the Office of Sustainable Communities (OSC), will speak on a panel at the 2nd Annual Resiliency Summit in Flint, MI.

NSF Training - On March 27, Matt Dalbey and John Thomas will lead a training session at the National Science Foundation (NSF) Smart and Connected Cities conference in Kansas City, MO.

Number of Actions to OFR this Year:

- Signed by Regions:
  - Notices: 17
  - Proposed Rules: 49
  - Direct Final Rules: 4
  - Withdrawal of Proposed Rule: 1
  - Withdrawal of Direct Final: 3
  - Final Rules: 51
- Signed by HQ:
  - Notices: 94
  - Proposed Rules: 14
  - Withdrawal of Direct Final: 1
  - Final Rules: 37

Number of Actions to OFR this Week (Mar 16 – Mar 22):

- Signed by Regions:
  - Notices: 3
  - Proposed Rules: 6
  - Direct Final Rules: 0
  - Withdrawal of Proposed Rule: 0
  - Withdrawal of Direct Final: 0
  - Final Rules: 8
- Signed by HQ:
  - Notices: 9
  - Proposed Rules: 0
  - Withdrawal of Direct Final: 0
  - Final Rules: 1

Documents Submitted to OFR from March 15 - 19, 2018

FRL	Title	Date Submitted to OFR
9975-88-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards	3/19/2018
9975-87-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Attainment Plan for the Warren, Pennsylvania Nonattainment Area for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard	3/19/2018
9975-86-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania's Adoption of Control Techniques Guidelines for Automobile and Light-Duty Truck Assembly Coatings	3/19/2018

9975-59-OCSPP	Chlorpyrifos, Diazinon, and Malathion; National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinion Issued Under the Endangered Species Act; Notice of Availability	3/19/2018
9974-75-OCSPP	Pesticide Product Registration; Receipt of Applications for New Active Ingredients	3/19/2018
9974-74-OCSPP	Pesticide Product Registration; Receipt of Applications for New Uses	3/19/2018
9975-85-Region 3	Air Plan Approval; Delaware; State Implementation Plan for Interstate Transport for the 2008 Ozone Standard	3/19/2018
9975-28-Region 6	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Infrastructure and Interstate Transport for the 2012 Fine Particulate Matter Ambient Air Quality Standard	3/16/2018
9975-55-Region 6	Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans, Oklahoma	3/16/2018
9975-60-Region 6	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Infrastructure and Interstate Transport for the 2012 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard and Revised Statutes	3/16/2018
9975-73-OAR	MEETING OF THE MOBILE SOURCES TECHNICAL REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	3/16/2018
9975-74-Region 9	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Partial Deletion of the Pacific Coast Pipe Lines Superfund Site	3/16/2018
9975-67-OLEM	Proposed Information Collection Request; Comment Request; Implementation of the Oil Pollution Act Facility Response Plan Requirements (Renewal)	3/16/2018
9975-83-OLEM	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; RCRA Expanded Public Participation	3/16/2018
9975-80-OA	Request for Nominations of Candidates to the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC)	3/16/2018
9973-11-OCSPP	S-Metolachlor; Pesticide Tolerances	3/15/2018
9974-32-OCSPP	Flutianil; Pesticide Tolerances	3/15/2018
9974-40-OCSPP	Pesticides; Guidance for Pesticide Registrants on the Determination of Minor Use	3/15/2018
9974-63-OCSPP	Aluminum tris (O-ethylphosphonate); Pesticide Tolerance	3/15/2018
9975-71-Region 7	Approval of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri; Elements of the Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the 2008 Ozone, 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide, 2010 Sulfur Dioxide, and 2012 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality	3/15/2018
9974-61-OCSPP	LABAT-ANDERSON INCORPORATED; Transfer of Data	3/15/2018
9974-76-OCSPP	Receipt of Several Pesticide Petitions Filed for Residues of Pesticide Chemicals in or on Various Commodities	3/15/2018
9975-78-Region 7	Approval of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa; Elements of the Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2010	3/15/2018

	Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)	

Office of Research and Development

On March 27 and 28, Richard Yamada will attend the 27th Annual Sustainability & EHS Symposium in Cincinnati. ORD is also scheduled to have our monthly business review next week.

Hot Topics:

Health Effects of PFAS
On March 27, ORD will meet with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, NIH, CDC, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to discuss the potential health effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This meeting is following up on an October 11th meeting, and will allow for each group to provide updates on the projects they are working on that will fill knowledge gaps on these compounds.

EcoService Models Library goes Live
ORD's EcoService Models Library (ESML) is now available. This online database allows users to find, examine, and compare ecological models that can be used to estimate the production of ecosystem goods and services. People depend on many goods and services provided by ecosystems, such as lumber from forests, water quality and flood controls from wetlands, food from agricultural systems, and recreation from urban green spaces. While ecological models are useful in helping us understand the processes ecosystems use to provide those and many other goods and services, this information tends to be scattered among sources such as academic journals, websites, and government reports and, therefore, might not be readily available to inform decision makers. The ESML helps solve this problem by bringing together detailed descriptions for over 150 ecological models. The site is designed to help analysts and model users compare ecological models. This will help decision makers decide which ecological models they should use to understand how their decisions will impact ecosystem goods and services.

Upcoming Major Decisions and events:

IRIS Public Science Meeting
Today the IRIS Program is holding a Public Science Webinar on the IRIS Assessment Plan (IAP) for Uranium which is currently undergoing public comment. Information on the meeting can be found at: https://www.epa.gov/iris/iris-public-science-meeting-mar-2018.

IRIS SAB Meeting
On March 22nd and 27th, two public teleconferences of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee Augmented for the Review of EPA's draft ETBE and tBA Assessments will be held to review the draft SAB peer review report entitled, "SAB Review of EPA's Draft Toxicological Review of tert-Butyl Alcohol (tert-Butanol)." The draft ETBE/tBA report and meeting agenda have been published on the SAB website.
https://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/a84bfee16cc358ad85256ccd006b0b4b/46495425f4649f7e85258227003ec276!OpenDocument&Date=2018-03-22.

Office of Water

Hot Topics:

Report to Congress on the Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment: Today, OW provided to OP for approval, the 2015 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment: Sixth Report to Congress (Assessment). The Assessment identifies $472 billion in needs nationwide to maintain and improve drinking water infrastructure through 2034. The needs include more than two million miles of pipes and thousands of treatment plants, storage tanks and other key assets. The Assessment is based on a statistical survey of over 2,500 public water systems.

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Notice of Funding Availability: As early as next week, OW anticipates finalizing the WIFIA Notice of Funding Availability, should Congress appropriate funds. 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.

Steam Electric Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Litigation: Next week, OGC and OW anticipate releasing the next set of documents responsive to the Waterkeeper II Steam Electric FOIA. The EPA is under court order to produce all responsive records to the requestor by May 31, with interim releases required each month.

Puerto Rico State Revolving Fund (SRF) Debt Restructuring and Supplemental Funding: Last week, the EPA convened a meeting with all the principals related to Puerto Rico SRF debt restructuring and supplemental funding, including the Department of Treasury, the Office of Management and Budget, USDA, EPA Region 2, the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA), and Commonwealth Representative and advisors. The meeting was informative and several decision points are likely to arise over the next several months. Related to the supplemental funding, the EPA is awaiting assurances that federal resources will only be spent on construction projects.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

The Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities (CIFA) 2018 Federal Policy Conference: Next week, Peter Grevatt will speak at CIFA's 2018 Federal Policy Conference and will address the priority for infrastructure investment through WIFIA and the Drinking Water SRF programs. Peter will also highlight the results of the latest Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment.