Region 1

Hot Topics

Region 1 Kicks Off Lead Geographic Initiative
On February 6, R1 staff facilitated the region's FY 2020 Lead Geographic Initiative Kick-off Meeting with Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) in Hartford. Since 2014, R1 has engaged in an annual lead geographic initiative to provide targeted outreach, compliance assistance, and enforcement activities on TSCA lead regulations. The goal of each initiative is to increase public awareness and compliance with the Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) Rule and Lead Disclosure Rule to reduce exposure to lead-based paint hazards.

EPA Settles CAA Administrative Penalty Case
On January 30, R1 and the Boro Sand and Stone Corp. (Boro) settled an administrative penalty case for alleged violations of Clean Air Act (CAA) regulations that occurred at Boro's concrete, washed stone, and sand production facility in North Attleboro, MA. EPA alleged that two of the facility's diesel-powered rock crushers were operating in violation of federal CAA regulations. After receiving an EPA notice of the violations, Boro stopped using the diesel generators and arranged for a new utility line to supply electric power instead. Boro has agreed to pay a total penalty of $90,300.

Region 1 Continues Progress on Issuance of NPDES Permits
On January 30, a final NPDES permit was issued to Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in Plymouth, MA. This permit replaces the permit that expired in 1996 and regulates certain discharges associated with plant decommissioning. On February 5, R1 held a public hearing on the draft permit for the Powder Mill State Fish Hatchery in New Durham, NH. The fish hatchery discharges fish culture water and treated hatchery effluent. The draft permit sets total phosphorous limits designed to protect designated uses of downstream receiving water.

Region 1 Collaborates with ORD on Wood Smoke Research
On February 3 and 4, R1 met with staff from ORD to discuss the development and application of sensors, particularly for measuring concentrations of woodsmoke. Woodsmoke is a consistent problem in many New England valleys due to residential wood burning in the cold winter months. R1 is partnering with ORD and Vermont in a Regional Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (RESES) project using sensors loaned from ORD to assess woodsmoke impacts in Montpelier, VT.

Children's Museum and Theatre of Maine Press Conference
On February 3, R1 was recognized as one of the top financial supporters of a brand-new home for the Children's Museum and Theatre of Maine on Thompson's Point in Portland, ME. Over $750,000 of EPA brownfield assessment, cleanup, and RLF subgrant funding has been committed to the site to date.

Region 1 Provides Support to EJ Community for Asthma Outreach
On February 6, R1 staff met with the Centro de Apoyo Familiar (CAF) organization that is working to provide training, in Spanish, on asthma triggers in homes in Lawrence, MA. CAF is a grant recipient under R1's signature Healthy Communities Grant Program.

Region 1 Provides Assistance in Opportunity Zones
On February 4, R1 held a scoping call with OCIR to support the second round of pilots for their new Opportunity Zone (OZ) Technical Assistance (TA) projects. In R1, they would like to provide some assistance to Belfast, ME, to help with their OZ revitalization efforts. On February 7, R1 joined Groundwork Providence and the Children's Friends organization for a graduation of Dads in a Providence Opportunity Zone. The Dads completed a job training program consisting of HAZWOPER, Lead RRP, stormwater management, and wastewater treatment trainings, in addition to field-based projects such as installation of green infrastructure bioswales. Children's Friend is the oldest child welfare organization in the country and serves over 1,000 families.

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Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.

Region 2

Hot Topics

Puerto Rico Earthquake Response
Puerto Rico continues to experience numerous quakes, typically 15-25 per day. On February 4, there was a magnitude 5.3 quake. We completed the first round of on-site hazardous substance and oil assessments, but additional quakes (including multiple smaller ones) require repeated reassessments. EPA also started on-site inspections of non-PRASA water systems to assess for infrastructure damage. Two Clean Air Act No Action Assurances were provided to PREPA on January 31. Additional requests from PREPA are being evaluated. On January 31, R2 staff discussed with FEMA finalization of an Interagency Agreement to provide Puerto Rico DNER with disaster relief funding to conduct a waste characterization study, materials market analysis, and develop an integrated solid waste management plan. FEMA provided a proposed agreement that R2 is now reviewing.

Higgins Farm
EPA has been asked to facilitate construction of a road on the Higgins Farm Superfund Site, in proximity to the groundwater treatment plant. The road is needed to access an adjacent property needed for a major gas pipeline project. R2 met on January 30 with the PRPs (who are conducting the site cleanup) and the pipeline developer's consultant's staff to confirm that the proposed work can be performed without impeding Superfund work. The meeting was productive, and agreement was reached on major issues. R2 has also confirmed with the developer that it will need to work with the property owner (the Higgins family) to gain access to the site.

Peconic Bay Scallop Die-Off
The Peconic Bay Scallop Technical Advisory Committee met on January 31 to discuss possible causes of the major die-off of adult Bay scallops in 2019. Causative factors being considered include: higher than normal temperatures, spawning stress, low dissolved oxygen, and predation by cow nose rays. At the meeting the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation announced it had detected a new potential factor - a coccidian parasite in the kidneys of all the scallops, both juvenile and adult. The parasite may have previously been present in the area, but stressful conditions allowed it to proliferate. The Committee is reviewing the new information and is identifying research and monitoring needs on all potential causative factors.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

TRI Announcement Event
On February 11, R2 will hold an event at the TDK-Lambda (electronic equipment and suppliers) facility in Tinton Falls, NJ. The facility has made significant changes to reduce emissions subject to TRI reporting.

Ringwood Mines Superfund Site Groundwater OU Proposed Plan
On February10, R2 will hold a public meeting to discuss the proposed groundwater cleanup plan for this site. The site is controversial, and the meeting is likely to generate media attention. On February 5, RA Lopez and R2 staff briefed staff from Senator Booker's office, at their request, regarding the proposed cleanup plan.

Hoosick Falls Community Group Meeting
On February 12, the Hoosick Falls community participation workgroup will meet. RA Lopez attended the previous meeting in January; many questions were asked about the timing and substance of anticipated EPA regulatory actions regarding PFAS.

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Region 3

Hot Topics

Targeted Brownfield Assessment (TBA) completed in Pembroke, VA
R3's Brownfields and Revitalization Branch completed a Phase II Assessment at the Old Social Services Site, located in Pembroke, VA. The property is owned by the City of Pembroke and was previously used to provide social/municipal services to the local community. The results of Phase II revealed the presence of friable asbestos and mold in the building. These results have been shared with the City of Pembroke and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. EPA is continuing discussions regarding next steps for the Town of Pembroke, which may include an opportunity for the city to submit a Brownfield cleanup grant proposal to EPA or pursue State cleanup funds. The future use of the property may consist of additional housing for the community.

Towson University to Receive Regional Sustainability Award
EPA Food Recovery Challenge (FRC) partner Towson University is scheduled to receive a 2019 FRC Regional Award for their efforts to divert food waste from landfills in 2018. Towson University expanded its food diversion program to make composting available at all its residence halls, which contributed to the university composting over 293,000 pounds of food waste mixed-organics, donating 6,135 pounds of edible surplus food to local hunger relief organizations, and hosting 3,000 zero-waste events around campus in 2018. FRC regional and national awards will be formally announced by HQ as part of the President declaring April as "Winning on Reducing Food Waste Month."

EPA Finalizes Agreement with United States Department of the Army (MD)
On January 23, R3 filed a Consent Agreement and Final Order (CAFO) to resolve alleged violations at the United States Army Garrison Fort Detrick in Frederick, MD. The CAFO addresses alleged violations of RCRA Hazardous Waste requirements (violation of generator requirements) and the Clean Air Act (violations of the several conditions of the Title V operating permit). Throughout the entire enforcement process, R3 coordinated with MDE. The settlement requires a payment of $440,399. As a result of the inspection/case, the facility closed four incinerators (for medical and solid waste) and started the NEPA process to build a new one for medical waste/infectious waste. As part of the negotiations, EPA assisted MDE with a communication problem related to a wastewater release from the facility.

EPA Staff Participate in Mid-Atlantic Regional Environmental Consortium Meeting
On January 27 and 29, R3 representatives participated in a virtual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Environmental Consortium (MAREC) to discuss regional asbestos issues. Attendees included state partners who implement asbestos programs throughout R3. This meeting primarily focused on revising the MAREC Agreement, which has not been updated recently. The agreement is intended to enhance interagency communication and facilitate interstate training and certification for all asbestos-related disciplines. The next MAREC meeting will be held the week of June 15 in the Regional Office.

Norwood Landfill
On January 27, R3 staff and EPA's START contractors met with officials from Norwood Borough at the Norwood Landfill Site located in Norwood, Delaware County, to conduct site reconnaissance to aid in the development of a draft sampling and analysis plan for the next phase of assessment at the landfill. A third site inspection is planned for completion in late February to assess potential areas of the landfill that had not been sampled in the assessments EPA completed in 2018. Sampling of residential soil in an adjacent neighborhood where contaminated soil may have been used in the construction of homes will be conducted later. The focus of this third site inspection is to obtain data not gathered previously and to address as many outstanding concerns presented by community members as possible.

R3 Conducts Training on the Grants Reporting and Tracking System in Delaware and Pennsylvania
Due to recent state staff and management turnover, the R3 State and Watershed Partnerships staff conducted training for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on the Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS) on January 21 in Dover, DE, and January 28 in Harrisburg, PA. Each state receives EPA funding annually under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act to support a wide variety of Nonpoint Source Program (NPS) activities, including technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects, and monitoring to assess the success of specific implementation projects. R3's NPS Program uses GRTS extensively to create metrics and monitor each state's performance in administering the program and carrying out projects funded by Section 319. R3 is the only EPA region to use GRTS in such an extended capacity.

R3 Meets with York City, Pennsylvania, Bureau of Health on Environmental Priorities
On January 23, OCTEA staff met with York City Bureau of Health (YCBH) to discuss York's most pressing environmental health priorities. YCBH expressed their priorities around the following areas: 1) lead poisoning awareness and education; 2) lead and healthy homes education; 3) RRP training, data and analysis needs; 4) assistance with lead ordinances; and, 5) other useful resources. OCTEA will begin meeting regularly with YCBH to first address their data needs and then to begin developing collaborative workplans around the above topics. Additionally, OCTEA will provide support on other children's environmental health issues and coordinate our efforts with other regional programs to address York's priorities.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

RA Servidio has the following event scheduled:

February 11 R3 Toxic Release Inventory Event, Sterling, VA

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Region 4

Hot Topics

Hillsborough-Polk Redesignation (Florida)
On January 31, R4 finalized the SO2 redesignation and maintenance plan for Hillsborough-Polk, which results in attainment status for the entire state of Florida. R4 has begun coordination with the state on future press releases and events.

Oak Ridge Reservation Meeting (Chattanooga, TN)
On February 5, RA Walker and the R4 SEMD Director participated in a Partnership Initiative meeting with DOE and TDEC for the Oak Ridge Reservation. The meeting went well. The next steps are to have a facilitated session with the management teams in the spring.

Cabot/Koppers (Gainesville, FL)
As a follow-up to discussions with Cabot Corporation and the City of Gainesville, R4 will propose utilizing Alternative Dispute Resolution for both parties through EPA's Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center to reach agreement regarding their concerns while pursuing a path forward in implementing a protective remedy at the site.

PFAS Study (Georgia/Alabama)
R4 is preparing a briefing paper for the Administrator on the GA/AL PFAS studies, working with GA EPD and ADEM to interpret the final Chattooga study results, and coordinating with GA EPD on additional sampling requests for WWTP effluent and biosolids. GA EPD is working with the City of Summerville to finalize a Public Notice for the recent finished drinking water results that exceed the PFOA/PFOS LHA.

Yazoo Backwater Area (Vicksburg, MS)
R4 is coordinating the response to National Wildlife Federation's FOIA request for documents and communications on the Yazoo pumps project. The EPA Yazoo Team provided senior leadership with a draft document that compared the Corps' 2007 Plan 5 with the 2019 Plan they shared.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

February 7	RA Walker and COS Ashbee will participate in the North Carolina Opportunity Now summit hosted by the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council with President Trump, HUD Secretary Ben Carson and Executive Director Scott Turner. Open Press. Charlotte, NC.
February 11	RA Walker will participate in a TRI Data Release press event at Cooper Power Systems LLC. Open Press. Greenwood, SC.
February 14	R4 will participate in a press event awarding a $40M WIFIA loan to Tohopekaliga Water Authority to help rehabilitate a sewer system that serves 300,000 Floridians. R4 is working with OW to plan the event. Open Press. Kissimmee, FL.
February 14	RA Walker will participate in a press event announcing three water grant awards related to South Florida Geographic Initiative. Open Press. Biscayne Bay, FL.

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Region 5

Hot Topics

EPA Initiates Emergency Response at Dort Food asbestos site in Flint, Michigan
EPA mobilized to the site on January 30 to secure asbestos-containing materials and abandoned drums of hazardous substances. The Dort Food Storage facility is a former commercial food storage building that burned in 2013, leaving the building in ruins with large piles of rubble and burned debris. Asbestos and abandoned drums were identified during an assessment. A daycare center had its outdoor play areas next to and partially within the ruins of the site. Last week, the Genessee County Land Bank, which recently took ownership of the site after a tax default, and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) informed EPA of the site and requested assistance. EPA completed sampling and verified the presence of friable asbestos in the outdoor building ruins and the presence of low levels of hazardous substances in the drums. EPA also brought in a structural engineer who confirmed the building is structurally unsound. An emergency action to stabilize releases of hazardous substance has been initiated by EPA. A removal action to address piles of asbestos-containing waste is being planned. The daycare playground is closed until the site is cleaned up.

EPA Considers Suspending TSCA Approval at Ohio Transformer Recycler
EPA is considering temporary suspension of the TSCA approval for transformer recycler Emerald Transformer in Twinsburg, OH, because of disposal equipment failure. The facility recycles transformers and other electrical equipment containing PCBs under a 2002 TSCA approval. Emerald drains the oil from the electrical equipment before dismantling. If the oil contains PCBs at less than 500 ppm, the drained equipment is decontaminated in a scrap metal recovery oven or by an abrasive process. The oven failed a test in 2019, and Ohio issued a Notice of Violation for fugitive emissions. EPA is considering TSCA suspension until the facility demonstrates the oven has been repaired and is in compliance with the conditions of the TSCA approval. Emerald would still have an active commercial storage approval and can still operate. EPA will offer compliance assistance to help the facility resume recycling operations as quickly as possible.

RA Thiede Participates in PFAS Panel
On behalf of Administrator Wheeler, RA Thiede joined a February 6 panel on PFAS policy and regulation at a Technology Forum sponsored by the Heritage Group in Indianapolis. The panel moderator worked through a series of four questions giving each panelist a chance to weigh in. The audience then asked questions, and the panel finished up with a "lightning round" of questions and answers.

Town Hall for "Green Ooze" Site Draws More Than 350 People
EPA provided an update on the Agency's work at the former Electro-Plating Services site at a town hall meeting February 3 that attracted more than 350 people in Madison Heights, MI. Since December 20, 2019, when frozen green ooze contaminated by hexavalent chromium and other chemicals began seeping out onto the shoulder of the interstate, EPA has pumped more than 63,000 gallons of contaminated water for disposal. At the town hall city and state officials said residents' drinking water is unaffected and there appears to be no soil pollution beyond the former plating company site, although some of the ooze in diluted form did flow through storm sewers and a creek to Lake St. Clair. Media and public attention on the site continues to be high. Rep. Andy Levin and several state and local elected officials participated in the town hall and made remarks.

RA Thiede Meets with USACE District Commander on Regional Issues and Collaboration
On February 4, RA Thiede met with Col. Reisinger, commander of the USACE Chicago district to discuss mutual projects of interests, and opportunities for additional collaboration on Superfund sites and GLRI projects. They also discussed the benefits of a R5/USACE meeting with all the Army Corps Districts in R5 this spring. They tentatively planned this for early May. RA Thiede also invited the Colonel to participate in R5's Earth Day clean up event on Northerly Island on April 22.

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RA Thiede Meets with Small Business Administration on Upcoming Opportunity Zone Events
EPA is coordinating with SBA on the next seven White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council workshops in the Midwest. This week, RA Thiede met with the Small Business Administration to plan federal participation at upcoming White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council events in Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Each event will be hosted by Ashley Bell, the White House's new policy advisor for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and will include a federal agency panel where EPA will participate as moderator/speaker. The target audience consists of community stakeholders, brownfield developers and investors, economic development stakeholders, contracting agencies, lenders, and small businesses.

RA Thiede Reaffirms Regional Commitments in Discussions
This week, RA Thiede met with Wisconsin DNR Secretary Preston Cole and held calls with Ohio EPA Director Laurie Stevens, Indiana DEM Commissioner Bruno Pigott, and Illinois EPA Director John Kim. The meetings and calls provided an opportunity for RA Thiede to reaffirm R5's commitment to collaboration and communication, as well as to discuss R5 and state priorities. They also discussed progress on existing collaborative efforts. In addition to monthly calls, they have tentatively planned an all R5 state director face-to-face meeting in Chicago this spring.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

February 11 RA Thiede to tour Eagle Electronics in Schaumburg, IL, as part of EPA's rollout of the Toxics Release Inventory. The company is a small manufacturer of circuit boards that has been able to reduce copper releases.

February 12 RA Thiede will hold a teleconference with R5 state environmental directors and commissioners. Following a brief WOTUS update and a round robin discussion with the states, EPA Office of Research and Development will present information on PFAS thermal treatment work.

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Region 6

Hot Topics

Denka Performance Elastomer, La Place, Louisiana
LDEQ and R6 will brief newly elected Parish President Hotard on February 7. R6 plans to attend the next meeting of Concerned Citizens of St John the Baptist Parish on February 11 in LaPlace, LA, to discuss EPA's plan to implement a new type of ambient air monitoring (SPods) around Denka's neoprene facility. In advance of that meeting, R6 will update Wilma Subra, technical advisor for Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN), to explain the details and timing of the new SPod monitoring program. On January 29, R6 received a second letter from Congressman Richmond (LA-2) regarding air monitoring, with specific questions that EPA should be prepared to discuss during a yet-to-be-scheduled broader community meeting. Meanwhile, the government enforcement team is reviewing former owner DuPont's settlement counteroffer, which DuPont submitted to EPA on January 28.

Georgia Pacific Amended Consent Decree Lodged, Crossett, Arkansas
On February 3, the Department of Justice, on behalf of EPA, lodged an Amended Consent Decree regarding Georgia Pacific Chemicals LLC and Georgia-Pacific Consumer Operations LLC (Georgia-Pacific). The Amended Consent Decree resolves alleged violations of the Clean Air Act (CAA) at the Georgia-Pacific's paper and chemical manufacturing facilities in Crossett, AR. The Amended Consent Decree revises the terms of an earlier Consent Decree lodged in December 2018 and provides alternative Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) that enhance the emergency response capabilities in the local community and reduce the potential for harmful air emissions from the facilities. The settlement includes three alternative SEPs to benefit the Crossett community valued at $1.8 million and requires payment of $600,000 in civil penalties. DOJ anticipates publication of the Federal Register notice on February 7, which serves as notice to the public regarding the proposed settlement and start of the 30-day comment period. EPA and ADEQ will meet on February 11 to discuss next steps in resolving the pending Title VI Civil Rights complaint.

Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP), Louisiana
EPA, MARAD, and USCG continue to discuss LOOP's offshore operations in the Outer-Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico. LDEQ has issued a Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) pre-construction and title V operating permit for the onshore portion of the LOOP Deepwater Port Complex. EPA has received no air permit applications for the existing LOOP Offshore Marine Terminal or proposed modifications to the offshore facility. The company continues to express an opinion that EPA does not have legal authority. LOOP and LDEQ's position is that only Louisiana clean air quality laws apply to LOOP's offshore facilities. Congressional interest is high.

Enterprise Products (SPOT) Deepwater Crude Export Port, Brazoria County, Texas
R6 received one comment questioning EPA's legal authority to issue permits, similar to the position being raised by LOOP in Louisiana. Public notice for EPA's proposed CAA PSD pre-construction and Title V operating permits closed on December 20, 2019. EPA final permits are expected soon. The proposed crude oil export DWP includes a platform with 95% vapor emission control from the submerged fill marine loading operation and is located 35 miles off the coast of Brazoria County, TX.

Corpus Christi Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas
Navy is hosting a PFAS Public Meeting/Open House tentatively planned for the week of February 24 and will begin congressional notifications soon. The Navy has identified potential PFAS sources on base, and they seek to sample off-base private drinking water wells. There are a large number of private offsite drinking water wells within one mile downgradient of NAS Corpus Christi and its associated outlying airfields.

Goodrich Asbestos Site, Miami, Oklahoma
On January 31, R6 concluded the eight-month long cleanup at the former B.F. Goodrich Asbestos site in Miami, OK. Approximately 24,000 tons of asbestos containing materials were removed from the site during the cleanup.

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EPA also removed various other hazardous materials from the facility including waste oils, hydraulic fluids, thousands of fluorescent bulbs, and an assortment of other hazardous materials. Ottawa County now owns the property. Discussions are already underway with the City of Miami to find possible reuse options for this now-clean property.

Calcasieu Estuary Superfund Site, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana
OXY USA Inc., CITGO, Westlake, Axiall, PPG and Bridgestone/Firestone and the Department of Justice, on behalf of EPA, reached an agreement in principal (subject to HQ's approval) in the amount of $5.5 million for EPA's past response costs incurred at the Calcasieu Site. The 10-Point Settlement Analysis is being drafted.

Tar Creek Superfund Site, Oklahoma
EPA continues to refine its implementation of EPA's Chat and Offsite Rules imposed by the Record of Decision (ROD). Currently, most of the chat sold from the Tar Creek site is used within R7 as aggregate in asphalt manufacturing, though a small portion is used throughout the United States. R6 is taking steps to improve tracking chat sales from production facilities and self-certifications on uses allowed under the Chat Rule and ROD.

Major Decisions and Events

Bexar County, San Antonio, Texas
By February 18, R6 intends to provide adverse comments on the State-proposed demonstration that foreign pollution sources contribute to ozone exceedances for San Antonio. If denied, San Antonio will likely be designated as moderate non-attainment area later this year. On January 15, TCEQ approved proposal of the Bexar County Ozone Nonattainment Area Clean Air Act Section 179B Demonstration SIP Revision. The proposed SIP revision would demonstrate that the Bexar County marginal ozone nonattainment area would attain the 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS by its attainment deadline "but for" anthropogenic emissions emanating from outside the United States. This is the first 179B demonstration for an area not adjacent to the border.

Exceptional Event Demonstration (2017 and 2018) PM10, El Paso County, Texas
By February 14, EPA anticipates concurring on a TCEQ request that certain ambient air monitoring data be excluded from regulatory actions. The final demonstration submittal cover letter is dated November 11, 2019.

Louisiana SIP Revision for Withdrawal of Stage II Vapor Recovery Systems Requirements, Louisiana
By February 21, EPA anticipates proposed approval to the Louisiana State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision to remove Stage II Gasoline Refueling Vapor Recovery Program. On May 30, 2019, EPA received a request from Louisiana to withdraw Stage II Vapor Recovery Systems requirements.

Proposed Approval Louisiana 2015 Ozone i-SIP FRN, Louisiana
By February 21, EPA anticipates proposed approval of the Louisiana Infrastructure SIP Revision for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard. This action is to demonstrate that the Louisiana SIP meets the Clean Air Act (CAA) infrastructure requirements for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS.

Proposed Final Approval of Oklahoma SIP Revisions, Oklahoma
By February 28, EPA anticipates proposed approval of revisions to the Oklahoma SIP that make general updates and PSD permitting updates for the current Appendix W and public notice requirements. The public comment period on the proposed approval ended on January 3, 2019. EPA received public comments on the proposal. Response to these comments will be incorporated into the final approval of the FRN.

Arkansas Regional Haze Phase III Domtar SIP Revision, Arkansas
By February 28, EPA intends to propose action on the Arkansas Regional Haze Phase III and Visibility Transport SIP revisions. ADEQ submitted a SIP revision on August 13, 2019, with an alternative measure to BART for SO2, PM, and NOX at the Domtar Ashdown Mill that would replace the final portion of the existing Arkansas FIP. The NPRM also addresses the visibility transport (prong 4) provisions in the October 4, 2019,

interstate transport SIP submittal, which covers the 2006 and 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS; the 2008 and 2015 ozone NAAQS; the 2010 NO2 NAAQS; and the 2010 SO2 NAAQS.

Upcoming Events

February 7	Southern University Grant Announcement, Shreveport, Louisiana
February 11	TRI Announcement, Tulsa, Oklahoma
February 11	Concerned Citizens of St. John the Baptist Parish meeting, LaPlace, Louisiana
February 12	Maurepas Diversion Project Press Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
February 12	Tribal Visits with Ottawa, Eastern Shawnee, Wyandotte Nation, Miami, Shawnee, Seneca-Cayuga, Quapaw Nation, Oklahoma
February 13	National Steel Manufacturers Association Meeting, Dallas, Texas
February 19	Permian Basin Water Energy Conference, Midland, Texas
February 25	NEJAC, Jacksonville, Florida

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Region 7

Hot Topics

Sampling Activities at Syntex Facility Superfund Site
R7 completed sampling of more than 100 private wells and performed sampling of Balchem facility process water near the Syntex Facility Superfund Site in Verona, MO. On January 30, Balchem notified EPA of 1,4-dioxane in their process water at 640 µg/L, supporting EPA's hypothesis that 1,4-dioxane was an unwanted by-product of Balchem's manufacturing process. Balchem modified disposal of process waste water based on 1,4-dioxane sampling results. Process wastewater was previously being land applied under a Missouri Department of Natural Resources fertilizer exemption. As of early January, Balchem is now hauling to a nearby publicly-owned treatment works. On February 4, R7 sampled Balchem process water and outfalls. On February 4, R7 completed private well survey and sampling of more than 100 private wells in the area surrounding the Syntex Facility Site and near Denney Farm for site-related chemicals including volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, hexachlorophene, and dioxins. The private well sampling was performed in response to community concerns about potential impacts from site contamination.

Remedial Action Project Completion at Iowa Army Ammunition Plant
R7 achieved a Remedial Action Project Completion for the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant site on January 31. The area known as the West Burn Pads South of the Road was historically used by the Atomic Energy Commission for flashing of metal parts to burn away residual explosive contaminants. Past operations resulted in the release of explosives and metals to soil. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted a remedial action at the site from October 2008 to September 2010. Soil was excavated from four areas, treated, and disposed either on-site or off-site. A total of 25,336.22 tons of contaminated soil were addressed during the remedial action. During summer 2019, EPA and the USACE agreed that completion of this remedial action should be documented separately from other ongoing remedial actions in order to accurately report site progress. The USACE subsequently drafted a Remedial Action Completion Report, which was reviewed and approved by EPA on January 31.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Meeting of the Environmental Financial Advisory Board
The EFAB will hold its winter meeting in Washington, D.C., on February 11-13. The full board will consider a report by the EFAB Stormwater Infrastructure Finance Task Force Workgroup and conduct a consultation with EPA on financing options for the Backhaul Alaska program.The EFAB will also receive briefings on other environmental financing topics and consider possible future projects, including an evaluation of EPA's role in furthering private investment in Opportunity Zones. The meeting will be held at the Washington Marriott Georgetown, at 1221 22nd Street NW in Washington, DC.

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Region 8

Hot Topics

Wyoming Governor's Letter Requesting UIC Class VI Primacy
EPA received a letter and primacy application documents from Governor Mark Gordon on January 30 formally requesting prompt EPA approval of the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Class VI injection well program. R8 worked with the state and determined the application is approvable. We will coordinate with EPA Office of Water on the rulemaking process.

Ft. Washakie Drinking Water Plant Request to Be Removed from General Permit Denied
The Wastewater Section received a petition on November 21, 2019, from the Shoshone Utility Organization to cover the Ft. Washakie Drinking Water Plant's discharge under an individual NPDES permit rather than its current coverage under the Drinking Water General Permit (DWGP). Because an individual permit would have the same or substantially similar requirements, this petition was denied in a letter dated February 3. We have reached out to the operator to further review our letter.

EPA Requests Greater Transparency from British Columbia
On February 5, EPA sent a letter signed by the R8 and R10 Regional Administrators and the AA for International and Tribal Affairs to the Ministers of the British Columbia Ministries of Environment and Mines. The letter requested greater transparency on technology to mitigate mining impacts to U.S. waters.

Notice of Intent to Sue EPA Over Lack of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in Montana
Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC) and Sierra Club, represented by the law office of John Barth, notified EPA of their intent to sue EPA over EPA's failure to perform its nondiscretionary duty to promulgate TMDLs for a specific impaired waterbody in Eastern Montana (East Fork Armells Creek). R8 is working with HQ and Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to formulate a response.

Federal Implementation Plans (FIPs) for Air Emissions on Uintah & Ouray Indian Reservation in Utah
On February 5, R8 held a tribal consultation meeting with the Ute Indian Tribe in Fort Duchesne, UT, for the recently proposed FIP for Managing Emissions from Oil and Natural Gas on Indian Country Lands within the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation (U&O FIP) and for the draft proposed FIP to establish a market for ozone-precursor emissions reduction credits from existing sources on Indian Country Lands within the Uinta Basin Ozone Nonattainment Area (ERC Banking FIP). On February 6, R8 is holding a public hearing for the proposed U&O FIP in Fort Duchesne

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

February 11	CEQ/NEPA public hearing at R8 HQ regarding proposed changes to the rules surrounding the National Environmental Policy Act.
February 12	RA Sopkin at Montana State Capitol (MT Trust East Helena)
February 13	Press event in Butte (BPSOU ROD-A and CD rollout)
February 13	Tour of Butte SuperFund site for RA Sopkin and Chief of Staff
February 14	Tour of Anaconda SuperFund site for RA Sopkin and CO

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Region 9

Hot Topics

Orders on Consent this Past Week
R9 entered an SDWA Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) with Central Valley Meat Company, Incorporated, public water system for failing to comply with the maximum contaminant level for arsenic (10 ppb). R9 also signed an AOC with Real Plating, Inc., an electroplating and anodizing facility in Pomona, California. An EPA inspection of the facility found the site did not meet eligibility requirements for exemption from California's Industrial Stormwater General Permit and that it had been discharging stormwater without authorization. EPA signed an AOC with Real Plating, Inc., an electroplating and anodizing facility. An EPA inspection found that the site did not meet eligibility requirements for exemption from California's Industrial Stormwater General Permit and that it had been discharging stormwater without authorization. In addition, R9 filed a Consent Agreement and Final Order resolving an administrative penalty action against Pool Water Products, Inc. of Irvine, CA, for alleged violations of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act involving the importation and sale of an unregistered pesticide product named "ALL CLEAR 3" Jumbo Chlorinating Tablets."

Marine Intertidal Surveys
Amy Wagner of the R9 Laboratory assisted in semi-annual rocky intertidal sampling with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement (former Minerals Management Service) and UC Santa Cruz researchers in Carmel Bay. The project, titled Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe, [HYPERLINK "https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pacificrockyintertidal.org%2F&data=02%7C01%7CWeekly_Report_Group%40epa.gov%7Ce9ef30919dc244831c1c08d7ab3c0ca2%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637166146701389592&sdata=GcGAGUfO10cW6httV821rnOwi2YdC46MfNP3%2BYLxL0E%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank"]), is a collaborative effort of 23 organizations to monitor rocky intertidal habitats on the coast of California to keep an inventory of benthic communities in case of catastrophic environmental or natural disasters on the coast.

Federal Register Notices
During the next two weeks, we will request Acting RA Jordan's signature on the following packages: 1) a Federal Register notice proposing approval of the CA Air Resources Board Agricultural Equipment Incentive Measure, which contains an enforceable commitment by the State to monitor and report on the implementation of approximately 5,500 off-road mobile, diesel equipment replacement during the 2019-2024 timeframe; 2) a Federal Register notice proposing action on the San Joaquin Valley Plan and extension request for the 2006 PM2.5 standard; and 3) a Federal Register notice proposing partial disapproval and partial approval of parts of Maricopa County's 2008 8-hour Ozone Reasonably Available Control Technology SIP submittal.

CAA Consent Decree
EPA and DOJ will lodge a consent decree within the next week for Guam Power Authority and Marianas Energy Company. This settlement resolves alleged violations of the RICE NESHAP at four engine electric generating units (EGUs). The injunctive relief requires the retrofit of two EGUs to comply with the RICE NESHAP, the retirement of four other EGUs, and the construction of new EGUs to replace the generating capacity of the retired units. The injunctive relief will cost approximately $500 million and reduce emissions of hazardous air pollutants in the Cabras-Piti area by 99% (approximately 39 tons per year). While not a focus of the enforcement action, emissions of SO2 in the Cabras-Piti area (a non-attainment area for SO2) will also be reduced by 99%, or approximately 12,500 tons per year.

Complaint Filed against EPA for Approving Hawaii's List of Impaired Waters
On February 5, plaintiffs Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), Surfrider Foundation, and Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii filed a complaint under the Administrative Procedures Act alleging EPA improperly approved Hawaii's 2016 and 2018 Lists of Impaired Waters under the Clean Water Act without addressing microplastic data submitted by CBD and without identifying waters that failed to meet applicable water quality

standards due to plastic pollution. CBD asserts the data supports listing 17 specific Hawaiian coastal and oceanic waters as impaired by plastic pollution. The complaint seeks declaratory and injunctive relief, including an order compelling EPA to disapprove Hawaii's impaired waters list, evaluate all existing data, and identify waters not attaining water quality standards due to plastic pollution.

Winter 2020 Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meetings
On February 11-13, the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony will host the Winter Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) meeting in Reno, NV. The meeting will cover informational sessions and updates from the R9's Office of the Inspector General, Water Division, and Pesticides Program, among other topics. AIEO Director Scott Mason will be in attendance and provide national updates.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

February 12 ECAD Director Amy Miller and Regional Counsel Sylvia Quast will be speaking at the San Francisco Bar Association on Federal Environmental Enforcement.

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Region 10

Hot Topics

Notice of Intent to Sue Re: Fairbanks, Alaska PM2.5 Nonattainment Area
On January 29, Eco Green Generation, LLC, and William Rhoades filed a Notice of Intent to sue under the Clean Air Act alleging that: (1) Alaska failed to submit a complete Serious Area Attainment Plan and that EPA has failed to issue a finding of failure to submit, and; (2) the boundaries of the Fairbanks Nonattainment Area are incorrect. Alaska submitted its Serious Area Attainment Plan for the Fairbanks PM2.5 Nonattainment area on December 13, 2019. EPA determined the plan was administratively complete on January 9. ECO Green Generation claims that Alaska's plan is not complete for two reasons: (1) the Plan does not achieve attainment within 10 years and (2) the plan does not include an adequate discussion of emissions controls for stationary sources.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Region 10 Administrator to Speak at Alaska Forum on the Environment
During the week of February 10, RA Hladick will participate in the annual Alaska Forum on the Environment. During the Forum, RA Hladick will participate in a panel discussion with Alaska Department of Environmental Quality Commissioner Jason Brune, attend the Marine Debris Summit, and participate in the meeting of the Regional Tribal Operations Committee. While in Alaska, RA Hladick will meet with leaders from the Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Petition Objecting to Clean Air Act Title V Permit for Glass Manufacturer in Portland, OR
A petition was filed on February 4 seeking the Administrator's objection to a Title V permit renewal for the Owens-Brockway glass manufacturing plant in Portland, Oregon. Earthjustice filed the petition on behalf of several organizations. The petition makes a number of allegations. R10 staff and management are meeting with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Staff to discuss the petition and next steps in the process to respond.

Region 10 Attends 30th Annual Idaho Water Quality Workshop
On February 11-13, the 30th Annual Water Quality Workshop will be held at Boise State University. The workshop is a forum for technical presentations related to water quality, and this year's agenda focuses on data, temperature, agriculture, groundwater, metals, and restoration. A diverse group of private, university, state, tribal, and federal presenters will participate. EPA will present on the City of Nampa's successes in community involvement in stormwater and wastewater infrastructure improvements.

Naval Base Kitsap Testing Water for PFAS (WA)
The Navy will test the drinking water of more than 1,000 homes that border Naval Base Kitsap (Bangor) for PFAS. Water districts that serve the area, including Silverdale and the Kitsap Public Utilities District, have also begun testing after being notified by the Navy. Bottled water will be provided to homes with water exceeding EPA's 70 ppt Lifetime Health Advisory for PFAS. U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer and Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell recently sent a letter to the acting Secretary of the Navy requesting information on the Navy's plan and asking them to provide bottled water to homes now, before testing is complete.

Washington State Concurs on Remedy for Quendall Terminals Superfund Site
On February 3, the Department of Ecology provided concurrence on the Quendall Terminals Site Record of Decision. The Quendall Terminals Site in Renton, WA, is on the Administrator's Emphasis List. The ROD is scheduled to be signed by the Administrator in June 2020. EPA has been in discussions with the Washington Department of Ecology regarding the selected remedy and cleanup levels for the Site.

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Puget Save our Sound Bill Passes in the U.S. House
On February 5, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Promoting United Government Efforts to Save Our Sound (PUGET SOS) Act, H.R. 2247. The bill was introduced by Reps. Denny Heck and Derek Kilmer and has three main components: 1) establish a Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office in EPA to coordinate protection and restoration efforts related to Puget Sound; 2) codify the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force; and 3) authorize $50 million for five years to carry out the provisions above.

NPDES Permits Progress in Idaho
On February 4, R10 reissued a final NPDES permit to the City of Idaho Falls and the Idaho Transportation Department District 6 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s). This permit authorizes MS4 discharges to the Snake River in Idaho. The public comment period on the draft permit closed on December 10, 2019. R10 received a final CWA Section 401 certification from the State of Idaho on January 3. This action is part of the ongoing effort to eliminate the backlog of administratively extended NPDES permits in Idaho.

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Office of Air and Radiation

Hot Topics

Packages for Signature
- Revisions to Appendix P to 40 CFR Part 51, Concerning Minimum Emission Reporting Requirements in SIPs (Proposed Rule)
- NESHAP: Solvent Extraction for Vegetable Oil Production RTR (Final Rule)
- NESHAP: Municipal Solid Waste Landfills RTR (Final Rule)
- Strat Ozone - Section 608 Refrigerant Management – Revisions (Final Rule)

Packages at OMB for Review
- Vehicle Test Procedure Adjustments for Tier 3 Test Fuel (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED February 25, 2019)
- Light Duty Greenhouse Gas Program Technical Amendments (Final Rule: RECEIVED August 19, 2019)
- MATS RTR & Cost Review (Final Rule: RECEIVED October 4, 2019)
- SAFE (Final Rule: RECEIVED January 14)
- Fuels Regulatory Streamlining (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED January 27)
- Residential Wood Heaters NSPS Amendments (Final Rule: RECEIVED January 28)
- MATS Coal Refuse-Fired Units (Final Rule: RECEIVED January 29)

Packages Heading to OMB Soon
- Boiler MACT (Proposed Rule)
- Biogenic CO2 (Proposed Rule)
- Granting Petitions to Add n-Propyl Bromide to the List of Hazardous Air Pollutants granting notice (Final Notice)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

EPA/ICAC Industrial Roundtable Meeting
Today in RTP, OAQPS' Sector Policies and Programs Division and the Institute of Clean Air Companies (ICAC) will present a roundtable meeting on various controls and measurement technologies used in many industrial applications. The meeting will cover an array of topics including specific applications and costs.

Draft Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2018
As early as February 12, EPA expects to publish a Federal Register notice announcing a 30-day public review period for the draft Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2018. The Inventory is an impartial, policy-neutral report that tracks annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across all sectors of the U.S. economy. The latest annual report will present historical emissions from 1990 to 2018. The final Inventory is released each year in mid-April.

Technical Reports on Lead from Piston-Engine Aircraft
As early as February 13, EPA will release two technical reports: 1) providing modelled estimates of the ranges of lead concentrations that may occur at airports related to piston-engine aircraft activity and 2) providing information on the number of people that live or attend school within 500 meters of runways for these types of aircraft. These analyses are part of the Federal Action Plan to Reduce Children's Exposures to Lead. The reports will be used by the National Academy of Sciences as part of its requirement to provide a Report to Congress that assesses the air quality impact of lead emitted by piston-engine aircraft.

MOU Concerning Regulation of Uranium In-situ Recovery Activities
As early as next Friday, the Administrator and the Commissioner of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will receive for signature a memorandum of understanding (MOU) concerning interactions on the regulation of uranium in-situ recovery (ISR) activities. The MOU emphasizes the Agency's and NRC's

commitment to working together when addressing in-situ uranium recovery under the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act (UMTRCA).

Community-Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring Grants
In the coming weeks, EPA will announce the Community-Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring grants competition. The grants are intended to assist state, local, and tribal communities in identifying and characterizing air toxics sources, characterizing the degree and extent of local air toxics problems, and tracking progress of air toxics reduction activities. Funding for the grants comes from State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) funding. EPA anticipates awarding up to $5 million over a two-year period (individual grants cannot exceed $750,000). OAR intends to hold a webinar shortly after the competition is announced to walk through eligibility requirements and the application process.

Grant for Radiological Protection Science, Guidance, and Recommendations
ORIA is initiating a request for applications (RFA) for a grant to support radiation protection science and guidance used by federal, state, tribal, territorial and local radiation protection programs. The purpose of this grant is to advance the body of knowledge that informs radiological protection programs, identify and promote effective approaches to radiological protection, and increase exchange of technical information among organizations working to protect the public from unnecessary radiation exposure. This work aligns with the ORIA mission and strategic plan, as well as EPA's FY 2018-2022 Strategic Plan (Goal 1, Objective 1.1). OAR anticipates funding up to $100,000 per year over five years, with flexibility to fund some, all or none each year.

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Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Hot Topics

2018 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) National Analysis
Next week, OPPT will release the 2018 TRI National Analysis, which shows increased recycling of TRI chemical wastes and companies continually finding ways to implement new source reduction activities and reduce TRI chemicals released into the environment. EPA regions will amplify with press releases and events/site visits.

Final Designation for Low-Priority Chemical Substances for Risk Evaluation
OPPT will soon publish final designations for 20 chemical substances identified as low-priority for risk evaluation under TSCA. The documents represent the final step in prioritization, another major TSCA implementation milestone. EPA considered reasonably available information for each chemical substance under its conditions of use. EPA's designation of a chemical as low priority is a final agency action.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nanosilver Proposed Registration
The week of February 10, OPP will solicit public comment on the proposed new active ingredient for non-food contact materials preservative uses of a new nanosilver active ingredient. It is produced with the active ingredient compounded with a polymer in the form of plastic pellets that are used to produce fibers that are then incorporated into textiles to suppress the growth of bacteria, algae, fungus, mold, and mildew.

Banda de *Lupinus albus* doce (BLAD) Proposed Rule
Next week, OPP will solicit public comment on a proposal to revoke the tolerance exemption for BLAD residues in or on all food commodities; instead proposing to establish tolerances for BLAD residues in or on certain commodities. The EU considers lupin, from which BLAD is derived, to be an allergen, which prompted EPA to reconsider the safety of the tolerance exemption and develop this new proposal.

General Exemptions from Reporting Requirements for Certain Microorganisms
OPPT will soon finalize a rule reducing burden for two microorganisms used in the biotechnology industry. *Trichoderma reesei* and *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* will not present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment under the conditions of the exemptions, including physical containment.

Policy to Reduce Pesticide Testing on Birds
Soon, OPP plans to release a final science policy to reduce testing of pesticides on birds when registering conventional outdoor pesticides. This is part of EPA's commitment to reduce animal testing while ensuring adequate information supporting registration decisions protective of public health and the environment.

Speaking Engagements

February 14 and 15	AA Dunn will address the National Cotton Council Annual Conference in Louisiana, on current pesticide issues.
February 17 to 21	OPP's Dr. Michael Doherty will co-facilitate a UN Food and Agriculture Organization workshop in Chile, training the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues panel on evaluating food pesticide residues data.
February 19	OPP's Dr. Elizabeth Méndez will participate in a webinar on developmental toxicology, to discuss the updated DevTox database, consider regulatory risk assessment, and discuss future testing strategies, to better harmonize worldwide assessment of developmental findings and laboratory investigations.

Selected Upcoming Rulemaking

- Soon: supplemental SNUR on imported products containing certain long chain PFAS substances
- Soon: amendment to TSCA CDR requirements and separate action updating small manufacturers definition
- Mid-February: CBI Review Plan Rule and TCE draft risk evaluation

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Hot Topics

FY 2020 Operating Plan
EPA's FY 2020 Operating Plan and the FY 2021 Congressional Justification are due to Congress on February 10. Both deliverables are on schedule to meet the February 10 deadlines. Accompanying the Operating Plan will be the agency's reprogramming request to shift resources across a number of different programs to cover significant shortfalls in mission support activities. OCFO will brief appropriations staff on both the FY 2021 President's budget and the FY 2020 Operating Plan. OCFO also will brief authorizing committee staff on the FY 2021 President's budget.

FY 2021 Budget Hearings
OCFO is drafting the Administrator's testimony and working with programs and OCIR to review fact sheets in preparation for the Administrator's upcoming FY 2021 Budget Hearings with Congress.

GAO and OIG Entrance Conferences
New agency entrance conferences since the last weekly report:

GAO Audits – Week Ending 1/31/2020				
Audit Type	Title	Office	Engagement/ Report No.	Next Steps/Comments
Entrance Conference	Lead and Copper Rule	AO	Engagement Code 103512	This is a follow up session. GAO wants to interview EPA Senior Risk Communications Advisor – **February 10, 2020**
	Timeliness of agency review of proposals and issuance of awards for the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs	ORD	Engagement Code 104035	Entrance Conference Scheduled – **February 10, 2020**

	OIG Audits – Week Ending 1/31/2020			
Audit #	**Title**	**Status**	**Office**	**Next Steps/Comments**
Project No. OAE-FY20-0097	Travel Card Program Audit	Field Work	OCFO	Entrance Conference held on 1/28/2020.

Upgrade Agency's Accounting System
OCFO plans to upgrade the agency's accounting system in February. OCFO and OMS are working together closely to minimize impacts to the agency. Financial transactions in the accounting system and other supporting systems will be impacted beginning close of business February 14 through February 25 with reporting systems impacted February 15 through March 6. Agency offices are encouraged to work with their respective Funds Control Officer and Senior Budget Officer or Regional Comptroller to plan and manage funds accordingly based on guidance issued to the agency resource community on January 31.

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Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

February 6	OCFO is scheduled to meet with the Assistant Deputy Administrator to finalize content for the Administrator's FY 2020 Quarterly Performance Review scheduled for February 12
February 13	OCFO is meeting with the National Tribal Air Association to discuss National Program Guidances and implications for tribes
February 21	OCFO will submit EPA's Initial Draft FY 2020 Quarter 1 Agency Priority Goal (APG) Action Plan Updates, including responses to prior OMB comments on the draft Action Plans, to OMB. Final Drafts are due to OMB by March 16, and OMB will publish the updates on [HYPERLINK "http://www.performance.gov"] in mid-April. Originally, initial drafts were due to OMB in early February, but OMB recently extended the deadline to February 21.

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Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Hot Topics

February 11 Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on "What States, Locals, and the Business Community Should Know and Do: A Roadmap for Effective Cybersecurity."

February 11 House Science, Space, and Technology Committee's Subcommittee on Research and Technology will hold a hearing entitled, "More Hires, Fewer Hacks: Developing the U.S. Cybersecurity Workforce."

February 11 House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change will hold a hearing entitled, "EPA's Lead and Copper Proposal: Failing to Protect Public Health." EPA is not scheduled to participate.

February 12 Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee will hold a roundtable entitled, "Are We Prepared? Protecting the U.S. from Global Pandemics."

February 12 House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy will hold a legislative hearing entitled, "Saving Energy: Legislation to Improve Energy Efficiency and Storage."

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

February 7 Charter Renewal of the Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Committee.

February 9 National Governors Association and Western Governors Association Mtg, Administrator Wheeler will attend several meetings and events with governors, in conjunction with the NGA's 2020 Winter Meeting.

February 9-12 The National Association of Regional Councils will host its annual National Conference of Regions in Washington, DC.

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Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Hot Topics

North Dakota Man Pleads Guilty to Pesticide and Wildlife Violations Involving Bald Eagle Deaths
On January 30, David Alan Meyer pleaded guilty to the Unlawful Taking of a Bald Eagle, Unlawful Taking of Migratory Birds, and Unlawful Use of Restricted Use Pesticide in the District of South Dakota. In 2016, a joint U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and EPA investigation revealed that David Meyer, owner of Meyer Buffalo Ranch on the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation, had supervised the misapplication of 39,000 pounds of Rozol prairie dog bait, a restricted use pesticide, on over 5,400 acres of his property. Because of the misapplication, an EPA emergency response team was dispatched to oversee the cleanup of the ranch land by Meyer. During the investigation, six bald eagles were recovered and confirmed to have died as a result of the poison.

Harcros Chemicals Pleads Guilty to Violating the Clean Air Act
On January 31, Harcros Chemicals, Inc., pleaded guilty in the District of Kansas to violating the Clean Air Act in connection with a toxic chlorine gas cloud that formed over Atchison, KS, in 2016. The co-defendant in the case, MGP Ingredients, Inc., pleaded guilty in November 2019 in the same case. In its plea, the company admitted that on October 21, 2016, a greenish-yellow chlorine gas cloud formed when 4,000 gallons of sulfuric acid were mistakenly combined with 5,800 gallons of sodium hypochlorite. The Atchison County Department of Emergency Management ordered community members to shelter in place and to evacuate in some areas. Approximately 140 individuals including members of the public, first responders, employees of MGP Ingredients and Harcros Chemicals sought medical attention.

New Jersey Man Sentenced for Illegally Storing Hazardous Waste
On February 5, Thomas Toy, president and owner of Superior Barrel and Drum Company, Inc., was sentenced in the District of New Jersey to 30 days of imprisonment and ordered to pay $4.2 million in restitution for illegally storing hazardous waste. Superior received drums from various industrial customers, cleaned and processed those drums, and then resold them. In 2014, EPA conducted a removal action of waste stored at Superior's facility. In total, approximately 1,800 containers of waste were removed from Superior's facility. Much of the waste was found to be hazardous. Superior did not have a permit to store hazardous waste.

Promoting the Rule of Law Through Transparency and Fairness
On February 6, in accordance with Executive Order 13892, Promoting the Rule of Law Through Transparency and Fairness in Civil Administrative Enforcement and Adjudication, the Administrator signed a rule that describes agency procedure for conducting civil administrative inspections.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.

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Office of General Counsel

Hot Topics

***ALERT/Earth Island Institute v. EPA*, No. 4:20-cv-00670 (N.D. CA Jan. 30).**
New Litigation: Plaintiffs filed a Clean Water Act (CWA) 505 citizen suit complaint alleging that EPA failed to perform its non-discretionary duty to meet the requirements of CWA 311. Specifically, the plaintiffs contend that EPA failed to update the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) relating to dispersants in oil spill response to incorporate scientific and technical developments to assure that the NCP is "effective" and can "minimize damage." Plaintiffs further allege that EPA did not act within a reasonable timeframe by failing to conclude a rulemaking process associated with a 2014 notice of proposed rulemaking and by failing to act on Plaintiff's 2012 petition. Plaintiffs claim this failure constitutes an agency action "unlawfully withheld or unreasonably delayed" under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). Plaintiffs seek a declaration that EPA has failed to perform a non-discretionary duty under the CWA and that EPA has violated the APA by unlawfully withholding or unreasonably delaying issuance of a final rule to update the NCP, a court order for EPA to issue a final rule to update the NCP on an expeditious schedule, plaintiffs' cost, expenses, and reasonable attorney's fees.

***Center for Biological Diversity v. EPA*, No. 1:20-cv-00056 (D. HI Feb. 5).**
New Litigation: The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) filed a Complaint challenging EPA's 2016 and 2018 approvals of Hawaii's Section 303(d) List submitted under the CWA. The Complaint asserts that EPA's approval was arbitrary and capricious because the State failed to evaluate existing data on microplastics water pollution and identify Hawaii coastal waters on its Section 303(d) List.

New NOI
By letter dated January 29, the Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC) and the Sierra Club provided a Notice of Intent to Sue (NOI) alleging that EPA has failed to perform a non-discretionary duty to issue a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) addressing impairments for specific conductivity, total dissolved solids, nitrogen, and nitrate/nitrite on the East Fork of Armells Creek in Rosebud County, Montana. The NOI identifies the chronology of when Montana listed the receiving waters as impaired for each of the various pollutants dating back to 1990. The NOI explains that MEIC and Sierra Club intend to file suit under the CWA seeking injunctive and declaratory relief as well as reasonable attorney fees and litigation expenses following expiration of the sixty-day notice period.

New NOI
While not yet clear whether the NOI has been served on the U.S. Government, a trade press reports a Notice of Intent to Sue ("NOI") dated January 30, from Earthjustice on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity and Friends of the Earth, alleging that EPA has unreasonably delayed in proposing and promulgating emissions standards regulating greenhouse gas emissions from aircraft under section 231 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). Would-be plaintiffs state they intend to file suit in U.S. district court against EPA 180 days from the date of the NOI, pursuant to CAA section 304(a), which would be July 28.

Upcoming Events

Nothing to report.

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Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Hot Topics

Department of Commerce Meeting
AA McIntosh met with Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary for Industry and Analysis to discuss Agency priorities and collaboration. EPA and Commerce co-lead the Environmental Trade Working Group, and EPA participates in Commerce's Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee. We have jointly developed the U.S. Environmental Solutions Toolkit, which is currently in the process of being updated and expanded. AA McIntosh highlighted the Administrator's international priorities of marine litter and water infrastructure, noting the important role of innovation and technology in addressing these issues. Commerce expressed interest in EPA's regulatory efforts and working with us to highlight U.S. environmental accomplishments and environmental technologies internationally.

Tribal Infrastructure Taskforce
OITA participated in the quarterly meeting of the Tribal Infrastructure Task Force (ITF), which is comprised of various EPA offices, Indian Health Service, Department of the Interior, USDA Office of Rural Development, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Housing and Urban Development. The Taskforce was formed in 2007 to develop and coordinate federal activities to support water infrastructure, wastewater infrastructure, and solid waste services to tribal communities. Topics discussed in this quarterly meeting included renewing the 2013 ITF MOU that will expire in 2021. The new MOU will maintain the ITF's focus of sharing information and collaboration and will include new commitments to collaborate at local levels. The other topic discussed was reporting to the Government Accountability Office that the ITF has completed all recommendations from a 2016 GAO audit.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

February 7	OITA will meet with Circulate Capital to discuss cooperation on global marine litter issues, including investments in Southeast Asia.
February 7	OITA will meet with Salmon Beyond Borders to discuss transboundary pollution issues in Montana and Alaska from large scale mining in British Columbia.
February 12	OITA will meet with the National Tribal Air Association to discuss the Indian General Assistance Program (GAP), Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and other tribal issues.

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Office of the Land and Emergency Management

Hot Topics

Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR)

a. CCR Phase 2 proposed rule (package 1) – On October 15, 2019, the public comment period ended. OLEM is reviewing the comments.

b. CCR permitting NPRM (package 3) – This was signed and announced on December 19, 2019. In response to edits received from the Office of the Federal Register (OFR), final edits were submitted by OLEM on February 3, including a change in the associated public meeting date. An OFR publication date is expected to be announced next week.

c. CCR litigation packages (package 2, parts A and B) – On December 2, 2019, the Part A NPRM package was published in the FR. The 60-day public comment period ended January 31. Part B is with OMB for expedited review. OLEM sent its response to OMB on February 4. OMB is targeting mid-February to conclude review.

Modernizing Ignitable Liquids Determinations Final Rule

OMB has determined that this final rule is not a significant regulatory action and, therefore, is not subject to an interagency review prior to signature. We anticipate distributing the final rule package soon for a two-week workgroup closure process.

Ongoing major Superfund NPL sites

We are working with R1 on the Housatonic River; R2 on Woodbrook Road and Rolling Knolls; R4 on Oak Ridge, Birmingham 35th Ave., and Petroleum Products Corporation; R8 on Butte and Anaconda Smelter; and R10 on Portland Harbor, Quendall Terminal, Bradford Island, and East Waterway.

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

On December 4, 2019, the Industry 2 (Petroleum and Coal) rule package was signed by the court-ordered deadline. The rule was published in the FR on December 23, 2019. The public comment period ends on February 21, 2020. For the Industry 3 (Chemical Manufacturing) NPRM package, OMB concluded its review. We anticipate Administrator signature this week.

PFAS

Designation of PFOA/PFOS as CERCLA Hazardous Substances NPRM. The rule package was submitted to the Office of Policy on September 20, 2019, for OMB review.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

February 11 Leadership Retreat: OLEM has an all-day leadership retreat planned.

Office of Mission Support

Hot Topics

Envirofacts API Nears 200 Million Annual Hits
For the 2019 calendar year, EPA's [HYPERLINK "http://enviro.epa.gov/"] data warehouse received nearly 200 million hits on its application programming interface (API). This topped a previous record high of over 55 million API hits in 2017. Hits for December 2019 reached a monthly record with more than 27 million. Envirofacts provides the public with access to data on environmental activities that may affect air, water, and land, including Brownfields and Superfund sites, anywhere in the United States.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Benefits Webinars
OMS released several free webinars on the [HYPERLINK "https://usepa.sharepoint.com/sites/OARM_Community/benefits_corner/SitePages/Home.aspx"]. The February webinars include Heart Health (February 12), Roth vs. Traditional IRA (February 19) and Phased Retirement (February 27).

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Office of Policy

Hot Topics

GSA-EPA Design Assistance Workshop in Brownsville, TX
On February 10-12, the General Services Administration and the Office of Community Revitalization will host a public workshop to address pedestrian safety and stormwater management design modifications for the Greening of America's Communities - Brownsville, Texas project "Gateway Bridge" site design. Brownsville, TX, is an Opportunity Zone.

Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment, Black History Month Event
On February 11, the Director of the Office of Environmental Justice will participate on a panel alongside the Director of the Office of General Counsel, External Civil Rights Compliance Office, to discuss the history of Title VI and Environmental Justice in Little Rock, AR.

Technical Assistance Workshop in Shamokin, PA
On February 11-13, the Office of Community Revitalization and the Office of Environmental Justice, will host a public community revitalization workshop with stakeholders in Shamokin, Pennsylvania, to incorporate elements of OCR's assets mapping and action planning and OEJ's Collaborative Problem Solving model to further revitalization efforts. Shamokin, PA, is an Opportunity Zone.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Active Interagency Reviews from OMB		
Subject		**OMB Due Date**
OPM NPRM: Noncompetitive Appointment of Certain Military Spouses		02/06/2020
DOT/FAA NPRM: Noise Certification of Supersonic Airplanes		02/10/2020
DHS/FEMA Policy: Hazard Mitigation Assistance: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities		02/10/2020
OPM NPRM: Appointment of Current and Former Land Management Employees		02/10/2020
Treasury/IRS NPRM: Denial of Deduction for Certain Fines, Penalties, and Other Amounts; Information With Respect To Certain Fines, Penalties, and Other Amounts		02/12/2020
DOD/ACE NPRM: Proposal to Reissue and Modify Nationwide Permits		02/20/2020
DoD/ACE NPRM (Pass-back): Natural Disaster Procedures: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Activities of the Corps of Engineers		N/A
Documents Sent to the OFR from January 29 - February 5, 2020		
FRL #	**Title**	**Date Sent to FR**
10004-54-OCSPP	Receipt of Several Pesticide Petitions Filed for Residues of Pesticide Chemicals in or on Various Commodities	02-05-2020
10005-22-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; MS; Revisions to the State Implementation Plan Approved by EPA Through Letter	02-05-2020
10005-23-Region 4	Air Plan Approval and Designation of Areas; FL; Source-Specific SO2 Permit Limits & Redesignation of the Hillsborough-Polk 2010 1-Hr SO2 Nonattainment Area to Attainment & Mulberry Unclassifiable Area to Attainment/Unclassifiable	02-05-2020
10005-28-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; Georgia: Revisions to Cross-State Air Pollution Rule	02-05-2020
10005-09-Region 4	Air Plan Approvals; GA and NC; Prevention of Significant Deterioration Infrastructure Requirements for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS	02-05-2020
10005-10-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; Tennessee: Chattanooga NSR Reform	02-05-2020

10005-11-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; TN; Prevention of Significant Deterioration Infrastructure Requirements for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS	02-05-2020
9999-79-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Delaware; Control of Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills	02-04-2020
10001-02-Region 9	Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Pinal County Air Quality Control District; Control of Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills	02-04-2020
10004-88-OW	The Navigable Waters Protection Rule: Definition of "Waters of the United States"	02-04-2020
10005-12-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Emissions Statement Certification for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard	02-04-2020
10005-15-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2015 Ozone Standard and Revisions to Modeling Requirements	02-04-2020
10005-27-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; FL; 2010 1-Hour SO2 NAAQS Transport Infrastructure	02-04-2020
10005-29-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; Tennessee; Chattanooga Miscellaneous Revisions	02-04-2020
10003-63-OCSPP	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Renewal of an Existing Collection (EPA ICR No. 0277.20; OMB Control No. 2070-0060); Comment Request	02-03-2020
10004-93-OAR	Alternative Methods for Calculating Off-cycle Credits under the Light-duty Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emissions Program: Applications from Ford Motor Company, American Honda Motor Company, and Nissan North America, Inc.	02-03-2020
10005-06-OAR	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Asphalt Processing and Asphalt Roofing Manufacturing Residual Risk and Technology Review	02-03-2020
10002-06-OCSPP	Difenoconazole; Pesticide Tolerances	01-31-2020
10002-43-OMS	Environmental Protection Agency Acquisition Regulation (EPAAR) Clause Update for Submission of Invoices; Final rule; correction and republication.	01-31-2020
10004-23-OCSPP	Cyantraniliprole; Pesticide Tolerances	01-31-2020
10004-27-Region 4	Georgia: Final Approval and Incorporation by Reference of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions	01-31-2020
10004-75-OW	Proposed Information Collection Request; Comment Request; Information Collection Request for the 2020 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment (DWINSA)	01-31-2020
10005-05-Region 1	Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Approval of a Single Source Order	01-31-2020
10005-04-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Prevention of Significant Deterioration Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule	01-31-2020
10005-00-OA	Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Advisory Committee (FRRCC) Notice of Charter Renewal	01-31-2020
10005-07-Region 1	Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Approval of Single Source Order	2020-01-31
10004-10-OCSPP	Notice of Receipt of Requests to Voluntarily Cancel Certain Pesticide Registrations and Amend Registrations to Terminate Certain Uses [30-day NOR]	01-30-2020
10004-41-OCSPP	4 Pesticide Registration Review; Proposed Interim Decisions for Several Pesticides; Notice of Availability	01-30-2020

10004-43-OCSPP	Pesticide Registration Review; Pesticide Dockets Opened for Review and Comment; Notice of Availability	01-30-2020
10004-79-OAR	Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2018	01-30-2020
10004-96-OP	National Environmental Justice Advisory Council; Notification of Public Meeting with Teleconference Option and Public Comment	01-30-2020
10004-91-Region 5	2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Wisconsin; Determination of Attainment by the Attainment Date for Inland Sheboygan; Reclassification of Shoreline Sheboygan	01-30-2020
10004-92-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Minnesota; Revision to the Minnesota State Implementation Plan	01-30-2020
10002-96-OCSPP	Ethylenebis(oxyethylene) Bis[3-(5-Tert-butyl-4-hydroxy-M-tolyl) propionate]; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance	01-29-2020
10002-72-OCSPP	Pesticide Maintenance Fee: Product Cancellation Order for Certain Pesticide Registrations	01-29-2020
10003-04-OCSPP	Prohexadione Calcium; Pesticide Tolerances	01-29-2020
10003-07-OCSPP	Propanamide, 2-hydroxy-N, N-dimethyl- ; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance	01-29-2020
10003-18-OCSPP	Pesticide Product Registration; Receipt of Applications for New Active Ingredients (November 2019)	01-29-2020
10003-17-OCSPP	Receipt of Several Pesticide Petitions Filed for Residues of Pesticide Chemicals in or on Various Commodities	01-29-2020
10004-03-OCSPP	Flutriafol; Pesticide Tolerances	01-29-2020
10004-05-OCSPP	Chlorfenapyr; Pesticide Tolerances	01-29-2020
10004-12-OCSPP	Acetamiprid; Pesticide Tolerances	01-29-2020
10004-67-Region 6	Air Plan Approval; Texas; Revisions to Control of Air Pollution by Permits for New Construction or Modification	01-29-2020
10004-70-Region 6	Air Plan Approval; Texas; Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Area Redesignation and Maintenance Plan for Revoked Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Section 185 Fee Program	01-29-2020
10004-95-Region 1	Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; Transport State Implementation Plan for the 2008 Ozone Standard	01-29-2020
10004-11-OCSPP	Notice of Receipt of Requests to Voluntarily Cancel Certain Pesticide Registrations and Amend Registrations to Terminate Certain Use [180-day NOR]	01-29-2020
10004-38-OCSPP	Pesticide Registration Review; Proposed Interim Decisions for Several Neonicotinoid Pesticides; Notice of Availability	01-29-2020
10004-40-OCSPP	Pesticide Registration Review; Draft Human Health and/or Ecological Risk Assessments for Several Pesticides; Notice of Availability	01-29-2020
10004-42-OCSPP	Pesticide Registration Review; Interim Decisions and Case Closures for Several Pesticides; Notice of Availability	01-29-2020
10004-45-Region 1	Clean Air Act Operating Permit Program; Petition for Objection to State Operating Permit for Wheelabrator Environmental System Inc., Wheelabrator Concord Company, L.P., Concord, New Hampshire	01-29-2020
10004-73-Region 7	Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Control of Emissions from Aerospace Manufacture and Rework Facilities	01-29-2020
10004-77-Region 7	Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Control of Emissions from Production of Pesticides and Herbicides	01-29-2020

Office of Research and Development

Hot Topics

Senior ORD Leadership
Senior ORD leadership will meet in the research facility in Gulf Breeze, FL, to discuss a wide variety of topics including research plan implementation, ELMS progress and strategies, and technical support. Senior leaders will also hear about the research taking place at the facility. We are also pleased to report that ORD's FOIA backlog is down to one.

EPA Region 5 PFAS Reports
This week, ORD plans to deliver two data reports to R5 that will provide the results of analyses of PFAS in fume suppressants and effluent from chrome electroplating facilities in the state of Michigan. R5 will share those reports with Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science; Supplemental Proposal (Tier 1)
Last week, ORD received additional interagency comments on the second set of revisions to the supplemental proposal EPA submitted to OMB. ORD participated in one E.O. 12866 meeting related to the supplemental proposal. Under E.O. 12866, OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs meets with any interested party to discuss issues on a rule under review. EPA attends the meetings to hear stakeholders' comments.

ORD Net Zero Program Army Funding for Water Resilience Project
ORD and researchers from the Army Core of Engineers' Construction and Engineering Research Lab (CERL) have been awarded 2020 Army Installation Technology Transition Program (ITTP) funds for a new project at Fort Campbell focused on assessing and improving resilience for drinking water infrastructure. This is the third ORD research project taking place at Fort Campbell since the partnership was formed in late 2017. ITTP is funded annually by the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management to demonstrate technologies on Army and Army Reserve installations.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

February 11-12	CASAC Meeting: The Chartered CASAC is meeting via teleconference to discuss their Draft Report on EPA's Integrated Science Assessment for Ozone and Related Photochemical Oxidants (External Review Draft – September 2019) and their Draft Report on EPA's Policy Assessment for the Review of the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (External Review Draft).

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Office of Water

Hot Topics

WIFIA Loan – Tohopekaliga Water Authority
Next week, EPA will close a WIFIA loan with Tohopekaliga Water Authority in Kissimmee, FL, to help finance an accelerated gravity sewer assessment and rehabilitation project. This project will reduce environmental impacts associated with infiltration and inflow into the wastewater collection system and fix aging and damaged infrastructure. The loan will provide $40.1 million in project financing while project construction and operation are expected to create 198 jobs.

Rio Salado as 20th Federal Urban Waters Partnership Location
Next week, a joint EPA-DOI-USDA press release will announce the Rio Salado River project in metro Arizona as the 20th community site designated as a Federal Urban Waters Partnership location. This designation indicates the federal agencies' continuing assistance through Urban Waters Learning Network resources, funding opportunities, and integrated staff guidance. The three agencies are coordinating an event in April 2020 in Arizona.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Public Webcast for the Navigable Waters Protection Rule - Final Rule
On February 13, EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers will hold a public webcast to help explain the key elements of the final Navigable Waters Protection Rule. The rule was signed on January 23 and replaces the recently recodified 1986/88 regulations on the definition of the "waters of the United States" and fulfills the EPA's response to the February 2017 Executive Order to revise the definition. The public webcast will take place at 2:00-3:00 p.m. EST. Up to 3,000 people are expected to participate in the webcast. Over 1,000 people are already registered. Office of Water's Senior Science Advisor, Owen McDonough, will provide the opening remarks for the public webcast. Open press.

American Composite Manufacturers (ACMA) Fly In
Next week, Deputy Assistant Administrator Lee Forsgren will speak about water infrastructure on the Federal Leadership Panel during the ACMA Fly In held in Washington, DC. Closed press.

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