Region 1

Hot Topics

Maine Petitions to Opt Out of Ozone Transport Region

On October 17, R1 staff had a call with OAQPS and OGC to discuss Maine's revised draft 176(a)(2) petition to remove portions of Maine from the Ozone Transport Region (OTR). Maine submitted a previous request in 2018 that was subsequently withdrawn. The current proposed petition extended the area to remain in the OTR to include the maintenance areas under the 1997 ozone standard. R1, OAQPS, and OGC determined that the revised draft is technically sound, but questions remain regarding enforceability of measures included in the draft petition.

Brownfields to Breweries Event

On October 21, as part of our Smart Sectors initiatives, R1 attended a Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM) brewery sector workshop highlighting the various environmental regulations and technical assistance opportunities that may apply to brewery operations and growth in the state. R1 staff presented materials related to brownfield redevelopment, opportunity zones, wastewater treatment, and food waste management.

Region 1 Attends Opportunity Zone Conference

On October 22, R1 staff attended a one-day conference, Catalyzing Opportunity Zone Investments, at the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston. The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) hosted the event, which featured economic development finance experts from all six New England States. Discussions included development finance tools, authorities, resources, and approaches to leverage opportunity zone investments.

Brownfield Grant Job Training

On October 24, RA Deziel participated in a big check press event in New Bedford, MA, to celebrate the FY20 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant announcement. Located in an opportunity zone, the City of New Bedford will receive a $200,000 grant for their program, which will include project partners Bristol Community College, the Workplace, and MassHire New Bedford Workforce Board.

Region 1 Attends Federal Panel on Offshore Wind

On October 22, R1 staff spoke at the American Wind Energy Association's Offshore Windpower Conference in Boston. R1 was on a panel with other federal agencies (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of Defense, and U.S. Coast Guard) discussing the permitting obligations of offshore wind development in federal waters.

EPA Completes Removal Action at Loring Air Force Base in Maine

On October 17, R1 completed its Removal Action at Loring Air Force Base by shipping 4,720 gallons of Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) firefighting foam and 200 pounds of debris offsite for incineration.

Community Forum and Workshop for Nuclear Metals Site in Massachusetts

On October 17, EPA, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the Town of Concord Nuclear Metals/Startmet Reuse Committee held a community forum and workshop for Concord residents to discuss potential future reuse of the Nuclear Metals/Starmet Superfund Site. The two identical sessions were well attended.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

None to report.

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Region 2

Hot Topics

Sherwin-Williams/Kirwood Lake Superfund Site, Gibbsboro, NJ
R2 held a meeting with representatives of Camden County and Sherwin-Williams on October 22 to identify a possible legal path forward regarding Camden County's concern over liability protection for their planned maintenance dredging on Kirkwood Lake. R2 is working to organize a follow-up meeting to determine if the potential solution of having Camden County act as Sherwin-Williams' agent, which as asserted provides county liability protection, is acceptable to EPA. Congressman Norcross called RA Lopez to express appreciation for the constructive engagement.

Saint Gobain-Performance Plastics Superfund Site, Hoosick Falls, NY
In response to RA Lopez's and ORD's October 8 letter to NYSDEC Commissioner Seggos regarding the timing of ORD's emissions characterization summary report, Hoosick Falls Mayor Robert Allen sent a letter to the RA and ORD requesting that the results be presented at the October 23 CPWG meeting. RA Lopez called Mayor Allen to inform him that ORD will present the preliminary air monitoring results to Region 2 and NYDEC during a call on October 30.

Region 2's Impressive ECAD Data Results for the End of FY19
R2's ECAD Division finished FY19 with impressive environmental benefit, injunctive relief, and penalty results. ECAD's consent decree with the City of New York to cover Hillview Reservoir was number one in the country for injunctive relief – $2.5 billion, the largest SDWA action ever taken by EPA – and in the top 20 for environmental benefits by reducing microbial contamination risk for 8.2 million residents of New York City. ECAD's MR Developer's LLC Administrative Penalty order was number one in the country for environmental benefits, with 78.7 million lbs. of water pollutants reduced.

Port Clean Air Strategy Update
R2 learned that the Port Authority (PANYNJ) is considering not moving forward with another round of the Clean Air Strategy. The current (second) iteration of the strategy covers actions through 2020 to reduce air emissions from port activities. PANYNJ's contractor relayed concerns from the PANYNJ that actions in a future Clean Air Strategy would reach outside the capacity of what the strategy group can achieve in its current structure. Some of the goals identified for the future strategy include enhanced community engagement, deployment of zero-emissions vehicles, and continued/accelerated criteria and greenhouse gas pollutant reductions. The PANYNJ proposed instead that the scope of the strategy be broadened so the PANYNJ itself was no longer the focus. Rather, the strategy would cover all marine operations in the port district, which includes many private tug, ferry, and tanker operations. PANYNJ suggested R2 play the convening role in this broader strategy.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

NYSDEC Water Quality Standards Proposed Clarification Rule
A public hearing will be held at 2:00 on January 8, 2020, to discuss NYSDEC's water quality standards proposed clarification rule at NYSDEC's office in Long Island City, NY.

In-Person Meeting in Trenton on the ORD/NJDEP PFAS Study
R2 is proposing to brief NJDEP on the latest results of the joint ORD/NJDEP PFAS sampling study on December 9 in Trenton. NJDEP Associate Commissioner Katie Angarone, the directors of site remediation, and the Division of Science will attend along with technical staff from all agencies.

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Region 3

Hot Topics

RA, CBPO Director to Meet with Maryland Congressional Delegation

RA Servidio and R3 senior management met with the Maryland Congressional delegation on October 22 in Washington, D.C., to provide an update on Chesapeake Bay issues. The meeting, which included Senator Cardin, Senator Van Hollen, and the Maryland Department of the Environment, focused on the health of the Chesapeake Bay and federal-state strategies to address watershed issues. The delegation held a media availability following the meeting.

West Virginia Meetings Yield Paths Forward

Last week, RA Servidio met with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) to resolve a long-standing submission of their revised water quality criteria for aluminum. The previous administration shelved the submission rather than come to a decision. R3 has worked diligently for the past two years to identify a path forward that was accepted by WVDEP at the meeting. Technical staff will now develop a plan and schedule to revise the submission to include the minimum components necessary to seek approval. RA Servidio also met with the coal association, as they have inquired about the status of the aluminum criteria. During this trip, RA Servidio also met with the WV Health Department to discuss their comprehensive 2018 drinking water program evaluation. EPA discussed services the health department can take advantage of in making improvements to their systems' compliance rates.

West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting with Region 3

On October 22, approximately 20 members of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce and the West Virginia Speaker of the House visited Philadelphia for their annual meeting with R3. RA Servidio gave opening remarks that were followed by regulatory updates from senior management.

EPA Brownfields Grant Awarded to the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority

On October 24, RA Servidio announced the award of a $300,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant to the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority (PRA). The event took place at the abandoned General John F. Reynolds School located at 24th & Jefferson Street. The site, located in an Opportunity Zone in North Central Philadelphia, is one of several brownfield sites the city plans to assess with the funds. The Reynolds School is a historic school building built between 1925 and 1926. The school was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988, closed in 2013, and sold to the Philadelphia Housing Authority in 2014. The school/property will be redeveloped into housing for homeless veterans. In addition to RA Servidio, the HUD Regional Administrator and the Mayor of Philadelphia participated in the event.

Three Region 3 Communities Will Receive Brownfields Job Training Grants

On October 24, three Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grantees were announced. Auberle in McKeesport, PA, Civic Works in Baltimore, MD, and Earth Conservancy in Ashley, PA, will receive $200,000 each to recruit, train, and place unemployed, under-employed, and disadvantaged residents, such as homeless, disabled vets, and those with criminal records, for employment at local companies in the environmental remediation field. All three are previous Brownfields Job Training grantees. To date, Civic Works has placed 850 participants in jobs, Auberle has placed 34, and Earth Conservancy has placed 21.

2019 EPA/State NPDES Regional Forum and Training

On October 1-3, R3 hosted a regional forum and training in Bethany Beach, DE, for R3 states to engage in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) emerging issues, updates, success stories, and challenges. Representatives from each state shared their respective program challenges and strengths in panel discussions facilitated by EPA. The forum included three different breakout sessions for topics related to enforcement, permits, and mining. Topics covered included Nutrient Trading, Data Analytics and Visualization, Mining Success Stories and Challenges. Speakers from the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays and Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA) were also invited to the forum and provided their perspectives on

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various NPDES activities and emerging concerns. This productive exchange with EPA and the regional states allowed those working in the NPDES universe to come together with ideas, solutions, and questions.

EPA Approves West Virginia and Ohio Attainment Plans for the Steubenville Nonattainment Area
In a final rulemaking (FRN) action published on October 22 (84 FR 22909), EPA approved the state implementation plan (SIP) submissions from both West Virginia and Ohio for the Steubenville multi-state SO_2 nonattainment area. The action approved the base year emissions inventory and an attainment plan consisting of an attainment demonstration, reasonably available control measures/reasonably available control technology (RACM/RACT), reasonable further progress, and contingency measures. To provide for attainment, new control measures for Mountain State Carbon, the main source of SO_2 in the West Virginia portion of the area, are incorporated into the West Virginia SIP. Likewise, more stringent emission limits were required on Cardinal Power Plant located in the Ohio portion of the Area.

Commission Recommendation for Daily Limits for Coal-Fired Electric Generating Units in Pennsylvania
On October 18, the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) gave notice of a public comment period regarding a proposed recommendation to EPA for electric generating units (EGUs) in Pennsylvania. Specifically, the recommendation proposes a control measure to establish daily control technology optimization requirements and daily nitrogen oxide (NOx) limits at coal-fired EGUs in Pennsylvania. This proposal follows a petition to the OTC, on behalf of Maryland, that was submitted on May 30 under CAA Section 184(c) asking the OTC to consider developing additional control measures within part of the Ozone Transport Region (OTR). If, after public comment, the OTC approves the recommendation, it will be submitted to the EPA under CAA Section 184(c). The comment period closes on November 22.

Watson Johnson Landfill, Bucks County, Pennsylvania
EPA performed sampling for perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at the Watson Johnson Landfill Site the week of October 14. EPA's contractor sampled 20 monitoring wells in various stratigraphic units, including upgradient locations. EPA expects to receive the unvalidated results during the week of October 28. PFAS was initially detected in five monitoring wells sampled in August 2019 at concentrations of up to 300 parts per trillion.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events
RA Servidio has the following events scheduled:

October 28	State Agricultural Secretaries Call
October 29	Meeting with State Senators Yaw and Ward of the Environmental Resources & Energy Committee, Harrisburg, PA
October 30	R3 Awards Ceremony

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Region 4

Hot Topics

Yazoo Backwater Area (Vicksburg, MS)
RA Walker and the Deputy AA for OW participated in a public meeting/listening session in Rolling Fork, MS, on October 21 to hear from residents of the Mississippi Delta Region who were impacted by flooding during 2019. RA Walker, the Deputy AA for OW, and R4 and OWOW staff participated in a meeting with Corps leadership with the Mississippi Valley Division and Vicksburg District on October 22 to discuss the path forward regarding sharing data and information regarding the Yazoo Backwater Area.

Former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base (Myrtle Beach, SC)
On October 22, EPA presented the National Federal Facility Excellence in Site Reuse Award honoring the 3,936-acre former Air Force base. The former base is now home to Myrtle Beach International Airport, over 1,200 new homes, a dozen parks, walking paths and sporting facilities, a golf course, a college, a new technology and aerospace business park, and a centerpiece commercial district called The Market Common, which features various shops and restaurants.

Westside Lead Site (Atlanta, GA)
EPA is coordinating outreach to the city of Atlanta, the state of Georgia, Atlanta City Council, and impacted property owners regarding updated lead sampling results letters.

Petition to Set Aside CA/FO (Daviess County, KY)
RA Walker is in receipt of a petition from CAPPAD, Inc. to set aside a Clean Water Act Class I Consent Agreement and Final Order (CA/FO) in the matter of Jerry O'Bryan. Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.45(c)(4)(iii), on October 24, RA Walker assigned a Petition Officer to consider and rule on the Petition. Within 30 days of the assignment, the Petition Officer must be presented with a copy of the CA/FO and a written response to the Petition.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

October 28	RA Walker will provide the keynote address at the 2019 Southeast Brownfields Conference and will recognize "Friendly" Redevelopment Leveraging Competition community awardees and an FY20 Brownfields Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training awardee. Orlando, FL. Open Press.
October 29	RA Walker will participate in a South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Meeting. Washington, D.C. Closed Press.

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Region 5

Hot Topics

Administrator Wheeler Announces Great Lakes Action Plan

During an October 22 visit to Detroit, Administrator Wheeler unveiled the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan III, which outlines GLRI priorities for the next five years. Among the priorities for the GLRI will be to combat invasive species, to work with farmers to lower pollution runoff that can cause algal blooms, and to restore habitats affected by pollution and development. Administrator Wheeler also announced $10 million for five GLRI projects in Michigan.

Wolverine World Wide Site Cleanup Initiated

On October 18, Wolverine World Wide began excavation activities at its former tannery property in Rockford, MI. The work is being conducted as part of a time-critical removal action at the direction of EPA under a unilateral administrative order. The tannery removal action includes excavation of soil on and adjacent to the former tannery and along Rum Creek and the Rogue River. Two small areas of river sediment are also being removed. The excavated soil and sediment are being transported off-site for disposal. A second portion of the site, the former House Street Dump, is also seeing activity, as Wolverine is installing fencing around the waste area discovered by sampling in 2018.

Region 5 Announces Brownfields Job Training Grant in Racine, WI

R5 Chief of Staff Kurt Thiede on October 24 announced a $196,000 grant under the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training program to the Great Lakes Community Conservation Corps. GLCCC will provide residents with the skills necessary to secure employment in the environmental field to will help lower the unemployment rate in the community. Racine contains three Opportunity Zones and 300 brownfields that need redevelopment. The event included a tour of brownfield sites in the community and presentations from job-training students.

EPA to Assume Lead Role at DePue/New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical Superfund Site, DePue, IL

EPA has officially accepted the lead agency role at the DePue/New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical Superfund site after receiving a written request from the Illinois EPA on October 16. The letter from Illinois EPA Director John Kim asks U.S. EPA to undertake the lead agency role at the site to facilitate negotiations for a consent decree with the responsible parties. EPA is implementing a roll-out strategy that includes issuing a press release, notifying congressional stakeholders and local elected officials, and jointly announcing the transition (with the state) at an October 23 Community Advisory Group meeting.

R5 Hosts Gatherings of Tribal Environmental Officials

The Tribal Environmental Program Management (TEPM) Conference October 21-23, and the Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) October 24 brought together R5 staff and officials from the Region's 35 federally recognized tribes. The annual TEPM conference saw EPA and tribal technical staff discuss issues of mutual interest and promote the EPA-tribal partnership. A variety of sessions addressed all environmental media, tribal government, and children's health. RTOC, which meets three times a year, brings together R5 senior management and tribal Leaders to discuss policy issues surrounding the implementation of environmental programs in Indian Country. The RA Stepp co-chairs the RTOC.

Harmful Algal Bloom on the Ohio River

Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission officials report the bloom appears to be reducing in intensity, although is still high in several spots. Although declining in some areas, sampling is still finding microcystis colonies (which produce the microcystin toxin) in the water column in many areas of the river. Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana have continued their public health advisory for portions of the river. Data will continue to be collected at sites where states have issued precautionary or recreational advisories.

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Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

DERA Clean School Bus Grant

On October 28, R5 Chief of Staff Thiede and Ohio EPA will announce a DERA clean school bus grant for Dayton schools. Dayton Public Schools will buy 15 new, clean-running school buses with the help of $330,375 from U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA. Chief of Staff Thiede presented EPA's portion of $55,000 in DERA funds.

Redevelopment at Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant Superfund Site in Fridley, MN

On October 28, R5 and HQ officials will present U.S. Navy and developer awards for redevelopment at the Naval Industrial Reserve Ordnance Plant (NIROP) Superfund site in Fridley, MN. The event will celebrate cleanup and redevelopment of 122 acres on the NIROP site where 18 new businesses employing 1,500 people have landed. EPA HQ and R5 officials will praise the Superfund program and present redevelopment awards to the U.S. Navy and site developer Hyde Development.

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Region 6

Hot Topics

Mosaic Fertilizer, Uncle Sam, Convent, LA

During an October 21 meeting with EPA, LDEQ and DOJ, Mosaic presented the latest data on water balance and gypstack slope movement. Mosaic requested additional time to submit its root cause analysis behind the slope movement. In their October 14 response to EPA's comments on freeboard calculations, Mosaic invoked the informal dispute resolution provisions of the consent decree (CD) and referenced the October 9 Executive Order "Promoting the Rule of Law." This was discussed at the October 21 meeting, and a separate call was proposed for October 28. Meanwhile, the potential issue with Mosaic's freeboard calculation and/or Mosaic's inclusion of the 110-acre emergency detention impoundment's reserve capacity in its overall water balance analysis could have the net effect of putting Mosaic in violation of the CD's freeboard requirements and trigger the CD requirement for Mosaic to develop a plan to address water balance issues. Government attorneys will opine on the CD violation and trigger.

Conroe Creosoting Company Superfund Site, Conroe, TX

Beginning October 23, Trammell Crow Corporation (TCC) will begin soil dioxin sampling at the Conroe Creosoting site and is expected to take two weeks to complete. Outside counsel for TCC continued their discussions with the Texas Attorney General's office regarding state consideration for a Bonafide Prospective Purchaser Agreement.

OIG Meeting on Border 2020, Dallas, TX

On October 28, the Office of the Inspector General will host a follow-up meeting with R6 and R9 on the recent audit of the Border 2020 Program. The audit focused on evaluating the processes that oversee Border 2020 program activities and the achievement of Border 2020 goals. At this time, OIG will have an opportunity to ask clarifying questions, possibly share their next steps, and share any potential findings.

Monarch Waste Technologies, LLC, Nambe Pueblo, NM

Tribal consultations are underway on Monarch as a result of eight letters sent September 12 to tribes located near the facility on the Nambe Pueblo near Santa Fe, NM. The facility's Pyromed 550 System is a Hospital Medical Infectious Waste Incinerator (HMIWI) subject to the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for HMIWI, Subpart Ec, and required to operate under a Title V permit. Tribal consultations offer opportunities for all tribes surrounding the facility to learn about the facility operations and permitting process prior to the public notice. The period of consultations may last until the end of the public comment period. Community meetings were held. The public comment period will run from October 29 through November 29. A public hearing will be held if needed.

San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site, Houston, TX

Phase 2 Pre-Design Investigation field work is continuing for another three or four weeks after the issues arising from Tropical Storm Imelda. EPA is drafting a response to the Houston Regional Group of the Sierra Club on several issues that came up during EPA's September 24 community update meeting. EPA is drafting a response to a force majeure request submitted by the responsible parties for delays associated with the tropical storm.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Texas SIP Revisions - Updates to the NSR Program Applicable Requirements, TX

By October 25, R6 anticipates proposed approval of the February 2019 SIP submittal to update the NSR applicable requirements in the Texas SIP.

Texas Regional Haze BART FIP - Supplemental Proposed Action, TX

By October 30, R6 anticipates approval on a supplemental proposal. The comment period on the Texas Regional Haze BART FIP proposal to affirm our October 2017 final rule closed on October 26, 2018. R6 is drafting response to comments in coordination with other EPA offices.

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SIP Backlog Letter, All States and City of Albuquerque, New Mexico
By the end of October and in response to OARs request, EPA is issuing letters to our states and the city of Albuquerque regarding their SIP backlogs. This should result in formalizing our continued partnership or set a plan to address existing SIP backlogs.

Excellence Award Supporting Reuse, Oklahoma
On October 30, the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality will be recognized for EPA's 2019 State Excellence in Supporting Reuse Award at the Annual ASTSWMO Meeting in Washington, D.C. The award highlights ODEQ's work in transforming a former zinc smelter into a honeybee farm at the Tulsa Fuel and Manufacturing Superfund site and for remediation of a commercial property for reuse as a splash park and play area. ODEQ is a leader in R6 for redevelopment of Superfund sites. ODEQ is congratulated for its continued commitment to finding redevelopment opportunities and supporting reuse-related activities that inform cleanup decisions, ensure current and future site uses are protective, enforce institutional controls and provide guidance and oversight where needed to support redevelopment success.

October 28	2nd Annual Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium, Galveston, TX
October 30	Denka Meeting, Dallas, TX
October 31	Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP) Meeting, Washington, DC
November 4	STRONGER Oil & Gas Roundtable, Albuquerque, NM
November 5	EPA/SEMARNAT Border 2020 Bi-national Meeting, Mexico City, Mexico

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Region 7

Hot Topics

Temporary Relocation of Resident Potentially Impacted by Riverfront Superfund Site

Due to indoor air concerns at one residential property at the Riverfront Superfund Site in New Haven, Missouri, EPA has temporarily relocated one resident and is evaluating longer-term solutions at the property and site. Remedial actions have been ongoing at multiple operable units at the Riverfront Superfund Site in New Haven, MO, since 2003 to address industrial chemical contamination, primarily chlorinated volatile organics. Recently, a residential property was found to have indoor air concentrations above health-based standards for compounds related to groundwater contamination at the site. R7 has implemented several mitigation strategies at the resident's home over the past year. The mitigation strategies have decreased indoor air concentrations of solvent-related compounds, but one compound (trichloroethylene) continues to be at or near health-based standards. The temporary relocation is expected to span six to 12 months. R7 is evaluating longer-term solutions for the affected property.

Additional Missouri Flooding FEMA Mission Assignment

The state of Missouri, through FEMA, requested EPA assistance with orphan container removal related to recent flooding in counties not covered under previous tasks. EPA work will primarily focus in the central and eastern areas of Missouri. The current strategy involves Missouri response personnel identifying/collecting orphan containers, with EPA only handling back-end disposal of those containers. Funding amounts are modest: two separate FEMA-issued mission assignments total $275,000. Period of performance is currently through the end of November 2019, with a likely extension depending on what is collected/found.

West Lake Landfill Update and Site Meetings

R7 approved the Emergency Response Plan for the West Lake Landfill Site and held a variety of meetings with the state, potentially responsible parties, CAG, and other stakeholders. On October 15, R7 approved the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for the West Lake Landfill Site. On the same date the PRPs submitted revised versions of the Remedial Design Work Plan and the OU-1 Design Criteria Report for agency review. During the week of October 21, the site team travelled to Bridgeton, MO, to participate in multiple meetings with the Community Advisory Group (CAG) and PRPs. On October 22, R7 met with the PRP to discuss Quality Assurance Project Plan issues for stormwater monitoring. On the same date, R7 met with CAG board members to discuss the current status of the CAG and future coordination and outreach needs. The team also convened with the CAG Technical Committee to provide a status update on the Remedial Design Process and offer an opportunity to answer questions. On October 23, R7 met with representatives of Bridgeton Landfill and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to discuss upcoming stormwater improvement plans; participating in the quarterly Incident Management Plan with Bridgeton Landfill, MDNR, local First Responders, and contractors to introduce the ERP; and participating in a site tour for DOJ and MDNR attorneys. On October 24, EPA, MDNR, and the PRPs met to discuss and begin scoping the statistical kriging and modeling process that will be developed or refined for the RD.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Region 7 Participation at 12th Annual Upper Mississippi River Conference

The director of R7's Water Division will participate on a panel at the 12th Annual Upper Mississippi River Conference on October 23-24 in Moline, IL. Jeff Robichaud will participate in a panel presentation titled "Utilizing the River ~ Moderated Panel Discussion: To Drink or Not to Drink (river water, that is)?" Other panelists will include representatives of Iowa American Water, Western Illinois University, MDNR, and the City of Moline, IL.

Region 7 Participation in Growing Sustainable Communities Conference

R7's Brownfields program will host a booth at the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference in Dubuque, IA, on October 24-25. Hosted by the City of Dubuque, the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference is the largest and longest-standing sustainability conference in the Midwest.

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Region 7 State/EPA Underground Injection Control Program Directors Meeting
UIC program directors from R7 and Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri will meet at the regional office on October 29-30.

Public Hearing on Johnson County, KS, Nelson Complex Wastewater Treatment Plant Permit
R7 will hold a public hearing on October 30 to allow interested persons to provide oral and written comments regarding EPA's specific objections to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for the Johnson County Wastewater, Nelson Complex Wastewater Treatment Plant. On May 19, 2006, EPA issued a specific objection on the Nelson Complex WWTP permit because only one of the five outfalls identified in the permit contained effluent limitations. Subsequently, KDHE requested a Public Hearing regarding EPA's objection. Since that time, KDHE and Johnson County have worked together to address the issues raised in the objection. A 30-day public comment period began on September 27 and will conclude with the hearing on October 30. The hearing is for the benefit of the Regional Administrator (or designee) to make a determination about the objection. Once that determination is made, the permit will be issued by EPA or the state, which will start a separate comment period.

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Region 8

Hot Topics

Colorado Revolving Loan Fund Coalition Approves $4 Million in EPA Brownfields Funds

The Colorado Coalition will use revolved funds to issue remediation loans for: 1) a former landfill in Colorado Springs that will make way for a redevelopment project to include 194 home lots; 2) a drycleaner site in west Denver that has interest from a developer to construct a three-story structure with 45 rental units; and 3) TCE soils and groundwater contamination in Golden to open opportunities for light industrial use. Capitalized by EPA at over $10.5 million, the Colorado Coalition operates one of the most successful cleanup loan programs in the nation having issued 29 loans and grants across the state. The Coalition has used over $10 million in principal and interest payments to issue additional cleanup loans, demonstrating their commitment to preserving the fund as a long-term site cleanup funding source.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Wyoming Mining Association's Uranium Industry Committee

On October 31, RA Sopkin will meet with the Wyoming Mining Association's Uranium Industry Committee to discuss issues raised by the committee regarding aquifer exemptions, the IRIS Risk Assessment for Uranium and the MOA between EPA and NRC. The committee is comprised of executives from six uranium companies with operations in Wyoming.

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Region 9

Hot Topics

Response to Torres-Martinez Fire and Associated School Closures

R9 deployed an on-scene coordinator and contractors to the Torres-Martinez reservation in southern California to support air quality monitoring necessitated by a fire that began last week at a landfill on tribal land. The fire caused school closures in downwind communities in the Coachella Valley. Our OSC worked with BIA, tribal leadership, the South Coast air district, and the school district to facilitate air monitoring in school buildings and on school grounds. Particulate levels were low, and other pollutants of concern were not detected. We will remain on-site until the fire is out and no further action is needed.

Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mine Response Action

Together with our Navajo Nation partners and our contractor (a Navajo woman-owned small business), R9 completed our response action at one of the Tronox priority mine sites. The action addressed erosion encroaching on a uranium burial cell and an un-reclaimed waste pile. It is part of the larger effort to address the Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mines and the waste rock and soils associated with them.

Clean Air Act Regulatory Actions

R9 issued a final determination that the Phoenix area attained the 2008 ozone standard by its attainment date, which involved our concurring with Arizona's exceptional event analyses of the effects of California wildfires on ozone levels in Phoenix. We also issued a proposed approval of Northern Sierra (CA) air district's 2008 ozone Reasonable Available Control Technology SIP and a final approval of 2008 ozone certifications for two California air agencies' new source review programs.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Stakeholder Meeting on Tijuana River Transboundary Pollution

On October 31, RA Stoker and OITA AA McIntosh will convene a meeting with federal, state, and local stakeholders on possible projects to address sewage crossing into the U.S. from Mexico in the Tijuana River. Participants will discuss technical, policy, and financial issues concerning the projects under consideration and will identify a path forward. A tour of selected wastewater infrastructure in Tijuana will occur on October 30.

Interim Objection to Draft NPDES Permit

R9 issued a letter to the California State Water Board and SF Bay Regional Water Board requesting additional information on the Regional Board's draft permit to the City and County of San Francisco for its Southeast (Bayside) water pollution control plant. Under our MOA with the State Board, our review period will recommence upon our receipt of the additional information.

Pesticide Workshop

On October 29-30, R9 staff will discuss the worker protection standard and EPA's programs more broadly at a workshop held by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation for agricultural industry members, community groups, and local, state and federal regulators. The focus of the workshop is environmental justice and enforcement programs related to pesticide use and farmworker protection.

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Region 10

Hot Topics
None to report this week.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Region 10 Participates in Multi-Agency Regional Spill Response Strategic Planning
On October 30 and 31, R10 Emergency Management staff and managers will participate in a multi-agency strategic planning workshop related to the spill planning and preparedness activities carried out by the R10 Regional Response Team and the Northwest Area Committee. These groups are made up of 15 federal agencies, the states of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, and the Yakama Nation, Makah Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw. The groups are responsible for ensuring coordinated spill planning and preparedness throughout the three-state area. The resulting strategic plan will guide our collective efforts over the next three years.

Region 10 Participates in Northwest Natural Resources Forum
On October 29 and 30, R10's Water Division Director will represent EPA at the annual Northwest Natural Resources Forum, a gathering of executives from federal agencies with natural resource-related missions in the Pacific Northwest who share information and identify opportunities for collaboration. The theme of this year's meeting is "Shared Stewardship."

Region 10 to Reissue Idaho Aquaculture General Permits
R10 recently issued an updated general permit for aquaculture facilities in Idaho. The permit will be effective December 1. Approximately 25 facilities are eligible for coverage. Idaho's aquaculture industry ranks as the third largest food-animal industry in the state and is the nation's largest commercial producer of rainbow trout. The aquaculture industry, including support industries such as veterinary services and feed production, employs approximately 800 people in Idaho.

Region 10 to Issue Draft NPDES General Permit for Combined Animal Feeding Operations
R10 will issue the draft Idaho NPDES CAFO general permit on October 23 upon publication in the Federal Register. The current general permit expired in 2017. After the public comment period, EPA intends to complete our response to comments and issue a final GP by the summer of 2020, when the Idaho Department of Environmental quality is scheduled to assume the responsibility for implementing general permits for the state of Idaho, including the CAFO GP.

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Office of Air and Radiation

Hot Topics

Packages for Signature

- Federal Implementation Plan for Oil and Natural Gas Sources; Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in Utah (Region 8 Proposed Rule)
- Revised Stationary Compression Ignition Engines (Final Rule)

Packages at OMB for Review

- Vehicle Test Procedure Adjustments for Tier 3 Test Fuel (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 02/25/2019)
- Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Modification of Statutory Volume Targets / RFS Reset (Proposed Rule; RECEIVED DATE: 05/20/2019)
- Light Duty Greenhouse Gas Program Technical Amendments (Final Rule: RECEIVED DATE 8/19/2019)
- MON RTR (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED DATE 8/20/2019)
- Ambient Air Guidance (Final Guidance: RECEIVED DATE 9/29/2019)
- MATS RTR & Cost Review (Final Rule: RECEIVED DATE 10/4/2019)
- Strat Ozone - Section 608 Refrigerant Management – Revisions (Final Rule: RECEIVED DATE 10/4/2019)
- NSR and Title V Adjacency Determinations (Guidance: RECEIVED DATE 10/9/2019)

Packages Heading to OMB Soon

- Boiler MACT (Proposed Rule)
- Ethylene Oxide Sterilizers (ANPRM)
- MATS Coal Refuse-Fired Units Review (Final Rule)
- Residential Wood Heaters NSPS Amendments (Final Rule)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

RFS Hearings

On October 30, EPA will hold a public hearing to receive input on the RFS 2020 Renewable Volume Obligation Supplemental Proposed Rule. A 30-day comment period will follow the hearing. Next week, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change will hold a hearing to examine H.R. 3006, the Renewable Fuel Standard Integrity Act of 2019, introduced by Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN). The bill sets a June 1 due date each year for small refinery exemption petition submittals and would consider all information submitted by a refinery with respect to a petition subject to public disclosure, not confidential business information. OAR will submit written testimony for this hearing.

SIP Letters to States

Next week, EPA Regional offices will send letters to each of their respective states concerning SIPs backlogged at EPA. The contents of each letter will be tailored to the specific circumstances of each state, in some instances encouraging states to withdraw specific backlogged SIPs that EPA cannot approve, and in other instances affirming states' progress on submitting approvable SIPs.

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Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Hot Topics

Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Revisions to Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) Requirements
On October 24, Administrator Wheeler announced EPA's proposed updates to the WPS pesticide regulation's AEZ provisions. The focused updates would improve enforceability for state regulators and reduce regulatory burdens for farmers. The revision will maintain public health protections for farm workers and other individuals near agricultural establishments that could be exposed to agricultural pesticide applications. Public comments will be accepted for 90 days after the proposal is published in the Federal Register.

Draft Risk Evaluation for N-Methylpyrrolidone (NMP)
Following this week's announcement of the availability of the draft methylene chloride (MC) risk evaluation, for the week of October 28 OCSPP is preparing to forward for Administrator signature a package that will make publicly available the draft risk evaluation for NMP and provide notice of a public scientific peer review meeting on the evaluation. NMP is the sixth of the first 10 chemicals undergoing risk evaluation under amended TSCA. NMP is often a substitute for MC. Like MC, the NMP draft evaluation will undergo peer review by the TSCA Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC) in December and will be available for public comment into December.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Competitive Grant Award for the Pesticide Regulatory Education Program
On October 30, OPP plans to announce that the University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program is the recipient of a cooperative agreement to implement the Pesticide Regulatory Education Program (PREP). EPA expects the total funding for the five-year period of the cooperative agreement to be $2.675 million. PREP is an educational program designed primarily for senior state managers who conduct pesticide regulatory and enforcement programs.

Chemical Watch Regulatory Summit
AA Dunn will provide the opening keynote at the Chemical Watch Regulatory Summit November 4 in Washington, D.C. The Summit focuses on the latest developments in domestic and global chemicals regulation.

TSCA Section 21 Petition to Ban Hydrofluoric Acid in Oil Refineries
By November 4, OCSPP will notify Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) that EPA will deny a recent petition PEER submitted to the Agency. PEER petitioned EPA to prohibit the use of hydrofluoric acid (HF) in manufacturing processes at oil refineries and to require oil refineries to phase out HF use in two years. OCSPP will deny the request because the petitioners did not provide exposure information demonstrating that HF use at oil refineries presents an unreasonable risk.

American Agricultural Law Association (AALA)
AA Dunn will speak November 7 at the 40th Annual AALA Agricultural Law Education Symposium in Washington, DC. She will speak about "Hot Topics under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act," including an update on pesticide registration review.

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Hot Topics

FY 2020 Appropriations Bills

This week, the Senate began floor debate on a group of FY 2020 appropriations bills that contain funding for EPA. The Senate will likely vote on this "domestic minibus" next week. We understand that a second FY 2020 Continuing Resolution, which would fund the government from November 22 through February or March 2020, is likely to be introduced in Congress. House and Senate conference negotiations and a second Senate "defense minibus" are on hold until a budget cap agreement is finalized.

FY 2020 CR Guidance

OCFO is continuing to draft FY 2020 CR Guidance to issue to the agency. As a reminder, funding new activities is prohibited under a CR. The current CR provides funds through November 21, 2019. OCFO also continues working on making allowed unobligated no-year carryover funds from prior years available for agency spending.

Statement of Assurance and Message to the Office of Management and Budget

After Administrator Wheeler's concurrence, OCFO will submit his Statement of Assurance and Message to the Office of Management and Budget on October 25 for its review and clearance to include in the agency's FY 2019 Agency Financial Report. The annual AFR, which is due to the President, Congress, and the public on November 19, summarizes EPA's financial results, including the agency's audited financial statements and audit report.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

E-Enterprise Executive Leadership Council

A prep for the E-Enterprise Executive Leadership Council face-to-face meeting on November 4-5 in Washington, D.C., is scheduled with the Associate DA and EPA EELC members on October 29. Due to a scheduling conflict, the Acting CFO will attend the EELC meeting with the state and tribal partners and report back to the Associate DA.

FY 19 Q4 Quarterly Performance Review

On October 31, OCFO is scheduled to brief the Assistant Deputy Administrator to prepare for the upcoming agency FY 2019 Q4 Quarterly Performance Review scheduled for November 6. The Assistant DA facilitates this meeting with the Administrator and the agency's senior leaders to review progress on the long-term performance goals and reform plan priority areas as outlined in the FY18-22 EPA Strategic Plan.

FY 21 Outdated and Duplicative Reports

Earlier this week, OCFO provided EPA's submission on FY 21 Outdated and Duplicative Reports to Congress, which is due to OMB on November 8, to the Assistant DA for his review and approval. This annual report is required by the Government Performance Results Act Modernization Act and has one change from the FY 20 submission based on NPM DAA-level review.

Additional Updates

EPA Budget Overview

OCFO's informational EPA Budget Overview briefing for the Associate DA has been rescheduled for October 29.

First Year Implementation of Evidence Act

As requested by the Assistant DA, OCFO is working on a draft paper on proposed roles, responsibilities, and deliverables/accomplishments for first year implementation of the Evidence Act.

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Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Hot Topics

October 29- House Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change of the Committee on Energy and Commerce will hold a hearing entitled "Protecting the RFS: The Trump Administration's Abuse of Secret Waivers." There is no EPA witness.

October 29- House Subcommittee on Environment of the Committee on Oversight and Reform will hold a hearing entitled "Trump's Wrong Turn on Clean Cars: The Effects of Fuel Efficiency Rollbacks on the Climate, Car Companies and California." There is no EPA witness.

October 29- House Natural Resources Committee Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife will hold an oversight hearing entitled, "A Sea of Problems: Impacts of Plastic Pollution on Oceans and Wildlife."

October 30- House Subcommittee on Energy of the Committee on Energy and Commerce will hold a hearing entitled "Building a 100 Percent Clean Economy: Solutions for the U.S. Power Sector." This hearing is the fifth hearing in the Committee's climate change series aimed at developing comprehensive legislation to achieve a 100 percent clean economy by 2050. There is no EPA witness.

October 30- Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold a hearing on the nomination of Sean O'Donnell to be Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency.

October 30- EPA will hold a public hearing on the RFS supplemental notice in Ypsilanti, Michigan at Eagle Crest, 1275 S. Huron St. A complete set of documents related to the proposal will be available for public inspection through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov, Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0136.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

October 29	Notification on TRI: Reporting Year 2018 Data, complete data set w/OCSPP
October 29	Great Lakes Task Force member briefings on Asian Carp w/EPA, FWS, USGS, and Army
October 30	USDA, EPA, and FDA Announcement of Partnership with the Food Waste Reduction Alliance
October 30	Office of Water and R4 will join OIR in a meeting with Mayor Ronnie Felder, City Commissioner Douglas Lawson, and city staff to discuss the city's wastewater treatment plant needs, as well as the need for a redundant wastewater pipeline between Singer Island and Riviera Beach, FL.
November 4	CRS call re: LCR w/OW
November 8	LGAC's Water Workgroup's new chair Secretary Michael Scuse, Delaware Department of Agriculture has scheduled a meeting on November 8 at 3:00. The workgroup agenda will focus on an update on Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) and a briefing on proposed revisions to the Lead and Copper rule.

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Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Hot Topics

Missouri Man and Farm Plead Guilty for Illegally Applying Dicamba on Crops

On October 21, 2019, Bobby David Lowrey and Lowrey Inc. entered a guilty plea in the Eastern District of Missouri concerning violations of FIFRA and False Statements related to their application of the pesticide Dicamba and efforts to conceal the application from the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Lowrey Farms, under the management of Bobby David Lowrey, engaged in the cultivation of cotton and soybean crops over numerous fields and plots. The soybean and cotton crops planted on Lowrey Farms in 2016 were genetically modified to be resistant to the pesticide dicamba, a broadleaf herbicide used to kill unwanted weeds. The dicamba-based pesticide product was not approved for post-planting application to cotton crops and had limitations on its soybean application. On multiple occasions in 2016, dicamba-based pesticides were applied at Lowrey Farms post-planting to cotton and to non-mature soybean crops prior to the approved preharvest application interval. Multiple farmers with crops growing in the vicinity of soybean and cotton fields or plots cultivated by Lowrey Farms reported damage to their crops consistent with drift from the use of dicamba-based pesticides applied on Lowrey Farms.

Technical Assistance Webinars for Clean Water Act NPDES Facilities Struggling with Significant Noncompliance

OECA is hosting a series of monthly Technical Assistance webinars focused on common problems found at facilities in significant noncompliance (SNC). The largest percentage of NPDES facilities in SNC are small Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs). As such, many of the webinars cover troubleshooting techniques for POTWs. These webinars are designed for system operators, state, and EPA inspectors, and assistance providers. OECA is working with the Association of Clean Water Administrators to publicize the webinars.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

On October 30, 2019, OECA will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Two former OECA AAs will join for the event and the other two former OECA AAs will provide video remarks.

On October 30-31, 2019, OECA's Federal Facility Enforcement Office will be co-sponsoring the 2019 Federal Environmental Symposium at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. The Symposium, which will be attended by over 650 participants from 33 states and 27 federal agencies, is a collaborative forum for federal environmental practitioners and will focus on environmental compliance, waste reduction, water quality and sustainability. Keynote speakers include OECA AA Susan Bodine, OCSPP AA Alex Dunn, and the Deputy Director of NIH, Dr Alfred Johnson.

On October 30-31, 2019, OECA will participate in the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials' 2019 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

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Office of General Counsel

Hot Topics

Coalition to Save the Menominee River, Inc. v. EPA, No. 18-1798 (E.D. Wis. October 21, 2019)
New Decision: The court dismissed a challenge to EPA's approval of Michigan's exercise of jurisdiction over a stretch of the Menominee River where Aquila Industries has sought to build a mine, and to EPA's withdrawal of its objection to Michigan's permit for the mine. The court held that: (1) EPA's 1984 approval of Michigan's Clean Water Act section 404 permitting program constituted a final decision that Michigan would assume permitting authority over the portion of the Menominee at issue; and (2) EPA's objection to Michigan's proposed permit was not a final agency action and therefore not grounds for an "as-applied" challenge to the 1984 approval. The court also decided on a matter of first impression, that EPA's timely withdrawal of its objection to a state section 404 permit is not reviewable under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) "because 'the statute is drafted in such broad terms [] that there is no clear law to apply and no meaningful standard against which to judge the agency's exercise of discretion.'"

CEH v. Wheeler, No. 18-03197 (N.D. Cal. filed October 15, 2019)
New Decision: The petitioners in the case are challenging EPA's and Fish and Wildlife Service's obligations under the Endangered Species Act as it relates to certain pesticide products containing malathion. The court denied EPA and Intervenor's (Croplife America) motions to dismiss. The government had argued standing, mootness, and that an action did not constitute an unreasonable delay. The case will now proceed to merits briefing.

N.M. Cattle Growers' Ass'n v. EPA, No. 19-00988 (D.N.M. filed October 22, 2019)
New Litigation: Plaintiffs challenges the Army and EPA's final rule repealing the 2015 regulatory definition of "waters of the United States" and recodifying the prior 1986 regulations. Plaintiff challenges the recodification as invalid under the APA and CWA, in addition to raising constitutional claims. Plaintiff seeks both declaratory and injunctive relief.

Hoosier Environmental Council v. EPA, No. 19-1211 (D.C. Cir. filed October 15, 2019)
New Litigation: Hoosier Environmental Council and Sierra Club filed a petition for review of EPA's final Clean Air Act (CAA) National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) rule for Integrated Iron and Steel Manufacturing published on May 20, 2003. The petition for review cites EPA's August 19, 2019 proposed risk and technology review of the rule, which includes information about certain HAP emissions that petitioners assert were not addressed in the 2003 NESHAP. The petition for review accordingly asserts that the challenge is based "on grounds arising after the promulgation of the [original rule]" under CAA section 307(b). Petitioners also filed with EPA an administrative petition to revise the NESHAP on the same basis.

Ergon-West Virginia, Inc. v. EPA, Nos. 19-2148 (4th Cir. filed October 18, 2019); 19-2152 (4th Cir. filed October 21, 2019)
New Litigation: Ergon-West Virginia, Inc. (EWV) filed petitions for review of EPA's August 9, 2019 decision denying small refinery petitions EWV had submitted requesting that EPA exempt EWV from its 2016, 2017 and 2018 RFS obligations. These petitions for review challenge only EPA's denial of EWV's 2017 and 2018 petitions. EWV previously filed a petition for review of EPA's denial of its 2016 petition in *Ergon-West Virginia, Inc. v. EPA*, No. 19-2128 (4th Cir. filed October 15, 2019).

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

October 28	GC Leopold is traveling to EPA's Ann Arbor offices for meetings with OAR management and staff.

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Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Hot Topics

Meeting with Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

AA Wright, OITA, and R5 met with the Tribal Chairman and other representatives of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. The Chairman and the representatives of the Band had requested the face-to-face meeting with EPA leadership to express concerns regarding the St. Regis Paper Company Superfund Site. Tribal concerns discussed included the proposed Record of Decision options to treat the soil at the site and consideration of the tribe's ordinance in setting cleanup standards.

Expansion of Trash Free Waters in Panama

OITA and R2 met with the new government officials in Panama's Ministry of Environment to discuss advancing work on marine litter, solid waste, EIA and public participation under the CAFTA-DR Free Trade Agreement. The proposed marine litter and solid waste activities will expand previous Trash Free Waters work with Panama and will be incorporated into Panama's National Action Plan for Marine Litter. EPA will also work with Panama to attract potential investment opportunities, such as with Circulate Capital and Alliance to End Plastic Waste, to help finance larger, more complicated solid waste management projects.

Asia-Pacific Children's Environmental Health Symposium

EPA (OITA, OCHP) and Taiwan organized the Asia-Pacific Children's Environmental Health Symposium which was held in Taipei, Taiwan. Representatives from health and environment ministries from 10 countries in Asia and U.S. experts discussed a broad range of children health issues, including air pollution. The representatives agreed to establish a new regional platform to build capacity in the field of children's health protection policy, programs, practices, and research. EPA also met with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment, and Health to discuss regional cooperation on children's health and other priorities such as marine litter.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

October 24	OITA will participate in the Semi-Annual U.S.- Canada Bilateral Meeting in Ottawa, Canada to discuss cooperation on the Great Lakes, Lake Ontario, and transboundary mining.
October 24	AIEO Director Scott Mason will participate in R5's Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) meeting in Chicago.
October 29-31	AA McIntosh, along with R9 RA Stoker, will participate in the U.S. Stakeholders Meeting on the Tijuana River in San Diego.

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Office of the Land and Emergency Management

Hot Topics

Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR)

- CCR Phase 2 proposed rule (package 1): The proposed rule was published in the FR on August 14, and the public comment period ended on October 15.
- CCR permitting NPRM (package 3): We are following up on comments received from OMB and interagency review.
- CCR litigation packages (package 2, parts A and B): On part A, OLEM has been meeting with OMB regarding their comments. We anticipate part B going to OMB soon.
    - The CCR litigation package is being coordinated with the Office of Water's ELG rule so that both rules can be signed on the same day and issued for public comment simultaneously.

Clean Air Act 112(r) Risk Management Program (RMP)

OMB/interagency review began on September 12 and we received initial comments on October 16. We expect additional written comments from OMB this week.

Ongoing major Superfund NPL sites

We are working with R1 on the Housatonic River; R2 on Matteo, Maywood Chemical Co., Woodbrook Road, and Rolling Knolls; R4 on Oak Ridge; R8 on Anaconda Smelter; and R10 on Portland Harbor and Quendall Terminal. The Matteo ROD will be coming to the Administrator soon for approval. The Maywood ESD package is with the Administrator's office.

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

The FAR meetings for both Industry 2 (Petroleum and Coal) and Industry 3 (Chemical Manufacturing) have taken place, and the packages are being revised to address comments. We plan to submit these soon to OP for OMB review.

PFAS

- PFOA and PFOS contaminated groundwater guidance: OLEM is developing potential options for next steps on the guidance in consideration of the public comments. We anticipate an option selection meeting taking place soon.
- Designation of PFOA/PFOS as CERCLA Hazardous Substances NPRM: The rule package was submitted to the Office of Policy on September 20 for OMB review. The Administrator has requested a briefing.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants

The recipients of these grants will be announced on October 24. OLEM's AA will participate in an event with Civic Works in Baltimore, MD.

Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO)

OLEM Senior Leadership and staff will participate in ASTSWMO's annual meeting in Washington, DC, on October 30-31. AA Wright will present Excellence in State Reuse Awards during the opening plenary.

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Office of Mission Support

Hot Topics

Executive Order to Reduce the Number of Federal Advisory Committees

On October 17, management from OMS and ORD contacted committee members of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology and the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board to inform them of their termination in compliance with Executive Order 13875. On October 21, OMS, ORD, OP and OCIR held a conference call to field questions from congressional staffers on the agency's implementation of EO 13875.

EPA and OPM Reach Agreement to Better Utilize Federally Owned Space

OMS has entered into an agreement with members of the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) Performance Management Solutions group to house eight full time employees on EPA's Research Triangle Park Campus. This agreement allows OPM to move out of leased space in the area and consolidate into federally owned space saving the federal government money and better utilizing shared federal resources. This agreement will also allow for potential collaboration between OMS' RTP Shared Service Center and OPM.

Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee Sponsored Training: Civil Treatment® for Leaders Pilot

Civil Treatment® for Leaders was held for senior leaders and subject matter experts representing all NPMs, Regions, and AO on October 21-22 at HQ. The aim of the Civil Treatment® for Leaders course is to provide leaders with the tools and resources for maintaining a civil, productive, and inclusive workplace that will help EPA achieve its mission in the best way possible. After the pilot course, participants developed recommendations for CTL a potential roll out to supervisors, managers, and executives across the agency later this fiscal year. The course was provided by ELI Training & Learning, an outside vendor.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

National Disability Employment Awareness Month Event

In observance of National Disability Employment Awareness month, OMS will host a panel discussion on October 30 from 2:30-3:30 in the Rachel Carson Green Room. The panel will include Anthony Napoli, National Disability Employment Program Manager, Diversity, Recruitment and Employee Services Division (EPA); Jeffrey Dallos, Program Analyst, Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program (DOD); Brad Leon, Chief Executive Officer (Access Interpreting, Inc.); Amanda Sweda, National Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator, Office of Civil Rights (EPA); and Natalie H. Veeney, Diversity Program Manager, Outreach, Diversity and Inclusion Center of Employee Services (OPM). Phone lines are not available for this event, but the video recording will be available on EPAtv On-Demand on October 31.

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Office of Policy

Hot Topics

Fall Regulatory Agenda and Regulatory Plan

During the week of October 28, the Office of Management and Budget is likely to issue the Fall 2019 Regulatory Agenda and Regulatory Plan. The Agenda includes the regulatory and deregulatory actions EPA plans to issue in the next year; the Plan is a subset of high priority actions in the Agenda. Once released, the Agenda and Plan will be available at https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain.

Active Interagency Reviews from OMB	
Subject	**OMB Due Date**
SBA FRM: National Defense Authorization Acts of 2016 and 2017, Recovery Improvements for Small Entities after Disaster Act of 2015, and Other Small Business Government Contracting	10/25/2019
SBA FRM (Pass-back): Small Business HUBZone Program and Government Contracting Programs	10/25/2019
DOD/Army NPRM (Pass-back): Environmental Analysis of Army Actions [NEPA]	10/25/2019
CEQ NPRM: Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act	10/28/2019
OPM/NPRM: Administrative Law Judges	10/28/2019
DOC/NOAA NPRM: Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment	10/30/2019
USDA/CCC Interim: Conservation Reserve Program	11/01/2019
HUD NPRM: Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2016—Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) and Project-Based Voucher Implementation; Additional Streamlining Changes	11/04/2019
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 October 17-23, 2019		
FRL #	**Title**	**Date Sent to FR**
10001-52-Region 10	Air Plan Approval;OR; 2018 Permitting Rule Revisions	10-23-2019
10001-56-Region 10	Air Plan Approval: Lane County, Oregon; 2019 Permitting Rule Revisions	10-23-2019
10001-15-OA	Notification of a Public Meeting and Two Public Teleconferences of the Science Advisory Board Computable General Equilibrium Model Review Panel	10-23-2019
10001-53-OLEM	4 Thirty-sixth Update of the Federal Agency Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket	10-23-2019
10001-55-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Virginia; Emission Standards for Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills	10-23-2019
10001-57-Region 10	Air Plan Approval; Washington; Update to the Adoption by Reference, Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council	10-23-2019
9998-88-OCSPP	Sulfoxaflor; Pesticide Tolerances	10-22-2019
9999-56-OCSPP	Mandipropamid; Pesticide Tolerances	10-22-2019
9999-58-OCSPP	Fenbuconazole; Pesticide Tolerances	10-22-2019
9999-46-OCSPP	Certain New Chemicals or Significant New Uses; Statements of Findings for July 2019	10-22-2019
10000-06-OCSPP	Pendimethalin; Pesticide Tolerances	10-22-2019
10000-69-OCSPP	Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (17-4)	10-22-2019
10000-79-OCSPP	Isotianil; Pesticide Tolerances	10-22-2019
10000-88-Region 9	Air Plan Approval; California; Ventura County Air Pollution Control District	10-22-2019
10000-07-OCSPP	Notice of Receipt of Requests to Voluntarily Cancel Certain Pesticide Registrations and Amend Registrations to Terminate Certain Uses	10-22-2019

10000-93-OCSPP	Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee; Notice of Charter Renewal	10-22-2019
10000-54-OCSPP	Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (19-4.F)	10-22-2019
10001-32-Region 9	Air Plan Approval; California; Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District	10-22-2019
10001-35-Region 4	Air Plan Approval and Designation of Areas; FL; Redesignation of the Hillsborough County 2010 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area to Attainment	10-22-2019
10001-49-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Revisions to Ambient Air Quality Standards	10-22-2019
10001-12-OCSPP	Pesticide Product Registration; Receipt of Applications for New Uses (September 2019)	10-22-2019
10001-13-OCSPP	Pesticide Product Registration; Receipt of Applications for New Active Ingredients (September 2019)	10-22-2019
10001-11-OCSPP	Receipt of a Pesticide Petition Filed for Residues of Pesticide Chemicals in or on Various Commodities (September 2019)	10-22-2019
10001-36-OAR	Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Standards for 2020 and Biomass-Based Diesel Volume for 2021, and Response to the Remand of the 2016 Standards; Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking	10-22-2019
10001-41-OW	2018 Effluent Guidelines Program Plan (304m Plan)	10-21-2019
10001-38-Region 6	Underground Injection Control Program; Hazardous Waste Injection Restrictions; Petition for Exemption Reissuance - Class I Hazardous Waste Injection; Veolia ES Technical Solutions, LLC (Veolia) Port Arthur Facility	10-21-2019
10001-39-Region 4	Clean Air Act Operating Permit Program; Petition for Objection to State Operating Permit for Mill Creek Generating Station (Jefferson County, Kentucky)	10-21-2019
10001-45-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Correction Due to Vacatur of Revisions to Implement the Revocation of the 1997 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards Final Rule	10-18-2019
10001-46-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Philadelphia County Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard	10-18-2019
10001-33-Region 10	Proposed Reissuance of NPDES General Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations Located in Idaho (IDG010000)	10-18-2019
10001-51-Region 9	Clean Air Plans; Determination of Attainment by the Attainment Date; 2008 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Requirements; Imperial County, California	10-18-2019
10001-42-OAR	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Generic Maximum Achievable Control Technology Standards Residual Risk and Technology Review for Ethylene Production	10-17-2019

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

None to report.

Office of Research and Development

Hot Topics

Senior Leadership Meeting

ORD had a productive senior leadership meeting in our Cincinnati facility this week that included several science demonstrations, a status update discussion about our reorganization implementation, and a training session on management by strength.

Travel to Ada and R10

Next week, Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta and Chris Robbins will visit ORD's Lab in Ada, Oklahoma, and from there will travel to R10 to meet with state environment and health leaders on at the EPA lab in Port Orchard, WA. Topics will include PFAS, wildfires and prescribed burns, nutrients and harmful algal blooms, and resiliency, followed by a short lab tour. The goal of the meeting is to determine how ORD can better assist and collaborate with our R10 state partners in addressing their science and technical needs, as well as discuss priorities needing further research. RA Hladick will co-host the meeting, which will include representatives from Alaska (Department of Environmental Conservation and Department of Health and Social Services); Idaho (Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Health and Welfare); Oregon (Department of Environmental Quality and Health Authority); and Washington (Department of Ecology and Department of Health).

Joint EPA-USDA Challenge on Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizers

David Dunlap will provide opening remarks at a workshop that ORD is co-hosting with participants from USDA, DOE, academia, industry, and NGOs to gather input on plans for a Joint EPA-USDA Challenge on Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizers (EEFs). The workshop is closed to the public and located in Arlington, VA.

GLIMPSE Air Quality Management Decision Support Tool at Region 3 Stakeholder Briefing

This week ORD is in R3 to meet with regional, state, and local air quality modeling staff. The meeting will include staff from Delaware, Pennsylvania, District of Columbia, Philadelphia, Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association, and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. ORD will provide an overview and demonstration of the GLIMPSE air quality management decision support tool. GLIMPSE is being developed to assist states and regional planning organizations develop cost-effective and robust strategies for meeting and maintaining National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Collaboration with SBIR Recipients to Evaluate Pipe Rehabilitation Technology

EPA's Water Security Test Bed (WSTB) team is collaborating with Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) recipient QuakeWrap, Inc. to evaluate SuperLaminate, their pipe rehabilitation technology. SuperLaminate is an internal pipe re-lining system for water distribution pipes that is designed to remotely navigate pipe elbows and re-line highly contaminated or leaking drinking water pipes. Pipe rehabilitation serves multiple purposes. It is used to add structural integrity to aging infrastructure, reduce future corrosion from iron pipes, and encapsulate contaminants that remain adhered to the pipe surface after decontamination. One of the major project issues identified was the ability of the soft (pre-cured) laminate to travel through heavily corroded pipe. The WSTB team is shipping heavily corroded 1930's-era cast iron drinking water pipe sections to QuakeWrap facilities. If the QuakeWrap technology proves viable, full-scale testing at the WSTB is planned. Other commercially available pipe rehabilitation and lining technologies have been deployed at the WSTB as part of its mission to develop pipeline decontamination information for drinking water utilities following a distribution system contamination incident.

Upcoming Events

Release of New Version of SeqAPASS October 31

A new version of the Sequence Alignment to Predict Across Species Susceptibility (SeqAPASS) online tool will be released October 31. SeqAPASS is a fast, online screening tool that allows researchers and regulators to extrapolate toxicity information across species. The new version includes interactive help menus that provide greater guidance for identifying SeqAPASS query proteins and information on critical amino acid residues as well as interoperability with the ECOTOX Knowledgebase.

Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry's (SETAC) North America 40th Annual Meeting
EPA scientists will present their research during Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry's (SETAC) North America 40th Annual Meeting located in Toronto, Ontario, November 3-7. The meeting will emphasize the need for environmental scientists and managers from all sectors (e.g., academia, business, government, non-profit, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations) to work together at a global scale to address shared environmental challenges. Under such a paradigm, discrete technical advances would be leveraged to create harmonized approaches towards mutual solutions. The meeting offers opportunities to focus on transboundary issues within a holistic system approach.

Office of Water

Hot Topics

Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

This week, the Office of Water will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (BoR). The MOU will support coordination between the agencies in working together to implement BoR's WIFIA program, while expanding the EPA's pool of potential assistance recipients. The MOU could also support innovative new federal credit instruments for financing a variety of water infrastructure projects. Through this MOU, the Agencies will work together and explore funding opportunities for WIFIA eligible projects across various federal partners.

Steam Electric Effluent Limitation Guideline (ELG) Proposed Rule

As early as October 31, OW anticipates Administrator Wheeler's signature on the Steam Electric ELG Proposed Rule. OW received Interagency Review comments from OMB on October 15 and expects to transmit responses and edits to OMB by October 25. As soon as OMB concludes their review, OW will route the package for Administrator signature. The proposed rule would revise the technology-based ELGs for the steam electric power generating point source category applicable to flue gas desulfurization (FGD) wastewater and bottom ash (BA) transport water.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Environmental Markets and Finance Summit

Next week, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator Anna Wildeman will speak during a session about how the public sector can create an enabling environment for scaling up markets and finance in accelerating investment in natural infrastructure with 5 other panelists. Sponsored by Alliance for Environmental Markets and Investments and Forest Trends. Summit in Washington, DC. Open Press.

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