Region 1

Hot Topics

EPA and DOJ File Judicial Settlement Involving Stavis Seafoods, Inc.
On October 23, Region 1 and DOJ filed a civil judicial settlement in Federal District Court involving Stavis Seafoods, Inc. The Stipulation of Settlement resolves claims that Stavis violated chemical accident prevention provisions of Section 112(r)(1) of the Clean Air Act, chemical release notification requirements under CERCLA Section 103, and chemical inventory reporting requirements under EPCRA Section 312 at its seafood processing and distribution facility in Boston, Massachusetts. A March 2016 release of anhydrous ammonia from the facility's refrigeration system resulted in the death of an employee, street shutdowns, and a neighborhood shelter-in-place order. The Stipulation requires payment of a $700,000 monetary penalty.

Region 1 Holds Sustainable Materials Management Training
This week Region 1 trained 25 participants of the Northern Vermont Food Recovery and Donation Summit, Greensboro, VT on overcoming barriers to food recovery and donation. The summit was sponsored by the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association and hosted by state and local government officials, not-for-profit organizations, local businesses and institutions, and farms. Additionally, over 80 participants of the Maine Resource Recovery Association's Fall Workshop were trained on EPA's Waste Reduction Model. The model compares waste management scenarios; for example, landfilling versus recycling and the associated greenhouse gas emission savings. The model generated discussion illustrating challenges in continuing recycling programs in the current challenging market conditions.

Region 1 Provides Infrastructure Support for The Eagle Mills Brownfields Site
The Town of Lee, Massachusetts was awarded a $4.9 million MassWorks grant to upgrade two miles of undersized water lines. This infrastructure improvement promises to be the last remaining obstacle to redeveloping the Eagle Mill site. The Town has been focusing on revitalization and redevelopment of its downtown for many years, utilizing both a brownfields Area Wide Planning Grant and Assessment Grant. The anchor site for the Town's revitalization has been the Eagle Mill, a proposed 70-million-dollar mixed use development potentially creating 200 full time jobs, 80 mixed income rental housing units, as well as retail and office space.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

RA Dunn to Attend Tribal Leaders Summit
On Tue Oct 30, RA Dunn, as well as Regional office directors, will attend the Fall 2018 EPA-Tribal Leaders Summit hosted by the Passamaquoddy Tribe – Indian Township in Jackman, Maine. This Summit will include discussions about tribal sovereignty, trust responsibility and EPA's government-to-government relationship with New England tribes. Tribal leaders will be provided the opportunity to discuss environmental issues, tribal priorities and common goals.

Regional Response Team to Hold Cross-Regional Planning Meeting
Regions 1 and 2 to hold joint meeting October 30-November 1, in Burlington, Vermont. Team members from USCG, EPA, FBI, NOAA and eight states (ME, NH, VT, MA. RI, CT, NY and NJ) will hold a cross-regional spill planning meeting. Topics include: storage, use, and effects of Fire Fighting Foam, Fentanyl Drug Response, ESF 10 Hurricane activation, and updates from the USCG Research & Development Center.

Region 2

Hot Topics

Tonawanda Coke, NY: On 10/20, facility closure operations (coke oven gas sphere purging and flaring) were completed. Air monitoring continued for a 24-hour cycle after flaring ended. No exceedances above background have been observed in the 6 air monitoring stations, or in any of the confirmatory laboratory samples. The air monitoring network has been shut down until it is needed when intrusive activities start onsite. We also took wastewater samples on 10/22-23, which are currently being analyzed. EPA will now be carrying out a thorough environmental assessment of the facility. We have reason to believe that addressing environmental concerns may be costly.
Chemours/Deepwater, NJ: The results from the sampling for GenX of the Penns Grove public water system have been received. All samples (production wells and post-GAC system samples) were non-detect at the reporting limit of 4 ppt.

Meeting with Mayor of Newark, NJ: On 10/23 RA Pete Lopez and staff met with Mayor Baraka, his Chief Sustainability Officer, and his Policy Advisor. The city officials provided information about a range of sustainability initiatives the City is undertaking including waste minimization, green infrastructure for stormwater management, expanding open space, and promoting human health with a focus on children's health. The RA and Mayor discussed the recent discovery of elevated levels of lead in drinking water in some Newark residences, due to corrosion control techniques that are no longer effective, and the city's distribution of filters to thousands of residents. The Mayor and RA agreed that in the near future a further meeting, to include NJDEP, would be convened to address short- and long-term priorities to ensure the system's operation can remain fully protective of public health.

Engagement with NYSDEC on Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site: On 10/24 RA Pete Lopez sent to NYSDEC Commissioner Seggos Region 2's draft Technical Memorandum with extensive and detailed discussion and interpretation of Upper Hudson River sediment data collected by GE in 2016 and by NYSDEC in 2017. We expect to schedule a follow-up meeting with NYSDEC leadership and technical staff in November for an in-depth discussion about the data and the draft memo. We will also be prepared to speak with NYSDEC about a path forward for finalizing the second Five Year Review report, and the Certification of Completion of Remedial Action requested by GE under the Consent Decree.

Ringwood Mines Superfund Site Engagement: On 10/23 Pete Lopez and staff visited the Ringwood Mines, NJ, site for a meeting with members of the Community Advisory Group, representatives of the municipal government, state officials including NJDEP Commissioner Catherine McCabe, leaders of the Ramapo-Lenape Indian Tribe, and other stakeholders. Deep concerns were expressed by many of those present about the remedy selected for the site, in particular the capping remedy for the O'Connor Disposal Area portion of the site. Capping was selected once Ringwood Borough (which owns the property) decided to build its municipal recycling center there. Had the site remained as open space, EPA was prepared to require excavation of the Disposal Area, which many stakeholders preferred.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Meeting with St. Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) & NYSDEC. On 10/29 RA Pete Lopez and staff will meet with leaders of the SRMT and senior staff of NYSDEC to discuss their concerns about habitat restoration plans for the Grass River Superfund Site.

Meeting with NYDEC. On 10/30 RA Pete Lopez and staff will meet with NYSDEC Commissioner Basil Seggos and staff to discuss a range of issues, including early engagement on EPA's NPM guidance development process.

Region 3

Hot Topics

Eleven County Full Exercise in the Shenandoah Valley SubArea
EPA will conduct a Full-Scale Exercise with 11 West Virginia and Maryland Counties on October 26th and 27th. The Exercise scenario focuses on severe weather events overwhelming the Counties with flooding, strong winds, torrential downpours, and tornado activities that result in hazmat releases, power outages, communication issues, and emergency operation center activations. The overall objectives for the Exercise will include Hazmat response, Emergency Operation Center activations, health and safety, inter-intra Agency communications, law enforcement capabilities, and public health agency involvement. Up to 200 participants representing multiple state and local Agencies are expected to participate in the Exercise.

New Training Class to Fayette County, PA Responders
Due to recent exposures to synthetic drugs in prisons, Fayette County Hazardous Materials Team (Team 900) requested that EPA provide training for responding to such incidents. EPA Region 3 reached out to the Region 3 Homeland Security Director, as well as EPAHQ CMAD for assistance and held the training on October 13 and 14. Rather than develop a course specifically on the illegal substances, the 2-day course that focused on the HazMat Teams' approach to such incidents. Using the valuable information provided by EPA resources, EPA presented training on team protection, identification tools for unknown substances, decontamination, and evidence collection. The first day included skill stations and Day 2 had a full-scale exercise that simulated a release of a synthetic cannabinoid at a prison. The class received positive feedback and was attended by approximately 25 volunteer responders.

Reuse Visioning Session Takes Place for Hidden Lane Landfill NPL Site, Sterling, Virginia
Region 3 and the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative (SRI) held a community visioning session on October 23, 2018, in Sterling, Virginia, to develop an initial set of possible reuse scenarios for the Hidden Lane Landfill NPL Site. This visioning session is the initial step in the development of a community devised reuse plan for the Site that will explore a number of reuse options such as residential, renewable energy, and recreation and conservation. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Loudoun County officials, and local citizen stakeholders, are championing this visioning process. EPA has stressed throughout this process that any reuse plan that emerges from the visioning process will be driven by community input and the protection of any future environmental remedy for the Site.

Regional Economic Diversification Summit, Weirton, WV
On October 29th and 30th, Region 3 will participate in a Regional Economic Diversification Summit hosted by the City of Weirton, the Brooke Hancock and Jefferson Counties Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Business Development Corporation and the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). EDA convenes these community level summits to bring together federal agencies with state, local and private sector partners to identify how to leverage resources for key economic development projects. The Weirton summit will focus on three areas: 1) a new vision for economy, infrastructure and community; 2) transportation and regional connectivity; and 3) workforce development. EPA was invited to participate in the Summit to discuss programs that support community revitalization with a focus on brownfields revitalization. EPA, along with other federal agencies such as ARC, FEMA, ACOE, and DOL will participate in roundtable discussions with City

leaders, state agencies and local private and public institutions exploring how to leverage resources and develop actionable outcomes.

Region 4

Hot Topics

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Federal Facility Disputes
Key Message: Region 4 continued to move forward with addressing DOE disputes related to the Paducah (Kentucky) and Oak Ridge Reservation (Tennessee) facilities. Specifically, the Region, in coordination with the Tennessee Department of Environmental and Conservation, calculated and shared effluent limits with DOE Oakridge management for discharged water containing radionuclides. Regarding the Paducah DOE facility, Region 4 provided DOE and the Kentucky Department of Environmental Quality detailed comments on the C-400 building removal notification Memorandum of Agreement. During the week of October 29th, Region 4 will have detailed discussions with the relevant parties to move towards resolution of the disputes.

Hurricane Michael
Key Message: Region 4 continues to support Bay County, FL under an ESF-3 Mission Assignment, with drinking water sampling. Detailed information is included in the Situation Reports.

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Key Message: As a result of the October 24th meeting, Region 4 is working on several follow-up questions related to discharges into the Everglades Protection Area.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- Georgia Compliance Meeting – On October 29th, Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn will hold compliance meetings with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. Atlanta, GA. Closed Press.

- Power Generation Conference – On October 29th, Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn will provide remarks at the 18th Annual Power Plant Management and Generation Summit. Atlanta, GA. Open Press.

- Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Conference – On October 30th, Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn will provide keynote remarks at the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry's 36th Annual Environment and Energy Awards Conference. Burns, TN. Open Press.

- South Carolina Compliance Meeting – On October 31st, Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn will hold compliance meetings with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Columbia, SC. Closed Press.

- Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Meeting – On November 1st, Region 4 Administrator Trey Glenn will provide an EPA Update to the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation's Washington D.C. to the Farm Meeting. The Mississippi Congressional Delegation and Mayor Phil Bryant are expected to attend and speak. Jackson, MS. Open Press.

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Region 5

Hot Topics

Lake County, Ill., Ethylene Oxide Emissions in the News

Key Message: The Chicago Tribune is expected to publish an article about two ethylene-oxide-emitting facilities in Lake County, Ill. The facilities are within a few miles of each other. One of the facilities was not included in NATA, but had reported EtO emissions in TRI. The reporter is expected to make the claim that together these facilities are causing elevated risk levels similar to that caused by Sterigenics in Willowbrook, Ill. R5 worked with OCIR and OAQPS to notify the cities of Gurnee and Waukegan, Reps. Hultgren and Schneider and both Illinois Senators were notified of the issue and the pending newspaper article. OAQPS was the primary spokesperson for these calls.

Sterigenics Legislative Hearing in Chicago on Oct. 26

Key Message: The Illinois House Environmental Energy Committee is having a hearing in Chicago on Oct. 26 to discuss the Sterigenics facility in Willowbrook. EPA has declined the invitation to testify at the hearing, but will continue to work with the legislature to ensure we are responsive to their requests in addressing this issue.

This spring, Region 5 monitoring detected elevated levels of ethylene oxide near the Sterigenics facility in the community. A report published by ATSDR shows an elevated cancer risk exists for residents and off-site workers, assuming chronic exposure. Region 5 is working with Illinois EPA and Sterigenics to reduce emissions of ethylene oxide from the company's facility. In July, the company installed additional pollution controls to capture ethylene oxide emissions. The Region continues to work cooperatively with the Illinois EPA, local officials and the company.

McLouth Steel Land Legal Agreement Approved by EPA, MDEQ and DOJ

Key Message: EPA, MDEQ and DOJ approved a legal agreement involving the purchase, assessment, and cleanup of property on the southern portion of the former McLouth Steel Superfund Site in Riverview and Trenton, Mich. This federal-state agreement with Crown Enterprises Inc. and MSC Land Co. LLC fosters redevelopment by providing clarity about the companies' cleanup responsibilities.

USS Lead Zone 1 Proposed Cleanup Plan to be Released Week of Oct. 29

Key Message: EPA will announce the proposed cleanup plan for zone 1 of the USS Lead Superfund site in East Chicago, Ind., as early as next week. EPA anticipates a high level of interest from local stakeholders. There will be a 60-day public comment period and a public hearing on Nov. 29. The proposed plan will clean up soils in zone 1 to residential standards, and is protective of human health and the environment.

Whiting Metals Website to be Published and Next Steps

Key Message: Region 5 expects to publish the Whiting Metals website as early as next week. EPA's XACT monitor has begun collecting data and initial results indicate the company may be the source of the elevated lead levels previously detected. EPA and IDEM are coordinating on what next steps are appropriate to address the emissions.

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EPA has been working with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to assess lead concentrations in the air in Whiting. After using computer modeling to better characterize air quality near the Whiting Metals facility, EPA coordinated with IDEM to start collecting filter-based air samples every third day in August. After analyzing August's air monitoring filters for lead concentrations, IDEM notified EPA of several high 24-hour average concentrations and requested that Region 5 deploy our continuous metals air monitoring equipment. The average lead concentration of these first samples was three times EPA's NAAQS standard. EPA's XACT ambient air monitor provides additional data – including meteorological data – with more frequent time intervals to ascertain any nearby sources of lead emissions. The monitor has been installed near Whiting Metals and the Federated Metals Corp. Superfund site. EPA will continue to work with IDEM to measure lead levels and take any steps needed to protect public health and the environment.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Region 5, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and Indiana Industry Meeting in Chicago on Oct. 30:

Key Message: Region 5 and IDEM are meeting with 50+ industry representatives to discuss current environmental issues in Indiana. RA Cathy Stepp and IDEM Commissioner Bruno Pigott are scheduled to speak at the meeting.

Region 6

Hot Topics

Denka, LaPlace, Louisiana
Denka's response deadline to EPA/DOJ settlement offer is Friday October 26. EPA's next steps includes (1) scheduling a joint walk-through with the state; (2) evaluating whether the company's response to our demand will eliminate the need for us to install monitors; and (3) deploying the monitors either with the acquiescence of the company or under a Section 114. Region 6 will continue the existing community air monitoring program until March 2019 to complete one full year of data collection, and then adjust the air monitoring frequency from 3 day to 6 day sample times.

Craft-Turney Water Supply Corporation, Jacksonville, Texas
The do not use order was lifted on Oct. 19, 2018, for the remaining area (original 11 connections) served by the Craft-Turney Water Supply Corp. based on sample results from additional samples collected from the limited area of the system on October 16th.

TXI Industries, Ellis County, Texas
By November 9, EPA proposes converting our earlier conditional approval to full approval of revisions to the Texas SIP addressing NOx Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) for the TXI Operations, LP cement manufacturing plant in Ellis County, Texas.

Eagle Picher Superfund Site, Henryetta, Oklahoma
On October 26, RA Idsal will attend the East Central Oklahoma Family Health Center's grand opening event of its newly constructed rural health clinic, located on a portion of the former Eagle Picher Henryetta Site. During the grand opening event, EPA and ODEQ will present East Central Oklahoma Family Health Center and the City of Henryetta with Excellence in Site Reuse awards.
Elected officials engagement: Mayor Jennifer Munholland, State Senator Roger Thompson, Oklahoma State Representative Steve Kouplen and Jeff Underwood from Senator James Lankford's office. ODEQ Executive Director Steve Thompson will also be in attendance.

New Mexico Wastewater Treatment Plant, Sunland Park and Santa Teresa, New Mexico
On October 31, 2018, RA Idsal will participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in Sunland Park and Santa Teresa, New Mexico. Camino Real Regional Utility Authority (CRRUA) secured $9 million in EPA's Border Environment Infrastructure Funds (BEIF) to address existing wastewater treatment needs. This plant will provide sustainable wastewater treatment services to over 6,400 residents and will greatly reduce the risks of untreated or inadequately treated wastewater discharges which will improve the quality of effluent discharges to the Rio Grande.
Elected officials engagement: Senator Tom Udall confirmed, representative from Congressman Steve Pearce's office. Senator Martin Heinrich has been invited.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Exceptional Events Mitigation Plan, Dona Ana and Luna Counties, New Mexico
On October 25, EPA accepted as being complete NMED's Exceptional Event Mitigation Plan for PM10 High Wind Dust Events in Dona Ana and Luna Counties, New Mexico.

Pueblo of Zia, New Mexico

By October 31, EPA anticipates approval of the Pueblo of Zia's Clean Air Act Treatment in the Same Manner as a State (TAS) application.

SO2 Redesignation Request, Independence County, Arkansas
By November 2, EPA intends to propose action on a May 11, 2018 request from Governor Hutchinson of Arkansas for redesignation of Independence County from unclassifiable to unclassifiable/attainment based on new modeling. This is expected to be the first such action in the country.

Arkansas Regional Haze Phase II SIP Revision, Arkansas
November 9, EPA intends to propose action on ADEQ's Regional Haze Phase II SIP revision that addresses SO2 and PM BART requirements for EGUs and to withdraw the FIP requirements for those sources. Sierra Club is challenging the state's submission of the final SIP to EPA because of the lack of legislative review and approval.

TXI Industries, Ellis County, Texas
By November 9, EPA intends to propose converting our earlier conditional approval to full approval of revisions to the Texas SIP addressing NOx Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) for the TXI Operations, LP cement manufacturing plant in Ellis County, Texas. TCEQ adopted this SIP revision on August 21, 2018.

October 26	Eagle Picher Rural Health Clinic Grand Opening, Henryetta, Oklahoma
October 30	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Annual Meeting, Ft. Worth, Texas
October 31	Sunland Park WWTP Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Sunland Park, New Mexico
November 5	Associated General Contractors of Texas Luncheon, Austin, Texas
November 6	Texas Rural Water Association Meeting, Dallas, Texas

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Region 7

Hot Topics

Lewis & Clark Wood Treater Site Removal Action (West Alton, Missouri)

Key Message: EPA Region 7 and Headquarters approved a removal action at the Lewis and Clark Wood Treater Site that includes removal of dioxin contaminated soil.

- On October 12, EPA Headquarters concurred on a removal action at the Lewis and Clark Wood Treater Site. Because the response addresses dioxin contamination, the action presented a nationally significant or precedent-setting issue, which required Headquarters concurrence.
- The primary objectives of the proposed action will include the removal and proper disposal of drums and tanks containing hazardous substances, and removal of soil contaminated with dioxins and/or pentachlorophenol. There is an estimated 2,000 gallons of waste material and 1,200 cubic yards of contaminated soil that will be addressed.

West Lake Landfill Site Update (Bridgeton, Missouri)

Key Message: EPA Region 7 continues to move forward with work at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site

- This week the region held its regular bi-weekly conference call with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. The call focused on updates regarding on-going work by each of the parties. Last week, the region confirmed with the MDNR that they would like to be a party to any OU1 Consent Decree.
- The region continues to work on drafting a Scope of Work for the OU1 and OU2 Remedial Designs with the goal of having final Scopes of Work by the end of November. Potential contracting mechanisms are also being explored in the event the EPA needs to move forward on the Remedial Design.
- On August 31, the MDNR issued a draft Clean Air Act Title V Permit for review and comment by the public. On September 21, MDHSS issued a draft health consultation on Bridgeton Landfill. The public comment period for both of those documents ends on November 20. The MDHSS and the MDNR are exploring the possibility of holding a joint public meeting but have not yet finalized a date or location.

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Region 8

Hot Topics

Captain Jack Mill Superfund Site: mine discharge impacts to Left Hand Creek
On October 22, 2018, an incident regarding a fish kill in Left Hand Creek in Boulder County, CO was reported to Region 8 response. The incident location was less than 1 mile downstream of the Captain Jack Mill Superfund site. On October 23, EPA and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment concluded that the fish kill was caused by insufficient neutralization from the Captain Jack Mill in-tunnel treatment system. The flow through valve on the bulkhead has been closed while a neutralization processes is implemented in the settling ponds.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

None

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Region 9

Hot Topics

Super Typhoon Yutu: As of Friday, Oct. 26, the No. Mariana Islands experienced the most power tropical cyclone of 2018 in the world, with sustained winds exceeding 185 mph driving widespread devastation: power is out, cell towers are down, impacts to water systems are unknown, and the airport is badly damaged. On Saipan, FEMA is focused on life-saving, and the hospital emergency room has been overwhelmed, hoping to receive a Disaster Medical Assistance Team of 25 doctors via rotary wing aircraft. Fuel availability is unknown. The USCG has a C130 en route to complete an initial pollution survey with 3-4 hours of fuel available. We await FEMA updates and ESF10 assignments following the President's Emergency Declaration. RA Mike Stoker reached out to his CNMI and Guam colleagues to express support.

Chevron Consent Decree: EPA and DOJ announced lodging of this CAA consent decree, covering five refinery facilities across three EPA Regions (three facilities in R9). Chevron will spend $150 mil. to make safety and process improvements at its domestic refineries, pay $2.95 mil. in penalties, and implement $10 mil. in Supplemental Environmental Projects near their California, Hawaii, Mississippi and Utah facilities. This case grew from R9's investigation into a 2012 fire at the San Francisco Bay Area (Richmond) refinery, which endangered 18 employees and caused 15,000 local residents to seek medical care. The announcement received much positive media coverage.

CAA Mobile Sources: we referred to OECA/DOJ another CAA mobile source enforcement case. Austin TX-based Cobb Tuning Products makes and sells aftermarket tuners that allow end-user to bypass or defeat emission controls. Cobb's parent company is seeking to resolve this matter quickly to facilitate its sale of Cobb. According to our case, Cobb sold over 55,000 such devices between 2015 and 2017. Region 9 continues to focus on mobile-source enforcement as a key to addressing air quality improvement in the Pacific Southwest.

ELMS: Henry Darwin, Kevin DeBell, and Serena McIlwain trained the Senior Management Team, all R9 managers, and 20 staff. Participants then joined Serena for a Gemba Walk of several visual management tools. We received much positive feedback from staff, who are excited to participate as ELMS expands throughout Regional operations.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Tribal Conference: RA Mike Stoker and OITA AA Chad McIntosh will welcome over 400 tribal partners to our annual tribal conference in San Francisco, cosponsored by the San Pasqual Bank of Mission Indians. On Monday, Oct. 29, the Regional Tribal Operations Committee will conduct its quarterly meeting, followed by three full days of annual conference meetings (Oct. 30 – Nov. 1). CalEPA Secretary Matt Rodriquez and Nevada DEP Administrator Greg Lovato will address what are always well-attended state-specific tribal sessions. RA Stoker will present the Gila River Tribe with TAS approval of its CWA water-quality standards program.

Schoolyard SEP: on Thursday Nov. 1, RA Mike Stoker will host a media event highlighting another successful air filters for classrooms Supplemental Environmental Project. The SEP results from an administrative settlement in our CA Truck and Bus Rule enforcement, a partnership of EPA Region 9 and the CA Air Resources Board, to ensure fleets of heavy-duty trucks operating on California

highways meet engine and emission requirements. The RA will be joined by the Los Angeles Unified School District Administrator, as well as State and local co-regulators.

Region 10

Hot Topics

Columbia River Temperature TMDL Litigation Update: On October 17th, the Court for the Western District of Washington found in favor of the plaintiff in this case, Columbia Riverkeeper, and ordered EPA to act on - either approve or disapprove - Oregon and Washington's "constructive submission" of a temperature TMDL for the mainstem of the Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers. If EPA disapproves, the agency must issue a TMDL within 30 days of disapproval. In its decision, the court noted that it did not see how EPA could approve the states' constructive submission TMDL and be consistent with the CWA.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events:

Region 10 News Release Tribal Water Quality Grants: On October 31st, Region 10 will announce grants totaling nearly $500,000 to five tribes for projects that restore and protect tribal water quality across three Northwest states. Grant funds have been awarded to the Colville, Nez Perce, Nooksack, Quinault and Umatilla tribes, through EPA's Clean Water Act (section 319) Nonpoint Source Program. Oregon DEQ hosts public hearing on EPA's rules: On October 23rd, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality hosted a public hearing for Oregonians to comment on the EPA's Safer Affordable Fuel Efficient Vehicles Rule and the Affordable Clean Energy Rule. ODEQ will submit the comments to the EPA's docket for these rulemakings.

Region 10 Discusses Assumption of Clean Water Action Section 404 With Oregon: On November 6th, staff from the Oregon Department of Justice and the Oregon Department of State Lands will meet EPA staff to discuss the state's interest in assuming the CWA Section 404 program. The meeting will include discussion of the requirements and schedule for Oregon to assume the program. ODSL is also drafting legislation for Oregon's 2019 legislation session specific to its interest in assuming the CWA Section 404 program.

Region 10 Issues Public Notice of Water MS4 Stormwater Permit for North Idaho Highway Districts: In late October, Region 10 will issue a public notice and start a public comment period for the draft stormwater permit for municipal storm drain systems near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The permit addresses one of the pending applications that is part of the Agency's permit backlog initiative (East Side Highway District MS4).

Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group: On October 30th, Region 10 and the Lower Columbia River Estuary program are hosting a one-day working meeting in The Dalles, Oregon to renew partner engagement and collaboration around the development and implementation of a basin-wide Columbia River restoration program.

Office of Administration and Resources Management

Hot Topics

Employee Viewpoint Survey - The Office of Personnel Management released an embargoed copy of the 2018 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey Governmentwide Management Report on October 24, 2018. The GMR provides comparisons of federal agencies by size and highlights notable achievements. The report will be released to the public on October 25, 2018.

Executive Order 13526 Reporting -Donna J. Vizian, the Senior Agency Official for the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Classified National Security Information program, submitted the FY2018 self-inspection report as requested in a May 21, 2018 memorandum. The annual report includes a description of the agency's self-inspection program and a summary of information gathered during the self-inspection process. This report is required by Executive Order 13526, "Classified National Security Information" and is sent to the Director of the Information Security Oversight Office, National Archives and Records Administration.

Remedial Acquisition Framework -On October 24, 2018, the kick-off meeting for the Environmental Services and Operations (ESO) suite of Remedial Acquisition Framework contracts was held in Region 3. The meeting was an opportunity for the successful ESO vendors to meet with the contracting officer, contracting officer's representative and other agency end users and managers. The ESO suite of contracts is a small business set-aside with an estimated value of $850 million over 10 years.

Diversity and Inclusion -OARM, in partnership with the Office of Civil Rights, is implementing a pilot (run through April 2019) designed to increase the hiring of persons with disabilities. During the pilot, announcements will be placed on USAJobs.gov designed to attract persons with disabilities to positions open in the agency. At the end of the pilot, OARM and OCR will analyze the pilot's effectiveness.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

None at this time.

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Office of Air and Radiation

Hot Topics

- **Tracking SIP Actions:**
  - Total Number of SIPs submitted to Regions in FY 2019: 17
  - Total Number of SIP Submittals with Final Action taken by the Regions in FY 2019: 3
  - Total Number of Pending SIPs: 744

- **Packages that will move soon to Signature:**
  - Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Nonattainment New Source Review (NNSR): Project Aggregation Reconsideration (Final Rule)
  - Revisions to Testing Regulations for Air Emission Sources (Final Rule)
  - Revision to the Regulatory Definition of Volatile Organic Compounds – Exclusion of HFO-1336mzz-Z (Final Rule)
  - Implementation of the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone: Nonattainment Area State Implementation Plan Requirements (Final Rule)

- **Packages at (or soon to be at) OMB for Review:**
  - Standards of Performances for New Residential Wood Heaters, New Residential Hydronic Heaters and Forced Air Furnaces (Proposed Rule)
  - Standards of Performances for New Residential Wood Heaters, New Residential Hydronic Heaters and Forced Air Furnaces (ANPRM)
  - Review of Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Generating Units (Proposed Rule)
  - National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units -- Reconsideration of Supplemental Finding and Residual Risk and Technology Review (Proposed Rule)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- Week of October 29: OAR staff will be travelling to Geneva, Switzerland to participate in the World Health Organization's First Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health.

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Row	Determination Type	Pending on 10/23/2018	Determinations Completed[1] as 10/23/2018	Determinations Posted on the Website as of 10/23/2018[6]
1	# of "not likely" determinations	**0**	**167[4]**	**163[4]**
2	# of §5(e) or §5(f) Orders signed by both EPA and the submitter	-	**442**	**435**
3	# of §5(e) or §5(f) Orders signed by EPA and awaiting submitter signature	**26**	-	-
4	# of non-Order SNURs/"not likely" determinations	**0**	**0**	**0**
5	# of cases in post-FOCUS final determination development[5]	**380[3, 5]**	-	**0**
6	# of cases flagged for in-depth review	**48**	-	-
7	# of PMNs, SNUNs and MCANs awaiting FOCUS (within 90-day review)	**112**	-	-
8	# of LVE/LOREX exemption grants	-	**726**	**700**
9	# of LVE/LOREX exemption denials	-	**128**	**121**
10	**Total number of cases**	**566**	**1463**	-
11	Normal active workload for the New Chemicals Program	300	-	-
12	Number of cases undergoing testing or data development by submitter	72[3]	-	-
13	**Backlog[2]***	194	-	-

[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 58 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

Dicamba Announcement: OPP is preparing to announce the Agency's decision on the requests by BASF and Bayer CropScience to extend their conditional registrations for pesticide products containing the herbicide dicamba for "over-the-top" use on cotton and soybeans. The Press Office plans to send out a press release on October 31st.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee Meeting and Biotechnology Seminar - On October 31st, OPP will host a Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) Meeting at EPA Potomac Yards. Discussion topics include Pesticide Registration Improvement Act Updates, Smart Label Project/e-CSF, Emerging Application Technologies, Benefits of Biological Products, Integrated Mosquito Management Training, and 21st Century Toxicology. On November 1st, OPP will hold a Biotechnology Seminar.

Chemical Watch - On October 31st, Jeff Morris, Director of OPPT, will participate in Chemicals Watch's sixth annual 2018 USA Regulatory Summit in Arlington, Virginia. The Regulatory Summit focuses on the latest developments in state, federal, and global chemical legislation. Jeff will be part of a panel that is addressing amended TSCA implementation

Workshop on Pesticide Maximum Residue Levels and Dietary Risk Assessment - On November 7-8th, OPP's Dr. Michael Doherty will provide training and guidance on pesticide residue chemistry and dietary risk assessment to members of the Brazilian government responsible for pesticide evaluation and registration. The training will focus on the approaches used by the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues. The workshop is intended to help the Brazilian government as they develop pesticide review processes, with an eye towards harmonized regulatory levels and trade facilitation.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Hot Topics

- OCFO is working to prepare the FY 2018 Agency Financial Report, which summarizes EPA's financial results and includes a required message and statement of assurance from the Acting Administrator, the agency's audited financial statements, and the OIG's audit report. The AFR is due to the President, OMB Director, Congress and the public [HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://13"] annually. OCFO will be sending to OEX the Acting Administrator's statement of assurance for his approval to submit to OMB for review and clearance to include in the AFR. To meet the deadline, OCFO requests formal approval via OEX no later than October 31. Once OMB approves, OCFO will resubmit this and the Acting Administrator's message for his signature. OCFO is preparing to submit to OEX soon the FY 2018 Management Representation Letter(s), which is the final AFR-related document that requires the Acting Administrator's signature. The MRL(s) are required by the OIG to release its audit of the financial statements for inclusion in the AFR.
- OCFO issued guidance to the agency's Assistant Regional Administrators, Senior Budget Officers, and Regional Comptrollers regarding the FY 2019 Continuing Resolution. During a CR, headquarters and regional programs should bear in mind that final funding levels may significantly differ from CR levels. Programs should not implement new programs, initiatives, or activities and avoid high spending rates that could impinge on final decisions. Potentially eliminated programs should not take any actions that could be construed to signal elimination.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- AO/OCI and OCFO are meeting with the ADA/COO October 26 to finalize materials for the November 1 Quarterly Performance Review with the Acting Administrator on FY 2018 end-of-year results.

Other

- OCFO and OARM will issue a joint memorandum soon regarding roll-out of the new SmartPay 3 travel, purchase, and fleet credit cards. The General Services Administration and CitiBank have begun issuing new cards to existing cardholders. Current cards are valid through November 29. New cards will be activated on November 30. Current cards should be retained and used as new cards will not be available for use until November 30.
- OCFO received most of the multi-year planning justification templates that were due to OCFO on October 19 and is preparing analysis and materials for senior management review. OCFO has submitted a meeting request to brief the COO on the responses received and discuss next steps to prepare the materials for the Executive Management Council session on this topic on November 14.

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Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Hot Topics

None at this time.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- **Oct 30** – Sen. Duckworth (IL) staff briefing on TCE w/OCSPP (Sven)
- **Oct 31** - Science Advisory Board (SAB) workgroup requested additional information on the Spring 2018 semi-annual regulatory agenda and will hold a non-public fact-finding call, to review responses and meet with EPA subject matter experts on the planned actions
- **October TBD** – Cong. Costa, Denham, and McClintock visit re: CA Bay-Delta plan
- **Nov 1** (tent.) – Senate EPW & approps briefing on WIIN drinking-water grants w/OW, OCFO
- **Nov 7-11** - The Annual National League of Cities Summit will be held in Los Angeles, CA

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Hot Topics

District Court Enters Settlement to Resolve Clean Water Act Violations - On October 18, 2018, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio entered a Consent Decree between EPA, DOJ, Richard Osborne, Sr., and Great Plains LLC to resolve Clean Water Act violations for discharging dredged or fill material into jurisdictional wetlands without a Section 404 permit at a rock-crushing facility on a 73-acre parcel of land in Painesville, Lake County Ohio. As injunctive relief to mitigate the harm caused by the loss of filled wetlands, the settlement requires Osborne to cause title to a Preservation Area (consisting of approximately 11 acres of undisturbed wetlands elsewhere on the Site) be transferred to the Lake County Land Reutilization Corp. The Preservation Area will be preserved via a conservation easement with the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The settlement also requires that Great Plains deposit $20,000 with the Clerk of the District Court who will disburse the funds for the purpose of funding the SWCD's conservation of the Preservation Area in perpetuity. Defendants Osborne and Great Plains are currently in bankruptcy proceedings and, and such, the consent decree does not require payment of a civil penalty.

Former Missouri Utility Official Pleaded Guilty for Making False Statements About the Lead Reduction System for Drinking Water - On October 23, 2018, Dale Johansen, a former Missouri utility official whose company oversaw the drinking and wastewater services for a small vacation community in Potosi, Missouri pleaded guilty in the Eastern District of Missouri to charges related to his operation of those utilities. Since 1994, drinking water in Rogue Creek had been treated after high levels of lead were detected in the water supply. A routine inspection of Rogue Creek drinking water in March 2016 revealed that the lead reduction system was not operational. Johansen admitted making a false statement to investigators in March 2016 that the lead reduction system had only been offline for six to eight weeks when in truth it had been offline for nearly six months.

Compliance Assistance on Common RCRA Non-Compliance Issues at Federally-Owed Medical Facilities - On October 24, 2018, in coordination with FedCenter, an EPA-sponsored web-based compliance assistance forum, OECA's federal facilities enforcement office hosted a compliance assistance webinar on the top common RCRA non-compliance issues at federally-owned medical facilities. This webinar was in response to several enforcement actions at medical facilities in FY 2018, and the goal was to help federal agencies that own or operate medical facilities or hospitals better understand their responsibilities under RCRA. Over 300 people from federal agencies, states, and federal contractors joined the webinar to hear EPA RCRA experts and inspectors discuss the most common RCRA violations identified during EPA inspections around the nation.

NPDES E-Permit Pilot with Rhode Island -OECA is collaborating with Rhode Island to develop a state Multi-Sector General permit prototype. This supports the NPDES e-rule e-permitting implementation for general NPDES permits. The partnership will provide valuable insights for supporting the other 16 states that are relying on EPA to develop their state general permits. Additionally, the work with Rhode Island will establish electronic shared services that can be continually shared with other states and for federal and state permit development.

Office of Environmental Information

Hot Topics

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Activates Information Technology (IT) Support for Hurricane Michael

- **Brief description:** The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) [HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response/emergency-operations-center"] provided IT support to emergency management support teams for Hurricane Michael.
- **Who benefits or cares:** Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM); Region 4; Navy Watch Officers; U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS); other federal agencies.
- **Why this is important:** The EOC serves as EPA's emergency response communication and coordination hub designed to increase data management and coordination capabilities.
- **Additional information:**
  - Contacts: Mahmoud Salmani, Office of Information Technology Operations (OITO), OEI, (202) 564-1382; Tim Thorpe, OITO, EPA, (919) 541-0613.

EPA Develops Hurricane Florence Response Story Map

- **Brief description:** EPA developed a [HYPERLINK "https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=521e43133d824299b68db56507aba40"] that walks the public through EPA's Hurricane Florence response efforts, describing both pre- and post-landfall activities.
- **Who benefits or cares:** The public; OLEM; Region 4; states, tribes and local governments; federal partners.
- **Why this is important:** The story map informs the public of EPA's actions and on-going response efforts.
- **Additional information:**
  - Contact: Jonathan Pettit, EPA Geospatial Program, OEI, (202) 566-1208.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report at this time.

Office of General Counsel

Hot Topics

- ***Clean Water Action v. EPA* (5th Cir.), No. 18-60619. New Decision -** On October 18, the Fifth Circuit granted EPA's motion to dismiss as moot environmental groups' challenge to EPA's stay of portions of the 2015 steam electric Effluent Limitations Guideline (ELG) rule pursuant to APA Section 705 ("705 Stay"). The decision was handed down in a per curium order stating that the Court lacked jurisdiction, and it follows a decision by the District Court for the District of Columbia dismissing environmental group-plaintiffs' complaint challenging the 705 Stay as moot in light of EPA's Postponement Rule, which withdrew the 705 Stay and delayed through regulatory amendment certain compliance dates in the 2015 steam electric ELG rule.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

State of Maine v. Wheeler, No. 1:14-cv-00264-JDL (D. Me.) (challenge to EPA's 2015 Designated Use and Human Health Criteria decisions) Hearing: October 30 on EPA's Motion for Remand/Stay and Penobscot Counterclaim Motion.

Valero Energy Corporation v. EPA, No. 18-1028 (D.C. Cir.) (petition for review of EPA's final action entitled Periodic Reviews for the Renewable Fuel Standard Program (82 Fed. Reg. 58,364 (Dec. 12, 2017)) Oral Argument: November

Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Hot Topics

U.S.- Israel Joint Economic and Development Group Meeting - EPA participated for the first time in the U.S. -Israel Joint Economic and Development Group (JEDG) meeting, the primary annual meeting on non-security bilateral cooperation between the U.S. and Israeli Governments. Treasury Secretary Mnuchin headed the U.S. delegation and opened the bilateral meeting. Environmental cooperation was one of the featured topics and EPA and the Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection (MOEP) highlighted five areas of cooperation - remediation of contaminated sites; emergency response; innovative water technologies, cyber security of water infrastructure; and eliminating lead in paint. The EPA-MOEP MOU signed by Acting Administrator Wheeler and Israeli Ambassador Dermer in Washington last week was officially exchanged at the JEDG meeting in Jerusalem.

WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health – EPA will lead the U.S. delegation to the first World Health Organization (WHO) Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, which will be held next week at the WHO Headquarters in Geneva. The United Nations recently adopted a declaration in support of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target to cut by one-third the number of non-communicable disease (NCD) deaths globally by 2030. The U.S. successfully advocated for the incorporation of air pollution as the fifth main NCD risk factor (other risk factors are unhealthy diet, tobacco use, alcohol consumption, and physical inactivity), making the case that this global health target cannot be met without addressing air pollution. EPA has been asked to present the U.S. experience in addressing air pollution both domestically and internationally at the high level meeting of the first WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health.

Upcoming Major Decisions/Engagements

Region 9 Tribal/EPA Conference - OITA will be participating in the Annual Region 9 Tribal/EPA Conference on October 29-31 in San Francisco, and Chad McIntosh, Senior Counsel and OITA AA Nominee, will be providing opening remarks, attending breakout sessions, and meeting with tribal environmental leaders.

APEC Marine Litter Stakeholder Meeting – OITA will be attending the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting on October 31-November 3 in Bali, Indonesia, and presenting EPA's International Trash Free Waters Initiative as a model for Southeast Asia at the stakeholder meeting on marine litter.

Office of Land and Emergency Management

Hot Topics

Hurricane Michael, Super Typhoon Yutu.

Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR). See below.

Clean Air Act 112(r) Risk Management Program (RMP) Reconsideration NPRM.

Ongoing major Superfund NPL sites. We are working with OGC, OECA, and Region 8 regarding our views on a Supreme Court cert petition affecting Superfund sites in Montana.

CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance (next three sectors).

PFAS - We are developing the PFOA and PFOS contaminated groundwater guidance. OLEM is working with the AO, OGC, OECA, OW, OAR, and OCSPP to look at available statutory mechanisms for PFOA and PFOS to be "hazardous substances" under CERCLA.

e-Manifest. See below.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

e-Manifest. On November 1, the first round of e-Manifest data will be released, covering the submissions from June 30 – July 31. After the initial release, new data will be released to the web pages on a weekly basis and flat files on a monthly basis.

Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO). OLEM is participating in the ASTSWMO annual meeting on October 25-26 in Bethesda. Thank you to Henry Darwin for speaking at today's plenary session.

EPCRA Reporting Requirements Interpretation relating to Air Releases of Hazardous Substances from Animal Waste at Farms NPRM.

Hazardous Waste Pharmaceuticals Final Rule. OMB concluded its review. We anticipate the rule package going to OP soon.

Recalled Airbag Interim Final Rule. OMB concluded its review, and we anticipate the rule package going to OP next week.

Coal Combustion Residuals - We are working with OGC to evaluate the Aug 21 court order to determine next steps. CCR Remand Phase 2 Proposed rule. We anticipate the package going to OMB soon for interagency review.

a. Georgia, Kansas, and Alabama have submitted CCR permit program applications.

Office of Policy

Upcoming Major Decisions or Events

Changes to EPA's Environmental Review Rating Process – On October 22, OP Associate Administrator Brittany Bolen signed a memorandum discontinuing the practice, created in 1984, of assigning ratings for draft Environmental Impact Statements. Consistent with EO 13807, this action is a step towards improving the effectiveness and efficiency of EPA's environmental reviews.

Active Interagency Reviews from OMB	
Subject	**OMB Due Date**
CEQ: Implementing Instructions for Executive Order 13834: Efficient Federal Operations	10/30/2018
DOD/ACE: Natural Disaster Procedures: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Activities of the Corps of Engineers	11/13/2018

Documents Submitted to OFR from October 18-24, 2018		
FRL	**Title**	**Date Submitted to OFR**
9984-14-OCSPP	40 CFR part 770 – Technical Issues – Formaldehyde Emission Standards for Composite Wood Products	10/24/2018
9984-38-OAR	40 CFR part 60 – Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Consideration	10/24/2018
9985-03-OEI	Requirements and Exemptions for Specific RCRA Wastes (Renewal)/ICR no. 1597.13	10/24/2018
9985-04-OEI	Hazardous Waste Generator Standards (Renewal)/ICR 0820.14	10/24/2018
9985-55-OCSPP	40 CFR parts 9 and 721 – Significant Use New Rules on Certain Chemical Substances: Withdrawal (FY17-3)	10/24/2018
9985-56-OCSPP	40 CFR parts 9 and 721 – Significant Use New Rules on Certain Chemical Substances: Withdrawal (FY17-4)	10/24/2018
9985-66-OEI	Information Collection Request Submitted to OMB for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Chemical Data Reporting under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA section 8(a))/EPA ICR 1884.10	10/24/2018
9985-79-OAR	Revision of 40 CFR part 192 – Health and Environmental Protection Standards for Uranium and Thorium Mill Tailings and Uranium in Situ Leaching Processing Facilities	10/24/2018
9985-80-OLEM	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection: Comment Request; Standardized Permit for RCRA Hazardous Waste Management Facilities (Renewal)	10/24/2018

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9985-81-OLEM	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection: Comment Request; Identification of Non-Hazardous Secondary Materials That Are Solid Waste (Renewal)	10/24/2018
9985-82-OLEM	Thirty-fourth Update of the Federal Agency Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket	10/24/2018
9985-87-Region	40 CFR part 52 – Approval of Source-Specific Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Jersey	10/24/2018
9985-89-OA	Meetings of the Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS) and the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)	10/24/2018
9985-93-Region4	40 CFR part 271 – Mississippi: Proposed Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions	10/24/2018
9983-97-OEI	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submitted to OMB for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Pesticide Program Public Sector Collections (FIFRA Sections 18 & 24(c)) (Renewal)	10/23/2018
9985-78-Region 10	40 CFR parts 49 and 52 - Indian Country: Air Quality Planning and Management; Federal Implementation Plan for the Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation, Washington; Redesignation to a PSD Class I Area	10/23/2018
9985-84-Region 9	40 CFR part 52 - Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Nevada; Rescission of Regional Haze Federal Implementation Plan for the Reid Gardner Generating Station	10/23/2018
9985-46-Region 7	Notice of Approval of the Primacy Application for National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for the State of Nebraska	10/22/2018
9985-85-Region 5	40 CFR part 52 - Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Ohio Permit Rules Revisions	10/22/2018
9974-83-Region 4	40 CFR part 52 - Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference	10/19/2018
9985-30-Region 5	40 CFR part 52 - Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; VOC Definition Update and Removal of Obsolete Gasoline Vapor Recovery Regulations	10/19/2018
9985-73-Region 4	Armstrong World Industries Site, OU2, Macon, Macon-Bibb County, Georgia	10/19/2018
9985-74-Region 4	Macon Naval Ordnance Plant Superfund Site, Macon, Macon-Bibb County, Georgia	10/19/2018
9985-76-OAR	40 CFR part 80 - Approval of Louisiana's Request to Relax the Federal Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) Gasoline Standard for the Baton Rouge Area	10/19/2018
9977-66-OEI	Agency Information Collection Activities; Request to Renew OMB Control No. 2070-0151 (EPA ICR No. 1710.08); Submitted to OMB for Review and Approval; Comment Request	10/18/2018

9985-64-ORD	Webinar Workshop to Review Initial Draft Materials for the Ozone Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) for Health and Welfare Effects	10/18/2018
9985-68-ORD	Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter (External Review Draft)	10/18/2018

Office of Research and Development

Next week we're implementing an employee's good idea and convening a Harvest Fest to show our appreciation for our ORD employees in DC. Fall-themed treats will be served and costumes are welcome.

Hot Topics

Draft PM ISA transmitted to CASAC and Publicly Posted - The draft Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter (PM ISA) was transmitted to the Designated Federal Officer of the Science Advisory Board's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) for external peer-review. The official Charge to CASAC, including questions for CASAC to consider in their review of the PM ISA, will follow. The FRN was posted on October 23rd, 2018.

ORD to brief HHS on Salisbury UK nerve agent response - HHS's Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Robert Kadlec, has requested a briefing on Nov. 1 by ORD on our observations of the UK's response to the nerve agent attack in Salisbury, UK. Russian double agent Sergi Skripal and his daughter were poisoned by military grade nerve agent, novichok, in Salisbury, UK in March 2018. Although it is believed that only a small amount of the nerve agent was placed on Skripals' front door, the agent was spread to several other locations across the town by the Skripals and subsequently by the emergency response personnel. Once the agent was confirmed to be novichok, the UK Department of the Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) began immediately assessing the need to decontaminate suspected areas. DEFRA invited ORD researchers to observe on-going response and remediation activities.

SBIR Company Wins State Award - EPA SBIR Phase II company, Precision Combustion, Inc. (PCI) was recognized by Marcum Tech Top 40 as Connecticut's Fastest Growing Company in the Energy, Environment & Green Technology category. PCI is a clean energy technology company developing and manufacturing catalytic [HYPERLINK "https://precision-combustion.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f564c3ce54a887790114a591e&id=d633feaa9e&e=79d79b0619"] for energy sector applications. PCI's rapid growth has been driven by innovations in multiple fields, including [HYPERLINK "https://precision-combustion.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f564c3ce54a887790114a591e&id=31482847ae&e=79d79b0619"] and [HYPERLINK "https://precision-combustion.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f564c3ce54a887790114a591e&id=fcfeb8877c&e=79d79b0619"], [HYPERLINK "https://precision-combustion.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f564c3ce54a887790114a591e&id=1639d92d6b&e=79d79b0619"], high performance [HYPERLINK "https://precision-combustion.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f564c3ce54a887790114a591e&id=be3542437c&e=79d79b0619"] and [HYPERLINK "https://precision-combustion.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f564c3ce54a887790114a591e&id=8bd569c7fa&e=79d79b0619"], new materials and specialty chemical reactor systems. The Marcum Tech Top 40 recognizes the 40 fastest growing technology companies in Connecticut based on revenue growth over the past four years, and selects overall winners in six categories. EPA's SBIR Program supports small businesses to develop and commercialize novel environmental technologies.

Discussions with water technology company related to PFAS treatment, October 19 - ORD participated in a call with representatives from [HYPERLINK "http://www.evoqua.com/en"] to discuss collaboration opportunities on treatment systems for PFAS. Evoqua is interested in engaging with EPA to share drinking water treatment data, test air emissions at sites where their treatment systems are operating, and evaluate the efficiencies and releases from their granular activated carbon reactivation efforts.

Technical assistance to Idaho Department of Environmental Quality on lead and water quality - On October 22, ORD participated in a call with representatives from Idaho DEQ to address technical questions regarding public water systems using sodium hypochlorite, chemical impacts to water quality related to lead release, and potential impacts associated with the Lead and Copper Rule.

Oil Expert Supports EPA and the U.S. Department of Justice on Active Litigation - On Oct. 22 ORD provided expert testimony for the U.S. Department of Justice on behalf of EPA in a significant oil spill trial, US v. HVI Cat Canyon. ORD's testimony on the ecotoxicological impacts from crude oil and produced water at four oil spills near Santa Maria, California, was based on four years of study, several field visits, and a deposition based on an expert report. Region 9 sent a note of appreciation to ORD, noting that the preparation and presentation of a conceptual model diagram of the pathways for ecologic impacts was particularly useful.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Ozone ISA Workshop - October 29th – November 5th, ORD will host the "Workshop to Review Initial Draft Materials for the Ozone Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) for Health and Welfare Effects" to solicit input from subject matter experts on early draft materials of the Ozone ISA prior to public release of the draft document. The workshop is organized into four teleconferences: Ecology and Climate (October 29, 2018), Epidemiology/Exposure science (October 31, 2018), Toxicology and Controlled Human Exposure (November 1, 2018) and Atmospheric Science (November 5, 2018). The workshop is open to the public and registration is found here: [HYPERLINK "https://epa-naaqs-isa-ozone.eventbrite.com"].

Office of Water

Hot Topics

State Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) Deployed for State Testing: This week, OW started state user testing for the next phase of SDWIS Prime, the modernized drinking water database used by nearly every state to manage their Public Water Supply Supervision program and report compliance and other data under the Safe Drinking Water Act. OW collaborated with a subset of states to develop the features of this release. The user testing will allow all states to explore the new features of SDWIS Prime as well as prepare for their transition to the full version of Prime, expected in 2019. SDWIS Prime provides a new, web-friendly interface that will improve state compliance determinations and help target assistance to water systems. Additionally, the modernized SDWIS, along with the previously developed electronic reporting system, will save states hundreds of thousands of dollars in implementation costs and staff hours.

CWA Section 404(g) Regulatory Revision Efforts: This week, OW invited environmental commissioners to a December 5 face-to-face meeting to seek their input in the upcoming regulatory revisions.

National Estuary Program Competitive Grant Solicitation: Next week, OW anticipates announcing a Request for Applications (RFA) in response to Public Law 114-162, reauthorizing the National Estuary Program. Section 320 of the Clean Water Act was amended to include a competitive process to support projects that address urgent and challenging issues that threaten the ecological and economic well-being of coastal and estuarine areas. Funding for this grant is approximately $4 million depending on Agency funding levels and other applicable considerations.

OW Senior Leadership Retreat: Next week, the senior leadership in OW will meet to discuss priorities and organizational and performance management.

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