CONFIDENTIAL

WEEKLY HOT TOPICS REPORT for RA/DRA Region 8
Week ending November 2, 2018

OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION AND REMEDIATION

No report

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT, COMPLIANCE & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

HOT ISSUES AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

ECEJ is Issuing a Notice of Violation for Overdue Annual Monitoring Report Submission under the Safe Drinking Water Act to Newfield Production Co. (Company) for an Injection Well Located on the Uintah & Ouray Indian Reservation

Key Message: Safe Drinking Water Act Enforcement Unit plans to issue the Notice of Violation (NOV) the week of October 29, 2018, due to overdue annual monitoring reports.

- On October 29, 2018, the EPA determined via a file review that the Company operating the Pariette Bench well failed to submit a required annual monitoring report spanning the period 2015-2017.
- The EPA permit for this well requires the annual submission of a monitoring report including observed values of injected volume and wellhead pressures, and a chemical analysis of the injected fluid.
- The EPA is issuing an NOV to notify the Company of the overdue monitoring reports and to remind the Company of the reporting requirement.
- EPA is issuing this NOV because EPA has direct implementation authority for this well.
- Technical Contact: Nathan Wiser, 312-6211; Management Contact: Tiffany Cantor, 312-6521

ECEJ Issued a Letter Notifying BP America Production Company of a Loss of Mechanical Integrity Under the Safe Drinking Water Act at a Class II Injection Well Located in Colorado on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

Key Message: Safe Drinking Water Act Enforcement Unit issued the letter on October 22, 2018, identifying the loss of mechanical integrity, but without naming it as a violation because the UIC permit does not require the well to maintain mechanical integrity.

- On October 18, 2018, the EPA received a failed mechanical integrity test from the Company, conducted on October 17, 2018.
- The EPA issued this letter to inform the Company it must stop use of the well.
- The Company's 1989 UIC permit and other Class II UIC permits issued in this same timeframe omit the regulatory requirement to maintain mechanical integrity.
- ECEJ has brought this issue to the attention of OWP.
- EPA is issuing the letter because EPA has direct implementation authority for this well.
- Technical Contact: Nathan Wiser, 312-6211; Management Contact: Tiffany Cantor, 312-6521

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LAST WEEK

NPDES Enforcement Sent a Warning Letter to the Chippewa Cree Tribal Utility Director for Sewage Overflowing from Septic Tanks onto a Coulee in Sangrey, Montana on the Rocky Boy's Reservation

Key Message: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Enforcement sent a warning letter on October 23, 2018 to the Chippewa Cree Tribal Utility Director and Tribal Chairman regarding a sewage overflow at the Sangrey Wastewater Treatment Facility.

- On September 25, 2018, NPDES enforcement conducted an inspection of the Sangrey Wastewater Treatment Facility.
- The facility's lagoons had been abandoned in 2016 due to a leaking berm. Tribal officials plan to consolidate wastewater treatment by piping wastewater from the fourteen nearby homes to the Multi-Community Wastewater Treatment Facility. As an interim plan, the wastewater is being sent to two septic tanks and a leach field until the project to pipe the wastewater to the Multi-Community Wastewater Treatment Facility is complete.
- During the inspection, inspectors observed wastewater and solids from the septic tanks flowing overland down a hill into a coulee, which is a tributary of Boxelder Creek. The inspectors were unable to confirm the coulee reached Boxelder Creek during the inspection. NPDES Enforcement is working to confirm that the coulee reaches a Water of the U.S. There are no downstream drinking water intakes.
- Inspectors discussed the importance of stopping the discharge of untreated wastewater with the wastewater operator at the end of the inspection on September 25, 2018, and with the Utilities Director during a phone call on October 2, 2018. The utilities director indicated there is no timeline to complete that piping project due to competing priorities.
- Technical Contact: Mike Boeglin, 312-3250; Management Contact: Stephanie DeJong, 312-6362

OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

OFFICE OF TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

No report

OFFICE OF WATER PROTECTION

HOT ISSUES AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES

New Publication on PFAS occurrence in drinking water just published

Key message: Dr. Bob Benson is one of nine EPA and two USGS co-authors on a collaborative study examining PFAS in source and treated drinking water from 25 drinking water treatment plants (DWTPs).

- Samples were collected from 2010-2012. The frequencies of detections and the maximum detections were previously published in Glassmeyer et al 2017. This paper now goes into a detailed discussion on the per- and polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) detections at each DWTP.
- Highlights from the paper:
  - Seventeen per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were monitored.
  - Twenty-five paired source and treated drinking waters were sampled.
  - All 50 samples had detectable PFAS; one exceeded health advisory guidelines.
  - Distinctive PFAS patterns were observed for two large river systems.
  - Minimal removal of PFAS occurred during drinking water treatment.
- Other EPA authors are from OCSPP, ORD, and OW.

- The paper went through peer review per EPA's policies.
- Contact: Bob Benson, 312-7070

Region 8 CWA Section 404 team meeting with Army Corps of Engineers (Corps)
Key Message: The Region 8 404 team will meet with three Districts of the Corps (Omaha, Sacramento, and Albuquerque) for a regular coordination meeting on November 6, 2018.

- Topics on the agenda include: stream quantification tool, status of 401 certification for water supply projects in Colorado, update on waters of the US rulemaking, mitigation for nationwide permits, EPA attendance at pre-application meetings throughout the Districts, and status of field level agreements for enforcement.
- The regulatory chiefs from Omaha and Albuquerque will attend in person and the Sacramento regulatory chief will be on the phone. They will be accompanied by managers and staff in person or on the phone from the Districts' state offices.
- Contact: Karen Hamilton, 312 6236

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