Region 1

Hot Topics

R1 Proposes Clean Data Determination for Greater Connecticut Nonattainment Area
On March 18, RA Deziel signed a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for the Determination of Clean Data for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard for the Greater Connecticut Area. This NPRM proposes to determine that the Greater Connecticut Serious 8-hour ozone nonattainment area has attained the 2008 8-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone. As a result of this determination, requirements for this area to submit an attainment demonstration, reasonable further progress plan, contingency measures, and other planning State Implementation Plans related to attainment of the 8-hour ozone NAAQS shall be suspended.

Interagency Call on Northeast Gateway Deepwater Port
On March 13, R1 participated in an interagency call with DOT's Maritime Administration (MARAD), the lead licensing authority for Northeast Gateway's anticipated request to modify its existing Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) deep water port in Massachusetts Bay. MARAD and R1 are coordinating on licensing requirements for the facility, which includes Clean Air Act permitting requirements under the Deepwater Ports Act.

Northwest Vermont Brownfields Steering Committee Meeting
On March 16, the steering committee for the Northwest Regional Planning Commission met virtually to discuss and approve two sites for Phase II assessment funding and candidates for RLF funding. One of these sites, the Fonda site in St. Albans, has an interested developer and is located within an Opportunity Zone.

Redevelopment Site in Vermont Opportunity Zone
On March 17, Brownfields staff participated in a virtual stakeholder meeting for the LW Greenwood property in Randolph, Vermont. This stakeholder group is a public/private partnership working together to help a California-based prototype modelling company expand their business into Vermont. Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission has been providing site assessment and cleanup planning assistance through their Brownfields grant, and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development will be providing a cleanup loan from their RLF program to address vapor intrusion issues at the site.

New Bedford Harbor Superfund State Enhanced Remedy
This week, R1 issued two modifications to previously issued TSCA Determinations pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 761.61(c), finding that certain sediment dredging and disposal activities conducted in New Bedford Harbor by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts do not pose an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment. Senator Markey's Office contacted R1 last week regarding the status of our review.

R1 Settles Clean Air Act Case with Industrial Laundry Facility
On March 11, R1 and New England Industrial Uniform Rental Services, Inc. (NE Uniform Service) settled a Clean Air Act administrative penalty case for alleged violations of permit regulations at the company's industrial laundry facility in West Springfield, MA. Under the settlement, NE Uniform Service will comply with various laundry process restrictions and pay a $51,700 settlement penalty.

Information Request Mailing for Ammonia Refrigeration General Duty Clause Pilot
On March 17, R1 issued 17 information request letters to facilities with ammonia refrigeration systems to determine if they have completed process hazard reviews for their systems. The letters are part of the integrated compliance and enforcement initiative for the General Duty Clause of Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act.

Cleanup Continues at Coakley Landfill in New Hampshire
On March 9, EPA, NHDES, and Coakley Landfill Group (CLG) convened a technical meeting to discuss the ongoing bedrock investigation and to scope the remaining tasks to be performed before completing the investigation in 2020. EPA continues to coordinate with the NHDES and CLG regarding HB 494, the state law

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requiring a new remedy to curtail perceived PFAS migration. HB 494 requires that a remedial measure to address contaminants in Berrys Brook be implemented by September.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.

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Region 2

Hot Topics

COVID-19 Incidents
To date R2 has five instances in which R2 employees were in contact with a non-employee who later tested positive for COVID-19 or showed symptoms of possible COVID-19 illness. In each case the employee voluntarily self-quarantined. We directed other employees located in the same office areas who were present on day(s) the affected employees were present to leave the office and telework for 14 days. We thoroughly cleaned the areas and waited 24 hours after cleaning before allowing other employees to return to the affected areas.

Puerto Rico Curfew Order
On March 15, the Puerto Rico Governor issued an executive order establishing a curfew restricting movement of citizens in Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rico Department of Economic and Commerce Development issued a memo March 17 to provide additional clarity regarding application of the order to the industrial, commercial and business sectors. In consultation with OGC and U.S. DOJ, R2 is developing proposed procedures that could be used to help ensure that our employees in Puerto Rico who need to come into the office from their telework locations or conduct official duties elsewhere on the island are able to do so without obstruction from local authorities. Recognizing there may be potential sensitivities with Puerto Rico as a result, RA Lopez will run any identified strategies past the Administrator's office and AAs before approving implementation.

Grasse River Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD)
We expect that the ESD for this Superfund site will very soon be transmitted to the Administrator for review and signature. The ESD provides for additional dredging of the river beyond that originally called for in the Record of Decision to accommodate a larger tugboat with deeper draft purchased recently by the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. The tugboat docks in an embayment of the Grasse River near its confluence with the St. Lawrence River. The increase in cost of the project exceeds $50 million, so the ESD requires the Administrator's signature. The PRP, Arconic, is prepared to move ahead with the increased dredging. The second season of dredging is scheduled to start in April.

Arsenic Mine Superfund Site Proposed Plan
R2 expects to issue the Proposed Plan for this site by the end of March or early April. R2 is developing a communication strategy for the Proposed Plan, which will be discussed with OLEM and other pertinent Headquarters offices. Discussions are focusing on whether and how to conduct a "virtual" public meeting so participants do not have to assemble in person.

Evaluation of CERCLA Site Work in Private Homes
We are assessing impacts of the pandemic on ongoing and planned Superfund work in private homes, such as work involving vapor intrusion mitigation and work to connect residences to a public water supply line. We will seek to balance concerns over the possible transmission of COVID-19 and the directive to minimize social contact with our responsibility to provide protection for human health from possible exposure to hazardous substances. We will consult with OLEM in making these case-by-case decisions.

Navy Hospital Ship Dispatched to NY Harbor
The USNS COMFORT has been dispatched to NY Harbor to provide additional capacity to free up area hospitals in response to anticipated COVID-19 needs. The COMFORT is large: 894 feet long, 105 feet wide, and drawing 33 feet of water. Port facilities are available in the NY harbor that are deep enough and large enough to accommodate this vessel, so we do not anticipate a need for emergency dredging to accommodate the ship. Nevertheless, we are in communication with the Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, to let them know that we are prepared to assist should any such need arise.

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Consent Decree Entered for Fair Lawn Well Field CERCLA Site
On March 11, the New Jersey District Court entered a consent decree regarding this site in Bergen County. The settling Defendants (Fisher Scientific Co., L.L.C. and Sandvik, Inc.) will fund and implement the remedial design and remedial action (RD/RA) for the EPA-selected remedy, valued at $19.5 million, and reimburse EPA for its costs of overseeing the work. Some $1.1 million received in a separate bankruptcy settlement with the former Eastman Kodak Company will be credited against EPA's past and future response costs. After the Kodak funds are exhausted, the settling Defendants will pay 100% of future costs.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Hoosick Falls Community Participation Workgroup Meeting
This meeting, scheduled for March 26, will be a "virtual meeting," taking place by telephone. The group is focused on a number of PFAS-related issues.

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Region 3

Hot Topics

R3 Promoted the Pollution Prevention (P2) Program at Pack EXPO East 2020
R3 Pollution Prevention (P2) Program partnered with PMMI, The Association for Packaging and Processing Technologies, at their PACK EXPO East trade show March 3-5 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. R3 P2 personnel and grantees conducted presentations on PMMI's Innovation Stage and staffed a booth in PMMI's Workforce Development and Association Partner Pavilion to share resources that will help manufacturers save money, be more efficient, and protect human health and the environment. The University of Delaware, the Penn State Technical Assistance Program, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, West Virginia University, and Villanova University all assisted with the event. Attendance at the presentations and booth traffic included large companies and smaller organizations across a variety of industries. The presentations also highlighted EPA's 50th Anniversary including this month's theme, Chemical Safety.

DOJ Files Consent Decree with Dominion Energy Over CWA and CERCLA/EPCRA Violations
On March 13, the Justice Department filed in federal district court in Virginia a proposed consent decree with Dominion Energy Virginia, resolving alleged CWA and CERCLA/EPCRA violations. The alleged violations include failure to comply with NPDES permit effluent limitations, failure to operate consistently with NPDES permit requirements, failure to comply with construction stormwater permit requirements, and discharges not authorized by a NPDES permit. In addition, EPA identified violations of release notification requirements of EPCRA/CERCLA at two Dominion operations, one in Virginia and one in West Virginia. At each, Dominion failed to immediately report a release of ammonia above the reportable quantity to the NRC, state and local actors, as required by CERCLA Section 103 and EPCRA Section 304. Also, the CD resolved state-only violations of the Virginia Water Control Law, relating to seeps from coal impoundment ponds that discharged into adjacent rivers. VADEQ has assisted EPA in its CWA investigations and is a co-plaintiff and signatory to the CD. The CWA discharges have the possibility to degrade receiving streams, harm drinking water quality and harm aquatic life. Actions to reduce or eliminate future discharge violations will protect the receiving waters by reducing impacts from discharges not in compliance with the CWA. Virginia and West Virginia have been made aware of the EPCRA/CERCLA violations as well. Dominion has agreed to pay a $1.4 million civil penalty to resolve past liability.

EPA Inspects 18 West Virginia Public Water Systems in Effort to Decrease Disinfection Byproducts
On March 2-6, employees from R3, EPA's National Enforcement Investigations Center and OECA inspected the Fairmount, WV, water system and 17 systems to which they sell water. In 2018, these systems experienced an increase in disinfection byproducts resulting in health-based violations, with violations continuing to a smaller degree in 2019. Last week's inspections focused on assessing operation practices and identifying additional practices that would help decrease the formation of these byproducts to reduce cancer risk to their customers. This effort was also designed to be a training experience for state and EPA staff, with federal and state representatives meeting daily to share findings, document recommendations, and, by close of the week, share operational successes. R3 will track the status of these systems and plans to replicate this effort in other communities. R3 will likely issue an enforcement action to one of the water systems for several violations unrelated to disinfection byproduct.

R3 Air Plan Disapproval
In this notice of proposed rulemaking, EPA is proposing to disapprove the transport element of the Maryland 2010 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide Infrastructure State Implementation Plan (SIP).

EPA R3 kicks off technical training sessions for DC DOEE
EPA staff visited Washington, DC, to provide bioassessment training for staff in the DC Department of Energy & Environment Water Quality Division (Standards and TMDL Branch & Monitoring and Assessment Branch) and Fisheries and Wildlife Division (Wildlife Management Branch). R3 staff provided two sessions of detailed training on multimetric indices. The training team also discussed the development and use of additional

bioassessment tools, reference conditions, and restoration benchmarks. Additional training sessions are planned, including R programming for data analysis, macroinvertebrate identification, and headwater stream assessments.

R3 Visits Second Chance Farms in Wilmington, Delaware
On March 11, R3 visited Second Chance Farms, an indoor hydroponic farm located in an Opportunity Zone in Delaware. The visit was to learn more about this farming technique as R3 has chosen Outdoor Recreation, focusing on golf courses and urban farms, as one of our Smart Sectors. In addition, this is a type of business in which investors in opportunity zones have expressed interest. Second Chance Farms is an indoor vertical farm located in an economically distressed neighborhood in Wilmington, DE, that provides jobs and training to people returning from prison. The farm is pesticide and herbicide free and uses lower volumes of water than traditional soil-based farming. Production is fueled by 4,000 amps of electricity, which yields 4.4 million plants each year in a third of an acre space. Example of plants produced include but are not limited to leafy green vegetables, a variety of herbs, and other produce as requested by customers. Plants are grown within vertically aligned plastic containers in which water and added nutrients can reach the roots and allow the plants to grow. Artificial lighting is used to aid in the plants' process of photosynthesis.

District DOEE Public Notice Draft 2020 IR
On March 6, DOEE released to the public its draft 2020 Integrated Report (IR). The draft IR includes the District's draft 303(d) List of impaired waters. The draft can be found at: https://doee.dc.gov/node/1465166, and the public notice is open until April 6. EPA will review the document and provide comments in anticipation of a final submittal from DOEE in the coming months.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.

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Region 4

Hot Topics

COVID-19 Activities
Regional leadership is encouraging voluntary telework and has been meeting daily to work through logistical issues and share information. RA Walker is holding an All Hands conference call on March 19 and will be reaching out to all R4 States this week.

Ethylene Oxide (EtO)
R4 coordinated with OECA, OAQPS, and Mecklenburg County on a monitoring plan request for the Sterigenics facility in Charlotte, NC. R4 and OAQPS also participated in a VTC on March 17 hosted by R5 and ATSDR to discuss the upcoming release of the ATSDR Willowbrook health consultation report. An additional call is planned for March 19 to discuss messaging around the release of the report.

Yazoo Outreach
RA Walker held calls with Zippy Duvall, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation, and MS Ag Commissioner Andy Gipson on March 17 to respond to their recent controlled correspondence regarding Yazoo. RA Walker was invited to meet with Senator Hyde-Smith and USACE MG Toy on March 19 and will participate via conference call. RA Walker will also hold a conference call with Senator Wicker on March 19 to discuss Yazoo.

KY UST State Program Approval (SPA)
R4 notified Kentucky that their SPA application was complete on March 13. The SPA would allow the UST regulated universe in Kentucky to follow one set of regulations. R4 now has until September 9, 2020, to approve the application.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

All events planned for this week were cancelled/postponed by external parties due to COVID-19.

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Region 5

Hot Topics

In Cooperation with Michigan EGLE and USFWS, R5 Objects to Michigan Wetlands Permit
R5 is sending Michigan EGLE an objection letter for the Graymont Quarry transportation corridor proposal. R5 agrees with the State on the permit denial for the Graymont Quarry transportation corridor/railroad. In December 2019, Graymont proposed to install a rail and rail maintenance access road to connect the Graymont Eastern Limestone Quarry and processing facility to the active mainline railroad owned by Canadian National Railroad in Mackinac County. USFWS noted the impacts on high quality wetlands and the potential impact on species of concern. USFWS recommended EPA issue an objection letter. Michigan EGLE shares EPA and USFWS's concern.

ATSDR Postpones Rollout of Health Consultation for the Sterigenics Willowbrook Facility
ATSDR has decided to postpone the release of their health consultation evaluating risks from breathing EtO in air near the Sterigenics facility in Willowbrook, IL. ATSDR will work with EPA public affairs staff to address and coordinate messaging. Last week, R5 and OAQPS worked with ATSDR to address several technical issues with the report. Those conversations will continue.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Region 5 All-Hands Conference Call
On March 24, RA Thiede will host a teleconference for all R5 employees. The focus of the call will be to provide the latest information about EPA's COVID-19 response and to answer questions from employees.

USS Lead Zone 1 ROD Signing
R5 is preparing to announce the record of decision for zone 1 of the USS Lead Superfund site, which Administrator Wheeler intends to sign during the week of March 23. In addition to a news release, the communications plan will include outreach to federal, state and local elected officials, community members, and other stakeholders. This site is on the Administrator's Emphasis List.

GLRI Nutrients Grants Announcement
R5 intends to announce 15 GLRI nutrients reduction grants during the week of March 23. These grants, totaling about $9 million, were originally to be announced at a March 24 press event in Grand Rapids, MI.

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Region 6

Hot Topics

COVID-19
R6 has initiated unscheduled telework and unscheduled leave for employees regionwide. Over 88% of employees are teleworking, which is expected to increase by the end of the week. R6 offices in Dallas, Houston, El Paso, and Tulsa are all open. To date, regional management has not been informed of any R6 employees testing presumptive positive or positive for COVID-19. Travel has been restricted to emergency and mission critical activities to April 3. All other routine travel has been postponed. Many meetings and conferences have been postponed due to social distancing recommendations and travel restrictions. All R6 state offices are also teleworking, and several Tribal Environmental Offices have reduced their activities. R6 is coordinating closely with our state/tribal environmental and public health agencies as well EPA HQ offices to elevate and address challenges quickly.

Los Alamos County, New Mexico
On March 16, EPA filed a Reply to Los Alamos' response to the Region's Motion to Dismiss. On January 17, Incorporated County of Los Alamos, NM. filed a Petition for review of the Region's Designation Decision with the Environmental Appeals Board (EAB). EPA filed a Motion to Dismiss for Lack of Jurisdiction, or in the Alternative, Motion for Extension of Time with the EAB on February 14. The Petitioner filed its Response on March 5. On December 16, 2019, R6 issued a decision designating small MS4s located in the portion of Los Alamos County, NM. within the Los Alamos Urban Cluster as defined by the latest Decennial Census, and small MS4s located on LANL property located within Los Alamos County and Santa Fe County, NM. as small MS4s requiring NPDES permit coverage.

Clean Harbors Lone Mountain, Waynoka, Oklahoma
On March 31, EPA and ODEQ will replace a planned visit with a conference call to Clean Harbors Lone Mountain facility in Waynoka, OK. The purpose of the discussion is to review the operations at the facility including the use of "put piles." Placing the material on the ground prior to confirmation it has met treatment standards could be a violation of the Land Disposal Restrictions. To bring this practice into compliance, Clean Harbors Lone Mountain is interested in submitting a request for a No-Migration Variance. This collective discussion will assist in the development of additional guidance for industry to submit a No-Migration Variance specifically for the use of "Put Piles" to stage treated waste prior to final disposal.

Denka Performance Elastomer, LaPlace, Louisiana
On March 17, EPA updated its public website to reflect the deployment of a new air monitoring network (SPods) around Denka's neoprene facility in LaPlace, LA. EPA deployed the SPods the week of March 9 and during this initial phase, which is expected to last about two weeks, is gathering data to determine the total VOC threshold that will trigger the collection of air samples using summa canisters. Collected air samples will then be analyzed for chloroprene, and the results will be posted to EPA's website. The first test results will likely be available in four to six weeks. Lambert Law Firm, which represents the local citizens, has encouraged Louisiana Health Department to apply for EPA Community Scale Air Toxics Monitoring Grant.

San Jacinto River Waste Pits, Channelview, Texas
On March 25, EPA plans a technical work group (TWG) meeting for the San Jacinto site. A series of TWG meetings have been scheduled in an effort to maintain the remedial design schedule. EPA (Region and HQ), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, TCEQ, and the responsible parties will participate. This meeting may be postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

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Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Oklahoma SIP Revisions, Oklahoma
By March 19, R6 anticipates final approval of revisions to the Oklahoma SIP that make general updates and PSD permitting updates for the current Appendix W.

Dallas/Fort Worth Redesignation/Maintenance Plans, Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas
By March 20, EPA anticipates final action to approve a Texas SIP revision to functionally redesignate the DFW area under the revoked 1-hour and 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS and approve the associated maintenance plan.

Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant, Karnack, Texas
By March 20, EPA R6 anticipates concurrence of the Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant Superfund Site's Record of Decision for areas 18 and 24 (Burning Ground #3 and Unlined Evaporation Pond).

New Mexico Interstate Transport Requirements, New Mexico
By April 3, EPA anticipates final action approving New Mexico's SIP revision for 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard. This action is taken to demonstrate that the New Mexico SIP meets the Clean Air Act (CAA) transport requirements for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS.

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Region 7

Hot Topics

Initiation of Clinton Engines Superfund Site Assessment
R7 is proceeding with a vapor intrusion site assessment at the Clinton Engines Superfund removal site in Maquoketa, IA, starting March 23. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources referred the Clinton Engines site to EPA on February 17 to assess the risk posed by the historical release of chlorinated solvents at the site and the potential threat of trichloroethylene exposures from groundwater vapors entering structures. R7 is proceeding with a preliminary assessment/site investigation to assess source location and adjacent residential and commercial properties. R7 and contract personnel will be on site the week of March 23 to obtain access to properties to collect VI samples and to coordinate with the city on messaging and source area status. EPA staff have been directed to incorporate social distancing practices into field operations in order to continue to carry out our mission work in a protective manner. Sample collection will begin the week of March 30 with priority placed on residences with sensitive populations and then locations most likely to be impacted.

Approval of Iowa's 2018 CWA Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters Requiring a TMDL
R7 plans to propose approval of Iowa's 2018 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Impaired Water List on March 25. R7 will propose to approve the list as it was submitted by Iowa on February 24. The state's 2018 list consists of 786 water body/pollutant combinations, including the addition of 23 new water body segments representing 34 impairments and the removal of 23 water body segments representing 25 impairments from its 2016 CWA Section 303(d) List. R7 is actively partnering with Iowa on the submission of their 2020 list. Their target is to have the 2020 list submitted by the end of the calendar year.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.

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Region 8

Hot Topics

Response to Earthquake in Utah
On March 18, a 5.7 magnitude earthquake hit west of Salt Lake City, UT. The center of the earthquake was in Magna, UT, approximately 11 miles southwest of downtown Salt Lake City. There are numerous refineries and pipelines in the area. There have been no reports of major damage at the refineries or to the pipelines. In addition, EPA has received no reports of oil discharges from the refineries or pipelines. We have stood up an EOC to manage the potential response in close coordination with UDEQ and the Utah State Fire Marshall.

Final EIS for Moneta Divide Oil & Gas Project in Wyoming
R8 is considering making comments on the Final EIS for the Wyoming Moneta Divide Oil & Gas project. Moneta Divide is an existing O&G field with relatively sparse development. The proposed project will result in an unprecedented volume of produced water (58 million gallons per day). Wyoming DEQ has drafted a permit that would allow 8 MGD of produced water to be discharged to the surface. It is uncertain as to how the additional 50 MGD would be handled. Because produced water is the principal environmental impact from the project, and the disposal is complicated and unprecedented, the environmental effects are likely to be "significant" under NEPA. We recommend those components be evaluated under an EIS. This project is of high interest to the Governor. RA Sopkin will reach out to DEQ and BLM prior to sending comments on the Final EIS that are due March 23.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

RA Sopkin and Chief of Staff have the following meetings scheduled for the week of March 23-27:

March 23	Colorado Governor Jared Polis (In-person meeting)
March 24	Senator Cory Gardner's office staff (Teleconference)
March 25	Senator Michael Bennet's office staff (Teleconference)

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Region 9

Hot Topics

Closures and Cancellations
The Richmond Lab is closed as of March 17, per the Shelter-In-Place order announced for the seven counties of the San Francisco Bay Area. Staff are teleworking. We are trying to have some telework completed by our ESAT contractors and are working through access issues. In support of R9's COOP activation, the Contracts Management Section executed modifications to allow temporary telework for the following contractors: Help Desk IT services, Human Resources IT services, Tribal Drinking Water Program DIME Database Management, and QA & Data Entry Services for Tribal Water Drinking Program. The Contracts Management Section issued stop work orders for the Business Center and Records Center contracts. At the CTS Printex site, the contractor stopped the Enhanced Anaerobic Bioremediation groundwater remedy in response to the County of Santa Clara shelter in place order. They reviewed the order and determined groundwater remediation was not an essential service.

CAA Denial of Entry Recommendation
We recommended the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) seize or export six highway motorcycles imported on January 16 by Motor HQ, Inc., through the Port of Long Beach. Based on physical inspection by EPA on January 29, it was determined that Motor HQ, Inc., violated the Clean Air Act. Specifically, the catalytic converter precious metal loading measured was 50% less than what was certified by EPA.

Recommendation to Approve Travis AFB PFAS Sampling Plan
The Quality Assurance Branch recommended approval of a sampling plan for testing PFAS chemicals in offsite groundwater wells at Travis AFB. The QA Branch participated on calls with the Office of Research and Development, CA State Water Quality Control Board, and CA Department of Toxic Substances Control while reviewing the plan and developing comments. The sampling is expected to begin at the end of March. At the request of Travis AFB, the QA Branch is currently working to schedule a performance evaluation (PE) sample.

Round Valley Tribes Noncompliance
We issued a noncompliance warning letter to Round Valley Indian Tribes. The Tribe is currently noncompliant with grant closeout regulations and delinquent with program reports and deliverables. The Tribe also currently has a total ULO balance of $502,249, which is the combined amount from three active (two CWA and GAP) grants and two expired CWA grants. The Tribe has until March 31 to submit all overdue documentation.

Fort Ord (Monterey County, CA)
On March 12, the EPA Office of Inspector General released a draft report of a review of the effectiveness of institutional controls at the former Fort Ord to protect the public by restricting access to former munitions training areas while the cleanup is ongoing. The draft report concluded that, "The steps taken by the Army with EPA oversight, combined with planned follow-up actions moving forward, represent a reasonable effort to deter and minimize trespassing and prevent people from being exposed to unexploded munitions and chemical contamination in soil." The IG provided no recommendations.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Air Quality Action
We will request RA Busterud's concurrence, and transmittal for Administrator signature, on a letter to the State of California finding the South Coast 2019 Quantitative Milestone Report for the 2012 PM2.5 standard to be adequate. All measures found in the South Coast PM2.5 Moderate area plan are being implemented, and the 2019 quantitative milestones have been met. Upon an EPA finding that the 2019 Quantitative Milestone Report is adequate, reasonable further progress contingency measures for 2019 will be moot. We will request the RA's signature on a Federal Register notice proposing to approve Nevada's interstate transport SIP submittal for the

2010 sulfur dioxide standard and the RA's review on a Federal Register notice proposing to redesignate the Imperial County PM10 nonattainment area to attainment and approve its maintenance plan. Our action relies on exceptional events demonstrations to show that the area attained the PM10 standard based on 2014-2016 data and continues to attain.

Food and Beverage Manufacturers Webinar
On March 24, we will deliver a webinar for pollution prevention technical assistance providers on how to market assistance to food and beverage manufacturers. Food and beverage manufacturing is one of the national emphasis areas for EPA's pollution prevention program. Guidance on how to recruit businesses was the number one need identified by technical assistance providers funded under pollution prevention grants. We anticipate approximately 150 webinar participants from organizations across the country.

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Region 10

Hot Topics

Withdrawal of Certain Human Health Criteria for Washington
The Agency is on track to finalize the federal rule on March 31 to withdraw the majority of the federally promulgated human health criteria (HHC) in the State of Washington. These criteria are no longer needed due to EPA's May 10, 2019, approval of the corresponding state HHC. The federal criteria will remain in place for three pollutants, including arsenic and methylmercury. The withdrawal will enable the state to implement its EPA-approved HHC as the applicable criteria for Clean Water Act purposes for waters within the state's jurisdiction.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Proposal to Approve ODEQs Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Air Plan
On March 13, R10 published a Federal Register proposing to approve Oregon's plan under section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act to control emissions from existing municipal solid waste landfills. The 30-day comment period closes April 13.

Oregon PPA/PPG Workplan to be Finalized by March 31
The workplan for the 2020-2022 Oregon Performance Partnership Agreement and Performance Partnership Grant will be jointly approved by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and EPA R10 by March 31.

Regional Tribal Operations Committee Monthly Call
A Regional Tribal Operations Committee conference call was held March 18. Topics included updates provided by RA Hladick and DRA Pirzadeh, Washington Water Quality Criteria, the 2021 National Wetland Condition Assessment, Environmental Finance Advisory Board/Backhaul Alaska Program, and the recent Alaska Marine Debris Summit.

NPDES Permit Progress: Idaho Transportation Department District #1 MS4 Permit
By the end of March, R10 intends to seek CWA Section 401 certification from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality on a draft NPDES permit to address municipal stormwater discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer system owned and/or operated by Idaho Transportation Department District #1 near Coeur d'Alene, ID. Concurrent with this request, R10 will also invite tribal coordination/consultation, leading to the start a 45-public comment period on the draft MS4 permit. This action is part of the ongoing effort to eliminate the backlog of administratively extended NPDES permits.

Finalists Selected for First Round of Columbia River Basin Program Grants
R10 has completed the selection process for the first Columbia River Basin Restoration Program (CRBRP) grant projects. Fourteen projects (13 in R10 and one in R8) have been selected as finalists. We anticipate being able to make final grant awards in June totaling approximately $2 million. The projects will be funded with FY 2019 and FY 2020 Columbia River Basin Restoration Act (CWA Section 123) Funds.

Puget Sound National Estuary Program Evaluation Submitted for EPA Review
The Puget Sound Partnership has submitted their written National Estuary Program Evaluation to EPA Headquarters for review. NEP Program Evaluations are required by statute and occur every five years. A site visit is planned for this summer with EPA response/summary due by the end of the fiscal year.

R10 Supports States and Local Air Agencies by Providing Air Permits Training via Webinar
On March 31, R10's Air Permits Program will provide a webinar to state and local air permit writers throughout the region on how to develop emission factors for lumber and sawmills. This training need was identified during EPA's co-hosted Title V workshop last October.

R10 News Releases

R10 plans to issue up to three news releases during the week of March 23, including our quarterly enforcement roundup of all enforcement actions during the quarter and up to two news releases related to Clean Water Act and oil spill violations.

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Office of Air and Radiation

Hot Topics

Packages for Signature
- NESHAP: Phosphoric Acid Manufacturing (Proposed Rule)
- Vehicle Test Procedure Adjustments for Tier 3 Test Fuel (Proposed Rule)

Packages at OMB for Review
- 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)
- MATS Coal Refuse-Fired Units (Final Rule: RECEIVED January 29)
- Boiler MACT (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED February 27)
- Biogenic CO2 (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED February 24)
- Granting Petitions to Add n-Propyl Bromide to the List of Hazardous Air Pollutants (Final Notice: RECEIVED February 24)
- PM NAAQS (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED March 4)

Packages Heading to OMB Soon
- Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Nonattainment New Source Review (NNSR): Reconsideration of Fugitive Emissions (Proposed Rule)
- Cost Benefit Rule (Proposed Rule)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Community-Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring Grants Competition
This week, EPA announced an extension of the deadline to apply for the 2020 Community-Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring grants competition. As part of the Agency's mission to protect human and environmental health, EPA periodically awards these grants to help state, local, and tribal air agencies conduct air quality monitoring projects to address localized air toxics issues. Air toxics, also known as hazardous air pollutants, are linked to cancer or other serious health effects. Under the Clean Air Act, EPA regulates 187 listed air toxic pollutants. The new application deadline will be May 1.

Targeted Airshed Grant Program Request for Applications
This week, EPA will announce and extension of the deadline to apply for the Targeted Airshed Grant program. The Targeted Airshed Grant program assists local, state, and tribal air pollution control agencies in developing plans, conducting demonstrations, and implementing projects to reduce air pollution in nonattainment areas that EPA determines are the top five most polluted areas relative to ozone (O_3), annual average fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), or the 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The total funding for this competitive opportunity is approximately $105 million. The new application deadline will be April 10.

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Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Hot Topics

Toxic Substances Control Act Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (TSCA SACC) Meetings
The TSCA SACC will meet March 24-27 to peer review EPA's draft risk evaluation (RE) for trichloroethylene (TCE) and associated documents. This is a virtual public meeting with participation only by phone and webcast.

Action Packages at OMB for Review
- PIPs Exemptions Update; NPRM
- Dust-Lead Post-Abatement Clearance Levels; NPRM
- TSCA Small Manufacturer Definition; FRM

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Commodity Inert Ingredients
OPP will soon release a list of 280 inert ingredients it has designated as commodity inert ingredients. Pesticide registrants and applicants completing the Confidential Statement of Formula Form will no longer need to list the commodity inert ingredient suppliers. This designation will reduce the regulatory burden to registrants and save EPA resources by allowing registrants to source these commodity inert ingredients from multiple suppliers without having to submit additional information.

Asbestos Draft Risk Evaluation
OPPT will soon seek public input on the draft RE of asbestos. The draft assessed nine ongoing conditions of use and preliminarily found unreasonable risk to human health for six of those conditions. EPA will hold a peer review meeting of EPA's Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC) on the draft in late April.

Safer Choice Partner of the Year Applications
On March 23, the 2020 Safer Choice Partner of the Year Awards application process will be announced in the Federal Register. The awards recognize leadership contributions of Safer Choice partners and stakeholders who have shown achievement in the design, manufacture, selection, and use of products over the past year.

Isoxaflutole Registration
By March 30 (PRIA date), OPP will publish the final decision to register a new use for the herbicide isoxaflutole on soybeans genetically engineered to resist isoxaflutole.

Draft Risk Evaluation Scope Documents for 13 of the 20 High Priority Chemicals
OPPT will soon seek public comment on draft RE scope documents for 13 of the 20 chemicals designated high priority for RE under TSCA. EPA is evaluating them to determine whether they present an unreasonable risk to health or the environment under conditions outlined in the scopes. The drafts include proposed conditions of use, hazards, exposures, and potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulations EPA expects to consider. OPPT will later publish a second FRN announcing availability for comment on the seven remaining draft scope documents.

Mercury Inventory Report
OPPT will soon publish an inventory report on the supply, use, and trade of mercury in the United States, the first in a series of triennial reports supported by EPA's mercury inventory reporting rule and representing completion of a suite of mandates related to elemental mercury and mercury compounds per the amendments to TSCA.

Speaking Engagements

March 23	AA Dunn will speak remotely to the CropLife America Board of Directors, covering the role of pesticides in addressing public health (including the coronavirus), and updates on other EPA pesticides priorities.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Hot Topics

Senate Hearings
The hearing with the Senate Appropriations Interior-Environment Subcommittee on April 1 has been cancelled and replaced by a statement for the record at Chair Murkowski's request. The agency is waiting to hear whether the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing on March 31 will be cancelled or postponed. On March 13, EPA received House Appropriations Committee hearing Questions for the Record. OCFO is preparing draft responses to QFRs assigned to OCFO due to OCIR on March 24.

Supplemental Funding
At OMB's request, OCFO is working with program offices and regions to identify EPA supplemental funding needs to support a federal response to the coronavirus. Separately, OCFO also is processing $600,000 in reimbursable funding received from FEMA for a mission assignment to support FEMA in its COVID-19 Pandemic response.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Summary of Findings Dashboards
On March 20, agency draft summary of findings dashboards on strategic review results as well as risk assessment results for 11 objectives in *FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan* are due to OCFO for review and feedback. Final submissions approved by agency senior leaders are due to OCFO on April 17.

Quarter 1 Progress Update
The FY 2020, Quarter 1 Progress Update for APGs currently scheduled for public release on [HYPERLINK "http://www.Performance.gov"] on April 13 is on hold. OMB will develop and communicate a revised timeline in the coming weeks with a target publication date for mid-May.

GAO and OIG Audits and Activities

No new agency entrance conferences since the last weekly report.

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Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Hot Topics

March 31	EPA's FY 2021 Budget hearing before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPA Witness: Administrator Andrew Wheeler) *OCIR is coordinating with the Committee as they consider whether this hearing will be postponed or canceled.*
March 31 (Canceled)	House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment hearing on "Policies, Recommendations, and Impacts of the President's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request." Two EPA officials invited to speak: Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Land and Emergency Management, Barry Breen and Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water, Charlotte Bertrand. (Not yet publicly posted)
April 1 (Canceled)	EPA's FY 2021 Budget hearing before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies (EPA Witness: Administrator Andrew Wheeler)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Ongoing	OCIR is fielding multiple committee and member inquiries on coronavirus viral disinfectant and wastewater funding and program implementation issues and coordinating closely with OHS
March 25	OCIR will host its Intergovernmental Quarterly Outreach Meeting via conference call. These meetings provide an opportunity for representatives of key intergovernmental associations to engage with EPA leadership on policies and programs of interests to the communities they represent.
March 31	Justin Mattingly, PMP, Clean Water State Revolving Fund, Office of Wastewater Management (OW) will lead a call with District officials Ronald W. Sullivan, Board of Directors, Paul D. Jones II, P.E., General Manager, and Jolene R. Walsh, Director of Government and Public Affairs, to discuss the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Control Grant Program and how EPA is examining the application of eligibility criteria for water infrastructure projects.
Week of April 6 (tent.)	SEPW (minority) briefing request on Yazoo pumps with R4 and OW.

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Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Hot Topics

No Action Assurance for Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment/Supply Manufacturers
As a result of recent earthquakes in Puerto Rico that rendered inoperable a major power generating station, certain pharmaceutical and medical equipment/supply manufacturers in Puerto Rico have experienced electrical supply problems that have interfered or may interfere with manufacturing operations. On March 16 and March 18, OECA issued no action assurances to 10 pharmaceutical and medical equipment/supply manufacturers in Puerto Rico to allow them to use emergency generators for more hours than otherwise allowed by the Clean Air Act. This action will allow the manufacturers to continue to meet increased demand for pharmaceuticals and supplies as a result of COVID-19. The no action assurances apply until June 1.

Jury Finds California Businessman Guilty in $1 Billion Biodiesel Tax Fraud Scheme in Utah
As previewed in last week's report, on March 16 a federal jury in the District of Utah convicted Lev Aslan Dermen of criminal charges relating to a $1 billion renewable fuel tax credit fraud scheme. From 2010 to 2016, Dermen conspired with the owners and operators of Washakie Renewable Energy, a Utah-based biodiesel company, including its Chief Executive Officer Jacob Kingston, to create approximately 20 million fraudulent Renewable Identification Number (RIN) credits through the EPA Moderated Transaction System (EMTS) and sell them to unrelated third parties. Washakie also claimed at least $1.1 billion of fraudulent IRS refundable renewable fuel tax credits. The IRS paid out over $500 million before EPA alerted them to the scheme. The Kingstons pleaded guilty on July 19, 2019, and Jacob Kingston testified against Derman at the trial.

Pennsylvania Real Estate Developer Sentenced for Illegally Removing Asbestos
On March 18, Vikas Jain was sentenced in the Western District of Pennsylvania to one month of imprisonment, followed nine months of home detention, for violating the Clean Air Act. In May 2012, Jain purchased the George Westinghouse Research and Technology Park to redevelop the property. Prior to completing the purchase, he obtained the results of an earlier environmental assessment, which identified the presence of asbestos-containing materials (ACM). In 2017, he directed workers to remove large quantities of ACM in other areas of the facility. Jain did not apply for or obtain a permit for the abatement activity, and workers conducted the removal without proper protective clothing or adequate respirators. Once removed, ACM debris was taken to a dumpster located outside of the defendant's residential rental properties. It was subsequently taken to a local landfill that was not qualified to receive asbestos-contaminated waste.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

COVID-19 Response
As part of the COVID-19 response, OECA is working with OAR to review incoming requests for emergency fuel waivers.

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Office of General Counsel

Hot Topics

***Riverkeeper, Inc., et al. v. Wheeler, et al.*, No. 17-cv-4916 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 12)**
The court granted Plaintiffs' motion for reconsideration or to amend an earlier judgment from March 18, 2019. Plaintiffs' Complaint alleges that EPA is required to promulgate primary recreation water quality criteria following its March 7, 2018 disapproval of criteria submitted by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) for the waters around New York City. In its 2019 Order, the court granted EPA's motion to dismiss Plaintiffs' mandatory duty claim on the grounds that section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act does not set a "date certain" for EPA promulgation of new or revised standards following a disapproval. That decision characterized the court's ruling as a final order that fully resolved the case. However, Plaintiffs filed a motion for reconsideration or to amend an earlier judgment on the theory that its Complaint also pled an Administrative Procedure Act (APA) unreasonable delay claim, which was not subject to EPA's motion to dismiss. In its most recent order, the court granted that motion and gave Plaintiffs 30 days to file an amended complaint "to more explicitly articulate their APA claim."

***Chesapeake Climate Action Network, et al v. EPA*, No. 15-1015 (D.C. Cir. Mar. 13)**
The court remanded the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) startup and shutdown work practice standards for further consideration. The Court found that Petitioner's reconsideration petition raised objections that were both impracticable to raise during the comment period and of central relevance to the final action. The court concluded that it was impracticable to comment on the identity of best performing electric generating units (EGUs) upon which the work practice standard was based, or EPA's determination that the ability to remove SO2 and NOx equates to the ability to measure hazardous air pollutant (HAP) emissions from EGUs. The court also concluded that these issues are of central relevance because they go to the legality of EPA's work practice under section 112(h)(2) of the Clean Air Act

***Long, et. al. v. Department of Justice (DOJ), et. al.*, No. 1:20-cv-701 (D.D.C. filed March 11)**
Plaintiffs filed a complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief against EPA and the Department of Justice (DOJ) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The complaint concerns a pair of requests that seek data regarding FOIA requests filed with DOJ from October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2019.

***Environmental Defense Fund, et al. v. Wheeler*, No. 1:20-cv-00762-EGS (D.D.C. filed Mar. 1)**
On March 18, OGC became aware that the Environmental Defense Fund, along with others, filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia challenging EPA's alleged failure to timely provide information, including information for which confidential business information (CBI) claims are made, in accordance with the Toxic Substances Control Act's (TSCA) new chemicals information disclosure provisions. This lawsuit follows the Notice of Intent to Sue that these parties served on EPA early in September 2019.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.

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Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Hot Topics

White House Indian Country COVID-19 Conference Call
The White House Indian Country COVID-19 Response Team invited tribal leaders from across the nation to participate in a conference call and invited the tribal leaders for their perspectives and coordination in preparing for and responding to COVID-19 in Indian Country. Among the discussion topics was reference to the recently issued "President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America: 15 Days to Slow the Spread." AIEO Director Scott Mason participated on the call to ascertain tribal concerns and priorities and how they may apply to EPA's efforts. In addition, OITA/AIEO and our Lead Region (R7) hosted a call with the tribal program coordinators in all the regional and program offices to discuss EPA's efforts to support tribal governments as they respond to COVID-19. As a result of the call, information will be compiled to 1) identify issues related to the disruption and implementation of tribal program work; 2) develop a national tribal communications and coordination plan; and 3) identify the status of tribal government operations across the country.

G20 Sherpa Meeting
The second G20 Sherpa meeting took place on March 12 in Khobar, Saudi Arabia. The abbreviated meeting took place for those delegations that were able to join in-person and by video teleconference for those unable to join in-person. The United States was represented in person by the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh and by White House officials though video conference. The condensed set of discussions focused on COVID 19 in addition to a number of other key policy tracks. The United States also met with Saudi G20 representatives to discuss the Communiques under development in various tracks, the number of annexes, and appropriate time for edits and revisions to proposed text. The G20 Presidency team from Saudi Arabia announced the postponement of this month's scheduled Agriculture and Education Ministerial Meetings until after June.

International Meetings Postponed due to COVID-19
The Commission for Environmental Cooperation's Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) meeting, scheduled for March 23, in Montreal, Canada, has been postponed due to COVID-19. The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Committee of Permanent Representatives held a conference call to discuss the postponement or cancellation of multilateral UNEP meetings for the next eight weeks. The Better Air Quality (BAQ) Conference, scheduled for September 21-25, in Chengdu, China, has been postponed.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.

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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 published in the FR on February 20, and the public comment period ends on April 20.
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. On March 3, the Part B NPRM was published in the FR. The public comment period ends on April 17.
d. CCR Legacy Units ANPRM - Package expected to be sent to OP for OMB review soon.

Modernizing Ignitable Liquids Determinations Final Rule
OMB has determined that this final rule is not a significant regulatory action and is, therefore, not subject to an interagency review prior to signature. The Office of the Federal Register is reviewing the incorporation-by-reference aspect of the rule.

PCB Extraction NPRM
OLEM is revising the rule package in response to comments received during workgroup closure. OMB has determined that this proposed rule is a significant regulatory action and, therefore, subject to interagency review.

RMP Reconsideration Final Rule
Three organizations (the United Steelworkers, Earthjustice, and some States) have submitted petitions to EPA for reconsideration of the final rule under CAA Section 307(d)(7)(B)

Ongoing major Superfund NPL sites
We are working with R2 on Woodbrook Road, Rolling Knolls, and Grasse River; R4 on Oak Ridge, Birmingham 35th Ave., and Petroleum Products Corporation; R5 on USS Lead, St. Regis, and Sandoval; R8 on Anaconda Smelter; and R10 on Portland Harbor, Quendall Terminal, Bradford Island, and East Waterway.

Administrator's Emphasis List (AEL)
OLEM received the Administrator's approval on the next release of the AEL. We are working with OPA on the press release.

CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance (next three sectors)
The Industry 2 (Petroleum and Coal) rule package was published in the FR on December 23, 2019, and the public comment period ended on February 21. The Industry 3 (Chemical Manufacturing) NPRM package was published in the FR on February 21, and the public comment period ends on April 21.

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

OLEM Business Review
March 19 OLEM will hold its monthly business review meeting.

Office of Mission Support

Hot Topics

Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Update
OMS continue to coordinate with the AO, NPMs and Regions, Office of Management and Budget, Office of Personnel Management, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Health and Human Services, General Services Administration, and State and Local Public Health Departments to stay up to date on COVID-19. OMS will continue to provide updates to employees through mass mailers, which will be posted on EPA's Intranet page.

New Employee Onboarding and Orientation
Due to COVID-19, OMS established a proposal for an abbreviated onboarding process and new employee orientation during the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 18 new headquarters employees participated in new employee orientation on March 16. Anyone who is not currently scheduled to be onboarded will have a start date no earlier than first pay period in May.

Remote Access Update - Virtual Private Network
During the March 18 overnight maintenance window, our service provider installed updated configurations to address the performance issues encountered. Users should expect the VPN connection process to take longer than usual. There may be software and configuration downloads operating in the background. There were no performance issues with the infrastructure as of March 19. EPA serviced over 10,000 concurrent connections at our peak today.

Headquarters Conference Center - Construction Phase
OMS is proceeding with construction on the HQ conference center as well as additional contracts in order to ensure the facility is open by the December EPA anniversary celebration.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

National Honor Awards Ceremony Update
The NHA ceremony remains tentatively scheduled for July. It will be hosted in the Ronald Reagan Building Atrium. More details to follow.

Office of Policy

Hot Topics

FY 2019 Environmental Justice Interagency Working Group Report
By March 26, the Office of Environmental Justice expects to release a report highlighting the FY 2019 accomplishments of the EJ Interagency Working Group. The EJ IWG, chaired by EPA, is comprised of 17 federal agencies and White House offices responsible for implementing Executive Order 12898 ("Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations").

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Active Interagency Reviews from OMB	
Subject	**OMB Due Date**
Treasury/IRS NPRM (Pass-back): Denial of Deduction for Certain Fines, Penalties, and Other Amounts; Information With Respect To Certain Fines, Penalties, and Other Amounts	03/18/2020
USDA/APHIS FRM (Pass-back): Movement of Certain Genetically Engineered Organisms	03/19/2020
Treasury/IRS NPRM: Credit for Carbon Oxide Sequestration	03/20/2020
DOC/NOAA NPRM: Proposed Expansion and Regulatory Revision of Monitor National Marine Sanctuary; Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Management Plan	03/24/2020
DOI/NPS NPRM: Commercial Visitor Services; Concession Contracts	03/30/2020
DOT/PHMSA NPRM: Pipeline Safety: Amendments to Liquefied Natural Gas Facilities	03/31/2020
State FRM: Environmental Protection: Regulations for Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	04/01/2020
Treasury/IRS NPRM: Tax on Excess Tax-Exempt Organization Executive Compensation	N/A

Documents Sent to the OFR from March 12-18, 2020		
FRL #	**Title**	**Date Sent to FR**
10004-83-OCSPP	Safer Choice Partner of the Year Awards Call for Submissions	03-18-2020
10005-56-OCSPP	TSCA Chemical Data Reporting Revisions under TSCA Section 8(a)	03-18-2020
10006-39-OCSPP	Chemical Data Reporting; Extension of the 2020 Submission Period	03-18-2020
10006-61-OCSPP	Certain New Chemicals; Receipt and Status Information for February 2020	03-18-2020
10006-75-OAR	Standards of Performance for New Residential Wood Heaters and New Residential Hydronic Heaters and Forced-Air Furnaces Amendments.	03-17-2020
10006-81-OMS	Environmental Protection Agency Acquisition Regulation (EPAAR); Award Term Incentive	03-17-2020
10006-51-Region 9	Air Plan Approval; California; San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District	03-17-2020
10006-83-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Technical Amendment	03-17-2020
10006-84-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Second Maintenance Plan for 1997 Ozone NAAQS; Door County, Kewaunee County, Manitowoc County and Milwaukee-Racine Area	03-17-2020
10006-90-OAR	Improvements for Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Test Procedures, and other Technical Amendments	03-17-2020
10005-99-Region 6	Clean Air Act Operating Permit Program; Petitions for Objection to State Operating Permit for Dow Chemical Company, Dow Salt Dome Operations, Brazoria County, Texas	03-16-2020
10006-64-Region 10	Hazardous Waste Management System; Final Exclusion for Identifying and Listing Hazardous Waste	03-16-2020
10006-68-OAR	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Engine Test Cells/Stands Residual Risk and Technology Review	03-16-2020
10006-70-OAR	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Surface Coating of Automobiles and Light-Duty Trucks; Surface Coating of Miscellaneous Metal Parts and Products; Surface Coating of Plastic Parts and Products; Surface Coating of Large Appliances; Printing, Coating, and Dyeing of Fabrics and Other Textiles; and Surface Coating of Metal Furniture Residual Risk and Technology Review	03-16-2020
10006-74-OAR	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Paper and Other Web Coatings Residual Risk and Technology Review	03-16-2020

10006-76-OAR	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Cellulose Products Manufacturing Residual Risk and Technology Review	03-16-2020
10006-80-OAR	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Hydrochloric Acid Production Residual Risk and Technology Review	03-16-2020
10006-88-OAR	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Organic Liquids Distribution (Non-Gasoline) Residual Risk and Technology Review	03-16-2020
10006-87-OAR	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Generic Maximum Achievable Control Technology Standards Residual Risk and Technology Review for Ethylene Production	03-16-2020
10006-95-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; TN; Volatile Organic Compounds Definition Rule Revision for Chattanooga	03-16-2020
10006-94-OAR	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Site Remediation Residual Risk and Technology Review	03-16-2020
10006-50-OCSPP	TSCA Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals; Request for Nominations	03-16-2020
10006-79-OCSPP	Trichloroethylene; TSCA Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC) Meeting; Amended Notice of Public Meeting	03-16-2020
10006-82-Region 10	Air Plan Approval; Washington; Northwest Clean Air Agency	03-16-2020
10006-30-Region 6	Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; New Mexico and Albuquerque-Bernalillo County, New Mexico; Control of Emissions From Existing Other Solid Waste Incineration Units	03-16-2020
10006-09-ORD	Authority: Pub. L. 92–463, §1, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770. Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) Air and Energy Subcommittee Meeting – April 2020	03-13-2020
10006-14-Region 8	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; North Dakota; Revisions to Permitting Rules	03-13-2020
10006-48-Region 8	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Montana; Columbia Falls, Kalispell and Libby PM10 Nonattainment Area Limited Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request	03-13-2020
10006-62-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) Determinations for Case-by-Case Sources under the 1997 and 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards	03-13-2020
10006-77-Region 3	Air Plan Approval; West Virginia; Redesignation and Maintenance Plan for the West Virginia Portion of the Steubenville Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area	03-13-2020
10006-38-OCSPP	Carbaryl and Methomyl Registration Review; Draft Endangered Species Act Biological Evaluations; Notice of Availability	03-12-2020
10006-57-OLEM	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); Contractor Access to Confidential Business Information	03-12-2020

Office of Research and Development

Hot Topics

COVID-19 Disinfection
At the request of CDC, ORD and CMAD staff provided technical support on COVID-19 disinfection to TSA to inform TSA's decisions on cleaning methods using EPA-approved disinfectants. TSA is developing guidance for their workers on routine cleaning of their screening equipment and materials (e.g., bins). In addition, at the request of R9, ORD recommended decontamination options using EPA's list of registered products for coronavirus and apply per the manufacturers' directions to have the best disinfection on a variety of surfaces on the Carnival Grand Princess cruise ship. ORD advised that sodium hypochlorite-based solutions tested better than hydrogen peroxide-based disinfectants in ORD research against other biological agents on materials such as asphalt and concrete.

Technical Support to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on Lead Action Levels
On March 13, R5 requested ORD technical support to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI-DNR) about the results of a corrosion control treatment study conducted by a medium-sized surface water system in Wisconsin. WI-DNR previously had a lead action level exceedance. R5 and ORD advised WI-DNR to continue studying the issue and wait for more data, as the system is not currently exceeding the lead action level. ORD will review the consultant's final report once provided by WI-DNR.

Technical Support to Identify Lead Service Lines in Vermont
Last week, ORD offered technical support to the State of Vermont and its consultants on applying a sampling approach to identify lead service lines (LSL). The lead service lines were throughout the City of Bennington, VT, located in R1. ORD sent the State information on how to sample drinking water from homes to identify LSL. This effort also provided an opportunity for EPA to collect LSL data in a field application.

Discussions on Preliminary Plan for PFAS in Summerville (GA)
Last week, ORD researchers provided support to the City of Summerville, GA's water utility, EPA R4, and Georgia's Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources to assist in determining a preliminary plan for using granular activated carbon to treat PFAS in Summerville's source water.

Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science; Supplemental Proposal (Tier 1)
On March 18, the supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking published in the *Federal Register*, kicking off a 30-day public comment period. The public comment period will close on April 17.

ORD Releases Species Sensitivity Distribution (SSD) Toolbox V1.0
Species sensitivity distributions (SSDs) are a common tool used for setting safe limits on chemical concentrations in surface waters. The SSD toolbox simplifies this process by gathering a variety of algorithms to support users in fitting, summarizing, visualizing and interpreting SSDs. With the SSD Toolbox risk assessors can quickly fit and visualize simple SSDs that are designed to be useful with both large and small datasets.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.

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Office of Water

Hot Topics

Supporting Americans and the Water Sector during the COVID-19 Pandemic
The Office of Water is engaged in a significant number of activities and information requests to support the water sector on responding to COVID-19, such as supporting COOP planning with our water association stakeholders and responding to technical assistance requests from Congress. Additionally, last week we provided information on drinking water and wastewater to the public to provide clarity during the COVID-19 pandemic. This information was posted at [HYPERLINK "http://www.epa.gov/coronavirus"]. As soon as possible, the Office of Water and OPA will web-post additional resources that drinking water and wastewater utilities can use to help ensure continued operations during the pandemic. These resources will support utilities' resiliency planning as it relates to potential impacts of COVID-19, including staff shortages and supply chain disruptions.

Proposed Rule: Wyoming Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program; Class VI Primacy
This week, the Office of Water sent to the Office of Policy for signature by the Administrator the proposed rule titled *Wyoming Underground Injection Control Program; Class VI Primacy*. This proposed action, when finalized, would approve primacy for the State of Wyoming to implement and enforce the State's Class VI UIC program and issue Class VI UIC permits, except on Indian lands, per the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Training and Technical Assistance Grants for Small Water Systems
As early as next week, the Office of Water will announce the award of $15 million in grant funding for technical assistance providers to improve the water quality of small drinking water and wastewater systems and private wells that are often located in rural communities. These grants will help ensure that smaller water systems have the knowledge, training, and technical assistance needed to continue providing clean drinking water and safeguard public health. Recipients of these grant awards, the Rural Community Assistance Partnership and the National Rural Water Association offer technical assistance to small public water systems to achieve and maintain compliance with drinking water and wastewater regulations.

WIIN Act Grants to test for Lead in Schools
As early as next week, EPA will announce $26 million in new funding for states, territories and tribes to test for lead in drinking water for schools and childcare facilities located in low-income and disadvantaged communities. Established by the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN), this grant program will fund local and tribal educational agencies as they conduct voluntary testing for lead in drinking water at schools and childcare programs in low-income and disadvantaged communities. In its second year, the *Voluntary Lead Testing in Schools and Child Care Drinking Water* grant program will provide approximately $24.4 million to participating states and territories and an additional $1.6 million for tribes. This new funding also provides an opportunity for eligible entities that did not participate in the program last year. New participants to the program have until May 3 to provide notification to EPA of intent to take part in the program.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.